

KHPA 2024 STATE IS A SUCCESS!



At the beginning of the 2024 horseshoe season, it was unclear how the year would unfold and exactly what our 2024 State Horseshoe Tournament would look like. In 2023, we had 63 players competing at the State and this year, we had 60. Considering all that had transpired, this can certainly be considered a success, and I am very pleased with how everything ran. We made a lot of good memories this year and welcomed several new players to their very first

Kentucky State Horseshoe Tournament! Thank you to Karen Meredith for stepping in to fill the gaps, A.B. Webb for doing a great job getting the courts in tip-top shape and providing us with some great food! Thanks to the Webbs for the beautiful trophies and thanks to every player and member that contributed!

TOP- Stoney lines up a pitch in Class C Men. CENTER- Robert presents John Irvin with the Hall of Fame Award. BELOW – Dinner and the 2024 State Trophies!!



Marking some memorable FIRSTS: Sarah Neagle, Jackson Reynolds, Easton Watts, and Addison Ashton, became first time STATE CHAMPIONS in their Divisions. Mike Clark & Darrell Anderson won their first state Men's Class. Phil Douglas won his first State Class. Mike Clark, Dow Buford and Paula Johnson qualified for their division championships for the first time. Jerry Morris made his first appearance in the Elder's Championship Class! Congrats to all!

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP - ANOTHER ONE, TWO FINISH!



Following to form, both Tyler Howard and Ben Webb raced through the field of Men's contenders, headed towards their inevitable final game showdown. Third place finisher, Randy Hankins was the only real challenge put in front of either frontrunner. Howard Defeated Hankins 42-16 and Webb put Randy Away 41-22, but it took 70 shoes to get it done. Randy was steadily consistent in each of his seven contests. In the final match, Webb would not get out of the box with the needed fire. Webb was 11 out of the first 20 to Howard's 15 ringers. The score after 20 shoes was 18-7, Howard. Webb got it together in the next 20 Shoes, finding 16 ringers, but Tyler matched That with 16 of his own. The 40-shoe score was



27-17, Howard. The match would last 18 more shoes, 11 ringers for Webb, 14 for Howard. The final score of the game was 40-21, Howard. Tyler's ringer % for the game was 77.5% and Ben's was 65.5%. The finishing order was Howard, 7-0, 77.3%, Webb, 6-1, 68.3%, Hankins, 5-2, 50.9%, John Neagle, 4-3, 47.7%, Robert Taylor, 2-5, 36.6%, Bobby Robinson, 2-5, 35.3%, Mike Clark, 1-6, 36.8%, and Dow Buford, 1-6, 34.3%.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP - A NEW CHAMPION!



The 2024 Women's State Championship was without a doubt the most entertaining of the three adult championships. With the absence of Laurie Lampkin this year, we had two front runners and two challengers. Karen went in as the defending champion, and odds-on favorite to win. Sarah in previous years has been giving it a good run and pitches better in tough competition. In the double round it would come down to the very close games between Sarah and Karen to decide the title. One other very exciting game of note was Game #2, Karen Meredith vs Jackie Gleissner. At 22 shoes, the game was progressing as percentages would seem to dictate, but Jackie flipped the script and laid down a challenge, leaving no "opens" through 50 shoes pitched, including 5 doubles. Jackie had her high tourney game of



48%! Karen met the challenge with her high game and the tourney high game of 63.4%! In the first meeting of Neagle vs Meredith/Game #3, Karen made it to a score of 39-32, leading the entire game but slipped, leaving two back-to-back open pits, which pulled Neagle to 39-38. Sarah doubled, Karen capped one, for a final score of 39-41, Neagle. The second-round match-up was more of the same but the lead swapped back and forth. Karen led 36-35 after 48 shoes, Neagle got “three-three”, going ahead 38-36. Sarah put one ringer on with the following pitch, but Karen responded with a double, taking the lead back 39-38. Karen returned with one ringer and Sarah failed to score. Final score, 42-38, Karen. This set up a final playoff game between the two. Karen would get off to a very sluggish start, making 2 ringers in the first 14 shoes and she was never able to recover. Karen did have a short rally to get the score to 17-24, but Sarah would hit 7 out of her next 10 and Karen’s game did not respond. The final score to claim the Championship for Sarah Neagle was 42-23. The final box score was: Neagle, 6-1, 45.6%, Meredith, 5-2, 49.7%, Gleissner, 2-4, 34.0% and Paula Johnson, 0-6, 20.6%.

