

Norton BB Gun team starts instruction

By DICK BOYD
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Classroom meetings for girls and boys ages 8-14 years who are prospective members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team in the 2010-11 season have begun in the BB Gun Museum on east U.S. 36 Highway in Norton.

Cameron Archer, who is beginning his sixth season as head coach, is delighted with this year's turnout. "I'm really pleased; I've never had this many new shooters," said coach Archer.

"I'm really excited. Some of these new youths will be really good shooters and we have some good ones returning."

There are 10 returning shooters and 11 new ones. The returnees are Justis Posson, Trenton Sprague, Adson Day, Scott Sansom, Miles Harrington, Dylan Goss, Dalton Vanover, Cameron Heikes, Shane Cozad and Evan Chambers.

Posson and Sprague were alternates on Norton's team which placed ninth in the Daisy National (formerly International) BB Gun Championship Match on the Fourth of July weekend in Rogers, Ark., the home of Daisy Outdoor Products.

Rules state that no shooter can compete in the national shoot in consecutive years but this rule does not include alternates, so Posson and Sprague are eligible this year if they qualify for the team.

Winning performances by Norton BB Gun Teams at the state and national (formerly international) level have earned them an admirable reputation in marksmanship circles.

Norton teams have won 38 Kansas state championships out of 45, including March 13, 2010

in Alma. They did not compete in the state shoot in 1982 because there was no Jaycees chapter to sponsor them.

Norton has competed in 41 of the 45 international shoots and has also won eight international championships, more than any other community in the world.

The Norton County team was in the hunt again this year in placing ninth in the national shoot, which is the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world!

Highlight for Norton in this year's national shoot in Rogers came when Lane Archer shot a perfect 100 (10 bull's eyes) from the standing position, the toughest of the four, which include prone, sitting and kneeling.

Norton's preparation for the state shoots, the original one now sponsored by the Kansas Rifle Association and a second sponsored by the Kansas 4-H, begins in October with the gun safety program.

The interested youngsters will have four weeks of classroom instruction from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum Book. They are meeting every Monday in the BB Gun Museum and the classroom lessons concluded on Monday of this week.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 15, the youngsters who pass the classroom instruction will begin practicing marksmanship and studying for the written test on shooting safety which is included in both the state and national shoots.

Norton is associated with the beginning of the gun safety program. It is based on a format proposed by the late Norton Jaycees member Duane Winder. This program was adopted nationwide when Daisy and the U.S. Jaycees

began the program.

The program was designed to introduce young shooters to the basics of safe gun handling and marksmanship.

About 250,000 young people take part in the program each year.

"The community of Norton has supported this program because they know it passes on to the children and parents the proper safety knowledge of hunting," said coach Archer. "These youngsters have stepped it up in both the classroom and shooting through the years to become well known on the international and national level."

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000, placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. In 2008, Norton finished runner-up in shooting and fifth overall. Norton placed seventh in 2008 and qualified for but did not compete in the national shoot in 2009 before finishing ninth in 2010.

The top three marksmanship teams in each state shoot qualify to compete in the national shoot.

The Norton County BB Gun Team was originally sponsored by the Norton Jaycees and the Norton Rotary assumed sponsorship when there was no longer a Jaycees chapter in Norton.

BB Gun Museum

A plaque in honor of the international BB gun program originator Duane Winder is in the BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 in Norton.

The Museum contains trophies, medals, newspaper articles and other memorabilia of the Norton shooting education program.

Coach's comments

Coach Archer stresses that shooters will have a practice night



Norton head BB Gun Team coach Cameron Archer questions one of the young boys and girls about his hunter safety knowledge during a recent class held at the BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

every Monday until after the state shoots and more often prior to the national shoot.

"Our young people will learn proper gun safety and that even a BB gun can be dangerous," he said.

"You must know shooting safety rules before you get a gun to shoot. We are serious about this program and expect shooters to be as well."

He said being part of the program is not that

expensive and that guns are provided if a youth doesn't own one. He said cost of targets, BBs and books is minimal.

"We also ask that we have some volunteer parents to help with grading targets and assist with coaching," he said.

Coach Archer said that Jeana Yost will be the classroom instructor and Marty Harrington will be one of the assistant coaches this season.

Grid playoff results; upcoming games

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Norton's excellent 2010 football season ended with a 9-1 record when they lost a hard-fought Regional playoff game by a 42-35 score to Beloit in Class 3A last Saturday but the Trojans and a number of other area teams continue to play.

In other Class 3A games of interest on Saturday, Smith Center handed Scott City their first defeat of the season by the same 42-35 score of the Norton-Beloit game. Hutch Trinity surprised

Wichita Collegiate, who had one loss previously, by a 26-8 score and Conway Springs beat Garden Plain 20-6. These games were all in the bottom bracket

Scores in the top bracket were: Caney Valley 47, Cherokee SE 7; Rossville 40, Atchison Co. 22; Wellsville 55, Neodesha 12; Silver Lake 42, Riley County, 18.

