

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition

*Team places first and second for new schools in trap
and wins in skeet for new schools at state tournament*

West Ashley High School

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Principal

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Superintendent of Schools

Terri Nichols
Associate Superintendent of Schools

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Executive Director
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Edgefield, SC - West Ashley High School's (WAHS) skeet shooting team, the Clay Busters, blew past the competition in the State Skeet Shooting Competition recently. The Clay Busters finished in first and second place for new schools in trap and first place overall in skeet for new schools.

The tournament was held at the South Carolina Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield, SC on February 10-11, 2017.

This is the first year WAHS has had a skeet shooting team; they are the only school in Charleston County School District (CCSD) to have a team.

"I've always loved shooting, and wanted to do it as a competition," said Clay Busters team member Hunter Cone.

"I saw a need," said Clay Busters Coach and WAHS Outdoors Pursuit teacher Thomas Cousins. "Students were asking me if it were possible to start [a team]."

Cousins volunteered to be the coach and a total of eight students joined the team: Max Smalls, Bryce Simons, Trae Baumrind, Drake Wieczorek, Ethan Wacaster, D.J. Williamson, and Hunter Cone.

"The students got sponsors on their own to help defray the cost of being on the team," said Cousins.

According to Cousins, Halls Chophouse, Coastal Services HVAC, Williamson Welding, Sarah C. Wacaster, Smoak's Heating and Air, and Dan-Kel Concrete are just a few of the sponsors the students acquired this year.

Another big sponsor for the team is the Charleston County Parks and Recreation. They allow Cousins and his team to use Bulow Plantation as one of

the places they practice on Tuesday of each week. They practice at Partridge Creek Gun Club as well.

The Clay Busters surpassed Cousins' expectations for his first year team in the State Skeet Shooting Competition.

"I think the competition went great," said Cousins. "[I've enjoyed] seeing them get better and better each week."

A total of 25 schools participated in the State Skeet Shooting Competition, including schools like Orangeburg Preparatory, Strom Thurman High, and Newberry Academy.

The tournament was a two-day event. On the first day of the competition, the teams shot 50 rounds of trap. On the second day, they shot 50 rounds of skeet. Each team had the opportunity to earn a total of 50 points per day.

"Overall as a team, we have gotten a lot better [since] the first time we shot," said Cone.

"We shot well, improved our scores from the last meet, and proved that we are the best new team in the state," added Cousins.

For more information, please contact Public Relations Coordinator Donnie Newton at 843.573.1201 ext. 4309.

Photo Captions

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (01)

This is the first year that West Ashley High School has had a Skeet Shooting Team. The 2017 West Ashley High Clay Busters team members are (L-R): Coach Thomas Cousins, Trae Baumrind, Drake Wiczorek, Hunter Cone, Max Smalls, Ethan Wacaster, DJ Williamson, and Bryce Simons.

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (02)

Junior Bryce Simons prepares to fire his rifle at the State Skeet Shooting Competition in Edgefield, SC. The West Ashley High Clay Busters came in first and second place for new schools in trap and came in first place overall in skeet for new schools at the competition.

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (03)

Skeet Shooting Coach Thomas Cousins and WAHS Athletic Trainer Kristen La Seta watch the opposition at the State Skeet Shooting Competition. "We shot well, improved our scores from the last meet, and proved that we are the best new team in the state," said Cousins.

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (04)

Senior Max Smalls prepares to shoot his rifle during the state competition in Edgefield, SC. On February 10, the teams shot 50 rounds of trap. On February 11, they shot 50 rounds of skeet. Each team had the opportunity to earn a total of 50 points per day.

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (05)

Senior Trae Baumrind fires his rifle during the State Skeet Shooting Competition held at the South Carolina Palmetto Shooting Complex.

West Ashley High Takes First Place in State Skeet Competition (06)

It was up to the members of the Clay Busters to recruit sponsors for this year's team. Halls Chophouse, Williamson Welding, Smoak's Heating and Air, Sarah C. Wacaster, Coastal Services HVAC, and Dan-Kel Concrete are a few of this year's sponsors.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.