

MEREDITH HELD AT 37, HANKINS' WINS!!



In retrospect, 2016 was an interesting year in the Men's State Championship. Who would have thought it? Tony Hankins, although already a six-time State Champion, pulled off an unexpected upset of one of the State's best all-time players and Champ of the last four years, Charlie Meredith. *(Tony's first state title against Charlie.)*

Let's get into the factors that made this such an interesting Championship! Tony Hankins' health has been questionable all season, still nursing a chronic back issue and a myriad of other health buggaboos, Hankins had only pitched in four tournaments and his high % was 60.5% in a July 16th Georgetown event. Tony appeared to be out of contention for the State. Charlie Meredith would also pitch a light tourney schedule by choice but appeared to be steady and ready for action as usual. Charlie carried an entry average of 80.1% into the tourney, fresh off a 5th place finish at the World. Charlie was looking for five State Titles in a row, a feat he had yet to accomplish and the Richmond courts were unkind in his 2011 comeback run, losing in a playoff to Ricky Bell that year. The remainder of the 2016 field would be the



same as last season, minus Glenn Shuck. The open slot was filled by the first year at 40ft. player, Ben Webb, who worked his way up through the ranks throughout the year. Kicking it off, Charlie rolled along at a nice and steady pace, dispatching his challengers one by one: 40-11 over Robinson, pitching 75.0%, 43-13 over Taylor with an 80% game, 42-23 over Randy Wade, hitting 71.1% and 41-3 over Randy Hankins with an 89.4% effort. Meanwhile, Tony Hankins had a couple of wars to fight in his first four games. First up, Randy Wade proved to be a tough out for Hankins. Tony roughed up Wade early pouncing to a 39-17 lead but Wade would string 10 ringers in a row to pull to 32-39 before tossing the unforgiving open pit. Game over 42-32. Hankins' pitched 67.2% to Wade's 60.3%. Tony handily overpowered brother Randy 43-14 with a 59.3% game, and Robert Taylor 40-12 with a 63.6% effort. Bobby Robinson made a valient effort to stay in the game against Tony Hankins late, after getting down 31-16. Bobby would pull back to 33-37 before being done in by a three ringer three call by Hankins. Tony pitched 61.1% for the victory. In the final games, before the big showdown, Meredith would roll over Ben Webb 42-15 with a 75% game, and would go on to defeat John Neagle 42-27 with another 75% game, although Neagle pitched well at 66.6%. Tony's next two games rang in wins against John Neagle 41-10, pitching 75% and against Ben Webb 40-25, hitting 71.7%. Webb fought well early on, leading 25-22, before collapsing thereafter, ending up with a 60.8% game. The final showdown game was set. Charlie vs Tony, both 6-0 would have it for the 2016 title. Both players would get out of the gate at a slow pace, with only 50% and less for the first 20 shoes and a 16-16 tie. In the next 10 shoes, Meredith was perfect and Hankins was 4 for 10, which stretched the lead for Charlie Meredith to 34-16. At this point, honestly, I thought the war was over. Interested bystanders thought this one was getting wrapped up, like leaving the seats of the stadium. Then, something began

to click in Tony Hankins. Charlie opened after the ten straight and Tony got six. Tony doubled back and got three more. With first pitch, Tony missed one of two and Charlie quickly clamped down two ringers for a three ringers three and the magic “one ringer away” number of 37-25. Charlie doubled back down and I could see the change in Hankins’ demeanor, like “ok, I can’t miss now”. You could just see the determination take hold. We have all been in these situations. Your opponent is one ringer away from victory and you CAN NOT miss!! As the old horse racing call is done, “Down the stretch they come!!” Tony would make that final stretch run with 14 straight ringers holding Charlie at 37 points with no opening to get that final three. Charlie appeared to run out of gas, hitting only 12 of the final 20 shoes in the attempt to fight off the Hankins’ charge. Charlie ended with a 62% game. Tony was 19 of the final 20 taking his 7th Men’s Championship! Tony pitched 66% in the final game. Overall, the Top 4 finishers were: Hankins’, 7-0 at 66.4%, Meredith, 6-1 at 74.7%, Webb, 5-2 at 60.2% & Wade, 3-4 at 59.2%.



Thompson Outlasts Lampkin For The Women's Title!

The 2016 Women’s State Title was back up for grabs this year, as defending Champ, Karen Shuck, chose not to return to defend it. The pre-tourney favorites were two former champs, Julie Thompson & Laurie Lampkin, with an improving Karen Meredith in the mix as a serious contender. Laurie looked to be in a good position going in even though she was down in percentage from previous seasons. Laurie pitches a heavy tourney schedule and should be well prepared going in.

