

# JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Making A Mark

Volume 35  
Summer 2019

Me & the  
Guardian  
Long Range  
Team

Chiappa's M1  
9mm Carbine

SASP 2019  
College  
Nationals

RIA's  
.22 TCM Rifle

SCTP  
SHOOT TIME!

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By Gary Weisbaum:  
SCTP Director of Marketing

One of the great things about being the "marketing person" in an organization like the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation is that you get to meet some of the most amazing young people from all walks of life.

At this year's Shot Show, I was introduced to one such "young person", Kyleigh Kozel from Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. From the second we met; it was easy to see this was a very special young person.

Kyleigh currently competes on the Hunting Hills Hawkeyes, a Greene County, PA Scholastic Clay Target Program team. Kyleigh began shooting in the Pennsylvania SCTP at age 10, seven years ago following her brother Tristan who had competed in SCTP for 5 years.

Kyleigh indicated her most challenging obstacle starting out was finding a shotgun that she could hold and mount for 100 rounds. Learning and practicing stance fundamentals from her SCTP coaches proved key to handling that early shotgun along with being taught the correct set up (hold point-break point) and swing characteristics. Kyleigh smiled when she added "I wanted to beat my brother's scores and come home with trophies too, I just had to learn how to do it."

Kyleigh joined the Hunting Hills Hawkeyes SCTP Team at its home course of Hunting Hills owned by Roy and Sally Sisler in Dilliner PA, "Mr. Sisler has



Kyleigh on the sporting clays course at the 2018 SCTP Championship.

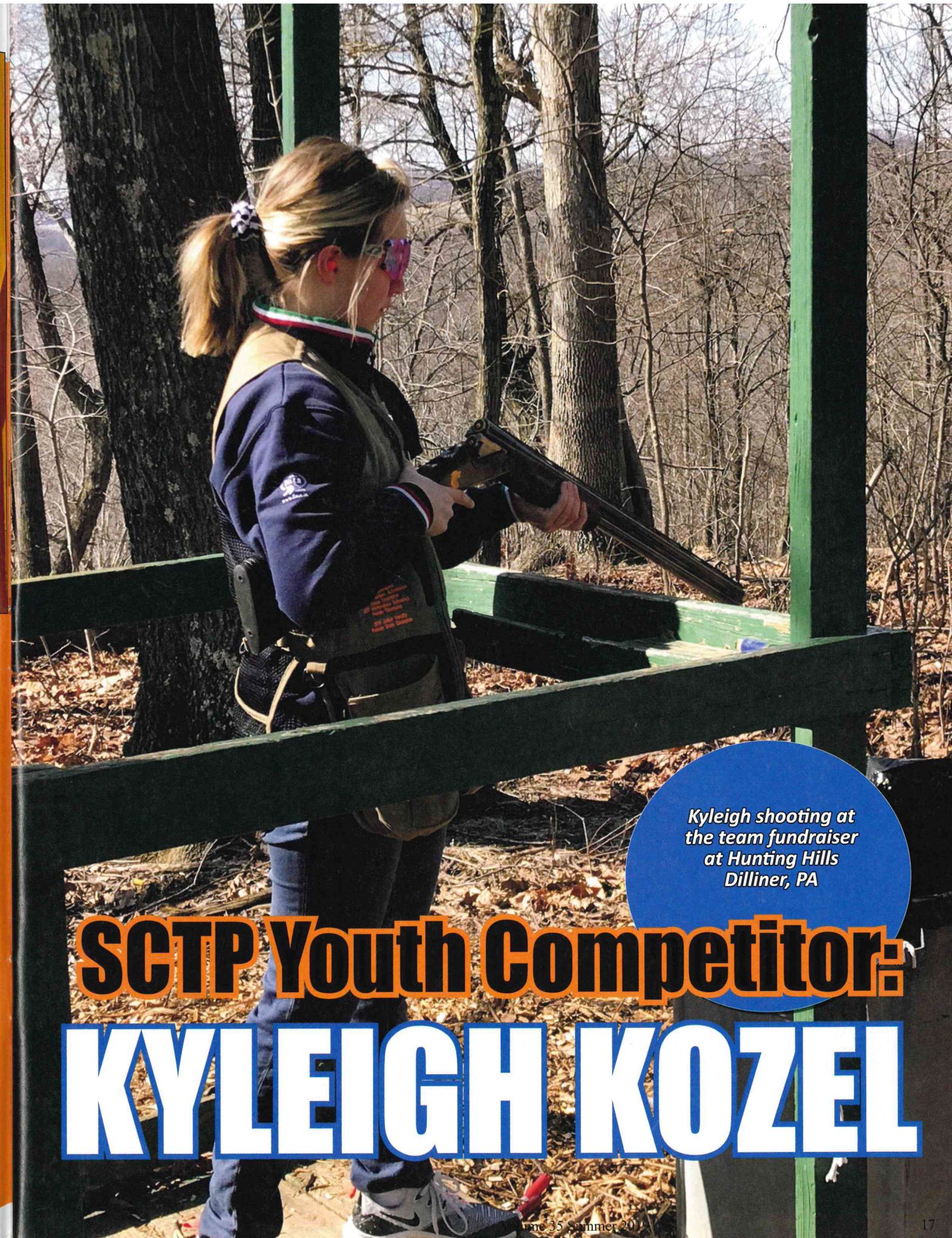
always been extra supportive of having girls on the team, he believes in challenging us to be better competitors!" she said. Roy Sisler added, "Kyleigh is so much more than an outstanding youth shooter. She has the highest respect for firearms and for other people, she is always the first one to offer to help new younger shooters and is always positive".