ELDER'S CHAMPIONSHIP - ALL TRUESDELL!

The man from Vanceburg, horseshoe veteran, Tommy Truesdell pitched strong to dominate the 2024 field of Elder’s contenders. Tommy dispatched Jerry Morris 41-20 with a 67.5% game, throttled Johnnie Jones 40-5, with a 71.4% round. Tommy had a pacer in game three due to the withdrawal of Charles Browning due to illness. Tommy took it easy in the pacer game, tossing 56.6% but ramped it back up in the final game against Jim Culver with a 68.7% contest. Culver hung in there for 48 shoes but fell 24-42. Jim had a bad game in the opening round but moved into the 50’s for the last three and had his best game at 56.2%, against Truesdell. Jerry Morris posted four steady averages to claim 2nd place in his first Elder’s State Championship. The final rundown was: Truesdell, 4-0, 66.4%, Morris, 2-2, 50.0%, Culver, 2-2, 46.5%, Jones, 2-2, 41.0% and Mr. Browning had to forfeit his remaining games. This was Tommy’s third straight Elder Men’s Championship and fourth overall!



JUNIOR BOY'S CHAMPIONSHIP - GOES TO REYNOLDS!



Jackson Reynolds emerged as the leading contender for the Boy’s title as the 2024 season progressed. Jackson slowly improved his game as time went forward, from single to double digits in percentages. Due to the lower percentages, the Boy’s class went to 25 points. In the double round, Jackson’s scorecard read: 25-5 over Gorczyca, 26-12 over Ashton, 25-3 over Johnson, 27-10 over Gorczyca, 28-1 over Ashton and 25-24 over Johnson. JJ Johnson really came to life in that final game with a 25% effort to Jackson’s 29.5%. This was the best game of the tournament! Box Score: Reynolds, 6-0, 18.4%, Johnson, 3-3, 07.4%, Andrew Ashton, 3-3, 03.4% and Jared Gorczyca, 0-6, 01.5%.

JUNIOR GIRL'S CHAMPIONSHIP - DOUBLE A!

Addison Ashton. Addison dominated the Junior Girl's Division in her first year! Through the years, Addison has developed her smooth single flip, picking up where she left off from the Cadet's Division. Kacey Rose was the defending Champion going in and the class was rounded out with two new players, the Williams' sisters, Sandi and Candi. Addison's collection of games was: 21-5 over Candi, 25-6 over Sandi, 21-11 over Kacey in round one. In round two Addison's games were: 22-1 over Candi, 22-9 over Sandi and 22-14 over Kacey. It will be interesting to see next year if some of these girls can close the gap. It's all about developing the "open shoe" and then practice to refine it. Kacey Kacey throws a 3/4 but showed in the doubles that she too has a nice flip! Sandi is a real competitor and should be a serious contender next year. Candi has a little less experience, starting a little later into the season, but it can be done! The final finishing order and box score is, Addison, 6-0, 23.2%, Kacey, 4-2, 07.2%, Sandi, 2-4, 03.3% and Candi, 0-6, 01.8%.



JUNIOR CADETS CHAMPIONSHIP - BIG E!



