



# Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 20, NO. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2008



**2008 TEAM WORLD WINNERS  
Team Kentucky**



# TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CONTACTS

The following is a list of all NHPA Regional Directors and the states or territory they cover. Those of you who travel and want to get out-of-area tournament information, are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Director. Each RD maintains a full list of all NHPA sanctioned tournaments in their area. If your travel plans call for stops in several states and you need multiple site information, you might want to write the NHPA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. He should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 1<sup>st</sup> VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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NEWSLINE**

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Cover: Team Kentucky won the 2008 Team World competition.  
Rick Snyder, Sue Snyder, Jim Culver and Walter Mullins  
See page 22 for article and results.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Paul Stewart*

By the time you read this, the 2008 World Tournament will be in progress and those not attending will be reading their Newslines before those at the tournament.

We are pleased and happy to report a total of 1,321 entrants for the 2008 World Tournament. Even though the entries are up from the past several years, they are not as high as York had anticipated or hoped for. The reason for this is no secret; gas and the cost of traveling.

For those that are attending, I hope you can come home saying that this was the best World Tournament you have ever been to. With the new World Tournament equipment, rubber mats and the new courts, we are expecting ringer percentages to be up from the past several years. If Alan Francis or Joan Elmore read this they will probably say, 'how can we pitch much higher percentages than we have been pitching'? It's not many numbers between their percentages and perfect. I am saying that the tournament ringer percentages in general should be up some if the new equipment works as well as we are expecting. We are expecting this new equipment to last at least ten years. This means that everyone will know what pitching conditions they will be pitching on at a World Tournament for years to come.

Remember that you can keep up with the World Tournament on the internet at [ww.horseshoepitching.com](http://ww.horseshoepitching.com). There you will find daily results, class pictures, champion pictures, game of the day and much more. All of the coverage will remain on the website after the tournament has ended.

I am happy and pleased to announce that Bob Dunn from Minnesota has been appointed to fill the position of NHPA Historian. I am sure that most of you are familiar with Bob Dunn from reading his Facts and Folklore article in Newslines each issue. Bob is also one of, if not the biggest, horseshoe collectors in the world and has donated a big part of his collection to the NHPA Hall of Fame. I, along with the rest of the council, would like to thank Bob Dunn for accepting the NHPA Historian position. Bob has always been interested in the history of

horseshoes and will do a great job in this position and we look forward to working with him.

Many of you may have already heard about the exhibition game between Alan Francis and Joan Elmore at the Six Pack Invitational Tournament, May 3-4 that was held at the Hall of Fame building at Quail Ridge Park, Wentzville, Missouri. I was lucky enough to see the game and will share some of it with you. Joe Faron, Tournament Director, asked the Champion of the Men's and the Champion of the 30 foot Division if they would pitch an exhibition game after the regular tournament completion had ended. Joan Elmore and Alan Francis agreed to pitch the game. I told the guy sitting beside me that I wasn't expecting a big game from either one of them since they had just finished pitching seven forty-point games and several of them were long games. Joan had just finished a ninety some shoe game and also one game that went over one hundred shoes. Boy was I ever wrong! The Game consisted of 114 shoes with 35 four-deads. Alan pitched a 91.2%, with 104 ringers. The score was Francis 42, Elmore 28. It's hard to imagine losing a horseshoe game when you throw 99 ringers with an 86.8% average, but that is what Joan did. Wow! What a game. I would like to thank both Alan and Joan for pitching this game and putting on the best ringer show that I have ever seen.



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Natstats updated every Wednesday evening  
Individual Stat Search updated at least once a month

World Tournament Information  
Coming Events  
Local Contact Information

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# NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS

*by Dave Loucks*

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Six Pac Invitational Tournament was held May 3-4 at the new Quail Ridge Park horseshoe-pitching complex in Wentzville. I was able to attend along with NHPA officers Paul Stewart and Dick Hansen. The event was certainly a success by any measure. Sixteen of the best 40' Men and 30' pitchers in the country participated for some \$6,000 in prize money. Reigning World Champions, Alan Francis and Joan Elmore won their groups. These two NHPA Champions then met in a special match game for the benefit of the spectators and their game didn't disappoint. It went 114 shoes with Alan hitting 104 ringers for 91.2% while Joan had 99 ringers for 86.8%. Both appear to be in top form as they prepare to defend their titles in York, Pennsylvania.

On Saturday evening, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club members put on a wonderful BBQ meal in the facility eating area. This dinner, which was attended by nearly all players and visiting family members, provided a great social hour and the opportunity for the players to show their gratitude for being invited and able to take part in the Six Pac Event. Primary sponsor, Harvey Wobbe, owner and manufacturer of Six Pac Horseshoes cannot be thanked enough for his continuous financial support which has made this tournament one of the best in the country.

In the last issue I reported that Missouri had finally overtaken California as the number one contributing state to the NHPF. Well, California has retaken the lead, as you will see by reviewing the State Ranking list accompanying this article. Several states continue to financially support the NHPF and our new Hall of Fame facility with regular contributions. Regrettably, the list also shows that several charters have not been very supportive, as over the past 12 years, some 13 states still haven't yet reached a \$1,000 contribution level. Remember, the NHPF is a registered charitable organization and your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS and your filing method. At the Hall of Fame building, we have a beautiful commemorative brick plaza with plenty of bricks in two different sizes still available for engraving. Order forms can be printed out by logging on to the NHPA website and clicking the NHPF link. Contributions of \$25.00 or more will be acknowledged by letter while brick orders

will only be mentioned in future editions of this magazine and on the NHPF link of the NHPA website. Mail all contributions and brick orders to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946.

During the months of April and May, \$7,859 in contributions, brick orders and facility rent was received from the following.

### **Donating \$25-99**

Art Moran, MN  
Charles Bunner, WV  
North Carolina HPA

### **Donating \$100-199**

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Leroy Horseshoe Assoc. NY

### **Donating \$200-299**

Dave & Cathie Loucks, CA  
Paul & Pat Stewart, NC

### **Donating \$800**

Dogwood Tournament, NC

### **Other Income**

Hall of Fame Donation Box \$133  
NHPA Money Market Interest \$449  
NHPA Donation \$1,595  
QRHC Building Rent \$1,800

### **Bricks Purchased By**

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Gold Country H.C., CA  
Reb Billingsley, CA  
Family of Jerry Potter, CO  
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Jackson County H.C., MI  
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Lee Wallace, OR  
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Virginia State HPA  
Jim Haupt, WI  
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# NATIONAL SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT

by Lorraine Sternberg

The World Tournament in York, Pennsylvania is just around the corner. This is going to be a great tournament this year. We have all new courts, along with new rubber matting for a great look. Jerry LaBrosse has put in many hours of labor on these courts, so when you see him at the tournament, please take a moment to thank him. We greatly appreciate all that he has done!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you this year. The league meeting will be on Saturday, July 12th. Not sure of the time but it will be posted at the tournament. Many of you may not receive this issue before you leave for the world tournament, but for those who may get it in time, please look me up at the tournament so that I can spend a little time visiting with you. I always enjoy hearing how your leagues are going.

Try to get your team together early for the National League Tournament being held at the NHPA Hall of Fame Facility in Missouri. The dates once again are October 4th & 5th. There is only enough room for 20 teams. The entry form was in the last issue and again in this issue of Newslines and is posted on the NHPA web site. If you need more information you can contact me by e-mail or you can give me a call at (262) 677-3300.

This year I am awarding Leo Bratland the 2008 Director of the Year Award. Leo has been the league director for the Danville Horseshoe Club in Illinois since 1989. He has done a great job and I appreciate all that he has done for the NHPA. I will be presenting Leo his award at the NHPA Hall of Fame Banquet at the

World Tournament. Congratulations to Leo and thank you for all that you have done!

Continued on page 7



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# NATIONAL SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT *Continued*

Last year for 2007 we had a total of 5,369 active league pitchers. This is down from 2006 by 96 pitchers. The Valley Horseshoe Club of Connecticut was the largest active league with 148 pitchers. They have held this top spot for the past several years now. The North Mankato Club of Minnesota came in second with 127 pitchers. The Quail Ridge Club of Missouri had 123 active pitchers and the Central Connecticut Club followed up with 122 pitchers. The Liberty Junior League of Missouri had the most juniors with 21 pitchers. A great job by these clubs. Hopefully we will all increase our membership this season.

I will see many of you soon. May you all have a safe trip to York, Pennsylvania!

