

That's A Wrap! 2020 State Is In The Books!

It was a few short months ago that some questioned whether or not a Kentucky State Tournament would be possible this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Tourney had been cancelled and many other States followed suit with their tourney. Kentucky vowed to press on. We proceeded with caution early on and continued on through to our State Doubles weekend with no apparent issues. As our 2020 State motto goes: Tough times. Tough pitchers. We pitch on!!!

The Record Falls, Conquered By The Richmond Rocket!

Richmond's Tyler Howard continues to shoot higher into horseshoe stardom as he breaks possibly the most revered record in the Kentucky horseshoe archives, the state Men's tournament high average, held by the late James "Pop" Johnson which had stood for the last 71 years at 82.5%. Tyler wrapped up the Men's Division this year in a nice neat package going 7-0 for an average of 82.9%! The Men's Championship turned into a two man show early on between Tyler and Ben Webb. Tyler made a statement in his very first game by shutting out Class A newcomer, Clinton Denney, 45-0. Tyler hit 28 ringers in 30 shoes for a 93% game. The next 5 players up fared not much better as Tyler overwhelmed each one in 36 shoes or less: 42-9 over Taylor, 42-0 over Robinson, 42-6 over Roberts, 42-10 over Neagle and 42-6 over Randy Hankins. This left one final game against forever rival, Ben Webb. Ben had also had a good run through the tournament but was forced to expend more energy in disposing of each opponent. Ben's run was: 42-25 over Robinson, 40-30 over Roberts, 41-13 over Taylor, 45-17 over Denney, 42-23 over Hankins, and 41-6 over Neagle. Ben was averaging 66.2% through the first 6 games. The final game between Howard & Webb turned into a little bit of a tense affair for a little while before "The Rocket" turned on the afterburners and pulled on into the night sky. In the first 30 shoes of the game, Tyler put on 22 ringers and Ben had 20 with the score registering at 18-9 in Tyler's favor. Next 10 shoes: Tyler 22, Webb 15. In the next four tosses, Webb would score four points and would draw the score as close as he would get at 22-19. Finishing out that set of ten at 50 shoes the score was 28-20, Howard. Here is where Tyler decided enough was enough and he turned on those afterburners. He hit 21 ringers in the final 22 shoes to finish the game at 72 shoes, as Webb struggled to hang on by hitting 17 ringers. The final score was 40-21. This year's percentages were some better than last year as we had six players at 50% or higher compared to last year with only two. Props to Stan Roberts who finished 4th in his first Class A State Championship. I also can't go without noting that 2020 was the first Men's Championship in 33 years that did not include Tony Hankins and the first State Tournament in 41 years. Tony retired from active pitching last season. His competitive presence was missed for sure.



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Finish Order	W	L	R	S	R%
1. Tyler Howard	7	0	204	246	82.93
2. Ben Webb	6	1	235	350	67.14
3. Randy Hankins	4	3	182	310	58.71
4. Stanley Roberts	4	3	176	336	52.38
5. Robert Taylor	3	4	158	312	50.64
6. John Neagle	3	4	164	328	50.00
7. Bobby Robinson	1	6	136	330	41.21
8. Clinton Denney	0	7	137	328	41.77

Lampkin Takes It Back!



Laurie had done very minimal pitching during the 2020 horseshoe season but pitched surprisingly well to reclaim the Kentucky State Title from last year's champ Karen Meredith. Laurie & Karen have had a hold on the Division for the last three years. Laurie captured the title this year with a 5-1 record and had some challenges. The Most Improved player, Ashley Ashton, proved to be a contender this season and had an impact on the Championship. Ashley gave Laurie a good run in the opening game only narrowly losing 36-43. Ashley then defeated Karen Meredith 40-30 in game 2. Laurie would drop game 3 to Karen 29-40 in her lowest effort of the day at 41.3%. Karen would fend off another tough challenge from Ashley in game five 40-36, to remain at four wins and one loss going into the final game. Laurie also had a 4-1 record, which meant the final round robin game would be the Championship. Laurie got off to a hot start and an early lead at 16-3 after 14 shoes. Laurie's game dropped off in the next 20 shoes by only hitting six ringers. Karen pounced with 11 ringers, overtaking Lampkin 26-23. Laurie would gather her game up by this point and never look back. She retook the lead at 44 shoes 27-26 and rambled on for 20 more shoes to capture the win 45-29. Laurie pitched 48.4% in the game compared to Meredith's 42.2% effort. Laurie was 48.6% for the tourney, Karen was 42.5% and Ashley came in at 3-3 for 39.3%. Jackie Gleissner was 4th at 14.8% in her first State. Next year will be very

interesting as Ashley Ashton's game is still improving and she should be a stronger player next season. This is what makes State battles so much fun to watch!