In the quarter-finals this evening at 7 p.m., Hutch Trinity (10-1) will play at Beloit (9-2), Caney Valley (9-2) will play at Rossville (8-3) and Wellsville (10-0) will play at Silver Lake (10-1).

Tomorrow (Saturday), Conway Springs (11-0) will play at Smith Center (8-2) in a game which kicks off at 5 p.m.

In Class 2-1A on Saturday, Ellis was defeated 52-7 by Stanton County and Atwood lost 47-7 to Meade.

In Eight-Man I, the Mid-Continent League's Hill City and Osborne have won two playoff games. Hill City defeated Lincoln 50-0 in the first round and outscored Hodgeman Co. 26-20 in the second round.

Osborne beat Peabody-Burns

52-6 and outscored top-ranked Pretty Prairie 50-40.

This evening, Hill City (10-1) will host Osborne (10-1) in the first playoff game ever held in Hill City. Kickoff in this sub-state game will be at 7 p.m.

In Eight-Man II, Cheylin defeated Victoria 56-6 and Thunder Ridge outscored Sharon Springs 76-42 in the first round. The season ended for both in the second round when Otis-Bison defeated Cheylin 51-6 and Ashland beat Thunder Ridge 28-22.

Norton Junior High boys and girls basketball teams start season

Norton Junior High School basketball teams competed against Smith Center Nov. 9. The Norton seventh grade boys defeated Smith Center 33-27. Smith Center

defeated the Norton eighth grade boys 23-20.

The Norton seventh grade girls were defeated 26-22, and the eighth grade girls lost 23-13.

Junior Huskies attend Brewster tournament

The Northern Valley Junior High boys A-team and B-team basketball teams participated in the Brewster tournament Nov. 6.

The team boys were 2-0 against Brewster and Golden Plains in the tournament action.

Northern Valley won 43 to 16 against Brewster.

Those scoring were Phillip Bryant, 13; Eli Lowry, 12; Clint Cole, 10; Stewart Whitney, 4; Matt Stutsman, 2; Brant Cox, 2.

Northern Valley defeated Golden Plains 59 to 19.

Those scoring were Brant Cox, 16; Clint Cole, 13; Matt Stutsman, 9; Eli Lowry, 9; Phillip Bryant, 8 and Stewart Whitney, 4.

The B-team boys team was 1 and 1 in the tournament. Brewster defeated Northern Valley 26 to 16.

Scoring were Colten Bach, 5; Philip Rupp, 5; Drake Shearer, 4 and Trey Hall, 2.

The Northern Valley B-team defeated Golden Plains 28 to 4.

Scoring in the game were Philip Rupp, 10; Drake Shearer, 6; Trey Hall, 4; Colten Bach, 4; Carson Wallace, 2, and Ryan Thrailkill, 2.

"The NVJH basketball teams started their season playing in the Brewster Tournament. The A-team boys won both of their games on the day. The Huskies teamwork and balanced scoring make them an effective team. The B-team went 1-1 on the day and you could see the improvement from the first game to the second," said Coach Jim Cole in his comments.

Soccer honoree has Almena ties

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Lauren Peil, a junior at Ottawa University, has been named to the first team on the All-Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Soccer Team.

Lauren has also been named KCAC Goalkeeper of the Year.

Peil, a goalkeeper from Haysville, was honored for the third straight year by the conference. It is also the second time in three years that she has earned KCAC Goalkeeper of the Year award.

She had a record of 10-1-1 with five shutouts heading into the KCAC Championships. She had a 0.68 Goals Against Average which ranks her 21st in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. She had only

allowed eight goals all season.

Peil is the daughter of Alan Peil, Wichita and Pam and Kelly Kennedy, Haysville. She is the granddaughter of Sonya Montgomery, Almena and Shirley and Ralph Bowen, Hutchinson.

Ottawa's head coach Marc Gordon was also named KCAC Co-Coach of the Year with Sterling College's Justin Morris. In his first season at Ottawa, Gordon has led his team to an overall record of 15-2-2 and a perfect conference record of 9-0-0. The Lady Braves are ranked in the NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches Top 25 and won their second straight KCAC Championship. They are on an 18 game regular season conference winning streak.

A classic rematch of last year's KCAC Women's Soccer Cham-

ampionship is set for this Saturday when Ottawa University defends its 2010 regular season title against Kansas Wesleyan University. It will be played at Thresher Stadium on the Bethel College campus, beginning at 1 p.m.

Last fall, these two teams met in the 2009 Championship final with the Braves outdueling the Coyotes 3-2 to cinch the championship title. At stake this Saturday is the conference's automatic bid to the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship Tournament.

These two teams met on the pitch just two weeks ago in their regular season matchup. Ottawa netted a 2-0 victory over Kansas Wesleyan en route to their second consecutive regular season title in the conference.

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