

Locals take championships

By DICK BOYD

Norton County youth marksmen won the championships of BB gun and archery competition in the 2007 Northwest Kansas Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Match on Saturday, March 3 at the Ellis County Fairgrounds in Hays.

BB gun

Eleven of the 15 members of the Norton Rotary BB Gun Team competed as individuals, then scores of the top four from each county were compiled into team scores.

Shooters competed from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. There was no written test.

Placing for Norton County individually and their scores were: Andrew Bashford, first, 322, 7-8 years; Dalton Vanover, first, 331; Erin Archer, second, 324; Cameron Heikes, fourth, 313, 9 years; Kaitlyn Campbell, first, 360; Lane Archer, second, 352; Cristine Nelson, third, 346; Lane Vanover, fourth, 343, 11 years; Cole Archer, second, 357; Kegan Vanover, fourth, 348, 12-14 years.

Also competing from Norton was Clay Vanover, sixth, 297, 9 years.

The Norton County team of Kaitlyn Campbell, Lane Archer, Cole Archer and Kegan Vanover had a score of 1417 for first place.

Pottawatomie/Riley County was second with a 1384 and Harvey County third with a 1274. They were followed by Thomas County, 1271; Ellis County, 1224; Phillips County, 1180; Scott County, 1125; Edwards County, 956.

"This is not a regular shoot we attend but, as our team numbers change from year to year, we felt it was in our best interest to attend a shoot other than just the state competition," said Cameron Archer, Norton BB gun coach.

"We are a young, inexperienced team that needed to work out the nerves and gain experience.

"This shoot was different than what we are normally used to. At the state level, you shoot one position at a time and then you have 60 minutes until you shoot again. In this shoot, once you step to the line, you shoot all your positions, one right after the other. To do the continuous shooting, you must be able to mentally handle the pressure for an extended period of time. If you have a bad target, you must pull yourself together and continue and that is tough for any young shooter giving it their all.

"The experience was good for all our shooters. They were able to test their abilities before we head to Manhattan on April 14 for the Kansas Jaycees BB Gun Championships.

"We are thrilled with the continued success of our young shooters. Ten of the 11 medaled at this event. We shot well but not as good as we can. Getting the additional shoot under our belts will help us down the road. The timing of the shoot hopefully will help our shooters refocus on their weakest areas.

"No written test was given at this competition but I feel that our team is working hard on hunting safety knowledge for the state written test."

Kaitlyn Campbell, Lane Archer, Cristine Nelson, Lane Vanover, Cole Archer and Kegan Vanover all qualified individually for the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Sports Match on April 21 in Great Bend.

Archery

Eleven of the 13 Norton County girls and boys who competed in archery placed individually and the Norton County team compiled from the best individual scores won the championship.

Placing for Norton County individually and their scores were:

Adrienne Hager, first, 90, 9 years; Austin Hager, first, 236; Marc Miller, second, 181; Shelbi McKenna, fourth, 130, 10-11 years; Kegan Vanover, fifth, 163, 12-13 years; Diedre Kramer, first, 256, 14-15 years; Kyle Edgett, first, 257; Chase Braun, second, 243; Kirby Brandyberry, third, 236; Dana Hillebrand, fourth, 191; Carson Braun, fifth, 162, 16 years and above.

Also competing were: Lane Vanover, seventh, 110, 11 years and Caleb Vanover, sixth, 195, 15 years.

The top four Norton County shooters were placed on a team and won first place. They were Kyle Edgett, Diedre Kramer, Chase Braun and Kirby Brandyberry with a total score of 992. Austin Hager shot the same score as Brandyberry but Brandyberry is older so his score was used for the team score.

Ellis County was the second place team with a 674, followed by Thomas County, 653; Edwards County, 644; Gray County, 537; Harvey County, 420.

"We were very proud of all of our young people in this shoot," said John Baker, head coach.

"They conducted themselves like ladies and gentlemen on and off the range and competed like the champions they were."

Assistant coaches were Richard McKenna and Mary Vanover.

Qualifying to compete in the Kansas State 4-H Shooting Sports Match in Great Bend on April 21 were: Marc Miller, Austin Hager, Kegan Vanover, Diedre Kramer, Caleb Vanover, Kyle Edgett, Kirby Brandyberry, Chase Braun, Carson Braun and Dana Hillebrand.

Air rifle

Caleb Vanover also entered the air rifle competition. He recorded a 295, which was good for 17th.

Area athletes sign college letters

Chris Davis to Dodge City

By DICK BOYD

Chris Davis, a senior all-around football player for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to be a punter for Dodge City Community College.

Although Davis signed just to punt, there are many positions which he is qualified to play. He was an outstanding fullback, linebacker and kicker for the Blue Jays in addition to punting.

The 5-foot-11-inch, 165 pound Davis was third in rushing and all-purpose yards as a fullback this season. He averaged 6.6 yards per carry rushing and was second high scorer for the Blue Jays. He was sixth leading tackler from his linebacker position.