Gleissner outlasts Luthy In Exciting Elder's Finish!



We had some shakeup to our original Elder's lineup. Bob Hudnall had to withdraw due to health reasons and Garry Jackson was a no show. John Shelton agreed to transfer as a B Qualifier to round out the six man field. We had a good scrap for the Championship! Some key games early on would decide who rose to the top. Jim Gleissner lost in game #2 against John Shelton 20-40. Jim Culver lost to Jim Luthy in game #2, 20-42. Culver's low game of the day, 58.3%, was trumped by Luthy's high game of 70.0%. Jim Culver dropped a second game to Gleissner. This game was a back and forth battle all the way until Culver scored on a three ringer three making the score 39-38, but with first pitch, left an open pit to Gleissner's liking, who ended the game 41-39. Jim Luthy was in the catbird's seat, needing only to defeat Gleissner to claim the championship, setting at 4-0 at this point. Jim Luthy jumped out to a 20-8 lead after 20 shoes of the game. Gleissner would pull back into it in two key points when Luthy, on two occasions, left back-to-back open pits. In these two four shoe innings, Gleissner scored 10pts in each. At 46 shoes, Luthy was down 25-36 but found a groove and hit 12 ringers in a row but Gleissner minimized the damage

with 9 of his own. Score 36-34, Gleissner. Luthy continued to chip away, and pulled to a 39-37 lead on a two-dead one call. First pitch...open pit. Gleissner, who had hung in there like like a thorn in Luthy's side had the moment he had battled for. He capitalized with a sixpack, ending the game 43-39. This set up a rematch and final playoff between the two. It appears the previous game wore down Luthy's spirit for the rematch. Gleissner pounced early and mounted a 34-18 lead by 36 shoes. Gleissner did slow down at the end of the game, allowing Luthy to mount a comeback to some degree but it would not be enough as Gleissner took the game and championship 40-32. Gleissner averaged 58.9% overall.

ONan Clips Neal, Too Much Firepower!



Let this stand as the record of the story of the 2020 Ky. Boy's Championship. Last year we saw a great battle in the Division when underdog, Jarrett Keith defeated Seth O'Nan for the state title. This year however, Keith was MIA, only participating one week before the State at Somerset, averaging 45%. Burnt out and dis-interested, Keith decided not to make a State appearance. Covid just brought us a different dynamic. Seth had also not pitch a "live" in person tourney prior to the State, only "mail-ins" but he remained sharp and focused on his practice and preparation. Dylan Neal was on a percentage island

of his own, averaging in the 20% range most of the season. Dylan made a nice percentage jump just prior to the State and was willing to challenge the titan ONan. Dylan pitched very well for his standing and gave a good account of himself in Game #1. After 28 shoes of the 40 shoe game, Dylan was only down 5 points at 13-18. Seth would stretch it out though, to win game one 31-14. Seth averaged 70.0% to Dylan's 57.5% in game one. The boys played 4 games for shoe totals and it was decided beforehand to do shoes instead of points due to the high % gap between players. The Seth train really got rolling thereafter winning the remaining games 54-7, 42-16 & 51-6. Seth O'Nan is a very skilled horseshoe pitcher and posted some awesome stats to take the 2020 State Boy's crown. Seth averaged 77.5% overall and Dylan Neal did well in his percentage averaging 50.0%. Seth, you are one of the top Juniors to pitch in our State and Dylan, you are definitely a star on the rise! Good job to both!

Sarah Neagle Wins Her 3rd & Final Girl's Title!

Sarah Neagle competed in her last State Championship as a Junior Girl. 2020 turned into a bit of a letdown due to the virus concerns. Sarah was a much improved player over last season and looked to give defending Champ Abby Rose a good fight for the title this year but Abby opted not to participate in this year's event. Sarah was



left to battle her sister Hanna for the 2020 title. Hanna has been pitching horseshoes for several seasons but admittedly is not the competitor her sister is. She put up a game effort though

and she is to be commended for that. Sarah defeated Hanna 40-15, 66-9 & 54-6 in the title run. Hanna's best game was her first at 22%. Sarah's games were, 38, 42 & 40. Sarah's overall average was 40% and Hanna's was 14%. Next year Sarah will look to challenge for the State Women's title and she should give them a good run!

