

ALABAMA FCA Dove Shoot draws special supporters



Former University of Alabama coach Gene Stallings, left, shares a laugh with Daniel Moore, right, as Zeke Gossett, 13, and Kerry Payne listen.

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TUSCALOOSA | Hunters bounced off their hay bail seats on the low boy trailers and scurried for shady spots around the field. Weighed down by shells and water they kicked up dust as they scurried across the field's gray black dirt. Anything that cast a shadow was at a premium in the hot sun. The trucks hadn't even made their full turn around the field when shotguns began popping. From the bare ground in the middle of the field, birds boiled up and dispersed toward the perimeter.

Most early season dove shoots feature an early afternoon dead time. On this one, the birds fly almost constantly, heavier at times than others but a constant stream flows into the field igniting a steady rumble of guns. Acres of sunflowers have concentrated hundreds of birds into the field.

Empty hulls fly and empty shell boxes stack up as fast as empty plastic water bottles. The time required to fill a limit depends on the hunter's skill with a shotgun. But in a field with no cold spots, everybody has a chance to limit out.

When the trailers came back around to pick up the hunters, they're shell pockets were lighter and their game bags heavier. It's the kind of feeling every hunter wants. And these hunters had to feel good about the cause the money they paid to shoot supports.

"We had about 63 hunters," said Gary Cramer, campus director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the University of Alabama. "It was wonderful and obviously a very good fundraiser for us. I think the quote of the hunt was, 'My gun got hot.'"