

Howard Rings Up A Sixth Men's State Title!

As has been the setup for last four Men's Championships, Tyler Howard & Ben Webb have been the two players that stand out above the field and as per these last years, it is expected to come down to the final game between these two standout players. This year held true to form with Tyler Howard winning his first six contests, with no opponent reaching 10 points against him. The highest game Tyler saw in those first six was a 55.5% game tossed by Randy Hankins. Ben Webb also easily won his first six matches, although three opponents did score more than 10, with the highest only being 14. The highest game Webb came up against was 50%, also tossed by Hankins. Randy also had a good solid tournament this year, winning his first four games before Running into Howard & Webb. Each of Randy's games were solidly in the 50's except for one "off game" against Omer Howard at 42.8%. Hankins still managed to pull out the win, 40-30. Omer Howard & Eugene Brown were the two "move-ups" from Saturday's action. Brown had to pull out after three games with an ailing back. The all-important final showdown between Howard & Webb was perhaps a little more



undetermined this year as Ben Webb had gained a couple of victories over Howard during the regular season, although Howard still led the series between the two. Both Howard & Webb ranked in the top 10 in the World, and both had high finishes at this year's World Tournament. The final game would get kicked off with a strong opening volley by Howard with 8 ringers in a row and an early 9-0 lead. Webb would settle in and battle back with 10 ringers in a row of his own. At the shoe counts of 26-36, Howard had an uncharacteristic letdown of 5 ringers in 12 shoes, and Webb went 10 for 12, scoring 16 points during this stretch. Webb had taken over the momentum at this point in the game and had seized the lead at 25-19. Up through the 50-shoe mark, the battle was nip and tuck as Tyler regained the lead 32-29. Ben tossed a double and scored three points. He followed up the next pitch by escaping with a two-dead one, regaining the advantage with the score showing 33-32. With first pitch, Webb would miss both shoes and Howard would punish the error with a six-pack, 38-33. Howard did leave room for Webb to stay in the game with a return single ringer, but Webb

could not find the answer, giving Howard another point. Tyler again followed with only a single ringer. Webb capped the ringer but missed his second shoe, giving Howard the final point, he needed to claim victory 40-33. This was Tyler's sixth Men's title overall and fifth consecutive. This marks 35 straight wins in consecutive years, and Howard has 42 wins total without a defeat in the Men's Division. Bobby Robinson was 4th, defeating his remaining competitors, with losses only to the top 3. Robinson remained consistent, with a high game of 59.5% and a low game of 41.1%.



Finish Order	W	L	R	S	R%
1. Tyler Howard	7	0	210	274	76.64
2. Ben Webb	6	1	179	260	68.85
3. Randy Hankins	5	2	181	338	53.55
3. Bobby Robinson	4	3	152	318	47.80
5. John Neagle	2	5	144	328	43.90
6. Robert Taylor	2	5	130	304	42.76
7. Omer Howard	2	5	123	258	32.95
8. Eugene Brown	0	7	20	86	23.26

An Amazing Comeback Helps Meredith Attain Victory!

The Women's Division continues to be very competitive. Laurie & Karen have been on top for several years now, but the emergence of Sarah Neagle has generated a third threat for the title. The setup for the class was Karen as the #1 seed, Laurie #2 and Sarah was seeded #3. Angela Martin, Ashley Carter, and Jackie Gleissner were all invited to move up from the B Division. Laurie was the defending champion and was expected to contend strong for the title. Karen had a strong start to the year but had to lay out for a few weeks in mid-season, due to a hiking fall. Sarah is a pitcher that plays a light schedule through the year but seems to have a knack for tapping inner resilience when needed for tough games. The top three seeds all started the round robin with two wins, with Meredith posting her highest game ever of 23 ringers in 30 shoes at 76.7%, against Gleissner. Laurie also had a nice game 2, with a 56.6% game against Carter. Neagle had two very low opening games but was able to post the wins. In round three, Laurie took a 40-22 win over Martin but dropped in percentage, to 39.4%. Round three pitted Karen against Sarah, this turned out to be THE game. Neagle jumped out with a very hot start, opening with 18 ringers in 24 shoes. Sarah had what one would have thought to have been an insurmountable lead at 31-4. Karen would come alive and chip away at Sarah's lead. Through 50 shoes, Karen brought the score to 32-36 but Neagle was getting dangerously close to going out. Through 54 shoes, Karen had five straight scoring innings, and the score was now 36-36. Sarah would get the next score at the call of "two-dead one", 37-36. Sarah followed with a solid stacked double. Karen's first pitch landed square on top and squirted one of Neagle's ringers back. Karen's second pitch, also a ringer, took Neagle's shoe back further and off, giving Karen a "three ringers three", 39-37, Meredith. Karen followed with another double and Neagle could only cap one, giving Meredith the win 42-37! 56.6% for Meredith and 53.3% for Neagle in the game. In Round #4, Neagle would get off to another hot start in a key game against Laurie, by hitting 11 for 14. Laurie struggled and the Neagle lead was 28-0. Laurie would battle back but a few open pits would be costly. The final game score was 40-20. Meredith cruised against Carter, winning 41-7. In the fifth and final round, Neagle and Lampkin's hopes would rest on Laurie being able to defeat Meredith to force a three-way playoff, as Neagle closed out Gleissner in her final game 42-13. This time it was Meredith that got the hot start, beginning with 12 out of 16 and a 25-0 lead. Karen never looked back, taking the win and Championship with a 42-10 game. Karen averaged 68.7% in this final game. This was Karen's second Championship overall and her first since 2019. Well-pitched Karen! Sarah Neagle picked up the second, runner-up finish. Laurie fell to third and was just a few steps off from her previous level.



