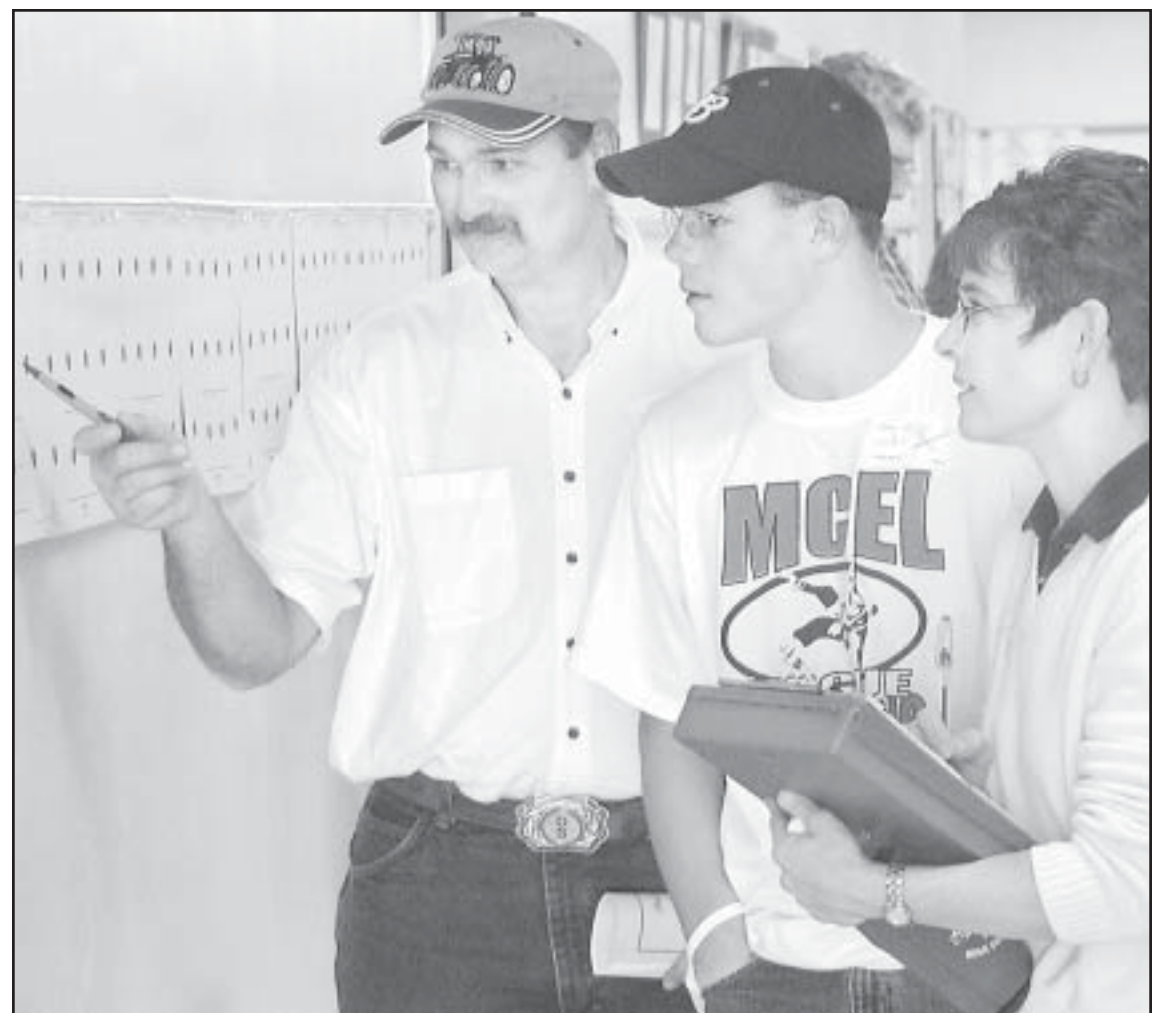




Brittany Otter of Norton's Yellow team focused on the target as she fired from the standing position under the watchful eye of Head Coach Dan Lauer during the State BB Gun Championships in Manhattan on Saturday.



