

## Tyler Howard Wins 5th Straight Title!

Tyler Howard joined the ranks of Ricky Bell and Wesley Kemper in capturing five consecutive Kentucky State Junior Boy's Championships. Kentucky boasts one of



the toughest Jr. Boy's State Championship classes of any charter, with five boys in the World top 40. Tough it would prove to be! Spectators and parents would clap with excitement or groan with despair on every key ringer or costly miss. Round one of play pitted the defending champion against up and comer, Mike Clark. Howard would handily

defeat Clark 42-9 with 25 ringers out of 38 shoes. Number 2 seed, Alex Humes would face off against Ben Webb and win that nail-biter 45-35. Round two would begin to tighten up the contest as Ben Webb would rally from behind at 1-14, pitching 21 ringers out of his next 24 shoes and a 70.4% game to defeat Howard 40-25. Alex Humes would put himself in good position defeating Mike Clark 40-32, taking a brief lead in the title chase. Humes would go down at the hands of Tyler Howard in round three, 13-40 and Ben Webb would defeat Mike Clark 42-34 to knot the top three boys up at 2 wins and 1 loss. In round four Ben Webb defeated Alex Humes 40-23 in a game in which both boys pitched well below their averages. Tyler would hold form as he defeated Clark 44-28, but the defending champ was still not pitching his best horseshoes. The key game of the tournament came in round 5 which saw a rematch of Tyler Howard and Ben Webb, both boys showing 3 wins and 1 loss. Tyler opening with a six pack and Ben would fight back gaining the edge 9-7 at the ten shoe mark. Webb would hold a slight lead all the way up to the 48

shoe mark, when Tyler ties up the contest at 32-32. Ben scored a ringer three in the next inning to make it 35-32 but left a costly open pit, with which Tyler made him pay with six to grab the lead back 38-35. Tyler threw one on with first pitch but Webb would respond with a double and knot it back up at 38-38. Tyler scored a two dead one in the next inning to make it 39-38 Howard. With Howard up to pitch he would leave a potentially game and title winning pit open with only two points showing. Webb is up and misses his first shoe. Webb would back off, regroup and line up for the important second chance toss. The shoe is released and in the air, on its way to the target but clangs off the top of the stake and into the backboard, all but sealing the title for Tyler Howard. It was exciting!! Tyler would go on to victory winning his final match against Alex Humes 41-27 and taking his 5<sup>th</sup> Junior Boy's Kentucky State Championship! Congrats Tyler Howard! The high game of the Junior Boy's State was turned in by Mike Clark at 77.3%.



## 5 For Courtney!

Courtney Lampkin is a 5-time Junior Girl's Kentucky State Champion after completing a set number of games



and establish a ringer percentage of 42.3%, her highest State percentage to date. The 2012 State had two Jr. Girl's participants. Courtney Class A State Champ and Mackenzie Ferguson was Class B Champ with 4.38%.

## Alex Hankins Wins Boy's Class B Title!



Alex Hankins won his first Junior State Class Saturday afternoon, taking the Junior State Class B Boys Title, with 7 wins and 1 loss for an overall average of 21.9%. Alex's closest competitor was his brother Zach who finished in second place. The Hankins brothers pitched two tight games in the tournament. Alex would come from behind late

to defeat Zach 23-21 in their first meeting. Alex had 9 ringers to Zach's 7 but Zach kept it close by throwing more single points. Zach would return the favor though in their second meeting, giving Alex his only loss at 15-31. Zach would hold on to second place, edging Andrew Anness on percentage.

Zach lost two other games to Ethan Ferguson 7-16 and to Andrew Anness 22-29. Zach finished with an average of 17.5%.

Alex Hankins would also throw the high game of the tournament, with his 1 3/4



turn working well; Alex pitched a 35% game, with a nice seven ringer out of ten shoe stretch against Andrew Anness. Andrew had three losses as well, losing twice to Alex and once to Zach 12-18 and finished with a 10.0% average. Brother and sister, Ethan and MacKenzie Ferguson competed in the very first Kentucky State Tournament! Ethan won two games and averaged 3.1%.

## Seth O'Nan Wins Junior Cadets!

In only his second tournament, Seth O'Nan is the victor of the Junior Cadet Division! This is the first year in Kentucky State Tournament history that the Cadet Division has had a competitive class. The Cadet Division began in 2004 here in Kentucky and up until now has only seen one competitor each year. It is nice to see the competition for the title and to see the young junior's excitement in competing. Seth qualified for the



State by competing in the season ending Bryan Winkler Memorial in Richmond. Seth was 3-0 with an average of 15.1%. Seth games were 26-0 over James Webb and 25-20 and 29-14 over Nicolas Mullins. Seth's high game was 16.0% against Mullins in the final game. Seth is the nephew of Becky Kemper. Nic Mullins took second place with an average of 7.3%. Nic is the grandson of Walter and Sally Mullins. Little James Webb, dropped out after one round of play in the double round robin. I think James will be better prepared next year to make a serious run at the title now that he has a year of experience under his belt. All in all, it was a very successful year in the Junior Division. This is the final Junior Ringer for the year. Keep pitching Juniors!!!!