



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
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USAMU Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction
22-23 October, 2004

Memories: 1975 Interservice Rifle Team

Ray Carter



The Winners! (L-R, Front) Jesse Causey-Tm CPT, James McQuien, Tommy Covington, Martin Edmonson, Earl Waterman, Patrick Boyle, Clinton Stephens. (BackRow) Phillip Cannella-ALT, Burl Branham-Tm Coach, Terry Daugherty-ALT, Elmer Mondon, Ray Carter, Edward Schumacher, William R. Lee, Roy Combs-Tm Coach

USMAU Photo

I saw in the last MMA newsletter that the USAMU was considering adding the 1975 Interservice Rifle Team Champions (10-Man Team Match) to the USAMU Hall of Fame. Their score of 4931 shot in 1975 lasted 24 years as an Interservice Record until 1999 when the Army team edged past it.

COL Sid Hinds had a policy that any International Rifle or Running Target shooters that didn't make the big "international team" each year would be assigned to augment the National Trophy Group through Camp Perry. While I did make the CISM Team and helped them win in Oulu, Finland in early June, I didn't make the 1975 Pan American Games team, so it was back to McAndrews Range. I drew my guns on Monday, July 7th and the Interservice Ten-Man Team Match was going to be held on August 15th. I wasn't going to have to go to Camp Perry that year as they had plenty of "old shooters" so I didn't have to mess with shooting Lake City ammo and could concentrate of shooting handloads. The other good news was that the M14 rifles were now allowed to have "heavy" barrels for the first time. What an amazing difference! You could actually stay in the ten-ring at 600 yards and that little bit of extra weight helped greatly in standing and rapid fire. They still had wooden stocks as it would be a few more years before the fiberglass stocks would be allowed. Some-

thing else to remember is that we shot Rapid Fire Sitting in 50 seconds instead of the 60 seconds used now, we shot Rapid Fire Prone in 60 seconds instead of the 70 seconds used now and the aiming black for the 300 yard and 600 yard targets were smaller by a whole ring!

After a couple of weeks of practice on McAndrews Range we moved on to Oak Ridge, TN and then up to Quantico, VA for more training, their Regional and then Interservice. I was paired with Ed Schumacher and coached by Jesse Causey and Jerry Lebish. I remember being a little nervous just before we started, but it went okay in standing as I cleaned it with 100x100. Pat Boyle also cleaned it. The team shot well through Rapid Fire Sitting at 200 yards and Rapid Fire Prone at 300 yards with no disasters. I had dropped two points somewhere in there, but Pat Boyle was still clean. At 600 yards the team continued shooting well. Pat Boyle finished with a 500x500, while William R. Lee and I followed with scores of 497x500. I am still in awe of that 500x500. I was very proud of my performance, but imagine shooting a 500x500 in a major championship!

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MMA President's Report

Arch Arnold

We are very excited about the final planning for our 48th Anniversary Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony next month. You should have recently received a personal invitation by mail and, hopefully, you have already checked the blocks on the registration form and sent it back in. As usual, the reunion promises to be a great time for all.....good friends, good food and short speeches! Hope to see you all soon at Fort Benning.

Special Reunion Baseball Caps

Many of our members have periodically asked the USAMU for the unit patch and/or the unit's distinctive black hat. Unfortunately, policy limits issue of such items to assigned personnel only. To solve this dilemma, your association has ordered a high-quality, low-cost baseball cap embroidered with the USAMU emblem on the front. As we are not allowed to have them made in black, we are offering them for sale in a choice of dark forest green or dark blue. Pre-registration cost per cap is \$8.00 and cost at the reunion is \$10.00. They look sharp! Be sure to check the color and quantity blocks on the reunion registration form.

Magnificent Shooting Performances

Congratulations to the USAMU for some truly amazing shooting performances this summer :

Major Mike Anti's silver medal in three-position rifle at the Olympic Games in Athens was really extraordinary. His talent, dedication and competitive fire were exactly what was needed to extend the USAMU's tradition of Olympic excellence. I thought it was particularly thoughtful and appropriate of him to dedicate his medal to all soldiers deployed in harm's way around the world.

