

## CT NRA 3-Position Outdoor Smallbore Rifle Regional By Blue Trail Range Staff

The 2015 Connecticut NRA 3 Position Outdoor Smallbore Regional was contested on the quaint, secluded Dinan Range on June 20th in Wallingford and featured a tough sparring match between Sydney Katz, Michael Acampora, Josh Lindgren, and Sophia Cuozzo.

Cuozzo jumped to the front winning the prone metallic sight match with a 199-12X just a few points ahead of Gillian Riordan and Acampora. The lead changed when Acampora drilled a 191-2X standing, two points ahead of Katz and five on Cuozzo. The last match of the metallic sight phase was kneeling and Katz made a play for the aggregate lead with a match winning 196-6X. Lindgren, who had dominated the Marksman class tied Acampora but lost on Xs.

As the competitors prepared for the any sight matches Acampora stood at the top with a 580-20X. However, he had no real breathing space as Cuozzo and Katz had both posted 578s with Cuozzo sporting 21Xs to Katz's 16. Lindgren sat at 577-21X.

With scopes in place Acampora was confident he could maintain the lead and proved it by posting a 200-18x to win prone. His clean was the best of seven posted but Katz, Cuozzo, and Lindgren had three of those.

The next match, 20 shots standing, was shot in the wind and Katz proved that a future University of Kentucky-bound wildcat could handle the wind switches. Katz posted a match winning score of 195-9X, leapfrogging over Acampora and putting her in the lead by a slender one point. Acampora held the lead in Xs and that might be a valuable asset in the aggregate in a close match. Cuozzo and Lindgren had dropped enough points so that they were out of the running for gold and tussling for the bronze medal.

Lindgren did not give any ground and won the kneeling match with a 198-9X, nailing down the bronze. Meanwhile Katz and Acampora exchanged shot for shot and both ended up shooting a 196-6X. That wrapped up both the any sight and aggregate win for Katz but Deb Lyman had to go to the rule book to determine that the tie breaker fell to Katz.

The Any Sight Aggregate victory was Sydney's with a 591 to Michael's 588, which also gave her a one-point lead in the grand aggregate. Her final score of 1169 garnered her the Match Winning laurels and the Gold Medal along with the NRA Smallbore Rifle 3-Position Championship Certificate to be used in Bristol. Acampora was declared High Junior with an 1168. Josh Lindgren was third overall carding a 1164 and grabbing first Marksman in all of the matches except for the standing any sight match. Cuozzo, representing the Stratford PAL, was fourth overall; posting an 1161 for first Expert/Sharpshooter.

As a volunteer in the shooting sports, mother of a collegiate shooter, coach, and competitor, Deb Lyman can tell you that this sport pays dividends; associations with great people, direction for young athletes in their formative years, long-lasting friendships, and a life-long sport. The likes of Katz and Acampora prove that success can come quickly if you are determined and surround yourself with those that positively support your plan.