

*The
Horseshoe Pitcher's
News Digest*

Official Publication of

**THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA**

MARCH, 1957

Vol. 1

No. 3

A NOTE FROM OUR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

We are further along than was anticipated at this time. In fact I think the future looks wonderful, let's keep the ball rolling.

Credit should be given where credit is due. The Indiana association has well over one hundred members for 1957 already. Their secretary, Bob Pence and his fellow associates should feel justly proud of that accomplishment. We appreciate that kind of cooperation. I hope it will cause the fire of membership to spread through all the rest of the states.

Remember that your State secretary is only trying to do the job that "YOU" didn't want to do or you would be holding that office. He took the job expecting your assistance and cooperation. In many cases that cooperation has not been demonstrated as yet because his membership mail has not been as heavy as it should be. Why not secure your membership now and get the magazine for the balance of the year? Each man that delays it another day is penalizing himself.

Our editor is donating his time, which isn't fair to expect him to continue indefinitely. Let's all play a part in the success of this enterprise and get those memberships in so that we can reimburse him for his time and effort. No man is more deserving. There is no satisfaction that gives more personal pleasure as that which comes from a job well done. Don't miss your part of that satisfaction and pleasure by neglecting your part. Your effort will be appreciated.

Cletus Chappelle, chairman

* * *

A LETTER OF GREETING FROM THE NEW WORLD TOURNAMENT MANAGER

Dear friends of the horseshoe world:

This information will come as a big of a surprise to you as it did to me: Mr. Arch Stokes our very fine President, is in poor health and wishes to be relieved of some of the responsibility of management. He has appointed me to the position of World Tournament Manager. Now we all know that there are dozens of you horseshoe players much more capable of managing this affair. However, since I am not an actual participant, but a very enthusiastic fan of yours, it seems I am unexpectedly filling in for Mr. Stokes..

The success of the coming tournament will depend not on me, but largely upon your fine sportsmanship and willingness to work together. I know you are all **true Champions** and anything you take part in **Should be The Best!** Will you help me to make this world tournament an event that we will all be proud to have a part in?

You notice I keep saying (World Tournament). That is right! We now have a Charter Group of Ringer Artists from our neighboring country, Canada. I am sure I speak for all of us in saying welcome neighbors. We are glad you are with us.

I will be appointing committees and asking your help in getting things set-up. You are such a wonderful group of good sports, I am proud to be helping with your 1957 World Tournament. I will surely be happy to hear from all of you who have suggestions for the betterment of this event.

While I have the floor, I wish to thank Mr. Matt Neisen, producer of the T.V. series, "Championship Horseshoes", and Mr. Ellis Cobb, our Digest Editor, and good will ambassador, for the wonderful boost they are giving our favorite sport.

Best wishes to every one of you from your 4th V. P.

Elois Standard

PRESIDENT STOKES ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

After thorough consideration and considerable thought I am happy to announce that the following have been selected to serve as committee chairmen and all have accepted:

MEMBERSHIP, Cletus Chappelle, 7018 Greenwich, Portland, Oregon
ADVERTISING, R. G. Pence, 341 Polk Street, Gary, Indiana
1957 WORLD TOURNAMENT, Elois Standard, Rte. No. 2, Canton, Ill.
PUBLICITY, Sam Somerhalder, Ruskin, Nebraska
JUNIOR PROGRAM, Ray Ohms, 1510 South 14th East, Salt Lake City, Utah
RESOLUTIONS, John Lindmeier, 2030 South 18th Ave., Broadview, Illinois

These chairmen are empowered to choose help on their various committees from the members at large where they feel they need it. When this happens the names should be sent in to the "News Digest" for publication so that all may know who to contact. If any members have any resolutions that they would like to have brought up on the floor of the Convention please submit them to that chairman of that committee so that the committee will have enough time to circulate them around for study.

