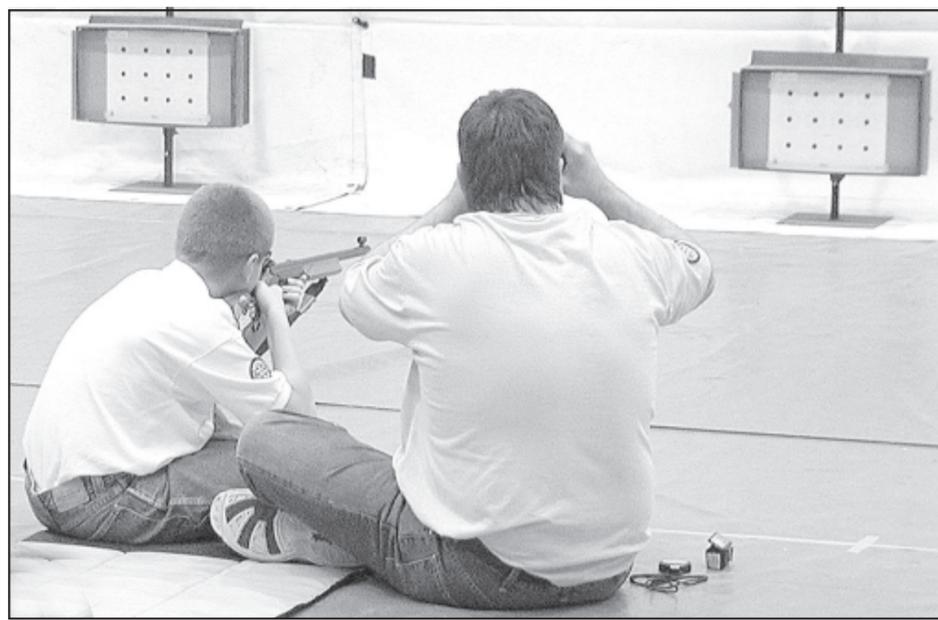




Lane Archer of the Norton Yellow team focuses on the target as he fires from the standing position under the watchful eye of Coach Cameron Archer. Lane shot an 88 from standing, the toughest position, and was third high shooter for Norton in the Kansas Jaycees State BB Gun Championships on Saturday in Manhattan.



Norton Coach Cameron Archer loads Yellow team member Chance McMullen's BB gun during competition from the sitting position at the State BB Gun Shoot on Saturday. Chance shot an 89 in sitting to tie his best of the day in the four positions.



Norton Yellow team's Dylan Sprigg fires from the sitting position as Coach Cameron Archer checks his target with binoculars during the State BB Gun Shoot on Saturday. Dylan recorded a 94 in sitting which tied for fourth overall in the shoot.



Lynette Archer, left, and Michelle Sprigg examine targets for possible protests during the State BB Gun Shoot on Saturday.



Norton BB gun coaches Cameron Archer, left, and Mike Campbell compare targets just shot by Norton Yellow and Blue team marksmen prior to turning them into state shoot officials for grading.

# Shooters take aim at International title

(Continued from Page 1)  
Wyandotte County 1,690 to 1,689 for a total score of 2,118 compared to Wyandotte's 2,117.

Ninth place went to Flinthills Junior Shooters No.1 with a 1,652 shooting, 428 test and total of 2,080. Manhattan Silver placed tenth with a shooting score of 1,607, test of 430 and total score of 2,037.

The Norton Red team finished 11th with a shooting score of 1,558, test of 430 and total score of 1,988.

Twelfth place went to Flint Hills Junior Shooters No.2 with a shooting score of 1,211, test of 322 and total score of 1,533.

The Norton Yellow team scored well in the written test, which was taken in the morning prior to the shooting competition. Manhattan Purple and Ark City No.1 had the highest test score with 484s but Norton was close behind in third with a 480.

Once the shooters got on the firing range, nerves seemed to bother the Norton Yellow shooters and they did not live up to their potential in either the prone or standing positions. Although Norton placed third in the prone, the Norton shooters recorded a 450 score which was far below Manhattan's 480 and Ark City's 473.

Next came the standing position, the most difficult of all four. The Norton shooters were third again with a 411 while Manhattan recorded a 447 and Ark City came in with a 433.

After that, the Norton shooters'

nerves vanished and they shot within a few points of both Manhattan and Ark City but it was too little, too late. In the sitting position, Norton recorded a 460 which was just below Ark City's 463 and Manhattan's 462.

The marksmanship from the kneeling position was more of the same although not quite as close as the sitting competitor. Norton Yellow shot a 446, Ark City recorded a 451 and Manhattan a 462.

Teams consist of young people ages 8 to 14.

## TEAM MEMBERS

Members of this year's Yellow team and their ages were: Caleb Vanover, 14; Dustyna Sprigg, 13; Chance McMullen, 13; Dylan Sprigg, 12 and Lane Archer, 11. Alternate was Cole Archer, 13.

Coaches of the Yellow team were Head Coach Cameron Archer and Assistant Coach Dwight Sprigg.

