

## Meredith In Command, Taking His 10th Men's State Title!



At 71 years of age, anyone that was expecting Charlie Meredith's horseshoe skills to begin a steady decline had better think again. In his 10<sup>th</sup> Men's State Championship victory, Charlie posted his fourth highest percentage state tournament and has proven to keep his pitch steady and solid with diligent practice and preparation throughout the 2015 season. Charlie pitched through the competition at this year's state in dominating fashion, letting no player score more than 21 points on him in the 40 point contests.

The setup for the 2015 Championship had a few different variables compared to last season. Due to the constant heavy total of shoes pitched in previous years and the overall decline in Men's percentages this season, the 2015 field was shortened to an 8-man class. Charlie Meredith's top contender to his title, Tony Hankins was also an unknown factor going into the tournament. Tony was sidelined in the World Horseshoe Tournament, back in July, with a debilitating back problem. It was unclear if Tony, the only man proven to be able to beat Charlie, could compete and if so, how well could he contend. Competing in every Men's Championship Class since graduating from the Junior Division in 1986, Tony would be there and in top form!

Going into the state tournament no other player with the exception of Glenn Shuck, was posting any

numbers that appeared to be any threat to either Charlie or Tony for the crown. As long as Charlie and Tony took care of business in the early rounds, the state would wind down to the one key final game and it did unfold in that manner. Meredith's run through the field was:

Taylor	45/8	23	30	76.6
R. Hankins	41/11	31	40	77.5
Wade	40/12	25	34	73.5
Robinson	43/15	36	42	85.7
Shuck	40/11	24	36	66.6
Neagle	41/20	30	44	68.1

During Meredith's run, the highest game thrown against Charlie was turned in by Bobby Robinson at 64.2%. Bobby hit 27 ringers in 42 shoes.

Tony Hankins' potential title run would also provide little resistance. Tony's path through the field:

Wade	40/21	39	58	67.2
Robinson	41/13	25	40	62.5
R. Hankins	40/15	31	42	73.8
Taylor	40/9	24	36	66.6
Neagle	41/21	30	44	68.1
Shuck	42/1	19	20	95.0

The highest game thrown against Tony was 56.9% by Randy Wade and Tony tied the state high game record of 95.0%, 19 ringers out of 20 shoes against Glenn Shuck during his run. This would setup the final showdown



for the day of Meredith vs T. Hankins. Charlie would pull no punches in this final game and would come out swinging hitting

18 ringers in first 20 shoes, jumping out to a solid lead at 19-0. Tony would attempt to rally by outscoring Charlie

in the next 30 shoes, taking the score to 15-30 but Charlie would score just enough to keep edging closer to the 40 point mark needed for victory. Both players would knock out 16 ringers in the next 20 shoes but the score would read 36-21, Meredith, in 70 shoes. Charlie closed out the championship, his 10<sup>th</sup>, with back to back three ringer three calls. Charlie pitched 59 ringers in 74 shoes for 79.7% to Tony's 53 out of 74 at 71.6%. Charlie even tallied 3 single points in the game to which Tony had none. Both players had a nice tournament, 76.0% for Meredith and 70.4% for Hankins but you have to hand it to Charlie Meredith as he was in top form and would not be denied. On one other note in the competition, I must give a nod to Randy Wade on some fine pitching. While unable to contend with the top two players, Randy did put together four nice games at 67.5%, 65.5%, 60.9% and 70.3% to take third place, his best finish to date!

## Karen Shuck: The New Women's State Champion!



Sometimes as the old adage goes, slow and steady wins the race. Karen Shuck returned to the KHPA this season, making her first championship class appearance since 1995 when she finished fourth and averaged 57.3%. Karen steadily worked her percentage back up to that level this season which put her in solid contention for this year's title. Julie Thompson, the defending champion and the 2013 champ Laurie Lampkin were the other top two contenders. The remainder of the field was made up of three qualifiers from Saturday's B and C classes. As the tournament began to unfold, Shuck

