

CENTRAL SHARPSHOOTERS UNION - Part 2

OR

DAVENPORT AND THE TOURNAMENT OF 1905

In 1896 prior to the tournament of the OMSB, the minutes indicate that the DSG instructed its delegates that the next tournament should be in Davenport. “The time is right for the next tournament to be in Davenport” is the sense of the minutes. (5 Mai C284) Instead, when the delegates returned they reported that the WSB & OMSB would merge (July 7 1896 C287). The next year November 8, 1897 the meeting was held to merge the OMSB and the Westlichen Schuetzen Bund (WSB) in Joliet, Illinois. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Central Schuetzen Bund, or Central Sharpshooter’s Union (CSSU). Delegates from the Davenport Schuetzengeellschaft (DSG) were J. F. Bredow, E. Berger, and J. Rillian. Delegates from the Excelsior Rifle Club were J. F. Bredow, and E. Berger. (CSSU1) (C291 C299)

The delegates from Davenport were directed by the Association to seek the first (1897) tournament of the CSSU, however it was awarded to Joliet. The delegates from Davenport in the convention at Joliet at the Biennial Grand Schuetzenfest, also sought to have the second tournament (1899). However to the disappointment of Davenport, it was awarded to Dubuque.

As a sort of consolation, at the tournament in Joliet (1897), John D. Regennitter of Davenport was King with a very high score of 225 of 250. The Davenport No. 1 team came home with the team championship banner having won 1st place in a field of 16 teams. The scores of the Davenport team were:

Berg	220
Berger	216
Regennitter	204
Ranzow	204
Schutter	198
Bredow	194
Total	<hr/> 1236

Prior to the 1899 tournament, the DSG placed a \$200 deposit in The German Savings Bank to establish a fund for use in the following tournament should it be awarded to Davenport. Promising to contribute a total of \$1,000, the DSG sought the 1901 tournament. Despite this, the 1901 tournament was awarded to Chicago.

By the time of the Chicago meeting, a total of \$1,000 had been deposited in the fund, but the 1903 tournament was awarded to St. Louis. That tournament coincided with the world’s fair. Finally, in Saint Louis the 1905 tournament was awarded to Davenport.

Officers selected by the DSG to be the executive Board of the CSSU were: (C420 13 Oct 1903)

President	F. T. Blunck
Vice President	Dr. Carl Matthey
Prot Secretary	C. W. Ranzow
Corr. Secretary	F. Berg
Treasurer	O. B. Schmidt
1 st Schuetzenmeister	Emil Berg
2 nd Schuetzenmeister	Ed Berger

Of these officers, only O. B. Schmidt occupied the corresponding office in the DSG at that time. Care was taken to keep the corporate affairs of the DSG separate from the Union, as the secretary reports in the minutes of the DSG the letter from the Board of the CSSU requesting dues, just as he had in previous years.

In April 1905 as the time for the tournament approached, the DSG transferred the funds promised to the Tournament committee. (C451) By that time the fund had also accumulated interest of \$92.30 which was also transferred.

The 1905 tournament was held June 15,16, 17, and 18, 1905 at Schuetzenpark. As the tournament approached, the various clubs began arriving. Cincinnati and Chicago were the first to arrive on the 14th.

PRIZES

The *Democrat and Leader* described the prizes before the tournament:



Points Medal – Ninety-six of these were awarded at the 1905 Tournament. O. B. Schmidt won this one – a quarter (left) shows the scale. When printed this is close to full size.

One of the most remarkable window displays ever seen here is that which has been shown in the big show window of the M E Nabstedt & Sons Jewelry house the last day or two. It consists of the scores of medals, including the magnificent king medal, that will be awarded at the tournament and \$650 of the prize money, in brand new bank notes artistically grouped about appropriate pictures and calendars, in the amounts of the principal prizes, from \$100 down. It represents only part of the prizes to be shot for at this tournament.

