

Smith signs with Hannibal-LaGrange for shotgun sports



Louisburg High School senior Will Smith signed his letter of intent with Hannibal-LaGrange University to participate in its shotgun sports program. Sitting next to Will is his stepmom Brenda Smith and father Bill Smith. Standing (from left) is his sister Mackinzee, Hannibal coach Nathan Hammock and his mother Jana Creekmore.

As his senior year was winding down, Will Smith wasn't sure what was ahead for him after high school.

With so many different options out there to try, Smith had trouble picking out the best path for him. As it turned out, his love for hunting took him to where he needed to go.

On May 8, in front of family and friends at Louisburg High School, Smith made his decision official as he signed his letter of intent to participate in shotgun sports at Hannibal-LaGrange University, an NAIA school based in Hannibal, Mo.

"Signing with Hannibal was a blessing for me," Smith said. "I'm going to be honest, I didn't really know where I was going to go for college till this opportunity arose. I am looking forward to the challenge."

The shotgun sports program is just in its third-year at Hannibal, but the Trojans have already had success as they

recently finished 15th overall at the national tournament in Division 3.

Shotgun sports involves a lot of clay and trap shooting, and while Smith doesn't have a lot of experience with that yet, he is looking forward to learning.

"I have hunted since I was a kid and I guess hunting that long has given me the skill to make the team," Smith said. "I haven't been working on this long, but I think I will enjoy it. I expect myself to succeed in things that I didn't know I could."

HGLU coach Nathan Hammock is looking forward to Smith joining the Trojan program.

"From the moment I met William I knew he would be a good fit for the HGLU Shotgun Team," Hammock said. "One thing that impressed me immediately about William was how respectful he was in our conversations. He demonstrates responsibility both in school and in his work outside of school. He is new to the competitive side of shotgun, but brings a lot of experience from many years of waterfowl hunting. I look forward to seeing William grow as a competitive shooter this season."

Smith plans to major in secondary education during his time at Hannibal.