Easton Watts, aka "Big E", took control of the Cadets Division this year. Easton's single flip has been progressing nicely. Sometimes it takes Easton a while to gather up control but he can toss it straight and true when he has it dialed in. The remaining contenders in the field was 5-yr. old Keaton Marples, Madalynn Johnson and Macie Marples. Keaton played a lot of tournaments this year, Maddy had perhaps the most experience and Macie had the least. All four Cadets pitched under average for the tournament, but Easton went through undefeated. Madalynn gave Easton the toughest games. Easton's scorecard reads: 25-2 over Macie, 28-17 over Madalynn, 25-9 over Keaton in round one. Round two was, 16-1 over Macie, 7-4 over Macie and 15-5 over Keaton. Round two was cut back to 30 shoe games, as round one's point games were taking too long to complete. All these kids will go through growth spurts and be different pitchers next year. Its always interesting to see how they progress their games and who takes the game to heart. Easton has it!

STATE CLASS BATTLES IN 2024!



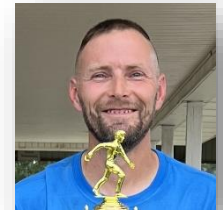
Mighty Mike Clark captured the State **Class B** Championship, holding tight to his average in the 7-man class No one in the class pitched over average. Mike went 5-1 for 39.3%, losing only to Jesse Gentry 24-31. Kenny Parrish gave it a good run, coming in 2nd at 4-2, with losses to Jesse Gentry, 36-45 and Clark, 30-38. Kenny averaged 36.3% overall. Dow Buford came in 3rd, at 4-2.

In **Class C Men**, the top seed, Alton “Stoney” Stone prevailed in the 6-man class. As with B, all Class C contenders pitched under average. Stoney was undefeated at 5-0 with his closest challenges coming from Randy Johnson, 38-29 and Todd Marples, 37-30. Stoney’s high game was 34.0% and his overall average was 26.0%. Buddy Lampkin started strong but slipped late but managed to hold on to 2nd place at 3-2, 20.0%. Also 3-2, 17.2% and hanging on to third was James “Bucky” Kirby.



Class D Men was all Brad Rexroat! Brad pitched near 4% over his average and went through undefeated at 5-0, taking the big trophy back to Russell Springs. Brad averaged 25.2% for the tournament with a 36% high game. Don Seckel gave Brad the best game at 29-38, pitching 22%. Eugene Broyles was the best of the rest, going 3-2 for 17.2%. Marlin Anness was third, going 3-2 for 16.8%. Don Seckel, 2-3, Brian Sims, 2-3, and Johnny Williams, 0-5, round out the field.

In the latter half of the year, we met Darrell Anderson. In some of the regular season events Darrell picked up a couple of third place finishes. I was telling him he seemed to be stuck at third, but Darrell just waited for the state to take the big trophy home! Darrell defeated Jonathan Key 18-13 in a final playoff game, taking the **Class E Men’s** title after he and Jonathan finished up round robin play at 4-2. Jonathan settled for 2nd place and had the high game of 15%. Leland Fuller took third.



Class B Women was won by Jackie Gleissner of Mt. Vernon. Jackie won it through a playoff match against Paula Johnson, 29-14. Jackie averaged 22.8% for the tournament. Paula averaged 14.4% overall. Angela Martin also closely contended, losing two one-point games, 28-29 against Johnson and 36-37 against Gleissner. Angela’s overall average was 19.0%.

Linda Scott was our **Class C** Champion in the Women’s Division for the 2nd year in a row. Linda squared off against first year player, Makayla Fuller, in a “best of” series of games. Linda won the match in three straight games, 36-10, 24-17 and 30-19. Linda’s overall average was 06.7%. Makayla did very well for herself with ringers, improving each of the three games and posting the class high game of 12.0%. One thing about horseshoes, close does count, and Linda is a real “penny pincher”!



When I was putting the State Schedule together, I looked at **Elder’s Class B** and said to myself, “Man, Phil is the bottom seed, gapped by a shade more than 10%.” Less than 10% is what you would like to see. Tony McFarland and Richard Broadwater would be tough to overhaul. Well, Phil, proved it can be done, bottom to top, if you work hard enough! Phil pitched 6.36% over average, for 33.0%, going undefeated at 4-0. Tony came in 2nd, 2-2 for 31.5% and Richard Broadwater was 3rd, 2-2 for 27.0%.

