

An In Depth Look At The 1927 Kentucky State Horseshoe Championships- Louisville, KY.

QUALIFYING ROUNDS: Qualifying to pitch in the State Tourney got underway Friday, August 19th, 1927. Only players whose averages that were not on record with the Kentucky Association were required to qualify by pitching 100 shoes. Qualifying was held at three Louisville parks: Central (which had still not yet installed lights), Shawnee and Iroquois Park. Qualifiers were split into three Divisions, the **Davis Group**, the **Jackson Group** & **Mossman Group** with the Davis Group classified as the Championship Class. Players could choose in which park they wished to qualify.

Eight men pitched in the 1st round of qualifying on Saturday, Aug. 19th:

Edwin Patterson	39%	Fred Borcharding (14)	35%	Joe Dunham	26%
Harvey Garrett (9)	38%	J. B. Johnson (17)	31%	P. V. Frazier	23% (10)
William Gregory (12)	36%	J. H. Bell (18)	31%		

Remaining qualifying averages of those that qualified on Aug. 20th in addition to players that were already on file.

Lloyd Hagan (2)	57%	J. C. Strotman (19)	31%	Tom Lorsch (12)	22%
Sam Mattingly (3)	49%	T. P. Storey (13)	30%	Philip M. O'Bryan Jr.	21%
John Boehnlein (4)	42%	Laurent Gagner (1)	28%	Robert Pigg (13)	21%
J. W. Netherton (5)	42%	T. Denham (2)	28%	Charlie R. Sengel (1)	21%
O. L. Dailey (6)	41%	J. A. Bennett (4)	26%	Bryan Wiggington	21%
Riley Bowles (7)	39%	M. H. Jones	26%	Henry Kroll	20%
Edwin Beckman (8)	38%	L. M. Sletner (5)	26%	Carl L. Sengel (3)	19%
Luther Garrett (10)	38%	Ray White (6)	25%	Eugene Doelckner	18%
Walter Hess (11)	37%	Robert Happel (7)	25%	W. E. Anderson (6)	16%
L. C. Miller	37%	Ed Young (8)	24%	J. Heourin (7)	15%
S. J. Morris (15)	34%	Charles Steier (9)	24%	Eugene Linton (8)	15%
Carl Jordan (16)	31%	C. R. Winter (11)	23%		

Qualifying averages not known. Not listed in the qualifying rundown but pitched in the State:

John E. Shaw (1)	E. McQuillen (9)	J. C. Obermiller
E. H. Fife (3)	William B. Reynolds (10)	Roy Hornback
J. P. Hamilton (2)	William June (11)	(=) = scheduled seeded players
R.T. Black (4)	J. O. Holmes (12)	
L. P. Soete (5)	Charles Fieldhouse (13)	



Mossman Horseshoes-

Debuted in 1927 and changed the game with the invention of the "hooks".

Note the fact that in the final schedule of classed players, John Shaw is listed at the head of the list as the #1 seed. 1923 State Champion, J. W. Netherton is listed on the final schedule to pitch in Davis Group as is J. B. Johnson but neither man actually participated in the event. Others listed above in black, pitched qualifying averages but did not participate in the actual tournament. In the Jackson Group, M. H. Jones was not on the August 24th schedule. In the Mossman Group, Obermiller & Hornback are not listed on the August 24th schedule, so they would assume to be last minute additions.

Entries were to close on August 22nd, Qualifiers were classed on the 23rd, with the tournament getting underway on the 24th, Wednesday night. T.P. Storey was chosen as the manager of the **Davis Group** held in Shawnee Park, Eugene Doelckner was charged to manage the **Jackson Group** held in Iroquois Park and Edwin Patterson was in command of the **Mossman Group** held in Central Park. (Note that both Patterson & Doelckner managed divisions and qualified for the tourney but neither pitched in the competition. Did they withdraw to focus on management? It is a theory.)

The State Begins: The slated start date was August 24th, 1927. 50 point games were played. A three-year cup was offered as an incentive to a potential winner. Reporter, William Ray, does a nice job of describing the first night of action held in Shawnee Park, managed by T. P. Storey. Here is William Ray's reporting:

Reported: Aug. 25th, 1927- *"Under starlit skies, in chilling fall weather, and on the ten electrically lighted courts that cluster within the great open spaces of Shawnee Park, the Class A Division of the 1927 Kentucky Horseshoe Tournament got under way last night with fifteen entrants completing four games or more."*

"The temperature was low enough to justify the pursuit of such sports as ice hockey and skiing, but the local metal flinging colony is a hardy bunch and fifteen of its elite, intrepidly rolled up their sleeves, grasped icy shoes and flung for all they were worth. Riley Bowles and Sam Mattingly were the most adept at tossing cold metal, for both completed their quartette of games with perfect records, besides landing 88 and 86 ringers respectively. A lead of two or three games at this early stage does not mean exceedingly much, however, for each player in the upper most division must play eighteen games before the final reckoning is made."



