

BB Gun: Many involved in the first year

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the 60 girls and boys with the top scores in shooting and written examinations were awarded shooting jackets and all who successfully completed the course were awarded certificates.

The teams, their coaches and sponsors were: Mike Moffet, Gary Rolland, Tom Nelson, Lynn Cox, Eldon Heitz, alternate Garrett Gwaltney, coach Melvin Moffet, Moffet Drugs; Jennette Kern, Janet Rankin, Ellen Sprinkle, Lou Ann Lesh, Sue Kauten, alternate Cathy Hardiek, coach Keith Murphy, Muir Music Co.; Jeffrey Gates, Richard Sterrett, David Corns, Mark Whitney, Steve Vincent, alternate Wayne Booth, coach Warren Bevier, Scott Brantley Funeral Home; Kim Farewell, Robert Sterrett, Ronnie Sides, Tom Carlton, Mike Dieter, alternate Charles Hackney, coach Dr. Robert Long, Boy and Cub Scouts; Connie Hardiek, Candice Taylor, Kathy Bevier, Martha Ann Atkinson, Diana Webb, alternate Julia Rolland, coach Duane Winder, Jaycees; Vicky Murphy, Debra Terrell, Linda Cox, Donita Spear, Linda Smith, alternate Vickie O'Toole, manager Bill Webb, Johnson Grain Co.; Vance Poage, James Erhardt, Randy McKinley, Don Wertenberger, Jack Meyer, alternate Curtis Glenn, coach Duane Hand, Kelling's Fine Foods; Gerry Roeder, Bill Phillips, Mark Rankin, John Scott, Doug Sebelius, alternate Bill Ingram, coach Bob Winteroth, Lions Club; Candice Best, Nancy Long, Janet Smith, Terresa Peterson, Marla Kay Bozarth, alternate Joyce Illk, coach LeWayne Conard, Quenzer Appliance; Gary Sebelius, Mike Craig, Mike McGee, Stephen Horney, Steve Maddy, alternate Larry Long, coach Eddie Whitney, Scheetz Motor Co.; David Spear, James Long, Craig Ward, Gerry McMaster, Don Sanderson, alternate Mike Peil, coach Ray Farewell, First State Bank; Richard Snyder, Richard Smith, Jerry Darling, Bob Tacha, David Craig, alternate Steve Vollersten, coach Lee Horney, Horney's Appliance.

As it turned out, Norton held a tournament on April 2, 1964, and ended up sending just four teams to the state shoot.

Began winning tradition

The Kansas Jaycees Bullseye State Shoot-Off was held in Newton on Saturday, April 25, 1964, and the Norton teams began a winning tradition that continues today. Norton teams won first, second, third and fifth out of the 22 teams competing from around the state. The state championship team was the Kelling's team of Julia Rolland, Cathy Hardiek, Connie Hardiek, Linda Smith and Nancy Long.

Each of the five girls received a Daisy Model 99 target BB gun with a bronze engraved plate with their name and designation as state champions in the first annual tournament.

Don Sanderson of Norton tied for first place in the individual shooting state championship but lost out for the huge trophy for the top individual in a shootoff with Steve Hood of Hays. Sanderson lost by only one bullseye in an extremely close shootoff.

Winning second in the state tournament was the Norton Jaycees team consisting of Gary Sebelius, Robert Sterrett, Candice Taylor, Janet Rankin and Kathy Bevier.

Winning third place was the Norton Boy Scouts team, consisting of Richard Smith, Lynn Cox, John Scott, Richard Snyder and Mike Craig.

Winning fifth place was the First State Bank team of Kim Farewell, Vicki O'Toole, Don Sanderson, Eldon Heitz and Mark Rankin.

Warren Bevier was the BB gun program chairman the first year and Duane Winder was director for the Jaycees.

Huge scrapbook entered

Duane composed what Bozie calls an "elaborate" 190 page scrapbook proposal containing many clippings and pictures from The Norton Daily Telegram and sent it to the Jaycees as Norton's entry in the contest. Local chapter members were delighted when the U.S. Jaycees informed them that the Norton chapter was the winner!

