

BB Gun team headed to State

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team will compete in the Kansas State BB Gun Championships on Saturday in Alma.

Norton BB Gun teams have won 38 of 45 state championships during the program's existence, including March 13, 2010 in Alma. They did not compete in the state shoot in 1982 because there was no Jaycees chapter that year to sponsor them.

The Norton Jaycees were the original sponsors but the Rotary Club is in the seventh year of sponsorship since the Jaycees chapter in Norton disbanded.

BB gun teams consist of young girls and boys from 8 to 14 years of age.

The three top teams in each shoot qualify to compete in the Daisy National BB Gun Championships, formerly the Daisy/Jaycees International BB Gun Championships.

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

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

Three Norton teams will enter the state championships in Alma on Saturday and a top three finish would again guarantee Norton a spot in the national, which will be held again in Rogers, Ark., the home of Daisy, on Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3.

Team members

This year's Yellow Team members are: Cameron Heikes, 13; Dalton Vanover, 13; Trenton Sprague, 12; Justis Posson, 11 and Scott Sansom, 10. Alternate is James Berry, 12.

Cameron Archer returns as the

coach of the Yellow Team and is in his sixth year as head coach.

Shooting for the Blue Team this year will be: Evan Chambers, 12; Dylan Goss, 10; Miles Harrington, 10; Dallas Gosselin, 10; and Adson Day, 9. Alternate is Alecia Day, 8.

Marty Harrington is the coach of the Blue Team.

Members of the Red Team are: Stacie Elliott, 9; Shane Cozad, 9; Colton Mulder, 9; Riley Goss, 8; Greyson Tanner, 8.

There is no alternate marksman for the Red Team.

Coaches for the Red Team are Jeff Elliott and Ted Hull.

Trenton Sprague and Justis Posson were alternates on Norton's team which placed ninth at the national shoot last year in Rogers. James Berry shot last year as a member of the Norton team. 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 but Berry is not.

All members of the Yellow Team and all members of the Blue Team, except Dallas Gosselin, have previous State Shoot experience.

On Saturday, coach Archer will be assisted by Jeana Yost, who is the classroom instructor.

Norton is associated with the beginning of the national 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



Some members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team fired from the sitting position during their next-to-last practice before the State Championships in Alma this Saturday. Pictured with coaches are, from left, head coach Cameron Archer, Trenton Sprague; coach Marty Harrington, Dallas Gosselin; coach Chris Mulder, Colton Mulder; coach Ted Hull, Dylan Goss; coach Steve Sprague, Greyson Tanner.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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."

The winning performances of the Norton shooters at the state and national (formerly international) level have earned them an admirable reputation in marksmanship circles.

State Shoot schedule

The State Shoot will be hosted by the Kansas State Rifle Association and will be held in the Wabaunsee High School Gym on Saturday in Alma.

Opening ceremonies will be at 9 a.m.

Competition will begin with the written test from 9:15 to 10 a.m. A coaches meeting will also be held during this time.

Shooting from the prone position will be held from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Competition from the sitting position will be from 11:50 a.m. until 1:20 p.m. Kneeling position firing will be from 1:25 to 2:55 p.m. Shooting while

standing will be from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Presentation of team and individual awards will be around 5 p.m. There is no admission charge for the shoot.

Practicing since October

Norton's preparation for the State Shoot began in mid-October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association.

The first night was a tryout night for youngsters to explore their interest in shooting a BB gun in competition and a number of potential shooters were recruited that night.

The youngsters had four weeks of classroom instruction from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum Book.

After passing the gun safety course, the young girls and boys began practicing marksmanship from each of the four positions and studying for the written test.

Practices are held every Monday evening in the back of the Norton Rotary BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway in Norton. Shooters are also encouraged to practice at home.

"Many thanks to the Norton Rotary Club for their unwavering support of our program and

team," said coach Archer.

"The museum building is really nice for a practice area and there's enough room to keep our targets set up all the time and a separate room for a classroom."

