

BB Gun shooters take second at state

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton County Rotary BB Gun team compiled another excellent shooting and written test score in the 43rd annual State BB Gun Championships in Alma on Saturday but was edged by an outstanding team from Wyandotte County to place second overall.

Norton just missed a 38th state championship since the beginning of the gun shooting safety program by the U.S. Jaycees. The young Blue Jays were outscored on the firing line by just three points and on the written test by 18 points.

Third place went to the Derby No.1 team.

The top three teams from each state shoot qualify for competition in the Daisy/Jaycees International BB Gun Championships which will be held again this year in Bowling Green, Ky. on July 4-6.

Wyandotte County won the championship with a shooting score of 1811, test score of 488 and total score of 2299.

The Norton Yellow Team shot an 1808 and scored 470 on the written test for a total of 2278.

Derby No.1 shot a 1798, had a test score of 464 and finished with a 2262 total.

Winning fourth place was Pottawatomie/Riley County 4-H with a shooting score of 1783, test score of 460 for a 2243 total.

Fifth place went to Derby No.2 with a 1737 shooting, 460 test and 2197 total.

The Norton Blue Team performed very well. They had the fifth best shooting score and placed sixth overall. They shot a 1738, had a test score of 442 and overall score of 2180.

Phillips County won seventh with a 1681 shooting, 466 test and 2147 total.

Eighth place went to Wyandotte No.2 with a 1663 shooting, 478 test and 2141 total.

The Norton Red Team had the seventh best shooting score and was ninth overall. They shot a 1720, had a test score of 420 and finished with an overall score of 2140, just one point out of eighth.

Rounding out the top ten was Jefferson County with a 1708 shooting score, 428 test and 2136 total.

Other teams and their total scores were: Flint Hills Shooters No.1, 2084; Meadowlark, 1957; Flint Hills Shooters No.2, 1893; Flint Hills Shooters No.3, 1875; Jackson/Nemaha No.2, 1755; Jackson/Nemaha No.1, 1666; Pott/Riley and Jackson/Nemaha united (three shooters), 1251.

The quality of the competition in the state shoot this year can be determined by the fact that Norton won last year's championship by 58 points over the second place team and had a total score of 2282, just four points better than this year's Yellow squad. Last year's second place team would have placed fifth this year with their 2007 total.

CLOSE BATTLE

The competition for the championship on Saturday quickly turned out to be a close battle between Norton Yellow, Wyandotte No.1,

Derby No.1 and Pottawatomie/Riley County.

Although the scores from the written test of gun shooting safety were not posted until all shooting on the firing line had been completed, the written test was taken prior to the marksmanship.

Firing from the prone position, the easiest of the four, was first. Norton shot a 464 and was second behind Riley County's 474. Wyandotte No.1 shot a 463 and Derby No.1 recorded a 459.

The second firing position was the standing and it is considered to be the most difficult. Norton Yellow won that position with a 431, followed by Wyandotte's 429, Derby's 426 and Riley County's 415. That gave Norton Yellow a three point lead over Wyandotte with half of the shooting completed.

Norton Yellow had their poorest showing in the marksmanship from the sitting position. The young Blue Jays shot a 460 to record the fourth best score. Wyandotte shot a 472, Derby a 466 and Riley County a 461. After the sitting competition, Wyandotte took over the lead with a 1364, followed by Norton, 1355; Derby, 1351 and Riley County 1350.

The tougher the shooting position, the better the Norton marksmen usually do and that was the case in the fourth and final position, the kneeling, which is only surpassed in difficulty by the standing.

Just as they had in the standing marksmanship, the Norton Yellow shooters finished the day's competition by outshooting everyone else. Norton shot a 453, Wyandotte and Derby both shot a 447 and Riley County recorded a 433. That brought the final shooting score for Wyandotte to 1811 and Norton's to 1808.

The only scoring left was from the written test, which had not been posted. The Norton shooters, coaches, parents and fans hoped that their written test scores would be high enough to surpass Wyandotte but they recorded an outstanding 488 x 500 score compared to Norton's excellent 470 to win the title by just 21 points!

Wyandotte No.2 had the second best test score with a 478, followed by Norton and Flint Hills Junior Shooters, each with a 470; Phillips County, 466; Derby No.1, 464; Riley County and Derby No.2, 460 each.

BB gun shooting consists of very precise, accurate marksmanship. Shooters fire their BB gun from a distance of 16-feet-4.75 inches and the center of the target is the same size as a BB. A perfect shot comes when the BB hits exactly on the center of the target. A bull's eye can be a few millimeters off center but not much.