## HOW YOUR STATE RANKS

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1.	CA	115	278	\$35,282	27.	VA	49 93 \$3,047
2.	MO	140	250	\$34,993	28.	ID	10 33 \$2,807
3.	MN	52	270	\$22,853	29.	KY	17 34 \$2,760
4.	TN	32	68	\$21,677	30.	LA	9 19 \$2,752
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8.	MI	54	137	\$12,040	34.	NV	12 17 \$1,849
9.	CO	30	81	\$8,959	35.	AZ	12 20 \$1,389
10.	IL	57	106	\$8,918	36.	OK	13 18 \$1,108
11.	WA	36	81	\$8,360	37.	MT	6 11 \$1,020
12.	FL	55	83	\$8,338	38.	AR	9 11 \$985
13.	OH	68	108	\$7,421	39.	AL	6 8 \$870
14.	GA	20	26	\$7,370	40.	WY	7 7 \$632
15.	TX	31	49	\$6,210	41.	UT	4 6 \$580
16.	PA	31	61	\$6,149	42.	VT	3 11 \$515
17.	KS	25	50	\$5,496	43.	NH	3 3 \$305
18.	NE	18	36	\$5,448	44.	CAN	1 1 \$300
19.	IA	25	46	\$5,356	45.	IRE	1 1 \$300
20.	MA	11	18	\$5,330	46.	HI	4 4 \$250
21.	NJ	23	43	\$4,259	47.	NM	2 4 \$235
22.	ND	9	25	\$3,630	48.	ME	2 3 \$150
23.	NY	38	46	\$3,605	49.	AK	1 1 \$120
24.	MD	26	41	\$3,364	50.	DE	1 2 \$107
25.	IN	27	37	\$3,353	51.	RI	1 1 \$100
26.	WV	13	83	\$3,208	52.	MS	1 1 \$5

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

As many of you saw, the expiration date on your last issue of Newslite was incorrect. The mailing department experienced computer problems and human error which caused the expiration date to be replaced with the mailing date. We apologize for any confusion and inconvenience this may have caused. If you, as a result of this incorrect date, sent a check to renew your subscription, we will simply extend your subscription. You may contact me at the address listed on page 3 if this is not what you desire.



# CHARTER CHATTER

by Tina Hawkins

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Northern California has held 56 successful tournaments so far this year. That is a very good start to the 134 on the schedule.

Eighty-four new members have been added so far this year; some of who are past members deciding to rejoin the organization.

A new club has formed in Madera. Harlen Rippetoe has worked for five years to get these courts approved and completed --- **He did it !!!** They will host their first sanctioned tournament on June 7th and everyone is looking forward to it.

There is also an offshoot to the Tulare Club... GREAT BIG THANKS to Diane and Robert Cocagne for their hard work to have four courts built in the town of Exeter. Upon completion of the courts, a junior tournament was held which resulted in the addition of five new juniors and two new cadets. The event was kicked off with a free breakfast of bacon and eggs, toast or tortillas, orange juice and coffee. When the pitching was over Dan Griffin and Southern Cal's Frank Arroyo, Jr. barbecued burgers and chicken and provided other side dishes for a free lunch! What a great way to welcome those juniors to our sport.

Special thanks to Kelly Gayton, NCHPA members Mavin Sanders, Dan & Martha Griffin, Robert & Diane Cocagne, Ted Haynish, and SCHPA members Frank Jr. Arroyo, Scott Wine, Danny Kyle, Donald Henry, Jeff Hale, Robert Ober, and everyone else who provided help and support to make this event happen.

## MARYLAND

The long-awaited arrival of spring brought with it the official beginning of the pitching in Maryland! At this writing, two successful tournaments have already been completed.

The Frederick league got off to a slow start with rain the first night. On the second night Fun Pitch benefiting the American Cancer Society, which was also rained out was held instead of league play. The benefit was in honor of late, long-term member Junior Fogle. Everyone had a good time, and now the league schedule is back on track!

The FHPA is pleased to report that they have repaired and/

or replaced the backboards on all 16 courts and are in the process of ordering new mats. The facility is one of the nicest around. Everyone is invited to pitch here!!!!

The Baltimore Metro Club reports that 91 years young member Stacy Wiitala tuned up for his first World Tournament by pitching 7/0 in the Grant Powers Open Tournament held in Baltimore in May. Congrats Stacy! Good luck in York!

The MDHPA points challenge had been revised and all MD pitchers participating in in-state tournaments can view their stats at <http://www.leaguelineup.com/frederickhorseshoes> (note that the website has moved).

Sixty-six Maryland pitchers are entered in the 2008 World Tournament - that could be a record number for the charter! Good luck to every single one!

## MISSOURI

Missouri is has been trying to get all 108 or so scheduled tournaments for 2008 played. However, the wet weather has played a major role. Six tournaments have already been cancelled due to rain and one location has had courts washed out three times.

The annual Missouri Club/Team Benefit was played the past weekend. The Quail Ridge, "Micks Chicks" finished first; Heart of America of Kansas City took second; and Liberty 5 Ringers team was third.

Quail Ridge and the NHPA Hall of Fame/Horseshoe Complex will be hosting the National League Tournament for the second time in October. There may be an NHPA Championship Doubles tournament there this year, as well.

Be sure to check the MOHPA schedule for events you can participate in!!

## MINNESOTA

Minnesota appears to be in position to take yet another jump upward in its membership totals, according to President Rick Wright. Several clubs including Isanti, Forest Lake, and Rockford, have reported healthy increases in numbers. This may be due to the new incentive program introduced this year, the "membership raffle". For every new member

*Continued on page 9*



# CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

recruited, the sponsor gets their name placed into a drawing to be held at the annual state banquet on Labor Day weekend. The new members will also be eligible to win some nice prizes as well in a separate drawing.

In other news, the state association wants to congratulate Harry W. Benson, a longtime member of the Hibbing Horseshoe Club, for being awarded an honorary lifetime membership from the NHPA. Harry, or "Wally" as he is called, reached the 50 year mark of NHPA membership.

The next chatter article will contain an update on the success of new promotional efforts. The MGSHPA is committed to trying new and innovative recruitment methods each year, and sharing the results with the rest of the NHPA charters. The best promotion method is still "word of mouth" recruitment by individual members. Invite a friend or relative along to your next tournament or league night, and introduce them to our sport.

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma horseshoe pitcher, Mike Deer, and wife Leslie ran the 26.2 mile Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego, CA, June 1<sup>st</sup>, to help raise money for Leukemia and Lymphoma research. Even though the couple surpassed their monetary goal by raising over \$7,000, donations can still be made by visiting [www.active.com/donate/tntok/MIKEandLESLIE](http://www.active.com/donate/tntok/MIKEandLESLIE).



BOTH finished the race!! Way to go, Mike and Leslie!!! You are AWESOME!!

For the third year straight, the OHPA presented a hands-on horseshoe pitching exhibit at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Annual Children's Cowboy Festival and Chuck Wagon Gathering. The event draws more than 10,000 people each year!

Names and contact information were collected from interested parties from all parts of the state and country! Each day, an NHPA membership was given away in a random drawing from all those names. The daily winners were very excited and plan to start league pitching as soon as possible – of course bringing FRIENDS and FAMILY with them!!!

This event is a very successful way of promoting awareness of the NHPA. New members are always acquired and the

OHPA volunteers have a GREAT time helping the children and their parents throw a few shoes. (And sampling the amazing chuck wagon cuisine!)

## PENNSYLVANIA

The good folks in Pennsylvania are laboring away trying to make your experience in York the best World Tournament possible. In 2007, Dale and Lee Estep arrived early in Ardmore to help set up and learn some of what they needed to accomplish in 2008. They will do all they can to provide what you and the NHPA need during this event

If you need to contact Dale or Lee during the tournament, they will be monitoring both the email address [pennshoes@yahoo.com](mailto:pennshoes@yahoo.com) and the web site: <http://pennshoes.com/wt-2008/updates.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

I am looking forward to seeing all my old friends in York, and to making lots of new ones!! The people really are the main reason most of us keep coming back.

Here's wishing a safe and fun trip, as well as good pitching to all!!

Remember to be gracious in your victories, as well as your losses... The one thing worse than a "sore loser" is a "poor winner!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Submit articles for this column to Tina Hawkins at [tinahawk@msn.com](mailto:tinahawk@msn.com) or mail to Rt. 4, Box 52, Marlow, OK 73055.

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# HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE

by Bob Dunn

## ELSIE BALDWIN

### A Pioneer in Horseshoe Pitching

#### Presented by Marian Hays

Elsie Baldwin, my mom, was the sole moving source in promoting women's horseshoe playing in the Northwest during the 1920's, 1930's and 40's. In those days, I don't remember anyone talking about the "National", the "locals" were mostly concerned with their new local club's organization, problems and activities. There were at least two clubs in Portland, Oregon that I remember.

One was Lauerhurst and the other Rhone Street. Other out-of-town clubs that I remember were McMinnville, Hillsboro and Salem.

During this early, formative time, my mother organized Oregon's first uniformed women's team. Since there were no women's teams in other clubs, she challenged local and out-of-town men's teams. (There was a little 'grumbling' from the men about the women beating them!) She encouraged those clubs to form women's team of their own; thus, women's teams would travel from town to town for their own tournaments. Elsie being the sixth child in a family of twelve children, she developed sewing skills, so most of the team uniforms were skillfully home-made.

In the 1930's, she arranged for and promoted the first indoor court in Portland for our rainy Northwest winter months. Members volunteered time, money and effort to build several courts in a former commercial garage.

Mom spent many hours at the two courts at our home in Southeast Portland training, helping and encouraging others to perfect their pitching techniques. Two names of high school students come to mind, Lee and Doug Wright. One of them became Junior Champion of Portland. She coached



and then had to beat another woman in a championship game. She always remained friends with her competitors and was known to be a good sport.

Her organization talents were no less than her talents on the courts as testified by numerous City of Portland Championship titles and five Oregon State Championships; in 1928, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1945. There is a wealth of information on her life's contributions in the OHPA Hall of Fame archives.

Elsie Baldwin died in 1998 just prior to her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She was honored on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by the OHPA for her many accomplishments in the sport and inducted posthumously into the OHPA Hall of Fame in 2001.

