They believed and they achieved.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 3rd and 4th, not only fire works were booming in Rogers, Arkansas (the home of Daisy air gun), so were the Marshall County Sharpshooters from Britton, SD and surrounding towns. With a total team score of 2384 and 71 center shots, the team of Jena Lunzman (483.15), Shayla Olson (482.13), Aimee Allcock (478.18) and Jessie Allcock (462.12) won the Daisy National BB Gun Championship. Shooting as the alternates for the team were Abby Flanery (475.17) and Lyndsey Effling (466.16). Olson earned a bronze medal in the standing position, while Effling was the gold medalist in the alternate prone position. The local team topped a field of 43 teams from 18 states. This is Marshall County’s second straight national crown, topping the national field in Rogers, Arkansas by a whopping 18 points. Rules prohibit a shooter from competition two straight years, unless an alternate the previous year, so the squad was an entirely different bunch from a year ago.

Coached by Harlan Hilleson and Mike Kraft, these young ladies evidently set their sights on the top spot from day one. “Marshall County won the Nationals last year and we came home with “the gun” the team trophy of the traveling Daisy Model 499 Plaque”, these girls said, “we’re going to nationals”. They reached the standards set for them, showing their coaches in April that if you believe you will achieve when they won two state matches, becoming the South Dakota State BB Gun Team Champions and scoring one point higher then the score of the previous team that won nationals last year. It was the combined team effort that seemed to foster a real belief in the girls that they could be national champions.

The squad had plenty of support from behind the scenes from Rose Kraft and Linda Flanery who helped shooters study for the written test and handled the necessary paperwork. Pat Flanery and Brian Maxwell also served as loaders and assistant coaches, and parents filled a variety of support roles. The team wishes to thank the Britton, Hecla and Lake City communities for their financial support that brought them to Rogers and for their belief in their abilities.

… Continued on page 3