"We are overwhelmed by the

honor," the Norton Daily Telegram quoted Jaycees president Norbert Pfannenstiel as saying. "We can only thank the many fine people of this community for their great spirit of cooperation, the parents and sponsors and especially all the boys and girls who took part. I am sure they all benefited enormously from having taken part in the program and I have never seen any better example of good sportsmanship than shown by the youngsters who took part in this program."

Pfannenstiel said Winder got the program started and Bevier was the field general carrying it through.

On July 19, 1964, the Norton Jaycees received a \$500 first prize check from the U.S. Jaycees during a regional meeting in Great Bend. Present to accept the check were Bevier, Pfannenstiel and Winder.

At the meeting, the Norton Jaycees announced that they would bid to host the second State Shootoff in 1965.

Twenty-seven states had active gun safety programs in the first year's competition. There was no national shootoff since 1964 was the first year of the program.

Norton won first place over national Jaycee clubs in cities of all populations. The award was given for the individual club that did the most in outstanding promotion and execution of the gun safety program. An estimated 1,500 hours of work were contributed to the program by Jaycees, interested parents and other volunteer helpers.

The Monday, August 3, 1964 edition of the Norton Daily Telegram reported that the Norton Jaycees "won approval of Norton as the site of the State Gunshoot next year at the state Jaycees meeting in Junction City but the approval came only after a long political fight that left the Norton delegates gasping."

"We had to fight as hard to get that tournament held at Norton as you might have to get your candidate nominated in a close contest at a national political convention," said Norton Jaycees president Norbert Pfannenstiel.

Two other cities, Olathe and Hutchinson, submitted bids. One of the arguments Norton had to overcome was that they were too far west. After Norton was approved as the site, it was noted that it would be the first time a statewide Jaycee event would be held that far west.

Norton hosted state shootoff

On April 24, 1965, Norton hosted and won top honors in the Kansas Jaycees State Championship Shootoff, which was held in the NCHS gym.

The state championship team was sponsored by the Boy Scouts and consisted of Janet Smith, Gary Ritter, Don Sanderson, Vicki Murphy and Mark Rankin. Janet Smith was the top individual shooter.

Norton teams also won second and third. The second place team was sponsored by the First State Bank and consisted of Kathy Bevier, Maxine Jacobson, Candice Taylor, Lynn Cox and Gary Rolland.

The third place team was sponsored by Kelling's. It was the first year's state championship team of Nancy Long, Julia Rolland, Linda Smith, Cathy Hardiek and Connie Hardiek, the latter two being twin sisters.

BB guns with engraved plaques were presented to all five members of the state championship team. Trophies were given to each member of the next two teams. Trophies went to each of the top three individuals.

Awards were presented at a banquet Saturday night at the St. Francis Parish Hall.

Main speaker was Gary Anderson, Axtell, Neb., the gold medal winner for the United States in marksmanship at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Anderson told how he trained for the Olympics by practicing shooting six to seven hours a day besides running and doing other exercises to stay in top physical condition. He shot a 30-caliber rifle from 300 meters (more than three football field lengths) at a four-inch target to win the gold medal.

He stressed that it takes hard work and dedication to become a champion. He praised the Jaycees for teaching gun safety.



Norton's Marlin "Bozie" Bozarth, (pictured), and Dr. Richard Wiltfong recently purchased a plaque to honor Duane Winder, the father of the Norton BB Gun Safety and BB Gun Marksmanship Program and placed it in the Norton BB Gun Team Museum on east U.S. 36 in Norton. Winder's program

Doc Branson, a magician from Boys' Town, Neb., provided excellent entertainment for the banquet.

Warren Bevier was gunshot chairman and Keith Murphy was shooting range chairman. Don Smith, who assisted with the shooting range and Duane Winder, who handled registration, were singled out for special praise among the many Jaycees working on the shootoff.

Judges were Norton Chief of Police Lloyd Perrill, Highway Patrolman Forrest Taylor and Reed Smith of Hill City.

Third in national postal shoot

The top five shooters from Norton in the state shootoff held a shootoff of their own and their scores were mailed in for national competition. Everyone was delighted when the Norton Jaycees received word that the Norton team had placed third in the nation out of 300 teams competing by mail in the national competition.