---

*We wish to thank Marian Hays of Vancouver, WA for sending in the picture and this delightful story about her mom.*





# BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

by Justin Sipma

We are now well into spring but for some of us, we have just recently cleaned off the dust collecting on our horseshoes over winter. For a few of us, that means starting from the very beginning because that nine month vacation we took from horseshoes hasn't helped out our game all that much. That means more time in the backyard for some or at the local horseshoe club for the others practicing the basics. Follow through, knee bend, eye on the stake, timing, and release just to name a few of my key points. For some of us, we spend three weeks, practicing two hours each night, throwing 100-200 shoes each time we go out. This is just so we can once again regain the percentage we were pitching at the end of last season. For a lot of people, including myself, this is how the beginning of the 2008 horseshoe season is going to begin. It's going to be long and probably a bit frustrating at times but we know that this practice will pay off very soon.

Then there is the other group of pitchers. What I mean by other group is that these types of pitchers will grab their shoes, head down to their local horseshoe club, and kick off the new 2008 horseshoe season that day. These types of pitchers are able to immediately shed the rust they have been collecting all winter after throwing only a few shoes. Just by watching some of these pitchers, the rest of us will be watching, observing, and admiring these pitchers who are already in mid-season form, making the game of horseshoes look so easy. Upon finishing, these gifted horseshoe pitchers will already be at or near their percentage level that they finished with last year. We all see these horseshoe pitchers, whether it is at league, tournaments, or even in one's own house. For me, this individual type of pitcher is my brother who after not touching a shoe for some odd months still manages to put the shoe around the stake with much ease. For most of you it won't be a brother but a friend, partner, or some league pitcher who we could watch throw a horseshoe for hours.

However, I do realize that not all of you pitchers are from the Midwest and therefore you never have to clean the dust off your horseshoes. You are able to play the game all year round, whether it is outside or in some type of indoor facility. These winter leagues provide a great opportunity to improve a person's focus and concentration. For those who

are really serious about their horseshoe game, these types of leagues are great so that your skill of the game is not lost during these winter months. Consequently, the person will not have to do as much practicing while still being able to maintain his/her average with little difficulty. They won't have to go through the first few weeks of spring practicing non-stop like some of us.

There are many of us pitchers from all over and in one way or another we can all place ourselves in one of these groups. You may be the one who has to do all the practicing just so you can be half as good as your friend. Or you could be in the group where practice is only needed five minutes before league starts. Either way, we pitch horseshoes because we enjoy playing the game with all our friends and family. It's a sport that can bring an entire group together one night a week to have a good time and enjoy one another's company. It may be serious or it may just be for fun but we pitch because we love the game.



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# HORSESHOES GO TO SCHOOL!

*by Al Gwinn*

Eric Neff, a teacher at the Blue Springs Freshman Center in Blue Springs, called me last October and asked for some information on horseshoes. He found my name on the internet under the MOHPA website.

We talked about horseshoes and asked if I would be interested in coming to the school and speak to his Physical Education classes about horseshoes. When Eric was a boy scout he remembered playing horseshoes at scout camp. He thought it would be interesting for his gym classes to learn more about horseshoes. His plan was to buy ten pairs of horseshoes and stakes. I told him I would be happy to come and talk with the classes. The more we talked together about this event the more excited Eric became.

When Eric received his horseshoes and stakes, we set the date for October 24. I really didn't want to go by myself so I called my friend, Lee Crabtree, to go with me. Lee is a member of the Independence and Liberty Horseshoe Clubs. We made plans as to how to present our horseshoe program and decided that we would make a day out of it.

Mr. Neff had four classes and Mr. Corter had three classes. There were 35-40 boys in each class – WOW! Mr. Neff's first hour class began at 7:15 a.m. Did you realize that in October at 7:15a.m. that it is still dark outside? We trotted on down to the football field, flipped the lights on and staked out ten courts. Mr. Neff had all the courts marked off at 30 feet so all we had to do was to drive the stakes into the ground.

The first hour class reported to the football field and Mr. Neff introduced us to the boys. The first thing we did was to thank them for this opportunity and we hoped that they would learn something about horseshoe pitching. I gave them a rundown of the history of horseshoes and how the NHPA organization came about. We then explained about league and tournament play and how to keep score in count all and cancellation. We showed them the different ways to hold the shoes, but most of all stressing the importance of balance, concentration, stand and follow through.

After a demonstration, the boys went to the courts, choosing partners with four to a court. They pitched horseshoes for

about 30 minutes. Some even kept up on their own scoring which wasn't much. We would walk up and down the sides to help anyone that was having a problem or would ask a question. It was a little dangerous but the boys really seemed to enjoy it.

Each hour we went through the same routine again and again. Each time the boys responded well and enjoyed the horseshoe lessons that they were being taught. Our highlight was stopping to have lunch with the coaches in the school cafeteria! We went back to the field and continued our horseshoes lessons finishing up at 2:00 p.m. What a thrilling and exciting day it was!

We only had one mishap and believe it or not we didn't lose one shoe. The mishap came when Lee was carrying the empty boxes to the dumpster. There was one step going to the dumpster. You guessed it; Lee did not see the step and fell head first on the sidewalk. He had a few scratches and his finger also hit the concrete, causing it to swell up a bit. Needless to say, Lee had to miss a few bowling nights after that.

Overall, we came to the conclusion that it was a successful event. During the last class of the day, some teachers and coaches came down and pitched some shoes. It was most gratifying when after each class the boys would thank us for coming, making us feel good and it made it all worth while. We left some material with the coaches about horseshoes to pass out to anyone who would like additional information. We were invited to come back next spring when there will be new classes with new students. We told them we would also like to work with the girls' gym classes.

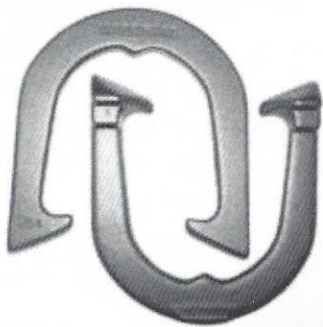
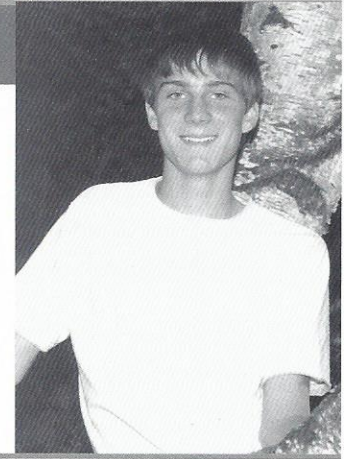
Mr. Neff's plan is to apply for a grant to set up horseshoe courts on the school grounds. Wouldn't that be great and maybe down the road, another school would do the same. We hope that this experience might help or encourage others to try this. We don't have to wait until we are asked.



# BIO-Ryne Lund-Scholarship Winner

My college plans are to attend Bismarck State College for Electronics. I've really enjoyed my three years of high school electronics, plus it's earned me some college credits. I plan to be an electrician and would like to stay in the Bismarck area.

Activities: This is my last year of junior bowling; I have been very involved in the sport since first grade. I look forward to the competition of men's league next year. I've played baseball for Century High School Patriots for four years and currently am pitching on the varsity team. In the summer months, I enjoy playing horseshoes, fishing and being with my friends.



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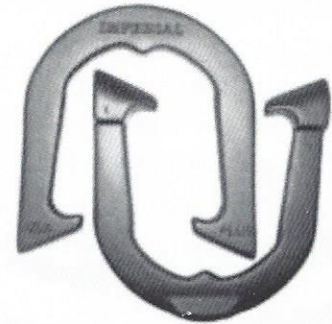


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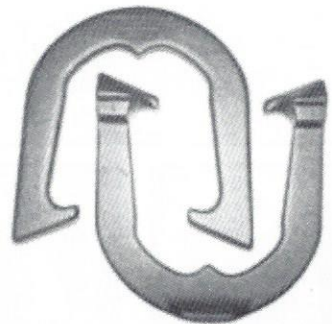
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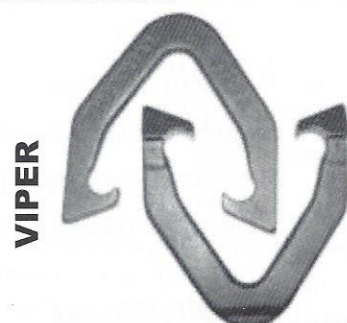
**MAXX**



**STINGER**



**STEINFELDT**



**VIPER**



*I wrote this years ago when in college. A terrible fire and explosions destroyed a town in Texas.*

## TEXAS CITY

*by Don Titcomb*

And now the flaming skies to blind  
all thoughts of difference from the mind  
of the ones grotesquely sprawled  
(Trapped when searing heat enwalled  
them from the avenue of space)  
Is this their final resting place?

These homes that once far vision hewn,  
not dreaming death amidst their ruin.  
not dreaming flames accompanying shroud  
would fill the air, and then would crowd  
and smother with its blackest robe  
the sparks of life that once abode-  
foretelling death, with silent cries  
within the ominous veiling skies.

Oh God on bended knees they prey,  
“let this not be our final day”  
“let us all awake again to see,  
the sunlight help the evenings flee,  
the moon to find the stars to be  
and night bring on accomp’ning rest  
to ones who in times before you blessed.

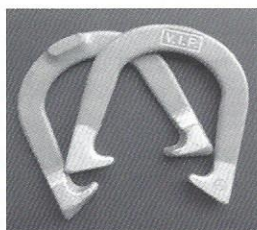
Dear God it’s not alone their prayers,  
it’s for the child who blindly stares ,  
with open arms to sound of pain  
awaiting lips and soothing hand,  
awaiting mothers sharp command  
to banish death now drawing fast.  
and moments mounting on the last.  
Hand in hand keeping company  
the dread gloom of black eternity .



