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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY RIFLE TEAM WILL CAP SUCCESSFUL SEASON AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., April 4, 2008 – The Minnesota State Championship Rifle Team from Saint Thomas Academy will conclude its successful 2007-2008 season by competing for the National Championship at Ft. Benning, Ga. in August.

On Feb. 22, 2008, the Academy's Rifle Team successfully defended its State Championship title when it shot in the 2008 U.S. Army Junior Open Air Rifle Championship. More than 1,200 competitors shot at this annual competition which determines State and Regional Champions.

The team of B. Bowersox '09 (captain) of St. Mary's Point, W. Sullivan '09 (captain) of Minneapolis, E. Mitchem '09 of West St. Paul, and D. Zimmermann '10 of Eagan won consecutive Gold medals, and placed fourth in the nation. By its performance, the team earned a spot to compete at the National U.S. Army Championship to be held at Ft. Benning, Ga., Aug. 5-10, 2008.

"The team is having an outstanding year achieving much personal and school recognition," said Coach CW4 Paul Preblich. "I am very proud of the team's accomplishments this year. We are looking forward to traveling to Georgia this summer and shooting at the Nationals."

In addition to the team standings, Sullivan took first in the prone position, shooting 100 out of 100, an achievement accomplished by him alone. Individually, Sullivan ranked seventh and Zimmermann placed 17th.

While at the National competition, the team will participate in a special training clinic taught by U. S. Army International Rifle Team coaches and shooters, including one Olympic medalist and two individual World Champions.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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