In addition to kicking off and kicking extra points, Davis was the Norton punter for the third year in a row. He is a three year letterman.

Davis was a first team kicker and second team punter on this season's Mid-Continent League Team chosen by the coaches. He was also a second team punter and honorable mention linebacker his junior year.

He was chosen as the Class 3A punter by the Kansas Coaches Association. He also received honorable mention as a kicker on the Wichita Eagle's 3A team and honorable mention as a specialist on the Topeka Capital-Journal's 3A team.

"Chris' punting average of 31 yards is deceiving," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "He did a good job of kicking the ball high so we could get down under it. He is also good at placing the punt, which is uncommon for high school punters. Only 10 of his 30 punts were returned and the average return was only 1.7 yards. He put 10 punts inside the 20 yard line and five inside the 5 yard line.

"If he works hard at it in college, he should do well as a punter."

The head coach at Dodge City Community College is Marcus Garstecki, who has completed his second season. His team, which plays in the tough Jayhawk Junior College conference, was 4-5 overall last season. Davis is the son of Terri Fisher.

Mark Scheetz also to Dodge

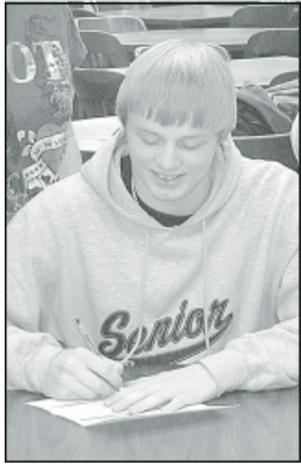
Mark Scheetz, a 6-foot-3-inch, 240 pound senior lineman for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play tight end for Dodge City Community College.

A two-year letterman for head coach Lucas Melvin's Blue Jays, Scheetz played both offensive and defensive tackle but is targeted as a tight end for Dodge City. Scheetz received honorable mention this season on the Mid-Continent League Team chosen by the league coaches.

"Mark was recruited as a tight end because of his size and athleticism," said coach Melvin. "He is capable but will have to do some off season work such as running and catching the ball to get ready to play a new position.

"College football is the next step and a different deal than high school. You have to work hard to be successful. Mark has the potential to make it at the next level."

Marcus Garstecki has completed his second season as head football coach at Dodge City Community College. They play in the tough Jayhawk Junior College conference and were 4-5 overall last season. Scheetz is the son of Linda Scheetz.



Chris Davis



Mark Scheetz

Tiffany Marx to Central Christian College

Tiffany Marx, Clayton, a senior at Norton Community High School, signed a National Letter of Intent to play women's tennis at Central Christian College of Kansas.

Miss Marx will be a freshman at Central Christian during the 2007-08 season.

She is a two-year letter winner for high school coach Jim Green. Coach Green said, "Tiffany places the ball well, is quite determined and consistent, and volleys well. Plus, she is a great person."

Miss Marx earned a high school grade point average of 3.64 and has a 23 ACT score.

Central Christian coach David Ferrell commented, "Tiffany will add needed depth to our women's line-up with her high school tennis experience. She exemplifies the type of student-athlete we are recruiting at Central."

She is the daughter of Bob and Doris Marx of Clayton. She plans to pursue an elementary education major.

Who won the state championships?

By TOM DREILING

If you have been wondering how the Kansas high school basketball championships came out last Saturday, wonder no more. Here's the scoop:

Class 1A

Boys
Championship — South Gray 45, Centralia 41
Third Place — Olpe 52, Goessel 50

Girls
Championship — South Haven 45, Centralia 41
Third Place — Olpe 73, Blue Valley 50

Class 2A

Boys
Championship — St. John 51, Pittsburg-Colgan 46
Third Place — Frankfort 67, Yates Center 63 (OT)

Girls
Championship — Oakley 48,

Minneapolis 29
Third Place — Osborne 57, Cimarron 46

Class 3A

Boys
Championship — Wichita Collegiate 52, Scott City 44
Third Place — Burlington 51, K.C. Christian 37

Girls
Championship — Hillsboro 50, Salina-Sacred Heart 31
Third Place — Atchison County 49, Neodesha 39

Class 4A

Boys
Championship — TMP-Marian 58, Fort Scott 44
Third Place — Girard 66, K.C. Piper 56

Girls
Championship — Colby 58, Augusta 46
Third Place — Andover Central

56, Tonganoxie 46

Class 5A

Boys
Championship — Highland Park 76, McPherson 59
Third Place — Bishop Miege 78, Kapaun/Mt. Carmel 53

Girls
Championship — Bishop Miege 58, St. Thomas Aquinas 46
Third Place — Hutchinson 56, Kapaun/Mt. Carmel 48

Class 6A

Boys
Championship — Blue Valley West 55, Leavenworth 42
Third Place — Lawrence Free State 64, Washburn Rural 51

Girls
Championship — Wichita Heights 54, Olathe South 34
Third Place — Lawrence Free State 44, S.M West 38

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