Arch Stokes

* * *

ROEDING PARK HORSESHOE ASSOCIATION

By H. W. A. (Major) DALTON

On the afternoon of April 12, 1953 in beautiful Roeding Park, three enthusiasts of horseshoes got together and organized the R. P. H. A. Oscar Jared being the best pitcher was unanimously elected President. Emerson Ford was the next best so he became vice-president, that left me to do the heavy work as secretary-treasurer. I collected \$1.00 from each of the other two and we were in business. We only had one court which was not to good but we managed to get along until the middle of the summer.

At first our club resembled a South American army, all officers and no privates. The Recreation department of the City of Fresno, Howard Holman, Director, decided to sponsor the R. P. H. A. Then Clarence Large in conjunction with the Recreation Department constructed a battery of six courts complete with bleachers, lights and fenced in. This project may be seen from the Golden State highway and is an added attraction to the park.

So now after four years of Rampant, Rampaging Persistent Pandamonium and Abhorrent Aberrations we arrive at the first plateau. Our books show 200 names. But that is all they are, just names. However, in that group we do have 57 of pretty good pitchers. To mention a few Ira Allen, brother of Ted Allen, World's champion, John Roscoe, former San Joaquin Valley champ, Oscar Jared, also a former Valley champion, Prof. G. Don Alkire of Fresno State College, 1954 champ, Carlos E. Reed, 1955 champion, and Rusty Cima, 1956 champion, E. E. Davis, Merle Preo, Ray Lambeth, Jimmy Wilfong, Kim Ludlow, Dick Freitas, John McCray, Pete Fann, Emerson Ford, Edward Barclay, H. S. Rainwater, Floyd Weese and last but not least our 1957 president, Leslie L. Sage. Among the Junior players are Armel and Red Weese, Jim Benson, E. Preo, Rusty McCollum, Don Matthews, Bill Anderson, John Marlette, Pete Crumpler, Bill Silence. The last three are in the armed forces. Ira Allen tells me there are 3 or 4 more Allens pitching shoes back in the Middle West. Our honorary members are as follows: Hon. Gordon G. Dunn, Mayor of Fresno, H. B. Holman, Director of Recreation, C. W. Large, R. L. Quigley, known as "Mr. Playground", R. C. Solo, Supt. Playgrounds, Miss Mary Solo, Women's Supt., Edw. Orman, Sports Editor Fresno Bee, Dean Mell, TV Station KJED and many other prominent citizens of Fresno.

Now that we have affiliated with the National Association and also joined the Northern Calif. Association we expect to see a number of former members climb on the band wagon, they are all welcome. Our plans for 1957 are quite ambitious. Under our new president, Leslie Sage and other officers we should go far. We may not make the headlines but we will be in there pitching.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION NEWS

By EARL DAVIS

Congratulations to F. Ellis Cobb, editor, on his first edition of the "News Digest", it was remarkable.

We are honored by having the Roeding Horseshoe Club of Fresno joining the National Association. Their secretary, H.W.A. (Major) Dalton has gone all out to make this club a success. May their association with us last for many years.

Northern California officers elected for the 1957 season are as follows: Czar Marceovich, president; Don Titcomb, vice-president; George Callas, vice-president; Earl Davis, secretary-treasurer.

Plans were made to hold a Damon Runyon Cancer tournament for all B-C and D pitchers. The Block Trophy Company of Oakland has donated a trophy for each division. Two top players from each division will play in the finals March 17. The entry fee is one dollar and all money will be turned over to the Cancer Fund.

We are also forming a horseshoe league of six clubs. Each club will play a home and home game. This tournament will be a regular cancellation method of play. Total points for each match game will decide the winner.

For a good many years there has been a lot of comment made concerning our Northern association playing the Southern association for the State championship. Due to the great distances that each association would have to travel such a match never materialized, however, it may become a reality this season. We are all anxiously awaiting the meeting of these two associations which will bring together some of the worlds' greatest horseshoe pitchers. It might be said that it would be second only to the Worlds' championship held annually at Murray, Utah.