In Elder Men’s Class C, we saw Mr. Frank Chaney defeat Mr. Randall Johnson in another “best of” series, 28-31, 27-25, 22-21 & 27-25. A great battle between these two legends. All close games! Frank averaged 14.5% for the tournament and Randall hit 12.0%.



2024 AWARD WINNERS

HALL OF FAME



RUBE BLEVINS

Rube was a two-time Men’s Kentucky State Champion in 1981 & 1982. He was a leader and inspiration to all those in his region of Preston for many years. Rube was revered for his horseshoe pitching skill and

being a kind and humble gentleman. Rube’s Preston country store was a horseshoe hotspot due to the legend, Rube Blevins. Rube passed in March of 2023 but his many contributions to KHPA horseshoes will live on forever.

JOHN IRVIN

During his tenure in the KHPA, John captured 3 Elder Men’s State Championships, each time averaging over 70%. John also achieved two State Doubles Championships.



John throws a mean ¾ turn and has always been a tough customer on the horseshoe court! He has been a mainstay in Russell Springs horseshoes for several years, until his health forced him to give up the game. John has earned the respect of his peers by being a hard shoe pitcher to defeat and a true sport and friend to all!

- GOLDEN HORSESHOE** - RONNIE & KAREN MEREDITH
- HORSESHOE PITCHER OF THE YEAR**- TYLER HOWARD
- SPORTSMANSHIP** – JERRY MORRIS
- ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** – JACKSON REYNOLDS
- HIGH GAME OVER AVERAGE** – JOHNNIE JONES
- MOST IMPROVED**- MIKE CLARK
- ATTENDANCE AWARD**- ALTON STONE

NEW OFFICERS!

At the State membership Meeting, it was noted that Karen Meredith did not wish to continue in the Secretary/Treasurer position, having taken it on an interim basis to get us through the 2024 season. Karen did a wonderful job and was an immense necessity in getting us through 2024. We had two KHPA members that came forward to provide much needed assistance in this area of the KHPA next season. Since we had two ladies willing to contribute and help, it was Karen’s suggestion to let both get involved and I agreed this was a great idea!

KORI WEBB has been appointed to take over the **TREASURER** role. Kori has some experience in this area and I am sure she will do a Great job!



THANKS!



DESTINNIE HOWARD has been appointed to take over the role of **SECRETARY**. Destinnie has offered to assist in directing more tournaments next year and will be tasked with getting our membership contacts updated, among other duties.

Both represent the younger generation of the KHPA, and currently dividing work, will give them time to gain knowledge and experience without overwhelming either.

2024 KY. STATE DOUBLES

The overall turnout for the doubles was down from previous years. We had 13 total teams, coming off 18 teams in the previous season. Considering the conflicted season in horseshoes, I guess this is not too bad, but it has been since 2020, that we had more than 20 teams. We all like to get money back to go along with our trophies, and we did pay back the extra \$5 from the prize money entry fee. When you get into the size and style of these State singles and doubles trophies, they are not cheap! Keep this in mind for next season. Help me promote the doubles and line up a partner early for next year. The more teams we have, the more money I can award back. Thanks to those teams that did participate!



Class A Doubles

Randy Hankins and Ben Webb survive the competition to take their second State Doubles title, last winning it in 2013. The team started off strong, winning their first 4 games and averaging over 50% ringers, winning those handily at, 45-7 over Meredith/Neagle, 40-24 over Culver/Morris and 41-21 in the Meredith Neagle return match. Hankins and Webb would drop their final two Games, 16-42 against Culver/Morris and 23-40 against Howard/Jones. Jim Culver and Jerry Morris needed to win their last game against Karen Meredith and Sarah Neagle but would come up short, 28-42. Culver/Morris were up in the game 25-23 but were overwhelmed in a flurry of 10 ringers in 12 shoes by Meredith/Neagle to finish the game. Hankins and Webb pulled down the overall high team average of 53.1% for the title. Culver/Morris took 2nd, averaging 50.2%.