During Kyleigh's time in SCTP, with the help, guidance, and support of her dad Kevin has sought out different instructors who have helped shape and contributed to her shooting development. "I've found that some instructors have a great way of helping me understand how to read and shoot certain birds." Her longtime and current instructor is NSCA Level III Michael Mohr, who developed the Shooting Academy at Nemaocolin Woodlands and then went on to design and manage as

the Director of the Seven Springs Sporting Clays complex. "Mike knows in just a few minutes what I need to work on after we discuss my last shooting competition, he pushes me to work at building my mind presentation inventory in my mind so that everything becomes automatic muscle memory," stated Kyleigh. "He's also helped me realize how important it is to work on my Pre-shot routine and mental game which is what really wins tournaments." In a separate interview, Mike Mohr added, "Kyleigh and I usually work on one issue or target problem per lesson. She already performs well so we take the good and make it consistent."

Kyleigh added "Seven Springs has contributed so much to help me train and compete. Mike really believes in giving his time and effort to SCTP shooters which is the future of the sport."

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Kyleigh shooting at the team fundraiser at Hunting Hills Dilliner, PA

## SCTP Youth Competitor: KYLEIGH KOZEL

Kyleigh has put the skills she's worked diligently on to great use by winning 1st place female honors in her PA SCTP Sporting Clays divisions for the last four years straight with numerous 1st through 3rd squad team wins. Kyleigh also took 1st place female at the PA SCTP Skeet Championship in her division last year.

Three years ago, Dale Pancake and Justin Dodd, the Founding Partners of Italian Firearms Group took notice of Kyleigh's shooting journey and accomplishments and wanted to help accelerate her shooting progress. They offered to sponsor her with a F.A.I.R. 12 gauge over/under Racing Prestige model that would be able to withstand shooting in excess of 100,000 shotgun rounds. "The gun felt so dynamic in my hands when I shot, I didn't know how natural an Italian made shotgun would feel when I went after the birds." "I am so thankful to Dale and Justin for everything they have enabled me to do. I traveled to Italy this past February to visit the manufacturing facility of F.A.I.R. which is the Isidoro Rizzini shotgun company, and after seeing and understanding the process of the shotguns being made and tested, I am so proud to be shooting the best shotgun from Italy in my opinion."

When she's not practicing or shooting competition birds, Kyleigh loves other outdoor sports. Fly fishing, ocean kayaking, skiing, hunting and travel top her list of "can't wait to do again." But that's only a part of what makes Kyleigh such an outstanding young woman. She is serious about music, sports, IT, and is a good student. No matter what she is doing, Kyleigh loves competition and always wants to be the best.

Kyleigh is a member of the Carmichaels High School band, where she plays the alto

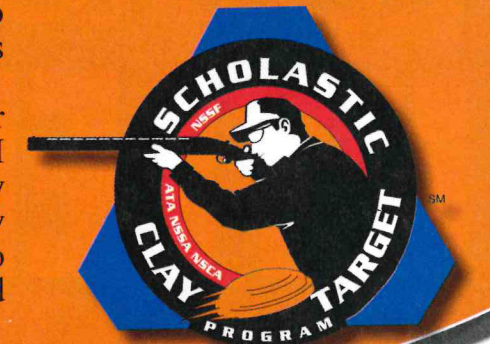


Caption: Luca Rizzini (F.A.I.R. CEO) made Kyleigh the Youth F.A.I.R. Ambassador in the US.