Addison Ashton, 2020 Ky. Cadet Champ!

Addison Ashton is the new Cadet Champion of Kentucky. One thing is apparent with Addison, she loves to pitch horseshoes! Kentucky had 3 Cadets on the



2020 roster but due to Covid concerns and C.J. Yantis being unable to participate, Addison was our lone Cadet. Addison pitched in a competitive Class with the Junior Boy's and won two of those games! Addison averaged 5% ringers for the tournament which was slightly higher than the average posted by last year's champion. Addison's flip shoe is visibly improving all the time and we look forward to seeing what she

can do next season and are proud to have her as our 2020 Ky. State Junior Cadet Champ! Nice pitching Addison!

State Class Action!

Covering the action from our remaining State Classes:

Class B Men- Looking back we had the same 5 Men competing in Class B again this year with the same result, Harold Copher got'em again, going 4-1, with Omer Howard the only player to defeat Copher. Harold averaged 43.2% overall. Clinton Denney pitched the high game at 56%. Bobby Robinson placed 2nd and along with Denney transferred to Class A on Sunday. (Copher declined). **Class C Men-** Louisville's Larry

"Bunny" Hayes went undefeated at 5-0 to take the trophy home, averaging 43.6%. Tony McFarland of Liberty was 2nd, 3-2, averaging 28.8%. Class C was all 30% and above entry averages but Hayes was the only player that pitched above average. No one else broke 30%. **Class D Men-** Boone Woods club member, Andy Hegener captured the D title in a hard fought 3-way playoff with Kevin Stevens and Pete Rogers. Stevens defeated Rogers 26-19 and Hegener defeated Stevens 30-19. Hegener averaged 32.5% overall for the tourney. **Class E Men-** In this evenly matched class, A.B. Webb pulled a victory out of the hat, going 5-0, averaging 22.1%. Third place man Roger Jones was the only player to defeat Webb 30-19 in game #4. Buddy Lampkin took 2nd place with a 3-3 record and 20.4% average. **Class F Men-** Another Boone Woods member, Richard Martin put a whuppin' on the F guys, going 8-0 with an average of 23.1%. I think Richard likes these courts, after winning a regular season class here as well! Eugene Broyles parked it in 2nd place, nudging Jim Long in percentage as both went 4-4 for the tourney. Eugene and Jim have been close battling all year long! **Class B Women-** Improvement and experience, are the words. Ashley Ashton & Jackie Glessner represented Class B. The State tourney had four ladies entered with some percentage gaps in between. Ashley defeated Jackie to win B and both advanced to Class A. Ashley averaged 46% in the Class B and Jackie, only beginning in tourneys this season, improved over her Natstat from 10 to 12% in Class B and jumped to 14% in Class A. Making the climb! **Class B Elder Men-** 3 overs and 3 unders. The top 3 finishers all pitched above average, so much so that you could switch the letters on A & B, and no one would notice the difference. Mitch Duncan went undefeated at 5-0 with an average of 61.5%! Mitch held off a couple of tough challenges, a 23-22 win against John Shelton and a 32-28 game versus Charles Browning, our 2nd place man at 4-1, 62.5%. Shelton finished 3rd, 53.0%. **Class C Elder Men-** George Nicely defeated Larry Davis in four games. George averaged 38.7% to Larry's 20.6%. A \$50 discount on a new pair of shoes was on the line in game #3 and they really had a good battle going! The score was all tied up 24-24 going into the last pitch and Larry put on one ringer but

George put on two to take the game and the shoe discount! **Class B & C Junior Boys-** Dylan Neal was our representing B Champion. Dylan averaged 50.8% and pitched with the C Boys. The C Boys was a battle between Levi Johnson & James Webb. Levi defeated James 13-9 and 22-7 to take the Class C Championship. Levi averaged 07.1% in the tourney.

Youth Reigns Supreme At State Doubles!