Class B Doubles

“John Deere” Gibson & Kenny Parrish successfully defended their Class B Doubles title against the teams of Dow Buford and Larry Davis, Robert Taylor and Eddie Salleng. Gibson/Parrish got put of the box with a close 47-41 win over Buford/Davis. They would follow that up with a 44-32 victory over Taylor/Salleng. In round #2, Gibson/Parrish would lead most of the game against Buford/Parrish, building as much as a 15-point lead after 44 shoes in the 60-shoe contest but a ringer drought would ensue, that allowed Buford/Parrish to nip the defenders, 37-36 in the last inning! Gibson/Parrish would take care of business in the final game 55-24 over Taylor/Salleng. The Gibson/Parrish line score was 3-1 for 30.2%. Buford and Davis were 2nd at 2-2 for 27.0%. Taylor/Salleng were 1-3 for 26.2%.

Class C Doubles

Todd Marples and Phil Douglas would take down the Class C teams step by step and hang on to some close games, to finish undefeated at 6-0, twice coming back from behind to win in the last few innings of the game. The Marples/Douglas game by game scorecard was as follows: 32-28 over Reynolds/Rose, 38-22 over Stone/Stone, 53-23 over Johnson/Martin, 53-21 over Reynolds/Rose, 37-32 over Stone/Stone and 29-27 over Johnson/Martin. Todd and Phil

averaged 22.8% for the tournament. Coming in 2nd place was Alton and Linda Stone at 3-3 and averaging 13.9% overall, which was the lowest percentage of the four teams but sometimes you just need to win the close ones and pile of some single points when needed to get the job done. Randy Johnson and Angela Martin lost some close ones, 27-33 against Reynolds/Rose, 35-36 against Stone/Stone and 27-29 against Marples/Douglas. They would drop to third.

Class D Doubles



The Class D Doubles was a battle between two Junior teams, Zach Cox and Keaton Marples vs Madalynn Johnson and Macie Marples. The two teams would play a series best 3 out of 5 match-up. Zach and Keaton would shut-out the girls and three straight games, 32-13, 25-8 and 30-3. Cox/Marples average 5% overall and the Johnson/Marples team averaged 2.2%.



2024 SEASON: THE KHPA GIVES BACK

I wanted finish the newsletter to look back on the season and thank all of those that made this season's success possible. The KHPA needed to step up its game this year and spice up its tournaments and that was done through sponsorships, which allowed the KHPA to present medals and cash, as extra awards. At the Fred Nalley Memorial, Medals were awarded, along with trophies. Medals were also given to Juniors at some select tournaments and at the Lake Reba Open. Our May Chalybeate Open tournament proved to be the most successful regular season event in many years, drawing 48 players, including some World Champions. Angela Martin would win the Alan Francis signed horseshoes raffle! This tournament would award \$1400 in total prize money through those KHPA sponsorships. Each adult class winner received \$100! \$400 of this money was set aside for the Junior players. In all, the Junior Achievement program consisted of \$1200 sponsorship dollars. Each Junior in both Chalybeate events would walk away with equally divided prize money for participation in horseshoes. The KHPA took care of the Junior players this year! Other KHPA clubs and tournaments also stepped up to the plate to make their events richer in content. Tyler Howard and the Richmond Club, through sponsorships, donations and old-fashioned legwork, provided a prize table, including a 32" TV, which Keaton Marples found to be an armful to carry home, lol! Jim & Janclay Peavley provided good food at the Richmond events! The Bardstown folks done a wonderful job in celebrating Randall Johnson at the Randall Johnson Classic with a prize table to finish off our regular season. Shorty Brown donated three pair of horseshoes at the State Singles, won by Linda Stone, Mike Clark and Jackson Reynolds. Thank you to all those sponsors and KHPA members that made this all possible! It turned out to be a very memorable year!