Perhaps the heat may have played a role. It was a pretty hot September day. Martin pitched above her average in both days of pitching and gave a good account. Martin is coming up!

Finish Order	W	L	R	S	R%
1. Karen Meredith	5	0	110	194	56.70
2. Sarah Neagle	4	1	98	230	42.61
3. Laurie Lampkin	3	2	77	180	42.78
3. Angela Martin	2	3	49	218	22.48
5. Jackie Gleissner	1	4	46	200	23.00
6. Ashley Carter	0	5	34	214	15.89

Truesdell Triumphs With Ease, Recording 3rd Title!



The Elder's Division has gone down quite a bit from previous years. Tommy has maintained his level of pitching and continues to lead the division. Jim Luthy decided not to enter the event and Dale Snellen had some health issues that kept him out of competition. We had five combatants this year, with Truesdell at the top and Garry Jackson posting a solid yearly percentage. Tommy was able to roll through the field without any serious challenges for the title. Jim Culver did pitch well, up from his previous 2023 tourneys, to claim the second spot. Tommy's overall average was 65.06% and Jim's overall was 56.32%. Jim was 3-1. Jackson, 2-2, Jones, 1-3 and Browning, 0-4, all pitched 10% or greater under their entry averages.

The heat also wore These guys down some, as Jones had to forfeit His final game to Culver.

TOMMY TRUESDELL'S GAME BY GAME

1. Tommy Truesdell 4-0

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. Jim Culver	41/9	37	50	74.0
2. Johnnie Jones	40/22	28	48	58.3
3. Charles Browning	41/6	15	24	62.5
4. Garry Jackson	45/18	28	44	63.6
	167	108	166	65.06

J.J. Johnson, 2023 Boy's Champion!



J.J. Johnson was the lone contender in the Boy's Division for 2023. We had one no show and one health related drop out, Andrew Ashton, who would have loved to compete more than anything but was unable to go. J.J. posted his average

against the other Juniors. J.J. tossed 8 ringers in 120 shoes for an average 06.7%. Congrats J.J.! J.J. has been a first-year pitcher in 2023.

Kacey Rose, Repeat's As Girl's Champion!



Kacey, was once again our lone Junior Girl's competitor. Kacey paced for a record of 9 ringers in 100 shoes, an average posted of 09.0% This was an improvement from last year! Keep pitching Kacey! You should have some competition next

year but you may need to put in some practice time!

Addison Ashton Remains Too Good, Topping Cadets!



Addison Ashton is just further ahead in skill from the other two competing cadets. Addison played both, Madalynn Johnson, and Easton Watts twice. Ashton defeated Johnson 20-0 and 21-12. Addison won the first game against Easton, 20-6. In the second game Easton

defeated Addison 22-14. Easton pitched better as the tournament progressed. Addison finished at 5-1, 14.7%. Easton was 4-2, 04.9% and Madalynn was 3-3, 02.7%. J.J. Johnson was pacing the Cadets for his Junior Boy's average.

