



JUMPING INTO COMPETITION

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON ZIPS CLAY TARGET TEAM IS LOOKING TO GROW AFTER ITS FIRST YEAR IN THE LEAGUE *by JAKE WEYER*

BEN GOMMEL WAS A JUNIOR AT NORTH RIDGEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL when he joined his school's team competing in the Ohio State High School Clay Target League.

Though he didn't have much experience with a shotgun prior to joining, his experience was like many in the League.

"I got hooked on it and I loved it," he says. "I've been doing it ever since."

After graduating from high school in 2018, Gommel was eager to stay active in the sport. The problem was, his college, the University of Akron, didn't offer a team. So, during his freshman year, Gommel set out to change that.

He proposed the idea to the university's club sports manager, sought the support and guidance of the college's rifle team coach, drafted a constitution, and went through several other steps to create a registered student organization and ultimately a new club sport. The team's first members were also past high school League participants.

"I have a couple of friends from my high school trap team that go to Akron, so I knew that they were willing to join," Gommel says. "And with the interest in the rifle team on campus, I knew there would be others who would be interested in trap."

The team's seven members competed in their first USA College Clay Target



LOCATION	Akron, OH
ENROLLMENT	25,000
SIZE OF TEAM	7



“It creates another opportunity for students to be involved and lead on campus.”

—BEN GOMMEL