And what can you say about the Service Rifle team? They won every important team match from Quantico to Camp Perry this year.....a feat unequalled in decades. Along the way, the Service Rifle Team demonstrated a degree of dominance that again underscored their reputation as the world's greatest uniformed marksman. Congratulations are due to our service rifle team shooters for their truly spectacular season.

Safety

Be careful out there ! Have a very safe trip to and from Fort Benning next month. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanag

The 2004 Olympics in Athens are over, and the AMU's seven Olympic shooters and gunsmith have returned. MAJ Mike Anti finished the highest of all Army and military athletes with an Olympic Silver for 3-Position Rifle. Our other NCOs also did exceptionally well, with SFC Dulohery finishing fifth after two 3-way shootoffs for bronze. SFC Parker made it into the Air Rifle finals, finishing 8th.

Service Rifle won every Service Rifle Team Match from the Interservice through the two 1,000 yard long range team matches, setting three national and one Interservice record. Some matches went to the US Army two and three teams deep. I don't think the Army has had a "Clean Sweep" season like this since at least 1977, according to Mr. Harden.

As I write this, tomorrow (September 11th) marks the third year we have been at war.

We are now re-cocking and changing back into "Combat mode" for Service Rifle, Service Pistol, and Action/Combat. In September alone we are sending Mobile Training Teams to Korea, Fort Bragg, Fort Bliss, Fort Leonard Wood, and Fort Campbell. The CG of the Infantry Center has asked us to support the Virginia Military Institute and Auburn University's ROTC. On top of all these MTTs we are also conducting five two-week Designated Marksman Instructor Courses for NCOs.

Infantry magazine has recognized the AMU three times this year as the place to start if you need marksmanship or weapons help.

The Shop will be delivering 242 M16A4 Designated Marksman Rifles for the 3rd Infantry Division as part of an Army G3/TRADOC experiment for the Transformation Army. If successful in Iraq and Afghanistan these rifles and 77-grain match ammo will go to every maneuver brigade in the Army, one per squad.

Your Soldiers are earning their keep by Winning, and then turning around and helping out Recruiters to fill the ranks. The combat teams and the shop teams are helping set up our GIs for success on the battlefield, converting lessons learned at the range in competition into battlefield success. Where we are short people we have asked for volunteer help from the Texas, Kentucky, and Tennessee State rifle teams, and the response has been strong.

We look forward to sharing our stories with you at the Reunion, where you will get to talk to our outstanding shooters in person. We hope you will approve of the things we have done and are doing for the unit, the Army, and our great country.

Thanks.

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Fort McClellan, Alabama. Few soldiers were married those days. Family quarters on Post were also hard to come by. First Sergeant Bull Johnson and the Battalion Sergeant Major had quarters on Post. Supply Sergeant Turner and a few other married soldiers rented apartments just off Post. It was a well-known fact that the K Company First Sergeant and the Battalion Sergeant Major did not get along. They were neighbors and both owned Boston Bulldogs, one a male, the other female. Bull Johnson owned the female and did not want puppies, especially from his neighbor's dog. Bull Johnson also had a teenage daughter with a mean streak. She bred the two Bulldogs and caused the First Sergeant to raise Cain around the orderly room for a few days. It didn't take long for the story to get around. Troops were easily entertained those days.

Army laundry services were not so different those days. Bedding and linens were exchanged through the unit supply room every Friday and cleaned by the quartermaster laundry. Each soldier had \$3.00 deducted from his pay each month for laundry services. Underwear, socks, summer uniforms and everything washable could be sent to the QM laundry. Summer uniforms were sometimes returned more wrinkled than pressed. Most soldiers scrubbed their own summer uniforms and pressed them. A large scrub board area, large sinks, scrub brushes and large cakes of yellow GI soap were provided in the latrine for laundry self help. An electric iron could be borrowed. A blanket used for a pad on top of a footlocker made an excellent ironing board. A civilian concessionaire cleaned the wool winter uniforms, paid for by the individual soldiers.