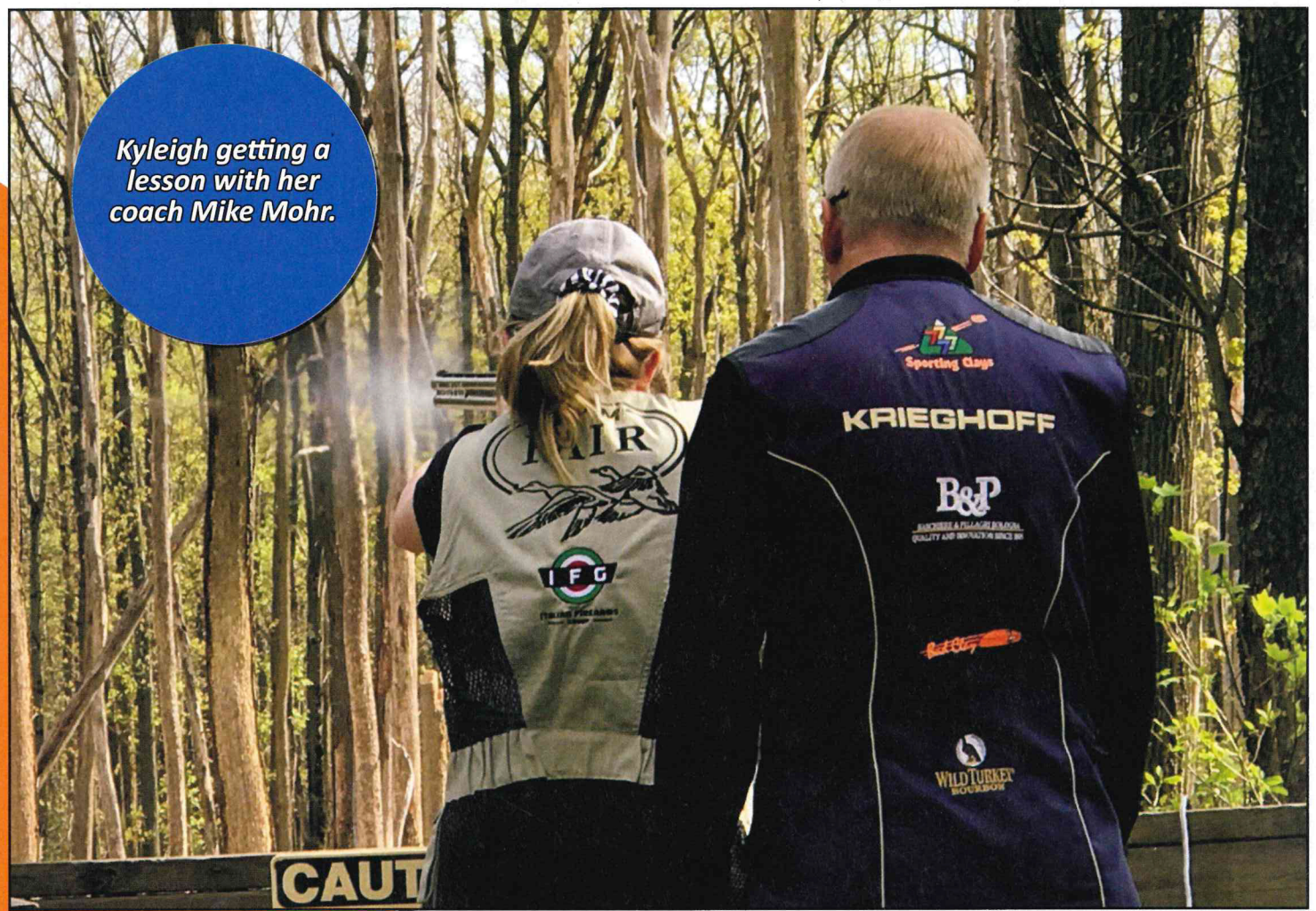
saxophone, she's also played softball and basketball for the school. She's a member of National Honor Society and enjoys history, writing and political science debates. Kyleigh's plans are to attend college to pursue Business and Communication degrees.

Kyleigh sums up her competitive energy this way, "I started out wanting to beat my brother, then all of the boys in my grade. I've since come to want to only beat two people- myself and the Target Setter."

Kyleigh will compete again in 2019 for the Hunting Hills Hawkeyes at local, state and regional events as well as the SCTP Nationals in Ohio in July. ©



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Kyleigh getting a lesson with her coach Mike Mohr.

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