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Sporting Clays Magazine –Connie Mako Miller
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DAN CARLISLE The Clays Whisperer

The following will give you a broad view of where Dan's been, how he got there, and why his teaching methods and lessons are invaluable to his students. The credits of accomplishments, titles and awards are FAR from being anywhere near complete. They are just a very small, minuscule, itty-bitty smattering of Carlisle's incredibly fantastic career. By the way, Dan has only told me about a few of his wins and that was because I persistently dragged them out of him, over the years. He's ego free and arrogant challenged. Most of this information was gained through www.usashooting.com, interviews, and the NSCA web site.

1955 Born in Houston, Texas December 14

1967-1968 The slim 12 year old-boy received a BB gun and wore his dad's (Arthur "Abe" Carlisle) throwing arm out as he shot tin can after tin can, trying to hit them all. His father had guaranteed the boy that when he hit every can tossed into the air, a shotgun would be the prize. When the day arrived that all cans had a whole through them, Abe Carlisle brought home a 20 gauge Stevens for his son. A trap was mounted to the picnic table and targets were thrown by Dan's father, until again, his dad's arm was worn out. It was during this time that Dan learned his most valuable lesson. The future teacher could not keep his eyes off the barrel and his dad would say, "Son, look at the bird! Boy, LOOK AT THE BIRD! Don't do anything but look at the target!" His father taught Dan to look at the clay, the most important lesson Dan received in his career.

Abe Carlisle was a fabulous shot, hunting quail and shooting trap. Dan said that his father never shot practice. "I've seen him break 97, 98, 96, time after time, and I never saw him practice a single shot."

1969 Started shooting a Remington 1100.

First round of trap, Carlisle shot an 18/25. Later, at the Greater Houston Gun Club he registered his first ATA targets and won Class B with an incredible 98 and 94. At the Dallas Gun Club, just a few weeks later he bested the Handicap field, winning HOA in that event. The prize was a new car and he wasn't even old enough to drive! It was a Volkswagen.

1970 Began competing with a Model 12 Winchester.

1972-1974 Texas State Trapshooting Team Junior

1974 ATA Trap All-American Junior

1975-1984 Joined the Army. He was in the Army for three years, left for three years and re-joined for four. Total, he was in the Army 7 years. For the first couple of years Carlisle practiced shooting 400-500 targets per day!

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During these years, the Army Marksmanship Unit traveled across the country giving clinics. Carlisle volunteered, every time, “for as much of it as I could do and that’s when I realized I might have a chance of actually being an instructor,” he said.

- 1975 Gold Medal International Trap Champion, Pan American Games, Mexico City, 200 Targets. Carlisle, D. 197
- 1975 New World Record, International Trap, 400 Birds, 4 Man Team. Set in Munich. C. Dixon 99, D. Carlisle 96, W. Zobell 97, D. Haldeman 96
- 1975 World Record Pan Am Games in Mexico City. 4 Man Team 400 Birds - D. Carlisle, D. Haldeman, W. Zobell, C. Dixon
- 1975 International Trap Team World Champions. Charvin Dixon 99, Dan Carlisle 96, Don Haldeman 96, Wally Zobell 97
- 1977 International Skeet Team Champions. Championship of the Americas set in Mexico City. Joe Clemmons 146, Dan Carlisle 144, Al Mullins 144, Brad Simmons 143
- 1977 World Record in International skeet, 4 man team. Championship of the Americas set in Mexico City. J. Clemmons 149, D. Carlisle 147, A. Mullins 145, D. Clark 145
- 1978 International Trap Team World Champions. Seoul, Korea. Lee Bannerman 144, Dan Carlisle 144, Randy Voss 147, Walter Zobell 145
- 1978 NSSA Skeet All-American
- 1982 Back-to-back wins in International Skeet **and** Trap at the National Championships! Winning both titles in one year had been Dan’s goal. Upon mastering the feat, he became the first to accomplish the dual titles.
- 1982 Men’s International Skeet World Champion 199/200
- 1982 International Skeet Team World Champions. Dan Carlisle 149, Dean Clark 149, Matt Dryke 148, Al Mullins 145
- 1983 Gold Medal. World Record in International Trap & World Champion, 200 Birds - D. Carlisle 200 x 200 Pan American Games, Caracas

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- 1983 International Trap Team World Champions & Individual Silver Medal for Carlisle. Edmonton, Canada. Dan Carlisle 140, Peter Piffath 135, Dayne Johnson 138
- 1984 Olympics Bronze Trap Medal Winner. Los Angeles, CA. Tied with Luciano Giovanetti of Italy, and Francisco Boza of Peru, with scores of 192. This Olympic trap event went into a “sudden death” shoot-off. According to Douglas Arellanes at arellanes.com, he was a line judge and called a lost bird on Carlisle. The other judge called it dead. The final ruling came from the chief judge who sided with the lost bird call. Arellanes, wrote that he was a 16-year old boy, hired as a trap loader, promoted to a line judge and said that he cost Carlisle the gold.
- 1984 Discharged from the Army.
- 1985 Mike Raahauge opened a sporting clays course; one of the first in the US. Carlisle went to California to work and teach at Mike Raahauge’s Shooting Enterprise.
- 1985-1990 USSCA Chief Instructor
- 1985 to Present Nationally Recognized Shooting Instructor and Coach
- 1987 Gold Medal - Automatic Trap 200 Birds World Record - Pan Am Games, Indianapolis. (198 D. Carlisle) He missed his 50th and 150th targets, remarking, “I just choked those two targets out!”
- 1987 USSCA Team USA, World English Sporting Clays. Organized the first ever Team USA and attended the World English Sporting Clays in England.
- 1988 Olympics held in Seoul, Korea. Competed in both Olympic trap and Olympic skeet! Placed 4th in skeet and 9th in trap. Carlisle was within a trigger pull of placing an Olympic medal in skeet next to his 1984 Olympic medal in trap, already at home resting in a place of honor.

