

2019 State Tourney In Mt. Sterling Wraps Up Season!

The 2019 State Horseshoe Tournament's Singles & Doubles competition went off without a hitch. The weather was nice, a little warm for September but we had a light breeze blowing. The clay was in the best condition I have seen in a long time and the Mt. Sterling Club pitched in together for great tourney support! Kudos to the Mt. Sterling gang!

Tyler Howard Decimates The Competition For #2!



Tyler Howard returned to the State of Kentucky after a year of living in the New York/Vermont area last year. Tyler has been a student of the game since he was five years

old here in Kentucky. He won the State Men's title in his first try in 2017. He walked through the field that year but had some challenges. This year was different. Tyler was just never pressed in his title run as he marched through an under performing field of contenders. Tyler had a total of only 4 open pits (no ringers), during the entire tournament and would post the #2 all-time average at 81.6%, missing the State record just a small margin. Tyler did break the high game record by pitching a shutout 40-0, 25 ringers out of 26 shoes against Dalton Rakestraw. Tyler's low game was 73.3% and the most any player scored on him was 14 points, by John Neagle. All 8 players entered with an average over 51% but the only pitcher, other than Tyler, that came to contend was Randy Hankins. Randy finished third at 4-3 with an average of 60.7%. Randy lost two close ones, 34-40 vs Rakestraw & 30-40 vs Webb. These were Randy's two lowest games of the tourney. Ben Webb slid through into

2nd place, losing to Rakestraw 5-40 and to Howard 8-40. So what is the story with the contenders dropping below 50%? It is this: Our Men's field is in a state of flux. Charlie Meredith was looking to compete but had some health issues that kept him out. Ben Webb had pitched great most of the season but experienced a slump just prior to World and never pulled out of it. Tony Hankins was not 100% for the tourney and he was a non-factor. Tony has lost his passion for the game and it would be great if he got it back but it is just not there. Randy pitched awesome, battled every game and pitched the most shoes in the event at 374. Dalton Rakestraw put together three tough games early at 60.0%, 76.4% & 66.6% with 3 wins but then ran into the Tyler buzzsaw and his game went completely off the rails, finishing with 4 losses and never got back to 50% in a game. John Neagle just never got his game to rolling, having his best game against Tyler at 55.0%. John doesn't pitch a lot of tourneys, so the tourney pressure may have got him. Robert Taylor got off to a terrible start and only rebounded his last 4 games to slide into 4th. He did not prepare with practice as he should have. Harold Copher was our "move up" player out of B group and he pitched consistently in the 40's all day. I expected Harold to run a game or two up into the 50's but he just couldn't get there. He is capable for sure! This marked Harold's first Championship appearance since the 1990 State.



Finish Order	W	L	R	S	R%
1. Tyler Howard	7	0	191	234	81.62
2. Ben Webb	5	2	150	304	49.34
3. Randy Hankins	4	3	227	374	60.69
4. Robert Taylor	4	3	150	322	46.58
5. Dalton Rakestraw	3	4	161	326	49.39
6. John Neagle	3	4	162	340	47.65
7. Harold Copher	1	6	161	358	44.97
8. Tony Hankins	1	6	72	184	39.13

*Tony Hankins dropped out after 4 games.

Karen Meredith Edges Lampkin For 1st Women's Title!



As I reported with the Men's State, the Women were also down in percentages...and were down to two competitors. We had four total Women in the whole tourney, as last year, but the entry averages were so far apart, it was felt the B players were out of competitive range. Karen & Laurie duelled in a best 3 of 5 matchup. Defending Champ, Laurie Lampkin got off to a slow start in Game 1 and was down 3-13 after the opening 20 shoes. In the next 30 shoes, Karen Meredith would fall into a major funk, only hitting 5 ringers during that stretch which would allow Laurie to pull way out in front 38-25. The game would go to Lampkin as she closed it out in the next 10 shoes 42-29. In game #2 Karen Meredith would rebound to better consistency in her game and maintained a slight lead most of the way to edge Laurie 42-36. Karen pitched 6 doubles in that game but also tossed 10 open pits. In game #3 it was Laurie who would have a collapse at the stakes by opening the match with 6 ringers in her first 30 shoes. Meredith's

game continued to improve as the tourney went on. Karen averaged 46.0% in game 3 and Laurie went way down at 28.0%. It was a little hot on the courts but not extreme but It does seem the heat may have worn Lampkin down. Meredith took game 3 at 43-18. Game #4 was the best of the lot and a must win for Laurie. Laurie came out strong with 12 ringers out of the first 20 shoes and forged to a 14-5 lead but a 2 for 10 follow-up let Meredith back in the game. Laurie would battle back again, pitching 8 ringers in the next 10 shoes and the score would read 23-16 Lampkin. Karen surged ahead by the 50 shoe mark on another Lampkin slow down 32-26. During the first 50 shoes Karen was pitching very steady with only one open pit but the wheels began to wobble a bit during the next 14 shoes as Karen slumped with a 4 for 14 stretch. Laurie took the game to a 35-33 lead but left an open pit to which Karen scored a double-ringer 6, 39-35, and followed that up with two more and Laurie was unable to cover them. Karen won the game 45-35 pitching 51.4% and 43.8% for the tourney as a whole. Laurie was 45.5% for game 4 and 39.4% for the tourney. This was Karen's first Women's State Title after being so close in previous seasons! Congrats to the new champ!