Members of the Norton team were: Gary Ritter, Janet Smith, Nancy Long, Kathy Bevier and Jack Meyer.

The Kansas Jaycees Gunshoot was held in McPherson on April 30, 1966 and, for the third time in the three years, a Norton team won the state championship and also had the second place team.

Candy Taylor of Norton won a handsome trophy as the second high individual and Norton's Mark Rankin won an individual trophy for placing third high. Mark Harvey of Hays won first individual with a 333 score, followed by Taylor's 332 and Rankin's 329.

Norton's championship team was sponsored by the First State Bank. Team members and scores were: Mark Rankin, 329; Linda Smith, 327; Janet Smith, 326; James Erhardt, 311; Barry Madden, 292.

Members of the Norton second place team, sponsored by the Girl Scouts, were: Candy Taylor, 332; Maxine Jacobson, 322; Kathy Bevier, 316; Vicki Murphy, 303; Sherri Neff, 298.

A third Norton team placed fifth. It was sponsored by Kelling's and had these members: Julie Rolland, 322; Keith Sides, 303; Cynthia Pfannenstiel, 271; Steve Horney, 267; Collette Sharp, 247.

A Hays team placed third and a McPherson team was fourth. Winners of the top three places in team and individual competition received trophies. An F.B.I. agent was the featured speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

Third in International

Norton's first team in the state, along with Kathy Bevier as an alternate, traveled to Vandalia, Ohio, near Dayton, for the first annual International BB Gun Championships, so named since Canada shooters were included, and returned with a third place finish.

Barry Madden was the top Norton shooter with a 349 x 400 and also won the first prize from the prone position by hitting 99 out of 100. Madden was also third high shooter overall.

Each member of the third place Norton team received a plaque and the team received a handsome trophy. Warren Bevier, coach of the Norton team, received an air pistol. Don Smith was the Norton assistant coach.

A team from Missouri won first place and a team from Arkansas was second.

In April, 1967, Norton hosted the State Shootoff for the second time in the four-year history of the program and won the championship once again.

Norton's first place team was sponsored by the First State Bank. Members were Roger Fisher, 357; Pat Rodenbaugh, 346; Maxine Jacobson, 321; Vicki Murphy, 317; Janet Smith, 315.

Norton's Scott Brantley Funeral Home team placed second. Team members were: John Pilkington, 342; Bob Streit, 329; Arloa Veh, 326; Mark Rankin, 282; Linda Cox, 268.

Norton's third team in the state shoot was sponsored by Kelling's Fine Foods and placed sixth. Team members were Allen Brassfield, Cynthia Pfannenstiel, Debbie Pfannenstiel, Arden Tonne, Joe Felton.

Fisher was the top individual in the shoot and received a large trophy. Rodenbaugh was second high individual and Pilkington was third high. Rodenbaugh and Pilkington also received trophies.

A total of 23 teams competed. Towns represented, in addition to Norton, were Oberlin, Hays, Hutchinson, WaKeeney, Newton, Beloit, Smith Center, Oswego, Topeka, Colby, McPherson, Garden City and Eudora.

Bill Jordan, former long-time member of the U.S. Border Patrol along the Mexican border, gave a talk and exhibition of fancy pistol shooting at the Saturday evening Awards Banquet at the St. Francis Parish Hall.

International champions!

The second International Championships were held in Hutchinson in July, 1967, and Norton shooters and coaches returned all smiles after winning the first of what would be a record eight international titles.

Norton's final total of 1,729 was 79 points higher than second place Minden, Louisiana.

High individual shooter was Roger Fisher with a 362 x 400 and he was also high shooter from the kneeling position with a 95. Pat Rodenbaugh was fourth high individual with a 359. Other Norton team members and their scores were: Janet Smith, 352; Janice Maxine Jacobson, 352; Vicki Murphy, 344.

The 36 competing teams included those from Canada and Mexico.

In April, 1968, Norton's reign as the Kansas state BB gun champion continued with a fifth straight title in the state competition, which returned to Newton. Norton had the top four shooters out of 165 entered on 31 teams.