Coats remembers the mess hall food as excellent. The cooks worked hard all the time. The mess sergeant arranged to buy fresh fruits and vegetables which were prepared and served when they were available. Meat, canned foods, dried foods and condiments were issued by quartermaster. Raisins were delivered in clusters, still attached to their grape stems. The raisins were bigger, softer and better tasting than the raisins are today. Commercial canned food was served when units were in the field or when needed in garrison. Food issue seemed to run on a monthly basis. When commercial salad dressing or mayonnaise ran out, the cooks made it from scratch. The cooks baked all of the homemade bread, rolls, pastry and desserts. When a unit was on the rifle range, mess personnel would provide a hot lunch of meat, potatoes, vegetable, bread and iced tea without benefit of mermite cans. Seven units on Fort McClellan had messhalls. They were Companies I, K, L, M, HQ, Svc, and 4th Tank. Each soldier was assigned to a mess table and specific stool by their squad leader, a corporal, who also sat at that table. The evening meal required a tie to be worn with the duty uniform. When entering the messhall, soldiers were required to stand at their designated place until their squad leader commanded "Seats".

From that point on, talking was allowed. Meals were served family style. The dining room orderly would set silverware and food on all of the tables. The last person to empty a serving bowl would hold it up in the air and it would be refilled. Shame on that person who licked the serving spoon, the corporal at that table might just whack that unsanitary person in the head. For the breakfast meal, everyone carried their plate to a serving line for their eggs. Eggs could be ordered several ways including omelets. On most days home fried potatoes were available for breakfast. Cereal was available for every breakfast meal. Unlimited toast, butter and jelly were the norm. Creamed beef on toast was served once or twice a week. Pancakes were added to the ham or bacon or sausage and eggs on Fridays. It was a rare occasion, when breakfast was not a generous meal. Coats tasted his first french fried potato in K Company mess. Messhall headcount duty was not required at the time. The Company Commanding Officer might eat in the messhall twice a year, on Regimental organization day and the 4th of July.

A. D. Marchioli recently wrote of Coats Brown:

What can one say about a legendary fellow Soldier? The ultimate Soldier. All that one should be, was, and is the embodiment - "Coats Brown".

What's the old phrase, "They don't make them like that anymore." Whenever Coats was teaching us - you listened and tried to perform exactly as he instructed you. He could read wind like no one else.

At the 1957 matches at Camp Perry, the weather was as usual lousy. It started to rain with a vengeance at 300 yards and continued at 600 yards. It was difficult to keep the targets on the frames, but Coats was behind the scope and called the windage perfectly. I believe we beat the Marines by 5 points, the first time (I believe) in five years that Army beat the Marines in the Dogs of War Match. Members of the team were Willis Powell, Richard Hinklo, Charly Orr, Joe Berry, John Roka, and yours truly - Coaches were Raynold Dobak and Coats.

I never saw a group of Generals jump for joy, but it all happened in driving rain in 1957 - where does the time go?

MEMORIES / From Page 1

I know I never expected the team record to stand for as long as it did. If we could shoot that well the very first year the heavier barrels were used, I figured that it would just keep going up every so often. As the years passed and it wasn't broken, I was very surprised. I would check out the scores each year after Interservice to see how the teams did compared to our record. In 1999 the Army team did break it. I was pleased that I could attend the banquet that night in Quantico and congratulate them on their fine performance.

The Interservice Rifle Team Championship is truly a team effort. It is a much better measure of performance than the National Trophy Team Match in my opinion. Not only ten shooters on the line, but two sets of coaches reading the wind and trying to keep those ten shooters centered. Add in the gunsmiths, the ammunition guys, the truck drivers, the command group, and the other team members and you have an example of everyone working towards a common goal and achieving it. Thanks to everyone that helped out that year!

