



# Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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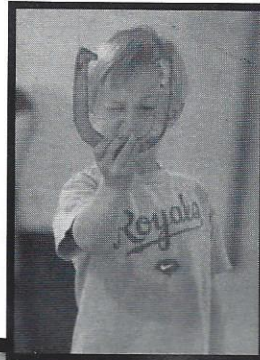
*Devin Wetzel  
1st Place Class A*



*Nickel Craven  
1st Place Class B*



*Cooper Phipps  
1st Place Class C*



*Audrey Jackson  
1st Place Class D*



*Our Future  
In Action*

**Junior's Only Tournament - 2011**

**Don Harris Arena - Liberty, Missouri**

# 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 contact the NHPA 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. She should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 5<sup>th</sup> VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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# Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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## NHPA NEWSLINE

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**Cover: A big thank you goes out to Gregg Craven and all the volunteers that put on this tournament for juniors only.**

### Pitchers shown in the group photo on the cover:

Sarah Johnson, Devin Wetzell, Jeff Goepferich, Nickel Craven  
Savanna Johnson, Ben McCaulley, Cameron Phipps, Colt Bonham, Ashley Candler, Alisha Bravard, Cooper Phipps, Dani McCaulley, Alexander Bravard, Gary Stevenson, Merissa Caravello, Audrey Jackson

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Stu Sipma*

Hope all is well with all of you. Spring has finally arrived and the sound of horseshoes is in the air. The 2011 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 18<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at Monroe, LA. The Council (mostly Dick) is working hard trying to finalize the pitching schedule. Tentatively we have 813 entrants. Five of these entrants will be coming from South Africa. With the number of entries received, this should allow us to schedule the whole tournament in the Civic Center and possibly use the other hall for practice play. The good news is all courts should have electronic scoring. Electronic scoring was introduced last year at Cedar Rapids. There were some glitches which we have hopefully worked through. Everyone seemed to prefer the electronic scoring and it will prove to make the NHPA's job easier and less time consuming.

As many of you are aware, electronic scoring is one of the NHPA's goals for taking horseshoes to the next level. In order to accomplish this, the NHPA is still looking for laptop computers. If you, or anyone you know of, including a business, would like to donate a laptop, please contact our Natstats Director Rob Hagman.

On the front page of our website, I announced the individuals who will be receiving NHPA awards this year at the Hall of Fame banquet in Monroe. All of the recipients are very deserving individuals and I would personally like to thank each of you for hard work and dedication to the sport.

The NHPA is still looking for a National Sponsor. If anyone knows of a potential contact, please provide that information to our Publicity/Promotions Director Tina

Hawkins. It is our goal to have one exclusive sponsor which the NHPA can work with to sponsor and assist in growing our sport.

Interest remains high for sites looking to bid for hosting future World Horseshoe Tournaments. I have been in communication with many locations which have expressed an interest and have assisted them in answering their questions to allow them for planning to host an event of this size.

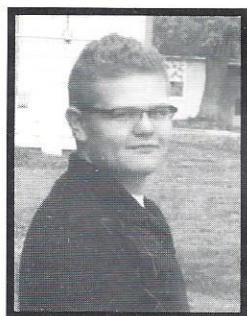
York, PA and St. George, UT will be bidding to host the 2013 World Tournament. Both locations will have a booth set up starting July 20<sup>th</sup> to answer your questions and provide information on their facilities and the amenities their sites have to offer.

My heart goes out to all of you who have experienced problems with flooding, tornados, fires, etc. Here in Bismarck, we are experiencing flooding due to the overflow of Lake Sakakawea. Many people, including horseshoe friends, are being affected by this and everyone in our community is stepping up to sandbag those in need of help. Due to the flooding, it appears our leagues and tournaments may have to be cancelled for the year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Monroe in July. For those of you who are unable to make it, I look forward to hearing from you with any ideas to improve and promote our sport.

Enjoy the summer and good luck pitching.  
Stu

## JUNIOR PITCHER/PROMOTER **DALTON RAKESTRAW** *by Tina Hawkins*



Junior horseshoe pitcher, Dalton Rakestraw, is busy doing his part to promote the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

With the help of his best friends, Audie Russell and Jordan Good, Dalton presented horseshoe pitching to the students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades in West Plains Missouri, as part of their reward day for testing in the Missouri

Assessment Program.

Many students had the opportunity to pitch a few shoes and there were several ringers thrown. Dalton utilized the new NHPA rack cards for this event and had several who were interested in joining, including two of the high school coaches, who have decided to pitch in a non-sanctioned doubles tournament next month. Thanks to Dalton, they are one step closer to being members of the NHPA! One of the coaches has

even been practicing every night at his home, according to a reliable source... His wife!

Dalton, a 14-year old student at West Plains High School in West Plains Missouri, has been pitching horseshoes for five years and says he is very excited to be involved with this sport. He has competed in the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, including the last three World Tournaments and has entered to pitch in his fourth in Monroe/West Monroe this year. He is the current Missouri Junior Boys State Champion and carries an average of 66.39% with a high game of 82.5 %.

In addition, Dalton has created a website for Southern Missouri/Northern Arkansas called "Horseshoe Mania." Check it out at <http://horseshoemania.yolasite.com>.

When you see this young man, give him a handshake or a pat on the back. He is the future of the NHPA - his enthusiasm and excitement for the sport of horseshoe pitching is what will keep us growing strong into the future!

# NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS *by Dave Loucks*

I thought I'd use this issue to mention some detail about the number and level of donations to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation over the years. In so doing, I want to recognize and give special thanks to some major contributors who together, have accounted for nearly one-third of all the donations received from individuals, clubs or charters.

The first contribution to the NHPF was made in 1997. Since then, the Foundation has received through May 31, 2011, a total of 3397 donations from individuals, clubs and charters. These donations were made by only 1383 different contributors who together have given a total of \$381,766 in either an outright donation or a brick purchase. Considering that these donations have come over a time-span of 15 years, it's sad to see that just a bit more than 12% of the membership has written a check to help support the NHPF. While the current economy may have something to do with the declining trend of contributions, it does not explain how we have gone three or more years without seeing a single donation from 18 different states.

Of the \$381,766 total received from individuals, clubs or charters, nearly one-half has come from just 70 contributors. The excel file shows 54 names who have contributed \$1,000-\$3,000. There are seven names who have contributed \$4,000-\$4,900. They are William Backer, CA; Ed Domey, MA; Ward Lutz, MN; Missouri HPA; Paul & Pat Stewart, NC; Eastern Nebraska HPA and the Oregon HPA. There are nine names that have contributed \$5,000 or more. They are Dave & Cathie Loucks, CA; Casey & Gail Sluys, CA; James Haley, GA; Minnesota Gopher State HPA; The Dogwood Tournament, NC; North Carolina HPA; Emerald HPA, OR; Timothy Woodden, OR, and Jack Freeman, TN.

Over the 15 years, an additional \$336,344 has been received from other sources. These sources include miscellaneous donations, NHPF merchandise sales, memorial donations, Hall of Fame Banquet ticket sales & auction income, HOF building rent & event fees and the NHPA. It is our parent organization that the Foundation must give special thanks to for their annual \$1 per member, bank interest and special contributions that have accounted for more than 50% of the \$336,344 total.

The NHPF however cannot continue to count on such support from the NHPA who itself is looking for ways to reduce spending. Just think what a difference it would make if the Foundation could receive contributions from not just 12% of the membership but see a modest increase to 15% or more. What about those 18 States that haven't sent in a donation for the past 3+ years? Even a few contributors from each of them would be a big help to the NHPF. Keep in mind that the Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization. That means

that your contribution can be claimed as a tax deduction if you itemize your return.

Your financial support is always appreciated. Any contribution or funds from a brick order will help maintain the Hall of Fame & Museum in Wentzville as well as other NHPF projects. Checks should be made out to the NHPF and mailed to P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. Information and order forms for engraved bricks can be found on the NHPF link of the NHPA website, [www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com). Email inquiries can be sent to [3ringers3@att.net](mailto:3ringers3@att.net)

During the months of April and May, the NHPF received contributions and brick order income from members totaling \$2555. The sale of 6 DVD's plus 1<sup>st</sup> quarter HOF building rent, an insurance claim and miscellaneous income brought total deposits for the two months to \$9606. Thanks to those mentioned below who contributed or purchased a brick.

## Donating \$25-50

Leo & Deborah Bratland, IL \*  
Charles Bunner, WV

## Donating \$100-150

Dave & Cathie Loucks, CA  
Colorado HPA  
Paul & Pat Stewart, NC  
Timothy Woodden, OR

## Donating \$200-250

Steve & Gina Meyer, CA  
Dogwood Tournament, NC

## Donating \$700

Emerald HPA, Eugene OR

## Other Income

\$60 for DVD's sold  
\$100 from HOF Donation Box  
\$3000 from QRHC for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr rent  
\$3890 Building Insurance claim

\* In Memory of Gene Poyner

## Bricks Purchased By

Georgia HPA  
Velma Kempfe, MO  
North Carolina HPA (3)  
New Mexico HPA  
Jim Haupt, WI  
Terry & Lorraine Sternberg, WI

# PUBLICITY PROMOTION by Tina Hawkins

Have you ever visited the internet website of the NHPA? If you answered "No," you are missing out on the plethora of information that has been provided for you there.

For starters, the entire NHPA "RGS Book" (Rules, Guidelines and Specifications) can be found online. For those who have entered the technological age of "smart phones" that puts the rules right at your fingertips for easy reference, anytime, anywhere!

You can check your NatStat ringer percentage on the website, as well. Not only will you find your average, but the events you have pitched in and average thrown for the past twelve months. This makes it easy to determine if you are qualified to enter an upcoming tournament. You can also check on your friends (or rivals!) from across the country. Remember – your average is calculated using the ringers and shoes from your highest three events of the last 12 months.

The "Pitch with Us" link takes you to contact information for all the NHPA charters. If you are taking a trip and wish to pitch competitively while travelling, visit their charter sites for tournament schedules and entry information. If you are planning to relocate, this will give you all the contact information you need to get involved with the new charter.

Under "Game Information" there are details on building horseshoe courts in your back yard or laying out a full set in the city park. Also included is just about everything you may want to know about tournament play; from calculating averages, entering tournament, game etiquette, running tournaments, scoring, and even tips for spectators!

You will find tips on writing charter or club newsletters and on reporting your events to the media, in the Publicity/Promotion section, along with many downloadable graphics for your use.

There are facts, folklore, history and guides to pitching horseshoes, dating as far back as 1920! These documents are "must read" for you history buffs – and those who just want to know how it all began. World Tournament history and records are also available here, in addition to NHPA member recognitions and awards.

Do you need a new pair of horseshoes? You can find a listing of all shoes available and distributors to purchase from. How about some free software? That's right – the NHPA provides HS Master and HS Scorekeeper free of charge for your use in

running tournaments and leagues!

If you want to know what everyone across the country is up to in the horseshoe pitching world, visit the NHPA Forum under the Interactive link. You will be able to ask questions and participate in conversations with fellow pitchers everywhere.

Don't forget about the Member Services currently available to NHPA members. You can still receive a 10% discount at any Motel 6 by using the NHPA Corporate Partnership number when making your reservations.

You can also use the website to contact your NHPA officers. Ask them a question, make a comment, or let them know what you think and what you would like to see for the future of association.

Yes, there is a world of information about the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association right there at your fingertips on the World Wide Web! Far more than has been mentioned here. If you haven't visited the site, be sure to spend some time exploring... You may be surprised at some of the things you can learn there! Share the address with others so they can learn about the NHPA! Bumper stickers are still available!

[WWW.HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM](http://WWW.HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM)



The advertisement features two horseshoes: a dark-colored "GORDON" horseshoe on the left and a light-colored "LEGEND" horseshoe on the right. Above each shoe is its respective logo. The text below the shoes describes the product as "Drop Forged" carbon steel, hardened tips, medium soft, 2.8 lbs, one-year guarantee, and NHPA sanctioned. It provides contact information for Omega Horseshoe Co. and lists payment methods like Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

**GORDON**  
**LEGEND**

**OMEGA HORSESHOE CO.**  
777 West Midvalley Road  
Cedar City, Utah 84721

**1-877-865-1066**  
sales@gordonhorseshoes.com  
www.OmegaHorseshoes.com

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Also available from [www.dennishorseshoes.com](http://www.dennishorseshoes.com) & NHPA Distributors

# SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT *by Lorraine Sternberg*

Most of the summer leagues have begun their season. This means that membership reports should be in by now. When sending in your membership report, you should have everyone listed with their NHPA card number and the category in which they pitch. All of the leagues can be submitted on one report. You do not have to list each league separate. You do however have to list each league separate when submitting your final stats report. Also please remember that all pitchers, pitching on a sanctioned league must carry a current NHPA membership card; this includes those pitchers that sub on your league.

This year the Sanctioned League Director Award will be given to Rich Altis from the Quail Ridge HSC in Missouri. Rich has been a devoted league director for many years, going back to when the Quail Ridge HSC used to be known as the New Melle HSC. The Quail Ridge Club is the largest club in the United States and has active winter and summer leagues. Usually when I am at the courts in October for my League Tournament, Rich is busy setting up their leagues for the coming winter season. He spends much time talking to new members and working with them on the courts. Rich, along with his team, have pitched in the league tournament from the beginning of this tournament, which was first held in Joelton, TN. I thank Rich for all that he has done to support the Sanctioned League Program.