Smith Center was second, Beloit, third and Norton, fourth and sixth.

won first place in the U.S. Jaycees/Daisy nationwide contest in 1964 and has been the model used nationwide by hunter safety and marksmanship programs during the past 45 years.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Vicki Murphy was the top individual shooter with a score of 373. Pat Rodenbaugh was second with a 364, Mike Webb, third, 361; Arloa Veh, fourth, 355; Joe Felton, 328.

The Norton team members who placed fourth were Cynthia Pfannenstiel, Todd Rodenbaugh, John Biever, Arden Tonne; Ronda Tonne.

Those on the sixth-ranked Norton team were Clifton Quinn, Ronnie Keiswetter, Tom Brannan, Randy Murphy, Roger Streit.

Keith Murphy was again the head Norton coach.

Second international title

Shooting with incredible accuracy under great pressure, Norton's state champion shooters won the International BB Gun Championships in July, 1968 at Irving, Texas.

Winning the second straight international title was a much tougher task with 45 state championship teams along with those from Canada and Mexico competing.

The young Blue Jays settled for second place in individual honors as Pat Rodenbaugh shot a 385 for the second place trophy, one point behind the first place shooter. Vicki Murphy won third high individual honors with a 375. Other Norton team members were Arloa Veh, Mike Webb and Joe Felton. Cynthia Pfannenstiel was the alternate.

Head coach Keith Murphy and assistant coaches Bud Rodenbaugh and Bill Felton guided the team to the international victory.

"The program sponsored by the 2,000 Jaycee chapters over the nation and the Daisy air rifle company continues to grow," said the story in the Norton Daily Telegram.

"This year, more than 600,000 youngsters took part in the BB gun competition and the six from Norton represent the best team out of that 600,000, no small accomplishment."

History on Norton's side

The gun safety program has continued each year in Norton with different shooters and coaches but the young Blue Jay marksmen have maintained their shooting expertise.

The national shoot turned into the international shoot when marksmen from other countries were admitted and the eligibility of shooters has been changed from 7 to 14 to 8 to 15 years of age.

Norton has won the state shoot 37 times out of 45 years and was runner-up this spring. The top three shooting teams in each state qualify for the international championships and no shooter can compete in the international two years in a row.

Norton marksmanship teams have competed 40 out of the 43 years of the international (national) championships and won the championship eight times, more than any other community. Norton won the international title in 1967, 1968, 1972, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000, placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. Notice the

green signs at all four entrances to Norton which proudly proclaim that Norton is the "Home of International BB Gun Champions" and list the eight winning years.

This year Norton placed seventh in the international championships which consist of firing from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions and a written test containing questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule Book.

Norton's international team members this year were: Brady Tien, Alexis Lively, Dylan Spragg, Lane Archer and Erin Archer. Alternates were Gabe Bird and Michael Smith.

Assisting head coach Cameron Archer with coaching duties were Mike Campbell, Cole Archer and Scott Tien. Classroom instructor was Lynette Archer.

BB Gun Team Museum

Since assuming sponsorship from the Norton Jaycees, the Norton Rotary Club has established a Norton BB Gun Team Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway. The museum displays the rich history of the Norton shooting education and marksmanship program started by Duane Winder and now rectifies an omission by including a plaque and picture in honor of the father of the program.

The museum building is owned by Alberta Slaby, who allows the Norton teams to practice in the building for no charge and the sponsoring Norton Rotary Club provides financing for the program. The museum features Norton's eight international championship teams and is open by appointment. Call Alberta Slaby at 877-3911 to set up an appointment.

Norton is the only community in the United States with a museum honoring its shooting education program and BB gun marksmen.

Norton's preparation for the state shoot begins each year in October when the shooters enter the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, they begin practicing marksmanship and studying for the written test. They meet once a week until the international shoot, which is the Fourth of July weekend.

As always, the Norton community continues to give the BB gun program its enthusiastic moral and financial support.

Get ready. It's almost time for the 2008 Fall Sports season to move into the 'spotlight!'