

## Meredith Domination Nets 9th Men's State Title!



As the 2014 KHPA regular season wound down, it appeared that Charlie Meredith's two year title reign might come to an end or be seriously challenged this season. In last year's "epic battle" between two Kentucky horseshoe titans, Tony Hankins had Meredith on the ropes but could not deliver the knockout blow. Tony had stepped up his game over last season and had beaten Charlie twice in the Meredith Open on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Championship was to have been held in Bardstown Sunday but was re-located to the Chalybeate covered courts due to an all day rain event. Charlie would get off to a strong start in the tournament by defeating Bobby Brooks 41-1, tossing a 75.0% game but Game 2 would prove different altogether. Eager to prove himself against the best in the State, Randy Wade was competing in his first Men's Championship and would give Charlie a run for his money. Charlie would open up the game against Wade by hitting 11 out of his first 14 to take a lead of 21-6. Meredith would open the next inning and Wade would boost his confidence with a six pack of his own. Charlie came back with six straight ringers and pushed the lead to 27-12 but would struggle for the next ten shoes, in which Wade would rally to draw within one point at 27-26. Charlie would regain his form by tossing eight straight and run the lead to the teetering point of 39-26. Realizing his pitches would have to be true;

Wade would steady himself and make a valiant effort to stay in the game.

Randy would kill Charlie's 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> straight ringers and would hold Charlie in six more innings on 39 points.

The score was pushed to 39-33

as a look of concern began to show on Meredith's face.

Wade would then score a two-dead one but on first pitch could only manage one ringer by which Charlie was glad to oblige a double and put the game away 42-34. Charlie averaged 70.4% to Wade's 62.9%. Wade also scored the only single points in the game with 4. Charlie would drop the hammer down from this point forward: 41-13 over Culver, 40-0 over Robinson, 44-4 over Taylor, 43-3 over Phelps, 41-3 over Neagle and 41-3 over the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher, Randy Hankins.

Everyone was anticipating the final match and showdown between Charlie and Tony Hankins to settle it but Tony had already lost a close match against Bobby Brooks 36-40, so he would have to defeat Charlie just to force a playoff! Both players would begin the game at a blistering pace which saw Meredith connecting on 28 out of 32 pitches and Tony on 24 out of 32. As the dust settled the score would be seen at 20-6 in Meredith's favor. As the battle raged on, Meredith would continue to hammer away by maintaining his point margin as the score pushed closer to the end number, showing 35-23 at the 60-shoe mark and then three consecutive four deads would be tossed. It looked like Tony was starting to mount a serious stand to hang in the game but he would lose two perfectly thrown ringers in what would prove to be the final six shoes as Meredith sealed it 40-23 to take his 9<sup>th</sup> Men's State and post an overall 76.2% average!



## Thompson Flips The Women's State Title!



The setup for the 2014 Women's State looked promising for Laurie Lampkin to defend her title this year. Becky Holmes would miss her second straight state tournament due to a family emergency and with Becky out, it looked like Lampkin and Thompson would battle it out to lay claim to the Championship. Laurie seemed to have the edge head to head against Julie throughout the 2014 regular season but you could not count Julie out. Julie's pitch is just to smooth to stay idle at the 50% barrier for very long and she picked the 2014 State to take the next step forward...and what a big step it would be!

The tournament was setup to move forward three qualifiers into the Women's Championship but due to Becky's situation, weather and other unforeseen circumstances we ended up with two transfers. Shelia Williams and Karen Meredith were the top two finishers and high percentage Women from the Class B Women, so they would advance to Class A.