The World Tournament is fast approaching. The tournament this year is going to be held in Monroe, Louisiana. It is a little earlier than usual, the last two weeks in July, so it is really coming up fast. I am hoping to meet up with many league pitchers especially those from Louisiana. As you all know by now, this is my last World Tournament that I will be part of and I am sure that it will be a little emotional for me. I do hope that many of you will be able to make the Sanctioned League Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a great time for you to get to know the three candidates that are running for my position. They are Donna Bastel from Missouri, Jim Kinney from Missouri and David Sidles from Nebraska. Please check with me when you arrive at the tournament as to the time of the meeting and where it will be held. There will also be posters up at the tournament with this information on it.

If you are unable to make the meeting, but would like to express any concerns that you may have, please let me know.

I received a letter and picture from Brian Nussbaum, one of the junior recipients for the League Scholarship Program.

Brian Nussbaum wrote: *I would like to thank you for recognizing my accomplishments an awarding me \$150 scholarship for college. Thank you also, for the plaque, patch and certificates.*

*I started pitching shoes with my parents at the age of eleven. Now at the age of fourteen I am a two time Junior State Champion from Green River, Wyoming. I enjoy pitching horseshoes and plan on pitching as long as I am able.*



*Brian Nussbaum*

I am hoping to have many juniors that pitch in a sanctioned league submit for the scholarship program this coming year. You can obtain a scholarship form from me, by just e-mailing me at [horshoewi@aol.com](mailto:horshoewi@aol.com). All of the requirement information is available in the Sanctioned League Red Book. The deadline for submitting a scholarship is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Terry and I were able to go to the Six Pack Tournament in Missouri this year. What a fun tournament. The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club goes above and beyond to make sure that everyone has a good time while visiting the HOF. On Saturday night they put on a banquet and honored Harvey Wobbe for sponsoring the six pack tournament for so many years. I think everyone who entered the tournament was there. It was a great showing to honor this very special person.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Monroe, LA. May you all have a safe trip and a great tournament!

## 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.

### Deadlines for Grant Applications

*March 1 and September 1*

Mail inquires & contributions to:

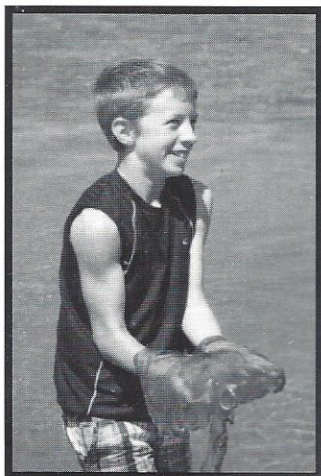
NHPF

P.O. Box 1628

Penn Valley, CA 95946

# JOURNALS IN AFRICA

by Travis Sluys



*Dead jellyfish we found (non-poisonous)*

Day 1- We arrived in South Africa at around 5:30 P.M. One of the South Africans invited us to eat dinner at his house, so we went and had a Malayan dinner that was different but good. Then we stayed at a guesthouse that night. There are guesthouses throughout South Africa; there are as many guesthouses as there are motels in the USA.

Day 2- We flew to Windhoek, Namibia and were picked up at the airport. One of us had to go through customs without his passport in order to get an address where we would be staying. Every time you enter

another country they need to know an address. It turned out to be the Safari Hotel. Namibia is a country to the Northwest of South Africa. It has a population of only 2,100,000. It is the second least populated country in the world. Mongolia is the only country with less people. On the way to our location we saw some baboons sitting on the fence. Some even had babies on their back. The vehicle stopped so we could take some pictures and they crossed the road right in front of us. We relaxed all day until the night then we had a social hour, to meet everyone, and went out to eat.

Day 3- First we went to Hero's Acres. It is a place where Namibian people in the government and the president will be buried when they die. They have moved most of the graves of some famous Namibians to this location. Then we went to the mall in Windhoek and it was fascinating. People could smoke, walk barefoot, and the mall had no roof. I bought lunch at a place called Steers, it was a great hamburger! From there we went to play Jukskei. We demonstrated horseshoe pitching. In the middle of it all it rained for at least three hours. There was a river in the back that was rushing so hard it took down seven trees. During dinner we watched a rugby match. For dinner we had a lamb BBQ along with various other traditional South African dishes. It is hard to remember the names of everything. Some of the dishes tasted better than others.

Day 4- We drove around town on a city tour. We were shown a lot of monuments. Then the driver took us to Acapuca Ranch.

Acapuca Ranch is a huge game reserve where they have giraffes, rhinoceros, Kudus, Warthogs, Springbok, Impalas. We went on a game drive and saw all those animals. We were supposed to witness a lion feeding that afternoon, but it rained pretty hard and the path to the lions was flooded so they cancelled it. They suggested we come back after our trip.



*Adult rhinoceros and a two-year-old*

Day 5- We drove 450km to the beach to stay for three nights. A man called Bully Thornburn had a house that he let the seven of us use for all three nights. Bully is a vice president of the Namibian Jukskei Federation. He invited us to dinner at his house and he had a whole lamb on the barbeque. Along with the lamb there was pork and a mixture of vegetables.

Day 6- We went on a four and a half hour boat tour. We saw a lot of marine life. The boat captain was a barefooted female, even our driver Hanelie went barefooted 90% of the time. We went out on Walvis Bay, Walvis means whale, we didn't see any though,

but saw hundreds of seals and some dolphins. They swam directly in front of the boat as if they were playing. So close that when I leaned down I could actually touch their dorsal fin and tail once in a while. One time leaning down to touch one it blew out of its blowhole and squirted me in the face and mouth. That was a little too up-close-and personal for me,

it sure shocked me. We stopped at shore near a shipwreck on a sandbar. In the distance was a huge lagoon that was full of flamingoes. All these were white though, flamingoes turn pink from eating shrimp and there were no shrimp for these to feed on. We had lunch and I picked up a dead jellyfish. As the day ended we went to a German restaurant and I had a fish of the day.

Day 7- We went on a desert adventure with Christopher Nel. He has a company called, "Living Desert Adventures". [www.livingdesertnamibia.com](http://www.livingdesertnamibia.com)

Was he ever a knowledgeable man, wow! First thing he did was let some air out of his tires so he could drive on the sand without getting stuck. We learned that the down wind slope of a sand dune is 35 degrees and the up-wind slope is 23 degrees. He showed us how geckoes live under the sand. He even caught two of them and let me hold it in the palm of my hand. We then dug an area into the sand to let them dig their way back under. He showed us the dancing white lady, a spider that jumps up-and-down when angry and can roll itself into a ball to roll down a sand dune to escape predators. There was also a sidewinder

snake that buries all but his eyes and tail. Its tail is black for about one inch and he waves it back and forth to attract prey. There was an area of wavy lines in the sand that went up the sand dune. Chris said that it was a Skink track and showed us how he caught it. The skink that lives in the Namib Desert is a legless lizard; he let me hold it also. After that we went to the ocean to enjoy it.



*Baboon on fence; other had crossed the road in front of us.*



# JOURNALS IN AFRICA *Continued*

Then he took us on a dune-buggy ride through some of the dunes. We went down a 35-degree slope and up the side of another dune. It reminded me of being on a roller coaster!

There was a little free time and our driver Sas took myself and another guy to go sand boarding down some huge dunes. We had to wax the board and then basically surf down the dunes. The worst part was hiking all the way back to the top. There was no chairlift for us.

Day 8- We drove back towards Windhoek, it took almost all day, then had dinner. We went back to Anapuca to witness the lion feeding that was rained out on our first visit. The lioness was watching me the whole time; her tail was flicking back and forth. She must have thought

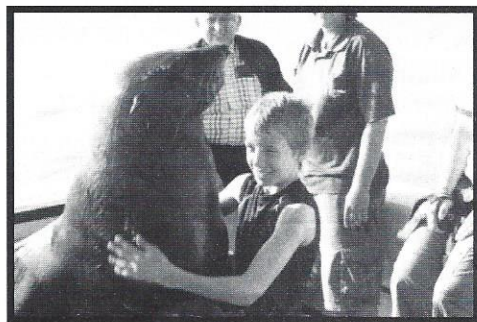


*One of about 25 trinket shops in a group along the road; nice stuff for sale*

I might make a good dinner? We were well protected behind a barricade that had slots in it where we looked through to be able to see and photograph the lions.

Day 9- We drove to the airport than flew to Johannesburg. Upon arriving at the airport we were met by a bus and driver who took us to Kroonstad two hours away to the Jukskei Park. They had chalets set up for all the players. One was specially set aside for the USA players. It has a living room, common bathroom, two bedrooms with three single beds per room. The living room had a TV, but only three channels and one was in Africans, the other two were sports so not much to watch there. We spent time looking over the field where we would play the next day.

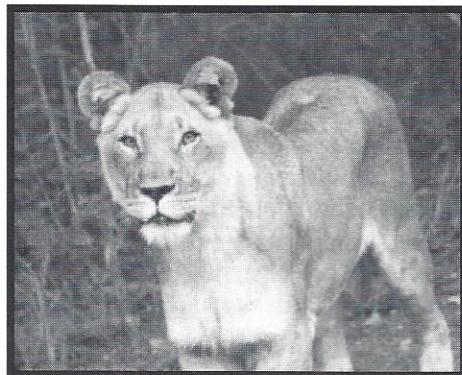
Day 10- Two people of the group played Jukskei all day. I just walked around watching and learning how the game was played.



*Seal aboard our boat. Friendly enough to sit on our lap; heavy though!*

A man named Barn was our coach for the whole four days we played. He took the game very seriously and wanted us to win, but we had very little experience. That night was opening ceremonies. It was pretty fancy we all had to wear our USA team shirts and were called onto the stage and introduced. There were about 225 other players and spectators there and they all clapped after our introduction. We were given special pins to wear on our shirts.

Day 11- I got to play Jukskei today. Our team did not do so good, but we had fun. I think we won only one match. A match is three games and you had 1½ hrs to complete those three games. If they were not finished the points were split between the two teams. Each win was five points, so if you finished only one game the other points were split, 5-5. If you were ahead when the whistle went off then you would get credit for a win. Each night a different union would host us for dinner. A union is another area, in South Africa, where there is a Jukskei team.



*Lioness at feeding time watching US!!!*

Day 12-14- We played Jukskei again and had a really good time. It rained on us a few times and we had to postpone it for a while. The time continued even though we were not playing. So any matches that were not played were cancelled and all the points split between the two teams. We got 7½-7½ during one rainstorm. A heavy thunderstorm blew through the area and they put up the red flags meaning we had to seek shelter from the lighting. Two players and an alternate played international matches on the doubles, we took second and received a silver medal! We went out to a very nice buffet dinner and socialized. Each night we had different traditional African meals. I needed to get used to eating something different each evening.

Day 15- We played a little bit of Jukskei today, only in the morning after that were the Championships and then the ceremonies. It seemed just like the Olympics, all the winners were called up and received medals. It was quite a special occasion. I had to say good-bye to everyone we went back to Johannesburg to stay the night at the Greenwood Manor bed-and- breakfast.

Day 16- Gerrie Jacobs and his wife picked us up at 11 A.M. We went shopping at Nelson Mandela Mall and saw a huge bronze statue of him. Then we got brought to the airport our flight was 16½ hours.

Some day I'd love to go back there and see more of the country. Being involved with Jukskei and horseshoe pitching took up a lot of our time in South Africa, so there was no time for sight seeing there. It's a good thing we had our first week in Namibia to see things: I had a great time, but the flight to there took 14½ hours and the flight back was 16½ hours. I spent 38 total hours on an airplane and 15 hours in airports waiting for those airplanes.

*Editors Note: Travis missed 8 days of school because of this trip and had to write a "trip" report to compensate for missing homework. He wrote it primarily for his history and English classes.*

# 18TH ANNUAL SIX PAC INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

## NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS HALL OF FAME - WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI

by Jeanette Claas

Somewhere across the pond a Royal Wedding was taking place; somewhere in Pakistan a snake in the grass was being sought; somewhere in the midwest and southern states tornadoes were causing major destruction; but right here in Missouri at the NHPA Hall of Fame some exciting horseshoe games were about to begin! What a fantastic event it would be!

It was a bitter sweet time for the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club members as they prepared for their final Six Pac Horseshoe Tournament sponsored by Harvey Wobbe. New backboards were installed, the courts were scrubbed, banners were up, new large 4" clothespins adorned the scoreboards, food was prepared and the QRHC was ready to go. This was to be a special event, a celebration to eighteen years of exciting horseshoe tournaments.

Thirty-two of the most talented and skillful horseshoe pitchers flew the tornadic skies and traveled the highways as gas prices soared to \$4.00 per gallon to compete in this exciting and prestigious event. Tournament Directors Joe Faron, Bob & Rose Diekamp, assisted by Tim Henderson and Gary Buehler, had prepared a lineup of the top horseshoe pitchers across the USA. Eleven new pitchers would make their debut this year. They were: (40 Footers) Gary Urish-IL, Don Davis-WA, Michael Bowman-MO, Ken Fraser-NY. In the 30' Division: Russ Phillips-WA, Herschel Walters-IN, Gregg Craven-MO, Bobby Vandivier-IL, Vicki Kunde-MD, Terry Hiatt-NE, and Becky Kemper-KY.

The courts were opened on Friday for the pitchers to get a feel of the courts and to meet, greet and mix with their rivals before the competition began. Saturday morning the players checked in, the National Anthem was sung and introductions were made by TD Bob Diekamp. Special guests this year included NHPA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dan Sanders, NHPA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Tina Hawkins, NHPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Lorraine Sternberg with husband Terry, 4<sup>th</sup> NHPA Vice President Jerry LaBrosse and NHPA Historian, Bob Dunn and wife, Nancy. Attending from the MOHPA were President Sharon Taylor with husband Paul and Zone Director Scott Raimer.

