

Tyler Howard - Junior Boy's World Champion!

The biggest news of the 2015 horseshoe season coming out of Kentucky has been the break-through victory of Richmond's Tyler Howard. The Kentucky junior horseshoe pitchers have been among the World's best in recent years with Tyler Howard and Ben Webb leading the charge. It was no surprise that the battle to see who would take home the big trophy would come down to those two players. Ben Webb would win the prelims with an average of 75.2% and enter the Championship as the #1 seed. Tyler was second in the prelims, averaging 74.5%. Both boys would battle tough in the championship, with Tyler winning his first five games before losing a close one to Brandon Pearl 39-42. Ben won his first six games but lost to Tyler 36-41, after 94 shoes, in the final game of round robin play. At the end of the round robin, Howard, Webb and Pearl would all stand tied at 6-1 setting up a 3-way playoff. Ben, with the higher percentage, attained the bye and Tyler Howard would face-off against Brandon Pearl. Tyler would dispatch Pearl easily 40-3, hitting 25 ringers in 28 shoes pitched. One last match now left to determine the World outcome was left in the hands of our two Kentucky boys, Ben & Tyler. Both boys had fought and worked hard for the title over the past few years and this was their shot. Tyler would get off to a slow start in the title match, down 20-9 and would trail most of the way. Webb would push the advantage to a dangerous point with the game held at 37-22. One more Webb ringer left uncovered by Howard would end the game. Tyler and Ben went toe to toe down the stretch. In that stretch run, Tyler would hit an amazing 25 ringers out of 26 shoes pitched and just refused to let Ben close it out. From



92-102 shoes in the game, Ben & Tyler would pitch six consecutive four deads. After this point, Tyler would toss back to back three ringer three innings to take the come from behind win in the 106 shoe game; jubilation for Tyler and heartbreak for Ben in a game that you wish no one to lose. Tyler would finish championship play with an average of 72.96 and Ben's final average was 74.71. Tyler & Ben should both be proud of their efforts, finishing one two in the World and representing their state



well. This was the first time in the Boy's World Championship that the top two finishers were from the same state and isn't it awesome that they were from Kentucky!

(right) Top 3. Brandon Pearl-NH, Tyler Howard-KY and Ben Webb-KY.



The emergence of Seth O'Nan

At the 2015 World Tournament, Kentucky had another junior batting for a World Title, Pleasureville's Seth O'Nan. Seth has really come into his own this year, progressing up the percentage ladder with a fierce determination to get better and hone his skill. Seth entered four Kentucky tourney's prior to the World and he won all four classes! In the World prelims, Seth would finish 3rd but would post The highest percentage at 64.44%. Seth really gave it his all in the Cadet Championship, but it title run was Undone by some close losses. Seth lost to Ryan Schepers 22-23, Even though he pitched a 70% game. Seth lost to Cale Matlock 22-26 and had a tie with eventual winner Malcolm Clark 23-23. Seth finished with a record of 4.5 and 2.5, posting the highest overall average of 68.60%. Seth finished third in the World! Seth did you great and gave it everything you had! Everyone better keep your eye on Seth in the coming years as he moves on into the Junior Boy's Division. Seth has all the tools, passion for the sport, determination and work ethic to be a serious contender for both World & State Boy's titles in the future!



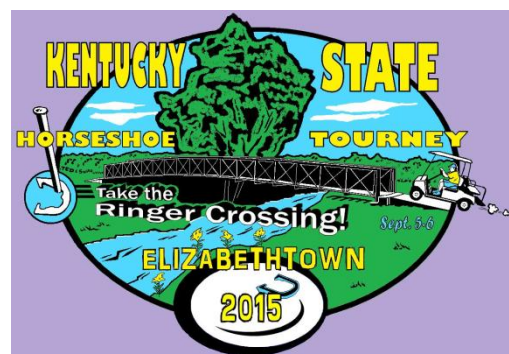
Seth on

ESPN

Sportscenter!



2015 State Logo



For the State Logo/shirts for this year, I decided to focus on the familiar E'town bridge we all have to cross to get to the "ringer" side, so "Take The Ringer Crossing" this year to a fun time at the 2015 State! The shirts will be lavender/orchid in color.

State Lodging

Laurie Lampkin has the following info on this year's "host hotel":

When making your reservation, you must ask for the "**HORSESHOE RATE**" or you will be charged the normal rate.

Quality Inn Suites

2009 North Mulberry Street
Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

PHONE: 270-765-4166



Price: \$69.99 + tax for each room.

