

# State Tourney Wrap-Up- 2017

The 2017 State Horseshoe Tourney got off to a wet start. All evening and Friday night rain, followed by a wet drizzle through Saturday afternoon, greatly altered our 2017 plans. We were fortunate to have Eugene Brown's four indoor court facility to keep us afloat. The 2017 State was re-structured to utilize the indoor courts for Saturday morning and afternoon, while outdoor play was shifted to Saturday night and Sunday morning. While it wasn't the ideal picture perfect State, we "got 'er done" and it certainly will be a State Tourney to be remembered!

## '17 Is Tyler Howard's State

At 19 years of age, Tyler Howard will go down in Kentucky history as the first player to win the Junior Boy's State Championship and move on to win the Men's State Championship in the following year.



Sometimes, as the regular KHPA season progresses, if you follow the game as I do, you will get a sense of whose year it is going to be to take the state crown. I recall Tony Hankins' first title in 2001 that it was just his destined year to win and I felt like Tyler was on track to be the one this year. Now on to the specifics of how it went down! To look at Tyler's State performance this year, I can describe it as a determined cruise control. If Tyler did not perceive you as a threat to beat him, he would "cruise" and pitch with ease. If you did press him or attempt to get in the game, he would just turn up the wick. Tyler opened the tourney with 41-3 defeat of Robert Taylor, pitching 73.6%, defeated John Neagle

44-5, with a 70.0% game and downed Randy Hankins 40-20 with a 62.0% effort. The next victims on the list were: Bobby Robinson 42-23 with Tyler hitting 65.2% and Tony Hankins 41-19 at 71.4%. The 6<sup>th</sup> game would prove to be the best battle in the tournament as Tyler squared off with his rival of rivals, Ben Webb. At this point, Ben was 4-1 in the tourney. Tyler got off the block strong in the game, pinning Webb down 20-3 early but the will to fight kicked in with Webb and he would battle back with a 14 ringer for 16 shoe stretch that would pull him up to 19-23. A battle of wills ensued! In the next 14 shoes, both players would hit 13 ringers! Ben fought hard but just could not keep up with the blistering pace finished by Howard. From the 34 shoe mark with a score of 23-16 to the final 62 shoe contest, Tyler had 28 ringers out of the last 30 shoes, completing the game at 82.2%! Ben's game was the highest thrown at Tyler with 72.6%. The final game Score was 41-22. The state Title would not be decided until the final game when Tyler would face off with the legend and unbeaten Charlie Meredith. The game would prove to be anti-climatic as Tyler did not not give Charlie any room to breathe. Charlie pitched a very respectable game at 69.6% but Tyler was zoned in and not to be denied, only missing on 7 throws out of 56 shoes for 87.5% to take the Championship 41-9 over Meredith! Charlie took second place overall with an average of



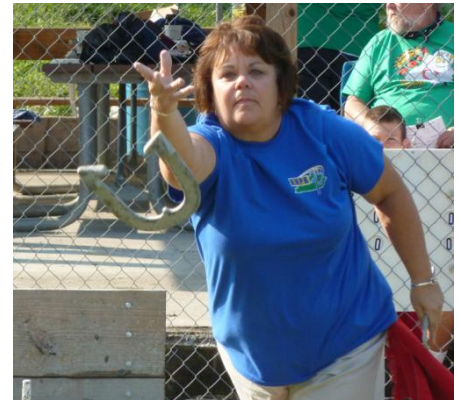
69.2%. While not Charlie's best year, this tourney out put would beat most. Charlie just didn't have the fire in his eyes this year to pull it off. Ben Webb would take third at 5-2, for 62.6% overall, defeating those below him in the standings. Third place was decided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> game when Ben defeated Robert Taylor 41-38 in a good well fought game! Ben averaged 64.8% and Robert averaged 62.1% . Ben done a fine job to get competitive at the state with basically one week of determined practice. With that said, if Ben had been on pitching focus from the start of May, things could have been really interesting. Ben has untapped potential but will we ever see it in the Men's Division? Time will tell. Robert Taylor was 4<sup>th</sup> overall at 4-3 with a 56.4% average and he was very happy with his best state to date. Tony Hankins was 5<sup>th</sup> at 2-5, 53.1%. Tony's head was not in the game this year. I have seen Tony prepped, focused and ready to roll many times in the past but just not this year. Randy Hankins came in 6<sup>th</sup> and gave some good battles at 2-5, 51.1% overall. Although Bobby Robinson scored the most points on Tyler, he just did not get the streaks going as I have seen him do in the past. Bobby was 2-5 with a 47.1% average. John Neagle had one of his greatest struggles at the State tourney with an 0-7, 41.6% finish but look out next year, he may be a new "Eagle" taking flight! (wink).



