

From the KHPA History Files: Birth Of The Somerset Horseshoe Courts

## History Of The Somerset Horseshoe Courts

The Somerset horseshoe courts were built in the spring of 2002, in what was to be called "Citizen's Park" which was the former site of a city swimming pool. Eugene Brown was the key figure in getting these courts built and on the KHPA schedule. Original members of the Somerset Horseshoe Club and caretakers of the courts included Eugene Brown, Eddie Haynes, Ben Dykes and Gordon Meece. The Somerset courts had an active sanctioned league in 2004.



The first sanctioned tournament held on the Somerset Courts was on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2002. As seen in the photo above, 10 courts had been completed. The restrooms as well as courts one and two were still under construction. Not part of the original 2002 Schedule, this event was added into an open slot when enough courts had been completed to hold the inaugural event.



The first "Somerset Open" drew 18 pitchers but would grow significantly in succeeding years. Seen in the photo to the lower right is Sue Snyder letting one fly in a game versus Tommy Bussells in Class A. Sue was 6-0 and averaged 69.3% that day to become the first Somerset tourney champion! Somerset continued on the KHPA schedule with the lone Somerset Open in 2003 and in 2004 they would host their one and only State Tournament to date, held on September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.



The State Tournament of 2004 in Somerset hosted 59 pitchers on Labor Day weekend. Seen above and below is the completed courts taken at the State Doubles of 2003. Yes, that is right, 2003! The State Doubles of 2003 was moved from the Campton site to Somerset due to low interest in Campton. In 2005 a second tourney in Somerset was added to the KHPA Schedule, continuing on as a staple to the schedule to the present day.

