

# ASHLEIGH HAFLEY

## ONE ROTATION, ONE COURSE, ONE STATION AND ONE TARGET AT A TIME

DEREK MOORE TALKS TO THE 2009 LADIES NATIONAL CHAMPION



I CAUGHT UP WITH ASHLEIGH RIGHT AFTER THE 2009 SPORTING CLAYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. HER WORK ETHIC AND CONFIDENCE HAVE BROUGHT HER TO THE TOP OF THE SPORTING CLAYS GAME.

■ **DM:** How does it feel to be the 2009 Ladies World Sporting Clays Champion, US Open Ladies Champion and now the Ladies National Champion?

■ **AH:** Pretty good! I was looking to clean out my year a little bit, so I took a lot of time off from some of those smaller shoots to focus on the majors – and that worked out well. I was happy to make the sweep. I wasn't planning on it, but it just worked out that way.

■ **DM:** Did you have a plan going in, or did you just take it as it came.

■ **AH:** Just took it as it came. I'm competitive and wanted to shoot as well as I could – and then let the chips fall where they would. I didn't really have an agenda, I just went out to shoot taking one rotation, one course, one station and one target at a time.

■ **DM:** What kind of practice regime do you have?

■ **AH:** My regime has suffered this year because I've not had much time to practice. We've been doing a lot of trap rentals and actual work, so practice has not been as often, or as much as it has been in the past. I did get a spot or two of concentrated practice right before the tournament, maybe three, but other than that it has been pretty lax of late.

■ **DM:** What order did you shoot the courses in?

■ **AH:** Green then Yellow, Red and Orange.

■ **DM:** The windy day was Thursday afternoon – how did that affect you – particularly on the difficult Green course?

■ **AH:** I shot Green on Thursday, but I lucked out a little bit. I was on the 8am rotation and the wind didn't pick up until the afternoon.

The only thing it affected was my 5-Stand because I shot that late Thursday and the wind by then had picked up and it certainly messed with the targets. Other than that, no it didn't affect my Main, I was very fortunate.

■ **DM:** I'm thrilled that you're shooting so well. This is the second Nationals you have won – right?

■ **AH:** Yes. I won in 2005 and this is my second title.

■ **DM:** Going for your third and fourth?

■ **AH:** (laughs) Yes – right!

■ **DM:** How do you like your Zoli?

■ **AH:** I've been shooting a Zoli for about three years now, it's working out great. The gun has a really good feel to it and it's built like a tank. The model I shoot now has been put through the ringer! It's been overseas three times and it's just been beat to death. It's held up really well and feels just perfect between the hands. It's certainly stood up to a bunch of wear and tear so I can't complain at all – it's very very reliable.

■ **DM:** Your family must be very proud of your 2009 performance and titles?

■ **AH:** I was very fortunate in that my Dad was there for two of the big wins this year so that was awesome. Grandad was there for the Nationals win so that was really special. It meant a lot to have them both there.

■ **DM:** So what's your next goal?

■ **AH:** The next goal?... four titles. I missed out on the World FITASC in Australia this year – but I'll be in Italy for the 2010 FITASC World Championship. It's a big ask to win four titles in a year so I guess I'll be keeping my fingers crossed – but I'm not betting on it (laughs).

■ **DM:** I'll keep mine crossed for you too! ■