

Foster Bartholow was aware that winning the Grand American Singles Championship is a tough job. What he did not know was that he would be involved in the toughest battle that the World Championships have ever seen.

Foster competed for two weeks at the Grand American World Trapshooting Competition in Sparta Illinois. Foster has been shooting competitive targets in the Amateur Trapshooting Association since 2003. He shoots a Browning XT Trap Combo, and his ammunition of choice is Winchester AA's. Foster has won numerous local, state and national awards, and this year he took home his most prestigious honor yet.

Approximately 2500 shooters competed in the ATA Clay Target Singles Championship, and 60 of them shot perfect 200 x 200 targets in that competition. Those 60 were involved in a tie breaking shoot off that night and the group was whittled down to five shooters after they shot another 200 straight targets.

The shoot off continued the next night with another 200 targets being shot in a row without missing. This portion of the shoot reduced the competition to three shooters.

The shoot off continued for a third night and another 200 broken targets, and one more shooter dropping out of the competition after missing one target.

With only two shooters left, Foster and Leo Harrison III continued the competition the next day. After another 300 straight targets with no one missing, they both walked back to the bench to prepare for another round of shooting.

At this point, the ATA president, Neil Winston, asked the two if they would consider being declared co-champions in the event. They both agreed that it would be an honor to share the title with the other.

This was the first time in the history of the singles competition that co champs have been named. The pair set a new record for targets shot in a shoot off with 900 additional targets straight after the 200 in competition for a total of 1100 in a row.

Foster is attending college in Mitchell SD and helps with the Game Fish & Parks Hunt Safe program and makes sure to get as many kids out in the field hunting that he can.