

TELEGRAPHIC TEAM MATCHES

The main event of the CSSU was to run the biennial schuetzenfest, however in 1902 the Union instituted a telegraphic or postal team meet in those years when there was not a 'fest. Sixteen teams entered this meet: the first telegraphic event to be that large. Various vereins had held telegraphic matches before, normally duel matches, but this was the first to include so many teams. In conducting the meet, the Union specified the day the teams were to meet for the contest. The teams of six schuetzen convened on their own ranges on that day: each team member took 10 shots on the German ring target at 200 yards, and the team captain reported the scores by telegraph. The results were all reported by 11:00 PM that day. The DSG team was fourth in the 1902 telegraphic meet. (Shooting and Fishing Aug 3, 1902)

The second telegraphic team match was held on October 9, 1904, the official results (CSSU 20) show that 17 teams participated. The top three scores were:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Davenport "A" | 1279 |
| New Holstein, Wis | 1275 |
| Dubuque | 1217 |

The scores of the winning Davenport team were:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| J. D. Regennitter | 227 | C. W. Ranzow | 210 |
| Ed Berger | 220 | Chris Jansen | 204 |
| Emil Berg | 216 | O. B. Schmidt | 202 |

The results bulletin comments that the team shot in the morning to avoid interfering with the monthly shoot of the Davenport Shooting Association. Davenport was fortunate as the winds were calm in the morning, but gusty in the afternoon. The executive board of the next biennial 'fest organized the event, which in this case was Davenport.

The differing weather conditions across the region were a factor in the telegraphic team matches. On August 8, 1908, the day of that year's telegraphic match, to spice up the competition St Louis and Davenport also conducted a telegraphic duel match. For the dual match each of twelve schuetzen fired 50 shots at 200 yards on the German ring target. The weather was very bad:

In this match when shot here the light was so dim at times that the bullseye was only a shade darker than the rest of the world."(EB Clip)

When the results were known the Davenport team had prevailed in the duel match 11,815 to 11,542 as the weather was as bad in St Louis as it was in Davenport.

For the CSSU match that was held concurrently the teams each had six schuetzen firing twenty shots each. The Davenport teams did not fare so well in the CSSU match. The Denver team won with 2545 points

which is far ahead of anything that has been done in the preceding telegraphic team matches. The air being so much lighter and purer there than here or elsewhere, their chances were probably better than most of the other competing teams. (EB Clip)

The top scores of the 20 teams in the 1908 CSSU match were as follows:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Denver | 2545 |
| Wausau | 2466 |
| Highland | 2454 |
| St. Louis 1 | 2434 |
| New Glarus | 2408 |
| Cincinatti | 2406 |
| Davenport 1 | 2380 |

In the Telegraphic meet of August 4, 1912 the Davenport Teams achieved the following scores (20 shots each):

| First Team | | Second Team | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| C. Jansen | 446 | F. Strohbein | 394 |
| Emil Berg | 416 | A. C. Bielenberg | 392 |
| G. Conger | 404 | W. H. Gosch | 369 |
| C. F. Denkman | 395 | Jul. Arp | 369 |
| C. W. Ranzow | 391 | H. A. Schroeder | 362 |
| J. F. Nabstedt | 389 | T. J. Thompson | 281 |
| | <hr/> 2,441 | | <hr/> 2,167 |

The 1914 telegraphic team match was scheduled for the 1st Sunday in September. The day of the scheduled match is mentioned in the DSG protocol, but I have yet to locate the results, or an indication that it actually happened.