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CAN/AM



VIP



CONDOR



PRO/STAR

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# REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

by Dan Sanders

## Regional Director Change

Having served as the Ohio Regional Director for the past ten years; and with my additional responsibilities as the NHPA 1st Vice-president, I have decided to step down from my Ohio Regional Director responsibilities. Dick Guill has been selected by our Ohio Council as my replacement. Dick is a long-time member of the NHPA/OHPA, is an active horseshoe pitcher and has always been a dedicated contributor to horseshoes at the local and state levels. He has also pitched in many past World Tournaments and has served as an Ohio delegate to the National Convention for several years. I feel confident that Dick will do a great job as our new Regional Director and thank him for his willingness to serve.

## Game Ties, Tournament Ties and Playoffs

Many Charters are now well into their Summer tournament pitching schedules and many of our tournament directors/committees have already had to make decisions about how to handle tie games and what to do if/when there are ties for first place at the end of the scheduled round-robin play. This discussion and review of the official rules is mainly for the benefit of tournament directors, but it is also important for all contestants to be aware of the several options that may apply here. Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that decisions about game ties, tournament/class ties, and playoffs must be announced to all contestants, in some way, before the tournament begins.

## Game Ties

(see also Rule 8, Sections A and B, pgs. 16-17, RGS Book)

For point games, there won't be any ties as the first person to the designated number of points wins that game, but for shoe games (normally 40 or 50 shoes), ties are possible and may be broken in one of two ways:

- 1) Each contestant can be awarded \_ win and \_ loss. This option must be used if the Class is being handicapped as the higher-average pitcher could have a distinct advantage in this scratch play-off, if option 2 is used to break the tie.
- 2) A two-inning (up and back) tiebreaker may be played, using the same method of play during the earlier games – i.e. flip a shoe for first pitch, etc. If the game is still tied after two completed innings, this procedure is followed

again until the tie is broken. Note: In “Point Limit or Shoe Limit games” (40 points or 50 shoes, whichever comes first, for example), the contestant who may reach or exceed the point limit first, after any completed inning, becomes the winner.

In my opinion, the awarding of \_ win and \_ loss for tie games is the better option as it is less complicated, saves time, and helps to keep the tournament on schedule. Also, if extra innings are pitched in a tie-breaker, TDs are reminded that these additional shoes are to be included in the calculation of ringer percentage.

## Tournament/Class Ties

(see also Rule 11, Section B, pg. 18, RGS Book)

At the end of round-robin play, the win/loss record is normally used to determine the winners of all Classes. Total points scored may be used to determine Class winners if the scoring was done using the count-all method. If there are ties for first place, they shall be broken by any one of the following: 1) a playoff game, 2) comparing the overall ringer percentages of those who are tied (but only if the game is not handicapped), 3) determining who-beat-whom in the round-robin play, 4) adding/comparing the total points scored for those who are tied, or 5) by using other unnamed methods that were not used to determine the Class winners. Again, the decision about breaking tournament/class ties must be decided on in advance by the tournament director/committee and announced to all contestants before the tournament begins. If ties still remain, other options will have to be decided on by the tournament director/committee. In World, National, Regional and State Championships, all ties for first place in the Championship Class of any designated Division (see definition of Division in the RGS glossary) must be broken by a playoff game. Ties for any of the lower Classes within these Divisions may be broken by using any one of the methods named/described above.

I hope that this discussion will be helpful to a more complete and better understanding of the several options that can be used for the breaking of game ties and tournament ties, as well as the special requirements that may also apply in some situations. Best of luck on the courts, and I hope to have met many of you at the World Tournament in York, PA this year.



# ENTRY FORM

## NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Tournament October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

NHPA Hall of Fame Facility  
Quail Ridge Park, St. Charles County, Missouri

Entry Deadline August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Registration fee: \$105.00 per team

Name of Club and State \_\_\_\_\_

Sanction number \_\_\_\_\_ Number of shoes pitched per game \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be count all format)

1. Name(Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ NHPA# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Division & Distance \_\_\_\_\_ League Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ NHPA# \_\_\_\_\_

Division & Distance \_\_\_\_\_ League Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ NHPA# \_\_\_\_\_

Division & Distance \_\_\_\_\_ League Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

---

### MAIL THIS FORM WITH REGISTRATION FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA) TO:

Lorraine Sternberg, NHPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
W206 N13520 Woodside Lane • Richfield, WI. 53076  
Phone: (262) 677-3300

The schedule will be mailed only to the captain of each team. It will be the captain's responsibility to inform his or her teammates of the schedule. Scorekeeping fees are not included in the registration fees. Players will be responsible for paying scorekeepers before each game.

League averages will be used for this tournament from this years' league season (2008). Limit 20 teams. If your club would like to enter more than one team, please indicate your #1 team. After the deadline if there is not 20 different clubs/leagues entered your #2 team would then qualify to enter. This tournament is limited to adults only!

## SUPPORT THE NHPF

The only horseshoe pitching related charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts.

**Deadline for Grant Applications: March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Mail inquiries & contributions to:

NHPF  
PO Box 1628  
Penn Valley, CA 95946



# POINTLESS

*Written by Pam Aiken*

Horseshoes makes an appearance at the Lake Geneva 2008 Ice Sculpture contest.

Jeff Gustafson was kind enough to send these pictures to wihorseshoes.com. Good ol' horseshoes made an appearance at the 2008 Lake Geneva Ice Sculpture Competition. The ice sculpture was titled "Pointless" by its creators, Team New York: Jim Bombard, John E. Safford, and Marc Sprague, and sponsored by F.O.S.I., Friends of Sculpting, Inc.

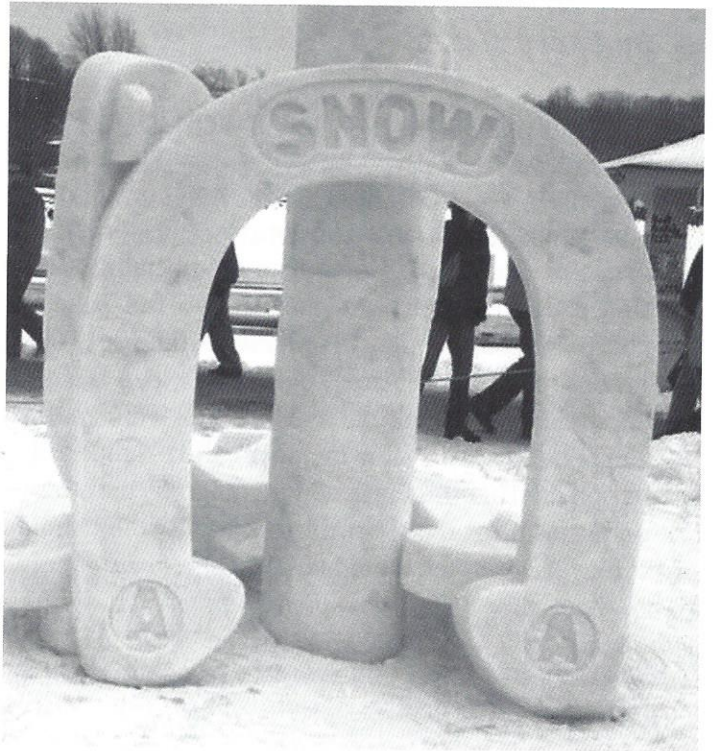
Jeff figured the judges must not have been horseshoe pitchers nor had they ever judged a horseshoe game, as the sculpture did not place.

When you think of the words "pointless" and "horseshoes," what comes to your mind? Does it make you wonder, how could anyone think horseshoes is pointless? It's no less pointless than cards, golf, bowling, or about three dozen other things we call "sports" these days. Horseshoes is a sport, dang it! There's competition, there's determination, there's pressure. Your results are generally determined by your skill and the amount of practice you are willing to put into it. Horseshoe pitchers are people who are invested in their horseshoe games. Pointless? I think not.


Were the sculptors really trying to say the game of horseshoes is pointless? But look at the sharpness and detail of those horseshoes, how clear the brand name, clearly a play on words...why not the obvious "Snow Shoes" or ...oh...hmmm... how does that picture score? Ringer each, 2 leaners = no points.

Hmmm...Pointless. That's pretty clever.

Cleverness, unfortunately, did not beat intricacy in this competition. The quantity and quality of amazing sculptures entered in this competition was great.




Our kudos to the "Pointless" sculptors. You took First Place in our book.

