

South Seneca Falcons Trap Club Repeats as Conference Champs in New York State High School Clay Target League

The South Seneca Falcons Trap Club won first place in their conference during the spring 2019 season competing in the NYS High School Clay Target League.

The Falcons ended up with a 5-week point total of 5843. Midlakes finished second with a 5437-point total. Students competing on the South Seneca team this season are: Ellen Appleby, Simon Appleby, Samantha Barkee, Joey Borst, Greg Brewer, Damon Cooley, Mackenzie Coyle, Hunter Denmark, AJ Denmark, Coleton Dresser, Dakota Freitas-Valderrama, Lexxi Hayward, Jon Kaiser, Zach Kelley, Matt Kenyon, Daryl Morrell, Brennen Richardson, Kyle Shields, Jared Taylor, Tanner Updike, and Brandon Vanselow.



Besides earning the top team spot in the conference, South Seneca students earned some individual honors. Junior Mackenzie Coyle was third in the conference for female shooters with a 20.9 per

round average out of 25 total targets and junior Matt Kenyon tied for fourth place in the conference among the male shooters with a 22.7 per round average which also ranked him 38th overall across the state for all shooters.

The team will compete at the State Tournament held June 30th at the Bridgeport Rod and Gun Club in Cicero. The High School Trap Club shoots out of the Interlaken Sportsmen's Club and was coached this season by Matt Barkee, Steve and Jessica Coyle, Jim Borden, and Dan Appleby.

"We are all very proud of these student athletes," the coaches said. "We wish to thank their parents and families, Brewer's Sporting Goods, Gun Black, John Mills Electric, Seneca County SCOPE, Friends of the NRA, Scott MacIntosh, Interlaken Guns and Ammo, Owl Ridge Alpacas, The Sons of the American Legion in Ovid, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Ovid American Legion, The Seneca County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the school's administration for supporting us as well as the Interlaken Sportsmen's Club for hosting and supporting us. We could not do this without all of their continued support." This season was also dedicated to the memory of Mike Brewer. A local resident and supporter of the kids who passed away unexpectedly this past year.

The NYS Clay Target League had 84 schools represented from across the state with over 1,700 students participating. This is South Seneca's third year in the league. The NYS League was formed in 2016 with only 5 schools and 128 students. Schools are matched up against each other based on the number of students on each team. There were 12 conferences in the league this year. Students shoot at their respective venues each week and scores are entered via the online Team Management System, so teams do not travel to compete against each other.

The NYS League is a part of the National USA High School Clay Target League with 28 states represented and over 20,000 student athletes. Clay Target shooting sports have been recognized as the fastest-growing high school sport in the country as well as the safest. The team and league motto is "Safety, Marksmanship, and Fun."