* * *

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION HOLDS MEETING

By LEE R. DAVIS

Congratulations to our "Digest" editor on his wonderful start with the magazine. I enjoyed reading it very much and am very glad the Association decided to keep the magazine going.

We had our State Association meeting Sunday, February 17. We had a lengthy discussion about the Magazine and the possibility of a great number of players missing four or five issues of it because they would not be contacted until the pitching season. We had discussed it at our meeting last fall, and as a result of that meeting I have written two letters to Elmer Beller, suggesting that some provision be made for men who come in when the season starts.

But, as he pointed out, he was only one officer and was bound to do as was voted at the National meeting. We agree with him, but we would like to bring it before other State organizations, so I was asked to write and have our proposal and reasons published in the National Magazine, our idea being to have the different thoughts and ideas, so that when it comes up at the Convention everybody would be prepared for comment and know how they wanted to vote. Here is the proposal:

The N.J.S.H.P.A. proposes that Article IV, Section 1, be amended so that the fiscal year be changed from January 1st — December 31st, to read from July 1st to June 30th of the current year.

Our reason for this is that by far the most of our states and pitchers are only actively pitching in the summer months. As a result, the dues are paid then, and that means a great many players would miss four, five or six copies of the magazine every year.

This is only one State's opinion, so let's hear some expressions from some of the others. We had suggested that the fiscal year of membership be from January 1st to December 31st, and the fiscal year of the magazine be from July 1st to June 30th, but it seems that would entail a lot of extra work for the Secretary. We all agree he has his hands full now, so let's come up with an idea that will solve the problem without a lot of additional bookkeeping.

MAINE NEWS

By CHARLES GERRISH

Well, devotees of the game, "The Horseshoe Pitchers' New Digest" showed it can fill up a 16-page magazine with warm words about pitching even in the dreary month of January. Congratulations to the editor, the NHPA, and all who contributed to this neat output.

All who know Dean McLaughlin, the Canadian champion, can well appreciate the tribute of Harold Blackman to him as the Personality of the Month on page 3. One is his friend, even if seeing him but once. (Hello, Dean. Saw you at Clearfield one year.) "Win modestly and lose gracefully" sounds like the make-up of Dean. No one could better say it. He's a "fine broth of a man." In the writer's game with the Canadian that year, Dean was modest all right but I don't remember that yours truly felt very graceful.

Portsmouth, N.H., is giving consideration to a Maine-New Hampshire title tournament in 1957. Charley Gerrish of Kittery Point in Maine has been claiming the title for several years, having won the last set-to that was held for this championship. A number of Maine's top tossers would likely enter this fray, while from N.H. the two redoubtables, James Guyett of Dover and Howard White of Portsmouth would be sure to be on hand. — A suggested schedule of Maine-N.H. borderline events is being put to vote by the N.H. Assn., — this program including local, county, 3-county, 2-state, 3-state (Me., N.H., Vt.), opens, various boys and school meets; doubles for men, boys, and mixed; all to give a pretty full season from May to October.

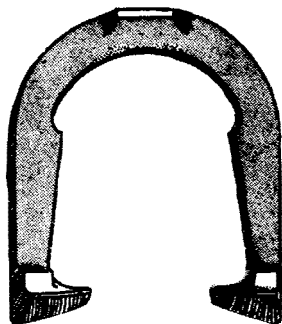
Word has been given this reporter that the 1957 New England tournament, which was voted last year to be held at Portsmouth, may be changed to nearby Dover, N.H. — Because of this voted decision and a number of superior conditions at the seaside locale, many of the pitchers hope that their most important annual event shall be set up on the excellent courts at Portsmouth.

The boy ringer star of Portsmouth, Don G. Craig, still peruses the road maps to learn the route to Utah. Being his last chance to participate under age 16, he earnestly hopes some way may come to him to get there. He shows great promise, going on from his ability of last year.