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# PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

by Casey Sluys

On our website there is a section for comments; it's called the NHPA Forum. Various types of questions are asked there and quite a bit of discussion goes on about anything from pitching surfaces, material for pits, rules proposals, membership ideas and so on. The membership thread (continued conversation) stretches to two full pages of thoughts by various people. In order to participate in these discussions you need a name, generally a pen name or handle, some do use their real name though which is fine. Anyway, one relatively new member called "landerlady" has the potential of bringing in new members by the dozens. Her enthusiasm for the sport mirrors what we all should strive for. Here's her thoughts...*"I have been pitching over a year now. I have completely gone crazy in love with this sport. I have been on every states site and have joined the forum. Thank you to those who have given me advice. My thoughts now turn to promoting our wonderful sport. I see that many states have many members some not as many. We need to promote this sport more. How many people realize that it is not expensive, something young and old can compete in and great exercise? I am excited to get started this spring and to have a chance to compete in the World Tournament my second year of pitching. I brag up this sport to anyone who will listen and to a few that I'm sure don't want too. I have our local newspaper set to come and interview a few of our members and to run a couple of columns in the paper. I hope to get information to those people that are looking for something that husband & wife, parents & children or the whole family can do together & compete, yet not put a huge crunch in their finances. Good Luck to all pitchers this year and to all coming to PA for the WT."*

Some rather disturbing thoughts were voiced during this discussion though. For instance what do you and your club do when you are playing a sanctioned league and a potential new member wants to join? Do you tell them, "sorry you'll have to wait 6-12 weeks for a new session of our league to start before you can pitch with us."? Man, I certainly hope not! But it has happened before. The reason this occurs is because most sanctioned leagues are much too rigid, and structured. Consider this new member you almost had, what does he or she do now, pitch by

themselves for weeks until you have an opening in your club league? Don't bet on that anytime soon, what they will do is walk away muttering under their breath never to return to organized horseshoe pitching. You've just lost a new member and that is unacceptable to say the least.

A sanctioned league can be run very informally so as to accommodate any new member that might want to join your group. Here's how: Begin with however many pitchers (members) you have play two or three, 40 or 50 shoe games per session. Each pitcher would play someone else each week, throughout the specified number of weeks you wish to run. Of course you'll end up playing each other multiple times, but that's fine. Some night we have 16 show up; others it might be only 11, but we still pitch. When there is an odd amount one person will sit out for a game, then a second person will sit out for game two and so on.

We track the persons name, use an 80% handicap, count their ringers and points; then total the handicap and their points to determine a winner of a game, tie games remain a tie. We use homemade pieces of paper like this:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ringers \_\_\_\_\_  
Hndcp \_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Washer units, like an abacus, are used to keep score, the handwritten totals are put into HSMaster to compile a running total, but that could also be done easily by hand. HSMaster tabulates the won/loss, total shoes, average points, hdcp, rng%, high game points, high game with hdcp, high game over avg., high ringer %, and high rng% over avg. All those are used to calculate who receives what award at the end of the league.

For awards we use a figure of 500 shoes that any individual must have pitched during the league in order to be eligible for an award. New pitchers are advised of this before joining and agree to the minimum. We have members that pitched 1800 shoes and some that only pitched 200, but we've never excluded anyone from joining right away. This type of informal league works well and fosters good will and camaraderie among the league members.

Continued on page 19



NHPA

## PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION *Continued*

Before, during, or afterwards we discuss who is going where for the weekend tournaments. Generally we invite at least one of our newer members to ride with us so they can witness first hand that organized horseshoes is indeed a fun and challenging sport. We carpool extensively now that fuel prices are so ridiculous; we sincerely hope that you carpool also. If this type of format is appealing to you please try it and welcome our new horseshoe pitchers with open arms.

**GOOGLE Horseshoe Pitching** and see how many pages of information you'll get. Have you counted them lately? There are over 900 web pages of active links that you can reach by the simple click of a mouse. They run the gamut from simple individual websites, results pages, old newspaper articles, companies selling horseshoes, charter websites to the definitive NHPA website. By the way it's usually first on the long list of web pages.

If you have not had an opportunity to view our website you should certainly make it one of your goals this year. Ask your kids to call up horseshoepitching.com the next time you are over to their house, ask them to show you how to navigate through the pages of information that are there. This media has become the wave of the future; it is a great informational source. We used to attempt to bring horseshoe pitching books into libraries, but now every library has an internet connection also where they can research virtually anything.

Those folks you speak to about horseshoe pitching; please tell them that our website exists. Together we need this information highway to advance our sport. Please do your part and display those banners proudly at all your tournaments and publicity events.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

11th - Iowa State Fair Midwest Senior Classic, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA

NHPA Sanctioned. Must be 60 years of age by August 11th. Over \$1,800 spent on awards each year. Entry deadline: July 24th (No late entries) Registration Fee: \$15, Championship \$20. (Will be notified when you play) Send entry fee of \$15 to Ron Rowley Treasurer IHPA 201 36th St West Des Moines, IA 50265. Phone (515) 223-5779 Email: rowleywr@mchsi Include with fee; name, complete mailing address, phone number, gender, NHPA card number and pitching distance. Tournament Director, Danny Sease phone: (515) 285-0131 or email: ddsease@msn.com Check website for other events at Iowa State Fair <http://www.ihpa.com/>

23rd - Fall MDA Horseshoe Tournament - Kemper Williams Park - 203 Park Road - Patterson, LA. \$20.00 entry fee.

Prize money to the top three finishers in each bracket. Pre Register by August 21st. Contact: Angela Percle (985)384-9490, Al Dodson, (985)385-1909, or Tim Gilmore (985)395-5062. Camping at the park, (985)395-2298. Tournament benefits MDA

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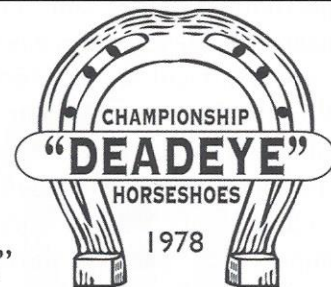
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# WORLD TOURNAMENT UPDATE

by *Stu Sipma*

By the time you read this article, the 2008 World Tournament will be well under way or over; however I am very excited to report the locations I have been in contact with regarding the bidding process for the 2011 World Tournament.

Before I start, I want to give you a few updates and changes that I have encountered.

Springfield, Illinois will be hosting the 2009 World Tournament with the scheduled dates of July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 8<sup>th</sup>. The host site will be the Prairie Capital Convention Center (PCCC) in downtown Springfield, with the Hilton Springfield Hotel being the host motel (located adjacent to the Convention Center). The PCCC is an indoor air conditioned facility with 34,596 sq. ft. of arena space with seating all around the perimeter. A great place to showcase this event! The changes that I have learned is that Josh Feger, Sports Market Sales Manager for the CVB, has moved on and Gina Gemberling has replaced him. Gina's e-mail address is [gina.gemberling@springfield.il.us](mailto:gina.gemberling@springfield.il.us), if you have any questions regarding the tournament or the town of Springfield. Her phone number is (800) 545-7300, ext. 131.

At the time of writing this article I do not have the winner for the 2010 bid, however I mention that the locations that were not successful will probably consider bidding for the 2011.

As most of you know, part of my job is to work with cities who would like to bring the World Tournament to their community. I am glad to report that I have been in contact with the following cities, some of which are only looking at the material, however others have shown greater interest in moving forward with signing a contract to bid. The deadline to bid for the 2011 World Tournament is March 15, 2009. The following locations are sites that I have been in contact with. For the Charters who are in surrounding areas, please contact their local CVB and work with them to put together a "complete" bid package showing the support from the Local and State Horseshoes Clubs.

Interested sites are: Austin, Texas; Buffalo, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Florence, South Carolina; Fort Worth, Texas; Kingsport, Tennessee; Kittanning, Pennsylvania;

Knoxville, Tennessee; La Crosse Wisconsin; Lindsay, California; Louisville, Kentucky; Morgantown, West Virginia; Rapid City, South Dakota; Richmond, Virginia; Shreveport, Louisiana; St. Charles, Missouri; West Monroe Louisiana and Worcester Massachusetts.

As you can see, interest is high and I want all of you to know that I am working hard at making the World Tournament a top class event with all the luxury and accommodations that should go along with it. For the players and family that went to York, you can tell the NHPA is working hard at giving this event a new and improved look. However it can't stop with only new portable courts and rubber mats. We need to improve the perimeter fencing and scoreboards. I encourage Charters, Clubs and Members to support this project and sponsor a court.

Keep on pitching and spread the word. Horseshoes is the greatest family sport there is.

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# TOLL OF TIME

## **Paul O. Gibson** **Illinois**

It is with great sadness to inform you of the death of Paul O. Gibson. He was born on May 30, 1926 and passed away at the age of 81 on December 2, 2007 from Parkinson's disease. He was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad and was also a Baptist Minister.

He loved Horseshoes; his passion, dedication and good leadership landed a "Hall of Fame" induction for Illinois State Horseshoe Pitchers in 1997. He was an Illinois State President, Regional Director, World Tournament judge, Illinois Delegate for NHPA conventions and lead prayer at some of the World Tournaments. He traveled many miles and pitched many shoes at numerous tournaments. His first World Tournament began in 1967 at Fargo, North Dakota to the best of our knowledge and he only missed one World Tournament; with his last being in Minnesota in 2001. He was a World Class Q Champion in 1980 at Huntsville, Alabama and many State Class Champions. He hosted many tournaments, taught and inspired many throughout the years.

He will be missed and it is dedicated people like Paul that has helped horseshoes get to where it is today. Virgil Burgess of Texas and Paul started the church services for the NHPA World Tournaments. He is sadly missed by his wife Barbara, his family and all those who knew him.

Submitted by Rose Gibson

## **Richard Copenhaver** **Montana**

Richard Wendell Copenhaver, 86, passed away on January 25, 2008. He lived most of his life at the base of the majestic mountains of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. He was a person small of stature but large of character in integrity.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served as a pilot in the Air Force. While in training in Tennessee he met the person who would later become his wife.

For many years he was a rancher, as well and an outfitter and guide, with his brother Gene. The abundant natural resources surrounding him inspired his avocations. He was an excellent hunter, trapper, miner and fisherman. He was an active conservationist, serving as a director in the North Powell Soil Conservation District. One of his greatest gifts was his music. His natural skill with the guitar provided pleasure for himself as well as all who knew him.