Thompson on the other hand had pitched a very light 2016 schedule and looked very shaky just one week



Earlier in the Ted Sauer Memorial where she averaged a meager 35.4%. The Women’s field was increased to five with the addition of Pat Mitchell & Vicki Belcher as qualifiers from Class B. Julie’s first four games were wins, with a 55% game against the pacer, a 40-22 win over Belcher at 32.6%, a 40-20 win over Karen Meredith, tossing 56.8%, a 42-13 win over Mitchell at 39.5%. Up and down games. Laurie’s run was steady steady with wins over Belcher 44-16, at 50%, Mitchell 44-13 at 58.8%, 47.7% against the pacer and a 43-23 win over Meredith while pitching 47.9%. Karen Meredith’s game never materialized and was overtaken for third place by Pat Mitchell, who also continues to better her game each season. The final game of the tourney between the undefeated Thompson & Lampkin would decide the Championship. Laurie would jump out early with a 12-0 lead.

Julie would settle in and rally back to 19-22. At this point, Julie said it is time to go, and hit 8 out of her



next 10 to take the lead at 30-22. Laurie seemed to lose focus down the stretch. Laurie pitches her best when she is quick and focused on the peg! “Don’t look back Laurie!” After the 8 of 10, Julie would open for another Lampkin three but Julie would then hit six straight to finish it off 45-25 for her 2nd Women’s State Championship! Julie pitched 46.96% for the tourney. Laurie was 48.10% for the 2nd place finish.

Bob Hudnall Slides By For His 4th Elder's State Title!



Bob Hudnall slid by his competition to take his 4th Elder Men's State Championship. Not to knock Bob but he has dominated this division in recent years but did not pitch up to his potential. None of the Elder's pitched above their average. The title was there for the taking if anyone had burned the peg. With a six man

field and only five games, you need to win! Bob started off slow in game one against Jim Baker and got in a major hole, down 23-36, but managed to pull it out 42-36 due to a Baker meltdown 2 out of 10 game finish. Bob pitched 58.3% in that game. Meanwhile, Jim Culver was hot out of the box, rolling over Bill Garrett 43-5 with a 78.5% game and Johnnie Jones defeated Charles Browning 42-26, pitching 65.6%. In the next two games, Bob settled down and took care of business, defeating Garrett 42-9 with a 76.6% toss and dispatched Jones 40-18 with a 73.4% match. Browning edged Culver 42-36 in a 64 shoe scrappy



game 2. Jim would rebound with a strong game 3, defeating Jim Baker 45-20 pitching 78.8%. In game 4, Bob Hudnall had a stumble against Charles Browning, losing his first game 29-42. Bob only tallied a 58% game against Browning's measure of 66%. This opened the door for both Browning & Culver to take advantage as all three stood at 3-1. Going into the fifth and final game. Hudnall would match off against Culver and Browning had Jim Baker in the final game. Title hopes

would be dashed as both, Culver & Browning would fail to finish strong. Charles dragged on the start with 2 ringers out of 10 against Jim Baker, down 2-10 but would get back into it through 28 shoes and a score of 20-28 but his game completely fell apart at the end with only one ringer in the last ten shoes. Baker won the game 44-21, pitching 63.1% to Browning's 42.1% toss. In Bob & Jim's game, both were pitching off pace through 38 shoes that saw both players only in the upper 50's at that point in the game. At 38 shoes, the score was 24-21 Hudnall and Jim Culver then missed six straight, allowing Hudnall to get three six packs and 18 points to polish him off. Hudnall ended up with a 63.6% effort to Culver's 47.7%. Bob finished off his 4th Championship going 4-1 with a 65.3% average. Culver- 65.8%, Jones- 61.98% & Browning- 59.5%, all finished at 3-2 in that order. Baker wound up 2-3 at 57.6% and out of character for Bill Garrett, brought up the rear, 0-5 for 50.5%.

Howard Bests O'Nan In State Boy's Battle!



2016 in the Junior Boy's Division would give up a repeat scenario from last year. Once again we would have a rematch from the top two Junior Boy's in the World. Last year it was Tyler vs Ben and this year it was Tyler vs Seth. Tyler & Seth had faced off in a playoff to decide the 2016 Junior Boy's World Championship with Tyler coming out on top.

Game 1 of the title run began with Tyler going big off the start, hitting 15 ringers out of his first 20

shoes, with Seth only hitting 10. The possible first game jitters left Seth in a hole at 7-22. Seth would never really get his rhythm going and dropped the contest 14-42. Games two and three would belong to O'Nan, 40-25 & 42-22. Seth really got it going and remained consistent throughout those two games, including a stretch in game two, hitting 19 ringers in 20 shoes. Tyler started strong in both games two and three, with 80% & 75% starters for the first 20 shoes in each but had some lapses later in the matchups. In the Fourth game, both players started off HOT, both hitting 16 out of the first 20, but Tyler continued on with 9 out of the next 10 and this took the steam out of Seth's game. As Seth cooled off, Tyler closed out game 4, 40-22.

