

ALL AMERICAN CAPTAINS 2024

BY JACQUE SNELLENBERGER

The captains are at it again: sharing nuggets of wisdom, just for us. Not only are their general stats provided, but the captains of every category are graciously willing to share with you the best advice they've ever been given, what shooting, if any, they do in the winter months, and what their pre-shot mantra or power words are and what they mean to them. Now, it's your turn to learn and take notes.



OPEN CAPTAIN

Keith Ditto

POINTS: 2,465
HOMETOWN: Brandenburg, Kentucky
OCCUPATION: Retired Lineman
SINGLES: 5000 (99.32%) Handicap: 5000 (95.94%) Doubles: 3900 (97.97%)
EQUIPMENT: MX2000 Perazzi

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: Precision Stock, Winchester Ammunition

BEST ADVICE: One bird at a time (not past or future)

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I shoot 100 bird calcutta's every weekend as well as practice a few hundred targets each week. Once spring comes the practice will increase.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: See target, break target. This means I allow my eyes to adjust over my barrel and above the house where the target will be. Sometimes it takes a second, which is why my timing has slowed down some. I have to be relaxed and ready so that when I go to break the target it's a smooth move.



LADY 1 CAPTAIN

Raylee Bishop

POINTS: 3,278
HOMETOWN: Ankeny, IA
OCCUPATION: College Student
SINGLES: 5500 (98.58) Handicap: 5400 (91.41) Doubles: 4000 (97.02)
EQUIPMENT: Kolar Lenses: RE Ranger

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS:

BEST ADVICE: Something that has been reiterated to me by several of my role models over the years is the importance of character off the line. If you socialize, listen, and are overall, just a decent human, people are more likely to give you advice or open doors for you.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I spend several weekends over the winter at small shoots that are unregistered. These are not in preparation for the summer, but rather for me to enjoy the shooting community and the simple act of pulling the trigger.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: Anything that I say to myself I try to keep a positive connotation to, I avoid words in the negative. If I am doing something wrong or need to change something I use an affirmative mantra. Ex. "Stay focused", "Hit the center", or one that I got from a book is "Glorify God, Process is Primary". Example of what I avoid; "don't miss" or anything that'll tear me down.



LADY 2 CAPTAIN

Debbie Ohye Neilson

POINTS: 3,976
HOMETOWN: Audubon, Pennsylvania
OCCUPATION: Retired Office Manager Kay Ohye International.

SINGLES: 8900 (97.75) Handicap: 8600 (88.73) Doubles: 7300 (93.74)
EQUIPMENT: Krieghoff K-80, Federal Ammunition,
EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: 34-32 fix choke, fully adjustable Wenig Stock
BEST ADVICE: I've got two: Just do the best you can and have fun and be as a gracious loser as you are a winner and you will always be a champion.
WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: My down time is October to January. Then from January to mid-March I begin practicing for the season.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: I don't use any.



SUB JUNIOR

Wyatt DeBrie

POINTS: 3,612
HOMETOWN: Gibbon, Nebraska
OCCUPATION: 9th grade student
SINGLES: 6600 (98.09) Handicap: 6900 (89.97) Doubles: 6500 (96.03)
EQUIPMENT: K-80 Trap Special Suhl Scroll

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: Wenig Custom Stock

BEST ADVICE: Never lose focus in between shots. The number one thing new and younger shooters do is lose concentration in between shots.

If you can break a 15-20 out of 25 in singles, oftentimes you are missing due to lack of focus.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: In the winter time of the year (school year) I shoot at the Autumn, Spring and the Southern Grands. Trapshooting really is a year round sport, so there really isn't a down time for me.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: I listen to music when I shoot. The less I'm thinking about the better. That way I can just focus on breaking the target and repeating what I just did.



JUNIOR

Cole Henning

POINTS: 3,103

HOMETOWN: Wilton, Iowa

OCCUPATION: Commercial fishing, College-studying ?

SINGLES: 5800 (98.38%) Handicap: 6400 (93.83%) Doubles:4900 (97.27%)

EQUIPMENT: Pilla glasses, Browning special sporting clays

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: Prosoft stock and forearm

BEST ADVICE: Tips from Phil Simms regarding reading handicap targets and how to adapt to them.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I shoot a few small derbies but mostly take the winter off so I can focus on school and hunting. In the spring I practice a few evenings in the week leading up to the Spring Grand and then continue shooting.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: I don't use any.



JUNIOR GOLD

Dagen Voigtman

POINTS: 3,881

HOMETOWN: Plattsmouth, Nebraska

OCCUPATION: College student at University of Nebraska Omaha majoring in accounting

SINGLES: 3600 (98.31%) Handicap: 3300 (94.94%) Doubles:2700 (96.78%)

EQUIPMENT: K-80 Trap Special

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: None

BEST ADVICE: Always focus on your own game. That has stuck with me since you can't compete at a high level if you don't focus on your own game and try to improve on it.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I usually do not shoot during those months and rest. Very rarely, if I do it's with friends and it's only a box here or there.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: I try to watch every target on my squad. I believe it does not decrease your ability to focus the whole round and you gain much more from it. Then when it's my turn I have a checklist that I go through from top to bottom before I call pull.

