

The Nebraska rifle team continued to rank among the top teams in the nation in 2003, as the Huskers capped the season with a third-place finish at the NCAA Qualifier Meet.

The Huskers returned five shooters in 2002-03 under first-year head coach and Olympic Gold Medalist Launi Meili, and despite a tough schedule, looked to gain a berth at the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2001.

Nebraska opened the season by setting a new range record in its season-opening match against Air Force, downing the Falcons 6,153-6,073. Senior All-American Amanda Trujillo set a then-personal best and tied the range record in winning the air rifle with a 393 and finished runner-up (1,161) to sophomore Alicia Sawyer in the smallbore. Sawyer won with a 1,163, two points better than Trujillo. Junior Melissa Downsbrough finished third in both events (385 in air rifle and 1,157 in smallbore) helping the Huskers to the victory.

The Huskers traveled to Ohio for a pair of matches. At the Buckeye Invitational, Nebraska finished fourth in the team competition behind Army, Ohio State and Green Mountain. Trujillo captured the individual title in the air rifle, firing a 394 and setting a new personal best. Downsbrough was the only other Husker to place in the top 10 in the air rifle, taking home ninth (386). In the smallbore, Sawyer paced the Huskers by taking fifth (1,160), while Trujillo finished just behind her at sixth (1,155).

Continuing a busy weekend of competition, the Huskers faced off against Penn State and Akron and downed both teams, as NU defeated the Nittany Lions, 3,819-3,455 and knocked off the Zips, 3,819-3,812. Sawyer was the star for the Huskers, as she won the air rifle with a 390 and finished second in the smallbore with a 576. Trujillo placed second in both events with a 389 in the air rifle and



Amanda Trujillo earned second-team NRA All-America honors in both the air rifle and the smallbore in 2002-03, as she became the first shooter in school history to earn All-America honors in four consecutive seasons.



Alicia Sawyer was among the team leaders in both smallbore and air rifle in 2002-03. She had a total of 10 top-five finishes, including a first-place finish in smallbore against Air Force and a first-place showing in air rifle against Akron and Penn State.

a 570 in the smallbore.

The Huskers extended their winning streak to six straight matches with a 6,132-6,061 win over UMKC on Nov. 23. Downsbrough captured the title in the air rifle with a 391. She also tied with UMKC's Calee Courter for the smallbore title with a 1,164, while earning a perfect score of 400 from the prone position. Trujillo finished second in the air rifle and fourth in the smallbore.

The Huskers then traveled to Morgantown, W.Va., to take on the Mountaineers. Despite a win from Trujillo in the smallbore (1,177) the Huskers fell to the Mountaineers, 6,203-6,126. It marked the first time since a 6,215-6,120 setback to Alaska-Fairbanks on Jan. 11, 2002, that the Huskers had lost a dual match. Downsbrough finished in a three-way tie for third in the smallbore with a 1,166 and also finished in a three-way tie for second in the air rifle with a 386.

Nebraska opened the new year in El Paso, Texas, squaring off with Texas-El Paso and defending national champion Alaska-Fairbanks on Jan. 10. In the match it was all Nanooks, as the defending national champions dominated the meet, handing the Huskers a 4,718-4,602 loss in the smallbore and 1,555-1,530 setback in the air rifle. Despite the loss, Downsbrough shot a season-best 394 in the air rifle to finish second, while she was also NU's top competitor in the smallbore, firing a 1,171. Trujillo finished sixth in both events, firing a 387 and a 1,168, respectively.

The same three teams competed a second time the following day, and again Alaska-Fairbanks won the meet. Trujillo was the top competitor for the Huskers, firing a 390 in the air rifle and a 1,163 in the smallbore for a pair of top-seven finishes. Downsbrough also continued to shoot well, finishing fifth in the smallbore and sixth in the air rifle.

The Huskers recorded a sixth-place finish at the Roger Withrow Invitational in Murray, Ky., finishing with a team score of 5,986. Tennessee Tech won the team competition (6,179), while Murray State (6,157) and Jacksonville State (6,149) rounded out the top three teams in the multi-day competition. Trujillo placed fourth overall after taking fourth in the smallbore with a 1,164 and tying for sixth in the air rifle with a 389. Sophomore Laura Johnson also earned a top-20 individual finish, placing 16th overall with a score of 1,506, highlighted by a 15th-place showing in air rifle (384).

2002-03 Schedule and Final Results

Date	Opponent/Tournament	Result
Oct. 19	vs. U.S. Air Force Academy	W (6,135-6,073)
Nov. 16	at Buckeye Invitational	Third (6,087)
Nov. 17	at Akron	W (3,819-3,812)
	vs. Penn State	W (3,819-3,455)
Nov. 23	vs. UMKC	W (6,132-6,061)
Dec. 7	at West Virginia	L (6,126-6,203)
Jan. 10	at UTEP	L (6,132-6,135)
	vs. Alaska-Fairbanks	L (6,132-6,273)
Jan. 11	at UTEP	L (6,087-6,131)
	vs. Alaska-Fairbanks	L (6,087-6,290)
Jan. 25	at Roger Withrow Invitational	Sixth (5,986)
Feb. 7	at U.S. Air Force Academy	W (3,843-3,782)
Feb. 8	at NCAA Qualifier	Third (6,089)
Feb. 17-18	at PRMCSL Hawaiian Invite	First (3,055)

Nebraska returned to its winning ways against Air Force on Feb. 7, recording a 3,843-3,782 win against the Falcons in a tuneup for the NCAA Qualifier. It marked the second time that Nebraska had downed Air Force in 2002-03. Trujillo and Downsbrough each fired a 390 to tie for first in the air rifle, and Trujillo took second in the smallbore with a score of 581.