His interests also included horseshoe pitching. For many years he was a member of, and active participant, in the Montana Horseshoe Pitchers Association. He was awarded the state's title of "Mr. Horseshoe" in 1997. Also, he was a member of the NHPA, competing in many World Tournaments. He won his first place in his class in Gillette, Wyoming.

In later years, he and Margery Baker rekindled their former friendship and in January 2005, in the church in Ovando that he had helped to build, they were married. As his health had begun to decline, they had only two years together. They divided their time between her home in Tennessee and his home in Montana.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and two brothers. He is survived by his wife Margery, brothers Lawrence (Laura) and Leon (Mary Jo), sister Betty Roe, sister-in-law Margaret, as well as nieces and nephews.

He will be missed by all.

Submitted by Bert Mannix and Jack Price



## 2008 TEAM

# WORLD REPORT

*by Jim Haupt, standings by Jimmy Paulson*

Team World met for the 24<sup>th</sup> time, thanks to the promotion of the Beloit Horseshoe Club. Eight states were represented with 18 teams. Kentucky took home the grand prize, the coveted traveling trophy. The traditional winner, Colorado succumbed for second place, suffering a 3-1 defeat in the final match. All eyes were on the last pair, Paul LaCrosse for Colorado and Rick Snyder for Kentucky. Snyder, new to the short-distance ranks, kept pace with LaCrosse, actually leading going into the last shoes. LaCrosse needed a double to win, and when the first shoe careened off the top of the stake into the backstop, LaCrosse refused help to pick up the errant foul saying, "It's OK, the match is over." Had it gone the other way, it would have been two wins each, time to total all points. That's the way Team World handles match ties.

After an 18-team round robin, Colorado had the top spot and waited while four other finalist teams vied for the opportunity to go head-to-head with defending champions, Colorado.

It was quite a feat for Kentucky to rise from the bottom of the heap to first place. **Sue Snyder** and her teammates **Walter Mullins**, **Jim Culver**, and **Rick Snyder** had to win those three last games, more than any other team. Honorable mention should go to the Minnesota #2 team of **Dick Dvorak**, **Bob Knutson**, **Gerald Stangland**, and **Dale Hustad**. They outclassed their own number one team and made it to the finals. **Dale Lipovsky** of the Minnesota #1 team was seen pacing in the gallery as his cohorts played their final matches. Lipovsky is thought to be the only pitcher who has played all 24 years of Team World.

The attraction of the tournament is that many top pitchers are entered. And no matter how a team measures

up, every team plays every other in a round robin one time. It becomes an opportunity for a journeyman pitcher to pitch against the best, even so far as to pitch with a world champion. A coin flip determines which team makes the match-ups. Foreseeing a sure loss to a high average pitcher, the choosing captain will often opt make a match with sacrificing the low man. It happens consistently. Many mediocre teams seize on that opportunity with little hope for an actual cash award. Presentation is foremost in the Beloit arena. The courts are world class, separated with green carpeting once used at a world tournament. Scoring is precise. Every score sheet was pre-labeled for individual team matches. An overall result board is updated to show every team's progress. In addition there

*Continued on page 23*

## HORSESHOE PETE'S CAL-FLIP





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Invented and patented by Pete Donoho in the mid 1980's, the Cal-Flip was the first shoe to be specifically designed for the flip pitch. Pete was a top player in the Western US and he wanted a shoe that would land "cleats down", giving him the same advantage as turn throwers. His invention, the Cal-Flip horseshoe, put everyone back on even ground no matter how they threw the shoe. It was a revolution in the horseshoe world that totally legitimized flip pitching for the first time. Although Pete passed away in 1995, his shoe is still pitched in championships everywhere!

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is another board tracking the running percentage of each pitcher. This is emphatically the best tournament going with informational boards. Team-World writes the book on team tournaments.

It is common belief that raging gas prices probably curtailed the entry somewhat this year with only 18 teams on hand when the goal is 24 teams. On hand this year was the World "picture-taker," Ernie Bowdell snapping teams and individual photos. He knows where the action is. Wonder

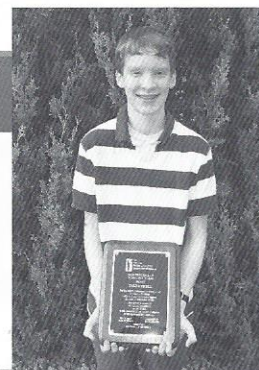
what the mileage is from Missouri. They entered five teams probably due to the groundwork of Charley Kilgore, who could not make the scene. At this time, it is a good guess that half the pitchers in the state of Missouri have come to Team World at least once. Thanks to Missouri for providing a pitcher with a great voice. The unknown man doffed his Stetson to sing the National Anthem, drawing the attention of all. Team World is a social gathering that many look forward to each year. Time for you to recruit a team for next year.

### 2008 TEAM WORLD FINAL STANDINGS

Pos	Team	Wins	Team %	Team Top Pitcher	%
1	Kentucky	55.0	63.08	Sue Snyder	85.50
2	Colorado	54.5	69.13	Carl Carlton	78.19
3	Illinois #1	53.0	59.76	Marvin Kramer	66.97
4	Wisconsin #1	55.0	62.73	Gert Wilczek	74.87
5	Minnesota #2	51.0	56.78	Bob Knudtson	66.05
6	Minnesota #1	45.5	60.15	Dale Lipovsky	62.65
7	Missouri #2	38.5	55.22	Steve Johnson	58.68
8	Minnesota #3	36.5	52.39	Bert Logsdon	57.79
9	Missouri #1	35.0	55.49	Nick Diraimo	60.44
10	Missouri #3	33.5	50.66	Rick McEntire	57.21
11	Iowa	31.5	53.93	Robert Card	61.91
12	Illinois #2	31.0	48.82	Jesse Garza	57.79
13	Wisconsin #2	30.5	46.88	Norm Gage	54.71
14	Michigan	28.0	48.79	Dewey Howard	56.62
15	Wisconsin #3	18.0	39.63	Ken Pogue	46.00
16	Missouri #4	17.0	40.48	Don Claas	48.68
17	Illinois #3	10.0	34.17	Larry Fettes	37.50
18	Missouri #5	8.5	32.62	Ron Hassler	40.15

## BIO-Tyler Thell-Scholarship Winner

Tyler Thell throws himself into his interests, whether it's horseshoes, tennis, school or leisure activities. He joined the Brooklyn Park Junior Horseshoe Club three years ago, following his older brother. At 14, Tyler is finishing 8th grade this year at Jackson Middle School. He is particularly interested in math and science. In his free time, Tyler likes electronic gaming, hanging out with friends, and keeping up with current events.





# PITCHING IN IRELAND

I received this letter from a pitcher in Ireland who describes horseshoe pitching over there. I found it interesting and thought I would share it with you.

Jim Link

Dear Sir,

My name is Stephen Bolger. I am 25 yrs old. I live in a village called Castledermot, in the county of Kildare in Ireland. I found your contact details on the United States horseshoe pitching website. I am writing to you to tell you about horseshoe pitching in Ireland. In Ireland Horseshoe pitching is more commonly known as meggars. I play for the castledermot meggar team in the Kildare and district horseshoe pitching league.

Our club was founded in 2003. I have been playing meggars since 1991 originally with my family's team called Bray. Our rules are similar to yours, we play our league in a doubles format with six players per team. With three pairs from each team playing simultaneously against each other one per bar. They pitch over a distance of 33 feet between each bar, the bars being made of 1.5 inch gun barrel steel, 1 foot above the ground. Each opposing player throws in sequence 2 horseshoes made of steel weighing exactly 2 lbs with a cock placed in the middle of the shoe for balance. The player whose shoe(s) is closest to the bar scores an ace and his partner then gets to throw from the other bar. The team who gets to 21 aces first wins a point for their team. If we get a shoe around the bar it's called a meggar and a shoe touching the bar is called a bar. If a shoe's cock or spike lodges in the top of a bar this scores ten aces. This has only ever happened once in the history of the game which dates back to possibly to 1800 and probably alot further back. The first major organized leagues in Ireland were formed in 1970 when the HPAI(Horseshoe pitchers of Ireland) was formed. It

is based in the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The first major leagues were The Midland League (clubs from counties: Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Carlow and wicklow) played in this league. The other leagues included: The Wexford League, Dublin League, Galway league and Donegal league. The major teams of the 70's were Castlemitchell (Kildare), Cosets (Carlow), Dorans Bridge (Wexford), Woodsmen (Wexford), Shamrocks (Dublin), Moone (Kildare) and Maganey (Laois). The season to this day runs from May to November. The league lasts for 12 weeks followed by the county and club All-Irelands and memorial and cup competitions.