First Round Results

Entrant	W/L	R
Riley Bowles	4-0	88
Sam Mattingly	4-0	86
John Shaw	4-1	78
Ed Beckman	3-1	104
O. L. Dailey	3-1	87
Carl Jordan	3-2	87
John Boehnlein	2-2	82
S. J. Morris	2-2	60

First Round Results

Entrant	W/L	R
Harvey Garrett	2-3	80
Luther Garrett	1-3	98
F. Borcharding	1-3	76
W. Gregory	1-3	68
J. H. Bell	1-3	50
Walter Hess	1-3	92
Joe Strotman	0-5	27

Riley Bowles- 25 years of age in 1927. Riley was leading in the early rounds of the tournament, his only known State appearance. From Shelbyville, Ky.

Sam Mattingly- 37 yrs. of age in 1927. Experienced player and the 1927 City Champion. A distinct favorite to win. From Louisville, Ky.

Lloyd Hagan and T. P. Storey are not listed in the first nights action. It was reported that there were fives more rounds to be completed that night. These results were either unintentionally omitted from the report or were still unofficial or incomplete at the time.

The second round of the 1927 State Championship was completed on Thursday night, August 25th and found that Mattingly and Bowles remained in command of the tournament, both with 7-1 records. Defending State Champion, Ed Beckman reeled off three wins in round two to pull to a record of 6-1.

Standings after Round #2

Entrant	W/L
Riley Bowles	7-1
Sam Mattingly	7-1
Ed Beckman	6-1
John Shaw	6-3
Carl Jordan	6-3
John Boehnlein	6-3
O. L. Dailey	5-2
Lloyd Hagan	4-2

Standings after Round #2

Entrant	W/L
Harvey Garrett	4-5
Walter Hess	4-4
W. Gregory	4-4
T. P. Storey	3-3
F. Borcharding	3-6
S. J. Morris	2-5
J. H. Bell	1-7
Joe Strotman	0-8

Round three of the tournament was pitched on Tuesday Night, August 30th and reported the next day in the Louisville Courier Journal. It was noted that Walter Hess had amassed the highest point total for the round at 308 points, *"but went to 7th place because of his inability to take more than seven of the fourteen games he tossed."* He would go on to finish mid-pack at 8-8.



Walter Hess- Age 29 in 1927, From Louisville.

Standings after Round #3

Entrant	W/L
Sam Mattingly	10-1
John Boehnlein	8-5
W. Gregory	8-4
John Shaw	7-3
Walter Hess	7-7
F. Borcharding	7-6
O. L. Daily	6-4

Standings after Round #3

Entrant	W/L
Carl Jordan	6-7
Harvey Garrett	6-7
Luther Garrett	5-4
S. J. Morris	3-9
T. P. Storey	2-4
J. H. Bell	1-13
Joe Strotman	0-13

Sam Mattingly is listed in the lead of the Tournament after round three action and was noted as having thrown 50 doubles for the 11 games played. Key contenders, Riley Bowles, Lloyd Hagan and Ed Beckman are not mentioned in the standings of round three. After the reporting of round two, Bowles faded and only broke even on games going 4-4. Lloyd Hagan made a nice run in the



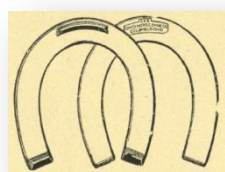
William Gregory-

Made a good run into 3rd place in round 3 with four straight wins.



Ed Beckman-

Defending Champ, having won the state in 1926. Edwin was 44 years of age in 1927.

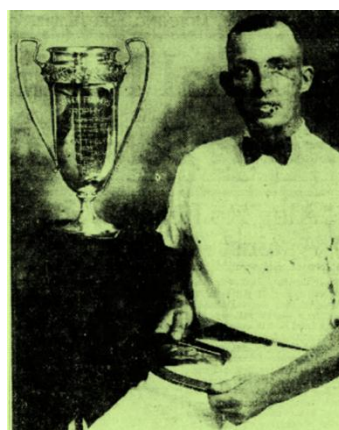


Ohio Horseshoes

"Sam Mattingly won the Kentucky State horseshoe pitching championship With a record of fourteen games won and two lost, and a ringer average of 38 percent. Ed Beckman and L. Hagan tied for second place in the Championship division and Hagan won in the playoff." – **Louisville Courier Journal, Sunday September 4th, 1927.**

Final Standings Class A Men (Davis Group)

Sam Mattingly	14-2	38.0%
Lloyd Hagan	13-3	38.0%
Edward Beckman	13-3	37.0%
John Boehnlein	11-5	35.0%
Riley Bowles	11-5	30.0%
William Gregory	10-6	34.0%
Luther Garrett	9-7	34.0%
John Shaw	9-7	32.0%
Walter Hess	8-8	33.0%
Fred Borcharding	8-8	27.0%
O. L. Daily	7-9	28.5%
Carl Jordan	6-10	27.0%
Harvey Garrett	6-10	24.0%
S. J. Morris	5-11	28.0%
T. P. Storey	3-13	19.5%
Joe Strotman	2-14	21.0%
J. H. Bell	1-15	20.0%



Sam Mattingly- Pictured here in a 1931 LCJ article, Sam had captured two state titles, 1927 & 1930.