The following day, the Huskers looked to claim a national championship berth at the NCAA Qualifier Meet in El Paso, Texas. Nebraska finished third in the competition, just missing out on a berth in the NCAA Championships with a team score of 6,089. UTEP won the qualifier with a score of 6,120 while Air Force took second with 6,108 points. Trujillo took home the title in the smallbore with a score of 1,161, and tied for third in the air rifle (389). Sawyer tied for fifth in the smallbore with a 1,152, while Downsbrough recorded a pair of top-10 finishes, placing eighth in the air rifle and 10th in the smallbore. Johnson also captured a top-10 finish, placing seventh in the air rifle (384).

The Huskers wrapped up the season by sweeping a pair of matches against San Francisco and Nevada in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Huskers won the competition with a team total of 3,055, besting the Wolfpack (3,052) and the Dons (2,902). The teams only competed in two rounds of air rifle. The Huskers dominated the outdoor meet with Trujillo winning the air rifle (773), while Downsbrough (770) and Sawyer (766) took second and third, respectively. Aspden finished seventh (759) and Johnson placed eighth (757) to round out the scoring for the Huskers, who finished the campaign on a strong note.

With a strong showing at the NCAA Qualifier Meet and another year of work under Meili, the Huskers will make a strong bid to return to the NCAA Championships in 2004.



Laura Johnson turned in her best effort at the NCAA Qualifier, placing seventh in the air rifle with a score of 384.

Karen Aspden

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	378	8th	1,132	7th	1,510
at Buckeye Invitational (11/16)	375	32nd	1,094	66th	1,469
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	382	8th	576	8th	958
UMKC (11/23)	370	8th	1,129	8th	1,499
at West Virginia (12/7)	370	8th	1,105	8th	1,475
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	377	9th	1,102	12th	1,479
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	371	11th	1,102	*	--
at Roger Withrow Invite (1/25)	385	11th	1,090	32nd	1,475
at Air Force (2/7)	387	2nd	569	6th	956
at NCAA Qualifier (2/8)	370	12th	1,110	15th	1,480
at Hawaiian Invite (2/17-18)	759	7th	--	--	--

Kiki Chosid

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	388	*	1,092	*	--
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	368	*	540	*	--
UMKC (11/23)	360	*	1,086	*	--
at West Virginia (12/7)	372	*	1,096	*	--
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	377	*	1,076	*	--
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	359	*	1,084	*	--
at Roger Withrow Invite (1/25)	362	32nd	1,090	32nd	1,452

Melissa Downsbrough

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	385	3rd	1,157	3rd	1,542
at Buckeye Invitational (11/16)	386	9th	1,145	11th	1,531
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	384	5th	564	6th	948
UMKC (11/23)	391	1st	1,164	1st	1,555
at West Virginia (12/7)	386	2nd	1,166	3rd	1,552
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	394	1st	1,171	7th	1,565
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	388	6th	1,172	8th	1,560
at Roger Withrow Invite (1/25)	DNC	--	DNC	--	--
at Air Force (2/7)	390	1st	569	6th	959
at NCAA Qualifier (2/8)	381	8th	1,139	10th	1,520
at Hawaiian Invite (2/17-18)	770	3rd	--	--	--

Laura Johnson

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	368	*	1,082	*	--
at Buckeye Invitational (11/16)	DNC	--	DNC	--	--
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	375	*	556	*	--
UMKC (11/23)	367	*	1,103	*	--
at West Virginia (12/7)	374	*	1,133	*	--
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	377	*	1,121	*	--
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	377	10th	1,077	12th	1,454
at Roger Withrow (1/25)	384	15th	1,122	22nd	1,506
at Air Force (2/7)	382	9th	--	--	--
at NCAA Qualifier (2/8)	384	7th	--	--	--
at Hawaiian Invite (2/17-18)	757	8th	--	--	--

Alicia Sawyer

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	384	4th	1,163	1st	1,547
at Buckeye Invitational (11/16)	378	24th	1,160	5th	1,538
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	390	1st	576	2nd	966
UMKC (11/23)	375	5th	1,160	3rd	1,535
at West Virginia (12/7)	381	6th	1,156	7th	1,537
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	372	10th	1,161	7th	1,533
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	379	*	1,160	8th	--
at Air Force (2/7)	--	--	578	4th	--
at NCAA Qualifier (2/8)	--	--	1,152	5th	--
at Hawaiian Invite (2/17-18)	766	4th	--	--	--

Amanda Trujillo

Match	Air Rifle	Place	Smallbore	Place	Total
Air Force (10/19)	393	1st	1,161	2nd	1,554
at Buckeye Invitational (11/16)	394	1st	1,155	6th	1,549
at Akron w/Penn State (11/17)	389	3rd	570	3rd	959
UMKC (11/23)	387	2nd	1,156	4th	1,543
at West Virginia (12/7)	385	5th	1,177	1st	1,562
at UTEP w/UAF (1/10)	387	6th	1,168	6th	1,555
at UTEP w/UAF (1/11)	390	4th	1,163	7th	1,553
at Roger Withrow Invite (1/25)	389	6th	1,164	4th	1,553
at Air Force (2/7)	390	1st	581	2nd	971
at NCAA Qualifier (2/8)	389	3rd	1,161	1st	1,550
at Hawaiian Invite (2/17-18)	773	2nd	--	--	--

\* - Individual Score (does not count in team competition)