Julie Thompson would dust off Shelia Williams in the opening game 42-2 with a strong 60% effort. Julie would then roll on with a win over Karen Meredith 41-12 and a 57.1% game. Laurie also defeated Meredith 44-7 & Williams 43-27. The first showdown of the Women's double round saw Thompson holding nothing back in defeating the defending champion, pitching her

high game of the event at 68.2% for a 45-14 victory. Laurie's game percentage dropped under her previous two efforts with a 43.1% game. Thompson would remain undefeated, winning 42-17 over Williams and 42-21 over Meredith in round 2. Lampkin would likewise take care of business against Meredith & Williams. Laurie would need to win the final match to force a playoff if she were to hang on to the Women's title. Game six of the tournament would prove



to be a good little battle! After 20 shoes, Julie Thompson would have the advantage 12-10, shooting just 50%. Julie would turn up the wick hitting 8 out of her next 10 shoes and Lampkin would attempt to match with 7 of her own as the score read 21-16 Thompson. In the next 10 shoes Lampkin would out match Thompson 7 ringers to 6 to pull the score to only a one point deficit at 23-24. In the following 10 shoes both would achieve 5 ringers but Julie would gain another point advantage to drive the score to 29-27. Thompson would stay strong with back to back calls of three ringers three. Lampkin would answer with seven points of her own as the score reads 35-34 Thompson. With first pitch, Lampkin would open and Thompson would capitalize by throwing a "doub", putting the game and Championship away 41-34! Julie was 6-0 overall with a ringer percentage of 57.72% in winning her first Women's State Championship. Julie joins the class of Trina Wallace, Vicki Belcher & Becky Holmes in being a Kentucky Junior Girl's Champion that went on to eventually capture the Women's crown. The Kentucky Women's Division is looking strong for the future with the surge of Thompson and Lampkin in the last two years, the continued improvement of Karen Meredith and the hopeful return of some of our top players of recent seasons. It should get very interesting down the road!

## Garrett Upsets Hudnall To Win The Elder Men's Title



Perhaps Bill Garrett pulled the biggest upset of the tournament by knocking off the defending two-time Elder Men's Champion, Bob Hudnall on Saturday. Garrett carried a 15% deficit to Bob Hudnall's ringer percentage going into the tournament but being the cagey experienced veteran player that he is, was able to put together four solid games and pull off the upset. Bill had not had a tournament during the regular season better than 60% but averaged 69.7% during his title run! Bill defeated Johnnie Jones in the opening game 45-8 with a 69.4% round. The defending champ was next in his sights. Bill jumped all over Hudnall in the first 24 shoes by hitting on 19 ringers at a 79% pace, while Hudnall was one ringer under 50%. This catapulted Garrett out to a commanding lead at 32-6. Bob would rally back with 14 ringers out of next 16 shoes but Bill would squelch much of that run with 10 straight ringers of his own. The score after 40 shoes was 38-21 in Bill Garrett's favor. Hudnall would hold Garrett on 38 points for the next four innings with 8 more consecutive ringers and draw the score to 33-38 but would leave one ringer on the peg at the 50 shoe mark and that was all the opening Bill would need to close the game up and put it

in his win column 41-33 after doubling up! Bill would have to claw from behind to defeat a consistent pitching Jim Luthy 42-33. Bill averaged 64.2% in this game to Luthy's best of the day at 58.9%. Only Jim Baker stood in Garrett's way to claim the title and shut down any chance of a Hudnall rematch. Baker would make a contest of it early but getting out to an early at 13-9 but Bill would pour on the steam with 16 straight ringers as part of a 25 out of 28 stretch run to end the game 40-16. Bill averaged 73.9% in the Baker victory. This was Bill's first Elder Men's State Championship.

## 2014 Awards!



### Hall Of Fame

**\*\*Vicki Belcher\*\***

Vicki has been one of the KHPA's most loyal supporters for many years and is one of the key figures that makes the Mt. Sterling Club tick. Vicki is a two-time Kentucky Junior Girl's State Champion and has been a solid Women's contender for several years. Vicki is a well deserved elective into the 2014 KHPA Hall Of Fame!



**Golden Horseshoe Award**  
**\*\* Mitch Duncan \*\***



**Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year**  
**\*\*Randy Hankins\*\***

- Sportsmanship-** Wayne Belcher
- Most Improved-** Seth O'Nan
- High Game over Average-** Mike Mitchell
- Rookie Of The Year-** Teresa Spencer

*(The State Report will continue following the Junior Boys' competition this weekend.)*