

Dead-eye will be a Buckeye



LEFT: The Meriden kid with a shooter's name most definitely has game. Remington Lyman, who grew up on his parents' Blue Trail Range, has been a competitive marksman since age 3. Now a senior at Suffield Academy, he'll next be competing collegiately at Ohio State.

Photo courtesy
Mike Roberts

Meriden's Lyman lands scholarship to Ohio State

"He's one of a kind." That very small statement carries with it a great deal of weight, but I have to think that it aptly describes 17-year-old Meriden resident Remington Lyman.

Remington is the son of David and Deborah Lyman, owners of the Blue Trail Range shooting complex in Wallingford, both of whom were championship rifle shooters in their own right. I always had the feeling that Remington Lyman was going to carve a niche for himself in the shooting world and I was right!

Lyman, now a senior at Suffield Academy, has signed a National Letter of Intent to shoot for Ohio State. The Buckeyes are currently ranked No. 10 in the NCAA shooting division.

"I feel that Ohio State is a great school that nicely balances academics and athletics," said Remington. "I hope to help the teams move to 8th next year, which would give us a chance to compete in the national championship."

In this day of bad to nothing at all coverage of anyone engaged in the shooting sports, it is gratifying to watch and observe some of the young marksmen (and women) that come out of Junior shooting programs like the ones at Blue Trail Range. Of course, being the son of the owners of Blue Trail Range only meant that more pressure would be heaped on him to succeed in his chosen sport. But succeed he did, and it appears to be in grand fashion so far.

Would you believe that Remington Lyman began his target-shooting career at the tender age of 3-years old? That fact came to light a few years ago when I was interviewing him and some of the other young marksmen at Blue Trail Range.

I sort of did a double take when he told me that he started target shooting when he was 3. When I asked him what he shot he replied, "a Cricket."

It was only then that Remington explained to me that Cricket was an undersized 22-target rifle designed for very young, small-in-stature shooters. At 3-years old you do not find that many big children.

Remington also feels very strongly about getting youngsters involved into the shooting sports. He said, "Kids that want to learn to shoot should join a rifle club or a high school shooting team or even at the Boys and Girls Clubs or the Blue Trail Range program for Junior Shooters. There are many opportunities out there if they want to learn."

When he attended Roger Sherman School, Remington's mom Deborah helped foster a young rifle team made up of Remington and his schoolmates. Parents signed consent slips for the young marksmen and the Blue Trail van would take them to Blue Trail to shoot after school and then bring them home after the shoot. This all took place between 2002 and 2005.

Over the years, after doing quite a few interviews with young shooters from the Blue Trail Range and a couple of the local school rifle teams, I have found that these young citizens are as dedicated a group of young athletes as you will ever meet. Young Lyman is no exception to that fact; he is the genuine article and a credit to the shooting sports.

I find it amazingly sad that our local TV news media choose to ignore someone with the talent that Remington Lyman possesses. Yet when Blue Trail Range inappropriately came under fire in a recent conflict with a Durham landowner, the TV stations were pushing each other out of the way to do a story on those horrible guns and the Blue Trail Range. Never once did any of them show up to interview talented young shooters like Remington Lyman using a legal firearm.



Mike
Roberts

Outdoors

However, you can count on them being anywhere there is an illegal shooting with illegal firearms in a drug deal gone bad or violent crime in some of our cities anytime it happens because that's what they consider "newsworthy."

Yes, I do realize that a shooting sport like target shooting with a .22 rifle is not a spectator sport, and the accomplishments of the shooters often go unheralded, yet they accept this media injustice day after day because of their dedication to what they do best. One only needs to follow the Olympics when countries are counting up the gold, silver and bronze medals to see that this is true. While so many of the Olympians are under the watchful TV eye of the media as the count begins, medals garnered by Olympic target shooters are simply added to the total with little or no fanfare.

Remington's credentials are nothing short of amazing. He is so laid back when you talk to him that you would never realize how good he is at what he does. He is quiet and unassuming as I interview him and it is hard to get anything out of him that will help me with this article.

I do know that he started his first competition match at the age of 3 in a Prone Gallery match and in his first match he beat out a shooter that had been shooting for some 50 years.

Locally, he has taken three gold medals and one silver in the State Games of America (2007); gold, silver and bronze in the Nutmeg State Games, 3-Position, Prone and Air Rifle (2006, '07, 09 and 10). In 2010, Lyman was the champion of the Blue Trail Range Junior Rifle Club (this can only be awarded once).

Remington Lyman's shooting accomplishments are unbelievable and to list them all would fill all of Page 2 of the Meriden Record-Journal, but it should be noted that these were all done on local, state and national levels.

Lyman did participate nationally in smallbore rifle in the Prone and 3-Position Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio and took medals in a number of matches.

Remington also competed in the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championship in 2008, '10, and '11. He was also invited to participate in 2009, but had to decline because of conflicts with his school schedule.

At Suffield, Remington has been the team's top shooter, leading the Tigers to three consecutive Connecticut League State Championships. Lyman not only dominated the competition in New England, but has also been one of the top performers on the national circuit.

All of this has led to Ohio State. As you may or may not know, there are scholarships available for target shooters at some of our colleges on a very limited basis. They are nowhere as numerous as the scholarships awarded for other varsity sports (when is the last time you saw target shooting on the tube?). So you have to have that extra talent to garner such a scholarship such as the one Lyman accepted from Ohio State.

Lyman credits his Suffield coaches, Anna McCarthy and Brett Vianney, for being instrumental in his success at Suffield.

"My coaches were very supportive throughout my college process," said Lyman. "If it wasn't for them I wouldn't have the opportunity to shoot for one of the greatest college rifle programs in the world. The hours of preparation and training they put me through have truly paid off, and I am grateful for the opportunity to compete at Ohio State."

Anna McCarthy had this to say: "Brett Vianney and I could not be happier for Remington. From day one at Suffield Academy, Remington has been dedicated and all about the team. He has always put the team's needs and accomplishments above his own. I am sure that he will soon become a leader and game changer for the Buckeyes."

Lyman is a life member of the National Rifle Association, USA Shooting, Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association and an annual member of the Black Hawks Rifle Club, Middletown Rifle & Revolver Club and the Blue Trail Junior Rifle Club.

However, it is not all firearms and shooting in Remington's life. He is employed at the Blue Trail Range and plays alto sax in a jazz band that appears at retirement homes, graduations, school and social functions.

He's played JV baseball (second base), JV lacrosse (most improved player) and JV water polo (captain) and been involved with the Suffield Academy yearbook and newspaper while also being a School Ambassador. He's helped clear forests volunteering for the Ecuador Environmental Project and been a Mentor Leader in Suffield's Leadership Class for local elementary students.

Oh, did I mention he has other interests such as hunting, fishing, baseball, golf, video games, walking on the beach, NASCAR, playing the piano and alto sax.

While at Ohio State, Remington will pursue his Bachelors in Business Management with emphasis in Finance, International Studies or Accounting while shooting for the varsity team.

Considering with all that I have told you so far, I have not even covered half of this amazing young man's shooting accomplishments and other endeavors. I have to ask, how can anyone with so much God-given talent slip under the radar when the TV media is always looking for someone special to tell the listening public about?

I for one will be watching and listening to see how he does at Ohio State. To me it seems like a win-win situation for both Remington Lyman and the Buckeyes of Ohio State.

See ya and God Bless America and watch over our troops wherever they may be.