* * *

BALDWIN PARK, CALIFORNIA, "AMATEUR" TOURNAMENT

	W	L	R.	S.P.	%
Carroll Beach, Ontario	6	1	221	426	51.9
Ralph Metcalfe, Ontario	5	2	232	424	54.7
Charley Merrill, Baldwin Park	4	3	208	392	53.1
Norman Smith, Culver City	4	3	238	460	51.7
Bill Shoemaker, Monrovia	3	4	220	436	50.5
Wally Haugland, West Los Angeles	3	4	220	442	49.5
Gunnar Hansen, Baldwin Park	2	5	193	416	46.4
Fernand Fabre, Baldwin Park	1	6	165	396	41.7



TED ALLEN HORSESHOE COMPANY

BOULDER, COLORADO

The shoe used by the WORLD'S CHAMPION, Ted Allen in winning all his titles and establishing World's records.



Introducing . . . the Personality of the Month

By BOB PENCE

Curtis Day, of Frankfort, Indiana, top ranking Indiana player, is "the exception that proves the rule" in the game of horseshoes, for his three-quarter reverse turn, traveling low and fast, and delivered from the "cross-fire side" with a six foot long stride, violates almost all conceptions of orthodox styles of pitching generally considered as necessary ingredients in gaining high National recognition.

Any lingering doubts about Curt Day's ability or his right to a place among the top notchers was removed when he made his initial appearance in the World's Tournament at Murray, Utah, last summer.

Day and his reverse three-quarter turn compiled a 28 won, 7 lost record in the round robin with 77.0% ringers to tie for fourth place. The four man Championship play-off saw Curt win one and lose two with 77.3% for a 4th place ranking. These ringer averages do not include the 87.5% he threw in the special 4th place play-off for the right to enter the four-man Championship Finals. Curt defeated Fernando Isias in both the round robin and the Championship Finals, a rare feat in itself.

Curt started pitching in 1947 and quickly took his place among the top-notch players in the country. Previously he had been an outstanding softball pitcher for eight years, but service in the army during World War II, in which he saw combat action with the 14th Armored Division in Germany and France, brought his softball playing days to an end. Returning from service he took up horseshoe and the movements, style of delivery and traits he had acquired as softball pitcher stayed with him and accounts for his unusual turn and delivery on the horseshoe courts.

Day won the Indiana State Tournament in both 1953 and 1955, annexed top honors in the 1955 Indiana-Ohio Open at Muncie and captured first in the big Mid-West "Ringer Round Up" Open in 1956. Meanwhile he had won the Clinton County Tournament nine straight years.

He has also been active in the organizing end of the game. Curt assisted in the formation and development of the Frankfort Club which is the backbone of the Indiana State Association which has held its state tournament on Frankfort's fine battery of 12 courts for six consecutive years. Curt served as an officer of the Indiana Division of the N.H.P.A. for two years during its formative years and helped organize the Indiana State Team League with the result that the Hoosier state has the largest association in the N.H.P.A.

Curt is 39 years old, stands five feet nine and weighs 175 pounds. He is married and has six children, four boys and two girls, ranging from two to fourteen years old. He is employed at the Allison Experimental Aircraft plant, a division of General Motors, located at Indianapolis, Indiana. He drives a total of 92 miles each day going to and from work.

He played basketball during his school days and for awhile after graduation from high school in 1935 along with some baseball. A few years ago he took up bowling for recreation and pleasure during the winter months. Despite a lack of emphasis and practice he is currently carrying a league average of 184. Three times he has had a league average for a full season in excess of 197 with 197 being his top average. His high game this season so far is 258 and he has a series of 600 pins or better on six different occasions.

When those soft gentle spring breezes blow across Indiana, Curt and his three quarters reverse will be found on the horseshoe courts with his ringer average hovering around 80%.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION RECEIVES N.H.P.A. CHARTER

Welcome neighbors, we in the United States extend a hearty welcome to our friends and fellow pitchers in the Dominion of Canada, into the N. H. P. A.