Dwight Sprigg (above left), Brock Lauer and Teresa Lauer examined targets on Saturday. Norton Head Coach Dan Lauer (below) watched as Norton Yellow team alternate Lane Vanover fired from the prone position.



Shooters take aim at International

(Continued from Page 1)

1,361, followed by Ark City, 1,351, and Flinthills, 1,336.

Manhattan won the sitting with a 460 score but Norton and Ark City were just four points back with 456 each.

The Norton Blue team shot a 447 and Flinthills recorded a 444. The Norton Yellow team led with a 1,843 tally, followed by Manhattan, 1,821; Ark City, 1,807 and Flinthills, 1,780.

In the last position, the kneeling, the Norton Yellow team marksmen came through.

Flinthills shot a 458 and Norton Yellow recorded a 442 for second. Although they beat Norton Yellow by 16 points they couldn't make up the 63 points by which they trailed Norton at the beginning of the kneeling.

Manhattan recorded a 441 and Ark City a 432 in kneeling.

The Norton Yellow team tallied 1,803 points in shooting and 482 in the written test to finish with 2,285 and the championship.

Manhattan Purple was second with 1,784 shooting and 478 in the written for 2,262.

Third place went to Ark City No.1 with a shooting score of 1,779, written test of 460 and total of 2,239.

Flinthills missed the opportunity to compete in the international shoot by two points. They outshot Ark City by recording a 1,792 on the range but were outscored on the written test where they tallied a 446 to finish with 2,238 and place fourth.

The Norton Blue team finished in fifth with 1,729 shooting and 470 written for 2,199.

Sixth place went to Miami County with 1,690 shooting and 444 written for 2,134.

The Norton Red team earned a

seventh with 1,659 shooting and 454 written for 2,113.

Other teams placing were Jefferson County No.2, 2,094; Wyandotte County, 2,051; Flinthills Jr. Shooters No.2, 2,023; Lyon County, 1,971; Jefferson County No.1, 1,935; Ark City No.2, 1,919; and Manhattan Silver, 1,550.

Teams consist of young people ages 8 to 14.

TEAM MEMBERS

Members of this year's Yellow team are Brad Nuzum, 15; Nish Millan, 15; Brittany Otter, 14; Cole Archer, 12; and Kylie Nuzum, 11. Brad Nuzum was a member of Norton's 2003 international team and Otter and Kylie Nuzum were international alternates in 2004.

Shooters are not allowed to compete in the international shoot two years in a row.

Alternates on the Yellow team are Kegan Vanover, 12 and Lane Vanover, 10.

Head Coach Dan Lauer and Kirk Nuzum helped the Norton Yellows.

Members of the Blue team are Coady McMullen, 14; Caleb Vanover, 13; Dustyna Sprigg, 12; Meaghan Peterson, 11; Lane Archer, 10.

Blue alternates are Kaitlyn Campbell, 10 and Haley Crockett, 10.

Coaches of the Blue team are Cameron Archer and Steve Otter.

Shooting for the Red team are Landon Schneider, 13; Jacob Nuzum, 12; Chance McMullen, 12; Cole Peterson, 12; Trey Millan, 11.

Alternates for the Red team are Isaac Schaefer, 9 and Wyatt Harting, 8.

Red team coaches were Fig Millan and Brian McMullen.

LOTS OF SUPPORT

Coach Lauer said he appreciated the large crowd which traveled to Manhattan to support the young Norton marksmen. He thanked the assistant coaches and other volunteers. Assisting Mrs. Lauer in the grading room and the classroom have been Misty Nuzum, Michelle Sprigg, Mindy Harting, Wanda Nuzum, Missy McMullen, Keri Vanover and Lloyd Schneider.

