

## Compton Claims NCAA Collegiate Individual Air Rifle Championship

**FORT WORTH, Texas** - UA freshman Jenna Compton became just the second athlete in Akron history to win a national championship, and the first to do so for the rifle squad, as Compton won the NCAA Collegiate Individual Air Rifle Championship at the NCAA Championships this afternoon at Texas Christian University. With the victory, Compton becomes the first Akron athlete to capture a national championship since Christi Smith who won the award in 1990, winning the outdoor heptathlon.



On winning an individual National Championship Compton said, "It's amazing, I still can't believe it and there are no words to describe how I feel right now. Heading into the finals I was nervous and my heart was pounding but I knew I had to relax and keep my composure. I didn't go in expecting to win a national championship but winning feels great and the whole experience was pretty amazing."

All the makings of a Cinderella story were in place for Compton's fairytale ending today. The freshman, who has been a constant performer for the Zips this season, entered the NCAA Qualifier at the Ohio State University two weeks ago and fired a personal-best mark of 587, earning top gun honors and a gold medal at the event while qualifying with the nation's 14<sup>th</sup> best score. More importantly, Compton became just the second shooter in UA history to earn a national bid since Varsity "A" Hall of Famer Mark Beres did so back in 1979.

Today, following flights one and two in the first round of competition, Compton fired a personal and school-best mark of 590 but still trailed West Virginia University's Bryant Wallizer by just one point, as Wallizer rested in first with 591. The Olympic finals conclude the event as each shooter fires ten shots before the National Champion is decided and where Compton would eventually win her title.

Compton bested Wallizer, who shot 100 in the finals (and ended the day with a mark of 691), by six tenths of a point, notching a score of 101.6 to finish ahead with a final tally of 691.6. For dramatic flare, the freshman waited until her ninth and tenth shots to take the .6 point advantage, becoming the number one individual collegiate shooter in the nation.

As expected, head coach Newt Engle was extremely proud of his shooter's accomplishments adding, "I've been proud of our team and their many accomplishments for years but Jenna winning the individual championship symbolizes the crown jewel of our hard work."

Engle continued stating, "Jenna entered the championships with a clear head and fired her match like a true champion, battling till the very end. Jenna has done her teammates, the program and the University of Akron proud today and there are simply no words to accurately describe what I feel about her accomplishments. I would like to recognize all our supporters, especially volunteer assistant coach Bryan Cargould for all his hard work and contributions to our team. He was extremely instrumental in Jenna's performance today and a big part of her success, diligently working with her over the past two weeks at practice."

Compton's Individual Air Rifle National Championship caps off a successful 2008-09 campaign for the UA rifle program which recently finished second at the Mid Atlantic Conference Rifle Championships held at the Virginia Military Institute. The Zips, who finished with a 5-4 mark overall also captured their sixth-straight WIRC Championship this year.