As a footnote to this year's state, I must say I could have titled this article as "The Dawn Of A New Era"... if the future were different. Tyler & Ben coming up would be the future young guns of Kentucky to take the next era of State Titles and break records. That would pretty much be a given but as of this writing, Tyler's future does not lie in Kentucky. Tyler has moved on north to Vermont. We will miss Tyler and we have wished him well in his endeavor. With Tyler gone from the scene, who will step up and grab the brass ring next year?

## Lampkin Dominates To Take Her 2nd State Title!

The shape of things to come? Laurie Lampkin dominated the Women's Division to take her second State Title! Laurie would leave no doubt as to the outcome of this year's state as she



posted, possibly, her best tournament to date. It is definitely one of the most consistent performances that I have ever seen Laurie pitch. All games solidly above 50% and that is tough to pull off. Laurie went undefeated at 6-0 for an overall average of 54.9% in the double round robin.

Opponent	Score	R	SP	R%
Vicki Belcher	42/11	20	38	52.6
Destinnie Wilke	45/6	15	28	53.5
Karen Meredith	43/22	22	38	57.9
Vicki Belcher	40/7	18	32	56.2
Destinnie Wilke	44/17	22	42	52.3
Karen Meredith	40/24	26	46	56.5



Karen Meredith was 2<sup>nd</sup> in her best State Tourney finish to date going 4-2 with an average of 43.85%. This was also Karen's best tournament of the year. Destinnie Wilke finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1-5, averaging 23.5% and Vicki Belcher was 4<sup>th</sup> at 1-5 with a 18.9% average. Kentucky currently only has nine women on NATSTATS and six



were qualified to pitch in this year's state. All six were invited to pitch in the Championship class but some were not able to attend the Sunday pitch. We need to get the numbers up for the Women's Division in the coming years.

## John Irvin Pulls The Upset For His 3rd State Championship!



The Elder's outcome was quite the buzz after John Irvin defeated the defending champion, Bob Hudnall. Bob had been dominate against the Elder's contenders during the regular season but he had only pitched against John once during the regular season and he escaped that meeting with a four point win. The Elder's Division has been the most tightly contested state division in recent years. The Elder's Championship was trimmed to five contenders after Charles Browning withdrew, due to impending knee surgery. Round one opened with John Irvin defeating Jim Culver 40-18, 72.9% to 60.4%. Johnnie Jones defeated Garry Jackson 41-27. Hudnall would win his first two games after the bye; 42-25 vs Jackson and 40-26 vs Culver. John Irvin would get into a good clash against Garry Jackson in his third game. Jackson held and early lead through 36 shoes but John Irvin would battle back and the two would stay very close through 62 shoes, when Jackson made a push with three straight 3 ringer 3 calls. The score was 37-33 in Jackson's favor but Garry would miss both on first pitch and Irvin would score 3 to pull it to 36-37. With first pitch, John would not miss for the next 6 shoes and overtook Jackson for the game win 42-37. The fourth and final game for Irvin

was game three for Bob as the two faced off. (John had the final round bye). Bob started the game off on a strong run, hitting 26 out of his first 30 tosses. John would hit on 22 throws. The score after 30 shoes was 15-4 Hudnall. In the next 30 shoe stretch it was Irvin's turn to dial in the peg. John was 27 out of the next 30 and Bob shot 21 ringers. The score after 60 shoes was 25-19 Irvin. The battle would rage on for 26 more shoes with one stretch of 4 consecutive four deads. John seemed to wear Bob down in the final ten shoes to take the game and Championship 41-25. John averaged 79.0% for the game to Bob's output of 74.4%.