Lloyd C.

Hagan—No photos located of Lloyd. Age 25 in 1927. He worked for the L & N Railroad and would also pitch in the 1928 State.

Sam Mattingly and Ed Beckman had a good little rivalry going for three successive years in the State Tournament. In 1926, Beckman had defeated Mattingly in two straight playoff games 50-39 and 50-40 to take the 1926 State Crown. After Mattingly "wrested the Crown from Beckman" in 1927, Beckman would take his game up to a new level in 1928 at 48.9%, to re-capture the state title. In 1928, potentially in an effort to keep up with his competition, Mattingly switched from a ¾ turn to a 1 ¼ turn and fell to third place in the 1928 tournament, in which he was handily defeated by Beckman 55-20. Other notables in the tourney, O.L. Daily was billed as the "Champion Of The Standard Sanitary Company" and one of the prominent contenders. Fourth place man, John Boehnlein was known as the "Louisville Railway Champion" and would make another strong run in the 1929 State.

M. H. Jones out classed the Jackson Group with a 37.5% average. Take note that this is only a half percent off of Sam Mattingly's championship class final average! Both, Jones and Steier would start off the tourney at 3-0, while Fife would get off to a rocky start at 1-2. Both Jones and Steier advanced their records to 5-1 after the second round of play. Gagner, Denham and Fife were listed as the top 3 seeded players in Class B and Charles Steier was fresh off a big win in the Class B Louisville City Championship, competing against many of these same players. Third place man, E. H. Fife, would progress his pitching game and make many future State Class A appearances.

Class B Men (Jackson Group)

M. H. Jones	11-1	37.5%
Charles Steier	10-2	23.0%
E. H. Fife	9-3	26.5%
J. A. Bennett	8-4	27.5%
Edward Young	8-4	20.0%
C. R. Winter	7-5	25.0%
P. V. Frazier	5-7	26.5%
L. J. Gagner	5-7	22.0%
Robert Pigg	5-7	16.5%
Robert Happel	4-8	20.0%
L. M. Sletner	4-8	19.0%
T. Denham	1-11	16.0%
Ray White	1-11	16.0%



Little is known about **M.H. Jones**. I cannot confirm this is his photo but I do suspect it to be. (left) He was 58 yrs. old in 1927.



Charles Steier- Charles also finished in Class B 2nd place in the 1926 State.

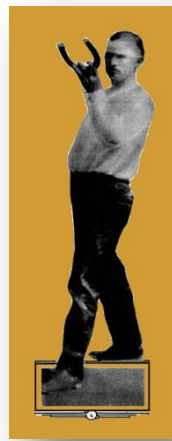
Charlie Sengel, at just 15 years of age, won the Mossman Group in a playoff over veteran players, J. P. Hamilton and Carl Sengel. Charlie was a very active teenager who also competed in basketball and baseball, He was noted as a likeable kid who was modest and unassuming, trying his darndest at all times. Hamilton & Sengel both were employed by the L & N Railroad and Charlie would join the trade in future years. Also of note in the Mossman group was the 1924 Kentucky

Class C Men (Mossman Group)

C. R. Sengel	12-2	20.0%
J. P. Hamilton	12-2	20.5%
C. L. Sengel	12-2	22.2%
Roy Hornback	9-5	16.5%
William Reynolds	9-5	13.5%
L. P. Soete	8-4	19.7%
R. T. Black	8-6	16.2%
J. Heourin	8-6	13.0%
J. C. Obermiller	7-7	16.5%
E. McQuillen	6-8	11.7%
Eugene Linton	5-9	10.2%
William June	5-9	05.0%
W. E. Anderson	2-12	06.2%
Charles Fieldhouse	2-12	20.2%
R. Holmes	0-14	06.5%



Charlie R. Sengel- 15 yr. old son of Carl L. Sengel.



James Pate Hamilton- Age 38 in 1927. Lefthanded Flip pitcher.



Carl L. Sengel- 46 years old in 1927. Carl was President Of The Louisville National Horseshoe Pitchers' Club. Pitched Ohio brand Horseshoes.

State Champion, Leonard P. Soete. Just three years prior, Soete had defeated Sam Mattingly in the 1924 State but the horseshoe game and the skill required to compete for the State Championship was progressing forward and it appears that Soete's game had not kept up with the top level of competition of the times. L. P. Soete also pitched Ohio horseshoes in 1927.