easily dispatched the three qualifying seeds; Shelia Williams 41-4, Karen Meredith 42-13 and Pat Mitchell 41-6. Shuck was consistent and steady at 65.6%, 50.0% and 57.1% in those three efforts. Julie Thompson opened strong in the tourney defeating Mitchell 40-15 with a 58.8% game and Williams 40-6 pitching 61.5%. A crucial turn in the championship came in the third game, Julie Thompson versus Laurie Lampkin. The two would swap the lead back and forth throughout the game but Julie would build a 10 point advantage and hold the lead at 37-27 in 48 shoes pitched. Needing just three points to close out the game, Julie would uncharacteristically lose her way, hitting only one ringer in the next ten shoes, which was pounced upon by Lampkin who managed five ringers to win the game 42-37. Shuck would then take out Lampkin in round four with a final score of 41-24. Lampkin did put up a fight and was within five points at the 44 shoe mark at 24-29 but Shuck would finish in a flurry with five out of six, scoring 12 points. Shuck averaged 58.0% in this game to Lampkin's 46.0% effort. Amazingly, this was the highest game thrown at Shuck during the Championship. To have a chance to hold her title, Thompson would need to defeat Shuck in the final game to force a playoff. The match was played most even in the first 30 shoes as Thompson had 14 ringers to Shuck's 15 and Karen Shuck held the edge 22-19 but appearing to get frustrated and out of her game once again, Thompson missed her next eight shoes and Karen would take full advantage, hitting seven out of eight for a 57.9% game and a 57.6% tournament to claim her first Women's State title! Steady pitching got it done. This was our fourth different champion in the last four years. Good close competition! Laurie Lampkin took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 4-1 record and an average of 44.5%. Thompson was 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3-2 with an average of 51.4%.





## Top Seeded Bob Hudnall Wins His 3rd Elder Men's State!



Bob Hudnall entered the 2015 Elder Men's State as the clear favorite, consistently averaging above 70% in all but one tournament pitched this season. Bob' #1 seeded NATSTAT was 8% above his nearest contender, Jim Culver but to say Jim was not a threat for the title would be a serious understatement. Jim, in his first at the 30 foot distance had been improving all season long and was primed and ready to make some noise in the state Elder's Division this year. The tournament opened up well for Bob, putting the #6 seed Jim Baker down 41-8 with a 75% game. Next up for Hudnall would be Johnnie Jones. Johnnie would manage to hold his own early in the game, only down one point at 20-21 after 32 shoes of play but Hudnall would go on a tear hitting 15 out of 16 to close out Jones 42-23 with another 75% result. Game 3, Hudnall vs. Culver would prove to be the determining match of the competition. Culver launched out of the gate with a strong early lead of 13-0. Hudnall scrapped back in the game but would remain in the rears until he drew even at 30-30 at 48 shoes of play. In ten more shoes Hudnall would draw ahead 33-31, then 36-31 with a three ringers three call. At the key point of the match, Culver failed to capitalize on the mounted pressure on Hudnall to close out the match. In the final 8 shoes of the game, both players managed only three ringers each. Hudnall would win the game 40-35. This was Hudnall's low game of the day at 67.6%. Bob had to more tough

competitors to get past to take the title. Next was first time contender Charles Browning and Browning proved to be a tough out. Charles extended Hudnall to a 66 shoe contest and posted a 68.1% game, the highest thrown at Hudnall. Bob needed his highest game of the day at 75.7% to defeat Browning 40-23. Only last year's champ, Bill Garrett stood between Bob Hudnall and the 2015 title but unlike last year, Bill had only pride riding on this game as he had only posted one win to this point. Bob never trailed in the game and went on to defeat Garrett 40-25 with a 74.2% round. This was Bob's third title overall in the last four years, finishing 5-0 at 73.2% for the tournament. Jim Culver finished strong with wins over Garrett 40-15 and Jones 44-32 tallying a 4-1 record overall and a 69.8% tourney. Browning pitched tough for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and an overall average of 67.3%.

## Howard Outlasts Webb In The Junior Boy's War!



The most hotly contested division this year was the Junior Boys. While there were only two combatants, who could ask for a better battle than to have a rematch of the two top ranked Junior Boys in the World. Tyler Howard is the reigning Junior Boy's World Champion, having defeated Ben Webb in one of the hardest fought Junior Boys games on record. This rematch was much anticipated and would be a best three out of five games to crown this year's state champion.

To set the tone for the games to come, both boys were on it, right out of the box in game one. Ben started with 23 ringers out of the first 30 shoes and Tyler had 24