Truesdell Shines To Win The Elder's State!



After one previous State appearance as an Elder in the 2017 State B Class, Tommy Truesdell was pitching strong enough to move into the A group as a #2 seed for the 2019 State, nestled just behind the front runner Jim Culver. Jim was pitching the strongest of any contender

during the season and was the odds on favorite to take the crown this year since Bob Hudnall had elected not to pitch in 2019. The remainder of the field consisted of the always tough Johnnie Jones, John Irvin and Charles Browning. Dale Snellen was a move-up for Class B Elders. (Jim Luthy, B Winner, had declined.) Tommy cruised through the first 4 games but got a good test from Culver in the last game. Jim had lost one game to

1. Tommy Truesdell 5-0

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. John Irvin	41/15	25	36	69.4
2. Charles Browning	43/16	27	40	67.5
3. Dale Snellen	43/9	35	46	76.0
4. Johnnie Jones	44/24	48	62	77.4
5. Jim Culver	41/34	45	64	70.3
	212	180	248	72.58

John Irvin 30-42 earlier on and needed to beat Truesdell to force a playoff. Jim got off to a good start in the game with 12 out of his first 14 and marched to an early lead of 10-1. Tommy would hold his own though with 9 ringers of his own. For those that don't know much about Tommy's pitching, Tommy is a fighter, a scrapper and will battle tooth and nail!

Tommy scrapped back into the game in the next 6 shoes and went to the lead 13-10. From this point forward it would be a back and forth battle to the very end. Tommy only left one open pit the entire game and Jim only



had four. At 60 shoes, Tommy held the lead at 35-34. Jim had first pitch and tossed one ringer. Truedell capitilized with 3 ringers 3 and followed that up with another double to close out the game and the Championship 41-34. Tommy was 70.3% for the game and Jim averaged 65.6% in the 64 shoe contest.

Finish Order	W	L	R	SP	R%
1. Tommy Truesdell	5	0	180	248	72.58
2. Jim Culver	3	2	178	288	61.80
3. John Irvin	3	2	157	270	58.15
4. Johnnie Jones	2	3	163	264	61.74
5. Dale Snellen	1	4	116	224	51.79
5. Charles Browning	1	4	96	186	51.61

Keith Shocks O'Nan For The Boy's State Championship!



Jarrett Keith made his presence known as a horseshoe force in the Junior Boy's Division! This was by far the most competitive battle in the State this year and at a very high level by both contenders. Ben Webb provides some commentary as the scorekeeper: *"Beginning the first game, both boys got off to a great start but it seemed each missed shoe toppled O'Nan's confidence and I think Jarrett picked up on this. Jarrett winning the first game, majorly swung the momentum in his favor enough so that he would take the second game as well in another long, close match. With Jarrett up 2-0, Seth looked visibly rattled. It looked as if the unexpected pressure may have been getting to Seth during the first two games causing him to drop his shoe just enough for it to make contact with the other shoes before hitting the stake and come off subsequently. During the third game, Seth was more focused knowing he had to win 3 straight games, but Jarrett had no plans to be mowed over. I noticed in this third game that Jarrett was getting a little over confident, which inevitably cost him the game. Jarrett would refuse to be denied as he would turn up the heat in the fourth game and take the State Championship. I think that if Seth could've avoided letting his misses effect him so much, he may have scratched out the win. Jarrett however seemed to flip the switch when the tournament began and found a gear we had never seen from him. Both boy's pitched incredibly well and it was very exciting to watch! I feel like the turning point was that second game. It would've been very hard for Seth to overcome being down 2 games and win 3 straight, with Jarrett's confidence peaked at this point. This will go down as one of the better Boy's state championships in history. Hats off to both contestants, both pitched incredibly well but Jarrett just found*

that "little bit of extra" at the right time." Of Note in Game #1, Jarrett was down 18-32 at 54 shoes, then 27-38 at 68 shoes. Jarrett held Seth on 38 points for the next 20 shoes by not missing! That's right, 20 for 20...amazing effort! Just great pitching by both boys! Seth spoke afterwards of being surprised at Jarrett's level of pitching in the tourney. Jarrett was determined but said he "choked" at the end of game 3. All interesting tidbits of info!



