

HUSKERS EARN TOP-FOUR NCAA FINISH



The 2014-15 Huskers (from left): Lauren Phillips, Rachel Martin, Marissa Major, Denise Martin, Jaycee Carter, Maggie Mical, Alex Lorentz and Kelsey Hansen.

The Nebraska rifle team produced a fourth-place finish at the 2015 NCAA Championships, marking an extremely successful debut for first-year coach Ashley Rose-MacAllister.

The Huskers, who made their third consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships, posted their top finish at nationals since 2008, when they also finished fourth. Nebraska's 4,667 was its best total in school history under the current scoring format, surpassing the 4,666 the Huskers shot as the NCAA runner-up in 2006. It was Nebraska's seventh top-five team finish in 11 all-time appearances at the NCAA Championships since rifle became a varsity sport at NU in 1998-99.

Individually, sophomore Rachel Martin shined at the NCAA Championships, becoming Nebraska's third national champion by winning the smallbore title. She led a trio of All-Americans that included Denise Martin and Jaycee Carter, all return for the Huskers in 2015-16.

Nebraska closed the regular season with a 7-5 record before embarking on a successful postseason run that included a third-place finish at the GARC Championships. The Huskers started the season by traveling to Colorado Springs to battle Air Force on Oct. 4. Despite a stellar performance by Carter in air rifle (592) and Lauren Phillips in smallbore (585), NU fell to the Falcons, 4,667-4,648.

The Huskers showed their resilience by bouncing back to reel off six consecutive victories, beginning with a 4,651-4,640 victory over Murray State at the NU Rifle Range on Oct. 10. Marissa Major tallied a personal-best smallbore score of 575 against the Racers, while Kelsey Hansen and Rachel Martin fired air rifle scores over 590 to help the Huskers get the win.

Two days later, Nebraska completed a weekend sweep with a victory over Ole Miss. The Huskers outscored the Rebels 4,653-4,576, thanks to Denise Martin and Rachel Martin who finished with smallbore scores of 580 and 579, respectively. Carter added a 590 in air rifle to give the Huskers a comfortable lead.

The following weekend, the Big Red traveled to South Carolina to take on NC State (Oct. 18) and Army (Oct. 19). The Huskers defeated the Wolfpack, 4,653-4,595 with team-best scores of 582 in smallbore and 592 in air rifle by sophomore Rachel Martin. Nebraska topped Army 4,659-4,620, thanks to a 589 by Carter in air rifle and a 583 in smallbore by Denise Martin.

The Huskers returned to the range two weeks later in Tennessee, defeating Memphis 4,667-4,625 on Nov. 1, before rolling past Ohio State, 4,675-4,628, the following day. Phillips tied her personal-best score in air rifle with a 593.

Nebraska headed to Alaska to face No. 2 Kentucky on Nov. 22. Denise Martin finished the day with a personal-best smallbore score of 587, while Maggie Mical shot a season-high smallbore score of 578, but the Huskers were unable to pull off the upset, falling to the Wildcats 4,676-4,669.

The following day, the Huskers fell to Alaska-Fairbanks, 4,700-4,657. Although NU did not defeat the Nanooks, Rachel Martin shattered the program's previous individual air rifle record with her score of 597.

After nearly a two-month break from competition, the Huskers returned to action against No. 1 West Virginia in Morgantown on Jan. 17. Carter tied her career best in air rifle with a 593 to help the Huskers to a 2,352 team air rifle score, but it wasn't enough to prevent a 4,704-4,680 setback to the defending national champions.

Nebraska rebounded with a 4,660-4,627 win at No. 14 Akron in a match that was highlighted by a 596 in air rifle by Rachel Martin.

Nebraska concluded its regular season with a 4,678-4,666 loss to No. 4 TCU at the NU Rifle Range on Jan. 31. Alex Lorentz fired a personal-best 584 in smallbore against the Horned Frogs.

After a three-week break from action, the Huskers opened postseason competition at the NCAA Qualifiers in Lexington, Ky., on Feb. 22. Not only did Nebraska punch its ticket to a third straight NCAA Championships, the Huskers matched the second-

best aggregate score in school history with a 4,690.

The Huskers stayed sharp by preparing for the NCAA Championships with a third-place showing at the 2015 GARC Championships in Oxford, Miss., Feb. 27-March 1. Rachel Martin captured second-team All-GARC honors in smallbore, air rifle and combined. Denise Martin added second-team honors of her own in smallbore while claiming honorable-mention recognition in combined. Lauren Phillips was also an honorable-mention selection on the combined team, and was the only Husker to compete as an individual at the GARC Championships, finishing fifth in smallbore. Lorentz was also recognized for her performance on and off the range as a GARC Scholar-Athlete, while adding a Big Ten Conference Sportsmanship Award.

Nebraska put an exclamation point on Coach Rose-MacAllister's successful first season with the Huskers by finishing fourth with a 4,667 at the NCAA Championships in Fairbanks, Alaska, March 13-14. West Virginia won its third consecutive team title with a 4,702, while the hosts from Alaska finished second at 4,700. TCU finished third.