Checklist includes: clear my head from any random thought, start my mount, while I'm mounting I double check I am doing everything that I should be so I can be as consistent as possible, set my hold-point, check to see if anything feels wrong, if it does, I remount, if not, I call for the target.



SUB VETERAN

Scott Gens

POINTS: 2,379

HOMETOWN: Vernon Center, MN

OCCUPATION: Farmer

SINGLES: 4500 (98.58%) Handicap: 4300 (92.79%) Doubles:3400 (96.29%)

EQUIPMENT: Perazzi MX10 RS

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: Release trigger, chokes redone by Pat Gottberg, Adjustable comb and butt plate.

BEST ADVICE: Your right eye is the rear site therefore it can't be moved. This means keep your head on the gun or your vision is going to be off.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I spend my winter months shooting 50-100 coyotes every winter with my buddies. I prefer to shoot in a short sleeve shirt so I don't shoot until April. If the weather and farming align, I may hit up Tucson in February.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: Eyes still, gun still. I keep my eyes still until I see the target down on the house, then and only then do I move my gun.



VETERAN

Dale Stockdale

POINTS: 2,849

HOMETOWN: Ackley, IA

OCCUPATION: Farming and Owner of Stockdale Gun Club

SINGLES: 5300 (98.34%) Handicap: 5475 (92.60%) Doubles:4900 (96.37%)

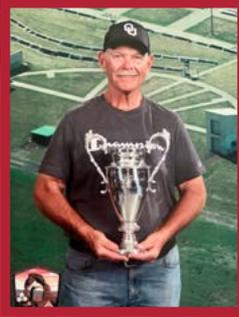
EQUIPMENT: MX10 Perazzi

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS: Wilkinson barrel work, Wenig Stock, Ray Stafford helped with release triggers

BEST ADVICE: I think the best advice for trapshooting is to make sure you listen. Ditch the phone when you are around other shooters, especially the better shots than you are.

WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS: I usually seem to spend a lot of my time working on the club or machinery to get ready for the next season. But, there are some 50 bird shoots, 25-16s and 25 ATA handicap that are held at Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids that I like to shoot if I have time. When it does get too cold outside to work, I shoot the Spring or the Southern Grands, to break up winter.

PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS: I am always talking to myself. Most anything that is easy to say and uses up time between shots. When I get bored with it I make some new sentences to say. That way I can control the narrative. This keeps other thoughts that make me miss from coming in since I cannot let my mind go where it wants.

**SENIOR VETERAN***Robert Rimer Jr.***POINTS:** 2,192**HOMETOWN:** Shawnee, Oklahoma**OCCUPATION:** Retired Operation superintendent from Shawnee Public Works**SINGLES:** 5000 (97.92%) Handicap: 4600 (91.28%) Doubles: 4300 (93.40%)**EQUIPMENT:** MX-14 (Singles & Handicap), Browning XT (Doubles)**EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS:** release triggers in both, stock and pad adjustments with choke tubes**BEST ADVICE:** Both pieces have been from clinics I've attended. Phil Kiner gave me advice on hold points, and Harlan's explanation of how important pre shot routines are and every shot counts. Both have helped me to prepare in my shooting to see results.**WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS:** I haven't shot in the winter months for the last few years due to a condition called Raynaud's Disease, which causes a lack of circulation in fingers, hands, and feet.**PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS:** For many years I always told myself to keep my "head down" prior to mounting my gun. But as I've gotten older I changed that to "head down, look at the target, don't move the gun until eyes are locked on target." This helped me with my overall focus too.

Extra: Robert has decided to retire from Trapshooting and plans on spending more time with his family overseas.

**CHAIRSHOOTER***Ziggy Tkaczenko***POINTS:** 2,955**HOMETOWN:** Lebanon, Missouri**OCCUPATION:** Army retired**SINGLES:** 2300 (95.22) Handicap: 2700 (87.96) Doubles: 2000 (85.05)**EQUIPMENT:** Perazzi MX2000/10, Ally chair from Segs4Vets, Silver Seitz**EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS:** soft touch with pad adjuster**BEST ADVICE:** Jacque Snellenberger told me to set myself up for the second shot in doubles, which allowed me to play around with my chair to figure out how it works best for me.**WHAT SHOOTING DO YOU DO IN THE WINTER MONTHS:** I don't shoot a lot as I don't care for cold weather. I start shooting in a sweatshirt in March or April.**PRE-SHOT MANTRA OR POWER WORDS:** The same thing I tell my daughter, "Hold still, go through your routine, see the target, move to the target, break target, and follow through."

It seems pretty obvious that even if the captains take time off, they're right back at it early on in the spring to get back into competition mode. And all the advice is so good, I can't pick a favorite, can you?

If you have any questions you'd like asked for next years captains, shoot me an email at dt10shtr@yahoo.com