

Tradition of shooting success continues for Norton BB gun team

By Dick Boyd
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For 39 out of the last 42 years, Norton County has qualified a teenage marksmanship team to compete in the U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships and this weekend in Bowling Green, Kentucky will mark the 40th year our local shooters have displayed their skills at the international shoot, the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world.

Since rules state that a shooter cannot compete in the international marksmanship two years in a row, each year's team consists of different girl and boy shooters.

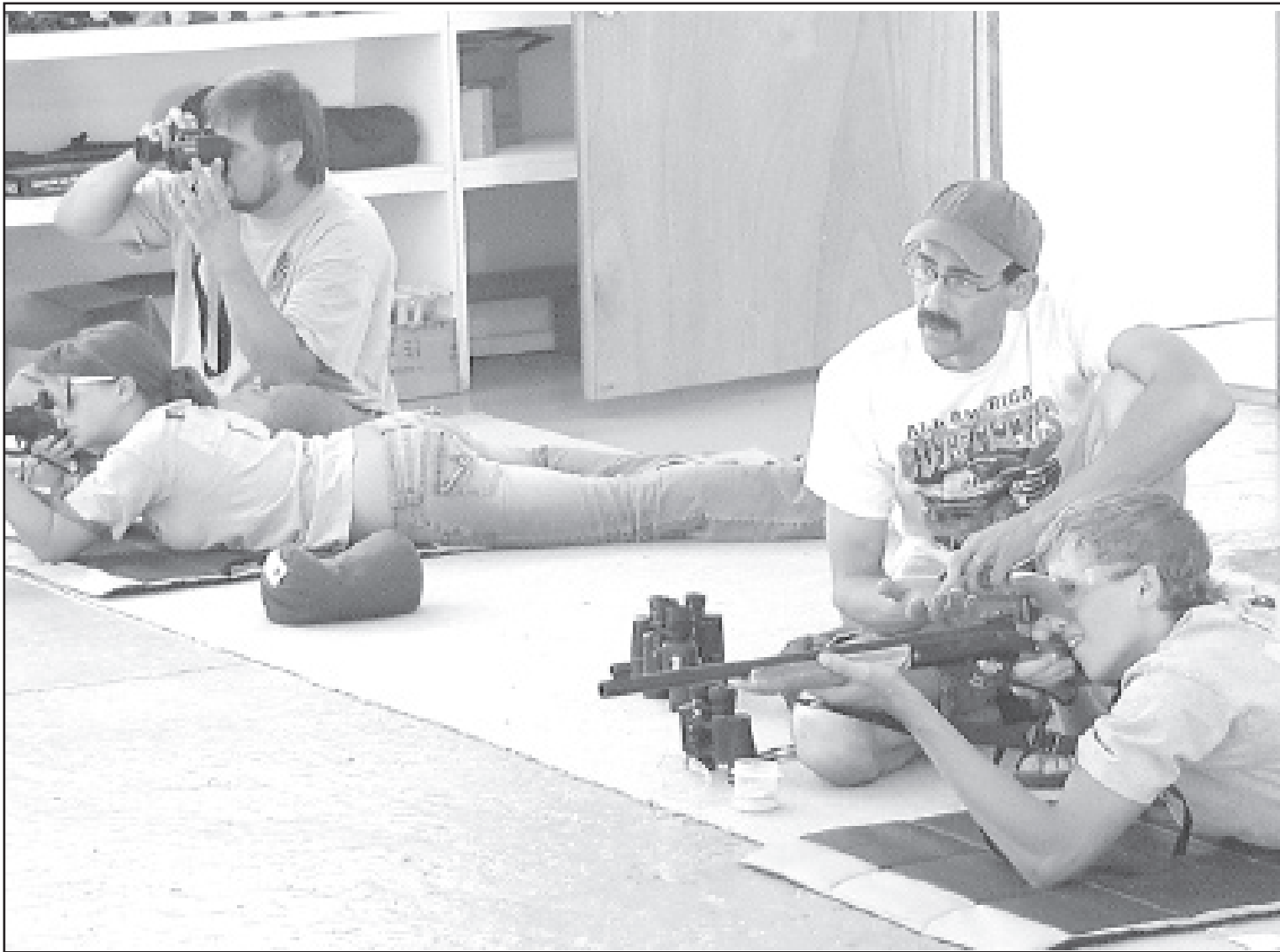
Originally the Norton County Jaycees team and now the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team, the youngsters and their parents and coaches left today for Bowling Green where they will fire BB guns for international recognition on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Diddle Arena on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