USAR SHOOTER PROFILE:

Edward F. Etzel, Jr., Int'l Rifle

Ed Etzel won an Olympic gold medal in the 50 Meter Rifle Prone event at the Los Angeles Games in 1984. How else would you start his biography in a shooting publication? This achievement was the culmination of many years of training, like other champions, starting as a youngster. Ed was born in New Haven, CT, 6 September 1952, and started shooting in the Boy Scouts at age 10. He was Connecticut State Junior Champion at age 12. Attending Tennessee Tech University on a rifle scholarship, Ed helped the school to win two national collegiate championships and was a three time All American in 1972-1973-1974. He was elected to the University Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

Commissioned as a 2LT in the Medical Service Corps in 1974, Ed was assigned to the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning and shot on the winning National Trophy Team at Camp Perry in 1975 as one of the USAMU new shooters. This gave him the bronze Excellence in Competition Badge, the first on the trail of trophies. Ed then was assigned to the International Rifle Team at the AMU where he won the NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifle Position Badge.

Continuing with a great year in 1975, Ed was the 300 meter Standard Rifle Champion and the gold medal winner in the 300 meter Standard Rifle event at the CISM matches at Oulu, Finland.

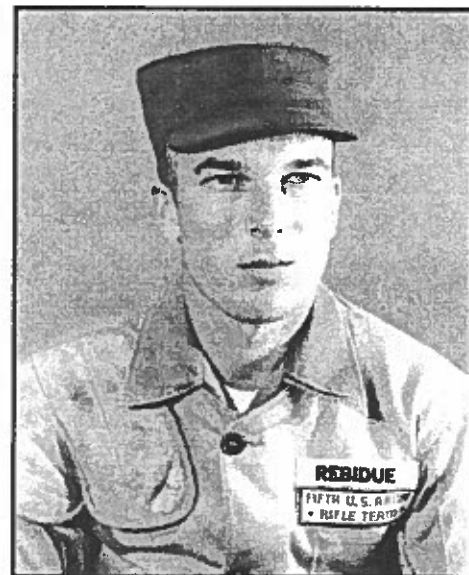
Etzel left active duty in 1976 to become the coach at West Virginia University and attend graduate school. Ed coached WVU from 1976-1989, ending with a 101-3 record, with five national championships and turning out over 30 All Americans. Ed served on the NCAA Rifle Committee. He received his Masters degree in Physical Education in 1979 and Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology in 1989. During these years, Ed was an active member of the strong Army Reserve International Rifle Team and was national Air Rifle Champion in 1977 and a member of the Championship of the Americas team to Mexico City where he won the gold individual and team medals in the 50 meter three position match as well as a silver team medal in the 10 meter Air Rifle event. This performance authorized the awarding of the United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge. 1977 was also the year that the NRA sent a team to Bisley, England to fire in the Lord Earl Roberts match and Ed was a member of that team.

At the World Shooting Championships in Seoul, Korea in 1988, Ed picked up two gold team medals for his contribution to the USA 50 meter 3x40 and 50 meter standing performances. In 1979, Ed was again men's National Air Rifle Champion. In 1979, The Pan American Games were held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Representing the USA Rifle Team, Ed tallied gold team medals in the Air Rifle and Smallbore Rifle Three Position events.

In 1983, Ed won the NRA Indoor 3 Position and the 50 meter Prone Rifle titles. His activities in 1983 further included being a member of the USA team to the World Air Gun Championships held in Innsbruck, Austria. In 1984, Ed had a great year, starting with winning both the 50 meter Prone and 3 Position National Championships as a

member of the U S Army Reserve Team. With the help of Joe Berry, the rock of support for the USAR Team, the USAR was able to arrange for Ed to go on extended duty to train daily on the Olympic range in Los Angeles for more than a month immediately preceding his event and Ed prevailed by winning the gold medal in the 50 Meter Prone Rifle match. Ed Etzel is licensed psychologist and an associate professor in the Department of Sports Studies at West Virginia University. He has taught at ISSF Coaching Schools and written articles for various shooting magazines. He currently lives at 1934 Van Voorhis Road, Morgantown, WV 26508. Telephone 304-599-5953, Email ETZEL@WVU.EDU.

RICHARD D. REBIDUE, MMA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SAYS STAY CURRENT FOR THE MMA TIMES AND REUNIONS



Dick works hard as a member of the MMA Executive Board. His record as a Distinguished Rifleman, President's Hundred, and 1970 All Army Champion travelled a route to Camp Perry via teams from Fifth Army '57-'58, Europe '59-'61, Pacific '64-'65, USAMU Fort Benning '66-'73. Sorry, no Camp Perry in 1968 when "Reb" was a Sniper Instructor with 9th ID in Vietnam.

