

Team

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Sunday morning at 8 a.m., marksmanship began from the sitting position. The Blue Jays shot a very solid 472 which tied them for fifth in that position and left them in eighth position overall but only ten points out of fourth place.

The final shooting position was kneeling and Norton placed ninth with a 460. The written test score of 486 was also solid but not enough to elevate Norton past a ninth place finish overall.

All of this year's Norton shooters were young enough that they will be eligible to return to the national shoot in two years, providing that they continue to qualify at a state shoot.

This younger Norton team actually had a higher score than last year's Blue Jay marksmen, who also placed ninth. It was a very competitive shoot with scores of most of the top ten teams higher than last year.

The Norton shooters had no bad positions, shooting steady in all four, and also did well on the written test of gun safety.

Norton team members

Norton County Rotary's team members and their ages were: Cameron Heikes, 13; Dalton Vanover, 13; Trenton Sprague, 12; Justis Posson, 11 and Scott Sansom, 10. Alternates were James Berry, 12 and Dallas Gosselin, 10.

Assisting sixth year head coach Cameron Archer was coach Shawn Gosselin and classroom instructor for the second straight year was Chandra McKenna. Other adult helpers have been Keri Vanover, Jodi Sprague, Joni Berry, Kendra Merchant, Steve Sprague and Rodney Sansom.

Trenton Sprague and Justis Posson were alternates on the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team in the National Shoot last year. James Berry shot last year as a member of the Norton County team. Rules state that no shooter can compete in the national shoot in consecutive years but this rule does not apply to alternates, so Posson and Sprague were eligible this year and Berry was not but went as an alternate.

As in the past, Norton has been active in the BB gun program long enough that several shooters are second generation marksmen. The only second generation shooter on this year's team that went to Rogers was Dalton Vanover. His mother, Keri, who was along on the trip as a scorer, was also a Norton marksman.

Top Norton shooter

Cameron Heikes was the top Norton marksman with a 380.07 shooting score and 96 on the written test for a total score of 476.07.

Cameron received a silver medal at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening for his runner-up finish from the prone position with a 99.07.

Alternate James Berry was also recognized at the Awards

Ceremony for his championship in standing with a score of 94 and runner-up alternate aggregate finish with a 476. James also received a certificate for scoring a perfect 100 on the written test.

Individual Norton scores

Norton shooters and their individual scores were: Cameron Heikes, 99.07, prone; 88, standing; 96, sitting; 97, kneeling; 96, written test; 476.07 total; Trenton Sprague, 93, prone; 90, standing; 96, sitting, 94, kneeling; 98, written test; 471 total; Justis Posson, 96, prone; 87, standing; 94, sitting; 92, kneeling; 98, written test; 467 total; Dalton Vanover, 93, prone; 91, standing; 91, sitting; 89, kneeling; 98, written test; 462 total; Scott Sansom, 94, prone; 87, standing; 95, sitting; 88, kneeling; 96, written test; 460 total.

Individual scores of Norton's alternates were: James Berry, 97, prone; 94, standing; 91, sitting; 94, kneeling; 100, written test, 476 total; Dallas Gosselin, 91, prone; 78, standing; 93, sitting; 92 kneeling, 94, written test, 448 total.

Coach's comments

"I was really proud of our shooters for making the top 10 out of 48 teams," said head coach Archer. "We shot very well as a team and did very well on the written test of gun safety."

"We shot 38 points better and scored 40 points higher on the written test than we did in the state shoot!"

"Our youngsters have been working very hard and did their very best in both shooting and the written test. Our young marksmen are very disciplined and responsible and take pride in what they do."

"They did an exceptional job and were very competitive in a match that was a very close race in the top ten."

"I couldn't be prouder of these youngsters!"

Special ceremonies

The opening ceremonies were held Friday evening when all teams and coaches marched into the auditorium and were introduced prior to the program.

Among the speakers was Greg Hines, mayor of Rogers. "BB gun shooting teaches you leadership skills, patience, consistency in life and the importance of focus," he said.

Another speaker was Steve Womack, former Rogers mayor who is now a U.S. Congressman from Arkansas. "I'm proud of what Daisy has done for our young people and also for our military," he said.

"This shooting competition gives you young people an opportunity to hone a very special skill and apply the things you learn in your lives."

"There are no losers in this match, only champions competing."

"Compete hard and with good sportsmanship."

Womack also congratulated

Daisy on reaching their 125th year of manufacturing and selling BB guns.

The keynote speaker was Shawn Duloher, who has been a top marksman contender for the last five Olympic Games, including finishing fifth in the 2004 Olympics.

He holds numerous national records in skeet and trap shooting and has been an international champion in skeet and trap.