Shooters are 8 to 14 years of age.

TEAM MEMBERS

Members of this year's Yellow Team and their ages were: Brady Tien, 14; Alexis Lively, 13; Lane Archer, 12; Erin Archer, 10; Alec Otter, 10. Alternates were Kaitlyn Campbell, 13; Trenton Sprague, 9.

Cameron Archer returned as the



Young marksmen and their coaches are shown on the firing line competing in the sitting position during the State BB Gun Championships in Alma. They also fired from the prone,

head coach and the Yellow Team coach.

Shooting for the Blue Team were: Gabe Bird, 12; Michael Smith, 12; Cameron Heikes, 10; Andrew Bashford, 9; James Berry, 9. Alternates were Tyler Kuhn, 11; Jena Risewick, 9. Blue Team coaches were Steve Otter and Tim Bashford.

Members of the Red Team were: David Smith, 13; Zach Bird, 12; Kaleb Tuxhorn, 10; Micheala Sorenson, 9; Cody Campbell, 9. Alternates were Landon Slipke, Evan Chambers, 9. Coaches were Mike Campbell and Cole Archer.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

Scores of the Yellow Team shooters were: Brady Tien, 95 prone, 86 standing, 96 sitting, 95 kneeling, 372 total shooting, 98 test, 470 total score; Lane Archer, 99 prone, 88 standing, 94 sitting, 90 kneeling, 371 total shooting, 96 test, 467 total score; Erin Archer, 93 prone, 85 standing, 95 sitting, 91 kneeling, 364 total shooting, 94 test, 458 total score; Alec Otter, 89 prone, 89 standing, 87 sitting, 89 kneeling, 354 total shooting, 98 test, 452 total score; Alexis Lively 88 prone, 83 standing, 88 sitting, 88 kneeling, 347 total shooting, 84 test, 431 total score.

Scores of Yellow Team alternates were: Kaitlyn Campbell, 94 prone, 91 standing, 98 sitting, 93 kneeling, 376 total shooting, 96 test, 472 total score; Trenton Sprague 81 prone, 68 standing, 84 sitting, 82 kneeling, 315 total shooting, 82 test, 397 total score.

Blue Team shooters' scores were: Michael Smith, 88 prone,

94 standing, 96 sitting, 79 kneeling, 357 total shooting, 98 test, 455 total score; Gabe Bird, 92 prone, 83 standing, 92 sitting, 85 kneeling, 352 total shooting, 84 test, 436 total score; James Berry, 88 prone, 71 standing, 93 sitting, 94 kneeling, 346 total shooting, 86 test, 432 total score; Cameron Heikes, 87 prone, 73 standing, 91 sitting, 89 kneeling, 340 total shooting, 90 test, 430 total score; Andrew Bashford, 95 prone, 70 standing, 90 sitting, 88 kneeling, 343 total shooting, 84 test, 427 total score.

Alternate scores for the Blue Team were: Tyler Kuhn, 89 prone, 74 standing, 85 sitting, 75 kneeling, 323 total shooting, 90 test, 413 total score; Jena Risewick, 81 prone, 68 standing, 77 sitting, 86 kneeling, 312 total shooting, 88 test, 400 total score.

Norton Red Team scores were: David Smith, 92 prone, 84 standing, 93 sitting, 92 kneeling, 361 total shooting, 76 test, 437 total score; Micheala Sorenson, 87 prone, 81 standing, 87 sitting, 89 kneeling, 344 total shooting, 96 test, 440 total score; Zach Bird, 92 prone, 84 standing, 88 sitting, 85 kneeling, 349 total shooting, 80 test, 429 total score; Kaleb Tuxhorn, 89 prone, 80 standing, 89 sitting, 86 kneeling, 344 total shooting, 84 test, 428 total score; Cody Campbell, 86 prone, 71 standing, 88 sitting, 77 kneeling, 322 total shooting, 84 test, 406 total score.

Alternate shooters for the Red Team and their scores were: Landon Slipke, 72 prone, 79 standing, 73 sitting, 79 kneeling, 303 total shooting, 92 test, 395 total score; Evan Chambers 76 prone, 61 standing, 53 sitting, 53 kneeling, 243 total shooting, 78 test, 321 total score.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

In addition to all members of the top three teams each receiving a medal, the top three individuals in each shooting position as well as the top three aggregate shooters also received medals.

Four Norton marksmen received individual medals for their accuracy in firing a BB gun.

