



JON KRUGER, NSCA HALL OF FAMER, POSES WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY SHOTGUN TEAM. THE UNIVERSITY IS LOCATED IN ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI.

Historically, the Kruger Classic has played second fiddle to Jon Kruger’s other signature shoot, the Kruger Cup. At the end of a busy season of shooting choices, shooters tend to opt out of one of the best events of the year. Great expectations for the new location at Grand Kankakee in Northern Indiana simply could not overcome that late summer decline that seemingly affects this shoot every year.

Quite frankly, this shoot deserves greater support than it gets. Grand Kankakee pulls out all the stops to ensure shooters have a

great experience. Kruger’s target presentations are singularly the best reason to attend this Classic. The Saturday evening festivities for this year’s event were possibly the best I’ve ever attended – anyplace. Impressive prize opportunities were offered to shooters in every class. Prime rib dinner that compares to the finest Mid-western dining establishments, and live music performed by our fellow shooter TJ Klay rounded out the evening.

Michigan shooter Tom Mack bested a strong field of contenders on the strength of a solid Sunday

TOM THOMPSON REPORTS FROM GRAND KANKAKEE IN NORTHERN INDIANA

KRUGER CLASSIC



CHALLENGING CROSSERS FROM THE SCISSOR LIFT GREET A SQUAD AT GRAND KANKAKEE DURING THE SEPTEMBER 21-23 KRUGER CLASSIC. DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ASKED, THIS STATION WAS EASY OR IT WAS DIFFICULT.

score of 94 to back up his 91 on the previous day. Mack pulled away from Nick Gamel (92), Donnie Gustin (91) and Todd Pulis (91), Junior shooters with the Lindenwood University shooting team, who were clustered near the head of the leaderboard with Mack on Saturday. Pulis finished M1 with 181. Cam Clayton, another of the Lindenwood students, was M2 with a 180 and Bill McGuire was M3 with 178. Gustin (169) won A class

The Lindenwood team was everywhere at the Kruger Classic. An impressive group, bedecked in black vests with gold identification labels, these kids were the talk of the shoot. America's best shooters met one or more of them at every turn. A dozen of them and their coach fared well in the short field of competitors. Seven of them are Master class competitors. The school is located in St. Charles, Missouri.

Bill McGuire had to shoot-off against Clayton for Master class honors in the Pre-lim (McGuire won). The Make-A-Break came down to McGuire and Travis Mears. Mears won that showdown. Ladies Championship awards in both the Main and the Pre-lim went to Lindenwood's Jenna Mc Lean (CH) and Geri

JENNA McLEAN AND GERI WILLIAMS FINISHED FIRST AND RUNNER-UP.



Williams (RU). The entire team (except two) competed for Junior honors – Pulis won in the Main while honors went to Clayton in the Pre-lim. Coach Mark Gamel was outright winner of the Pre-lim with an impressive 96.

TEAM TACTICS

Traveling the six hours from school to Grand Kankakee in two large vans, the team literally packed tight to accommodate the sizable group. Complicating packing for the return trip was the stack of individual trophies collected and two new guns won in the class

shoot-offs on Saturday. The Kruger Classic draws four names from each class, and those people shoot off for new guns. Miss Mc Lean (C class) and team mate Jonathan Steenberg (A class) each won shoot-offs in their respective class. Other class winners were David Cummings (M), John Farr (AA), Tom Thompson (B), Tim Liechty (D) and Cynthia Wiggins (E).

The target presentations by Kruger were simply outstanding. He dazzled us with speed and



THE KRUGER CLASSIC CHAMPION TOM MACK, HEADS FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THE SHOOT LOADED WITH EVERYTHING HE WILL NEED TO DELIVER A WIN.

baffled us with off speed. He added confusion to the factor by pressing birds against the clear blue sky from two towers. In three days, there was not a bird that could not be broken with improved cylinder chokes, but there were many that fooled shooters into shooting ahead, behind, or off the line.

One of my favorites was a true pair in the Pre-lim – a bird /rabbit from left to right, slight incoming crosser at forty yards on the bird and quartering rabbit that died twenty some yards to the right of the box. I watched Travis Mears make it look so easy, taking his time with the bird, assuring solid breaks then finding the dying rabbit in time to finish it. Mears' strategy worked for me too!

SOLID REPUTATION

The hospitality of Grand Kankakee has given this club a solid reputation as a first class shooter destination. Their "on the premises" restaurant deserves all the superlatives thrown their way. The staff are friendly, well trained and some of the nicest people you could ever meet. Managing partner, Larry Pelcher, is unflappable. Nothing shakes this guy, or forces him out of his friendly demeanor.

This shoot featured all the bells

and whistles – side games, practice fields, FITASC, 5-Stand and small gauge plus the Main and Pre-lim courses. Altogether, more than seventy-five traps were in play throughout the club’s many fields. Plenty of good help assured a smooth running shoot. Kruger is never far away during one of his shoots – he’s always ready to work, but had plenty of time to greet guests.

Visit the club’s website for more details www.grandkankakee.com or call 219-797-2135. Dates for their 2008 events are in the planning stages. The club is located east of Hanna, Indiana near the intersection of US Route 30 and Indiana Route 39. ■

KRUGER CLASSIC MAIN EVENT

CH	TOM MACK	91	94	185
M1	TODD PULIS	91	90	181
M2	CAM CLAYTON	90	90	180
M3	BILL MCGUIRE	90	88	178
AA1	JOHN FARR	88	87	175
AA2	MICHAEL SMRZ	79	81	160
AA3	MATTHEW HOFFMAN	84	75	159
A1	DONNIE GUSTIN	91	78	169
A2	CHRIS EDGE	83	81	164
A3	JOSEPH STEENBERGEN	81	81	162
B1	RICHARD KAZWELL	77	79	156

B2	MICHAEL WILBUR	77	77	154
B3	DAVID VANDERCOY	72	79	151
C1	JAMES MONTAGUE	80	74	154
C2	WILLIAM LAMENDOLA	71	74	145
C3	JENNA MCLEAN	79	60	139
D1	JONATHAN STEENBERGEN	75	69	144
D2	JOSH POWELL	72	72	144
D3	MICHAEL GALLO	68	70	138
E1	DARLENE VIET	66	68	134
E2	CYNTHIA WIGGINS	70	59	129
E3	MAX WORLAND	58	65	123

CONCURRENTS				
L1	JENNA MCLEAN	79	60	139
L2	GERI WILLIAMS	76	58	134
SJ1	SCOTT CROOK	85	83	168
SJ2	MARK CROOK	70	78	148
V1	JOHN FARR	88	87	175
V2	LEROY PERRY	88	84	172
SV1	JIM BOWERS	86	74	160
SV2	DOC MULKEY	62	82	144

LOOKING SOUTH FROM THE SHOOTING PLATFORM ON THE COURSE, TOWERS AND LIFTS DOMINATE THE LANDSCAPE. JUST AS ONE WOULD IMAGINE, GREAT TARGET PRESENTATIONS WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY ON THE HIGH STATIONS.