Harvey Wobbe for the last time would place a medallion around each of the pitcher's necks, and now it was time for shoes to fly. The format for the two-day tournament was a 16 man round robin for the 40 and 30 footers. Eight games were pitched on Saturday. At the conclusion of the Saturday competition, three pitchers in the 40' Division remained undefeated: Alan Francis-OH, Tom Williams-MI and Stan Griggs-MO. On the south courts Herschel

Walters-IN and Maxine Griffith-TN remained undefeated.

Immediately after competition on Saturday the QRHC members transformed the north courts into a banquet setting and food preparations were ready to serve 124 people. Grilled barbequed pork steaks and fresh fried chicken were prepared by the QRHC cooks. A large variety of delicious covered dishes and desserts were brought in by the QRHC members. It was a meal fit for a 'royal gathering.' After dinner a program honoring Harvey Wobbe was held for his sponsorship of the Six Pac Invitational for the past 18 years. A plaque was presented to him from the NHPA officers for his years of dedication and support of horseshoes. An engraved pocket watch was presented to him by the QRHC, along with a most appropriate cigar tree. The Six Pac booklet was presented to Harvey so that he will always be able to look back at all the memories that he created for many, many horseshoe pitchers. As a finale, Amy Francis, accompanied by her father Fred Brown on the guitar, sang a song that the Francis and Brown Family had written for this special occasion entitled, "A Tribute to the Hillsboro Man", sung to the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies.

On Sunday the final seven games were pitched, the scores were tallied and statistician Rich Altis, had some fascinating results. For some of the pitchers, the game was a matter of "self destruction" as they struggled to get their timing back in the game. Even the best of pitchers have their bad moments in horseshoes. For others who were on top of their game came the success of victory. Alan Francis-OH would claim his 16<sup>th</sup> Six Pac Title winning each game with the high tournament average of 86.56%. Alan pitched the high game of the tournament, 94.44% with several other games in the 90 percentile. Tom Williams-MI and Jim Walters-OH tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a record of 11-4, Tom earning 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 72.6% and Walters 68.7% tournament average. In 4<sup>th</sup> place, Paul LaCrosse-CO later announced that after 50 years of horseshoe pitching this would be his last tournament play at 40'. He also retired his plaid shorts (of 50 years) which will hang proudly in the north courts of the facility. The longest game of 86 shoes was pitched between Randy Grady and Steve Johnson, with Grady winning the game 40-30. There were seventeen 80% games and three 90% games within the 40' Division.

In the 30' Division, Russ Phillips-WA, seeded in first place entering the tournament, was knocked down to 4<sup>th</sup> place by three World Champions. Herschel Walters-IN was in it to win it with a record of 14-1. His only loss went to Sue Snyder-IN who pitched an 87.1% game and Herschel

# 18TH ANNUAL SIX PAC INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Continued

fired back with an 80% game. With a tournament average of 82.9%, the former 2009 World Elders Champion would claim his first Six Pac Title. A tie between two World Champions, Sue Snyder and Joan Elmore, each with records of 12-3, would be determined by ringer percentage with a difference of only 1% - Snyder took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a tournament average of 77.4% and Elmore placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with 76.2%. The longest game of 102 shoes was between Joan Elmore (84.3%) and Russ Phillips (81.4%) winning the game 43/32. The high game of 97.61% was pitched by Bobby Fields. All in all, there were forty-eight 80% games, and four 90% games within the 30' tournament.

The grand finale playoff game was pitched between Alan Francis and Herschel Walters, the 2011 Six Pac Champions of the 40' and 30' Divisions. Francis would win with 41 points – 83.3% and Herschel with 23 points – 75% pitching 72 shoes.

The lucky recipient of the maple mantel clock, donated and made by Joe Faron, was Harvey Wobbe. Diane Hiatt of Nebraska won the attendance prize, a year's subscription to the Newline. The lucky winners of the 50/50 drawings were Ralph Hummel, Pat Griewing, Harvey Wobbe and Diane Hiatt. The QRHC wishes to thank all who supported the QRHC by participating in the raffles, purchasing dinner tickets and spending a night at the Holiday Inn. Several donations were made to the QRHC by Paul LaCrosse and Rick Yord, we thank you.

After months of preparation, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Six Pac Tournament had come to an end and after 18 years the Six Pac Tournament would take its place in history and would be put to rest. We wish to thank the QRHC for hosting this event – they just got better with each passing year. We thank Harvey for his generosity and contributions for making this experience an amazing horseshoe journey.

Throughout the years over 125 horseshoe pitchers traveled from California to Vermont, to participate in this tournament which some claimed to be the best in the USA. These top pitchers set record after record while performing on the courts. Three perfect games were recorded by World Champions on the courts. Alan Francis recorded 239 wins and only 4 losses throughout the years, averaging a combined tournament average of 86.35%! For the first time in the history of horseshoes, two current World Champions would meet for the exciting grand finale game in 2008. All of the stats, articles and pictures of the 18 Six Pac Tournaments are compiled in the 90 page Six Pac booklet. If you would be interested in purchasing this book for only \$15, contact Jeanette Claas at 636-447-3039 or email [djclaas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djclaas@sbcglobal.net). If you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to seek sponsorship to see that a tournament such as this does not die like the ill-fated Osama Bin Laden, please contact Joe Faron at 314-704-7082, email [bugsfaron@aol.com](mailto:bugsfaron@aol.com).

The final results for those in the prize money in the 40' Division were:

	W/L	High Game	Rgrs	Shoes	Average	Prize Money
1 – Alan Francis-OH	15-0	94.44%	509	588	86.56%	\$1200
2 – Tom Williams-MI	11-4	89.28%	543	748	72.59%	\$1000
3 – Jim Walters-OH	11-4	88.88%	533	776	68.68%	\$ 600
4 – Paul LaCrosse-CO	10-5	73.91%	483	760	63.55%	\$ 400
5 – Gale Greene-VT	9-6	82.00%	532	798	66.66%	\$ 300
6 – Stan Griggs-MO	9-6	80.76%	513	792	64.77%	\$ 200
7 – Michael Bowman-MO	9-6	75.00%	433	708	61.15%	\$ 175
8 – Randall Grady-MO	9-6	75.00%	499	818	61.00%	\$ 125

The final results for those in the prize money in the 30' Division were:

	W/L	High Game	Rgrs	Shoes	Average	Prize Money
1- Herschel Walter-IN	14-1	90.38%	633	764	82.85%	\$ 700
2 – Sue Snyder-IN	12-3	91.93%	680	878	77.44%	\$ 600
3 – Joan Elmore-TN	12-3	86.66%	698	916	76.20%	\$ 425
4 – Russ Phillips-WA	11-4	85.18%	686	894	76.73%	\$ 350
5 – Marlene Ray-TN	10-5	86.64%	635	826	76.87%	\$ 275
6 – Paul McGee-MD	10-5	85.29%	625	836	72.73%	\$ 250
7 – Maxine Griffith-TN	10-5	82.50%	611	840	72.73%	\$ 225
8 – Bobby Fields-TN	9-6	97.61%	697	886	78.66%	\$ 200

# 18TH ANNUAL SIX PAC INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT LINE UP

**1. Alan Francis OH 89.00%**

Four-time Junior Boys World Champion, ten-time Missouri Men's State Champion, 14-time Ohio State Champion and 16-time Men's World Champion. Alan was inducted into both Missouri and Ohio State Hall of Fame, and the youngest to be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame. Alan has appeared in the Six Pac Tournament 16 times, winning the title thirteen times and runner-up three times! He also has scored two perfect games within the Six Pac Tournament.

**2. Tom Williams MI 75.40%**

Fourteen-time and current Michigan Men's State Champion. Tom was inducted into the Michigan Hall of Fame in 2008. This was Tom's fourth appearance in the Six Pac Tournament and has placed in the top eight each time.

**3. Jim Walters OH 75.24%**

Five-time Junior Boys World Champion, runner-up to Men's World Champion in 1994, four-time Junior State Champion, two-time Ohio Men's State Champion and an inductee into the Ohio Hall of Fame. This was Jim's seventh year appearance in the Six Pac and has been runner up four times.

**4. Gary Urish IL 72.90%**

2010 Illinois Men's State Champion and four-time Illinois State Fair Champion. This is Gary's first appearance in the Six Pac.

**5. Stan Griggs MO 69.90%**

Eight-time Missouri Men's State Champion and two-time Missouri Juniors State Champion. Stan is a Missouri Hall of Fame inductee and has been a Missouri State Officer since 1987. Stan made his 14<sup>th</sup> year appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**6. Gale Greene VT 69.72%**

Eight-time Vermont Men's State Champion and 2003 New England State Champion. Gale is also a member of the Vermont Hall of Fame. This was Gale's 5<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac this year.

**7. Ray Bedard MA 69.68%**

Ray is two-time Massachusetts Men's State Champion and has been the president of the Massachusetts Pitching Association for the past 15 years. Ray made his fourth appearance in the Six Pac Tournament this year.

**8. Don Davis WA 68.67%**

Three-time and current Washington Men's State Champion. This year was Don's first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**9. Paul LaCrosse CO 67.88%**

Twenty-three-time Colorado Men's State Champion, 2004

World Senior Men's Champion, and finished in the top-six seven times in the Men's World Championship Division. Won Team World Event six times with the Colorado Team. Paul is a member of the Colorado State Hall of Fame. Paul made his 13<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac, winning the Six Pac Title in 1999 and runner up two times, placing in the top eight all but one time. Paul is way ahead of us – plaid shorts are now back in!

**10. M.O. Turner MO 65.57%**

Two-time Missouri Men's State Champion. This was M.O.'s 10<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac this year.

**11. Randy Grady MO 65.33%**

2001 Missouri Men's State Champion and eight-time winner of SEMO Tournament of Champions. Randy has served as an officer for the MOHPA. Randy is a member of Missouri's Hall of Fame. Randy handcrafted and donated the beautiful Six Pac Trophies. Randy made his 6<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**12. Michael Bowman MO 65.32%**

Three-time Missouri Junior Boys State Champion and two-time Junior Boys World Champion. This is Michael's second year pitching as a 40'. He placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Men's World Championship Class in 2010. This was Michael's first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**13. Ken Fraser NY 64.08%**

2010 New York Men's State Champion. In 1977 pitched in the Men's Champions Group at the World Tournament at the age of 16. Ken was inducted into the New York State Hall of Fame in 2002. This was Ken's first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**14. Joseph Smith IA 63.00%**

Five-time and current Iowa Men's State Champion, nine-time Iowa State Junior Champion, 1995 World Junior Boys Champion. This was Joe's second appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**15. Steve Johnson MO 62.09%**

2009 Missouri Men's runner-up State Champion and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010. He won the Big Money Tournament in Jefferson City for three years and various other tournaments. Steve 'No Title' Johnson has been a NHPA member for 17 years. This was Steve's third appearance in the Six Pac this year.

**16. Dennis Griesbaum IL 62.00%**

Dennis Griesbaum has pitched with the Illinois Horseshoe Pitchers Association for over 30 years, participating in every Illinois State tournament and numerous local tournaments in Illinois and Missouri. Dennis made his second appearance in the Six Pac this year.

# 13TH ANNUAL 30 FOOTERS SIX PAC INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT LINE UP

**1. Russ Phillips WA 85.28%**

Two-time and current Washington State Elders Champion, seven-time Washington Men's State Champion, four-time and current Northwest Champion. Russ was inducted into Washington Hall of Fame in 2009. This was Russ's first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament and was seeded #1.

**2. Sue Snyder IN 83.00%**

Seven-time Women's World Champion, eight-time Indiana Women's State Champion, three-time Kentucky Women's State Champ, 2001 NHPA Hall of Fame Inductee and Indiana Hall of Fame member. Sue made her 6<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac Tournament, earning two Six Pac Titles. Sue was the first to pitch a perfect game at the NHPA facility in 2008.

**3. Joan Elmore TN 81.84%**

Four-time and current Women's World Champion and twelve-time and current Tennessee Women's State Champion. Joan is an inductee into the NHPA Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Hall of Fame in 2009. This was Joan's 8<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac Tournament, earning the Championship Title three-time, runner-up two-time and placing 3<sup>rd</sup> two-times.

**4. Bobby Fields TN 80.00%**

Six-time Tennessee State Champion and an inductee into the Tennessee Hall of Fame. Bobby made his fourth appearance in the Six Pac Tournament and has placed in the top-four three years.

**5. Herschel Walters IN 79.87%**

2008 Elders World Champion, 2009-2010 Elders Class A World Class Champion. Herschel will be inducted into Indiana's Hall of Fame in 2011. Herschel made his debut appearance in the Six Pac this year.

**6. Marlene Ray TN 79.56%**

Nine-time Tennessee Women's State Champion and inducted into the Tennessee Hall of Fame in 1997. She pitched a perfect game in 2009 at a QRHC Tournament. Marlene appeared for the fourth time at the Six Pac Tournament and placed in the top five each year.

**7. Gregg Craven MO 78.08%**

Gregg made his debut in the Six Pac Tournament this year. Moving up to 30 feet within the past several years, Gregg has shown an amazing increase in his pitching abilities. Gregg is an inductee into the Missouri Hall of Fame. He has been the Sanctioned League Director for the Liberty Horseshoe Club since 1988.