Coach Archer was asked how practices have been going for his young marksmen in preparation for the State Shoot.

"We have been working hard and shooting pretty well," said coach Archer.

"We've had two regional 4-H shoots and shot very well for our first shooting competitions, placing runner-up in both. I'm especially proud of how well our younger shooters are doing."

"Hopefully, the two regional shoots helped us get rid of any jitters and get ready for the pressure in the State Shoot."

"The important thing is our young people are learning gun safety for a lifetime."

"We are also proud of the sportsmanship shown by our shooters and the good behavior example that they set for other teams when they come to shoot."

The young marksmen's knowledge of gun safety is very important since the written test score is 20 percent of each shooter's final score.

"Under Jeana's guidance, our

youngsters have been studying possible written test questions and seem to be doing pretty well," said coach Archer.

Second generation shooters

As in the past, Norton has been involved in the BB gun program long enough that several shooters are second-generation marksmen.

Dalton Vanover's mother, Kerri, was a shooter for the Norton squad and former Norton shooter Kim Hull is Miles Harrington's mother.

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.

Shot gun winner

The Norton BB Gun Team held a drawing for a Remington 1187 Shot Gun as a fund raiser and the winner was Mark Leggett, Logan.

The shot gun was donated by the Longspur Pheasants Forever chapter.

State basketball wraps up the season

By DICK BOYD

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Only one area high school basketball team, Scott City boys in Class 3A, won the state championship in games played last week during the 100th anniversary of Kansas State High School Basketball.

They defeated Riverton 70-45, outscored Wichita Collegiate 62-59 and edged Minneapolis 55-53 to win the championship. Minneapolis was the champion of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament in which Norton played.

Minneapolis defeated Burlington 52-40 and outscored Atchison County 56-55 in overtime to reach the championship finals versus Scott City. The Beavers ended

the season 25-1 and Minneapolis was 23-3.

The Hoxie girls placed runner-up in Class 1A, Division I. They defeated Hanover 49-41, outscored Little River 60-57 and lost to unbeaten Olpe 63-44 in the championship contest. Hoxie finished the season 24-2 and Olpe completed a perfect 26-0 season.

As Sub-State champions, the Logan girls competed in Class 1A, Division II. They lost their opening round game by a 59-26 score to Central Christian. Logan finished the season 14-10. Central Christian moved on and played Argonia for the championship and lost 69-41. Central Christian finished 24-2 and Argonia com-

pleted a perfect 26-0 season.

Also in Class 1A, Division II, the Golden Plains boys played South Barber in the first round and lost 72-52. South Barber placed fourth with a 53-45 loss to Otis-Bison.

In Class 2A girls, Oakley lost 44-41 to Jayhawk Linn in the first round. Jayhawk Linn moved on to place fourth after a 48-44 loss to Oxford.

The Victoria boys competed in Class 1A, Division I, and played No. 1 seed Hanover in the first round. The Knights ended Hanover's season with a 22-2 record with a 55-53 upset. Victoria moved on to place fourth with a 66-61 loss to South Gray.

In girls Class 3A, Thomas More

Prep-Marian of Hays defeated Central Heights 49-37 and moved on to place fourth with a 49-38 loss to Hillsboro.

Also in Class 3A girls, Riley County, the champion of Norton's Class 3A Sub-State Tournament, lost 50-44 in the opening round to Wichita Collegiate. The Wichita Collegiate girls moved on to win the championship by a 43-41 score over Jefferson North, who came into the game unbeaten!

The Colby girls competed in Class 4A. They lost 37-28 to Basehor-Linwood in the first round and completed a 22-3 season. Basehor-Linwood moved on to place third with a 47-36 victory over Ottawa.

Wrestling tourney will be held in Holdrege Saturday

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AHuskerland sanctioned Foly-style Wrestling Tournament for pre-kindergarten through high school contestants will be held Saturday, March 19 at the Holdrege, Neb. High School under sponsorship of the Holdrege Optimist Club.