After a number of months and and much correspondence, Elmer Beller, National secretary has finally completed the final work of making the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association an international organization. That project was the granting of a charter to the Canadian Association as a recognized group in the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association of America.

Ted Burrows, the secretary and his associates are to be congratulated on their achievement and may their association continue to grow and prosper.

Again we say "welcome neighbor", we are happy to have you as members of our horseshoe family and to enjoy many hours of pleasure in friendly competition whenever and wherever we may meet.

* * *

"CHAMPIONSHIP HORSESHOES" SELECTED FOR VIEWING ON NBC "TONIGHT" SHOW

Through the efforts of Chicagoland's sports promoter and TV producer, Mr. Matt E. Niesen, "Championship Horseshoes", Television's most unique and fascinating sports show was selected for viewing on NBC's "Tonight" show on Wednesday evening, February 20 from the Merchandise Mart studios on a coast to coast network.

Don Titcomb of Sunnyvale, California and Truman Standard of Canton, Illinois put on a marvelous performance, each man throwing well over 70 percent ringers. At the close of the match "Miss Sweden", a recent aspirant for the "Miss Universe" title, was introduced. She presented the scores giving a touch of beauty to a very successful show.

* * *

OHIO BUCKEYE ASSOCIATION

By TOM PEARCE

Due to the fact that the pages of the "News Digest" were not available at the time the following tournament was played, comments on the Sixth Annual Labor Day Ox Roast Tournament are submitted at this time for the reading pleasure of all pitchers.

At the Sixth Annual Labor Day Ox Roast tournament held at West Jefferson, Ohio, Ed Sparks of Alton, Ohio won 9 straight games and pulled off the surprise of the afternoon when he defeated Ray Miller of Irwin, Ohio, 50 to 48 after being behind 28 to 0. Sparks 6 straight double ringers "sparked" the attack that culminated in his brilliant victory. Miller's 73.2 percentage game with Herb. Witter was the afternoon's best individual effort. The scores are as follows:

	Qual.	Won	Lost	Pct.
Edgar Sparks, Alton	213.....	9.....	0.....	47.6
Ray Miller, Irwin	227.....	8.....	1.....	60.8
Tom Pearce, West Jefferson	206.....	7.....	2.....	52.5
Martin Hill, Westerville	167.....	5.....	4.....	45.2
Weldon Sollars, Derby	171.....	4.....	5.....	41.4
Roger Pfeil, West Jefferson	186.....	4.....	5.....	36.5
Chas. Wilson, West Jefferson	175.....	3.....	6.....	32.3
Elmer Henderson, Columbus	171.....	3.....	6.....	32.1
Herbert Witter, Columbus	155.....	1.....	8.....	30.1
H. F. Warner, Derby	160.....	1.....	8.....	28.7

One of the highlights of the State Tournament held at Columbus, during the fair, Harold Reno of Sabina lost only one game and that was to Paul Focht of Dayton. In that game, which went 102 shoes, Focht tossed 80 ringers to 79 for Reno. In the game against Ray Miller, Focht threw 37 out of 40 shoes for a percentage of 92.5.

INDIANA DIVISION of the NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION

By Bob PENCE, State Secretary

Hoosierland horseshoe pitchers are displaying far more interest in the game this cold and blustery winter than they usually do during the off season months, all of which augers well for a successful 1957 season.

111 paid up members are already on the books of State Secretary Bob Pence, which is far ahead of previous year's records at this time of year. Much of this is due to the publication of the N.H.P.A.'s new magazine, "THE HORSESHOE PITCHER'S NEWS DIGEST".

If each of these 111 members will take it upon himself to sign up one new member, as has been suggested by the National Membership Committee Chairman, Cletus Chappelle, Indiana will break its previous record of 200 members in one year.

The Kokomo Horseshoe Club is a newcomer on the Indiana scene. Organized by Bill Hobbs, a former Muncie player, the Kokomo is live wire bunch with a busy program underway.