Room Types are:

2 Queen Beds or 1 King

This price includes:

Complimentary Hot Breakfast, outdoor pool, Fridge, coffee maker, microwave, Free Internet – Wi-Fi, flat screen TV.

I checked out the rooms and they are very clean and modern.

State Preview-2015

Another horseshoe season is quickly winding down as we head into the most exciting time of year, State tournament time! Once again I will be previewing each Division and the contenders for the titles.

Men's Division

What to say, what to say. The bottom line in the Men's Division this year is that this is Charlie Meredith's show. Charlie has not lost a step this season and if nothing else as of late, Charlie has just gotten better. In the August 8th Charlie Meredith Open, Charlie posted his personal best tournament at 83.7%! When most pitchers of Charlie's age are slowing down, Charlie has not.



Charlie is a player of the highest caliber that you will find and it will be an almost impossible feat for some one to topple this horseshoe giant. With that said, you still have to play it out and long as you are in the game, anything can happen. The Men's Division is down this year though after you get past Charlie, even to say in a transition period as the Division should toughen up in the next two years if Ben Webb & Tyler Howard have continued success in stepping up. Detailing the rest of the field, we have #2 contender Tony Hankins. Tony has been the only other player proven To be able to handle Meredith but it is unclear as of this writing if Tony will be physically able and ready to compete. Tony is still nursing some back issues that sidelined him in the Men's World Championship. If he can make it, you can never count him out. The



Number three contender, John Neagle, could contend if he could get that "eye of the tiger" confidence he had back in 2010 when he was the State Champion. John has had flashes of it this season, posting a 60% tournament in Campbellsville back in May. Step it up John, it is in you to do it! One returning bright spot to the Championship this year Is the play of Glenn Shuck. Glenn has not participated in ten plus years but he has pitched well in his return, hitting his best tourney in the August 15th Russell Springs Open at 56.4%. Other top contenders such as Randy Hankins & Don Phelps are pretty far off their games this year and will really have to pick it up if they want to be serious contenders. Last year's breakout player Randy Wade had a season high tourney of 55.6% in the Jim Noble tourney in June but has had a very inconsistent up and down year. Randy still has the potential but he needs to figure out just what makes his "A" game tick. Bobby Robinson and Robert Taylor should round out the field but need another gear in their game to do any real damage.



Women's Division

The Women's Division may prove to be the most exciting and competitive Division to watch this year. If you want to see some good battles and equally skilled players, grab a seat. Julie Thompson will Be defending her title this year and has made improvements in her game. Julie topped the 60% mark for the first time ever in the Chalybeate Pro Tour event where she average 61.7%.



Julie has had a few hiccups along the way, which can be normal for horseshoes but don't look for Julie to lay down in the State Tournament; she will be ready!

Standing in her path to the title this year could be former champ Becky Holmes.

Becky needs one more event to qualify her way in and everyone knows Becky has the top game level to get it done.



Becky's season high was 71.9% in the R.O. Harris Memorial in May. Becky has to get hungry again find her confidence to take the state out of reach for her competitors. Returning player, Karen Shuck, should give the championship a new look this year as well as being a



real contender for the title. Karen made the Championship Class back in 1995 and averaged 57% and Karen has slowly regained all of that ground back through this year with a season high of 58.4%

back in July at the Omar Blacketer. Karen has been pretty consistent in the 50's of late. Our fourth top contender is the 2013 Champ, Laurie Lampkin. Laurie's high spot this year was a 53.3% tourney back in May at Somerset.

Laurie needs to try and build some Game confidence heading into the State and find that groove. Any Four of these ladies could win it But which one will step up and



take the trophy home? Another possible contender could be Bridget Rose. Bridget has been coming on strong the last few weeks and could find her way into the Championship. Bridget posted a season high 46.3% tourney at Russell Springs. Other possible contenders include Karen Meredith & Shelia Williams who were contenders last season. Both need some serious practice time in the remaining two weeks to do any real damage.

Elder's Division

Without a doubt, Bob Hudnall is the top percentage player in the division by far as Bob has not had a tournament under 70% this year. As last year's state goes to show, if you slip up, you can be beat. Bob's high tourney this year is 78% at



Russell Springs. Bob's two closest contenders are last year's champ Bill Garrett and elder's up and comer, Jim Culver. Bill's highest tourney this year is 70.5% at Elizabethtown, the location of the State. Bill has been around the horseshoe block a long time and will be a tough out. Jim Culver has been solid in his first season at the 30ft. distance. Jim has yet to break the 70% mark but he has pitched solid in the upper 60's and will no doubt play a key role in this year's title outcome. There are some other tough elder pitchers that will be in the mix such as Charles Browning, Jim Baker, Johnnie Jones & Jim Luthy. This should be your 2015 class. I would be very surprised if your winner did not come out of the top 3 but I'll tell you, if Charles Browning gets his determination up, he could play a spoiler. We'll see.



