



GABE WHITE: MASTER OF CONCEALMENT

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When Gabe White steps up to the line at a USPSA match to 'make ready', there's something unique about his appearance. With his tall, slim profile and with no bulky equipment belt wrapped around his hips, it appears, at least momentarily, that's he's forgotten all of his shooting gear – but you'd be mistaken to think Gabe isn't at the match to try to win

it. As soon as the timer goes off and he draws his G34 from inside the waistband of his pants, you quickly realize you are watching a shooter who may very well earn Grand Master status while shooting entirely from concealment.

Gabe began competing at USPSA matches in the Northwest in 2012. As a firearms instructor at the Clackamas County (Oregon) Public Safety Training

Center, he was well versed in personal defense tactics but hadn't spent much time shooting competitively. As Gabe became more interested in improving the technical side of his shooting, he realized that upper-level USPSA competitors possessed an impressive array of the very skills he wanted to improve upon. He set a new goal for himself – to shoot at a Master/Grand Master level of skill at matches using the same gear he carries on a daily basis while shooting from concealment.

Gabe achieved USPSA Master status in April 2015. Along the way, he racked up a number of highly prestigious achievements in various pistol shooting events, including attaining a perfect score on the Bill Rogers Shooting School test. To put that accomplishment in perspective, only five perfect scores on the test have ever been achieved in the 30-plus years the test has been offered. Bill Rogers himself has shot it perfectly just twice. Rob Leatham, Manny Bragg and Gabe are the only other shooters who can claim 'perfect score' status, and Gabe is the only one to earn a perfect score shooting it from concealment.





Another one of Gabe's "Top 3" accomplishments is being awarded a "FAST Challenge Coin" from Todd Green at pistol-training.com. As of February 2016, only 13 shooters have met the requirements for earning the coin. As Gabe describes it, "Todd Green strongly emphasizes on-demand performance, and that's reflected in the short, sweet, and difficult 'FAST' (Fundamentals, Accuracy, Speed Test)."

In USPSA, Gabe competes in the Limited division, which allows him to draw his pistol from the appendix-carry position. Because he's so firmly committed to competing with the same gear he carries, he shoots minor – not major – power factor. Shooting minor power factor with a pistol that's essentially stock obviously puts Gabe at a significant disadvantage when shooting against other Limited class shooters. That said, Gabe consistently places at or near the top of the Limited division at local matches. While he hasn't yet won any major matches, he has come close. At the 2015 Oregon State USPSA Championship match, Gabe placed 5th out of 10 in the Limited Master class, despite being the only Master class competitor to shoot minor power factor. At the 2014 Area 1 USPSA Championship, Gabe – then an 'A-Class' shooter – placed 13th overall out of 116 Limited competitors, was the highest placing 'Limited Minor' competitor and finished the match with a higher score than over half the Limited Master class shooters.

Gabe has always been adamant about dry firing as a way to develop and build

various shooting skills. When asked about his routine, Gabe says, "I dry practice almost every day, once or twice a day for as much time as I have (five to 90 minutes depending on the day) I work on draws, reloads, trigger presses, target transitions, shot calling and sight tracking, strong and support hand only, freestyle, shooting on the move and into and out of position, and set up fragments of stages. Much can be done in dry practice." He doesn't keep track of how many rounds he shoots in live fire but guesses it has varied between 5,000 and 12,000 rounds per year for the past few years.

Gabe has developed a following of fans through his online training log at pistol-forum.com (search *Mr. White's Training Journal: Mind Driving the Vision, Vision Driving the Gun*). With entries dating back to January 2012, the log documents Gabe's development as a competitive shooter and includes numerous video clips of his match performances, dry fire sessions and live fire drills.

Shooters in the Northwest are fortunate to have a Gabe as a competitor and instructor. Always willing to share his knowledge with others, Gabe is a great resource for both competitive shooters and those interested in personal protection. He sums up his personal motivation for competing in USPSA by saying, "If my deepest priority were to win the game, I would play the game straight up. I would probably just switch to a strong side holster, ditch the concealment, add some mag pouches, juice up my trigger, and shoot Production. And I do want to win the game and I try very hard

to do so. But what I want even more than winning the game or making Grand Master is to be able to produce the performance of a properly-equipped Master/Grand Master shooter using what I really walk around with on a daily basis."

Given his impressive list of shooting accomplishments and his drive and passion for the sport of pistol shooting, many of Gabe's peers believe it's simply a matter of time before he becomes a Grand Master of concealment. ■



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