

Forrest Cushing's 200 Is First To Win New Hampshire State Singles Championship

Phil Wright captured his 21st and 22nd New Hampshire State titles by successfully defending his doubles and all-around crowns during state shoot action at the Merrimack Valley Sportsman's Club in Merrimack July 11-13. Forrest Cushing blasted 200 straight for the singles championship, the first perfect score by a resident in the history of the shoot, and Esther Smith captured her ninth women's title. Ken Whitehouse became the new handicap champ, and Tim Swisher won his initial state title with a victory over the juniors.

Wright maintained his stranglehold on the doubles and all-around titles, running his possession of them to six consecutive years. He also held the 16-yard title in 1965 (while still a junior), 1967, 1970-71 and again in 1973. He was handicap and all-around champ in 1967, and he held the junior trophy for three straight years beginning in 1963.

This year's singles victory was Cushing's first since 1969, when he won the singles and all-around championships. Pete McCall and Ken Kerns both fired straights last year to record the first 200s in the history of the shoot, but neither were residents of the state. Esther Smith first won the women's title in 1966 and held it through '71. She relinquished it to Lillian Chick in '72 then regained it the next year, holding it since.

In Friday's preliminary 16s, Wright shattered 100 straight for the top trophy. There was a four-way tie of 99s for runnerup honors, with Cushing defeating Robert McCarthy, Pete McCall and Cal Stinson Jr. in the carryover to Saturday's title race. In the prelim handicap, Bill Lautzenheiser from 20 yards, Bob McCarthy from 26½, Charles Cambria from 22½ and Robert MacKnight from 22 knotted for high-gun honors with 95s. Lautzenheiser hit an extra 25 in the overtime for the prize, and McCarthy's 24 secured runnerup spot. Bob Mankus broke 97 to best

Forrest Cushing fired the first 200 straight by a resident in the history of the shoot for the 16-yard crown, Phil Wright maintained his possession of the doubles and all-around titles, and Ken Whitehouse became the new handicap champion.

NEW HAMPSHIRE	
16-Yard	
Forrest Cushing, Surry200x200
Handicap	
Ken Whitehouse, Dover97x100
Doubles	
Phil Wright, Hudson95x100
Women	
Esther Smith, Keene184x200
Junior	
Tim Swisher, Dover184x200
All-Around	
Phil Wright, Hudson384x400

runnerup Pete McCall by two in the warm-up doubles race.

Friday had been clear and warm, but Saturday's weather began rainy and remained cloudy all day during the 16-yard title race. In addition, the 204 competitors were forced to suspend shooting for an hour when the power went off after a transformer failure. Neither Cushing nor Pete McCall seemed daunted by the difficulties, however, as each responded with perfect scores, with McCall collecting the non-resident championship for his 200 for the second year in a row. Esther Smith bettered her 1974 score by eight, earning this year's women's crown with 184, the same total that secured Tim Swisher's junior championship for him.

Among residents, Nelson Maine tallied a second-high 198 for runnerup-to-the-champ honors, one over Phil Wright and Pete Gallagher, who earned resident Class AA and B laurels, respectively. Dave Bighinatti had to fire an extra 50 straight before his 194 was good for the A win, and Ivan Maine outscored him by one for the C victory. Arthur Houghton was high in D with 193.

Trailing McCall's 200 by one was Ty Sherrod, who collected the non-resident Class AA prize. Aubrey Wornham broke 196 for A honors, and a 198 by John Doucette was good for the trophy in B. Keith Johnson hit 194 and another 24 for C honors, while John F. Hill equaled Johnson's original score for the win in D. Sophie Mankus was best among visiting women with her 190, and Vincent Pezza

Jr. got the nod among those juniors with 168. Marc Allaire paced those under age 15 in open competition with 180.

The open husband-wife trophy was won by Bob and Sophie Mankus with their total of 379x400, while Bill and Dennis DeVaux earned the parent-child award with 391.

The weather worsened for Sunday's doubles and handicap races, with thunderstorms and rains heavy enough to stop shooting completely on several occasions. However, 120 turned out for the doubles event. Phil Wright broke 95 of the twins for that state title, four over runnerup Bill Bartels. Nelson Maine hit 88 for the resident Class A victory, and Elwin Ward fired a 90 to be high in B. Paul Horton was best in C with 89, while Alvin Smith was the top D entrant with 86.

Richard Jones and Bob McCarthy knotted with 96 for the two non-resident trophies, then they tied again in the first extra round with 18. They remained deadlocked with 20 each in the second go-round, then Jones settled it with 19 to McCarthy's 18 in the third set-to.

Handicap Championship

Weather cleared slightly in the late afternoon during the handicap championship, when Ken Whitehouse fired a 97 from the 19-yard line for his first state title. Dave Bighinatti, the 1973 and 1974 handicap champ, settled for resident runnerup this year with a 95 from 24½ yards. Ivan Maine was one down from him for 18-19 yardage honors, and Fred Donohoe was high among 20-21 gunners with his 93. Herman Ledtje was best in the 22-23 standings with 90, while 92s by Cushing and Wright gave them the 24-25 and 26-27 awards.

David Marcolini connected with 98 from 22½ yards to top the field of 212 and take home the non-resident championship. Gus Iozzo won 18-19 honors for his 95, one over Ray Whalen, who collected the 20-21 trophy for visitors. Ninety-sixes by Joe Dutra and Wayne Paquin were good for the 22-23 and 24-25 wins, while Roger Dunham recorded a 91 for the 26-27 award. In open competition, Joyce Boyd bested women with 91 from the 20, and Vincent Pezza Jr. hit 78 then an extra 22 for the junior prize.

Wright totaled 384 on the 400 championship targets for his all-around crown, bettering his winning tally last year by five. He also earned the high-over-all award with 672x700 for the entire three days. Cushing and Nelson Maine tangled with 375 each for resident runnerup laurels in the all-around, and Cushing took that with 40 in overtime. Maine settled for state Class A laurels for his 38. Pete

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