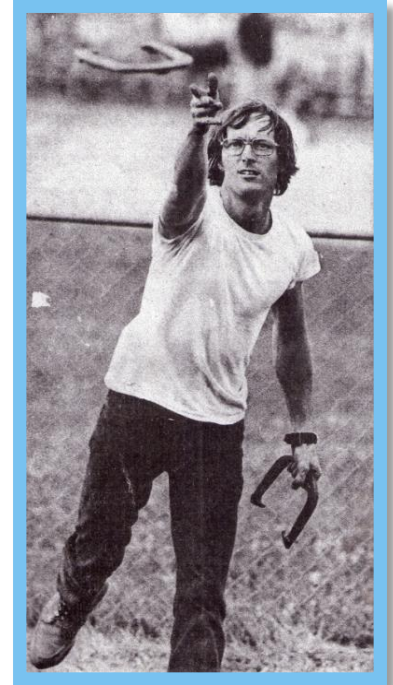


From the KHPA History Files: Origins of the Horseshoe Club in Elizabethtown, Ky.

## History Of The Elizabethtown Horseshoe Club

Around 1975, Elizabethtown's Lou Pottinger was working for KU (Kentucky Utilities) driving a utility truck and he always kept his set of horseshoes close at hand inside his truck's storage compartment. One day while Lou had his truck in the garage for service, worker, Newman Cundiff saw Lou's horseshoes in the truck and told him that he needed to get in touch with a fellow named David Ward who loved to pitch horseshoes also. Newman got those two together and they developed what would become a long and lasting friendship in horseshoe pitching, setting in motion the beginnings of the Elizabethtown Horseshoe Club. Lou & David started pitching in Campbellsville on Friday nights, meeting up with George Cralley. The three put together six sand courts at University Park in E'town and they would continue to draw in members. Early club members were: Lou, David, Cralley, Don Atterbury, Russ & Mable Hornback, Holmes Stiles, Ed Lovin & Stanley Tharpe. The Club's original name was the "Hub City Horseshoe Pitcher's Club". Hub City pitched doubles



**Lou Pottinger on the original sand courts. 6/18/1975**



**David Ward**

two nights a week, Monday and Tuesdays, and were active year-round, pitching in the old Memorial Recreation Center (MRC) Building during the winter. While pitching at the MRC, They were pitching with William Earl Kennedy & Billy Fisher who happened to be co-workers of Jim Noble. The E'town gang hooked up with Noble & Omar Blacketer, who got them into sanctioned horseshoe pitching in the Kentucky Horseshoe Pitcher's Association. As the club's numbers and interest grew, Russ Hornback was constantly pushing for the club to install clay courts. With the construction experience of Don Atterbury and the help of

Parks & Recreation Director Bob Wurm, the club installed eight clay courts in University Drive Park. Everyone in the club pitched in and got the courts built and ready to be included on the KHPA Schedule in 1980. The courts were concrete platforms only, no walkways. The club also developed a close horseshoe bond with the members of Louisville's Metro Club, as many of the Metro members would make the drive to E'town and regularly pitch on weeknights. Noble, Blacketer, Len Saling, Ted Sauer, Ben Cole, Willard Drane, Fred and Bill Gordon, were frequent regulars joining in with the E'town Club. The original eight



**Original Elizabethtown 8-court layout**



**Original Elizabethtown 8-court layout**

court layout would remain a constant on the KHPA schedule through the 1997 season. During this time the club wished to move the location of its current set of courts due to the close proximity to the parks youth baseball fields. The courts were deemed unsafe, as balls were frequently being hit onto the court site with the youth running after them. Lou Pottinger stated that a ball once hit Omar Blacketer in the heel during a horseshoe event and it had a lingering effect on Omar's pitching the rest of the year. *(You can see the baseball fields in the background of the photo to the left.)* The E'town Club evolved over the years in its membership from the 80's through to when the new courts were built

in August of 1997. Key Elizabethtown Club members present and pitching in the KHPA when the new court site was built were: Lou Pottinger, David Ward, Cecil Cook, Leamon Benningfield, Holmes Stiles, his sons and Curtis and Sissy Lewis. The club continued to pitch doubles on Monday nights. The new court layout was 12

back to back clay courts with full concrete walkways. Courts 1 & 2 has full handicap accessible concrete walkways. With the new site completed, the E'town Club would host its first State Tournament in 1998. Over the years, the club continued to be on the move when it came to pitching during the winter months, pitching with portable courts in various locations including the MRC building, the ambulance building and the Lincoln Mercury building. Around 1988 or 89, the club began pitching in "The Barn", located on property owned by Lou Pottinger. "The Barn" had three courts insulated and heated by a gas burner. It also included restrooms, a bar and a lounge area. The courts were located on the upper level of the barn on a tongue and groove wood floor. "The Barn" was a popular and known horseshoe hotspot for several years until interest began to die down and members were lost due to the "toll of time". Lou sold the property and pitching at "The Barn" ended in 2003. The Elizabethtown Club has hosted the state tournament four times to date: 1998, 2001, 2010 & 2015. The Club continues to be active in the KHPA but with reduced numbers. The core members currently are: Lou Pottinger, Cecil Cook, Jim Baker, Shelia Williams and Lou's grandsons, Leland and Hadden Fuller, representing the younger generation!



**Current Elizabethtown 12-court layout**



**Lou Pottinger, Cecil Cook, Jim Baker, Shelia Williams**