Final St.	W	L	R%
1. John Irvin	4	0	72.87
2. Bob Hudnall	3	1	74.81
3. Jim Culver	2	2	65.89
4. Johnnie Jones	1	3	60.09
5. Garry Jackson	0	4	62.11

## O'Nan Gets A Scare But Defeats Keith For Boy's Title!

Seth O'Nan is the reigning Junior Boy's World Champion. Seth had some manner of struggle in the World Prelims but stepped up to a 72.9% performance to win the World title, so you would think he would be a sure thing to claim his first Kentucky Boy's State title. The thing about Horseshoes is, it is hard to maintain any average in the 60% range and up. You have to stay on top of your practice and sometimes horseshoes can just be fickle and throw you for a loop. Whatever the case, Seth had been down some since the World and Jarrett Keith can be a tough little pitcher at times. Seth rolled in his two games versus Noah Snellen, 43-4 & 42-2. Seth defeated Jarrett easily in the first game of the double round robin 40-14. Jarrett had a little tougher time with Noah, winning 42-27 & 40-21. In the second game between Seth & Jarrett, Seth



got off to a quick start pinning Jarrett in the rears 19-0. This seemed to wake Jarrett up and he came alive, averaging 60% in the next 40 shoes, taking the game lead 35-28! Jarrett would score another 3 ringers 3 for 38-28 but left an open pit in the next inning, allowing Seth to follow up with a six pack, 34-38. Seth too would open, allowing Jarrett to score a ringer three and win the game 41-34. This set up a playoff between the two for the Championship. The playoff was a one-sided affair as Seth came alive and put Keith away 40-5 to take his first Boy's State Championship!

Final St.	W	L	R%
1.Seth O'Nan	4	1	55.55
2.Jarrett Keith	3	2	35.04
3.Noah Snellen	0	4	17.72



Seth O'Nan  
(center)  
Jarrett Keith  
(left)  
Noah Snellen  
(right)

## Abby Rose Pulls The Repeat vs Neagle

Kentucky's top Two Junior Girls have really been coming up in the rankings the last two seasons. Abby has held an edge on Sarah in state competition and held off yet another Neagle challenge to take her second consecutive State Championship. The first game of the series proved to be the best match in the



contest. Abby pushed an above 50% pace for the first 24 shoes and held the lead 19-10, as Sarah was only one ringer short of 50%. Sarah was able to hang right on Abby's heels through game one and the score was tight near the end at 36-34, Rose. Neagle had pitched four single ringer innings but failed to cancel out Abby in the final inning when she pitched one ringer and one close for a ringer 4 call, that won the game 40-34. The only time Abby Rose ever trailed in the 3 game set was when Sarah scored the opening point of game 2. Abby has Championship #2 and the Kentucky Junior Girl's Division is in good hands!

### Abby's Card

1. Abby Rose 3-0 35.62%

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. Sarah Neagle	40/34	24	64	37.5
2. Sarah Neagle	40/17	15	40	37.5
3. Sarah Neagle	41/18	13	42	30.9

### Sarah's Card

2. Sarah Neagle 0-3 29.45%

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. Abby Rose	34/40	24	64	37.5
2. Abby Rose	17/40	9	40	22.5
3. Abby Rose	18/41	10	42	23.8

## Neal Is Cadet Champ!



Kentucky had two first year Cadets in 2017. Dylan Neal, who is a protégé of Tyler Howard & C.J. Yantis, who was introduced to horseshoes by his "papaw" Bill Garrett. Dylan has really progressed with his turn shoe this season and made competition pretty tough for C.J. Dylan defeated C.J., 30-4,

30-7, 31-3 & 30-4. (A 4<sup>th</sup> game was needed to achieve the NATSTAT shoe limit) Dylan averaged 24.2% overall and C.J. averaged 03.2% overall. I bet these boys will both be back next year pitching even better, with more practice time on the pegs!

