Sports

COMPETITION AT VIRTUE FLAT RANGE NEAR BAKER CITY

Pistol match a fun challenge

By Raymond G. (Rick) Rienks
For the Baker City Herald

Photo by Penny W. Rienks

Competitors check their results at a 1911 U.S. Cavalry match Sunday.

Sunday, Aug. 26 was a busy day at the Powder River Sportsman's Club (PRSC) Virtue Flat shooting range.

The day started early with a number of shooters attending a U.S.P.S.A Pistol match, which began at 8 a.m. This event was followed by a barbecue lunch to benefit the Boy Scouts. The burgers were good and carried this correspondent through the next event of the day, the 1911 U.S. Cavalry Match.

Non-shooters may not realize that firing a handgun safely and accurately is a test of skill which is hard won through diligent practice. It becomes a contest of mastery of the self, seeking greater precision.

Even experienced shooters find standing in their favorite pose punching holes in a paper target can be enough of a challenge.

It may seem boring to the casual viewer but time and practice can bring the scattered holes on the paper closer to each other and, even better, closer to the bull's eye. Once things seem to be coming together, new challenges are often sought in competitive shooting.

This particular afternoon's contest of skill first came to life under the guidance of Buck Buckner in 2011 to honor the 100th anniversary of adoption of the Colt Model 1911 pistol in .45 caliber by the U.S. military.

The 1911 pistol had been the workhorse of the United States military since. Over the decades it served honorably in the hands of our servicemen through many conflicts and in peacetime until eventually being replaced by a 9 mm handgun.

Seeking an interesting competition standard for this pistol, Buck looked to the 1930s U.S. Cavalry Dismounted Qualifications Course. Unlike other forms of target shooting, this course requires you to use one hand, standing erect, firing at various targets at varying ranges and with time constraints. The other hand is presumed to be holding the reins of your horse.

True to the spirit of the event, this match was limited to firing the Colt 1911 pistol in 45 ACP (or Colt style by other makers). But as word of the match got out, shooters from the earlier pistol competition became eager to try the 1911 course of fire. Those using "other than" firearms in non-.45 calibers were welcomed, though scored as a separate group. All participants shot side by side, 14 shooters, men and women.

The course of fire followed this routine:

• 25-yard slow fire bullseye, 10 shots in 10 minutes.

• 15-yard timed fire bullseye, five shots in 20 seconds, change magazines, repeat.

• 15-yard rapid fire bullseye, five shots in 10 seconds, change magazines, repeat.

• 25-yard moveable silhouette, five shots in 15 seconds, change magazines, do this three times.

After each segment you go forward, check your score, retrieve your brass, reload your magazines and be ready for the next round.

The weather was perfect. The cloud cover kept the heat of the sun away and the wind was no trouble at the distances shot. Standing amongst the scrub brush, surrounded by the long views in every direction, aided relaxation in advance of the contest. A relaxed shooter tends to be a more accurate shooter.

Stepping up to the firing line your focus becomes centered upon the pistol in your hand and the target down range. At the command to commence firing the pistol extends toward the target and five shots are taken. Breathing normally you might be surprised you have fired five times even though you intended to accurately count your shots. The slide is locked back and this sequence is complete. Change magazines and prepare for the next timed sequence to commence.

It's funny, I could see some of the holes appear in the target and hear the occasional empty case bounce off my hat brim after being ejected yet I was centered on relaxation and the operation of the aim and trigger pull. I know I heard the other shooters firing but that was in the background. Once my last round was fired I pulled the empty magazine and waited for the command to release the locked back slide, lower the hammer on an empty chamber and holster the pistol. Now to check my improvement. We walk forward exclaiming any improvement with satisfaction and being amazed by our neighboring shooter's skill.

Time to go back behind the firing line and load the necessary magazines for the next round.

For the purpose of the match I report only the 1911 shooters results. Honesty requires I mention that those shooting modern pistols in 9 mm did a fine job and we enjoyed their joining in. Most importantly, this was a fun event with good companionship, each trading good-humored observations of their own shooting skills. Even more important was the advice from the experienced shooters for those who had not tried this course before.

1911 U.S. Cavalry Dismounted Match results:

• 1st: Dutch Brogomy, 248-3X

• 2nd: Ray Barryman, 196-0X

• 3rd: Doug Taylor, 194-0X

• 4th: Brandon Svitak, 188-0X

The club wishes to thank all who attended and shot and helped clean up the range and put away equipment. Many hands make light work. A fine end to a great day.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Timbers stop losing streak at 4

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Diego Chara scored his first goal of the season in the 64th minute and the Portland Timbers went on to snap a four-game losing streak with a 2-0 victory over short-handed Toronto FC on Wednesday night.

Portland's skid, which followed a 15-game unbeaten streak, was the Timbers' longest since they lost five straight in July 2012.

Chara scored his last goal in March 2017 and has eight goals since joining the team its inaugural MLS year in 2011.

"Always, always I try to score," the 32-year-old Colombian midfielder said. "Today I had the opportunity, and I feel really happy."

Midfielder David Guzman, who played for Costa Rica in the World Cup this summer, added a goal for Portland in the 83rd minute. It was his second of the season.

