

From the KHPA History Files: Flashback to the 1987 Men's Kentucky State Championship

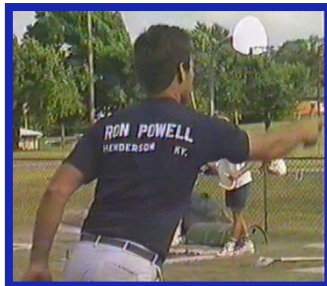
## 1987 Men's State Championship, 3 Rise To Shoot It Out!

The 1987 Kentucky State Tournament was held on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at the Georgetown courts. Going into the championship that year, Ron Powell was the defending champion and #1 seed. Ron had switched from a 1 ¾ turn for his 86' victory to a 1 ¼ turn in 1987. A remarkable feat to win two state titles with two different turns. Seeded #2 and in his first year in the Men's division was Tony Hankins. The title would be decided in a 3-way playoff clash between Ron Powell, Bob Hudnall & and third seeded Ed Henry.



### 1. Ron Powell 8-1 71.7%

Ron Powell was the man to beat. Ronnie was the new top gun on the Kentucky horseshoe scene, having won the title in the previous year by going undefeated and averaging 71.9%. Powell would be tested in a playoff battle against his friend Bob Hudnall to hang on to his title this year, after losing his only round robin game to Bob 38-40.



#### Powell's Championship Scorecard

Round	Opponent	Score	R	SP	Per. %
Game 1	Malone	41-28	45	62	72.5%
Game 2	Copher	42-25	30	48	62.5%
Game 3	Salings	44-24	32	46	69.6%
Game 4	R. Hankins	40-22	41	54	75.9%
Game 5	Lovelace	44-10	37	44	84.1%
Game 6	Hudnall	38-40	56	82	68.3%
Game 7	Curran	45-14	34	46	73.9%
Game 8	Henry	40-37	45	66	68.2%
Game 9	T. Hankins	42-16	30	40	75.0%

### 2. Bob Hudnall 8-1 65.6%

Bob Hudnall was coming off of two previous 4<sup>th</sup> Place finishes in the Championship and was carrying the #6 seed this year. This would be Bob's best shot at the title. Bob was the only flip Pitcher in the field sporting Cal-Flip horseshoes.



#### Hudnall's 1987 State Scorecard

Round	Opponent	Score	R	SP	Per. %
Game 1	Copher	40-20	31	46	67.4%
Game 2	Curran	41-28	31	54	57.4%
Game 3	T. Hankins	41-8	31	42	73.8%
Game 4	Malone	41-34	39	54	72.2%
Game 5	Henry	34-40	41	68	60.3%
Game 6	Powell	40-38	57	82	69.5%
Game 7	Lovelace	42-3	18	26	69.2%
Game 8	Salings	40-29	33	52	63.5%
Game 9	R. Hankins	40-26	37	62	59.7%

### 3. Ed Henry 8-1 65.9%

Ed Henry, the 1983 champion was always in contention during his 10-year tenure. Ed finished in the top three, 8 out of his 10 appearances. Ed hung tough in this tourney! In 7 of his 9 games, Ed's opponent scored over 30 points against him and Ed was pitching very well.



#### Henry's 1987 State Scorecard

Round	Opponent	Score	R	SP	Per. %
Game 1	Salings	41-31	30	54	55.6%
Game 2	R. Hankins	41-35	41	62	66.1%
Game 3	Lovelace	45-10	29	36	80.6%
Game 4	Copher	45-30	40	54	74.1%
Game 5	Hudnall	40-34	43	68	63.2%
Game 6	Malone	40-15	23	36	63.9%
Game 7	T. Hankins	41-38	38	62	61.3%
Game 8	Powell	37-40	44	66	66.7%
Game 9	Curran	41-30	34	50	68.0%

## 4. Tony Hankins

**5-4 61.8%**



Tony Hankins concluded his first Men's Championship in the 4<sup>th</sup> position, losing to Len Salings 32-42 with a 63.2% game. Tony's other losses came to the top 3 finishers. Tony battled Ed Henry to the wire at 41-38 with a 62.9% game.

## 5. Len Salings

**5-4 61.1%**



Len Salings would prove to be a tough one to chalk up a win against. Salings was consistent in his games and posted an impressive 29 ringers for 36 shoes at 80.6% in a 41-9 win over Ed Curran. Salings lost to the top 3 and Denny Malone.

## 6. Harold Copher

**4-5 61.0%**



Harold Copher posted wins against all those that finished lower than him in the standings but could not knock off anyone up the ladder. Copher did toss three games above 70% with a 77.5% 40-12 win over Randy Hankins, his high game.

## 7. Denny Malone

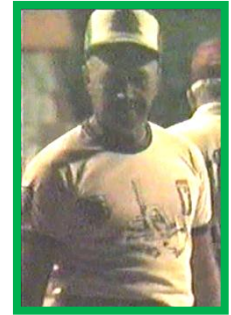
**3-6 55.8%**



Denny Malone was competing in his third of four state title appearances and got out of the gate with a solid challenge to Ron Powell, pitching 64.5% in the losing effort. Malone would also throw down a serious test for Bob Hudnall with a 68.5% game but lost 34-41.

## 8. Ed Curran

**2-7 55.6%**



This would be the last State title fight for Paris Kentucky's Ed Curran. Ed had captured the title two years prior in 1985 and went into this tourney as the #4 seed. Curran's high game came against Denny Malone with 25 ringers for 36 shoes at 69.4% in a 43-11 victory.

## 9. Randy Hankins

**1-8 54.0%**



This was Randy's second entry into the Men's Class A State. Randy would narrowly lose his first two games 37-40 against Curran and 35-41 against Henry. Randy would manage one win with his best game of 65.9% against Stan Lovelace.

## 10. Stan Lovelace

**1-8 51.0%**



Covington's Stan Lovelace was in his 19<sup>th</sup> Championship and did not improve upon his number 10 seed into the tourney and finished 7% below his entry percentage. Stan's lone win came with his best game of 64.3% against Ed Curran 45-35. Lovelace pitched a 62.9% game, losing to T. Hankins 35-42.

## The Playoffs!

Bob Hudnall would rematch with Ed Henry in the first playoff as Ron Powell had the high % bye. Hudnall took control early in the game and overpowered Henry 40-21 in 48 shoes. Hudnall averaged 68.8% to Henry's 56.3% game. Powell would defeat Hudnall 41-25. In a 66 shoe final match for the title. Powell threw 71.2% to Hudnall's 63.6%.



*(Photos are from video taken by John Hankins at the 87 State.)*