

2020 Junior Year In Review

The 2020 horseshoe season was a challenge all the way around, with most Juniors pitching sparingly at best, which brought us a different dynamic with which we had not seen before. We found a way to carry on and move forward!

Sarah Neagle Will Say Farewell to the Junior Division After 2020.



2011- Practicing at the State... sidelines with plastic shoes.



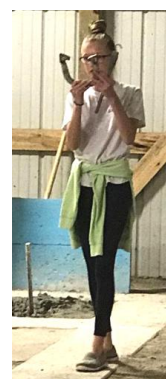
2014- Junior Cadet State Champion.



2015- Junior Girl's State Champion.



2016- Junior State Runner-Up.



2017- Junior State Runner-Up.



2018- Jr. Girl's State Champ & 5th in the World.



2019- Junior State Runner-Up.



2020- Jr. Girl's State Champion.

At the end of the year, Sarah Neagle will move forward into the Women's Division with any further horseshoe pitching activity. Let's take this opportunity to take a look back on Sarah's Junior years! Sarah didn't start pitching KHPA sanctioned shoes until the Chalybeate league of 2014. Early on in her pitching Sarah struggled with being able to muster the strength to get the shoes to the pit, most noticeably during the transition from Cadet to the Girl's Division. Even with this struggle, Sarah still managed to capture the Cadet title and the Girl's title during her first year in both Divisions. Sarah has always been a consistent competitor with a lot of potential. She has always pitched a single flip, using the Snyder horseshoe like her Dad, John, and I have never seen her have an issue with the ability to pitch an open shoe. Sarah has been a steady player, not one to put in a lot of time on the practice court but did regularly compete in the ECHPA Chalybeate League, winning two league titles based on consistency/improvement of average in 2019 & 20. Sarah worked her way up in percentage through the

20s and 30s and just this year pushed up into the low 40% range. During her Junior run, Sarah has accomplished a Kentucky Junior Cadet Championship, three Kentucky Junior Girl's State Championships and placed 5th in the World Horseshoe Championship in 2018, as well as consistently being ranked in the top ten World Girl's rankings for the last several seasons. If she continues down a horseshoe path, Sarah would be positioned to give the State's top Women a run for the money in the 2021 State Women's Championship, something that has only been accomplished three times for a Kentucky Junior Girl to advance and capture the Women's title. Go after it Sarah!

A Tale Of 3 Junior Boys...Seth.



A different year for Seth and a different year for us all. Seth has a horseshoe passion that still burns bright but 2020 had to be a letdown with no World Tourney to attack, to prepare for, to look forward to. For a high caliber pitcher like Seth, it just takes the wind out of your sails but to his credit, he doesn't seem to let it deter his level of pitching. He stays right with it.

Seth competed in 5 "mail-in" tournaments in 2020 and 2 Kentucky "Backyard" events, then finished out the season with a 2020 Junior Boy's State Championship and a 2020 State Doubles Championship! Not bad huh? Seth is currently the #1 ranked Junior Boy in the World in the NHPA Rankings at 88.49%. Seth will have his own challenges in the future to remain connected to horseshoes with his career goals that lie ahead. He will have another year in the Junior ranks but his driving passion for the game will carry him through!

A Tale Of 3 Junior Boys...Jarrett.

Jarrett's horseshoe years have carried him through from a bare bones no knowledge rookie pitcher to the 2019 Junior Boy's State Champion. Jarrett was B Boy's Champion in 2016 & 17 and was Also the runner-up to a very tough Seth O'Nan in 2017 & 18. Jarrett was the underdog again in 2019 but I think what will go down in Kentucky history as one of the Greatest Junior battles to achieve the goal of Kentucky Boy's A Champion, Jarrett did it in 2019! 2020 came and it was pretty well known that



Jarrett's star had burned so bright that he seemed to have just burned it all out the previous season. Jarrett's desire to pitch just hasn't been there. He did compete in the final regular season event in Somerset where he averaged a respectable 45.6%, not having pitched a shoe throughout the year. It is sad to say but it looks like Jarrett may be leaving the shoe scene. Jarrett has one more year of Junior eligibility if he desires to pitch but you have to have that desire. Jarrett, if you have pitched your last we all wish you well as you move on but just remember, you will always have a lot of good friends here in horseshoes and I think that is what makes this sport rise above. The friendship and comraderie are tops in horseshoes! I can still recall the day you were presented with your first trophy! "Stay Gold!"