MMA Web Site at -

militarymarksmanship.org

Join Us Today!!!

Photos needed: If you have a 8" X 10" shooting photo of yourself or a team, please photo copy it, identify the event, date, people and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025. Photos received will be captioned, placed in document protectors & notebook binders and stored in the USAMU Photo Archives.

Keeping In Touch

Ralph O. Talbot recently sent a copy of his distinguished biography. He reflects, he thought we would be interested in the musings of an old Soldier whose USAMU association goes back to 1956 when the unit was formed. He says he was the product of the best marksmanship program the Army has produced: shooting at company, battalion, division, Army area, and all-Army level. The friendships and associations in this program for almost 50 years have been many, varied, and personally rewarding.

His competition shooting career began in 1956 with the 3rd ID pistol team. During his commissioned career - graduating OCS in 1958, tank company and troop commander, MACV advisor, mechanized Infantry staff in Vietnam, CGSC graduate, 9 years with DIA, joint service in Australia, returning to DIA, and joining USAMU as the Pistol Branch Chief - he says personal and unit small arms marksmanship was closely associated with all assignments and everything he's done since retirement.

"Shooting has been great for me and my family. I took a lot from it. I only hope, before I go on the firing line for my last relay, that I am able to give back to the sport some of what it has given me."

Ralph and his wife Betty, his high school sweetheart, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in April 2005 and hope to attend the USAMU 50th anniversary.

On Sunday April 4, 2004, Margaret and Tom Moore celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. As Paul Harvey would say, "And now, for the rest of the story."

Tom writes that their three children told them that they were in charge of the preparations and all we had to do was show up. However, one of my daughters said she needed my two Distinguished badges. I did not question her but wondered what they had to do with our anniversary. When Margaret and I arrived, we were escorted to the main table and my daughter said, "Since I didn't have a groom's cake back in 1954, they wanted me to have a groom's cake for my Fiftieth." What a surprise! There was a chocolate and raspberry groom's cake—with a photo image of my two Distinguished badges on the top.

I had not thought about the connection between my marriage and my Distinguished badges until seeing the groom's cake. A couple of months after our marriage, Margaret and I went to Camp Perry for the 1954 National Rifle Championship where I earned two major "legs" toward distinguished designation. I will celebrate another fiftieth anniversary as my Distinguished Rifleman Badge will be 50 years old this August. Of course Margaret has a different recollection of the 1954 matches. Margaret and I slept in a tent city (Squaw Village) somewhat near the (old) clubhouse—but that is another story!

I am sure that this is not the first story of a cake with an image of one or more Distinguished badges or of a golden wedding anniversary but I wonder how many MMA members have Distinguished badges 50 years or older?

Editors note: Before 1955, individuals could earn both individual and team "legs" in the Excellence-In-Competition Matches. In 1975, Tom became Double Distinguished by earning the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.

Taps, Present Arms

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Sergeant First Class (Retired) Ferdinand Louis (Fred) Eysel, 87, on Sunday, September 5, 2004, in Columbus, Georgia. Fred was Distinguished Rifleman and member of the USAMU Service Rifle Team shortly after the AMU was formed in 1956.

Shooting Competitions - Clean Rifle 1962

Weldon M. Griggs

In the Fall of 1962 I was a new Second Lieutenant assigned to the International Rifle Section of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit at Ft. Benning, Georgia. One morning we were told to take our prone rifles over to the gunsmith shop. I don't recall the reason, but I do remember hustling over to the gunsmith shop with the rifle.

It wasn't long after that when someone told me that Major Pullum wanted to see me over at the pistol range. Major Pullum was the OIC of the International Rifle Section. When I got there and reported to him he was holding my prone rifle. He asked me if I had cleaned my rifle that morning and I told him, "No, Sir". The counseling session was short and stern. I was told that if the rifle wasn't being fired it would be clean. If the rifle was taken to a gunsmith it would be clean.