The format will be four man round robin brackets for all classes. Pre-kindergarten through fourth graders will wrestle three one-minute periods. Fifth through high school matches will be three 90 second periods.

Medals and trophies will be awarded.

Pre-registration fee of \$12 is due by Thursday, March 17. Send checks and registration to Holdrege Optimist Wrestling Club, P.O. Box 260, Holdrege, Ne. 68949. You may also enter

by e-mail to holdregeoptimist1@yahoo.com and pay at check-in.

Walk-ins are welcome and entry fee will be \$15.

Those with questions may call Troy Melroy at (308) 991-8005 or Corey Wiese at (308) 995-7006.

Check-in will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. with wrestling beginning at 9:30 a.m. for the seventh grade through high school matches. Only this division will have weigh-ins.

Other divisions are fifth and sixth grade, check-in 9:30 to 10 a.m., wrestling at 10:30; third and fourth grade, check-in 10:30 to 11 a.m., wrestling at 11:30; pre-kindergarten through second grade, check-in 11 to 11:30 a.m., wrestling at 12:30.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and 5 and under are free.

Two Norton Seniors to play in Sunflower Shootout in Smith Center this Saturday

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Norton Community High School senior basketball players Terrell Lane and Dakota Dreher have been chosen to play in the 1st Annual Sunflower Shootout All-Star Basketball Game on Saturday, March 19 in the Smith Center High School Gym.

Sponsor is the Smith Center Recreation Commission.

A Girls All-Star Game will be included.

Both games will feature senior all stars from the Mid-Continent League versus a team of all stars from a 14-county area in North Central Kansas.

The girls game will tip-off at 5 p.m. with the boys contest set for 7 p.m.

A three-point contest will also be held at halftime of each game.

Playing on the Mid-Continent League boys team with Lane and Dreher will be Jakob Demars and Steven Mick, Osborne; Austin Smith, Jesse Prockish and Chance Miller, Stockton; Jacob Kinderknecht, Ellis; Will Papes, Trego Community and Trevor Smith, Phillipsburg. Coaches will be Adam North of Stockton and Dave Wildeman of Ellis.

Members of the North Central Kansas boys squad will be Zach Demars, Southern Cloud; Dakota Soderlund and Josh Ritter, Oberlin; Ryan Fiser, Washington County; Rilee Spresler, Golden Plains; Connor Shoemaker, Lakeside; Travis Boyles, Rock Hills; Connor Hynek and Austin Steinfort, Hanover and Luke Shamburg, Beloit. Coaches will be Matt Hesting, Rock Hills and Kim Lohse, Hanover.

Playing on the Mid-Continent

League Girls team will be Megan Suchsland, Phillipsburg; Sara Timmons and Whitney St. Clair, Smith Center; Jordyn Sturgeon, Osborne; Lexi Hardiek and Sheranda Brown, Hill City; Courtney Waldschmidt, Ellis and Samantha Bobek, Dani Winters and Kylie Pywell, Plainville. Coaches will be Nick Linn, Smith Center and Linda Nighswonger, Hill City.

Members of the North Central Kansas Girls squad will be Vanessa Kresin and Taylor Hake, St. John's of Beloit; Shaylann Kaus, Hoxie; Jordan Dreher, Oberlin; Sammy Krueger, Thunder Ridge; Bailey Pfortmiller, Natoma; Kayla Hockersmith, Colby; Kendra Zaborsky, Hanover; Amanda Bekemeyer, Washington County and Hunter Duensing, Belleville. They will be coached by Keith Kresin, St. John's of Beloit and

Darren Grauerholz, Thunder Ridge.

"We have assembled some of the top high school basketball talent in the state for this event and we are really excited about it," said Mike Hughes, Smith Center Recreation Director.

"We are trying to make this an exciting and fun event for the players and think the fans will enjoy the evening as well. Anyone who enjoys basketball will truly want to see these games."

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12 and children 5 and under are free.

This first annual event sponsored by the Smith Center Recreation Commission is funded in part by the Smith County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Smith County Economic Development and Smith Center Chamber of Commerce.

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