

DESCI, Les (continued)

By Brian O'Meara

The Intelligencer

Les Decsi has an eye for gold and the medals to prove it!

The 56-year-old Tweed resident, who lost his left leg in 1972, came home from the European and World Open Amputee Masters Shooting Championships in Brugge, Belgium last week with a collection of three gold medals and one silver.

Decsi's sharp eye has brought him many honors in the past two decades and particularly since he took up disabled shooting in 1980, earning a silver in a competition in Holland that year.

The Brugge event was "the biggest ever," said Decsi. A total of 19 countries sent 155 shooters and Decsi is proud of his accomplishments - he fired 564 to win air pistol, 545 to win standard pistol and 520 to capture the free pistol title while shooting 552 for a silver in sports pistol.

But more importantly, Decsi now gets the opportunity to represent Canada at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain next August, immediately after the regular, if that is the word, 1992 Olympics.

"There really is something to it to hear O Canada played when you're standing on that podium. It was 10 days of shooting and pretty serious competition."

Decsi hopes to bring home Paralympic gold

next summer.

The 23-year-veteran teacher at Centre Hastings Secondary School in Madoc says "I've been all over the world through shooting."

He was a member of the 'regular' Canadian national shooting team from 1976 to 1988 despite his amputee status but is concentrating on the Paralympics and the Amputee World Championships now.

"The Paralympics are probably the most prestigious," he says when asked about all the competitions he has been to over the years.

To date 32 countries and about 140 competitors have confirmed entry to the Paralympics. "By next year we should have over 200 confirmed. It should be the biggest ever."

NOTES:...all the physically disabled disciplines, cerebral palsy, amputee, and wheelchairs are now grouped together in the International Paralympic Committee...Decsi competed at the Canadian National (abled bodied) shooting championships in Granby, Que. in July, finishing third in

centre fire and in the top eight in rapid fire...two years ago at the World Amputee Championships, Decsi earned two golds and two silvers...former Tweed resident ALEC DENYS, now with the MNR in Sault Ste. Marie, has also qualified for the Paralympics in archery. Denys, a former member of the Belleville Archery Club, won a gold medal at the Stoke-Mandeville Games in England in July.



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