The Norton County BB gun team is well known in international circles, having won the championship eight times, more than any other community.

Since assuming sponsorship, the Rotary Club has established a Norton BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway. The museum displays the rich history of the Norton shooting education and marksmanship program.

Norton has won the state championship 37 times and was runner-up this spring. The top three teams in each state shoot qualify for the international championships.

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000 and placed



Two members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team practiced from the prone position in the Norton BB Gun Museum in preparation for the International BB Gun Match Championships in Bowling Green, Ky., this weekend. From left are, Erin Archer and coach Cameron Archer, and Brady Tien and coach Mike Campbell.

second in 2003 and third in 1996. Last year's team placed second in shooting and fifth overall.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. They compete in four shooting positions -- prone, standing, sit-

ting and kneeling. The written test will contain 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 and their ages

are: Brady Tien, 14; Alexis Lively, 13; Dylan Sprigg, 13; Lane Archer, 12 and Erin Archer, 10. Alternates are Gabe Bird, 12 and Michael Smith, 12.

Assisting head coach Cameron Archer with coaching duties have

been Mike Campbell and Cole Archer but Campbell will not make the trip to the international. Classroom instructor is Lynette Archer.

Three members of this year's international team have experience at the international level. Lane Archer and Dylan Sprigg were members of the Norton 2006 international team and Erin Archer was an alternate on the 2007 team.

Four of this year's marksmen are second generation BB gun shooters for Norton. Alexis Lively's mother, Jill, was a shooter as were Cameron Archer, current coach and father of Lane and Erin Archer and Angie Bird, mother of

Gabe. The Norton team had its final pre-international practice on Monday night in the Norton BB Gun Museum building.

The Norton team qualified for the international championships through the Kansas Rifle Association State Shoot in Alma and the Kansas State 4-H Shoot in Great Bend.

"We've been improving every week and, hopefully, we will peak at the right time," said coach Archer. "I think we're ready. We just ask every shooter to focus, breathe steadily and have a calm hand."

"We had each shooter set scoring goals for themselves after the state shoots and I set my goals for them as well. They're still behind the goals but making progress."

The BB guns themselves can cause problems for the marksmen so Norton has always maintained them to the utmost. Coach Archer indicated that the guns have been holding up well in the twice-a-week practices.

The written test is 20 percent of each shooter's score and it can make a real difference in a shooter's final score. Norton always concentrates on the written test during practices.

"The written test is always a concern due to the higher comprehensive level of the questions," said classroom instructor Archer.

"Our youngsters have a solid knowledge of proper shooting technique, rules and regulations but they word the test to weed out those who are unsure. We've tried a number of different things this year in preparing for the written test and we expect our shooters to test well."

Traveling to the state and international shoot is expensive but the Norton community has been generous in its support.

The sponsoring Rotary Club and others help with donations but the team also raised money this year through prize donations and a car wash.

Prize winners and donors included: Jeff Wahlmeier, Ertl key series tractor, Southwest Implement; Lamont Shirk, \$100 gift certificate, Russ' Jewelry.

Trojan track coach leaves post after one season

By Joey Falkoff
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Richard Canole's first season at Colby Community College also turned out to be his last.

Canole resigned as the Trojan head men's track and cross country coach June 16 to pursue an-

other coaching opportunity in his homestate of Michigan.

"Rich wanted to get back to Michigan. It's been a good move for him," said Skip Sharp, Colby College Vice President of Student Affairs and Marketing. "It didn't necessarily catch us by surprise, because he told us he was considering it in the spring."

