

# XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL "HOT SHOTS"

Xavier College Preparatory High School is a 75-year-old, all-girl, privately-funded Catholic high school situated in the heart of Phoenix, Arizona, and the only one of its kind in the state. Its beautiful and historical architectural buildings lend credence to its motto of "women of faith pursuing excellence."

Aside from its traditional cherished religious values and outstanding educational programs, Xavier believes that every XCP student should be given the chance to participate in an activity that they are passionate about, provides the opportunity to excel, and develops sportsmanship and teamwork. One such activity is its school-sponsored shotgun and archery program. "Hot Shots" was started in 2010 with just a handful of girls interested in adding a new sport to the XCP Roster. Recent years have seen participation reach up to 40 young girls competing in these sponsored lettered sports. That's correct — shooting is a lettered sport! This is a recent and welcomed change from being a club-affiliated sport. These sports are overseen and championed by

Sister Lynn Winsor, Vice-Principal for Activities and Athletic Director, whose drive is to see these young girls compete at a high level, obtaining valuable life lessons along the way that will be carried with them forever.



The shotgun program focuses on all three disciplines — skeet, trap and sporting clays — and is affiliated with the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). Head Coach Sandra Cromey is committed to the girls' success, both individually and as a team. Managing this team takes a lot of support, and Sandra has been fortunate to receive a tremendous amount of assistance and cooperation from both the school and team parents. Recently, some of the parents who will be volunteer coaches have attended a pilot skeet clinic put on by

Mike O'Keefe, NSSA Level III Certified Instructor, and Brian Trapp, an NSSA Level II instructor, for the sole purpose of providing continued education and reinforcing the fundamentals of skeet shooting.

The results of this skeet clinic, based on feedback from the participating coaches, indicated it was a great success and an eye-opener. In addition, the coaches walked away with the consensus



that it's not as easy as it looks. The clinic provided the parents/coaches with the tools required to help the girls excel. They will be armed with the fundamental principles of skeet shooting, including stance, feet position, gun mount/fit, hold points, etc. To augment that, on November 10-11 there was an Xavier-only skeet camp offered to those girls wanting to improve

their skeet skills.

Other volunteer parents like Tom Olson, whose daughter is a Junior on the Hot Shots team, took on the job of accumulating equipment for the team. Olson reached out to the Arizona Game & Fish Department for loaner guns, then inventoried and cleaned all the firearms. He then solicited the help of Stephan Waltz, a local gunsmith, who helped replace or repair the beads on many of the guns. All of this to ensure the girls had functional equipment to use for this season's shotgun experience. The SCTP practices, training and events are conducted at the outstanding Ben Avery Clay Target Center facility, which is operated by Arizona Game and Fish Department.

With the upcoming shotgun season, it's a sure thing the girls will be training hard to make a notable impact on the likes of the 2019 SCTP Commissioner's Cup, the 2019 SCTP National Championships, and hopefully, the Junior World Skeet Championships. One thing is for sure: these ladies are a welcome addition to the sport! Go Xavier Hot Shots!

— Contributed by Brian Trapp

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In a photo caption in the November issue, we inadvertently mixed up the podium winners of the 2018 Mini World. The correct HOA winners are: Riley Chaddock, champion; Robert Lindley, runner-up; and Michael Schmidt, third. We apologize for the error.

## KUDOS



and squadmates Jason Armstrong, Matt Wright and Jim Babb.

Kudos to 13-year-old **Shelby Austin** of Chesapeake, Virginia, who broke her first registered target on her dad's birthday, October 5, at Halifax County Gun Club's Portsmouth Langley Open. She has been pulling practice for her dad, Chris Austin, since she was 8 and just started shooting skeet and joined NSSA this year. She shoots with her dad



shooting in 20 gauge to also earn the champion medallion.

Congratulations to the team of (L to R) **Hunter Carpenter**, **Jacob Uphoff** and **Zach Hinze** for winning the 2018 Nebraska Fall High School Skeet Classic held in Omaha, Nebraska. During this chilly, rainy October event, Jacob posted his first 100 straight in competition