2023 Class Battles!

CLASS B MEN- Talk about an even battle! A 5-man round robin with 4 games and when the clay dust settled, everyone was all knotted up at 2-2! A ladder playoff ensued, with Omer Howard on the bottom. Omer made it through the other 3 men to get to the high percentage man, Harold Copher, and ran out of gas in the final, 25-43. Harold wins and averages 39.6% overall! **CLASS C MEN-** Class C was an all-Somerset fight on Sunday morning. It would come down to a playoff between Kevin Stevens & James Kirby after the most feared opponent, Larry "Sharky" Warren, had been

dispatched. Stevens defeated Kirby 43-38. Warren had the highest average in the class at 34.4%. **CLASS D MEN-** Buddy Lampkin would win this group with steady pitching. Buddy lost one game, to Alton Stone, 28-35. Buddy's average was 28.0%. Andy Hegener, 3-2, 25.2%, took 2nd place and Stone, 3-2, 23.2%, claimed 3rd. **CLASS E MEN-** Brian Sims handles himself well with his close competitors. Brian captured his 2nd State Class win in back-to-back years. Brian had to hold on in two close games, 28-27 over Randy Johnson and 27-26 over Terry Mullins to get it done. Michael Watts had the class high average at 22.1%, finishing in 2nd. Randy Johnson took 3rd. **CLASS F MEN-** Chalybeate Club players took a -1-2-3 finish in this group, with the veteran player, Joie Meredith, getting the victory at 4-0, 15.5%. Joie had to hold off a tough game against Eugene Broyles, 26-24. Don Seckel and Johnny Williams were 2nd, and 3rd, both first year players. **CLASS B ELDERS** – Gatling Gun Phelps won out in this Division. This was a total rematch from last year. The interesting thing about this group is that the lowest average won and the highest average finished 3rd! Close games were the difference, as Phelps held off Niceley 31-28 and Duncan 36-35. **CLASS C ELDERS** – Jerry Morris routed the C group, going 4-0 and averaging 43%! This was almost 10% above the 2nd place finisher, Allen McDonald. Larry Davis got close to getting Morris, coming up just short, 32-35. Phil Douglas finished 3rd, 2-2, 27.9%. **CLASS D ELDERS-** Richmond veteran, Frank Chaney was a winner here at 5-1, 20%. Paul Lancaster was 2nd, 4-2, also averaging 20%. Paul was the only player to take a win against Chaney, 19-12. Jim Pauley was third. **CLASS B WOMEN-** Pitch well and over your average and good things will happen. Angela Martin was the bottom seed but came out on top! She was 4-0 for 25.5%! Ashley Carter was 2nd, 2-2 for 25%. Jackie Gleissner finished strong with 2 wins to take 3rd, averaging 24.5%. **CLASS C WOMEN-** Linda Scott was our Class C Champ, averaging 09.5%. Linda has been making some improvement with her flip shoe steadily through the season.

State Doubles, Richmond Repeaters!

This was a rematch from last year, with only two teams making the cut for Class A. Unlike the very competitive battle last year, this one was never in doubt.



The team of Johnnie Jones and Tyler Howard defeated the team of Ben Webb & Randy Hankins 40-30, 40-24, 40-9 and 42-13 in the best of seven game series. As a team, Jones & Howard averaged 61.1% to the 50.0% average posted by Webb & Hankins.

Class B Doubles



The Louisville team of "John Deere" Gibson & Kenny Parrish held off Karen Meredith & Ashley Carter in a playoff, 41-30. The Somerset team of Eugene Brown & Jesse Gentry had been the only team to take a game from Gibson & Parrish in round robin play.

Class C Doubles



Last year's "D" Champs, moved up a class this year, pitched even better, and won again! Larry Davis & Dow Buford went 4-0 with wins over 2nd place team, Omer Howard & Frank Chaney 43-21, McDonald & Lancaster 42-24, Kirby & Warren 35-25, and Denney & Jones 32-26. Dow and Larry averaged 36.5% as a team.

Class D Doubles



The Somerset team of Jerry Naylor & Terry Mullins took home the trophies in D this year. They hung on through some tight games with only one defeat. Naylor & Mullins averaged 13.8% as a team. Alton Stone & Linda Scott, 2nd place finishers, was the only team to defeat them 21-18. Stone & Scott averaged 13.1%. Eugene Broyles and Jim Long posted the best average in the class at 17.7%.

2023 AWARDS!

HALL OF FAME



EUGENE BROWN

H.P. OF THE YEAR



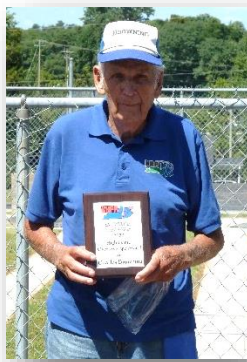
ANGELA MARTIN

GOLDEN HORSESHOE



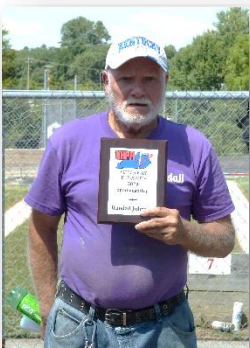
BEN WEBB

HIGH HAME O.AVG.