Coach Lauer thanked the parents who encourage their children to do their best and practice regularly. Norton's preparation for the state shoot began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, they began practicing marksmanship in each of the four positions and studying for the written test. Practices are held every Wednesday evening.

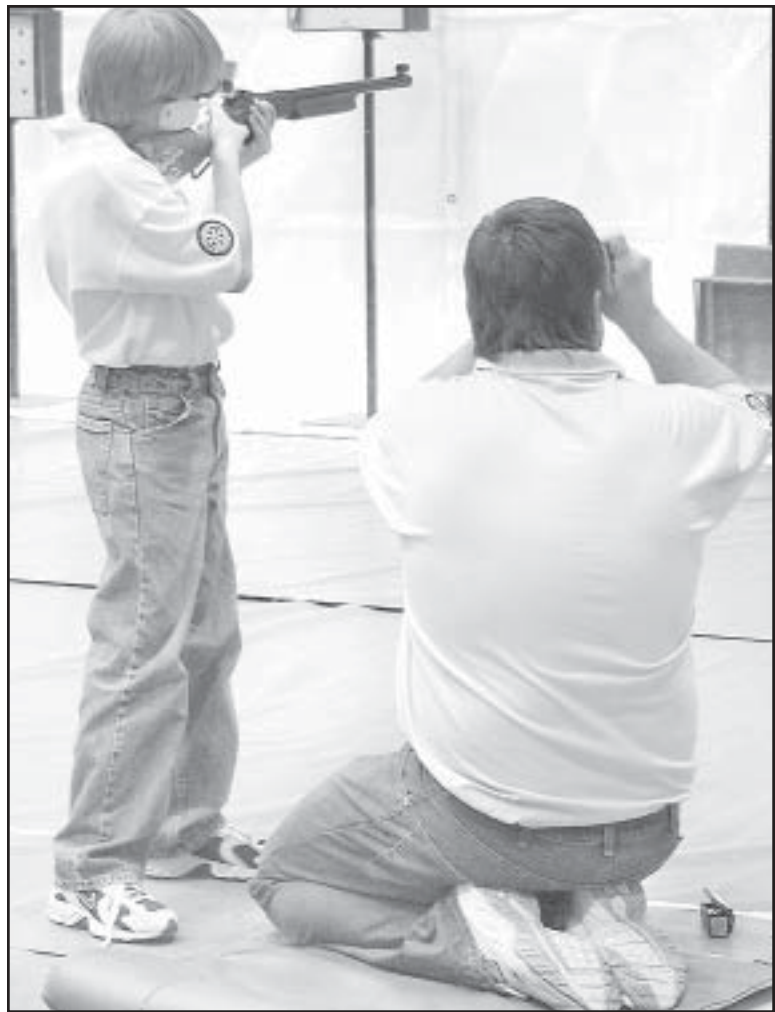
In the past, teams have used the National Guard Armory for practices but it is being remodeled so the team has been practicing in the Rural Telephone building on the east side of the courthouse square in downtown Norton.

Coach Lauer thanked the First State Bank; New Age Industrial Corp., Inc.; City of Norton; Norton Rotary Club; Alberta Byrum; Rural Telephone and the National Guard for their support of the BB gun program.

He also thanked the Pheasants Forever for helping purchase the Traditions 12 gauge over and under shotgun that was given away in a drawing, Center Gun Shop for selling the shotgun at cost and everyone who helped.

The shotgun was won by Dwight Sprigg.

(Individual records will be in Friday's paper)



Lane Archer of the Norton Blue team (above) fired from the standing position as his father and coach Cameron Archer checked his target. Dr. Bob Robel, Manhattan, chief statistical officer, (below) checked a shooting target being graded by volunteer Lynette Archer, Norton, in the grading room. Assisting Bob was his wife, Anice. Bob has been the chief statistical officer of the Kansas state shoots and international championships for many years.



Story and photos by Dick Boyd