A Tale Of 3 Junior Boys...Dylan.



Get ready, Dylan is coming. I can see it in his eyes, in his form and in his approach to the game. Dylan has the horseshoe fever and will quickly be moving up the horseshoe radar. A cousin and protégé of Tyler Howard, Dylan is learning and soaking up the knowledge from Tyler's horseshoe well and engaging in regular practice and pitching through the Horseshoe Pitchers' Club channel of formats. Tyler & Dylan worked at it all season, a season which saw Dylan make a big jump from two low 20% tournaments in 2020 to 48.3% in the Summer Hill Doubles. Dylan averaged 50.5% in the State Singles and 51.4% in the State Doubles. Wintertime might be the only thing that can slow him down! If Dylan maintains his horseshoe fever, the sky is the limit! He is already up to #14 in the World Rankings and he is just getting the fires burning. Look out horseshoe world in 2021!

Ky. Boys, Levi Johnson & James Webb

Levi got his start in shoe pitching this year with a start in the Eugene Brown Open and a trip up to the Greenville Ohio "Ringer Classic". Levi is just learning the ropes and trying to master the open Shoe. Levi upped his level of play to his highest to date effort at 7.1% in the State tourney to capture the Boy's Class C State Title. Levi is also competing in the HPC online tournaments. Levi, you just need to get out and work it out with some solo practice sessions as you find the time. You can be as good as you want, depending on the time you put into it.



James Webb pitched in four events in 2020, finding some new found interest in the game. James worked on his 1 ¼ turn for a while and saw some improvement but just has trouble with commitment to the art of consistent practice! James, the casual player.

Rose Colored Horseshoes, Toss Quietly in 2020.

Abby & Kacey Rose have been sticking tight in Richmond/Waco for the 2020 horseshoe season. Both girls have pitched three events this year. Abby pitched two Backyard tourneys and the Summer Hill Doubles and Kacey pitched in three Backyards. Abby's high percentage was 40.4% and Kacey's was 11.5%. It is tough to get your game going well, pitching on a light schedule. We have missed the regular nature of our all out Kentucky tournaments this year. Hoping everything can go total normal next season. Hang in there and keep pitching girls! We miss your tournament presence!

Addy Ashton, Our Cadet Star, Shining Bright!



Addison is a shy little horseshoe star on the rise! It is all in the family with Addison, this 3rd generation pitcher has had the horseshoe bug passed down from Jim & Jacqueline Gleissner to Mom Ashley and now she carries it on with fun and youthful energy! Addison has pitched in six tournaments in 2020 making percentage improvements in the last three. The highlight of 2020 for Addison was winning the Cadet State title and carrying home a trophy that was just about as tall as she is! Addison pitched her best percentage in the State Doubles at 5.62% and it will be interesting to see how much she will improve as we get into 2021. Keep pitching Addison and you might want to find you some room for more trophies next year!

...And The Rest!

Kentucky had three other Juniors on the 2020 roster, not to leave anyone out. Weston Ryan pitched in two Backyard Challenge tournaments in 2020. The Russell Springs Club member has recently entered the job market which held him out of the 2020 State. I think Weston's horseshoe days may be behind him. Good luck Weston on your future life endeavors!

Hanna Neagle competed in the 2020 State Tourney and did pretty darn well considering she rarely picks up the shoes, being another one of our "casual" less competitive players. Hanna averaged 14% in the State Runner-up finish.

C. J. Yantis, our final mention, pitched in one Backyard event this year. C.J. has always been Bill Garrett's shoe traveling buddy and Bill's health has been in decline. Sadly, we probably have seen the last of C. J. in horseshoes.