The dominant teams of the 80's and 90's were Gouleyduff (Kildare), Ballycoolan (Laois), Doransbridge (Wexford), Donegal, Churchtown (Kildare) and Bray (Kildare). The four most famous, skilled and successful players are: Mick English (Castlemitchell, Ballyroe, Bray and Kildare), Dennis Ryan (Castlemitchell, Gouleyduff and Kildare), Pat Leigh (Maganey, Castleroe, Ballycoolan and Laois), Jackser Owens (Doransbridge and Wexford) and lastly Pat Furlong (Cosets, St Patricks and Carlow). Sadly three of these players have passed away. They were almost unbeatable and would throw meggars blindfolded. My former team Bray used to play in the premier division of the Midland league in which there was 4 divisions up until the mid 1980's. Sadly today the game has come on hard times due to the popularity of Gaelic football, soccer and rugby. Currently the Midland league has one division, a new league formed in 2003, the Kildare and district horseshoe pitching league also has one division. And the Wexford, Galway, Dublin and Donegal leagues are still

*Continued on page 25*



# PITCHING IN IRELAND *Continued*

going. In recent there have been signs of the number of players increasing once more, currently there are around 2 to 3 thousand official players and many thousand more unofficial players throughout Ireland, meggars remains a very popular sport. If you could tell me about the game in your area and the USA I would greatly appreciate it and if you want me to post you information and pictures of the history of the game here, it would be a pleasure. My fa-

ther, Michael Bolger has compiled a history of Horseshoe pitching from ancient Greece to the present. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Go raibh mile maith agat,

Yours Faithfully,  
Stephen Bolger.

## Income & Expense Statement April & May 2008

### Income

Bank Deposit Error	\$ 160.00
Charter Dues	\$ 8.00
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$ 60.00
Horseshoe Sanction fees	\$ 1,900.00
Junior Fund Donation	\$ 20.00
Membership Dues	\$ 36,330.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$ 3,886.00
Newsline Ads	\$ 821.00
Refund	\$ 571.75
Sanction Club League Patches	\$ 14.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$ 358.34
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$ 358.80
World Tournament Court Sponsorship	\$ 10,300.00
World Tournament Entry Fees	\$ 160,925.00

**Total Income** \$ 215,712.89

### Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$ 3,889.41
World Tournament Admin. Costs. Printing, office supplies, etc.	\$ 374.88
World Tournament Refunds, Fees, Dues & Overpayments	\$ 2,400.00
Hall of Fame Awards Supplies & Expenses	\$ 1,595.00
Sanctioned Tournament Patches	\$ 282.64
Equipment Purchases, Rentals & Repairs	\$ 11,338.92
Printing, Paper & Office Supplies	\$ 109.78
Postage	\$ 301.31
Officers Telephone	\$ 381.91
Officers Travel	\$ 1,593.17
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$ 3,500.00
Presidents Allowance	\$ 1,050.00
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donation	\$ 449.24
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$ 480.66
Refunds	\$ 43.00
Internet Access & Web Site	\$ 117.84

**Total Expenses** \$ 27,907.76

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen



# 15TH ANNUAL SIX PAC INVITATIONAL

WENTZILLE, MISSOURI

MAY 3-4, 2008

*by Jeanette Claas*

There's no business like "shoe business" and for the 32 horseshoe pitchers who traveled across the U.S. for the 15th Annual Six Pac Invitational, "shoe business" was definitely on their mind as they considered the possibility of winning the prize money and championship title of the tournament.

It's springtime in Missouri, a favorite season for many. Springtime brings nature's beautiful colors and it also brings many horseshoe pitchers to Missouri for the exciting and prestigious Six Pac tournament. It would be a "first" for Missouri as it was the first time the tournament would be held in the new NHPF/NHPA facility at Quail Ridge Park. It would be the "first" opportunity for most of the pitchers and guests to be visiting the very impressive Hall of Fame building. It would be the "first" time for the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club to put on their biggest "shoe" of all. After months of preparations, the QRHC members were ready to make this tournament the best so far, and that they did.

The event was made possible by Missourian Harvey Wobbe, of Six Pac Horseshoes, and co-sponsor Holiday Inn-Wentzville. Harvey takes great pride in being financially able to support this tournament and we are so thankful for him. We thank the co-sponsors for their generosity and contributions and hope that the horseshoe pitchers reciprocate by using the hotel facilities and purchasing Six Pac Horseshoes.

It was wonderful to see the out-of-state pitchers as they milled about the impressive Jack Freeman Memorial Brick Plaza looking for their very own brick. If you haven't bought one yet, it's never too late to be a part of this program. Be proud to be a supporter of horseshoes. Special guests at this tournament were NHPA President Paul

Stewart, NC, NHPF President Dave Loucks, CA, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hanson, WI, and Bob Dunn, MN, whose large collection of horseshoes were donated to the Hall of Fame. It was also good to see QRHC member Cal Jaeger riding around in Cal's new hot rod!

It was a cool, cloudy overcast spring day as the horseshoe pitchers began warming up in the climate-controlled 16 indoor courts. After Tournament Director Joe Faron welcomed the pitchers and thanked each for coming in spite of the high cost of gasoline, (\$3.59 in MO). Joe was pleasantly surprised as Harvey Wobbe presented him a plaque for being Tournament Director of the Six Pac for the past 15 years. Tournament Director Bob Diekamp made the impressive introductions of the 32 contestants. Harvey Wobbe presented each pitcher with a souvenir medallion and group pictures were taken. Amy Francis's beautiful voice filled the rafters as she sang the Star Spangle Banner. It was now "Shoe Time."

There was a Story to be told as we watched Howe these highly skilled horseshoe pitchers displayed their amazing talents on the courts. Included in this group was a Mother-Son, a Husband-Wife, identical Twin Sisters, four World Champions, an awesome, inspiring wheel-chair pitcher, and even a Beagle was out in the Fields making her first appearance in the Six Pac 30 footers. Of all the bad luck, a late cancellation was made by #6 seeded Stan Griggs, of Missouri, due to his house being burglarized just two days before the tournament. However, Dennis Griesbaum, of IL, was willing to fill his shoes. The spectators were traumatized as they watched ringer after ringer pound the stake.

*Continued on page 27*



# 15TH ANNUAL SIX PACK INVITATIONAL *Continued*

At the end of Saturday's competition the following pitchers were undefeated: Alan Francis-OH; Jim Walters-OH, Joan Elmore-TN, Sue Snyder- KY, Marlene Ray-TN, and Bobby Fields-TN.

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club members displayed their culinary talents in the kitchen as 92 persons gathered to eat this delicious, home cooked dinner. While the pitchers were throwing ringers on inside the courts, Larry and Elaine Langewisch was throwing on the Bar-B-Q pork steaks and chickens on the grill outside. M-M-M-Good!

On a sunny Sunday morning, the horseshoe pitchers were back on the courts with high hopes for more victories on this final day of play. At the end of the competition, with a record of 15-0, a tournament average of 88.80%, Alan Francis, OH, claimed his 11th Championship Title of the Six Pac Tournament. His high game was 93.75%. The most points scored against Francis were 17 points by pitcher Joseph Smith, of Iowa. Alan Francis was awarded \$1,200 and a trophy for his earnings. Runner up, also from Ohio, was Jim Walters. His only loss was to Alan Francis; a tournament average of 74.49% with a high game of 89.47%. Jim also had the biggest increase in ringer percentage – from 73.22% to 78.49%. Jim Walters received a 2nd place trophy and a check for \$1,000.

The exciting 30 Footers Tournament was expanded this year to 16 pitchers due to the availability of more courts and financial support. With an undefeated record of 15-0, a tournament average of 85.28%, 2006-07 Women's World Champion, Joan Elmore, TN, claimed the Championship Title. Her high game was 92.85%. Joan was presented a check for \$600 and a first place trophy. Former Six Times World Champion, Sue Snyder of KY, won 2nd Place with only one loss and a tournament average of 84.70%. Sue holds the honor of pitching the first perfect game of 100% in the new facility. She had a very impressive tournament pitching four games 90% or better. For her 2nd place finish, Sue was awarded a 2nd place trophy and prize money of \$500. Adelene Foster had the biggest increase from 71.31% to 72.40%.

During the two-day tournament of the 40 footers 12,716 shoes were pitched of which 8,302 ringers were recorded. The average ringer percentage was 65.28%. In the 30 foot competition 13,828 shoes were pitched of which 9,822 ringers were recorded. The average ringer percentage was 71.02%.

For the finale, a pitch off game between the two champions, Alan Francis and Joan Elmore, was played as the spectators watched the exhibition. It was another "first" in horseshoe history as two current World Champions competed together. The game consisted of 114 shoes with 35 four deads. Francis pitched a 91.2%, pitching 104 ringers. The score was Francis – 42, Elmore - 28. It is hard to imagine you can lose a horseshoe game when you throw 99 ringers with an 86.8% average which is what Joan Elmore did. During the Six Pac Tournament Joan pitched 958 shoes which included 817 ringers. Alan threw 688 shoes, which included 611 ringers. Two great people; two very talented horseshoe pitchers. A plaque donated by Harvey Wobbe was presented to the QRHC that will be kept at the facility for future Six Pac championship games. Thank you, Alan and Joan, for this remarkable game. It was a demonstration of accuracy and a lesson to be learned.

Back in 1993 Joe Faron came up with the idea and ran with his dream. It has developed into one of the finest tournaments held anywhere in the U.S.; a tournament that all competitors look forward to attending. It took a "village" to make this tournament a success. These people need to be recognized and thanked for their dedication to the QRHC: Tournament Directors Joe Faron, Tim Henderson, Gary Buehler, Bob & Rose Diekamp; Co-Sponsors Harvey Wobbe & Holiday Inn-Wentzville; Kitchen Directors Theresa Barry and Joann Wall and all the concession stand workers; Rose Diekamp organized the meal and to all QRHC members who donated dishes for the best meal ever eaten; Julia Jaeger and all her scorekeep-

*Continued on page 28*



# 15TH ANNUAL SIX PACK INVITATIONAL *Continued*

ers; Rich Altis – the Statsman; Judges Sam Carter, Bob Cutright & Tom Ebers; Jim Riley’s hard working clean up crew; Roy & Suzanne Evans – Souvenir Sales; Poster Boy-Larry Volo and Poster Girl-J-Net Claas; Joe Faron’s donation of the mantel clock (won by Mr.Davis of TN); to all those who supported the QRHC with their donations for the dinner and for the 50/50 drawings and Six Pac Horseshoes donated by Harvey Wobbe; to all horseshoe pitchers who traveled the distance to participate and watch this spectacular “shoe”.