It would take a fifth game to decide it, as it was all knotted up at two wins each. The game was near even as Tyler had a 16-14 advantage after 32 shoes.



Tyler then strung 12 ringers in a row and expanded the lead to 28-14. Both players would even up on the remaining number of ringers but Tyler proved to be too hard to hold down as he took the game and Championship 41-25. Tyler closed out his State Junior career with 7 State Boy's Singles Titles! Tyler averaged 71.53% overall in the event and Seth averaged 67.15%.

BOX SCORES:

	Tyler Howard 3-2			Seth O'Nan 2-3		
	Rgrs	%	Score	Rgrs	%	Shoes
Game 1:	37	77.0	42/14	28	58.3	48
Game 2:	37	68.5	25/40	41	75.9	54
Game 3:	33	63.4	22/42	39	75.0	52
Game 4:	42	75.0	40/22	35	62.5	56
Game 5:	47	73.4	41/25	41	64.1	64

Abby Rose Out Scraps Neagle For Her 1st Junior Girl's Title!

Abby Rose had a very good year in 2016 in her first year in the Junior Girl's Division. Abby pitched 25.3% in her first tourney from the 30ft. distance and did not seem to have any trouble adjusting to the new distance. Abby

improved a good deal as the season went along hitting her best tourney one week before the State at 36.6%.

Last year's Girl's Champ, Sarah Neagle, had struggled in 2016 to really catch her stride, pitching a high tourney of 23.0%. Sarah is a scrapper though and was determined to give it her best effort. Abby set a blistering pace early on with hot starts in both games one and two with 11



and 9 out of the first 20 shoes in each game. Abby was in firm command of the first two games, winning 41-21 & 40-12. Game 3 was the most interesting as Sarah Neagle applied some pressure early and jumped to a surprising 27-19 lead. Abby would then go on a flurry of ringers, 10 out of 14, to pull ahead 34-27. Abby opened in the next inning and Sarah got 6. Sarah threw a ringer 4 back down and another ringer 3 to take the third game 40-34. Sarah had her best game at 37.5% and Abby averaged 33.9% in 56 shoes. In game 4, Abby really seemed to be feeling the pressure and her game fell off a great deal. Sarah was also unable to maintain her stability of the previous game. The fourth game stood at 27-26 in Neagle's favor after 40 shoes but Abby would regain her composure and toss 6 ringers out of the final 12 shoes to claim her first Jr. Girl's State Title, winning the game 40-29! Abby averaged 31.4% overall & Sarah averaged 24.7%. These two girls will be fun to watch in the coming years! They will get even better!



Snellen Cruises To Top The Cadet Division!



Noah Snellen would emerge in 2016 as the top Cadet pitcher. Noah has been determined to get better and improve and he has done it. He really has his flip shoe going well. The three Cadets pitching this year have three entirely different agendas in horseshoes. You have Noah who is all in and competitive. You have Hanna Neagle who is happy go lucky and who admittedly pitches for fun and

for the moment and you have James Webb who has still not yet developed the attention span for the game to be as good as he could be.

Noah was hard to handle, winning all six games by a healthy margin to win the 2016 Jr. Cadet State Title. Noah's overall average was 34.5%. Hanna

Noah's Cadet Title box score

	Score	R	Sh	%
Webb	32/4	11	18	61.1
Neagle	32/14	10	38	26.3
Webb	30/3	7	24	19.4
Neagle	31/10	10	28	35.7
Webb	31/0	9	18	50.0
Neagle	34/10	11	30	36.6

came in 2nd with an average of 16.1%. Both Noah & Hanna pitched above their state entry averages. The overall average for James was 5%.

State Class Action!

Covering some of the fine battles we had for State Class Titles we will begin with... the **Class B Men-** You've really got to watch that Omer Howard! Omer has posted Class titles in 2002 ,03 ,09 & 2012 and now he has added another in 2016! Omer was 5-1 at 45.0%! Harold Copher was 2nd with the high average at 48.3%. Larry Hayes posted 3rd with the two highest games at 60%.

Class C Men- Stan Kemper captured Class C with the highest average at 38.4% but everyone played Stan tough! Stan defeated Belcher 46-25, Peavley 37-35, Followell 37-31 & Clark 39-35. Billy Followell pitched

well at 34.0% for 2nd place. **Class D Men-** Tony "T-Bird" McFarland stepped up and got it done in Class D. Tony averaged 37.4% overall and got a stiff challenge from Eugene Brown who finished 2nd. Tony beat Eugene head to head 34-29. Tony's only loss was against Kevin Stevens 30-31. **Class E Men-** Consistency pays off for Jimmy Adwell. Jimmy averaged 20-24% all five games to take the win at 4-1. Clarence Spencer was the only man to defeat Jimmy, 40-28. Alvin Jones took 2nd at 3-2, 20.4% & Richard Martin was 3rd, also at 3-2.

