

Regional Tournaments



By Brad Glustoff

2006 California State Championship

It was a squeaker of an HOA race at Triple B Clays, with Tom John just edging out Zach Kienbaum, who gets top "sportsmanship honors" nonetheless.

Southern California is famous for its many leisure activities. With endless beaches and nearby mountains, it's easy to overlook sporting clays courses. One of the best is Triple B Clays located in the heart of the Los Angeles metro area. June 29-July 2, it was home to this year's California State Championship.

When owners Bruce and Billie Barsotti took over in 1999, they were determined to take what was predominantly a trap and skeet range and turn it into a multi-discipline clays shooting facility. Having formerly owned River Road Sporting Clays in Gonzales, California, and hosting past US Open and Zone 7 championships, they were more than qualified. Today, Triple B Clays boasts a 24-station sporting course with three traps per station, two 5-Stands, and 15 trap and skeet fields.

This year's California State Championship began on Thursday with the sub-gauges all shot on the same course, though shooting positions were changed for each gauge. For Friday's preliminary, Barsotti chose six stations on the east course and six on the west for the 100-bird, 12-station event. Scoring the prelim as well as all the events was done by the Northview High School Girls Cheerleading Team. Local hot shot Brad Sutton turned in a stunning 97 to take HOA. David Welch and Zach Kienbaum shot off for runner-up, with Welch taking home RU and Kienbaum earning M1.

The 50-bird FITASC was shot over two old-style parcourses with three pegs



Tom John won the final shoot-off to become state champ.



California State champion Tom John congratulates runner-up Zach Kienbaum.

each. After dropping just one bird on parcourse two and two birds on parcourse one, Albert Bogetti Jr. claimed HOA with 47. Tom John was two birds behind for RU. Kienbaum and Ron Jay shot off for M1, with Kienbaum victorious. This shoot-off would play an important role in the outcome of the main event later on. The 100-bird 5-Stand saw Scott Robertson shoot an impressive 97 to take HOA. Fred Mathews turned in 95 for RU, and Kienbaum again claimed M1. That's three for Kienbaum, if you're counting.

Barsotti had set up two 12-station courses for the main event, an east and west course. Saturday evening saw John leading with a scorching 97, Bogetti one bird back with 96, and, ever in the hunt, Kienbaum at 94, also on the west course. Bill Skinner posted 94 for the top score on the east course. That evening, shooters enjoyed the tri-tip brisket barbecue.

The difference in the two courses could best be summed up by chokes; east was skeet and improved cylinder, while west was that and light modified. At Sunday's end, it was John and Kienbaum tied for champ at 192. The last set of shoot-offs was for champion honors. Kienbaum, John, and Barsotti stepped up to the shoot-off line. But before they

began, they could be seen discussing something. Barsotti soon announced to the crowd that the shoot-off would be held on FITASC parcourse one. As the crowd moved, there was speculation as to why.

After the shoot-off, with John victorious and Kienbaum RU, Barsotti explained that Kienbaum had approached him about moving the shoot-off, stated that after taking FITASC M1 in the prior shoot-off, he didn't want an unfair advantage over John. He had already shot the targets, while John hadn't. When I asked John about his victory, all he had was praise for Kienbaum. "I've known Zach for a long time, and he's always been a man of integrity."



2006 California State Championship Triple B Clays South El Monte, California June 29-July 2, 2006

Main Event

CH	Tom John	192
RU	Zachary Kienbaum	192
M1	Albert Bogetti Jr.	190
M2	Kyler Hamann	185
M3	David Welch	183
AA1	Brad Sutton	181
AA2	Anthony Juarez	180
AA3	Don Criswell	179
A1	Mike Kokayko	189
A2	Matt Pandol	170
A3	Frank Wood	170
B1	Guy Savidan	181
B2	Scott Steere	177
B3	Adam Horn	171
C1	Barney Craven	173
C2	Cory Moore	173
C3	George Collins	166
D1	John Thompson	163
D2	Dillon Ventzke	160
D3	William Nielsen	158
E1	Ronald Stomp	151
E2	Bryant Coleman	149
E3	Jill Feagans	145
LYCH	Sheryl Lawrence	170
LYRU	Jennifer Bandy	160
LY3	Jennifer Walton	157
SJCH	Justin Fox	175
SJRU	Josh Gomez	161
SJ3	Dillon Ventzke	160
JRCH	Anthony Juarez	180
JRRU	Brett Gera	175
JR3	Andres Malovos	174
VTCH	Bill Skinner	181
VTRU	Patrick Moore	177
VT3	Mike Bessone	176
SVCH	Carl Westfall	182
SVRY	Don Criswell	179
SV3	Curt Cowgill	175