for a 19-15 lead. In two more innings, Webb would re-take the lead 21-19 and not look back at that point. Webb took the first game 41-28. Tyler would rebound in game two by hitting 16 out of his first 20 to take an early 19-9 lead. Howard would keep steaming forward and stretch the lead to the brink at 39-23. At this point Webb locked into auto mode and reeled off a flurry of 18 consecutive ringers and came all the way back to 38-39. In the next inning Tyler had first pitch, following a four dead and tossed a double and Webb missed one, giving the game to Howard 42-38. At the start of game 3, Webb seemed to be reeling from the game 2 loss and got off to an extremely slow start, with Howard hammering on 18 out of 20 tosses to pitch an early shutout at 28-0. Webb would rally but this game was all Tyler Howard at 42-13. Ben was able to turn the tables in game 4 by getting off to a good start, jumping to an early lead of 23-9. Ben would never trail in this game and win it 41-30. This staged the scene for the fifth and final contest. Howard and Webb have been good friends throughout their Junior rivalry over the years but this would be the final Junior showdown between the two and the gamesmanship between them and the competitive stake was beginning to wear on the boys as the tension was boiling going into that final game. Both fathers were silently but actively rooting on the sidelines and a good little group of interested KHPA'ers were present to witness the action. Webb would establish an early lead after 14 shoes at 9-7 but it would be his last as Tyler would slowly but surely stretch the lead for a 42-25 State Championship victory, his 6<sup>th</sup> overall!. This game was down somewhat from the previous ringer strings and one factor was the open frames. Tyler only had one open in this game but Ben had four.



### BOX SCORES:

	Tyler Howard 3-2			Ben Webb 2-3		
	Rgrs	%	Score	Rgrs	%	Shoes
Game 1:	43	71.6	<b>28/41</b>	47	78.3	60
Game 2:	54	75.0	<b>42/38</b>	53	73.6	72
Game 3:	44	81.4	<b>42/13</b>	35	64.8	54
Game 4:	51	70.8	<b>30/41</b>	54	75.0	72
Game 5:	51	72.8	<b>42/25</b>	47	67.1	70

## Neagle Holds On For Junior Girl's Title!



The girl's division could be interestingly competitive in the coming years with these two and other Kentucky girls who are moving up in the ranks. This year's contest was a battle between two girls that had moved up from the Cadet division in the previous year. The increased distance proved to be a difficult adjustment for both. It was a big discouragement to see the drop in ringer percentage for these girls and it did affect their horseshoe year. I think this hurdle for juniors is a tough one. It makes them question their desire for the game having to make the mental adjustment. These gals stuck it out for the state showdown. Sarah Neagle who had some prior league practice in to improve her game got off to a good start in the best of five matchup, taking the first game 30-10 over Leslee Washer. Leslee would rely on natural pitching ability, as she is an ace softball pitcher which demands much of her time. As game 2 progressed, Leslee's game would begin to get a little tighter but Sarah's steady pitching would ring in a victory in game two at 30-15. In game three Leslee Washer found it! Leslee hit six ringers out of her first twelve shoes and the shoe was flipping high one time and on the peg! By 18 shoes, Leslee had Sarah in dire straights at 21-0, going to 30. Then as quickly as the spurt came it went away and Sarah Neagle would not give up and continue to plug away at the lead. Leslee would get five more points along the way to take the



score to 26-18 but in the final frames, Sarah Neagle would thrown on three more ringers and pile up some single points to take her first Junior Girl's State title in a 31-26 win! Both of these girls have loads of potential and with even moderate practice time, could really be tough next year!

## Seth O'Nan Rolls In Cadet Championship!



Seth O'Nan is a marvel to watch in Kentucky horseshoes. Seth has vastly improved his horseshoe game this year with loads of practice time. Seth would roll

to victory in the Cadet Division setting some records in the process!

### Seth's box score tells the tale:

Seth's performance		Score	R	Sh	%
was dominating and	Snellen	40/0	15	24	62.5
impressive in his 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rose	44/2	23	28	82.1
Cadet State Title run!	Snellen	42/5	15	24	62.5
Credit both Abby	Rose	45/5	24	34	70.5

Rose and Noah Snellen for pitching to the best of their ability in the Cadet Championship. Both Abby and Noah have also improved their games this year and will be tough competitors in the coming years. Seth was 70.0% overall, Abby took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at 30.4% and Noah was 3<sup>rd</sup> with an average of 15.9%.

## State Class Action!

Highlighting some of our standout performances from some of the lower ranks! **Class B Men-** Dow Buford posted a fine performance winning class B undefeated at 7-0. Dow's games were steady, steady at: 52, 58, 64, 52, 50, 50 & 60. This was Dow's personal high tourney to date at 55.1% overall. Keep it up next season Dow! Harold Copher pitched over average at 44.6% to take 2<sup>nd</sup>