(DD&L6/14/1905)

The finest medals we have ever seen from San Francisco to New York, seems to be the exclamation of nearly every visitor who has attended the district and national sharpshooter's tournaments. The verdict is especially gratifying because the medals are not only offered for the Davenport tourney but were designed and made here in Davenport. In the competition with three noted outside designers, the designs of Jacob M Nabstedt of the firm of ME Nabstedt & sons of this city, for all the medals have been made in the company's factory here.

The King Medal is noted by everyone with particular enthusiasm. It is nominally rated, as a \$50 medal that being the amount appropriated to for it, but to reproduce the one offered here would take nearly twice that sum. The fortunate shooter who captures it will have reason not only to be proud of his achievement but may take great pride in the trophy as well. (DD&L6/15/1905)

The contests of the tournament were Koenig Scheibe, Ehren Scheibe, and Stich Scheibe, for members of the CSSU and the Kehr Scheibe, Volks Scheibe, and Mann Scheibe for all comers. The later three were unlimited re-entry. There was also a team match for member vereins. There is a separate article on “CSSU Tournament Contests and Procedures” that describes each of these contests. According to the *Democrat and Leader* there were 24 targets in use during this tournament.

The tournament opened 9:00 AM Thursday June 15 with an address by President F T Blunk. The *Democrat and Leader* reported “the substance of his speech” as below.



F T Blunck, President

“You have come here from all parts of the country, from the valleys of the Ohio and the Missouri and from the distant mountain regions. You have come to our city to match your skill in the use of the rifle. We welcome you to our town and are glad to be able to show you Schuetzen Park. People still live who remember the day when this park was still an uncultivated forest through which wild animals roamed and in which the Indians hunted with bow and arrow while the sound of a gun had never been heard. We are not so wild as our forefathers and now we fight more with the ballot than the bullet. But the schuetzen fest comes to bring rest and diversion to troubled minds.

“At the close of his address Mr. Blunk called for three cheers for the Central Sharpshooters Union. This call was responded to by the many assembled Schuetzen. Following it the speaker turned a crank which discharged the big cannon as a sign of the opening of the contest.” (DD&L7/15/1905p8)

The targets were active until 7:00 PM, with a break for dinner from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM

In the evening was a band concert by Petersen’s Big Band starting at 8:15 and dancing after the concert until midnight. At the time, Petersen’s Big Band was giving concerts at Schuetzenpark every Thursday evening. The dancing appears to have been an expansion on the weekly concert for benefit of the guests from out of town. The public was invited to the concert as well as the shooters participating in the tournament.

TEAM COMPETITION

On Friday, shooting commenced at 9:00 AM. After the dinner break, regular shooting resumed until 2:00 then was suspended for the team competition. The *Democrat and Leader* noticed the absence of the Saint Louis team in the morning shoot, asserting that they were likely preserving their energies for the team competition.

If that was Saint Louis' strategy it must have worked, for the Saint Louis No. 1 team won First place with 1220 points. Second was the team from Highland, Illinois with 1216 points. The Davenport No. 1 team was third with 1197 points. There were 17 teams participating, three from Davenport. Having won the team championship banner three times in a row, it was to be kept permanently by Saint Louis. The results shown below are as published by the *Democrat and Leader* (Newspaper). The results in the official list of scores in the tournament do not add up to the official reported team scores, though the results in the newspaper do.

St Louis No. 1		Highland, IL		Davenport No. 1	
E H Kessler	176	C Ardueser	201	Ed. Berger	202
D Schneidewind	218	R Kamm	202	C W Ranzow	196
L Schweighoefer	198	Jno. Moser	214	J D Regennitter	196
C W Bauer	223	R Knoebel	186	C Jansen	190
F Kurka	202	J G Bardill	213	E Berg	213
W Roessler	203	F Pauly	200	Al Steffen	200
	<u>1220</u>		<u>1216</u>		<u>1197</u>

“The Davenport team shot a fine score considering that nearly all their members stepped to their places overheated and tired from their labors connected with the direction of the tournament.” (DD&L7/18/1905p8c3)

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting of delegates was held Friday night at 7:00 PM after the conclusion of the Day's shooting.