Eight fine courts have been built in beautiful Highland Parks, lights are being installed and plans for additional courts have been made. Club officers are President Max Dale, Secretary-Treasurer James Coy and Team Captain Ed Hight.

A "Newcomers Invitational" Tournament will be staged by the Kokomo Club to stimulate interest both statewide and locally.

Any Indiana player who has averaged UNDER 50% ringers in the State Tournament during the past two years, or who have not entered the State Tournament, or have not been a member of the State Association will be the ONLY players eligible to compete in this tourney.

This will give newcomers and the average players a chance to compete in regular tourney competition without having to bump into top ranking players. A total of 78 players in Indiana will NOT be eligible to play.

A 100 shoe qualifying round will be held May 25 and 26. Finals will be held June 1 and 2 six classes of eight men each plus a Consolation division.

Another Indiana club that deserves special mention is the Lafayette Club under the direction of Joe Schilling. Five new courts with lights have been built on the edge of the city and 98 members have already been signed. How many of these will join the State and National Association remains to be seen, but some already have.

The Clinton County Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, better known as the Frankfort Club, has long been the backbone of the Indiana State Association. With a weekly schedule of activity involving more than 100 players, many of whom are state members and top ranking players, the 1957 club will be under the direction of Harold Connor and Tom Moon.

The Midwest "Ringer Round Up" Open Tournament will again be held at Frankfort. The event is scheduled for the week end following the Fourth of July. Last year it attracted 63 entries from seven states. Curt Day of Frankfort is defending champion. Again this year there will be six classes.

Art Moore, head of the Wabash club, has obtained financial backing from several Wabash fraternal organizations to stage an eight man Invitational Tournament at City Park. The event is scheduled for May 19 and Art is trying to round up eight of the top players in Indiana for the round robin.

Activity in the Valparaiso and Gary clubs should be on the upswing this coming summer according to all indications. The TV program, "Champion-

ship Horseshoes" has been the contributing factor in this upsurge. Jim Wark and Walt Jones head the Valpo group, while John Huffman and Paul Scheub will help Bob Pence in Gary.

There has been scattered action on indoor courts this winter in Indiana. Again this is due to the TV program, "Championship Horseshoes".

Chief indoor play has been at the home of popular Clyde Green near Portland where a number of Northeastern Indiana boys have been tossing ringers. Gene "Red" Brumfield had a court installed in the Chevrolet Sales Agency in Pendleton, Virgil Taylor and his father, Burl Taylor, built a court near Greencastle, and the indoor court at Darlington has also had more activity than usual this winter.

John Coble, R.R. No. 3, Peru, has built an indoor court and invites anyone to stop in for a game.

* * *

MARICOPA COUNTY OPEN WON BY DELEARY ARIZONA CHAMPION

The Maricopa County Open Horseshoe Singles and Doubles in Class A and B were scheduled for Jan. 12 and 13 at Encanto Park in Phoenix, Arizona.

12 men qualified for both A and B classes. The high qualifier was the Arizona State Champion Stan DeLeary with 134 points for 50 shoes. We were glad to have three men from California compete, and they did very well. Elmer Beller the National Secretary won the Class B Trophy and Jim Weeks was runner-up in Class A.

Class A		W	L	R	SP	%
1.	Stan DeLeary, Phoenix, Arizona	11	0	352	516	68.2
2.	Jim Weeks, Norwalk, California	10	1	405	584	69.3
3.	Arthur Kamman, Mesa, Arizona	9	2	310	526	58.9
4.	Charlie Palms, Wyoming	8	3	291	636	45.7
5.	Bill Adair, Phoenix, Arizona	6	5	353	660	53.4
6.	Willard Phillips, Tempe, Arizona	6	5	311	642	48.4
7.	Walt Honeywell, Montana	6	5	241	562	43.5
8.	Charley Carson, Mesa, Arizona	5	6	277	590	46.9
9.	Al Tieglund, Wisconsin	3	8	241	528	45.6
10.	Billy Crick, Los Angeles, Cal.	2	9	244	574	42.5
11.	Tom Darrrough, Scottsdale, Arizona	2	9	154	498	30.9
12.	Si Warrington, Montana	0	11	196	476	41.1