**8. Maxine Griffith TN 78.07%**

Fourteen-time Tennessee Women's State Champion and inducted into the Tennessee Hall of Fame in 1997. She placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Women's World Championship in 2010. Maxine made her 4<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac, earning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in two of those years.

**9. Bobby Vandivier IL 76.88%**

Bobby was 2010 Illinois State "Pitcher of the Year" pitching 29 tournaments and winning 22. He was the Midwest Senior Classic Champion at the Iowa State Fair, and Illinois State Singles and State Doubles Champion in Class A. In 2010 Bobby held the #1 player in the Nation for having the highest league game of 96% - 48/50. Bobby made his first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**10. Amy Francis OH 73.82%**

Eleven-time Ohio Women's State Champion, three-time runner-up to the Women's World Championship, and a member of the Ohio Hall of Fame. Amy will also be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2011. Amy made her 12<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac Tournament, claiming the Championship Title three times, and runner-up twice.

**11. Vicki Kunde MD 72.77%**

Four-time Maryland Women's State Champion, two-time Doubles State Champion. Vicki made her debut in the Six Pac Tournament this year.

**12. Paul McGee MD 70.64%**

2009-10 Maryland Elders Champion and 2005 Senior B Class 40' Champion. Paul made his second appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**13. Nick DiRaimo MO 70.62%**

Two-time Missouri Elder State Champion, three-time Doubles State Champion. Making his 5<sup>th</sup> appearance in the Six Pac Tournament, Nick earned the 2007 Six Pac Championship Title. Nick also made and donated the banners that were displayed on the wall in the north courts.

**14. James Spidle Sr. IL 67.13%**

Jim has won no major titles, but is an excellent horseshoe pitcher on the courts. Jim is active in all the QRHC tournaments. Jim made his third appearance in the Six Pac this year.

**15. Terry Hiatt NE 66.80%**

2000 Nebraska Men's State Champion, and placed second in the 2010 Elders State Championship Class. This was Terry's first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament.

**16. Becky Kemper KY 65.28%**

1998 Women's World Champion, ten-time Kentucky State Women's Champion, and seven-time Kentucky Junior Girls State Champion. Becky has two perfect games under her belt and has served as president of the Kentucky Horseshoe Pitching Association. Becky made her debut in the Six Pac Tournament this year.

# TRIBUTE TO THE HILLSBORO MAN by Alan & Amy Francis and Fred & Helen Brown

## *(Tune - The Beverly Hillbillies Theme Song)*

*Come and Listen to a story 'bout Harvey Wobbe,  
Making horseshoes soon became quite a hobby,  
The muscle man was just as generous as could be,  
And the Six Pac was born in the hills of Missouri.*

*New Melle that is,  
Winding roads, tornado warnings*

*Next thing ya know people came from everywhere,  
The pitchers would exclaim "what good pitching over  
there."  
The tourney was known and was loved by one and all,  
They started thirty footers and we all just had a ball.*

*Ringers that is,  
Baked goods, Stefaninas*

*We all got medals at the start of play,  
By the end of the day we were covered with clay.  
They moved us to the park in the Hall of Fame,  
There is a new club Quail Ridge is its name.*

*Birds that is  
Feathers, and lots of tweeting*

*Joe and Harv "what an event for 18 years,"  
It's coming to an end puts all of us in tears,  
There is one thing left to say as we are ready to depart,  
We thank you Harvey Wobbe from the bottom of our  
hearts!*

## Income & Expenses Statement / April & May 2011

### Income

Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$ 2,800.00
Insurance Claim Payment	\$ 3,890.00
Membership Dues	\$ 47,429.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$ 2,609.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$ 49.08
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$ 53.60
World Tournament Computer Scoring Donation	\$ 2,000.00
World Tournament Entry Fees	\$ 94,140.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 152,970.68</b>

From the books of  
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

### Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$ 4,003.69
World Tournament Travel	\$ 742.80
World Tournament Refunds, Fees, Dues & Overpayments	\$ 625.00
Hall of Fame Awards Supplies & Expenses	\$ 1,295.15
Regional Director Postage, Telephone, Supplies & Printing	\$ 43.32
Equipment Purchase, Rentals & Repair	\$ 455.40
Printing Paper & Office Supplies	\$ 624.42
Postage	\$ 354.92
Officers Telephone	\$ 146.55
Officers Travel	\$ 1,804.55
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$ 3,400.00
Presidents Allowance	\$ 1,026.00
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donation	\$ 3,890.00
Insurance	\$ 4,572.40
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$ 223.00
Special Events	\$ 45.60
Internet Access & Web Site	\$ 129.39
Software Development	\$ 1,026.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 24,408.19</b>

# JUNIOR'S ONLY TOURNAMENT – RUNNER-UPS

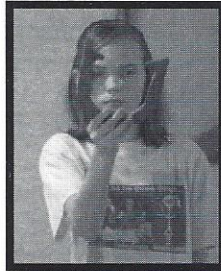
DON HARRIS ARENA - LIBERTY, MISSOURI

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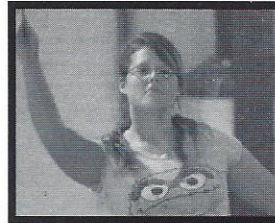
Class A



Bruce Thomson  
2nd Place Class A



Savanna Johnson  
3rd Place Class A



Megan McLeod  
4th Place Class A

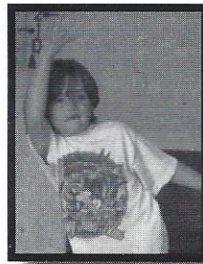


Ben McCaulley  
5th Place Class A

Class B



Alisha Bravard  
2nd Place Class B

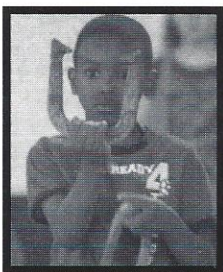


Alexander Bravard  
3rd Place Class B



Hailey Happy  
4th Place Class B

Class C



Gary Stevenson  
2nd Place Class C



Cameron Phipps  
3rd Place Class C



Jeff Goepferich  
4th Place Class C



Ashley Candler  
5th Place Class C

Class D



Colt Bonham  
2nd Place Class D



Sarah Johnson  
3rd Place Class D



Merissa Caravello  
4th Place Class D



Dani McCaulley  
5th Place Class D

# REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *by Debby Michaud*

Thanks go to all of the Regional Directors for their prompt and complete patch orders. All of the 2011 patch orders were received and patches were all out by March 15th – good job, RD's! I have also received several orders for extra patches which might mean that there are more tournaments and/or more participants expected for 2011. That is great news.

These RD's are to be commended for the work they do. As you know, this year they have the added responsibility of checking and re-sanctioning existing courts as well as measuring and checking new court facilities. We just conditionally sanctioned a set of old courts that have been completely re-done in Lisbon, Maine. Because of bad weather, there is just one more thing to do and that is to install the walkways. They hadn't been able to do that in 2010 because they ran out of funds BUT they did apply for, and received, an NHPF grant to finish that. Then the long winter and very wet, cold spring prevented them from completing that task; thus the "conditional sanction" at this point. As they have a tournament in June, they are determined to finish it before then. The courts are beautiful, very level with fencing, excellent lighting, and the American flag flying proudly.

Another set of new courts is in Missouri where Donna Bastel reports: I thought you would like to know that I sanctioned seven new courts in Warsaw on Sunday. These were the ones built on Shriner property. They will have two additional courts done in a few weeks. They are going to hold their first tournament on these courts on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

A third set of new courts is in Michigan at the Greater Detroit Horseshoe Club, also seven courts but indoors. This information received from RD Steve Summerlin. They have already added two new events to the summer schedule for Michigan. This is ALL GOOD! LOVE hearing about new and re-furbished courts!

For those of you that have courts to be re-sanctioned, please help out your RD as much as possible to save them time and energy. Read pages 34 – 38 in the RGS booklet CAREFULLY to check on the specifications for courts. The RD's will send, or may have already sent you a questionnaire that can be filled out prior to their visit. The more complete these answers are, the more help you have given your RD. And the more often you continue to keep your courts in good shape, the easier it will be to get them re-sanctioned. Thank you!

On that note, a recurring question has to do with portable and much older courts. Please read Section II, A, #5 on Court Sanction Waivers. If or when any older portable courts are rebuilt or replaced, they must then meet the current/specified dimensions of a minimum of 31" wide by 43" in length. Apparently there are many such courts across the country that are being used and are being enjoyed.

We don't want to stop the successful horseshoe activity on those courts. We just want to be sure that when upgrades do occur, that the courts are upgraded to be in line with the latest specifications.

Another question we received was regarding backstops. For Fully Sanctioned courts, backboards are required. For ANY courts, backboards are recommended for the safety of the participants and any onlookers. Every effort must be made to ensure that errant horseshoes cannot hit anyone. This might be one of the first improvements a Horseshoe Club can make as it is a safety issue.

One less positive note is that Monty Roberts of Kentucky has resigned as that state's RD. He has worked long and hard for the betterment of our sport and I thank him for all of that work and his time. He states he will now enjoy attending tournaments just to pitch and visit! Best wishes, Monty!

We recently received a report on the history of the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah. This report was sent to us by Mr. Kyle Case. These games have been going on, becoming more successful each year, since 1987. Horseshoes has been part of that every one of those years. This is a celebration of older athletes and also fosters worldwide peace, health and friendship by offering 27 different sports. From the few hundred athletes who competed in 1987, it has grown to over 10,000 athletes in 2010. The horseshoe competition is sanctioned by the NHPA and offers competition in both singles and doubles. In 2011, the horseshoe competition will run from October 10 – October 13. In 2010, all 50 states were represented in the Games overall as well as 27 countries. That is EXCELLENT participation. Let's hope that the horseshoe competition can also draw from other countries as well. For additional information on the Games, including online registration, visit the web at [www.seniorgames.net](http://www.seniorgames.net) or call the office at 800-562-1268.

Another nice development is that Delaware HPA president Chuck Wallace will be helping the DE Special Olympics coaches for their horseshoe competition in June. Thank you, Chuck. We await your report on that when it is completed!

And finally, we are welcoming five new horseshoe pitchers from S. Africa to our 2011 World Horseshoe Tournament! This is a huge commitment for them on fairly short notice. We hope their experience is just as wonderful as our experience was in their country.

Good luck to all of the contestants in this year's World Tournament. It should be a great time!



# CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS *by Jerry LaBrosse*

## Hall of Fame

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club hosted the last Six Pac Invitational tournament at the Hall of Fame in Wentzville recently, and I was fortunate enough to be able to attend, (as a spectator not a contestant). It was a magical weekend and I greatly enjoyed it. The only other time I've been at this facility was for the grand opening ceremony. The Hall of Fame has really come a long way since then. I was really impressed with the new features the staff has added, and the overall cleanliness and modern feel to the whole building. I've been in a lot of horseshoe pitching facilities, and most of them are dusty environments and difficult to keep clean. Our Hall of Fame is kept extremely clean.

The new mural on the wall is fantastic. There are also plans to install electronic scoring for the indoor courts, more on that later. If you have not been able to visit your Hall of Fame, I highly recommend that you make a plan to do so. Lorraine Sternberg is running the National Sanctioned League Tournament there in October; that would be a great opportunity for you to visit the most modern and state of the art horseshoe pitching facility on the planet. I really want to express my gratitude to the staff of the NHPF and the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club for doing a great job of building, improving, and maintaining the Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville, MO.

## Electronic Scoring

As you know, electronic scoring using HS Scorekeeper and HS Master was introduced on a full bank of eight courts at the 2010 World Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After a few initial challenges, the system worked perfectly and we gained a ton of knowledge for improving and growing the system.

The Executive Council feels that our sport should advance with the times to attract and retain the younger generations and that electronic scorekeeping would be a major step in the right direction. A decision was made to move forward with this project and expand the system to 32 courts for the 2011 World Tournament in Monroe.

A total of 16 scoring stations will be required to operate 32 courts. Each scoring station will include a laptop, two monitors, a VGA splitter, monitor stand, laptop table stand, a mouse and a few incidental items such as extension cords, adapter cords, etc... A few months ago, an appeal was made for donations of used, unwanted laptop computers to help defray the expense. I am pleased to report we have already acquired 12 matching laptops, thanks to a donation from the employer of a Minnesota member Deluxe Checkprinters, who graciously donated laptops being replaced during routine equipment updates. This was a great benefit, as having identical laptops is very advantageous in a technical respect.

We would like to acquire sponsors to help fund this project and take the World Tournament to the "next level" in the sports world. You or your charter can be the proud sponsor of a complete scoring station with a donation of \$500 or more, however any amount you are willing to contribute will be gratefully accepted.

All electronic score station sponsors will be recognized at the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet, will be listed in Newsline Magazine and posted on the NHPA website.

Sponsors of \$250 or more will have their names displayed on a large banner to be displayed at the World Tournament. Donations of \$500 or more will also be recognized with a commemorative appreciation plaque from the NHPA. Several sponsorships have already been received – including a very generous donation of \$1000 from the Iowa Hawkeye Horseshoe Association. Thank you Iowa!

I hope that you will consider asking your charters and members to support this project by sponsoring a scoring station and helping to bring our sport into the modern age. All donations should be sent to NHPA Secretary/Treasurer, Dick Hansen at 3085 76th St. Franksville, WI 53126.