He is also a former BB gun marksman.

Shawn is the director and head coach of the shotgun sports program at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

"What an exciting and emotional moment this is in your lives," he told the young shooters.

"This should be one of the proudest moments of your lives and I'm proud to be speaking to you during the largest and most successful shooting program in the world."

"What an honor it is for me to share my accomplishments with you."

"I want you all to know that success is failure turned inside out. Champions are made through the four d's: devotion, dedication, desire and determination."

"Character is also one of the most important things in life and you have to work at it."

Duloher also listed his life values for the shooters. They are: integrity, respect, personal courage, honor, duty, loyalty and belief in God and family.

"Weed out the negative and always think positive," he added. "Strive to be the best and your character will continue to grow"

Ray Hobbs, president and CEO of Daisy, welcomed everyone to Rogers. He had special praise for the coaches "who spend a lot of time with these wonderful young people."

It was announced that Rod Strenge, longtime BB gun coach from Buffalo, Minnesota, has become the third person inducted into the Daisy BB Gun Hall of Fame. He was introduced and it was noted that he became coaching BB gun marksmen in 1975 and was at the national match for the 28th time.

Ten coaches who each have 20 plus years of coaching BB gun teams were called forth and honored. Each received a special BB gun and certificate in honor of their years of volunteer service to the program.

The honored coaches included James Eberwein of Alma, Kansas.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony was held Sunday evening. The top ten teams were honored and marched into the auditorium in the Parade of Champions. The top three teams received special recognition. The champion team received the traveling trophy. Members of the top three teams and the top three individual shooters received individual medals.

Cameron Heikes was called forward to receive his silver medal for a runner-up finish in prone and alternate James Berry was called up to receive his gold medal in standing, runner-up alternate aggregate silver medal and certificate for scoring a perfect 100 in the written test.

Many thanks

"We thank everyone in the Norton community for the tremendous support of the shooting education program and our marksmanship team," said head coach Archer.

"A special thanks to all the parents, grandparents and other volunteers who have helped with the program and encouraged the youngsters to take it seriously."

"Thank you for all your help and support in another successful season!"

Coach Archer also thanked the following businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals for their support: Norton Rotary

Club, Norton Pizza Hut, First Stop, Roy's Sales and Service, J & R Liquor, T & D Bait Shop, Pamida, Ag Valley Co-op, Norton Vet Clinic, Moffet Drug Store, End Zone, Kansasland Tire, Kowpoke, Russ' Jewelry, Main Street IGA, Engel's Sales & Service, Ed Braun, Carquest, Otter Manufacturing, Greg Bruggeman, Bill Heilman, Here's Your Sign, Teresa and Dan Lauer, Rhonda Merchant, Don McMullen, Rural Tel/Nex-Tech, Pepsi, Kansas Lottery, First State Bank, Coors, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Technical College.

Among the parents, relatives and fans present in Rogers to boost the Norton team were: Jodi and Steve Sprague, Kristine Knapp, Mary Beth and Dick Boyd, Rhonda and Raymond Heikes, Kendra and Trent Merchant, Keri Vanover, Rodney and Kami Sansom, Joni Berry and Greta and Loren Thiele.

Began in October

Norton's preparation for the state and national shoots began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, the young girls and boys began practicing marksmanship in each of the four positions and studying for the written test of gun safety knowledge. Practices were held once a week and twice a week as the national shoot approached. Shooters also practice at home.

About 250,000 young people take part in the program nationwide each year.

The original program was adopted by the U.S. Jaycees and Daisy based on a format suggested by the later Duane Winder, who was a member of the Norton Jaycees at the time.



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2011 Norton Jr. Jays FOOTBALL
IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Thursday, July 14 — 5:30 P.M.
At the Norton County Clinic (Free) Athletic Physicals

Thursday, July 21
6:00-8:00 P.M.
Registration At the Norton Recreation Center
Registration and Physical Forms will be Available or You can get them at www.wkfl.net
We will have Notaries available at Registration
Copy of Birth Certificate—Unless Already on File With Us
5:30 P.M. — Parents Meeting

AUGUST 4 - EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT
at the **NORTON RECREATION CENTER**
6th Grade at 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.-Head Coach John Ruder
5th Grade at 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.-Head Coach Robert Wiltfong
4th Grade at 6:45 p.m.-Head Coach Jason Jones

Cost to Participate is \$75.00 Per Player,
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Norton Jr. Jays Football

Special financial circumstances will be considered through our scholarship program. Please note on the registration form (Scholarship requested). This will need to be approved by the Norton Jr. Jays Board Members. We want every kid to participate regardless.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: TERRY PETRIE
AT 785-871-0491 or petriesr@live.com