Shooting for the Blue team were: Kegan Vanover, 13; Kaitlyn Campbell, 11; Lance Vanover, 11; Kolton Harting, 10 and Wyatt Harting, 9. Alternate was Cameron Heikes, 8.

Mike Campbell and Brian McMullen were coaches for the Blue team.

Members of the Red team were: Alexis Lively, 11; Christine Nelson, 10; Erin Archer, 9; Dalton Vanover, 8 and Clay Vanover, 8.

Dan Lauer was coach of the Red team.

## INDIVIDUAL SCORES

Scores of the Yellow team shooters were: Dustyna Sprigg, 96

prone, 83 standing, 93 sitting, 94 kneeling, 366 total shooting, 100 test, 466 total; Caleb Vanover, 91 prone, 87 standing, 95 sitting, 95 kneeling, 368 total shooting, 90 test, 458 total score; Lane Archer, 88 prone, 88 standing, 89 sitting, 87 kneeling, 352 total shooting, 98 test, 450 total score; Dylan Sprigg, 86 prone, 78 standing, 94 sitting, 83 kneeling, 341 total shooting, 96 test, 437 total score; Chance McMullen, 89 prone, 75 standing, 89 sitting, 87 kneeling, 340 total shooting, 96 test, 436 total score.

Scores of Yellow team alternate Cole Archer were: 95 prone, 88 standing, 94 sitting, 90 kneeling, 367 total shooting, 100 test, 467 total score.

Scores of the Blue team shooters were: Kaitlyn Campbell, 94 prone, 82 standing, 89 sitting, 84 kneeling, 349 total shooting, 92 test, 441 total score; Kegan Vanover, 89 prone, 76 standing, 90 sitting, 80 kneeling, 335 total shooting, 98 test, 433 total score; Lane Vanover, 91 prone, 72 standing, 92 sitting, 81 kneeling, 336 total shooting, 92 test, 428 total score; Kolton Harting, 85 prone, 79 standing, 84 sitting, 82 kneeling, 330 total shooting, 90 test, 420 total score; Wyatt Harting, 78 prone, 65 standing, 86 sitting, 73 kneeling, 302 total shooting, 92 test, 394 total score.

Alternate for the Norton Blue team was Cameron Heikes. His scores were: 77 prone, 54 standing, 77 sitting, 85 kneeling, 293 total shooting, 90 test, 383 total score.

Norton Red team scores were: Christine Nelson, 92 prone, 82 standing, 91 sitting, 77 kneeling, 342 total shooting, 90 test, 432 total score; Alexis Lively, 90 prone, 67 standing, 84 sitting, 75 kneeling, 316 total shooting, 86 test, 402 total score; Erin Archer, 86 prone, 61 standing, 80 sitting, 77 kneeling, 304 total shooting, 90 test, 394 total score; Clay Vanover, 82 prone, 61 standing, 81 sitting, 83 kneeling, 307 total shooting, 80 test, 387 total score; Dalton Vanover, 76 prone, 63 standing, 72 sitting, 78 kneeling, 289 total shooting, 84 test, 373 total score.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Norton Yellow team alternate Cole Archer won the most individual awards for the Blue Jays. He won the individual prone, standing, sitting and kneeling high scores as well as being the highest aggregate alternate shooter in the shoot.

Cameron Heikes placed fourth in kneeling in the alternate competition.

Cole Archer and Dustyna Sprigg each received an award for scoring a perfect 100 on their written tests. Only five other shooters did as well.

Dustyna Sprigg tied for fifth in the prone position and fifth in kneeling. Dylan Sprigg tied for fourth and Caleb Vanover was third in sitting and kneeling.

## LOTS OF SUPPORT

Coach Archer 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. Archer in the grading room and the classroom have been Michelle Sprigg, Mindy Harting, Keri Vanover, Missy McMullen and Sara Campbell.

Coach Archer 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.

"Our shooters did very well for as young as they are," said Coach Archer.

"We did not do very well in prone or standing so need to work on them prior to the international shoot. We really did well in the written test and came on strong in the sitting and kneeling positions.

"We're so happy for these young shooters that they can go on to compete in the international shoot in Bowling Green."

"We were up against experienced teams from Manhattan and Ark City and our young shooters really stepped it up," said Lynette

Archer.

"We have some dedicated shooters and families. Our shooters haven't missed a single practice. That shows the dedication of our families and shooters.

"We will only lose three shooters next year due to age. This was definitely a regrouping and rebuilding year and we're so pleased with how well we did in the state shoot."

Coach Archer thanked the First State Bank; New Age Industrial Corp., Inc.; the City of Norton and Pheasants Forever for monetary gifts; the Rotary Club for sponsoring the program and Alberta Byrum for giving the team a place to practice.

He thanked Here's Your Sign for lettering the gun boxes and Homestore for donating paint for the gun boxes. He thanked the Norton Telegram for continued news coverage and the entire community for always supporting in any way possible.

He also thanked the BB gun families: Dwight and Michelle Sprigg, Chris and Mindy Harting, Sara and Mike Campbell, Kendra Heikes, Keri and Greg Vanover and Dan Lauer.

Mike Coffey won the shot gun which was given away in a drawing.

— Story and photos by Dick Boyd