## State Class Action!

With coverage of the state classes I will begin with the...

**Class B Men-** The B Men was a tough class this year. The 40% pitcher really fell away this season and Harold Copher, Omer Howard & Stan Roberts were the only three 40%'ers on the schedule. Also of the State Schedule challenges due to the inclement weather, the Class B & E Men had the toughest pitching conditions with low light and sticky clay. Stan Roberts would rebound from an opening game loss to take this class with a record of 5-1, 45.7%. Harold Copher was 2<sup>nd</sup> & Clinton Denney came in 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Class C Men-** This class pitched outdoors on Sunday morning and the clay was in awesome shape! Eugene Brown would battle through a 4-way playoff on his home court to capture the win at 7-2, 30.2%. Wayne Belcher was 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kevin Stevens 3<sup>rd</sup> and Derrick Vaught 4<sup>th</sup>. **Class D Men-** The D Men pitched indoors on Saturday morning and the win went to Jimmy Adwell who defeated Jesse Gentry in a playoff 34-13. Jimmy averaged 27.4 overall, which was 3% above his average. This was Jimmy's 2<sup>nd</sup> straight state class win. Jason Gentry finished third. **Class E Men-** Class E was another battle of the mud slingers Saturday night with Alton Stone coming out on top, going undefeated at 5-0 with a 20.8% average. A.B. Webb was 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3-2, 18.4%. We had two drop outs in this class due to the weather and schedule change. **Class B Women-** The Women's Division was a real challenge this state. Due to the weather situation we had to reschedule this class. We had 3 B players left that wanted to compete Saturday at Shorty's Indoor. Teresa Spencer was the top seed but was overtaken by Vicki Belcher in some tight games. Vicki defeated Teresa 38-26 in the first meeting and Teresa defeated Vicki in round two 39-31. This set up a final playoff game and Vicki defeated Teresa 32-22. One amazing fact that stands out in these three contests between Teresa & Vicki is the single points. Vicki had 38 singles points overall in those 3 games compared to 3 single points by Teresa, who had the overall higher ringer percentage. Yes folks, close does count in horseshoes! Shelia Williams was the third place finisher. All ladies was invited to pitch in Sunday's Class A. **Class B Elder Men-** The Elder's B was a real battle! There was no clear favorite here and it showed as they beat up on one another! All 5 contestants pitched slightly

under average but when the dust settled, Dale Snellen came out on top! Dale narrowly got past Don Phelps 31-30, defeated Bill Garrett 42-16, lost to Jim Baker 36-47 and rebounded to win over Tommy Truesdell 40-29. Dale averaged 52.5% overall. Truesdell was 2<sup>nd</sup> on percentage with a 57% tourney. **Class C Elder Men-** Mitch Duncan went undefeated in his Class C run. Mitch averaged 53.3% overall. Don Hayes came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a good tourney at 52.7%. In their head-to-head matchup Mitch defeated Don by one point 35-34! Chaney & Cook were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> but were off their game some. **Class D Elder Men-** Fred Nalley & Jerry Elliott had to cancel, so this left us with a two player face off for the Elder's D Title. Richard Broadwater overpowered Forrest Cooper in 3 straight games. Richard averaged 37.5% overall. **Junior Boy's Class B/C-** Jarrett Keith emerged as the 2017 B Boys champ with a 26% average. Rookie pitcher, Ryan Spence pulled an upset to win the Class B Boys Title over veteran players Noah Snellen & James Webb. Ryan defeated Noah 27-22 & James 27-9.