Class B		W	L	R	SP	%
1.	Elmer Beller, Bellflower, Cal.	11	0	204	410	49.7
2.	Wayne Webb, Mesa, Arizona	9	2	247	636	38.8
3.	Glen Crandell, Mesa, Arizona	8	3	215	486	44.2
4.	Walter Stearns, Mesa, Arizona	8	3	267	680	39.2
5.	Fred Brown, Montana	6	5	200	546	36.6
6.	Birney Harkins, Phoenix, Arizona	6	5	242	650	37.2
7.	Robert Evans, Glendale, Arizona	6	5	195	592	32.9
8.	A. Nathan, Minnesota	6	5	171	640	26.7
9.	Paul Wykoff, Tempe, Arizona	4	7	222	680	32.6
10.	Oscar Halvorson, Canada	3	8	181	630	28.7
11.	LeRoy Miller, Mesa, Arizona	2	9	171	572	29.8
12.	E. N. Spitler, Mesa, Arizona	0	11	143	648	22.0

It finally rained in Arizona and we were happy to postpone our doubles tournament to Saturday, February 3.

Eight teams were entered and the teams were formed by having the eight A Class men to draw from the hat a name of a B Class player. This made interesting competition for all and worked out well.

Charley Palms of Wyoming and Walter Stearns of Mesa, Arizona were the victors, winning 6 games while losing one. Four teams were tied for second place. In the play-off Fred Brown from Montana and Enoch Bailey from Iowa captured the runner-up trophy. Leroy Miller and Al Tieglund from Mesa took third place.

Want To Improve Your Pitching?

. . . . *Ted Allen, World's Champ, Tells You How*

One of the most important things to getting off to a right start is to develop good habits in delivering the shoe. Then you will eliminate the painful trouble of correcting bad habits later which you have gotten into. Some of those bad habits later come and there are many pitchers with unusual deliveries.

Charles "Casey" Jones, Wisconsin State Champ is one of those, and is still in there as a dangerous contender. His manner of holding the shoe and giving it an added flip at the peak of his backward swing, no one but Jones could ever use such a method and be successful at it. He started in his early teens that way, and due to make that delivery work for him to date he saw no reason for changing.

There are many champions with excellent form. The one who seems to be tops in form, athletic co-ordination and without lost motion is Fernando Isais of Southern California. I learned a few things from him myself. He is the personification of an athlete.

But we cannot all see him in action. So I will describe the right stance and delivery as I see it and have practiced. I have always believed in the art of no lost motion. Thereby lies the secret of being able to finish strong in a hard tournament. It is just like anything else. With the effort expended in the right place you accomplish things faster with less effort. When an experienced farmer is pitching hay he knows exactly where to stick his fork to get a forkful without wasting time trying to lift it while standing on it or pulling it apart. A business man could waste a lot of time and get nowhere by putting his time on something that doesn't concern his immediate business on hand.

It is the same in building the national defense and the same on the battlefield. A battle is won when the blow is struck in the right spot with the best timing. So proper effort brings more ringers.

For that matter there is battles between pitchers on the court. The one who, at the psychological time starts slapping on doubles just when he catches his opponent in a letdown, and takes advantage of his misses, will still keep in the running.

There is a bottleneck in practicing, too. To a beginner or even an older man who doesn't seem to be improving the way he feels he ought to, the reason is usually not knowing what to do from that point. But if you are not doing so well in practice, that does not always mean you are not prepared for a tournament. That may be only the prelude to pitching a whale of a game in the tournaments.