## World Tournament Golf Outing

Once again we are going to be golfing at the World Tournament. Tina Hawkins and I are organizing a couple of golf outings for both weeks of the tournament, so as to try and give everyone a chance to join in the fun. This event has been growing each year and we'd love to have you join us. The courses have not yet been determined, but will be posted at the arena. We will likely be doing it on Tuesday and Friday of the first week, and then we'll organize outings for the second week based on the interest. So if you would like to have some fun golfing with us while in Monroe, bring your clubs (or rent them there) and look up Tina or myself when you get there.

"Clydesdale D. F."

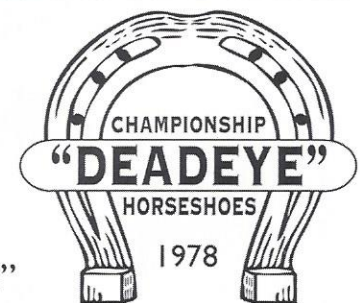
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10<sup>th</sup> of April 2011

Ms. Debby Michaud  
NHPA Fifth Vice President  
379 Hodges Str, Taunton, Massachusetts  
United States of America  
E-mail: [loonpnd@comcast.net](mailto:loonpnd@comcast.net)

Copies to: Members of the USA Touring Group to Southern Africa and the IJF Executive

Dear Debby

**VISIT OF USA DELEGATION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA: MARCH/APR 2011**

It is with feelings of immense gratitude and appreciation, that I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the IJF. The words contained here won't and can't do justice to the role that your group of seven USA visitors played in making the recent trip to Southern Africa an unforgettable experience and an immense success story. The purpose of this letter is to convey my true and sincere gratitude to you, Gary, Floyd, Casey, Delmar, Eldon and Travis, as well as to the NHPA.

May I therefore take the opportunity in thanking each of the seven touring members for their willingness to undertake the trip, but especially for purposefully investing lots of time, energy and resources into the event? All members of the touring group at all times acted as exemplary ambassadors of the United States, the sport of Horseshoe Pitching and the NHPA! You eagerly and professionally participated in all scheduled (and unscheduled) events, you evoked massive subcontinental interest in the sport of Horseshoe Pitching, and you pertinently displayed your (not totally forgotten) Jukskei skills (of which the well-deserved silver medals, based upon your excellent performance in the test series against representative men's veterans' teams from South Africa and Namibia, proudly testify).

As you know, the IJF has a long-standing desire that the sports of both Jukskei and Horseshoe Pitching be promoted across intercontinental boundaries. Your recent visit to Southern Africa gave further tangible prominence to this desire. May the 2011 Southern African visit be the first of many mutual exchanges of players, officials and supporters from both sports (and all relevant countries) to each other in future? You can be assured of Jukskei's presence at and participation in your World Tournament of Horseshoe Pitching in Monroe, Louisiana in July. The still to be appointed IJF's Chief de Mission will contact you (or the appropriate NHPA officer(s)) one of these days to disclose our participation and itinerary details and to engage in further liaisons.

May I, on a personal note, convey my sincere (and rather emotional) gratitude to Gary for the wonderful accolade bestowed on me during the event at Kroonstad? I will always treasure the impressive plaque and the fact that it is associated with his brother, Donnie, a legendary USA Horseshoe Pitcher and Jukskei player, makes it just more significant. This plaque, as well as the "*Pitching Championship Horseshoes*" book, signed by the great Ottie Reno himself, already found an honorary place in my heart and will also be designated a special spot in the international Museum of Jukskei in Kroonstad.

May we meet again in the not too distant future. Kind regards and international Jukskei greetings from Johannesburg.

**Gerrie J Jacobs**  
**IJF PRESIDENT**

E-mail: [gerriejacobs@mweb.co.za](mailto:gerriejacobs@mweb.co.za)

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: **President:** GJ Jacobs (South Africa); **Vice President:** G Boshoff (Ms) (Namibia);  
**Chief Operations Officer (COO):** MHJ van Staden (South Africa); **Director Communication & Training:** TJ Venter (South Africa)  
"Memo to USA Touring Group 2011"

# NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS by Dan Sanders

## NHPA Forum discussion on 30-40 foot issue and tournament seeding

This thread, under the topic of General Discussion, has received 43 responses from registered members as of this writing. It should be noted that most of these responses are from no more than ten or so interested individuals, and while the total number of registered forum members is only 367 (a very, very small percentage of our total NHPA membership), some very good points of view are represented here, as well as on 66 other horseshoe-related topics. It is unfortunate that there is not more participation from our members. Hopefully, this will increase in the future. If you have not visited this corner of our NHPA website, please take some time to at least browse through the many horseshoe-related topics that can be found here. This Forum can be accessed from the "Interactive" link, near the bottom of the main menu.

And now for some comments on this thread as it relates to our current Rules about the mixing of Classes, especially for local, Charter tournaments... One of the most important jobs of tournament directors and tournament committees is the seeding of contestants into tournament Classes, and there are some NHPA Rules that apply for this process. The most important reference for this is found in Rule 11, Section E which reads,

"If there are not enough entrants to form a competitive Class within a given Tournament Division (see Rule 1), contestants should be placed into more competitive "mixed" Classes where the overall ringer percentage "spread" will be less. Mixed Classes are not allowed, however, in some Championship Classes/Divisions of State Tournaments and also at the World Tournament (see also REQUIREMENT 3 "Mixed Play", and REQUIREMENT 4 "Divisions")."

The interpretation here is that after all tournament entrants have been determined, the TD or Tournament Committee must first look at the entrants in each Division and create a competitive Class for each, if possible. There are two very important questions here that were not brought up in this Forum discussion. The first one is, "What is the definition of a "competitive" Class? The answer to this question is left up to the individual Charters, but the general consensus is that for any given Class, there should be no more than a 10% ringer percentage spread, and if it is greater than this amount, the Class should be handicapped. Some Charters have even adopted these kinds of "guidelines" into their Charter Bylaws, along with other options for tournament directors to use in this seeding process. The second question is, "What is the minimum Class/Division size?", which is addressed in Requirement 2, Section D - Division Size, and which reads, "Any Division not receiving at least four (4) entries can be canceled, but the entrants shall be given an opportunity to pitch in a Class of another Division." In summary, TDs/Committees should take a closer look at options for the placement of contestants in their respective Divisions. As any TD can attest to, this is always most difficult at the "top end", and at the "bottom end", where the percentage spreads are usually the greatest. And for local tournaments, this seems to be increasingly difficult in the Open Men Division as many of our members are reaching the age where they are moving to the Elders Division. I would suggest that to abide by our current Rule on tournament

seeding, that TDs/Committees consider two options: 1. Consider keeping the percentage spread of a Class/Division lower by reducing the Class size to 4 contestants who will pitch a double round robin. 2. Consider keeping contestants within their Division by handicapping the Class.

I would also like to make some comments on the second part of Rule 11, Section E which reads, "... contestants should be placed into more competitive "mixed" Classes where the overall ringer percentage "spread" will be less." This is the option to be used *if/when* they cannot be placed in a competitive Class within their own Division. Unfortunately, this seems to have become the "default" option for many TDs/Committees, where all entrants are ranked by their NatStats averages and are then be put into mixed Classes based on these comparative averages, from the top, down, and where no consideration has been given to the possibility of placing these entrants into Division Classes. Many tournaments are even advertised as "mixed tournaments", or "mixed Classes". Perhaps this isn't the intention of the TD/Committee, but the implication here is that all Classes/Divisions will be mixed. I would suggest that instead, these tournaments should be advertised as "Some Classes may be mixed or handicapped", which is more in line with our current Rules. I've given some thought as to why this trend seems to have "evolved", and have come up with several possible reasons... Some TDs/Committees are either 1) not aware of the current rules, 2) don't understand the rules or are mis-interpreting them, 3) are ignoring the rules, 4) don't agree with or understand how to handicap Classes, or 5) it's just plain easier to arrange contestants by NatStats averages, from high to low, and then place them in (often mixed) Classes on this basis. Perhaps there are other reasons as well, but unless there are proposals made to change our existing tournament seeding Rules, TDs/Committees should make the effort to abide by our current rules. Personally, I think that our current Rules for seeding are good as they are based on past tradition and practices for tournament play, and hopefully TDs/Committees will be taking a closer look at the several options for seeding pitchers in their correct Divisions. On the other hand, if it is time to consider some Rules changes for seeding, now is the time to submit these for consideration by our Rules Committee and perhaps for a Delegate Vote next year. Please see previous articles for the required procedure for submitting Rules Change Proposals, or you can contact me individually. I hope to see many of you at the up-coming World Tournament in Monroe, Louisiana!

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# CHARTER CHATTER by Jane Smith

## **Colorado** -Jane Smith

The Double Ringer, Colorado's horseshoe newsletter, shows some excellent pitching from the Shepard family and their teams. Their averages and success makes it look like they are preparing for the World Tournament in Louisiana. The Colorado team was missing from the Team World event in Beloit, WI. Rich Pintor is nursing a shoulder injury. Therapy is his choice of conditioning at this point with hopes to pitch in the WT and the Team World event next year. We wish him the best of luck and drive! An interesting tidbit is the fact that Rich Pintor finally won his own tournament! This was the 19<sup>th</sup> Rich Pintor Open. He did win a three way playoff with Ed Shepard and Sheila Shepard

## **Georgia** -Ronnie Miller

The pitching season has started here in Georgia and so far we have had perfect weather for our first four Tournaments. Attendance seems to be holding up pretty well even though we are faced with the rising gas prices. Three of the Tournaments have had an average of thirty-eight participants. The re-starting of the Columbus, GA club seems to be taking root with several of the locals coming out to pitch. We even have a cadet by the name of Dylan Carrell coming out and pitching 25 percent in his first Tournament in Columbus "WAY TO GO DYLAN". I hope we can keep the new recruits coming as we have had 15 new members join our State Charter. We just have to keep it fun and keep spreading the word about the great sport we all love. On a sad note we lost Mary Ann Gibbs the reigning Women's Champion who passed away unexpectedly on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

PS: Ronnie is currently "THE MAN" in writing, editing, financing, and brainstorming his way in publishing the first issue of the Georgia State Newsletter. Bob Champion mentions this was the way the Colorado newsletter began years ago with John Huntzinger. Congratulations and wishing Ronnie good luck in his adventure.

## **Illinois** -Dave Shreve

Locally, the Millstadt, IL horseshoe league started play the first Tuesday in May as they have since 1948. The NUDEAL traveling league (southern Illinois) will start May 11<sup>th</sup> and the Thursday Night Horseshoe League will start play on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming tournaments are the Jim Korte Memorial Open in Mascoutah, IL and the 15th Annual Memorial Day Open in Cahokia, IL

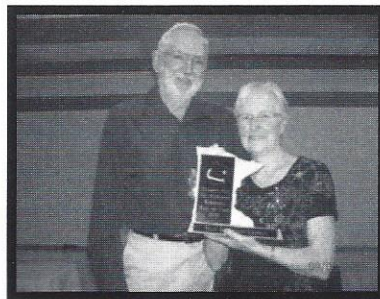
## **Maryland** -Diana Ratliff

MDHPA is sad to report the recent passing of 2009 MD Hall of Fame inductee, Duke Caldwell of Fallston. Duke was a long-term member of the Baltimore Metro Club and quite an inspiration to many a pitcher! He shall be greatly missed.

The pitching season is officially underway in Maryland. Albeit with plenty of rain, we've been fortunate to date that the weather has cooperated with most of our schedules.

The FHPA is pleased to report that summer league has started, with pitchers ranging in age from 11-year old Braydon Lucas to 80-year old Jack Moxley and two new pitchers so far! They hope to continue to add new members throughout the season. Metro's league has also begun, and the CRE Club in Lusby is in the sign-up phase as of this writing.

## **Minnesota** -Jerry LaBrosse



Another successful winter tournament season was completed in April with the Upsala Spring Tournament. The Upsala Horseshoe Club has a beautiful eight court indoor facility located a mere 1.5 hours northwest of the Minneapolis. Tournaments are conducted there each month from December through April. The MGSHPA thanks our gracious hosts in Upsala, Mel and Joyce Larson. Mel and Joyce were inducted into the MGSHPA Hall of Fame this past year as promoters. The past two winters have proven to be a great opportunity to test and refine the electronic scoring system using the HSMaster and HSScorekeeper programs developed by Kurt Whaley and also being implemented at our World Tournament. We're happy to report that the system has been perfected and we anticipate no technical problems at all in Monroe this year. However, we will need trained scorekeepers. There will be plenty of opportunity to get training on this scoring system at the world tournament. Ann Hagman is designing a quick training program that will easily instruct anyone who has basic computer skills, such as using a mouse.

## **No. California** -Casey Sluys

Northern California has a slate of new officers for the 2011-12 season; they are: President Harlen A. Rippetoe, 1st Vice President Lee Roy Lassiter, 3rd Vice President Jhon Barney, and 5th Vice President Cathy Kauffman. They are a hard working group and have the best interest of all pitchers in mind. Please welcome these folks, their emails are on our website at [www.nchpa.com](http://www.nchpa.com). Our 2011 schedule is there also for anyone

# CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

wishing to pitch in Northern CA. Budgetary constraints on just about every city and county in CA has brought about a variety of charges for some clubs. We recently had to abandon one of the premier pitching facilities in the country, the Yolo HSP facility. Yolo County began implementing a fee structure beginning with a parking fee and overnight camping fees. They were tolerable, but the following year we got word that a Possessory Interest tax had been implemented and we owed three years back taxes. Then came the bills for electricity, water well (including maintenance), and the non-potable water that needed to be monitored by the county health department. The aggregate costs were going to be over \$4,800.00 per year! The NCHPA could not afford to subsidize the club to that extent causing the 17 members of the club, and the NCHPA to walk away. This is a tragic loss for all of us in the NCHPA and we certainly wish all the other facilities throughout the country much better luck with their county governments than we are experiencing here! We are currently working with the city of San Jose, CA to be the host our CA State Championships this year.