Additionally, I was instructed to clean my rifle and report to then Captain Tommy Pool for his inspection of the rifle. After passing his inspection, I would take it to MSG Raymond Behnay, one of the Unit's gunsmiths, and I would apologize for bringing him an unclean rifle to work on. This was promptly done.

Major Pullum's counseling was effective. During the rest of my active duty, and during the next 23 years with the Army Reserve International Rifle Team, I never took a rifle to a gunsmith unless it was freshly cleaned inside and out. That was a lesson I had learned the hard way.

CORRECTION

Member Victor L. Auer was misidentified as Vic Auel in the last Times issue.

Stories needed: If you remember a funny, inspiring or interesting shooting experience, please share it with us, so we can share it with the membership through the MMA Times. Please send your experiences or second hand stories to: MMA Times Editor, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Back to Maryland The previously mentioned Larry Gau had talked his fellow club members into an order to the DCM. Trapdoor Springfield were 50 cents, single action Army Colts were \$1.00 and Krag rifles were \$1.50! This was back in the late 1930's and when they came in, the shipping cost more than the guns. Only a couple of people took these guns, mostly Krags and the rest told him to keep them along with some four letter words concerning the cost. After the war he found the guns where he had put them in the barn. He needed some fence repairs etc. on his farm so thought to sell some of the guns to pay for the bill. He found a complete loading machine for the 30-40! Looked like a wagon wheel on its side. Several boxes of parts with a note that stated "With all those guns, he was going to need parts." But the big surprise was the box of pistols. It was designed to hold up to 100 pistols and contained 75 revolvers on two trays. The guns were all in grease but there was a four letter number stamped on the tray at each gun. He thought that it was some sort of warehouse number. But wiping off the grease revealed the last four numbers of the serial number and they were consecutive! Believe it or not he had 75 consecutively numbered, SAA unfired revolvers. He put an ad in the "Rifleman" stating he had consecutive numbered unfired Colt's. A fellow came from Ohio to see them. Asked about the pair, Larry thought about flooding the market and told him he had four. The fellow said two pair? Impossible! Anyway Larry sold him the four for \$500! He got a note later that the fellow had broken them into two pairs and doubled his money. He sold the rest one at a time to not flood the market with matched pairs.

Information for the "Keeping in Touch" column needed: If you shot for the Army, your old friends want to hear about you. Send us a description of your experiences, when and where you shot, coached, accurized weapons, or other duties. When did you get out of the Army? What did you do? School? Work? When did you retire? What are your hobbies? Please jot down some information about yourself and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.



P.O. Box 52025
Fort Benning, Georgia
31995-2025

Service Rifle Hall of Fame Panel

Lloyd Crow

When USAMU was formed the emphasis was on service rifle and service pistol team effort. I think that many of the "Hard Holders" who always shot good team scores have been overlooked in the current hall of fame selection process. I am forming a panel to make recommendations for inducting teams and team shooters into the Service Rifle Hall of Fame.

The purpose of this panel is: to research and verify service rifle team match results over the years, to determine deserving teams and individual team shooters, and to prioritize and recommend teams and team shooters to the USAMU Commander for induction into the Service Rifle Hall of Fame.

LTC Liwanag, the USAMU Commander, has stated that he wanted great teams inducted into the Hall of Fame. He has also been receptive to great team shooters who shot multiple times on winning teams at the National and Interservice big team matches being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

All Service Rifle Hall Of Fame members who have the time and inclination may serve on this panel. Current Service Rifle Hall of Members are: Tom Atwood, Lloyd Crow, Charles Davis, David Erickson, Joe Gapol, Boyd Goldsby, Vince Greiner, William Lee, John Mann, James McQuien, Joann Stawski, Greg Strom and Earl Waterman.

Anyone wanting to recommend a team or team shooter for the service rifle Hall of Fame may do so. Please compile as much information about the team or individual team shooter as possible. List event, date, location, scores, don't forget coaches and team captains. A photo would help. Send recommendations to: Lloyd Crow, 6123 Huntington Trail, Columbus, GA 31909.

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22-23 Oct 04**