Class F Men- Class F finished with a 3-way playoff! Brad Rexroat did it the hard way, defeating Buddy Lampkin 35-24 and then faced off against Pete Rogers, defeating Pete 37-13. Brad averaged 24.6% overall. Pete averaged 22.7% in 2nd and Buddy was 19.7% for 3rd.

Class B Women- Teresa Spencer had an awesome tournament, exploding with a 43.9% average, going 8-1! Teresa's only loss was against Pat Mitchell 19-27 in one of the best games of the class. Pat had a 60% game and Teresa had a 55% game, both their highest of the class. Pat averaged 38.6% in the 2nd place finish. Teresa was unable to attend Sunday's A Class but Pat & Vicki Belcher moved up to fill out Class A. Rhoda Followell finished 3rd and was also unable to attend Sunday's A.

Class B Elder Men- Dale Snellen made it rough on the Elder Class B Men, winning at 7-1. Dale has been pitching well at season's end. Dale had 5 of his 8 games in the 60's and one 70% game. Garry Jackson, 3rd, pitched real well also, including a 60% game against Dale but 2nd place Don Hayes was the only one that could hang a loss on Dale, taking the final game 32-29.

Class C Elder Men- Frank Chaney outclassed the C Elders going undefeated at 6-0 with a 46.7% average. Frank was very consistent with each game between 40-52%. Ed Plank out dueled Dick Ellis & Fred Nalley to take 2nd place with an average of 38%. **Class D Elder Men-** Aaron Goodson, 5-1, had three close games to edge Forrest Cooper for the Class D victory, 27-32, 31-28 & 36-23. Aaron was 28.7% for the tourney. Alton Stone placed 3rd. **Junior Boy's Class B-** Jarrett Keith won the Junior B Boy's state title this year with an impressive 39.6% tourney going 6-0 with a high game of 52.5%. Leland Fuller almost doubled his average, overpowering Zach Hankins for 2nd place. Leland was 22.1% for the tourney with a high game of 30%. Zach had a nice 30% game late for his high. Zach was 14.6% overall.

Jones & Howard: State Doubles Champions!



Tyler Howard & Johnnie Jones captured the 2016 State Doubles Championship defeating the team of Ben Webb & Robert Taylor in a best of 7 game contest. (A 5th game was needed to achieve Natstat shoe limit.)

Team	W/L	Team%	Individual%
Jones / Howard	5-0	54.7%	(54.7%/54.6%)
Taylor/ Webb	0-5	36.4%	(35.2%/37.7%)

Class A teams were thin this year. I wanted to hold Class A for later in the day to give other teams from lower classes/flight one to re-team to enter Class A but threatening weather required us to go with a single flight. Class B State Doubles was won by the long-time team of Bobby Robinson & Don Phelps. They defeated the team of Omer Howard & Frank Chaney 37-16 in a class playoff game. As a team, Bobby & Don averaged 40.6%. Bobby & Don won the B Doubles once before in 2014. Class C Doubles was won by Clinton Denney & Larry Warren who ran the table undefeated at 6-0 for 33.3%. These guys had to do some pitching as most of their games were...CLOSE! 39-34, 32-30, 39-29, 33-29, 43-38 & 39-23! The team of Randy & Zach Hankins took 2nd place with a 4-2 record and a 35% team average. The team of Jarrett Keith & Abby Rose started strong at 4-0 but lost a nail-biter 38-43 against Denney & Warren and then lost to the Hankins team, which relegated them to 3rd, getting edged on percentage with a 4-2 record.

2016 Awards!



Hall Of Fame



Henry Bass

Henry Bass was inducted into the KHPA Hall Of Fame, 2016! Henry is the 2006 Kentucky State Doubles Champion. Henry won two World Class Championships; Elder Men's Class E1 in 2012 & Elder Men's Class H in 2013. Henry pitched in the State Elder's Championship from 2007-2009 with a best finish of 4th. Henry is also a proud member of the Burlington Horseshoe Club!

Golden Horseshoe Award

Dale Snellen



Dale is a real go getter for Horseshoes! Dale attended every event on the 2016 KHPA Schedule, including the World Tournament. Dale kept many scores in each event, was huge in setting up for the Bardstown events and always lended a hand when needed. Good job Dale!



Horseshoe Pitcher Of The Year

Mike Mitchell

Sportsmanship- Jesse Gentry
Most Improved- Mike Mitchell
High Game Over Average- Seth O'Nan
Rookie Of The Year- Jarrett Keith
ACE Scorekeeper Award- Rhoda Followell