The trigger on his Perazzi was malfunctioning. It would not set properly and sometimes the gun would fire and sometimes it wouldn’t. When the triggers didn’t set, Dan would have to release it and pull it again. Basically he had to pull the trigger twice before the gun would shoot. Can you even imagine competing in the biggest shoot of your life, against the best shooters in the world, with thousands of people staring down at you and having to maintain focus with a gun that only fired part of the time? Incredibly, Carlisle made it to the shoot-off. During the bronze medal decider, on the very first station, first bird out, the gun did not fire. Lost bird! Carlisle began to get a feel for the trigger and realized that when he applied a little pressure he could gauge

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the slack to determine if there was tension on the trigger or if it was going to pull through without firing. At the end of the round, both Olympians had broken 23 birds, but in those Olympics the long run score won the shoot-off. (That rule was revised and changed the following year.) Since Dan had missed that High One on Station One, he lost the shoot-off and his second medal. Won a bronze medal in Trap in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic

- 1975 to 1988 Summary: Won one individual World Championship and four team World Championships. Set three individual world records and four team world records. Shot both international skeet and international trap. Won 13 gold, one silver and one bronze medal in major International Shooting Sport Federation competitions from 1975 to 1988.
- 1990 Set a record of the most clay pigeons “killed” in one hour. Norco, California, Carlisle brought down 4172 clays on May 20, 1990.
- 1990’s National Champion four times; winning the HOA title at the USSCA Nationals three times and the SCA twice
- 1993 Hardcover Book Published, “Taking More Birds” co-authored with Dolph Adams; Lyons and Burford Press. Globe Pequot Press
- 1994/1995 Inducted into the USAMU (United States Army Marksmanship Unit) Shotgun Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place in 1995 at Ft. Benning, Georgia, according to Coach Dean Clark, Army Shotgun Team.
- 1996 Paperback Book Published, “Taking More Birds” co-authored with Dolph Adams, Lyons Press.
- 1998 1999 NSCA US Open Runner-Up
- 1998 1999 Voted Best Sporting Clays Instructor by Sporting Clays Magazine
- 1999 NSCA National Championships Runner-Up
- 1999 NSCA World English Runner-Up
- 2000 Instructional Video “Dan Carlisle's Complete System for Successful Shooting”
- 2002 NSCA Nationals Master 1. Shot a 279, the second highest score behind Andy Duffy’s 280, tying with Wendell Cherry, Jon Kruger & Anthony Matarese Jr. In the shoot-off Cherry won 2nd, Kruger 3rd.
- 2002 NSCA Seminole Cup Champion

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2002 Champion, Pan Am FITASC, Caribou Gun Club, Le Sueur, Minnesota

2003 Team Gold, 5-man, World English Sporting Championship, in San Antonio, Texas

2003 Team Gold at 25th World FITASC Championships (Carlisle, W. Cherry, A. Duff, Greg Hicks; Senior Team)

2005 NSCA Nationals Master 1

2006 NSCA Seminole Cup Preliminary Champion

2007 Champion Video; Instructional Shooting DVD's "The Secrets of the Triangle" and "Perfect Trap" with Ed Arrighi

2007 NSCA Nationals Champion HOA, beating the field by 3 targets

2007 2008 USA Shooting Olympic Doubles and Singles Trap Instructor & Coach

Teams

1974 ATA Trap All-American Junior

1978 NSSA Skeet All-American

1975 1977 1978 1982-1988 USA Shooting Team

1984 1988 Olympic Team

????? USSCA & SCA All American Teams

1997-2004 NSCA All-American Teams

2003 NSCA Teams USA Sporting and FITASC

Shoots Attended

2001 Seminole Cup, World Sporting Clays Championship, US Open

2002 Seminole Cup, 1 small shoot, World Sporting Clays Championship, US Open, Caribbean Cup, Pan Am FITASC, & Nationals

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- 2003 Seminole Cup, 1 small shoot, World Sporting Clays Championship, World FITASC, US Open, Caribbean Cup, Pan Am FITASC, & Nationals
- 2004 Seminole Cup, Browning Briley, US Open, & Nationals
- 2005 Seminole Cup, World Sporting Clays Championship, National FITASC, US Open, & Nationals
- 2006 Seminole Cup, US Open, & Nationals
- 2007 Seminole Cup, World Sporting Clays Championship, US Open, 2 small shoots & Nationals