CHARLES BROWNING

SPORTSMANSHIP



RANDALL JOHNSON



JOHNNIE JONES

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



JIM PAULEY

MOST IMPROVED



JIM LUTHY

(Jim Luthy was not present at the state tournament.)

Legend Hall Of Fame Inductee

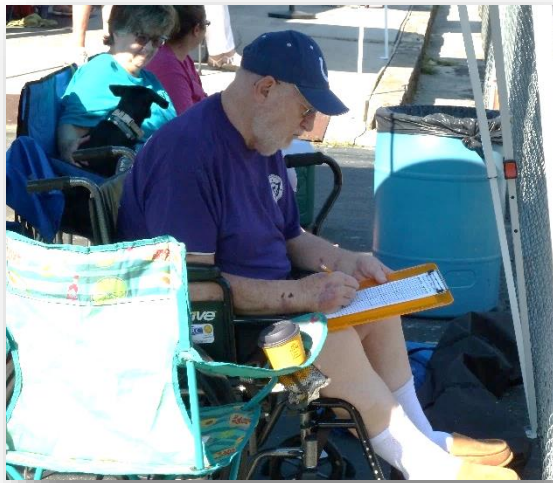
Lee Akers was a small-town man. He was a farmer from the small town of Nolin, which is a few miles south of Elizabethtown, Ky. Lee would emerge as the top player from the Nolin Club and become one of the top and dominant players in the state from 1928-1934. During those seven years, Lee was State Champion 4 times: 1929, 1931, 1933 & 1934. Lee was the Runner-up the other 3 years: 1928, 1930 & 1932. For those seven years, Lee the small-town farmer, took it to the big city boys of Louisville and showed them how it was done!! Inducting Lee Akers into the Hall Of Fame was long overdue!



I review the old legends about every 5 years. Honoring and remembering those that came before and laid the groundwork during the early years of Ky. horseshoes.



It was good to see Andrew Ashton at the State Tourney!



Jim Gleissner keeps score!



Maddie & Addie were reading the sign, until I pulled out the camera, and Addie took off!!

WHAT?? HORSESHOE PITS AT ALCATRAZ??



Yep, that is right!! While taking a guided tour on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay, Alex Hankins found out that the inmates at Alcatraz had access to two sets of horseshoe pitching pits in the recreation yard! Alex sent us two pictures! This is very interesting!! Alcatraz served as a federal prison from 1934-1963. Great find Alex!



THE KENTUCKY PIT INDEX

On The KHPA website, I have started adding court histories of many of our horseshoe sites across Kentucky. Many are current and still exist while many others are all gone now. Some are just existing sites that may only have slight connections to the Association. It can be located at the bottom of the "Pitcher's Archive" page. Tyler Howard has

also issued a challenge. If you know where there are horseshoe pits located, take your phone and film a "down and back" on those courts!



Post the video on Facebook! If you can't do video, take a picture, and send it to me, Robert Taylor. Tyler kicked off the challenge by pitching on sand courts at Eubank, Ky. in Pulaski County.

GEORGE ROGERS PARK SITE IN 2023

Below is a pic taken by Randy Hankins of the former court site location at George Rogers Clark Park in Louisville. This court history can be found in "The Pit Index."



TOLL OF TIME

This summer, between newsletters, the KHPA has lost some of our longest-term members or associates. It was very sad to see them leave us. Great people.

SUE KEMPER – JULY 29th, BOBBYE SHARP – SEPT. 11th.



The Kemper & Sharp families lost Sue Kemper and Bobbye Sharp recently. Both were very close and treasured members of their close-knit family. Sue was the wife of Stan Kemper, mother of Angela, Becky & Wesley, Grandmother to Seth O'Nan and 12 more grandchildren. Bobbye was the wife of late horseshoe pitcher, Ralph Sharp, and mother of Gwen Sharp, who survives. Sue & Bobby were special cousins.

FRED NALLEY AUGUST 11th



In August we lost Fred Nalley in a terrible car accident near his home. Fred was the last Nalley standing in the KHPA. He never quit. He kept on tossing. Fred achieved many things in horseshoes, a true contributor. He was a Bardstown staple and a good friend to all. We will miss seeing him on the courts.