

# BB Gun season ends

By DICK BOYD

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The six members of the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team who qualified earlier in the 4-H Regional Shoot competed in the Kansas State 4-H BB Gun Shoot on Saturday, April 13 in Alma.

Norton placed eighth as a team and did not qualify for the National Shooting Championships the end of June in Rogers, Ark.

"It would be accurate to say that this was a rebuilding year," said first year head coach Jeff Elliott.

"I was proud of the way some of our marksmen shot but it just wasn't good enough.

"We will focus on next year and getting up to the next level. Trenton Sprague will be our only shooter to age out. With the rest of the Yellow Team and four from the Blue Team with a chance to move up, it should give us a lot of competition for places on the team next year.

"None will have to wait a year because they shot in the national this year."

Marksmen in 4-H shooting

fire from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions and do not take a written test.

The top team on Saturday was from Jefferson County and they shot an 1845, followed by Johnson County, 1832; Wyandotte County, 1806; Sedgwick County, 1805; Phillips/Rooks Counties, 1804; Jackson/Nemaha Counties No.1, 1793; Wabunsee County, 1785; Norton County, 1742; Morris County, 1693; Reno County, 1692; Jackson/Nemaha Counties No. 2, 1677; Edwards County, 1671; Riley/Pottawatomie Counties, 1659; Golden Prairie District, 1651; Grant County, 1647; Haskell County, 1599; Douglas County, 1562.

Norton's top shooter was Trenton Sprague with a 371. He shot a 93 in prone, 92 in standing, 95 in sitting, 91 in kneeling.

Other Norton shooters and their scores were: Miles Harrington, 90 in prone, 83 in standing, 89 in sitting, 89 in kneeling, total score 351; Stacie Elliott, 81 in prone, 83 in standing, 87 in sitting, 94 in kneeling, total score 345; Nick Davis, 94 in

prone, 75 in standing, 90 in sitting, 82 in kneeling, total score 341; Scott Sansom, 88 in prone, 81 in standing, 87 in sitting, 78 in kneeling, total score 334.

Althea Paxton was the Norton alternate. She shot an 89 in prone, 84 in standing, 85 in sitting, 84 in kneeling, total score 342.

Stacie Elliott had the third best kneeling score among junior shooters, those 9 to 11 years of age. Trenton Sprague had the sixth best score from the standing position among senior shooters, age 12-14.

Norton coaches for the shoot were Jeff Elliott, Marty Harrington, Rodney Sansom and Steve Sprague.

In addition to thanking the entire community and parents for their support, coach Elliott thanked Marty Harrington for keeping the BB guns in good working shape and filling in for him when he was not available, Jodi Sprague and Kendra Merchant for grading targets all year and Shannon Goss for teaching in the classroom.



Trenton Sprague is seen here with his father coaching him as he is shooting during the 4-H State BB gun competition that took place on April 13. Although none of the three teams from Norton qualified for Nationals, the team members put forth a lot of effort and better developed their skills to proceed on to next year's season and hopefully make it to Nationals. This year was a rebuilding year for the team so it can only get better from here on out.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Graham, Watts double up at Elmwood Park Speedway

By Mike Hughes

Race fans were treated to double features at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton, KS, on Saturday, April 13, as 2 make-up sprint car heats and 5 make-up features from a March 30th rain-out were run first, followed by a complete program. When the evening was over, Cody 'Bam Bam' Graham of Hays and Beloit's Tim Watts made two appearances in victory lane.

In the make-up features, Graham led all 15 laps in the IMCA Hobby Stock main event to extend his winning streak to 3 as he won two features the previous weekend at RPM Speedway in Hays. 'The Wild Child' Garrett Hager finished second, followed by Dillon Thompson, Mike Giesenhagen and Theron Martin.

Watts did the same in the IMCA Modified feature as he led all 12 laps and held off 'The Wichita Lineman' Randy Wilson to the checkers. Brian Calhoun, Dave Pederson and Scott Eaton completed the top five.

Defending IMCA Stock Car track champion Jay Hachmeister of Lenora passed early leader Dustin McClurg on lap 8 in the 20-lap feature and drove on to the win. McClurg was second, trailed by Casey Werkmeister, Jason Davis and Michael Dancer.

Cory Struckhoff took the early lead in the IMCA Northern Sport Mod feature and led the first 6 laps before Nebraska's

Chad Dolan took over the top spot and held off Struckhoff to the checkers in the 20-lap event. Bryan Herrick was third, followed by Tyler Watts and Brandon Clough.

In the Heartland Sprint Series make-up feature, Luke Cranston of Plains took the win. Ty Williams charged his way to second, followed by Tommy Williams, Jake Bubak and Zach Blurton.

After a full set of heat races, the second set of features took to the track.

Graham took the lead from Russ Specht on lap 7 of the hobby stock feature and drove away for his fourth feature win in a row in the caution free race. Specht held on to second, followed by Hager, Colton Pfeifer and Thompson.