On a personal note, Travis and I had the unique opportunity to travel to South Africa and Namibia. We were there with five other NHPA members from around the country. At last year's World Tournament in Cedar Rapids a group of South Africans were here to demonstrate the sport of Jukskei, a precision throwing sport indigenous to South Africa and now played in various other countries on the African continent. As of this year, thanks to the NHPA, and our efforts, the United States now is officially a country that has a Jukskei team that is part of the Jukskei Federation. Our doubles team won a silver medal; the team was Gary Roberts, OH and Floyd Hix, VA, they beat Namibia and lost to South Africa. The other five of us played as a team and placed 14<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams. Not a terribly bad showing for a group that has never played the game. During our competition we had a South African coach who stayed with us faithfully throughout to competition giving us pointers as to where to throw the skeys. The

NHPA was kind enough to supply us with some pins and patches, which we were able to put to good use. Namibia and South Africa will be sending people to our World Tournament in July. At the WT we will also hold a Jukskei tournament with four US teams plus the other two countries. By the way, this trip was on our dime, and it was well worth it!

## **Wisconsin** -Jane Smith

The WHPA held their Spring meeting in April as a "kickoff" to the coming horseshoe season. This meeting is a nice time to see friends who take to the south, and snow activities in Wisconsin. Several announcements were made which will affect the leadership in the State. Tom Steinke, President for ten years announced he would not be running for another term. He is a very dedicated leader and we will miss his smile and subtle wit. Ed Wheeler, current Regional Director, also announced he is stepping down from this position immediately. Jim Haupt (who has had experience as RD in the past) offered to fill in until a replacement has been named. This may be one of Tom's final acts. Jimmy Pauslon, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, and his sister, Julie, have taken over the editor and publisher roles of the Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter. Former editor, Pam Aiken, has found her three girls activities has seriously affected her horseshoe time. She will continue to work as a staff member. Jane Smith was awarded the first "Casey Jones - Ken Kosky" award for volunteer dedication to Wisconsin horseshoes. Jim Haupt surprised everyone at the meeting with this award. ("It is truly a great honor to be in the company of such dedicated Wisconsin horseshoe men." -Jane) Terry Sternberg, with his daughter, Heidi Sternberg-Poppe, have updated the Wisconsin web site. They have done a wonderful job and are continually adding relevant and current information. Thank you!

## **General information** -Jane Smith

Several charters have sent their web sites. Feel free to visit them as many ideas to promote horseshoes can be gleaned from these sites. Of course, the NHPA site <http://horseshoepitching.com> is also an excellent reference site.

Colorado	<a href="http://coloradohorseshoepitching.com">http://coloradohorseshoepitching.com</a>
Louisiana	<a href="http://lshpa.org/">http://lshpa.org/</a>
Minnesota	<a href="http://www.minnesotahorseshoes.com">http://www.minnesotahorseshoes.com</a>
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# RICH ALTIS -

## 2011 SANCTIONED LEAGUE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

I have always enjoyed pitching shoes. Ever since I picked up my first horseshoe, I kind of got the bug. I was about twelve or thirteen when I had saved enough money to buy a pair of horseshoes. At that time I was living with my Aunt and Uncle in south central Missouri about one and a half miles west of Cabool, MO, population 1,234. I found what looked like a good set of shoes in the Sears catalog. It must have been a fairly new catalog because it still had lots of pages. I tore the horseshoe page out and kept it until I had the money for the shoes. The time came to send off for the shoes and then the long wait for them to arrive. Finally they came. I challenged anyone I could find to a game of shoes. To start with there were many takers, but as I got better the games became fewer.

We moved to Kansas in 1955 and it didn't take long to get my horseshoe pegs in the ground. I had a few new people to pitch with for a while. They soon wearied of playing the game, so I put the shoes away.

While going to high school in Kansas I met this pretty little girl. She was thirteen at the time and I fell in love with her. We went together for five years then got married. That was September 23, 1961. Seems like last week. Mary started her Chemo treatments on Wednesday. She will have six months of them. If you haven't use all of your prayers think of us once in a while.

You remember those signs with Uncle Sam in his red, white and blue stove pipe hat pointing his finger at you saying "I want you"! Well in 1961 he got me. This was during the Berlin crisis and thirty-nine thousand young men were drafted that month. The Army needed more Medics and most of the guys that I was in basic training with were sent to Ft. Sam Houston for Medical training. After advanced medical training I was sent to Germany. There I found a couple of guys that could pitch.

After getting out of the service in 1963 Mary and I lived in Kansas City, MO. We were surrounded by some great horseshoe pitchers, but at the time I didn't know it. While in Kansas City two of our three children were born. We lived there for three years and then moved to the St. Louis area. Our third child was born here.

The next dozen years we moved a couple of times, adopted five children and I spent most of my free time coaching different sports that the kids were playing. One evening my youngest son's baseball practice was canceled because the field was too wet. As we drove by the horseshoe courts in Ballwin the lights were on and the eight courts were full of pitchers. I stopped and asked about joining. I was told to just show up on Tuesday night before seven. Tuesday was baseball practice, but the following year practice was moved to another night.

I joined the Ballwin Horseshoe club in 1989, the NHPA in 1991 and the New Melle/Quail Ridge club in 1992. I have been a Tournament director from 1992 thru 2006, league director and tournament statistician from 1999 thru 2011. In 1999 I took over the New Melle Men's league after working as an assistant for two years, inherited the tournament statistician and tournament coordinators jobs and became the MOHPA zone two, area director 1999 - 2009. In 1996 I was asked to write an article on the rules of the game to be put in each issue of the new MOHPA news letter, "Shoe Biz" that was coming out in January 1997. This is the

fifteenth year for the "What's That Rule". In 2005-2006 I worked with Roy Evans on the new RGS book that would be coming out in July of 2006. From 1999 - 2011 I have been the Club contact person for the Quail Ridge leagues, and the Ballwin league. From 2009 thru 2011 I took on the job of contact person and Statistician for the Golden Triangle league.

I am honored to have received some great awards through the years. In 2002 I became a member of the St. Charles Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2004 I became a member of the Missouri State Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame. I have three Missouri Championship State Doubles titles, with partners Dan Hobbs, Earl Winston and Andy Foulds. Winning the 2010 Missouri State Men's Championship title was very special. With age creeping up on me I wasn't sure that I would ever be able to claim that title. While I was working on that one, my youngest daughter was winning her first championship title "2010 Missouri Junior Girl's Champion."

I have participated in five World tournaments, winning the Senior Men's "A" class in 2006 and finishing second in the Senior Men's championship class at Gillette WY.

I had a lot of encouragement from club members when I first joined. Back then Charlie Killgore, Elwyn Cooper and Don Harris all from the Kansas City area, were regular players during the winter months at New Melle. Those guys along with Bob Diekamp, Rose (Thompson) Diekamp, Sam Carter, Tim Henderson, Rick Stockamp, Mick Gillette, Ron Hassler, Steve Johnson, James Driver, Randy Grady, Oley Burnett, Jerry Dumstorff, Charlie Webb, Bunny Ward, Vic Long, Dennis Griesbaum, plus many more pitchers, were the players that pulled me along with them. I thought I was a pretty good flip pitcher until I started pitching against those pitchers. With the flip shoe bouncing off the stake I decided in 1995 to change to a turn shoe. Most of the better pitchers had been telling me that I needed to switch. I gave it a try. Roger Schnur showed me how he held his shoe to get it to turn and that is how I came to throw the reverse three quarter. It took the better part of the year to get my percent up to where it was with the flip, roughly fifty-four percent.

Roy and Suzanne Evans are pitchers that have made my pitching so much fun. Roy asked me to pitch on a three person team that he was taking to Joelton, TN. That was the start of ten or more trips to the Jack Freeman Courts. Some years we did great, others we struggled. We made lots of new friends. The pitching on Jack's courts was the best. Roy also sponsored teams that pitched in the Team World tournaments at Beloit, WI, and we pitched in all six of the National League Team Tournaments, that were held in Tennessee, Indiana and Missouri.

Clubs, Tournaments and Leagues do not run themselves. Don't be afraid to volunteer. Learn and observe the rules of the game and have fun. If you get the chance, introduce someone to the challenge of pitching horseshoes. You never know, you just might make a new friend.

If I could do this again I don't think I would change anything.... Well maybe a couple of things.

Rich

# BEHIND THE MASK

WITH NHPA CHAPLAIN KEN HEINRITZ



Is your teacher a fool? Quite often I find myself repeating the same words over and over to my welding students, "Listen to me and watch what I do."

Human beings can be very stubborn, and horseshoe

pitchers are no exception. How often do we hang on to the notion that, 'I've done it my way all these years and I'm not about to change?' Perhaps we become a little proud without even knowing it. Sure horseshoe tournaments always bring a good time of fellowship, but wouldn't our time together be even more enjoyable if we pitched just a little better?

Have you ever asked for help? I know this is a hard thing to do for many. To acknowledge one's need for help requires humility. This quality is not a sign of weakness but strength! It takes a strong person to conduct an honest evaluation of one's own situation and admit any deficiencies. At times, pitching horseshoes can be very frustrating because you know you can do better. If you have experienced this, then why not turn this struggle into an opportunity. How so? Ask a friend to step in. Have him or her assess what you are doing and share ideas.

At the 2005 World Tournament held in Bakersfield, I asked 16-time World Champion Alan Francis what advice he would give to pitchers who want to get to the next level. His response was "Don't be afraid to try new things; different turns, different shoes, different stances, different deliveries. You've got to find your own individual niche. Everybody's got their own style. But then tweak it a little. Make little changes here and there."

But isn't it true that sometimes it is easier to assess another person's game and be blinded to fixing our own. And we're forgetful! We can't remember how we pitched so well years ago or shall we say weeks ago. But now the ability to get ringers consistently has mysteriously vanished. How do you like that, blind and forgetful? Does this describe you?

So why not take a big bite of humble pie by seeking help. Maybe it's time to set aside pride. Improvement in your game may be only one advice away.

**'He who will not learn from anyone except himself, has a fool for a teacher.'**

The Holy Scripture says:

*"Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise."*

Proverbs 13:10 NIV



*Rich Altis giving advice to Russ Heinritz*

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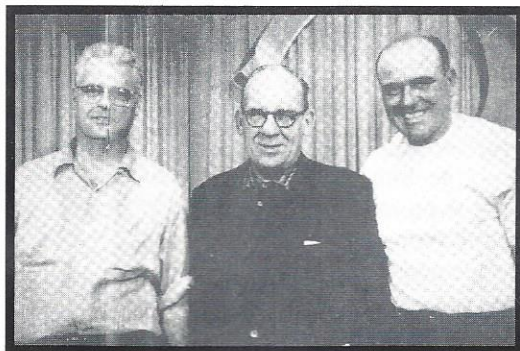
# HORSESHOE FACTS & FOLKLORE by Bob Dunn

EDITORS NOTE: *This issue features a guest writer for our Folklore story. Jerry Smith, an avid historian and writer, with some help from Don Titcomb, brings back to memory the days when our sport was featured on television.*

## Television and Horseshoe Pitching

By Jerry Smith

Do you remember the 1989 World Tournament? The final four game step ladder finals for the Men's Championship were televised by ESPN. From the mid 1970s until the mid 1990s, the executive council aspired to get our game on television, looking to gain exposure and prize money. The 1989 TV finals remains the only success in that area. Many factors may be decisive in the lack of TV coverage including: the slowness of the game (walking), a method to ensure that the final game is for the championship, and the perception of sponsors that horseshoe pitching will not garner enough rating to merit the cost, to name a few.



*Mr. Matt Niesen, TV producer (center) is pictured with Truman Standard, Illinois state champion (right) and John Lindmeier, former Illinois state champion, following their second "Championship Horseshoes" match, March 6.*

There has been TV in our storied past. In late 1956 in Chicago, Illinois, a show featuring horseshoe pitching aired for several months. The format and process to make the show interesting and exciting was described in the April 1957 issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher's News Digest. Part of the article is reprinted here.

Mr. "Horseshoes" Makes a Visit to TV "Color" Studio

"For those who cannot see the current "Championship Horseshoes" television program, perhaps a word picture will give everyone an idea of the setting for this unique sports show.

As we enter the studio itself, which is a room approximately 50 feet square, our eyes look up at a maze of huge Kleig lights. When they are all turned on for the show it gives

the same effect as if one was playing on a court out in the open sun on a hot August afternoon. The court is regulation in every respect. The clay is a potter's clay and is of a burnt orange color and is mixed with water. The boxes are constructed of wood and are painted a pale blue. In the center of the clay area the stake is painted a brilliant white. The backstops are padded so-as to absorb any noise from a wild shoe and are a dark green, they form a half circle in back of the stake and box area. The area between the stakes is built up even with the pitchers' box and is painted a grass green.

The backdrop in back of the pitchers' box is aqua colored beset with two large horseshoes, one being red and the other blue. The lights are approximately 10 feet above the surface of the pitchers' box and are somewhat of a hazard to anyone who is used to pitching a high arching shoe. It has a tendency to make the player shoot his shoe at the stake rather than lofting it. In one corner of the studio is the area that is used for the commercial part of the program. It is made up in beautiful combining colors so as to make a pretty picture on the "Color" TV screen. In case it has never been mentioned the show is televised in

black and white and also in compatible color.