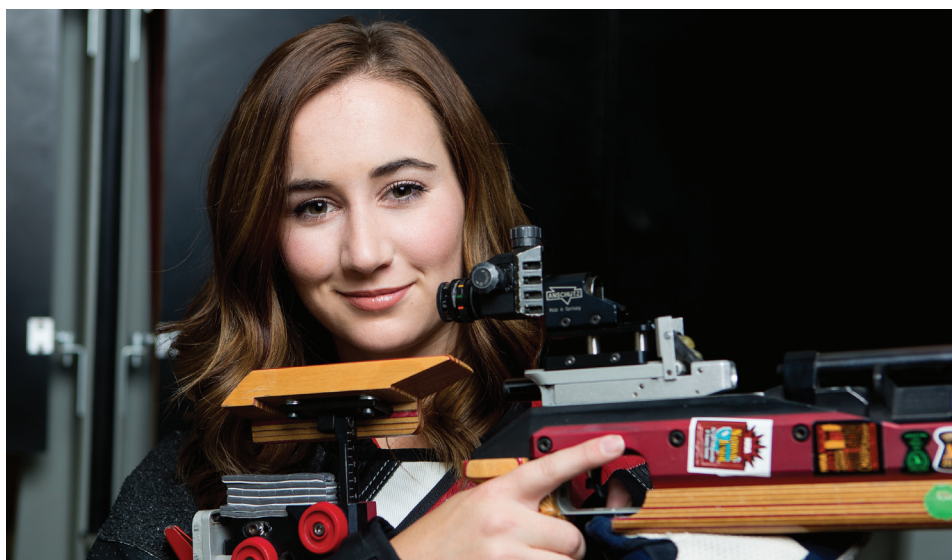
Rachel Martin provided the biggest highlight for the Big Red by becoming the third Husker to win an NCAA individual title. After qualifying for the smallbore finals with a 584, she captured the national championship with a final score of 453.3.

Rachel Martin led a trio of Huskers who claimed All-America honors from the NRA and CRCA, by earning third-team accolades from the CRCA. She was a second-team NRA pick in air rifle while adding honorable mention in smallbore from the NRA. Denise Martin captured second-team honors in smallbore from the NRA, while Carter added honorable-mention recognition in air rifle from the NRA.

All three of Nebraska's All-Americans return to lead the Huskers in pursuit of a fourth straight NCAA appearance in 2016.

2014-15 NEBRASKA SCHEDULE & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	SMALLBORE		AIR RIFLE		COMBINED		W/L	RECORD
			NU	OPP	NU	OPP	NU	OPP		
Oct. 4	Air Force	at Colorado Springs, Colo.	2,300	2,307	2,348	2,360	4,648	4,667	(L)	0-1
Oct. 10	Murray State	NU Rifle Range	2,296	2,297	2,355	2,343	4,651	4,640	(W)	1-1
Oct. 12	Ole Miss	NU Rifle Range	2,307	2,244	2,346	2,332	4,653	4,576	(W)	2-1
Oct. 18	NC State	at Citadel, S.C.	2,300	2,273	2,353	2,332	4,653	4,595	(W)	3-1
Oct. 19	Army West Point	at Citadel, S.C.	2,319	2,290	2,340	2,330	4,659	4,620	(W)	4-1
Nov. 1	Memphis	at Memphis, Tenn.	2,309	2,284	2,358	2,341	4,667	4,625	(W)	5-1
Nov. 2	Ohio State	at Memphis, Tenn.	2,309	2,298	2,366	2,330	4,675	4,628	(W)	6-1
Nov. 22	Kentucky	at Fairbanks, Alaska	2,316	2,307	2,353	2,369	4,669	4,676	(L)	6-2
Nov. 23	Alaska	at Fairbanks, Alaska	2,313	2,324	2,344	2,376	4,657	4,700	(L)	6-3
Jan. 17	West Virginia	at Morgantown, W. Va.	2,328	2,334	2,352	2,370	4,680	4,740	(L)	6-4
Jan. 18	Akron	at Akron, Ohio	2,301	2,286	2,359	2,341	4,660	4,627	(W)	7-4
Jan. 31	TCU	NU Rifle Range	2,312	2,327	2,354	2,351	4,666	4,678	(L)	7-5
Feb. 1	Navy	NU Rifle Range								Canceled
Feb. 22	NCAA Qualifiers	at Lexington, Ky.	2,327		2,363		4,690			
Feb. 27-	GARC Championships	at Oxford, Miss.	2,306		2,358		4,664		3rd/9	
March 1										
March 13-14	NCAA Championships	at Fairbanks, Alaska	2,311		2,356		4,667		4th/8	



Junior Jaycee Carter earned All-American honors last season and became one of Nebraska's top shooters. She tied her personal-best air rifle score twice as a sophomore (593) against West Virginia and TCU.



Senior Magdalena Mical competed at the 2015 NCAA Championships, where she fired a career-high air rifle score of 589, helping Nebraska to a fourth-place finish.

2014-15 STATISTICS SMALLBORE

Player	Apps.	High	Avg.
Denise Martin	15	587	579.39
Lauren Phillips	15	585	577.07
Rachel Martin	14	585	579.07
Alexandrea Lorentz	12	584	565.50
Kelsey Hansen	14	583	573.92
Magdalena Mical	15	578	570.77
Jaycee Carter	14	576	565.08
Marissa Major	12	575	565.67

AIR RIFLE

Player	Apps.	High	Avg.
Rachel Martin	14	597	590.43
Lauren Phillips	15	593	588.07
Jaycee Carter	15	593	589.00
Denise Martin	15	592	584.31
Kelsey Hansen	14	591	583.54
Magdalena Mical	14	589	583.83
Alexandrea Lorentz	13	586	579.77
Marissa Major	13	584	578.69

COMBINED

Player	Apps.	High	Avg.
Rachel Martin	14	1,177	1,169.36
Lauren Phillips	15	1,173	1,165.13
Denise Martin	15	1,173	1,164.13
Alexandrea Lorentz	12	1,169	1,145.42
Jaycee Carter	14	1,169	1,153.21
Kelsey Hansen	14	1,166	1,156.50
Magdalena Mical	14	1,163	1,155.21
Marissa Major	12	1,159	1,144.33