Watts passed brother-in-law Calhoun on lap 6 in the modified feature and led the remaining distance for his double. Calhoun held off Wilson for second, with Pederson and Eaton rounding out the top five.

The sport mod feature was close all 15 laps. Henry Henderson led the opening lap, then gave way to Watts on lap 2. But Henderson regained the lead on lap 3, only to be passed by Watts again on the following lap. Then after a caution on lap 6, Kensington's Struckhoff passed Watts. Watts got back past Struckhoff to lead lap 8, but was passed again by Struckhoff the following lap. Dolan worked his way through the field and



This year's race season at the Norton Elmwood Park Speedway is well underway. The sprint cars are seen here warming up on the track at the races that took place on April 13.

- Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

chased down Struckhoff, but at the checkers, Struckhoff won in a photo finish. Watts finished third, followed by Clough and Herrick.

The stock car feature finished under caution. Eric Kinderknecht led the field to the halfway mark, then was passed by Logan's McClurg on lap 13. The caution waved on lap 19, setting up a green-white-checkered finish. As the field came to the white flag, Hachmeister and Brendon Eilts made contact on the front straightaway, sending Eilts hard into the inside guard-

rail. Track officials called the race to make repairs and went back to the last completed lap for the finish. McClurg got the win, followed by Kinderknecht and Dancer. Officials also deemed Hachmeister the cause for the caution, so Eilts was given his spot back and finished fourth, with John Annon rounding out the top five.

In the sprint car feature, the 'Hill City Hotshoe' Jeff Radcliffe led all 20 caution free laps to make his way to the winner's circle. Toby Walters was second, followed by Bubak, Blurton and

Cranston.

Racing action returns to the half-mile oval on Saturday, May 11, with a 7:00 p.m. start time.

## RESULTS

Make-up Features 3-30

IMCA Hobby Stocks: 1. Cody Graham, 2. Garrett Hager, 3. Dillon Thompson, 4. Mike Giesenhagen, 5. Theron Martin, 6. Jason McIntyre, 7. Travis Coop, 8. Colton Pfeifer, 9. Russ Specht (DNF), 10. Jeromy Wagner (DNS), 11. Brian Stich (DNS), 12. Marshall Carson (DNS), 13. Ray Caldwell (DNS).

IMCA Northern Sport Mods: 1. Chad Dolan, 2. Cory Struckhoff, 3. Bryan Herrick, 4. Tyler Watts, 5. Brandon Clough, 6. Paul Donavan, 7. Kaid Calhoun, 8. Henry Henderson, 9. Brian Williams, 10. James Stewart, 11. J.R. Ewing, 12. Ben Hobbs (DNF), 13. Dan Lauer (DNF), 14. Tyler Frye (DNS), 15. Kurtis Pihl (DNS), 16. Anthony Martin (DNS).

IMCA Stock Cars: 1. Jay Hachmeister, 2. Dustin McClurg, 3. Casey Werkmeister, 4. Jason Davis, 5. Michael Dancer, 6. John Annon, 7. Eric Kinderknecht, 8. Bob Rutherford, 9. Brendon Eilts, 10. Daren Racek, 11. Curt Trusty, 12. Dana Morgan (DNF), 13. Jason McCartney (DNF), 14. Cole Miller (DNS).

IMCA Modifieds: 1. Tim Watts, 2. Randy Wilson, 3. Brian Calhoun, 4. Dave Pederson, 5. Scott Eaton.

Heartland Sprint Series: 1.

Luke Cranston, 2. Ty Williams, 3. Tommy Williams, 4. Jake Bubak, 5. Zach Blurton, 6. Toby Walters, 7. Darren Berry, 8. Jeff Radcliffe, 9. Tom Belsky, 10. Mike Madden, 11. Greg Reinners, 12. Aaron Ploussard, 13. Tommy Huber, 14. Howard Van Dyke, 15. Zac Taylor (DNF), 16. Ron Hadley (DNS).

Features 4-13  
IMCA Hobby Stocks: 1. Graham, 2. Specht, 3. Hager, 4. Pfeifer, 5. Thompson, 6. Coop, 7. Giesenhagen, 8. McIntyre, 9. Martin.

IMCA Northern Sport Mods: 1. Struckhoff, 2. Dolan, 3. Watts, 4. Clough, 5. Herrick, 6. Henderson, 7. Calhoun, 8. Donavan, 9. Ewing, 10. Martin (DNF), 11. Williams (DNF), 12. Stewart (DNS), 13. Hobbs (DNS), 14. Lauer (DNS).

IMCA Stock Cars: 1. McClurg, 2. Kinderknecht, 3. Dancer, 4. Eilts, 5. Annon, 6. Rutherford, 7. Hachmeister, 8. Morgan, 9. McCartney (DNF), 10. Davis (DNF), 11. Racek (DNF), 12. Werkmeister (DNF), 13. Trusty (DNS).