Two color cameras are used being focused on the one stake as the pitchers pitch from one end only. The



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# HORSESHOE FACTS & FOLKLORE *Continued*

shoes are returned to the pitchers by the stage hands. There is an official referee who calls all the scores and measures all points and ringers. A scorekeeper tallies the points, ringers, shoes pitched, doubles and prize money as the game progresses. Immediately at his right the announcer gives a word description of the game, speaking into a microphone loud enough for the listening audience but not so that the players can hear him.

This is a half hour show and in the interest of time, 5 innings are played before the show goes on the air. As soon as the show is on it starts with an introduction followed by a commercial. The players then resume playing and continue for 10 more innings at which time there is a commercial; at the close of that the pitchers finish out the remaining 10 innings of the game. As soon as the final score is computed the announcer presents the prize money and a beautiful golden horseshoe to each of the players."

Don Titcomb was on the show and won the golden horseshoe four times. He couldn't afford the continued trips to Chicago so he retired From TV undefeated. Don tells the story that on his second TV show appearance against Gene Blumefield, the show was piped to New York for the Tonight Show. Don pitched 19 ringers of the last 20 shoes, which is the portion shown on TV and proceeded to nearly skunk Gene. Gene would not forget and came back to nearly beat Don in 1960, the year Don won the World Championship. The show was not renewed and forever became part of our "folk lore".

This program update appeared in the March 1957 issue of the Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest and listed most of the named players involved in the show:

**"CHAMPIONSHIP HORSESHOE" TELEVISION'S MOST UNIQUE PROGRAM BEING WIDELY ACCLAIMED**

"Following Don Titcomb's mastery of Milton Tate, king of the TV show for seven weeks, Ed Sharp of Mulberry, Indiana, was ushered in to try his skill at "Championship Horseshoes." He is referred to as the uncrowned king of Indiana horseshoe pitchers in as much as he has finished in second place in the Indiana State tournament 5 out of the last 6 State Tournaments.

At the stroke of 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Ed began his quest of the TV crown. For several innings he managed to stay even with California's pride and joy. However, Don's left-handed ringers began to take their toll of our Hoosier visitor and as the hour hand hit 11 o'clock, Sharp's TV debut ended with Titcomb on top with 115 points to 103 for Indiana's uncrowned king.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, after an absence of 10 weeks, Ellis Cobb, Illinois veteran, returned to the wars. Starting out with 11 ringers out of the first 12 shoes it looked like a new champion would emerge but the pace was too much for "ole gramps" and he too was numbered among the "also rans." Score Titcomb 103 and Cobb 96. At the close of that evening's performance, it was announced that Don would be unable to return for the next week's show. Truman Standard and John Lindmeier were then scheduled for the week of February 27.

Returning with renewed vigor and a strong determination to cover themselves with glory and also to pick up some of that "TV cabbage," Standard and Lindmeier appeared on NBC's "color courts" primed for action. It wasn't long coming as they both started right out making "ringer money." Both men being evenly matched it soon began to appear that the match might end up in a tie and as the 25<sup>th</sup> inning ended that very thing happened. The final score being Standard 105 and Lindmeier 105, whereupon they were informed that the game would be resumed with a new start on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>."

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# WORLD RECORDS by Mel Yockstick - The Statman

Another year of State Championship tournaments has been completed. I have updated the NHPA website with a revised State Championship Top Pitchers file—see Historical-State Champions page. This page lists all State Champions: Men with top 10 wins, Women with top 5 wins, Elders, Boys and Girls with top 3 wins. After state tournaments are completed, I review all state websites for state champions as well as the NEWSLINE to compile the winners. I would encourage all states to post their results on the NHPA website-Tournament Results as well as your own State website. Currently I have a large binder which holds all state champions by states to track all winners. I have to thank Bob Champion (Past NHPA Publicity Dir.) for starting this complete list of state champions.

I have prepared a short list “NHPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOP PITCHERS” chart showing top pitchers with multiple state wins. Carl Steinfeldt leads all pitchers with 36 titles while pitching in New York and Florida. Norm Rioux from Connecticut and Leigh Dunker from South Dakota with a total of 33 wins. Ralph Maddox from West Virginia with 30 wins. Dale Lipovsky (28 wins) from Minnesota and Alan Francis (24 wins) from Ohio should be climbing the standings in the next few years. Since the State Tournaments are about honoring State Championship winners, I would encourage those states using Class-A as the championship class to switch to calling the top class the “Championship” class then followed by Class-A & B for all divisions.

In the Women’s division Opal Reno is the top standing pitcher with 25 titles while pitching in Arkansas and Ohio. Cathy Carter from Iowa with 24 state wins should be the next pitcher to reach the top. Also included is the state title wins for Elders, Boys and Girls.

See chart of adult men and women having dual state title.

## *NHPA Dual State Championship Title Winners*

<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Adult Men</u>	<u>Elder's</u>	<u>Junior Boy's</u>	<u>Total Titles</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Merlin Potts	Kansas	23	9		32	2010
Alan Francis	Ohio	25		6	31	2010
Mark Seibold	Indiana	22		6	28	2009
Kevin Hollister	Vermont	21		3	24	2004
Ben Wiedrich	Oregon	19	3		22	2008
Walter Ray Williams Jr.	California	17		5	22	1997

<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Adult Women</u>	<u>Juniors Girl's</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Cathy Carter	Iowa	24	6	30	2010
Becky Kemper	Kentucky	11	7	18	2010
Marie Williams	Nevada	7	5	12	2009
Renee Cowan	Virginia	9	3	12	1999

## *NHPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOP PITCHERS*

### **MEN'S With Top 15 Wins or More.**

	<u>TITLES</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FIRST</u>	<u>LAST</u>
1	36	Carl Steinfeldt	New York (22), FL (14)	1939	1998
2	33	Norm Rioux	Connecticut	1970	2006
3	33	Leigh Dunker	South Dakota	1934	1987
4	30	Ralph Maddox	West Virginia	1935	1989
5	28	Dale Lipovsky	Minnesota	1973	2009
6	25	Alan Francis	Ohio(15), MO(10)	1986	2010
7	23	Paul LaCrosse	Colorado	1979	2010
8	23	Merlin Potts	Kansas	1964	1994
9	22	Mark Seibold	Indiana	1973	2009
10	22	Don McCance	Nebraska	1957	1982
11	22	James Lecky	Arizona	1927	1948
12	21	Kevin Hollister	Vermont	1975	2004
13	21	Dale Carson	Maryland(20), PA(1)	1936	1977

# WORLD RECORDS *by Mel Yockstick - The Statman (Continued)*

## MEN'S With Top 15 Wins or More. (Continued)

	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
14	21	Merle Palmer	Wyoming	1938	1972
15	20	John Kapnis	Massachusetts	1983	2009
16	20	Jerry Black	North Dakota	1972	2001
17	19	Ben Wiedrich	Oregon	1981	2002
18	18	Glen Henton	Iowa	1961	1988
19	18	Art Kamman	Arizona	1957	1979
20	18	Bob West	Oregon(15), ND(3)	1939	1979
21	18	Curt Day	Indiana	1953	1974
22	17	WR Williams Jr.	California	1976	1997
23	17	E.J. McFarland	Texas	1945	1977
24	16	Joe McCrink, Jr.	New Jersey	1982	2005
25	16	Clive Wahlin	Utah	1956	1981
26	16	Art Engebretson	North Dakota	1928	1968
27	16	Casey Jones	Wisconsin	1935	1961
28	15	Brian Simmons	Maine (7), NH (2), RI (4), VT(2)	1983	2010
29	15	Coke Bowker	Texas	1980	2002
30	15	Dave Baker	Missouri	1958	1984
31	15	John Monasmith	Washington	1949	1968
32	15	Guy Zimmerman	CA(10), IA(5)	1934	1954
33	15	Clayton Henson	Virginia	1930	1949

## WOMEN'S With Top 14 Wins or More.

	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
1	25	Opal Reno	AR(16), OH(9)	1972	1998
2	24	Cathy Carter	Iowa	1983	2010
3	20	Connie Filley	ND(15) SD(5)	1989	2010
4	20	Vicki Winston	Missouri	1976	1999
5	20	Liz Downer	Vermont	1972	1999
6	17	Judy Curtiss	Michigan	1988	2010
7	17	Rivers Prewette	North Carolina	1991	2010
8	17	Debby Michaud	Massachusetts	1972	2005
9	17	Linda VanGorder	Idaho	1981	2000
10	17	Ruth Hangen	New York	1967	1991
11	17	Bonnie Seibold	Indiana	1966	1986
12	16	Amy Hall	Virginia	1997	2010
13	16	Mary Ann Penninger	Kansas	1985	2004
14	15	Sue Twyman	New York	1992	2009
15	14	Ann Vigil	New Mexico	1979	2002
16	14	Tari Powell	Illinois	1978	1993
17	14	Phyllis Negaard	Minnesota	1976	1991

## ELDER'S With Top 6 Wins or More.

	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
1	12	Clayton Gage	Wisconsin	1995	2006
2	12	Frank Bohun	Pennsylvania	1994	2005
3	11	Milton Vinson	Georgia	1992	2005
4	10	Jim Pagliarulo	Connecticut	1996	2005
5	10	Ray Santana	California	1993	2004
6	9	Merlin Potts	Kansas	1998	2010
7	9	Don Harris	Missouri	1992	2003
8	8	Roland Kleinschmidt	South Dakota	2002	2009
9	8	Roland Stobaugh	Illinois	1986	1994
10	7	Archie Matheny	Arkansas	2001	2010
11	7	David Holmes	West Virginia	2004	2010
12	7	Lowell Davis	Oregon	1993	2002
13	6	Henry Jubin	Rhode Island	2005	2010
14	6	Bobby Fields	Tennessee	2003	2010
15	6	Paul McCreery	Texas	2002	2010
16	6	Dick Wilson	Wyoming	2003	2009
17	6	Gordon Fuhr	Nebraska	2001	2008
18	6	Jim Wiltse	Michigan	1998	2006

# WORLD RECORDS *by Mel Yockstick - The Statman (Continued)*

## ELDER'S With Top 6 Wins or More. (Continued)



	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
19	6	Willard Brakhage	Oklahoma	1996	2003
20	6	Lew Haskins	North Dakota	1994	2000
21	6	Bill Penland	South Carolina	1992	1998

## BOY'S With Top 7 Wins or More.

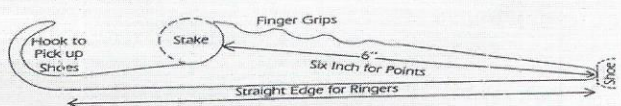
	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
1	10	Dean Broome	South Carolina	1987	1996
2	9	Joseph Smith	Iowa	1992	1999
3	9	Lenwood Conner, JR.	Virginia	1986	1994
4	8	Urias Martin	New Mexico	1996	2003
5	7	Matt Fuller	Washington	2003	2009
6	7	Jason Guyette	New Hampshire	2002	2008
7	7	Joe Ramsdell III	Maine	1994	2000
8	7	Robbie Laptewicz	Massachusetts	1992	1998
9	7	Donnie Hill, JR.	Arkansas	1989	1996
10	7	Vance Harren	Minnesota	1987	1994
11	7	Vorn Ven	Kansas	1987	1993
12	7	Wade Erickson	North Dakota	1982	1989
13	7	Mickey Thomas	Georgia	1970	1977


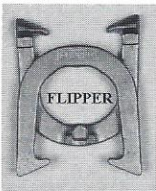
## GIRL'S With Top 7 Wins or More.

	TITLES	NAME	STATE	FIRST	LAST
1	10	Shaina Stover	South Dakota	1999	2008
2	9	Michelle Newton	South Dakota	1989	1997
3	8	Airel Bolick	North Carolina	1993	2000
4	8	Tesa Turner	Kansas	1991	1998
5	7	Mary Hargett	South Carolina	2002	2008
6	7	Nicole Williams	Maine	2000	2006
7	7	Amy Horton	California	1999	2005
8	7	Tenesia Mayer	New York	1996	2002
9	7	Becky Kemper	Kentucky	1988	1996
10	7	Debby Bestul	Wisconsin	1982	1988


## "Horseshoe Digger"




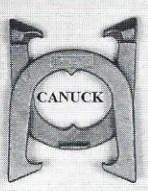




🍁 **Tommy's Shoe Shack** 🍁

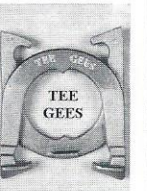
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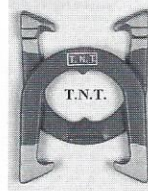





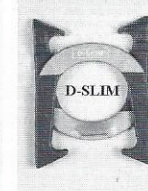


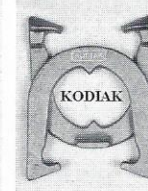












# HALL OF FAMER - MR. FLIP FLOP *by Jeanette Claas*

**“Shoes Guru” Travels 3,000 Miles Plus to Visit NHPA Hall of Fame**

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club is always thrilled to have visitors at the NHPA Hall of Fame facility. But it is always a little more “special” when a Hall of Fame inductee arrives on the premises. To be an inductee it requires many years of horseshoe achievements, dedication and service to the horseshoe organization. These inductees are proud to be there and we are most respectful and thankful for each of them.



For several years Jesse Gonzales has wanted to come to see the NHPA Hall of Fame and Museum. After many months of planning, the Gonzales family finalized their plans in making their dad's dream come true. Jesse Gonzales of Los Osos, California was inducted

into the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2005. Now at the age of 79, Jesse wanted so much to see the Hall of Fame while he was still healthy enough to travel.

