

2023 ALL AMERICAN CAPTAINS

BY JACQUE SNELLENBERGER

Ever wonder how the best shooters regain their focus when there is some disruption, whether it be a gun issue, trap breakdown, or the person in front of them taking longer than usual? Curious to find out how your All-Americans handle the financial strain of costs rising in today's competition? Which of the top shooters make adjustments when shooting from the 16-yard targets to the 27-yard line? Keep reading to find out all these answers and more about your 2023 All-American Captains.

OPEN CAPTAIN



RICHARD MARSHALL JR.

Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska
Occupation: Online Sales Manager Gamemasters II LLC., Head Shooting Coach at Doane University, Shooting Instructor at RM Shooting Clinics
Singles: 5000 (99.60)
Handicap: 5000 (95.82)
Doubles: 4000 (98.33)
Equipment: Krieghoff K80 Trap Special 34/30 Custom Wenig Stock, Fiocchi Ammunition, Shooting Glasses by L&M Lenses
Equipment Modifications: Custom Wenig Stock

Disruptions:

When there's any issues on the line with shooters, scorers, targets etc., I don't let anything bother me! Since I was a very young shooter at the age of 14-15, I shot leadoff so I was always dealing with issues and never let it distract or bother me. We can all use distractions as excuses why we miss targets but at the end of the day you just need to take split second regroup/get focused and call for your target and shoot.

Financial Strain: Since I have my son, Tyler, shooting now, we are definitely more selective on the shoots we attend and do a lot of cooking at the fifth wheel.

Adjustments from 16-27: The only adjustment I make are the shells. I shoot Fiocchi light 8s for Singles and switch to Fiocchi White Rhino 1250 7.5's for Handicap. Same hold points for both.



LADY I CAPTAIN



RAYLEE BISHOP

Hometown: Ankeny, Iowa
Occupation: College Student
Singles: 5300 (98.17)
Handicap: 5200 (91.08)
Doubles: 3900(96.23)
Equipment: Browning Crossover
Lenses: RE Ranger
Equipment Modifications: Briley chokes

Disruptions: Finding something on the ground or in the distance to focus on, concentrating on my breathing or heartbeat, or repeating a positive thought. I use these things interchangeably and sometimes together depending on whatever I feel will best get me refocused.

Financial Strain: I am beyond blessed to have what I believe is the best support system. My parents have encouraged me to pursue my shooting career goals. They have relieved me of the financial burden that so many face in shooting sports now. I cannot express how thankful I am for my family.

Adjustments from 16-27: Handicap seems to be a reoccurring battle for me. It takes much more deliberate and smooth movements.

Something that seems to help more often than not is to take an extra split second for my eye to focus before I call for the bird. Both require me to regularly remind myself to stay focused and avoid being lazy or bored.

LADY II CAPTAIN



**DEBBIE OHYE
NEILSON**

Hometown: Audubon, Pennsylvania
Occupation: Retired Office Manager Kay Ohye International.
Singles: 8000 (98.14)
Handicap: 7400 (88.70)
Doubles: 6200 (94.42)
Equipment: Krieghoff K-80, Federal Ammunition,
Equipment Modifications: 34-32 fix choke, fully adjustable Wenig Stock
Disruptions: Every disruption/issue is different. I just try to refocus on my shooting and not let the disruption/issue get into my head. Sometimes I pass that test.
Financial Strain: I have cut back on my practice rounds at times. I also try to find the best deal on shells when they are available.
Adjustments from 16-27: I don't make any adjustments from shooting 16 to 27-yard targets other than the shells I shoot.

SUB JUNIOR CAPTAIN



WYATT DEBRIE

Hometown: Gibbon, Nebraska
Occupation: 8th grade student
Singles: 7100 (97.58)
Handicap: 7000 (89.01)
Doubles: 6000 (94.20)
Equipment: K-80 Trap Special Suhl Scroll
Equipment Modifications: Wenig Custom Stock
Disruptions: I regain my focus by turning up my music and making sure I am properly using my fundamentals.
Financial Strain: A year ago, I was fortunate enough to be offered a sponsorship from Remington, which has helped to offset the rising cost of ammunition, along with the lack of availability.
Adjustments from 16-27: I move my hold points closer to the house when shooting handicap, because you do not need to move your gun as drastically to break targets from the 27-yard line.

JUNIOR CAPTAIN



MITCHELL PIERSON

Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska
Occupation: Student at Doane University
Singles: 7950 (97.72)
Handicap: 7500 (91.13)
Doubles: 6800 (96.24)
Equipment: K-80 Trap Special Combo 34"/30"
Equipment Modifications: None
Disruptions: Whenever I lose my focus I make sure to remain calm and before I continue to shoot I take a deep breath and clear my mind.
Financial Strain: The costs of shooting have risen, but fortunately I have been able to shoot the amount I do thanks to my sponsor Fiocchi Ammunition.
Adjustments from 16-27: When I switch from shooting 16-yard targets to 27, I move my hold point from a high hold to level with the top of the house.