Jarrett Keith's Card 3-1 76.4%

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. Seth O'Nan	41/38	70	88	79.5
2. Seth O'Nan	42/39	52	72	72.2
3. Seth O'Nan	37/40	65	88	73.8
4. Seth O'Nan	40/27	53	66	80.3

Seth's's ringers/% were: 69/78.4, 51/70.8, 65/73.8 & 48/72.7.

Rose Sweeps Neagle In 3 Straight, For Girl's Title!

Abby Rose was the top seed and favorite going into the Girl's battle for the State Title. The battle began with Sarah Neagle opening game one with a double ringer six as she would stretch the early lead to 26-10, as Abby appeared a little shaky early on. Abby would build her confidence and consistency as the game progressed. Rose gained ground on the score to 24-33 and then went on a run hitting 7 ringers in her next 10 shoes to win the game 43-33. In game two, Sarah Neagle would once again gain an early advantage at 17-10 after 22 shoes but Rose would take advantage of dry spells in Neagle's ringer game, overtake and surpass her to win game two at 44-27. Game three was all Abby Rose, as she was confident and relaxed in her pitching



by this point. Neagle never seemed to bring her best horseshoes out from within or show the fight needed to get back into it. Abby beat Sarah 41-11 in the third game, to hoist her 3rd Jr. Girl's State Title trophy!



Sarah's games were: 25.0, 32.1 & 32.3% for an overall average of 29.71%. Congrats to Abby Rose on the 2019 Championship!

The Abby Rose Scorecard 3-0

Opponent	Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
1. Sarah Neagle	43/33	16	48	33.3
2. Sarah Neagle	44/27	21	56	37.5
3. Sarah Neagle	41/11	20	34	58.8
	128	57	138	41.30

Kacey Holds Off C.J. For 1st Cadet Title!



This stats show that our two Cadet competitors were very close in percentage and that the games were also close in score. What was the difference in the contest? Kacey Rose was more serious about her pitching and wanted to win. She tried hard and she achieved the

goal! Kacey won in three straight games, 21-12, 21-15 & 20-17 and finished with an overall average of 04.6% C.J. Yantis finished with an average of 03.5%. Congrats Kacey on your first Championship!

State Class Action!

Coverage of the State Class battles begins with the **Class B Men-** We had 5 grizzled veterans in B Group and all of the finishing averages were really tight, within 7%.

Harold Copher would have to defeat Bobby Robinson in a playoff 46-27 to take the B Title. Harold finished with a tourney average of 46.7% and Bobby's was 42.7%. Eugene Brown finished 3rd at 44.4% and Omer Howard was the only man to defeat Copher in round robin play at 39-34. **Class C Men-** An interesting outcome here. Larry Warren had the 4th highest finishing average in the Class at 29.67%, yet he went undefeated at 6-0! 2nd through 5th place were all 3-3. Frank Irvin was 2nd, averaging 31.33% and Kevin Stevens, 3rd at 31%. **Class D Men-** Alvin Jones was the 6th seeded of 7 players but was the only one to hold steady on his average, which gained him the win. Alvin was 5-1 at 21.67%. Brad Rexroat came in 2nd with a 4-2 record and a 18.7% average. Pete Rogers placed 3rd with the highest class average, 21.71%, just a notch over Alvin. **Class E Men-** Jason Gentry overpowered the Class E Men and went undefeated at 5-0, carrying a 21.2% average. Richard Martin was 2nd and Roger Jones was 3rd. Roger gave Jason all he could handle, narrowly losing 30-33 in their match. This was the best game by both players at 30% and 24%. **Class B Women-** Ashley Ashton was the underdog in Class B but pitched 13% above her average and was able win 3 straight games, after dropping the first two, against Vicki Belcher. A good battle! Ashley averaged 20% for the tourney and Vicki averaged 14.4%. **Class B Elder Men-** Jim Luthy & Dale Snellen done some high level pitching to battle it out! Dale needed to beat Jim in the last game to force a playoff but Jim put the hammer down with an 80% game! Dale made a very strong effort with a 72% of his own, losing by a slim margin 33-30. Jim's overall average was 65.0% and Dale registered 60.5%, both very high on their scale! **Class C Elder Men-** Don Hayes knows his way around those Mt. Sterling courts and dominated the C group! Don was undefeated at 5-0 with an average of 46.8%. Everyone else was way off average but Richard Broadwater pulled into 2nd place with a 29.2% effort. Frank Chaney placed 3rd at 21.2%. **Class B Mixed Juniors-** Our Class B Juniors had two contenders, Weston Ryan & Hanna Neagle. Both pitchers performed over average but Weston was able to step his up by 6% and win in three straight, yet competitive games: 25-24, 25-16 & 26-12. Congrats to Weston!