## Lampkin & O'Nan Pitch Strong In Doubles Win!



The team of Laurie Lampkin & Seth O'Nan were the top ranked doubles team on the schedule but one of the things that makes doubles challenging is adapting to using one pair of horseshoes that both players can pitch well. Laurie & Seth

were pitching Laurie's Snyder EZ Flips. These shoes can be tough on a turn shoe pitcher but I was amazed at how well they pitched those shoes together as a team! Laurie & Seth made quick work of their competition, going undefeated! Johnnie Jones & Don Hayes were the number two seeded team and, on paper, looked like they may be the team to beat. I'm not sure what issue Johnnie & Don were having but they struggled to put anything together. One team you can always count on to pitch



with a steady pace is the second place finishing team of Don Phelps & Bobby Robinson. Don & Bobby are always tough in the doubles and gave Lampkin & O'Nan a good game at 25-40. Don & Bobby's other loss came against Irvin & Irvin, 18-40. Tyler Howard & Destinnie Wilke were third at 3-2, losing to Lampkin & O'Nan 28-41 and Robinson & Phelps 15-40.

Class A Team	W/L	Team%	Individual%
Laurie Lampkin/Seth O'Nan	5-0	61.2%	(60.2%/62.2%)
Don Phelps /Bobby Robinson	3-2	48.6%	(52.7%/44.3%)
Tyler Howard / Destinnie Wilke	3-2	44.4%	(69.0%/19.3%)
John Irvin/Frank Irvin	2-3	44.5%	(51.6%/37.1%)
Johnnie Jones / Don Hayes	2-3	39.1%	(42.6%/35.7%)
Randy Hankins/Ben Webb	0-5	40.3%	(48.2%/32.4%)

Class B Doubles were won by Omer Howard & Robert Taylor, averaging 45.1% as a team and going 5-1. Clinton Denney & Stan Roberts were 2<sup>nd</sup> going 4-2 with a 38.7% team average. Abby Rose & Jarrett Keith were the only team to defeat Howard & Taylor 33-31. The team of Karen Meredith & Sarah Neagle made a "quiet" march through the field of Class C to go undefeated at 8-0. Karen & Sarah posted a team average of 30.6%! They really had to hold on to some close games to get the win! 32-27 over Salleng & Webb, 23-20 over White & Followell, 30-27 over Belcher & Belcher, 16-14 over McFarland & Stevens & 23-19 over Jason Gentry & Larry Warren.

## 2017 Awards!



### Hall Of Fame



Bob Hudnall

Robert Hudnall was inducted into the KHPA Hall Of Fame in 2017. Bob has always pitched his single flip with a steady hand through the years and is one of Kentucky's best ever flip shoe pitchers. Bob qualified for the Men's State Championship 5 times: 1985, 86, 87, 88 & 91, achieving two 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes, one 3<sup>rd</sup> and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish, losing to Ron Powell in a playoff in 1987. Bob is a 4-time Elder Men's State Champion:

2012, 13, 15 & 16 and a 4-time State Doubles Champion: 1987, 88, 2002, & 2014. Bob is a member of the ECHPA Club in Chalybeate and resides in Quality, KY.

### Golden Horseshoe Award

Wayne Belcher



Wayne took on the task of attaining trophies for all KHPA tournaments in 2017. In a pitch to save money for the Association, Wayne went all in, getting a supply of needed materials to build all of the trophies himself. This was a big undertaking and Wayne made it happen! Trophies were on site, built and ready to go for the 2017 KHPA events!



### Horseshoe Pitcher Of The Year

Jason Gentry

**Sportsmanship-** Derrick Vaught  
**Most Improved-** Jason Gentry  
**High Game Over Average-** Vicki Belcher  
**Rookie Of The Year-** Gene Smith  
**ACE Scorekeeper Award-** Jarrett Keith  
**Perfect Attendance-** Eugene Brown & Jesse Gentry



Visits From The Horseshoe Family!



Horseshoes is a family! Although he did not pitch this year, Bobby Brooks dropped in and helped flip courts. We had visits from Gwen & Bobbi Sharp, Walter & Sally Mullins and former KHPA Junior pitcher, Andrew Anness!

