

**Fort Hays State University Shotgun Sports Team**  
**End-of-Year Report - 2025-2026**

**Shotgun Team Overview:**

The 2025–2026 season marked another successful year of growth and stability for the Fort Hays State University Shotgun Sports Team. We maintained a roster of 45 student-athletes, matching the largest roster in program history, while welcoming 13 freshmen to the program. This incoming class represented four states—Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas—and brought a strong combination of talent, work ethic, and enthusiasm to our team culture. Their addition helped strengthen the foundation of our program while ensuring continued success for years to come.

Throughout the season, our athletes fired more than 133,000 practice rounds and over 120,000 competition rounds in pursuit of excellence. Their dedication and hard work resulted in numerous accomplishments, including our program's 12th Prairie Conference Championship, an undefeated 7–0 fall season record, and a Division II National Runner-Up finish at the ACUI/SCTP Collegiate National Championships.

Individual success also highlighted the year, as seven athletes earned Shotgun All-American honors and five athletes were recognized as Academic All-Americans. Beyond the scores and awards, our team continued to grow in both skill and character, demonstrating the values of discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork that define our program.

Looking ahead, the future remains bright. We expect to retain a strong core of returning athletes, and our 2027 recruiting class is already shaping up to be one of our best. Coach Damian Giles and I will continue our recruiting efforts throughout the summer by attending several premier high school shooting events and engaging with prospective student-athletes from across the region.

**HHP 385: Shooting Range Management:**

This spring, I had the opportunity to launch HHP 385: Shooting Range Management, a course I spent the summer of 2025 developing. The inaugural offering enrolled three students, all members of the Shotgun Sports Team.

The course introduced students to many aspects of range design, operations, maintenance, environmental stewardship, and risk management that they had never previously considered. While the class was successful and generated valuable discussion and learning opportunities, it also provided important insights into how the course can be improved. Throughout the summer, I plan to refine course materials, assignments, and delivery methods to create an even stronger learning experience for future students beginning in Spring 2027.

## **Shooting & Dance Instruction:**

During the 2025–2026 academic year, I taught:

- **HHP 162: Basic Firearms** (Fall Semester) – 3 students
- **HHP 180 VC: Advanced Shotgun** (Spring Semester) – 2 students
- **HHP 180 VD: Country Western Dance** (Spring Semester) – 13 students

Each course provided a unique opportunity to help students develop new skills, build confidence, and challenge themselves in different ways. Watching students progress throughout the semester was extremely rewarding, and I was continually impressed by their enthusiasm, engagement, and professionalism. The quality of students we continue to attract at Fort Hays State University is something to be proud of.

As with all courses, I will spend time this summer reviewing and refining curriculum materials to further improve the educational experience for future students.

## **Professional Development**

I remain committed to continuing education and professional growth to better serve our students and the university.

This spring, I successfully renewed my certification as an NRA Pistol Instructor. During the summer, I plan to complete additional certifications in Advanced Shotgun Coaching through the NRA as well as coaching certification through the USA Clay Target League.

These professional development opportunities will enhance my coaching knowledge, instructional effectiveness, and ability to provide high-quality educational experiences for both students and student-athletes at Fort Hays State University.

## **Closing**

The 2025–2026 academic year was defined by growth, achievement, and momentum. From record enrollment and competitive success to new academic offerings and continued professional development, our program continues to move in a positive direction.

I am proud of what our student-athletes have accomplished and grateful for the support provided by the university, alumni, donors, parents, and friends of the program. Together, we are building something truly special at Fort Hays State University, and I am excited for what the future holds.

Jerrod G. Lies

FHSU Shotgun Sports

Head Coach