Jesse, traveling with his two daughters, Lisa and Sarah, son-in-law John Johnson, and a friend, Dawn Muraca, met at the San Diego airport to board U.S. Airways departing at 10:30 PM on April 22; Good Friday. Before boarding the aircraft, the Gonzales family were informed that a tornado had hit the St. Louis Airport and all flights were cancelled. They would have to rebook their flight schedule to United Airlines taking them all the way to Charlotte, NC. After a layover of several hours they then boarded U.S. Airways arriving in Memphis TN at 9:00 o'clock on Saturday morning.

What does one do in Memphis? Like millions of other tourists you go to Graceland, home of another Blue Suede “Shoes Guru”- Elvis Presley. After a great tour of the mansion and an enjoyable stay in Memphis, the Gonzales family rented a van and traveled the four hour trip to Wentzville, Missouri. After doing some sightseeing in St. Louis (avoiding tornado destruction) the family reached their final destination; the NHPA Hall of Fame and Museum.

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe members were anxiously awaiting their arrival. Jesse, a little teary-eyed as he stepped from the van, was in awe. Before the rains started again, the Gonzales' visited the Jack Freeman Memorial Brick Walkway. They quickly found Jesse's brick and saw

many of his friends names engraved in the surrounding area. It was a Kodak moment for the family.

Back inside, the sparkle in Jesse's eyes were dancing as he saw the horseshoe legends throughout the Hall of Fame room. These legends – Elmer Hohl, Curt Day, Fernando Isais, Ted Allen, Walter Ray Williams and many more – he had met on the courts having some memorable games and sometimes winning them along the way. It was a walk down memory lane for Jesse as he distinctly recalled many games with the great ones.

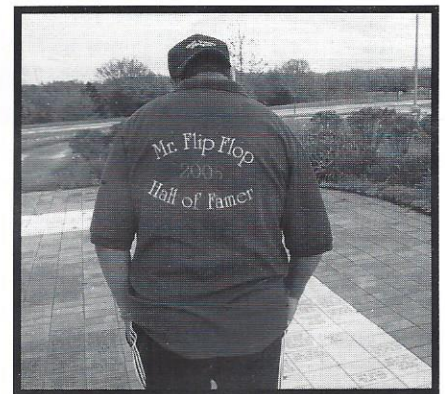
Jesse was born on May 25, 1932 in Betteravia, CA. In 1960 Jesse was introduced to the sport by his boss while working at the San Luis Obispo Recreation Department. Gonzales worked for the city for thirty-four years before retiring in 1994.

In 1962 Jesse, at the age of 30, joined the NHPA and burst upon the horseshoe scene pitching in his first tournament averaging over 60%. Winning tournaments was on his mind as he dedicated himself to the game, practicing four hours a day at Santa Rosa Park, and he quickly rose to the heights.

Jesse was runner-up six times before he claimed his first state title in 1978 winning three California Championships. He was named to the Southern California Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame in 1976.

Because of his unorthodox style of pitching shoes, he was nicknamed “Mr. Flip-Flop.” “I was the only person in the world to pitch that kind of style and get into the A Division at World”, Jesse says.

He may be remembered as the lone ‘Flip Shoe’ pitcher in the Men's Championship Class, a feat he accomplished at twelve World Tournaments. Gonzales had 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> place finishes at world championship competition. His highest finish was in 1972 when he placed 7<sup>th</sup> on an 80.8% average. Jesse had 163 wins and career ringer average of 75.32%. The highlight of his horseshoe career came in 2005 when Jesse was honored by being inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame.



# HALL OF FAMER - MR. FLIP FLOP *Continued*

“Bring on the shoes,” the Gonzales family was saying, eager to try out the courts at the Hall of Fame facility. Jesse and daughter, Lisa, warmed up the courts as several QRHC members challenged them to a game. Mr. Flip-Flop is still on target; his love and enthusiasm for the game is still there.

“Bring on the cake,” the horseshoe pitchers were saying, “It’s time to celebrate this special moment with Jesse.” Conversations of the past were the main topic as Jesse kept our undivided attention of many events in his lifetime. Meanwhile his family was purchasing many horseshoe items to take home to family members, including another brick with all of Jesse’s grandchildren’s names on it.

It was soon time to depart. “This place is beautiful,” said Jesse as he thanked the QRHC members for their hospitality and being caretakers of the facility. How honored we were by the presence of one of the horseshoe greats! We wished

them a safe trip home. “Stay away from tornadoes,” we yelled as they pulled out of the parking lot.

The Hall of Fame has been graced by the presence of over twenty NHPA Hall of Fame inductees. We hope that many more inductees will be able to come and see the place they have earned in horseshoe history. As Jesse says, “Just dedicate yourself to the game, practice a little and who knows, you may find yourself a place on the wall!” The “Shoes Guru” done exactly that.

In the meantime keep on supporting the NHPF with your donations and brick orders which can be sent to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. It is the only way to preserve the history, showcase the present and build the future of horseshoe pitching – the game Jesse and the rest of all love and enjoy.

## THE TOLL OF TIME

### **JudyA. Zollman** **Indiana**

With the passing of time the Indiana NHPA will feel the vacancy of a very special lady. Judith A. Zollman, 71 of Scottsburg died May 18, 2011 at the Scottsburg Memorial Hospital. She was born March 7, 1940 in Scottsburg to Bench Wells and Doris M. Smith Wells who are deceased. Judith retired after 44 years at the Scottsburg Memorial Hospital in the Accounts Payable Department. She was a member of the Kimberland Creek Baptist Church and sang in the choir; she was a 47 year member of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association and was also the INHPA

Southeast Vice-president for the past 25 years. She was elected to the Indiana Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame in 2004. Judy was an Indiana tournament director and ran many tourneys at the Hanover, IN courts. She was always at our state tournaments helping behind the scene with the stats. We have lost a friend in that her “shoes” will be hard to fill with all of her concern for others.

### **Emma Grace Rugg** **Pennsylvania**

Emma Grace Rugg, 82, of Mill Run, passed away peacefully April 29, 2011 in Henry Clay Villa, Markleysburg. She was born June 10, 1928 in Scullton, a daughter of the late Henry Shay and the late Edna Beghley Shay Koleck.

Grace was a longtime resident of Mill Run and a former member of the Maple Summit People’s United Church. Grace loved playing horseshoes. She was the National Horseshoe Pitching Association’s Pennsylvania State Champ for four years. She was inducted into the Pennsylvania Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1994.

She also pitched horseshoes in the world tournament held in LaFayette, IN and finished 36th in the world.

Grace will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by her loving son Raymond Rugg and wife Sandy of Mill Run, her brother Paul Shay of Smithfield, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents Grace was predeceased by her husband Wilbert R. “Bert” Rugg in 2005, her sister Ida Shay, and two brothers Robert and Delbert Shay.

# STAT ROOM *by Jerry Smith*

The "Stat table", "Statroom", "Stat place" whatever you call it, is essential to the success of running a horseshoe tournament. I have run tournaments where I pitched and then did the stats between games. I have been to tournaments where the winning player went to the "Stat table" and filled out the summary sheet after each game. Many of you horseshoe pitchers have worked the "Stat place" countless times as have many non-horseshoe pitchers. It is not rocket science.

Last summer I had the chance to work the "Statroom" at the World Tournament (WT) in Cedar Rapids. The WT runs for two weeks and has five shifts a day for most of the days. The "Statroom" at the WT includes an office where the NHPA Officers work. The NHPA Officers and Directors work real hard and real long hours. Stu Sipma, a veteran officer, was running his first tournament as President and Dick Hansen was Tournament Director for the umpteenth time. Vice Presidents Sanders, Hawkins, Sternberg, and LaBrosse are also World Tournament veterans with many tournaments under their belts. New VP Debby Michaud is no newcomer to WTs having pitched in the Woman's Championship division on and off since 1974 including winning it all in 1977 and 1985. The NHPA Officer part of the "Statroom" was fairly normal if you like long hours and constant pressure to make all things work smoothly and seamlessly. The VPs each work as shift leaders throughout the tournament. Since there are five VPs and five shifts a day the NHPA has recruited two volunteer shift directors, Mary Jane Smith and Rick Wright whom each work a shift a day freeing up some R&R time for the VPs. Shift leaders are responsible for filling score keeping chairs, having enough judges and runners plus any thing else that comes up doing that round of games. All of the VPs have other duties besides shift leadership to perform during the WT. The President handles PR, trouble shooting as it comes up, awards presentations and a raft of other duties. The Tournament Director formats the tournament, works with the Natstats Director, sets the pitching schedules, handles the mailouts, deals with the money, handles the day to day NHPA business, and oversees the day to day tournament operations. Steve Summerlin, the Webmaster seems to be everywhere as he informs the NHPA membership about ongoing tournament results via the website and acts as official Newsline photographer. If this isn't enough, the Council handles dealings with the host organization, the HOF banquet, and the annual convention. I'm sure many other things get done that I didn't notice or forgot.

The WT statroom operations have been handled by Natstats Director Glenn Jamieson for the last 12 to 15 years. I am unaware of how he got put in charge, but he was a good one. I met Glenn in the spring of 1986 and learned all about doing stats, running tournaments, and when Glenn was appointed NATSTATs Director, I took his job as Northern California Statistician. Glenn was a demanding person to work for in that it had to be done right and generally had to be done his way. Very few mistakes came out of Glenn's "Statroom". Since, I think, about the 1988 WT in Pleasanton, California, Walter Ray William Jr's (WRW) computer program for doing tournament stats has been used to do WT stats. Walter Ray started working on the program shortly after IBM came out with a PC in 1981. Walter Ray's computer hobby fit in nicely with his Horseshoe pitching hobby and out came a brilliant piece of software. Over the years WRW tweaked and added to the program until it not only did stats but could read NATSTAT averages electronically and calculate World Records by entering each scoresheet into the computer inning by inning. Glenn was a master of WRW's program. Shortly after Dick and Glenn had the 2010 WT laid out and formatted and after Glenn had entered the data into WRW's program, Glenn passed away suddenly. This of course sent shock waves out through the NHPA kingdom plus it was only two months before the 2010 WT. WRW's wonderful program also had the problem of not running on current operating systems and modern printers. This made the NHPA ship the needed old computer equipment to each WT site and hope that it still worked. President Stu had been

thinking about changing the WT stat program over to Kurt Whaley's HSMaster Program. Kurt has written a nice program that will do stats, keep secretary records, do Statistician's work as well as run on current Windows based machines which in turn run would run any new printer. Glenn did not want to upgrade the software but with his passing, Stu and the council quickly decided to switch the software program for the 2010 WT over to HSMaster. They also appointed Rob Hagman as the new NATSTAT Director. Rob did a masterful job of getting NATSTATs back on line and caught up.

During the winter of 2009, Glenn had asked the Council for a backup person at the WT so that he could take some time off and keep up with his NATSTAT duties. Glenn recommended me and the Council approved. After Glenn's passing Stu asked me to continue my plans to work the "Statroom" so I rapidly learned HSMaster and headed for Cedar Rapids. Meanwhile, the switch to HSMaster presented the problem of tournament setup and data entry. Enter past President Paul Stewart. Paul, an expert on HSMaster entered all of the WT entries into the database and proceeded to fix every pitcher's average back to the correct deadline average. He then setup all of the classes as prescribed by Dick and Glenn and sent them along to the WT.

Upon my arrival in Cedar Rapids, I checked out the facilities, met or re-met all of the "statroom" team and NHPA Officers and then proceeded to the "statroom" and went over the enhanced HSMaster program with Kurt. He had made changes in preparation for the WT. Kurt, Rob, and Jerry LaBrosse were working on the electronic scorekeeping and the network of computers. So I started to prepare the round robins (RR) cards for Monday morning when Dick Hanson came in with a handful of changes and dropouts. This would be a ritual throughout the tournament as pitchers called in for various reasons. Early dropouts are not a problem, but no shows are interesting since they can not be dropped out and must be allowed back in if they have a valid reason for not showing up. HSMaster was not setup very well for dealing with no shows since pacers had to be plugged into no show slots. No shows were a problem throughout the tournament. It is amazing how many dropouts and no shows there were including car wrecks, illnesses, and lord knows what all.

The first shift got off on time and I began preparing RR cards for the second shift. While staffer Larry Ingraham and I were inputting first round scoresheets and about half way through that first session I realized that no one had prepared for the posting of results. So I hurriedly prepared heading titles for each group and cleared the posting boards. Several people signed up as volunteer imputers and the "statroom" staff settled into meeting the demands required to track and post the results. The 16 man round robin used by HSMaster was not the traditional one used and the program did not even include a 20 man round robin which would be needed for the Men and Women's Championship rounds. There also was no program method to compute move ups for the Championship groups, but with Kurt working his magic in and between his pitching, his overseeing of the electronic scorekeeping, and the problem of having his car crunched by an RV, he added to HSMaster and got all the needed features we needed.

I arrived at the Championship part of the tournament (last three days) by working 12-15 hours a day and enjoying every minute of it. With the workload now at a minimum, I was able to observe many of the great pitching performances as our Champions were crowned and that made the work worthwhile. The entire "statroom" staff and volunteers along with the NHPA officers and Directors need to be complimented for a job well done, The 2010 WT was filled with land mines and not one was stepped on. What a great tournament. I look forward to seeing all of you that are traveling to Louisiana in July.

# NHPA NEWSLINE

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