Howard & Browning Proved Too Strong To Overtake In The Doubles!



The team of Tyler Howard & Charles Browning proved to have too much firepower for the rest of the field. Howard & Browning opened the tourney with a 40-20 defeat of Mitch Duncan & Jim Luthy

and followed that up by knocking off Johnnie Jones & Dale Snellen 40-4, in a 30 shoe game in which they only missed 4 shoes, well Charles missed 4, as Tyler was 16 for 16! They dispatched the Rakestraw & O'Nan team 40-24 in game 4 and this would take us into round two of the 4-team round robin. Tyler & Charles won the next two games 42-27 & 40-26 which brings us to the final game of the day with the Rakestraw/O'Nan matchup. A loss by Howard & Browning would send it to a playoff. The Howard/Browning team forged to a 14-0 lead right out of the box but Dalton & Seth would scrap back into the contest and get the score all the way to 37-33 after 62 shoes of play. All it takes is one slip though and Dalton left the stake unguarded to which Charles Browning scored a 6 pack. Tyler Howard followed with a double back and Seth could only cover one shoe, which gave Howard & Browning the Championship 42-37.

Class A Team	W/L	Team%	Individual%
Tyler Howard/Ch. Browning	6-0	67.9%	(76.5%/58.9%)
Dalton Rakestraw/Seth O'Nan	4-2	64.5%	(47.9%/80.4%)
Jim Luthy /Mitch Duncan	1-5	53.8%	(51.9%/55.8%)
Johnnie Jones /Dale Snellen	1-5	50.0%	(49.3%/50.7%)

Don Hayes & Tommy Truesdell were dominate in the B group, going undefeated at 6-0 for an average of 57.7%. Don Phelps & Bobby Robinson place second in B. Omer Howard & Stan Kemper won Class C undefeated at 4-0 with an average of 32.7% but they had a good challenge from Buddy & Laurie Lampkin who lost their head to head matchup 36-38 finishing 3-1 at 34.8% rolling into a second place finish.

2019 Awards!



**Hall
Of
Fame**



Randy Hankins

Randy Hankins, our newest HOF member, is a 2-time Junior Boy's State Champion, 1981 & 83, as well as a State Doubles Champ in 2013. Randy has served as an officer in the past, consistently pitched a high level of play including two 2nd place finishes in the Men's State Championship and is one of the most loyal supporters of the KHPA. Well deserved Randy!! Congrats!

**Hall
Of
Fame**



Robert Taylor



I won't say much here but I appreciate all of the HOF committee members and KHPA members for inclusion into the HOF. I take most pride in being able to have organized our Kentucky history into a constantly updating digital archive for all to enjoy. Preserving our history and state records will always be my desire and goal. Thanks to all.

Golden Horseshoe Award- Not presented this year.
Horseshoe Pitcher Of The Year- Eugene Broyles
Sportsmanship- Johnnie Jones
Most Improved- Dale Snellen
High Game Over Average- Eddie Salleng
Rookie Of The Year- Eugene Broyles
ACE Scorekeeper Award- Sue Kemper
Perfect Attendance- Eugene Broyles

Eugene Broyles not only competed in every KHPA tournament, he also competed in the World Horseshoe Tournament. He didn't miss a beat!



Moving On In Life!

One of our former KHPA Junior horseshoe pitchers, Zach Hankins made the decision to join the United States Navy and has recently completed his basic training and graduation. Zack will be



stationed in Waukegan Illinois, which is just north of Chicago, for the next six years.



We wish Zach the best in his Naval future and congratulate him on his achievements thus far! Zach Hankins, all grown up and serving our country! As proud Dad Randy would say, "How awesome is that?!"

For A Friend!



Our good friend, Forrest Cooper suffered a stroke just prior to the State Tournament. Forrest had planned to compete and would have been in Elder Men's Class C. Lundie Blevins asked if he could pitch/pace in Forrest's spot to honor him. Lundie & Forrest have always had a tight

friendship through the years and have traveled to many tournaments together. Lundie hasn't pitched in the KHPA in a few years, but made the trip down to Mt. Sterling from Ashland to honor his friend. This gesture is a true representation of our Kentucky Horseshoe family. Way to go Lundie! I'm sure Forrest is proud and we all wish Forrest a speedy recovery.

Officer Shuffle

Wayne Belcher resigned as the KHPA President at the State Membership Meeting. The reigns have been turned over to Eugene "Shorty" Brown. Laurie Lampkin resigned as KHPA 2nd Vice President. Jesse Gentry has been appointed as the KHPA's newest officer.