On a last, but interesting note – Joe Faron was interviewed

previously by the KWRE radio station promoting the Six Pac Horseshoe event, which was aired on Friday before the tournament. Two minutes after airtime, Joe was contacted by a person, who was driving in his car and listening to the program. ‘Yes, he is interested in pitching horseshoe, wants to get involved in the sport, could you send me more information!’ This is what “shoe business” is all about, folks!

The following are the official results of the 40 Footers - 2008 Six Pac Invitational Tournament:

	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Ringers</b>	<b>Shoes</b>	<b>R%</b>	<b>Prize Money</b>
1 - Alan Francis OH	15	0	616	611	688	88.80%	\$1200
2 – Jim Walters OH	14	1	585	562	716	78.49%	\$1000
3 – Shannon Foster TN	10	5	540	691	966	71.53%	\$ 600
4 – Walter Ray Williams CA	9	6	479	494	740	66.75%	\$ 400
5 – Charlie Webb IL	9	6	522	515	796	64.69%	\$ 300
6 – Gale Green VT	8	7	523	589	848	69.45%	\$ 200
7 – M.O.Turner MO	8	7	505	570	864	65.97%	\$ 175
8 – Paul LaCrosse CO	8	7	511	550	838	65.63%	\$ 125
9 – Joseph Smith IA	8	7	465	537	820	65.48%	
10- Elbert Shifflett MD	7	8	425	510	810	62.96%	
11- Chan Herrell MD	7	8	472	532	858	62.00%	
12- Mark Seibold IN	4	11	419	465	798	58.27%	
13- Dennis Griesbaum IL	4	11	326	389	692	56.21%	
14- Rick Howe RI	3	12	430	513	852	60.21%	
15- Raymond Bedard MA	3	12	355	395	728	54.25%	
16 – Mark Mouthe WI	3	12	339	379	702	53.98%	

The following are the official results of the 30 Footers – 2008 Six Pac Invitational Tournament

	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Ringers</b>	<b>Shoes</b>	<b>R%</b>	<b>Prize Money</b>
1 – Joan Elmore TN	15	0	615	817	958	85.28%	\$ 600
2 – Sue Snyder KY	14	1	592	576	680	84.70%	\$ 500
3 – Marlene Ray TN	12	3	573	771	960	80.31%	\$ 300
4 – Bobby Fields TN	11	4	548	770	984	78.25%	\$ 200
5 – Gert Wilcieck WI	9	6	521	662	896	73.88%	\$ 150
6 – Adelene Foster TN	9	6	487	643	888	72.40%	\$ 100
7 – D W Story TN	9	6	500	640	884	72.39%	\$ 87

*Continued on page 29*



# 15TH ANNUAL SIX PACK INVITATIONAL *Continued*

	W	L	Score	Ringers	Shoes	R%	Prize Money
8 – Robert Zumbahlen FL	8	7	498	606	874	69.33%	\$ 63
9 – Maxine Griffith TN	7	8	474	656	936	70.08%	
10- Amy Francis OH	7	8	434	558	840	66.42%	
11- Brenda Tawney WV	5	10	454	614	878	69.93%	
12- Ervin Starwalt IL	4	11	430	549	834	65.82%	
13- Dennis Reid IL	4	11	448	518	830	62.40%	
14- Nick DiRaimo MO	3	12	392	525	836	62.79%	
15- John Rutherford TX	2	13	315	484	806	60.04%	
16- Terry Beagle MI	1	14	283	433	744	58.19%	



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# RULES COMMITTEE

by Jerry LaBrosse

As you all know, there won't be any rules change proposals voted on at this year's convention in York. There are some bylaws that will be voted on however, and I hope you've all studied and discussed these proposals so you can make informed decisions on how to vote at the convention.

I had a discussion the other day with a fellow NHPA member who asked me about the RGS book, and how things have gone the first two years of its existence. I told him that overall the book has served the NHPA well, but that there were some changes in the works. We have discovered a few minor things that need changing, such as page references, typos, and some grammar errors. These are the types of changes that do not need to be voted on to be changed. One thing that came up was talked about in my previous Newsline article, dealing with information that was incorrectly moved from and out of date Bylaw file on the NHPA website. This information dealt with restrictions placed on open sanctioned tournaments. In the next printing of the RGS book, this information will be corrected, as well as all the other minor errors we've discovered. There are only a few rules change proposals that have been submitted to my committee for review to date. I do however receive many questions about various rules, and also deal with some on the NHPA website forum. I always check my email daily and always respond to every email sent to me.

If any of you ever have questions about a rule, or anything in the RGS book, contact me and we'll discuss it. I also encourage you to contact me about any proposals you may have concerning a rules change. I'd like to give a brief explanation of how the system works for any new members who may be reading this article.

First, a proposal must be submitted to me which includes the exact wording that you wished to be changed, and also the reasoning behind the proposed change. I then share the proposal with my committee, which includes Dan Sanders, Debby Michaud, Andre Leclerc, George Nick, Jane Smith and David Spears. After discussing the proposal, we vote as to whether it is a sensible proposal that is worthy to submit to the NHPA council. All aspects of the proposal

are taken into consideration. Many times a rule change can have a wide impact on other rules and precedence, and we must be very careful on changing rules that have stood the test of time all these years.

If the rules committee decides that a rule change proposal is valid, then it is submitted to the NHPA Executive Council for approval. If the council approves the proposal, it is then published in Newsline prior to the world tournament convention, where it is voted on by the delegates.

We have a good system of dealing with our rules and bylaws in my opinion, and I also believe that we have a great document in the RGS book.

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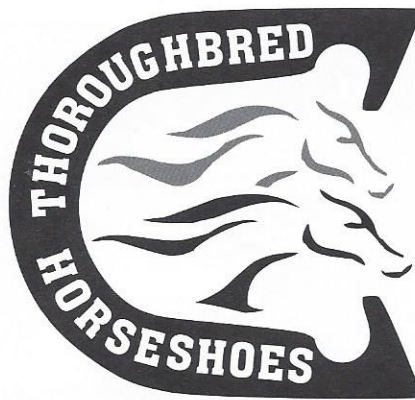
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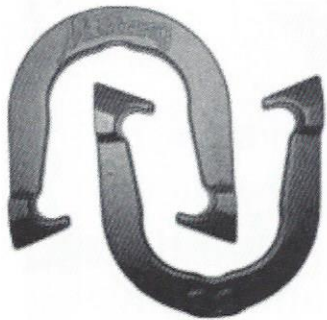
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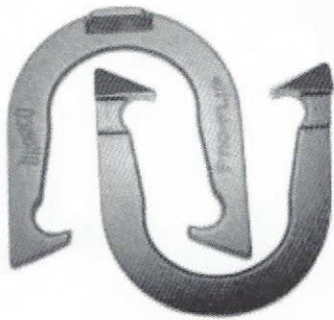


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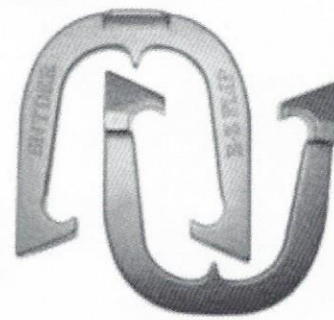
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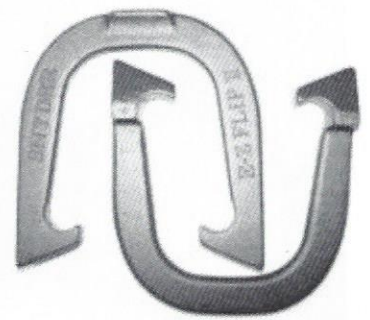
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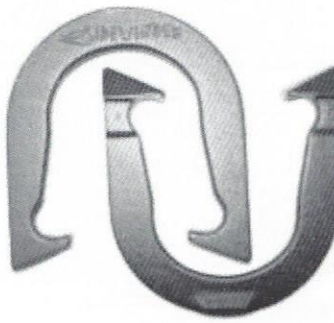
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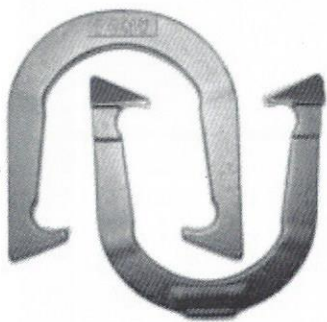
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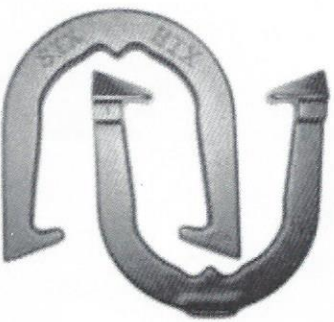
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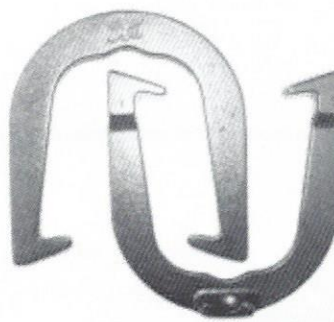
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