At the business meeting a rule was adopted allowing telescopic sights at future events but not without controversy. There was “Stormy opposition from such shooters as probably only knew about telescopes from hearsay and had never tried them.” (Shooting and Fishing June 29, 1905) It was also points out that some older shooters might be able to participate that could not with iron sights. (S&F)

Saturday was the last day of shooting at the tournament. The day started at 9:00 AM and ended at 6:00 PM.

BOWLING

Concurrent with the other activities was a bowling tournament at the Schuetzenpark bowling alley. This started at 2:00 PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and lasted until 10:00 PM. On Sunday the bowling started at 9:00 AM and lasted until 4:00 PM. The prize fund of the bowling tournament was announced as \$100.

SUNDAY

Sunday there was a Grand Picnic and “sundry entertainments.” There was no shooting on Sunday so the committee could organize the awards. Sunday morning 80 of the visitors were taken on a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal. (S&F) Seventeen carriages were hired for this tour by the CSSU at a cost of \$70.10. (C455) At 2:30 PM during the “monster” picnic, as a special attraction, the Turners that were to represent Davenport in the National Tournament the following week at Indianapolis staged their performances. Otto’s Select Concert Band (40 pieces) entertained.

“The committee was on hand promptly at four o’clock on the afternoon of June 18 with completed records.” (Shooting and Fishing June 29, 1905) The inauguration of the king at 4:00 PM commenced the awards ceremony. The committee had placed all the money for each shooter in one envelope for the awards ceremony.

The King was J M Schmid of New Glarus, WI with a score of 219 for 10 shots winning the prize of the King medal and \$15. CW Bauer of St Louis was second with a score also of 219, but with a concluding 20 to Schmid’s 24. Third was CA Shafer of Denver with 218 points winning \$21.

The top three of each of the other events are as below:

Place	City	Score	Prize	
Honor				
1	EA Gatterdam	LaCrosse, WI	71	\$100
2	J Claussen	Davenport	69	75
3	AW Petersen	Denver	69	50
Stich				
1	Jno. Rusche	LaCrosse, WI	29 1/2 (1)	40
2	EA Gatterdam	LaCrosse, WI	33 3/4	35
3	E Berg	Davenport	39 1/2	25
Peoples				
1	John Mohr	LaCrosse, WI	73	50
2	Alfred Steffen	Davenport	72	40
3	Chas P Nestler	Cincinatti	70	30
Man				
Tie	EA Gatterdam	LaCrosse, WI	172	45
Tie	Dr EH Kestler	St Louis	172	45
3	Wm Hasenzahl	Cincinatti	60	30
Point				
1	Otto Mueller	Wausau, WI	943	25
2	L Scheidewind		906	20
3	T J Malana		900	15

The Stich target was measured in hundredths of an inch from the center.

On the Points target, there were also 96 points medallions awarded. There were also 50 special premium prizes awarded from \$15 down to \$1 awarded for points above 250. It would appear that most shooters, having won the medallion, would quit shooting on the Points target. There were also 16 premiums of \$5 each awarded for 3 hits on the stich target.

Prizes awarded on each target total King \$260, Honor, \$1,495, Stich \$430, Peoples \$450, Man, \$450, and Points \$293 for a total prize fund of \$3,178.

There were 145 entries in the Honor target, so the attendance was in line with some of the other recent tournaments of the CSSU.

Shooting and Fishing indicate that the weather was favorable throughout, but the *Democrat and Leader* indicates that there was a thundershower just before the end of the tournament, but the proceedings were nearly completed, so it had no substantial effect. If that were the case, the organizers were lucky. June had been a wet month to that time. The Mississippi had been out of its banks shortly before the tournament and was threatening to do it again after the tournament.

The tournament ended with a balance of \$1,000 plus, with a profit of \$76 without counting the \$1,092 contribution from the DSA