

# Graw represents Franklin Regional rifle team at states



By Michael Love

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Jack Graw put Franklin Regional back on the high school rifle map over the past couple of weeks.

Two weeks ago at the WPIAL championships, Graw, the only shooter representing Franklin Regional, shot a 200-16x to place 10th overall out of 80 competitors.

The WPIAL performance earned him a trip to the State Scholastic Meet, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Rifle and Pistol Association, at the Frazier Symplex in Washington.

At states, he placed 24th out of 40 shooters.

Graw, a sophomore who has been shooting competitively for four years, said he is looking forward to next year and improving on his scores at both meets.

The state tournament was spread out over three days last week.

Each participant was able to choose which day he or she wanted to shoot, which is different from the one-day WPIAL meet at the Mt. Lebanon/Dormont Sportsmans Club in Canonsburg.

Graw picked Monday and shot a 379 (93-95-95-96) out of a possible 400 on four targets. He was among six total shooters who finished with a 379, and that included four from the WPIAL.

"I didn't feel I performed great," Graw said. "I know I can do better than that. But it was great to be there."

At WPIALs, Graw was one of 30 shooters who collected 200 scores. He also was among five that hit 16 bulls-eyes.

Placement among those 200-16x scores came down to the number of center shots. Graw had four to place him 10th.

Graw was 42nd with a 199-12x at WPIALs last year as a freshman. □

Schools that have full teams in the WPIAL are able to send five shooters to the WPIAL individual championships. Since Franklin Regional doesn't have an official rifle team in the WPIAL, Graw was the only shooter who was permitted represent Franklin Regional at the meet.

He was the only independent shooter from the WPIAL to make states.

"Last year, I went into WPIALs seeing what I could do," Graw said.

"This year, I knew I could shoot well. I had more confidence. I was pretty nervous going into WPIALs last year and my heart was racing. I was able to calm myself down more this year."

Graw, who shoots at the Western Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Club and Crowfoot Rod & Gun Club, both in Murrysville, competes in different standing, kneeling and prone events each year.

Michael Love is a Trib Total Media staff writer. Reach him at 412-388-5825 or at [mlove@tribweb.com](mailto:mlove@tribweb.com).

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