Lane Archer of the Yellow Team

standing and kneeling positions and took a written test on gun safety.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

won first in prone, just one point off a perfect target with a 99 x 100. Michael Smith of the Blue Team won the standing competition with an outstanding 94. Brady Tien of the Yellow Team medaled with a second place in kneeling with a 95 and third place in aggregate shooting with a 372.

Although he did not receive a medal, it is worthy of note that Lane Archer of the Yellow Team had the fifth highest aggregate shooting score with a 371 and Erin Archer of the Yellow Team scored a 364 aggregate in shooting to tie for ninth highest.

Norton's Yellow Team alternate Kaitlyn Campbell, a member of last year's Norton international team, had the highest aggregate shooting score of all alternates with a 376. She also had the best scores in three of the four individual shooting positions. She was first in prone with a 94, first in sitting with a 98, first in kneeling with a 93 and second in standing with a 91.

LOTS OF SUPPORT

Coach Archer said he really appreciated the exceptionally large crowd of fans who traveled to Alma to support the young Norton marksmen. He thanked the assistant coaches and other volunteers. Assisting classroom instructor Lynette Archer during the day were Penny Otter and Jodi Sprague, team scorers; Shannon Deines and April Bashford, computer scoring and Angie Bird and Sara Campbell, shooter lineup.

"Our shooting from standing and sitting was a little lower than we like to see but overall we shot very well," said Norton head coach Cameron Archer.

"Our test scores were also very good.

"Wyandotte shot really well and scored high on the test.

"I'm proud of our young shooters and how well they performed. We still have room for improvement before the international shoot and I'm sure we will improve because these young people are hard workers."

Lynette Archer said she thought it was a great atmosphere and a good opportunity for all the young

shooters to compete. "The Kansas State Rifle Association did a wonderful job of hosting the shoot," she said.

"This shoot encourages youth to step outside of their home town and be successful on the statewide level. Individuals surprise themselves with their accomplishments in this very precision sport.

"We have wonderful support from the community and had a tremendous crowd present on Saturday."

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 Monday evening.

Over half of this year's shooters are new to the program and one of the Yellow Team's shooters was a first year marksman.

Coach Archer thanked the First State Bank; New Age Industrial Corp., Inc. and Longspur chapter of Pheasants Forever for monetary gifts; the Rotary Club for sponsoring the program and Alberta Slaby for giving the team a place to practice. He also thanked the *Norton Telegram* for continued news coverage and the entire community for always supporting in any way possible.

The Norton BB Gun Team accepted donations for a drawing for a Charles Daily 12 gauge over and under shotgun. The shotgun was won by Tom Kasper, Marion.

Shoot officials were James Eberwein, match director; Wayne Hubbard, range officer and Dee Eberwein, chief statistical officer. Bruce Williams, Phillipsburg, president of the Kansas State Rifle Association and Ed Braun, Norcat, Northwest Kansas KSRA director, assisted with the awards assembly.

Both Williams and Braun have previously been coaches in the Norton BB Gun program.



Judging by the smile on Lynette Archer's face, a decision on a Norton shooter's target at the State BB Gun Championships on Saturday went in the Blue Jays' favor. Representatives of opposing teams pair up to grade the targets and officials make the decision when they cannot agree. From left are Kevin Morrill, shoot statistician and LaVerne Waalkes, Derby team scorer.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay to play in All-Star Classic

By DICK BOYD

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Logan Kats, basketball senior point guard for Norton Community High School, has been chosen to play in the 15th annual Sports Shoppe/Colby Bowl All-Star Classic to be held Saturday in the Community Building in Colby.

The women's game will be at 5 p.m. with the men's contest to follow at 7 p.m.

Kats will play for the Light Team. Others on his team will be

Braden Wilson, Jared Mocabay, both of Smith Center; Ethan Stover, Colby; David Gerstner, Hill City; Cameron Locke, Trego; Jason Crawford, Natoma; Jeff Henick, Taylor Elder, both of Sharon Springs and Ted Crabtree, St. Francis.

On the opposing Dark Team will be Eric Young, Drew Frazier, both of Weskan; Ethan Kuhlmann, Kensington; Wade Wolf, Seth Bixenman, both of Wheatland; Dan Rogers, Golden Plains; Daniel

Gottschalk, Ellis; Brandon Wittman, Quinter; Michael Collett, Brewster and Jace Young, Greeley County.

For more information, contact Tom Stephens, head women's basketball coach at Colby Community College, phone (785) 460-5452.

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