Canole had already left his office at the college and could not be reached for comment.

He took over the Trojan track and cross country programs in August 2007 following the resignation of Jeff Becker, who left to become the head women's cross country coach at New Mexico Junior College.

Canole joins Becker on the list of head coaches who have left the college in the last year.

That list, which also includes co-head volleyball coaches Manolo Concepcion and Eddie Rivera and head women's basketball coach Tom Stephens, is now up to five.

Prior to his one-year stint at Colby, Canole served as the head track/cross country coach at Pima Community College in Arizona. This past season concluded his 16th year of coaching, 13 of which were as a head coach.

The Trojan men's cross country team is expected to return four runners and the men's track team is expected to return eight, including Colby native Darren Sporing.

Sharp said on June 30 that the college is currently setting up interviews to fill Canole's coaching positions.

Sweet Thunder 10 and under ends regular season with tournament title

Colby's Sweet Thunder 10 and Under softball team claimed first place in their final tournament of the regular season in Hill City in June 28.

Pool play began with Sweet Thunder beating the Hays Heat 13-7. Colby was led by Darby Sager (2-2 with two RBIs), Taylor Lemman (1-2 with an RBI), Brooklyn Bange (1-2 with an RBI) and Tessa Krzycki (1-3 with an RBI). Kylee Martin and Elissa Zerr shared the pitching.

Colby won their second game against Hill City Rec 15-1. The leading hitters were Martin, who had a home run and Bange, who

had a triple. Desi Schippers and Krzycki each had a double.

Martin, Schippers and Bange pitched.

Afternoon bracket play had Sweet Thunder in first, so they played Hill City Rec again and won 12-7. Schippers, Lemman and Hailey Schindler were the pitchers. Krzycki, Martin, Sager and Elissa Zerr each had a double, and Bange had a homerun.

In the championship game, Colby won for the second time over the Hays Heat 16-1. Martin was the pitcher. Sager, Schippers, Schindler and Lemman each had a hit for the Thunder, and Martin

had two hits to help with the win.

Final action for this Sweet Thunder 10 and under team will be at the State Tournament in Wichita July 11-13.

Thank you to the players, the parents, and the coaches for the great summer.

The coaches are Lynette and Shannon Martin and Stacey Lemman.

The players include Brooklyn Bange, Autumn Korthanke, Tessa Krzycki, Taylor Lemman, Kylee Martin, Audrey Puckett, Courtney Reilley, Darby Sager, Hailey Schindler, Desi Schippers, Gabrielle Wilson and Elissa Zerr.

Top two picks to meet in first game

MIAMI (AP)- Derrick Rose and Michael Beasley will be forever linked. That's an inevitability for players who get chosen No. 1 and No. 2 in an NBA draft.

So on some level, it's fitting their first pro game — one that won't have fans, won't count in standings and will likely be long forgotten in a few days — will pit them against one another. Rose's Chicago Bulls face Beasley's Miami Heat on Monday, one of three games that will open the Orlando summer league's weeklong schedule.

For a meaningless matchup, there's an abundance of big-game hype.

And it almost seems like neither 19-year-old can truly understand why.

"I didn't even know we're playing Miami first," Rose said. "I'm not going to be checking him."

"If you want to make it a Mike Beasley and Derrick Rose show, go ahead," Beasley said. "But that's not how it's going to be."

Fair enough.

Rose, the No. 1 selection in last month's draft who led Memphis to the NCAA title game, will be running the Bulls offense from the point guard spot. Beasley, the No. 2 choice by Miami after averaging better than 26 points and 12 rebounds in his lone season

at Kansas State, will be posting up against the likes of Chicago big men Joakim Noah and Tyrus Thomas.

They won't guard one other and, outside of a pregame handshake or some idle chitchat during stoppages of play, probably won't interact much at all.

"I don't feel that every time you mention Derrick Rose's name, you've got to mention mine, or vice versa," Beasley said. "If people want to, they can. But I've got my career to look after. He's got his."

Teams will play five games in five days at the summer league.

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