

# The Value Of Spotters

As well as being a master-class silo shooter himself, Robert Massey is acknowledged as a topnotch spotter. In fact, Massey is known as the “spotter of champions,” because he has spotted for each of Lawton’s smallbore silo championships and many of David Tubb’s high power silo titles.

“The value of a good spotter can’t be overemphasized,” Lawton said. “Massey spotted for me in every championship I’ve won, and I’ve spotted for the one that he won. He also spotted for a bunch where I was second place. He’s spotted for all of Tubb’s titles and my little measly seven or eight I’ve won. That’s well over 35 championships.”

Massey’s strength is his ability to read conditions and anticipate how they’ll change the flight of the bullet, Lawton said. “The best thing is that Rob never misses a shot. Never misses a call. He sees very well.”

Also, a quality spotter will coach the shooter, Lawton said. He asked Massey to watch Lawton’s left wrist, which he tends to bend during a match. Also, Massey repeats a mantra of line commands that keeps Lawton focused on the task at hand. Massey would coach him to make a well-aimed first shot, not to hurry his shots, to be smooth, and to shoot smart. Of course, he also made calls about where to place the shots.

“There’s also a mental aspect of having him help. It’s having someone that is the same voice you’ve always heard talk about specific spots on the animals that he wants me to hit. That can be comforting and reassuring,” Lawton said.



*Above: Silo shooters call cowboy-hat-wearing Robert Massey the “spotter of champions” because he’s called shots during many of Troy Lawton and David Tubb’s titles. Here, he gets direction from Lawton.*