Junior Boy's Division



Does anyone have a coin to flip here? This could definitely be a toss-up. Ben has really been pitching strong in the last two events,

breaking 80% at Russell Springs and has chalked up two wins against Tyler of late but at the State all of this will be water under the bridge and these two titans will square off in a much anticipated re-match of one two in

the World. These two boys are two of the best ever to pitch in the Kentucky Junior Boy's Division. If you are not pitching at the same time at the state when these two go head to head, sit on the sidelines and cheer them on. If you love horseshoes, you need to watch this battle!

Junior Girl's Division

I have no idea what will happen in this division. Kentucky has three Junior Girl's that could compete; Courtney Lampkin (in her final year.), Sarah Neagle & Leslee Washer.



Courtney pitched in the World and averaged 16.9%,



Leslee pitched at Chalybeate and averaged 1% and Sarah Neagle has pitched two events this year and averaged a little over 5%. Hopefully, we'll have a 2015 title holder. I fully

expect this division to ramp up in the next few years as more of the girl cadets graduate up.

Junior Cadet's Division



Kentucky has several cadet players but the skill levels have really been stretched out and established this year. Seth O'Nan has just exploded in progress by hitting tourneys at 68.9% at the Omar

Blacketer and 67.0% at the Chalybeate Pro Tour and he broke 70 this weekend at the Bryan Winkler Memorial with a 72.5% tournament! Seth has a great chance to rewrite the Kentucky record books of the Cadet Division at this year's State Tournament! Abby Rose has also made a lot of progress in the Division this year with a high tournament of 26.4% and falls into place as the #2 cadet.

2015 New Members

I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize our new members for 2015, many of which will be competing in their first State Tournament. Hope you have enjoyed your first season in the KHPA!

- Ethan Perdue
- Dante Bodner
- John Meece
- Pete Rogers
- Terry Spalding
- Jerry Hill
- Larry Warren
- Clinton Denney
- Stanley Roberts
- Jimmy Adwell
- Tony McFarland
- Alan McDonald



2015 Mammoth Cave Pro Tour

On August 8th and 9th, Chalybeate hosted the Horseshoe Pitching Pro Tour for the third Consecutive year. We had 43 total pitchers participating. Alabama's Dan Watson defeated Kentucky's Charlie Meredith to win the 40ft. Class A.



Tennessee's Joan Elmore defeated Sue Snyder of Indiana to take the Class A 30ft. Division. Chalybeate's own Karen Meredith was the winner of the Open Division defeating Tennessee's Ronnie Boyd. Kentucky's Ben Webb won the Junior Division over Seth O'Nan from Kentucky and Denise Daly from Illinois. Kentucky also picked up wins in 30ft. Class C by Julie Thompson, 40ft. Class C by Randy Wade and 40ft. Class D by Randy Hankins.

First Tourney Held At Russell Springs



The first tournament at the new Russell Springs site was held on August 15th and was held to rave reviews with all of the participants. Brad Rexroat, Frank Irvin and the Russell Springs crew had the courts in immaculate condition for the 50 players that participated in the event. I really like the red, white and blue backboards as they give the courts a unique look! A lot of personal high tournaments were thrown on the new courts and the



weather was outstanding. Bob Hudnall won the Class A averaging 78.0%. Jim Baker was the winner in Class B, Karen Shuck took Class C, Stan Roberts was the Class D winner, Bridget Rose took Class E, Clinton Denney, Class F, Pat Mitchell stepped on the gas and won Class G at 32.4% and Pete Rogers won Class H at 17.6%. Everyone clear your schedules to pitch in next year's tournament at Russell Springs!



Update On Henry Bass

We always like to keep up with how our members are getting along and I just wanted to drop an update on Henry Bass. As most of you know, Henry has not been able to pitch horseshoes with us this year due to declining health. I spoke with Mitch Duncan and Mitch said Henry is weak and can't pitch shoes anymore but he is still able to get around and is still trying to play cards for recreation. Henry has moved to the Baptist Village- Munroe House in Erlanger, Ky., a senior living facility. I think it would be nice if some of us members could send Henry a card in the mail and just let him know he is missed. Just say hey! If you would like to mail Henry a card, the address is:



Baptist Village – Munroe House
Henry Bass, Room 116
3034 Riggs Road
Erlanger, KY. 41018