JUNIOR GOLD CAPTAIN



IAN LAWRENCE

Hometown: Herrin, Illinois
Occupation: College student
Singles: 5400 (98.80)
Handicap: 5600 (95.48)
Doubles: 4000 (97.83)
Equipment: Perazzi High Tech RS, Pilla glasses, Winchester AA ammunition
Equipment Modifications: None
Disruptions: When a trap breaks down or something of that sort comes up and it causes a disruption I just go back to my ranger and start the round over again. Like it's a new box and the disruption never happened. I find that it's really helpful to not let things like that get in your head. If someone is taking too long in front of me I just remind myself to stay in my own world and not to worry about what's going on in front of me just to stay focused on what I'm doing.
Financial Strain: As for the cost of shooting it hasn't affected me all too much because I guide duck hunts throughout the winter and save that money to use for the upcoming season.
Adjustments from 16-27: When I go from shooting Singles at the 16-yard line to shooting Handicap at the 27-yard line the only thing I really change is my hold point. I bring my hold point up higher and off the corners of the house further on 1 and 5.

Seems like it's pretty consistent that the All-Americans don't see disruptions as much to deal with. It's still all about doing your own thing and making sure you're shooting your target! As far as the financial strain, they obviously put shooting as a priority, and accommodate accordingly. The biggest difference was seen when asked about the change from 16-27. Many shooters don't make any changes except for the shells, a few change their hold points, and a few change their gun which changes their point of impact. Since your All-American Captains were willing to share their thoughts and strategies, learn from them! If you're struggling to handle distractions, take a lesson from the All-Americans and treat it as if nothing happened.

Shoot your target! ■

SUB VETERAN CAPTAIN



DAVID DEITCH

Hometown: Tina, Missouri
Occupation: Factory worker
Singles: 5200 (98.25)
Handicap: 4800 (91.48)
Doubles: 4900 (93.84)
Equipment: MX10 RS
Equipment Modifications: Tommy Wilkinson barrels, Prosoft recoil system
Disruptions: Block it out, start over with my routine, and get a good look at the target.
Financial Strain: Work more hours to offset the cost. For example, I just worked 18 hours of overtime this past week.
Adjustments from 16-27: I usually raise the comb just a little when I go to the back fence— $\frac{1}{16}$ th - $\frac{1}{8}$ th higher if I'm shooting into a north wind. If it's a normal, calm day, I don't do anything different.



VETERAN CAPTAIN



LLOYD BEECRAFT

Hometown: Breslau, Ontario
Occupation: Residential Framing Contractor
Singles: 6700 (98.01)
Handicap: 6300 (89.87)
Doubles: 4900 (93.59)
Equipment: K80 Trap Special
Equipment Modifications: Pro Rib and Precision Fit Stock
Disruptions: I go to the line with my results in mind and no one else's. I do not try to keep track of how other squad members are doing. As someone who helps run shoots, you realize equipment failures are inevitable and you just deal with them as they occur. If by chance you get squadded with a very distracting individual I realize that it is just for 100 targets and try not to put myself in that position again, but remember you just may have to shoot-off with that person.
Financial Strain: The rising cost of shooting and components fortunately for me is something I can handle okay at this stage. The most frustrating issue is purchasing the type of ammunition you prefer.
Adjustments from 16-27: The only change I make from 16-yards to Handicap is on 16-yards I use a light Improved Mod choke with AA light 7.5 or 8s and for 27-yard Handicap, I use a full choke with AA Super Handicap 7.5s.

SENIOR VETERAN CAPTAIN

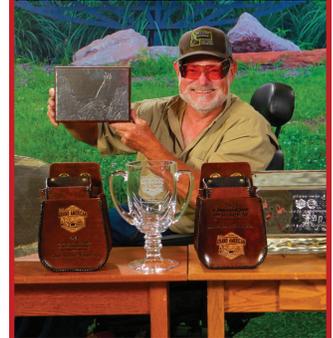


WILLIAM VAN NIEUWENHUYZEN

Hometown: Harrisburg, South Dakota
Occupation: Retired Farmer
Singles: 6600 (97.95)
Handicap: 6300 (91.87)
Doubles: 5500 (93.98)
Equipment: K80
Equipment Modifications: Custom Stock
Disruptions: I just go back to my normal routine. Look at the target and break them.
Financial Strain: I've reloaded shells more than I have in the past. Sometimes shooting less if I need to depending on what's going on in our home life.
Adjustments from 16-27: I shoot top single because it shoots flatter for Handicap, and then switch to the bottom so that I can see them quicker and it shoots a little higher.



CHAIR CAPTAIN



WILLIAM ROSS

Hometown: Newfoundland, Pennsylvania
Occupation: Retired
Singles: 5500 (95.49)
Handicap: 5200 (88.42)
Doubles: 4000 (82.95)
Equipment: Browning Synergy combo, unsingle, adjustable cheek piece and rib-POI 100% high
Equipment Modifications: 6 oz lead in the stock to help reduce recoil and balance the unsingle barrels in the middle of the receiver. The factory gun was muzzle heavy.
Disruptions: Focusing during a squad or single shooter issue is not generally a problem. My next target is usually an ink spot even when the rest are chunked.
Financial Strain: The financial stress is to argue with my financial advisor! I remind him, this is what I do! I could die tomorrow, and I need to have fun now.
Adjustments from 16-27: The only change I make between Singles and Handicap is hold a lower gun. From the chair, I only hold eight or ten inches above the front of the house in Singles and an inch or two above in Handicap. My visual hold is a foot or 18 inches above that, either discipline. ■