"The guys put on a great performance and a lot of energy into the game to be able to get the result we wanted." Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said. "For us playing at home as I said, it was a necessity to be able to get those three points."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Boise St. opens season at Troy

By John Zenor
AP Sports Writer

TROY, Ala. — Boise State has ripped off 10-win seasons with regularity, and Troy has done it two years in a row.

The two standout programs from outside the power conferences open Saturday at 3 p.m. PDT at newly renovated Veteran Memorial Stadium, with both trying to make an early statement. And if a program is trying to establish itself as one of the best from the Group of Five conferences, facing one that's already well arrived has some extra significance.

"Boise is where we are striving to be," said Troy coach Neal Brown, who has won 21 games the past two seasons. "They are annually a top Group of Five program and that is what we are trying to do at Troy."

Both teams won 11 games last season, an FBS record for the Trojans and the 15th time the Broncos have reached double digits since moving up to FBS in 1996 (behind only Ohio State's 17).

Boise State is favored to win its division in the Mountain West Conference and trying to make a New Year's Six bowl as the top conference champion from outside the Power Five. And perhaps enter the playoff conversation in the process.

First things first.

"I'm more curious to see if we really believe in our process and how we do it or if we're just trying to jump in the game and get that W as fast as we can so we can celebrate and think about all the good things that can happen," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. "I don't think we have that team."

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

All Times PDT

Friday, Aug. 31

San Diego State at Stanford, 5 p.m. (FS1)
Western Kentucky at Wisconsin, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Seattle at Oakland, 6:30 p.m. (ROOT)

Saturday, Sept. 1

U.S. Open, 8 a.m. (ESPN2)
Florida State at Oklahoma, 9 a.m. (FOX)
Texas at Maryland, 9 a.m. (FS1)
Mississippi at Texas Tech, 9 a.m. (ESPN)
Oregon State at Ohio State, 9 a.m. (ABC)
Washington at Auburn, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Austin Peay at Georgia, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tennessee vs. West Virginia, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)
North Carolina at California, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Cincinnati at UCLA, 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Michigan at Notre Dame, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
U.S. Open, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)
Akron at Nebraska, 5 p.m. (FOX)
Alabama vs. Louisville, 5 p.m. (ABC)
Seattle at Oakland, 5:30 p.m. (ROOT)
UTSA at Arizona State, 7:30 p.m. (FS1)
BYU at Arizona, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Sept. 2

U.S. Open, 8 a.m. (ESPN)
NC Central at Prairie View, 9 a.m. (ESPN2)
Seattle at Oakland, 12:30 p.m. (ROOT)
LSU vs. Miami, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
U.S. Open, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	93	42	.689	—
New York	84	50	.627	8½
Tampa Bay	71	62	.534	21
Toronto	60	73	.451	32
Baltimore	40	94	.299	52½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	76	57	.571	—
Minnesota	62	71	.466	14
Detroit	54	80	.403	22½
Chicago	53	81	.396	23½
Kansas City	42	91	.316	34

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	82	52	.612	—
Oakland	80	55	.593	2½
Seattle	75	59	.560	7
Los Angeles	65	69	.485	17
Texas	58	76	.433	24

Thursday's Games

Cleveland 5, Minnesota 3
Detroit 8, N.Y. Yankees 7
Boston 9, Chicago White Sox 4
L.A. Angels 5, Houston 2
Seattle 7, Oakland 1

Today's Games

All Times PDT

Detroit at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 4:10 p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 4:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Texas, 5:05 p.m.
Boston at Chicago White Sox, 5:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Houston, 5:10 p.m.
Baltimore at Kansas City, 5:15 p.m.
Seattle at Oakland, 7:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Detroit (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 9-5), 1:05 p.m.
Boston (Rodriguez 11-3) at Chicago White Sox (Rodon 6-3), 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Pena 1-4) at Houston (TBD), 4:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Snell 16-5) at Cleveland (Bieber 8-2), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (Estrada 7-10) at Miami (Chen 5-9), 4:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Bundy 7-13) at Kansas City (Fillmyer 2-1), 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota (Berrios 11-9) at Texas (Gallardo 7-3), 5:05 p.m.
Seattle (Paxton 10-5) at Oakland (Mengden 6-6), 6:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	74	59	.556	—
Philadelphia	71	62	.534	3
Washington	67	67	.500	7½
New York	59	74	.444	15
Miami	53	81	.396	21½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	79	54	.594	—
St. Louis	75	59	.560	4½
Milwaukee	75	60	.556	5
Pittsburgh	65	69	.485	14½
Cincinnati	57	77	.425	22½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	74	60	.552	—
Colorado	72	61	.541	1½
Los Angeles	72	62	.537	2
San Francisco	67	68	.496	7½
San Diego	53	83	.390	22

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, 11 innings
St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 0
Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 4
Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Diego 3, Colorado 2, 13 innings

Today's Games

All Times PDT

Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Atlanta, 4:35 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.
Colorado at San Diego, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Matz 5-11) at San Francisco (Holland 7-8), 1:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 10-10) at Philadelphia (Eflin 9-5), 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 9-7) at Washington (Strasburg 7-7), 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Archer 4-7) at Atlanta (Gausman 9-9), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (Estrada 7-10) at Miami (Chen 5-9), 4:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 7-11) at St. Louis (Poncedeleon 0-0), 4:15 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 10-7) at San Diego (Erlin 3-4), 5:40 p.m.

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