IMCA Modifieds: 1. Watts, 2. Calhoun, 3. Wilson, 4. Pederson, 5. Eaton.

Heartland Sprint Series: 1. Radcliffe, 2. Walters, 3. Bubak, 4. Blurton, 5. Cranston, 6. Ty Williams, 7. Berry, 8. Tommy Williams, 9. Belsky, 10. Reinners, 11. Madden, 12. Ploussard, 13. Huber.

# Norton's Engel signs letter of intent to play football at Garden City Community College

By DICK BOYD

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Lucas Engel, outstanding 6'200 pound senior lineman for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football at Garden City Community College.

A three-year football letterman, Lucas was an offensive and defensive tackle.

He was a first team All-Mid-Continent League selection on both offense and defense.

Lucas was also chosen to the Kansas Football Coaches Association Class 3A Defensive Team. He was also selected to the first team by the Hays Daily News, received honorable mention in Class 3A on offense and defense from the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and honorable mention in Class 3A statewide from the Topeka Capital-Journal.

An all-around athlete, Lucas is a 220 pound state wrestling medalist and three-year letterman.

He is also a member of the Norton track and field team.

Lucas was recruited to play defensive end and linebacker for the Broncbusters.

"Lucas has a great motor; he goes hard all the time," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"He is a tough young man with a great attitude.

"We will miss him from our football team and I wish the best for him."

Lucas is the son of Cally and Chad Engel.

Norton senior Lane Bigge will also join the Garden City Community College football team this fall. His letter of intent announcement was in the April 12 Norton Telegram.

"We are very excited to be able to recruit Lucas Engel and Lane Bigge for our football team," said Garden City head football coach Matt Miller. "First of all, they are tremendous young men and they are tremendous talents. Both can develop to play in the junior college level and beyond.

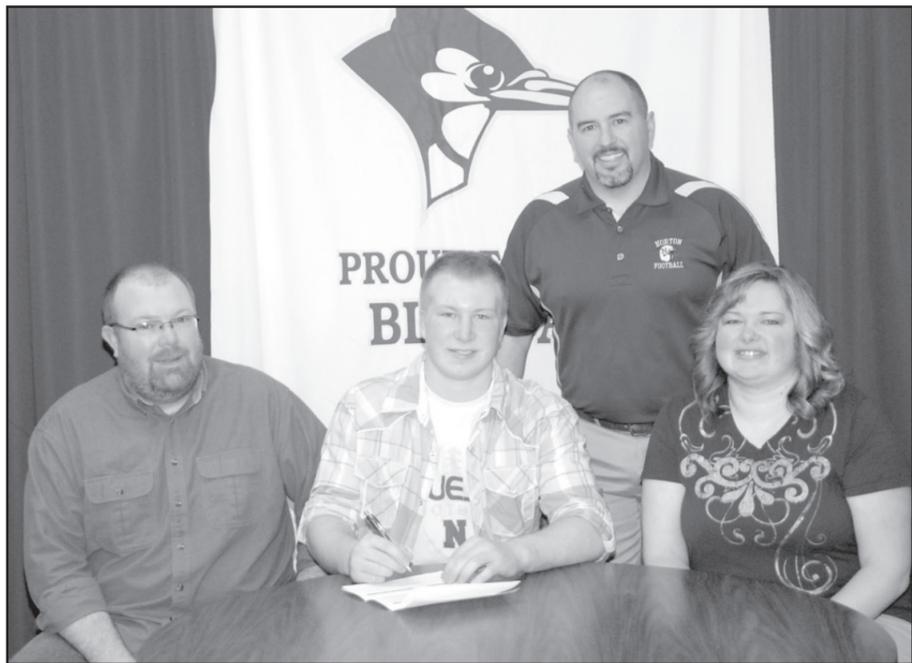
"Both Lucas and Lane are competitors and can give us immediate help.

"We know the evaluation process for possible players and, when they committed, it was a great day for Garden City football.

"We're excited about our recruiting class. Combined with our returners, we have an opportunity to have a formidable team this fall."

Coach Miller was the offensive coordinator last season when Garden City won the Mississippi Bowl in Biloxi, Miss. on Dec. 2 and compiled a 7-4 overall record. He replaced head coach Jeff Tatum, who accepted another head coaching position. Tatum was named the Kansas Jayhawk Community College "Coach of the Year".

Coach Miller is a former Kansas State University football and baseball player. He was also an assistant football coach under K-State's Bill Snyder. In his first year as the Broncbuster offensive coordinator, Garden City ranked No.3 in the nation in total offense and averaged nearly 50 points per game.



Outstanding Norton senior lineman Lucas Engel is shown signing a letter of intent to play football for Garden City Community College. Pictured with him are his father Chad and mother Cally. Standing is Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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