place. **Class C Men-** Eddie Salleng's game really came around this year. Eddie stayed true to one style and locked in on one shoe which has steadied his results. Eddie was 6-1 for 37.7% which was 6% over his average. "Stoney" Stone placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5-2 and newcomer Larry Warren was 3<sup>rd</sup> in his first state. **Class D Men-** Richmond's Mike Mitchell picked a good time to make a leap. Mike beat his average by 8%, going 5-0 for 36.8%. Mike's flip shoe is nice and smooth. If your sure is turning right, that is one less element that needs correcting and Mike has it going well. Wayne Belcher took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 30.4% average. **Class E Men-** A.B. Webb had struggled with his pitching all year along but it all came together at this year's state as A.B. won his first state class at 6-1 with a 29.1% average and balanced pitching. Ronnie Adwell finished 2<sup>nd</sup> for the second year in a state class. Ronnie lost a couple of close ones 25-30 & 27-30 but posted the high game at 42%, the only game to topple A.B. Webb! Richard Martin was in the hunt down the stretch but fell to third. **Class F Men-** Another Richmond regular, Pete Rogers, overpowered the guys in Class F to take his first state class victory at 5-0 and 19.6%. Pete pitched over average with his nice looking flip shoe. Congrats Pete! Brad Rexroat placed second at 4-1 and Mt. Sterling's Josh Martin took third. **Class B/C Women-** Pat Mitchell was the eye-opening standout in this combined class. Designated as Class C going in, Pat actually defeated all of the other five Women. Pat went 5-0 for 35.8%, which was 9% over her average, attaining the Class C Championship. Pat's turn shoe really came together at the state as she had been taking lessons from turn master, Randy Hankins. That is the way to do it! Seek advice from top players to improve your game! Go Pat! Karen Meredith, designated Class B, was 4-1 with a 38.8% average and was the Class B champion. Shelia Williams was second in Class B. All three of these ladies advanced to play in the Women's Class A Championship on Sunday. **Class B Elder Men-** These Elders really whipped up on one another. Both Fred Nalley & Cecil Cook had four wins and two losses after round robin play and needed a playoff to decide it. Fred closed it out strong defeating Cecil 51-22 in the playoff. **Class C Elder Men-** Ed Plank rolled over Class C undefeated at 6-0, averaging 42.7%. Ed did get a couple of close games from Burlington buddy Dick Ellis 42-36 & 31-27 in the double round. Dick finished second. **Junior Boy's Class B-** Zach Hankins successfully defended his B title

this year in close competition with the Fuller brothers, Leland & Hadden. Zach was 5-1 with an average of 14.3%. Leland was 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4-2, averaging 12.3%. Hadden was 3-3 at 8.3%. A pacer was used to prevent the byes. **Class B/C Cadets-** Abby Rose is a tough junior player. Abby's game has improved in bunches this year. Abby has some good fellow Richmond comrades with which to draw advice from in great granddad Johnnie Jones and fellow club member Tyler Howard. Abby went undefeated in Cadet's B at 6-0 and a 21.1% average. Noah Snellen was the Class C Champion with a 15.0% average and Hanna Neagle was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class C at 08.3%.

## State Doubles Champs: Meredith & Webb!



Charlie Meredith & Ben Webb captured the 2015 State Doubles Championship Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> in Elizabethtown by going undefeated at 8-0 and averaging 66.6%, setting a new team doubles record. The Meredith/Webb team was challenged in game 2 by the Culver/Browning team. Culver/Browning hung right on the heels of Meredith & Webb during the game and even took the lead 33-31 after 58 shoes but at 36-38 in favor of Meredith/Webb, with first pitch, Charles Browning opened against Charlie Meredith, something you just can't do, and Charlie replied with 2 ringers 6 to close it out 44-36. The team of Jones/Howard needed a win against Meredith/Webb in the final game to force a playoff for the title but they just didn't have enough horseshoe power to get the job done, dropping the game 30-45. Tyler & Johnnie finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6-2 with a team

average of 60.9%. Charlie Meredith also set the individual doubles record performance at 77.1%. Class B Doubles winners were Jim Baker & Shelia Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Don Phelps & Bobby Robinson. Class C went to the team of Jim Peavley & Mike Mitchell and coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> was Vicki Belcher & Alton Stone. Class D was won by Jimmy Adwell & Mike Clark with Buddy Lampkin & Wayne Belcher placing second.

## 2015 Awards!



### Hall Of Fame



Bill Garrett

A 38 year veteran of the sport, Bill Garrett has just about seen and done it all. Bill was the 2000 Men's State Champion; the 2014 Elder Men's State Champion and has captured 3 State Doubles titles: 2004, 2011 & 2012. Bill was one of the State's best flip shoe pitchers of all time in the Men's Division and could carry a 60% plus average. Congrats Bill!

### Golden Horseshoe Award

Co Winners-  
Jim & Janclay Peavley



### Horseshoe Pitcher Of The Year

Laurie Lampkin

**Sportsmanship-** Pete Rogers  
**Most Improved-** Seth O'Nan  
**High Game Over Average-** Seth O'Nan  
**Rookie Of The Year-** Stanley Roberts