Our 2020 State Doubles Class A had five teams and we were attempting a double round of 40pt. games but it was rain shortened as downpours and darkness came to put an end to the contest at five games. The top spot was firmly held by Howard and O’Nan as they were undefeated through five games. Games were: 42-4 over Jones/Kemper, 41-14 over Luthy/Duncan, 42-27 over Snellen/Shelton, 40-27 over Webb/Hankins and 44-12 over Jones/Kemper in the return match. Tyler’s individual average was 70.5% and Seth averaged 69.2%. John Shelton & Dale Snellen was awarded 2nd place at 3-2 and a team average of 54.9%. A scoring snafu affected the team of Luthy /Duncan but due to the ending rains, the game could not be rectified. The Class B Doubles Champions were Stanley Roberts & Clinton Denney at 6-0. Destinnie Howard & Laurie Lampkin, 2nd. Class C Champions were Omer Howard & Dylan Neal 6-0 with Dow Buford & Larry Davis placing 2nd at 5-1. The Class D Champions were Jim Long & Eugene Broyles at 7-1. Brad Rexroat & Pete Rogers held on for 2nd place.

Editor-Robert Taylor

2020 Awards!



**Hall
Of
Fame**



Fred Nalley

Fred Nalley has been a solid fixture in the Bardstown Horseshoe Club and The Kentucky Association for 30+ years. Fred excels in the background making contributions that go unnoticed; building scoreboards and helping maintain the Bardstown horseshoe courts.

**Hall
Of
Fame**



Johnnie Jones



Johnnie is a 30+ year member of the KHPA from 1989-2020. Johnnie is a 2-time Elder Men’s Kentucky State Champion 2005 & 2006. Johnnie is a 3-time Kentucky State Doubles Champion: 2008, 2009 & 2016. Johnnie has long been a reliable member of the Madison County Club in Richmond as well as a mentor to his family.

Golden Horseshoe Award- Brad Rexroat & Frank Irvin
Sportsmanship- Dow Buford
Most Improved- Ashley Ashton
ACE Scorekeeper Awards- Jim Gleissner, Ashley Ashton, Jackie Gleissner and Amy Gleissner.

Due to Covid-19 and our altered season we did not have a Horseshoe Pitcher Of The Year, Rookie Of The Year or High Game Over Average award.

Abandoned Court Files

I have been meaning to do this story for a while now and it is overdue! During the Mt. Sterling State last year, Don Hayes was telling me of the existence of a set of horseshoe courts located in the nearby town of Camargo. This peaked my curiosity so we drove town there to check them out. The courts are located in the small town of Camargo, a town with the population of around 1000



And it is located about nine miles southeast of Mt. Sterling. We drove down and sure enough, located nestled on a shady hillside just below the firehouse in a small rundown park are eight clay horseshoe courts with full concrete walkways and they in all likelihood have never been used or have seen minimal use. The tops of the stakes are still sharp edged! Don also assured me that there is a full bed of clay underneath the thick grass that now covers the pits. Don tells that these pits were built sometime near the years of when the courts in Easy Walker were built back in 1999. The courts were requested by the Camargo Fire Chief of the time, Wayne Welch in preparation for a planned upcoming horseshoe tournament that never came to fruition. The courts were built and apparently have just sat there for these last 20 years untouched. After a bit of searching I found that Wayne Welch retired as fire chief and passed away in 2011. It is possible a court or two had seen minimal use by people of the firehouse but by the grass growing in

the pits, they have not seen any recent action. So sad. It would be nice if someone were to have a league here. Such nice potential courts lying there going to waste.

OFFICER ELECTION

With the resignation of Eugene Brown as KHPA President, we had two candidates that desired the position. Everyone should have received their ballots at this point. All have been mailed. All completed ballots will remain sealed in the ballot box until after the October 19th deadline. The ballots will then be counted thereafter and the new President will be announced by the time of the Winter Officer's Meeting.



50/50 Prize Winners

Bobby Robinson
Jason Gentry
Andy Hegener
Johnnie Jones
Robert Taylor*



Don Phelps
Mitch Duncan
Don Hayes
Karen Meredith
Stanley Roberts

*(See Elder Men Class C)

Winners of Shorty's Horseshoes: A.B. Webb, Dylan Neal and Laurie Lampkin, class winners!

Thanks!

A.B. "Judge" Webb for volunteering for this tough position. Ready on the call for a much needed service. Also thanks to Wayne & Vicki for the hard work put in as tournament directors.



Brad Rexroat, Frank and John Irvin, R.C. Ryan and all those associated with the Russell Springs Club. The courts were in fine shape! Outstanding!