Now this lost motion I speak of can come in many places. It can be in the stance, step, swing, or actually after the shoe leaves your hand. Besides there can be lost motion in the flight of the shoe. But first let us get set with good stance. The first thing you must do is stand far enough back of the foul line so as not to step on it when pitching. It depends on the length of your stride. As for me I take a short step anyway, so my right foot is always exactly even with the stake. And I make sure it is there, too, so I can get the feel of the distance to the exact inch, and there won't be any guessing about it.

If you are interested in taking every advantage possible against opponents, or in improving, it is always best to swing with your arm over the peg. It gives you a little better alignment with the peg you are throwing at, because the pegs are supposed to be leaning towards each other. If you pitched from the other side it would be cross-pitching. But it is quite alright to pitch from either side, because many doubles teams pick their sides of the box and stay there so as not to bother the other fellow.

When facing the opposite peg, stand as squarely facing it is you can tell. Then it is easier to step directly in line toward it. I, and several others, always stand with the left foot slightly back of the right because that left foot helps propel me forward on the balls and toes of my feet. It gives me that extra start.

In order to forestall any criticism arising from a rumor concerning the legality of the 1957 GORDON shoe, announcement is hereby made that the Gordon shoe is now on the market and meet ALL requirements in weight and measurements.

"CHAMPIONSHIP HORSESHOES" TELEVISIONS' MOST UNIQUE PROGRAM BEING WIDELY ACCLAIMED

Following Don Titcomb's mastery of Milton Tate, king of the TV show for seven straight 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, Ed began his quest of the TV crown. For several innings he managed to stay even with California's pride and joy. However, Don' 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, 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 evenings' 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 25th 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 6th.

* * *

WYOMING DIVISION OF N.H.P.A.

By A. L. McNEIL, Secretary

Horseshoe pitching enthusiasts in and around Cheyenne, Wyoming, can hardly contain themselves until the gentle spring breezes permit them to start pitching activities on the newly constructed courts in beautiful Halladay Park. Congratulations are in order to those who have spent many hours in completing this project.

There are twelve courts complete with lights which will afford extra hours of playing when the sun sinks behind the Rockies. The courts are located near the Lincoln Highway Route 30 on the east side of Cheyenne. The members of the Cheyenne Horseshoe Club are proud of their new setup and will conduct all future activities on these courts.

Any pitchers vacationing in the Cheyenne area or passing thru on their way to Murray, Utah, to the National tournament are cordially invited to stop and avail themselves of the new courts.

We can supply you with score-sheets at \$7.50 per thousand, post-paid. Reduced rates in larger quantities. Send your order to National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, 15316 Cabell Avenue, Bellflower, California.



"From Out Of The Mail Bag"

February 10, 1957

The Horseshoe Pitcher's News Digest
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cobb:

I wait for the "News Digest" every month and sure do enjoy its contents. I would like to see a column in the magazine called "Out of The Mailbag" whereby readers could express themselves on methods of play used in different states so that we could get various ideas from all over the United States and Canada.

I confess that I haven't improved my pitching one iota from Ted Allen's explanation because I still can't hit the stake. Why doesn't someone tell us how to get alignment which I think is the most important fundamental. (Editor's Note: This fundamental will be explained in a forthcoming article).

Our rule in Southern California for qualifying is that a player gets but one chance in pitching 100 shoes. Those that total the most points in their 100 shoes are considered in the tournament. At our annual meeting it was discussed and decided that each player would not be given more than one chance to qualify.

We are divided into 5 classes according to the previous years' average and can only play in the class where your average it. A player must be one of the high qualifiers or he does not get to play. Where we have more than 12 qualifiers for a tournament we play all 12 men in two six man round robins, and a play-off between the top four men. If any player should win a tournament with a percentage over his class average he must move up into the next class in any future tournaments.

Sure glad to hear about the "Championship Horseshoes" program, and hope that it will someday be televised nationwide.

Hoping to hear from other players on the pros and cons of this wonderful game.

Wally Haugland
8917 Ellis Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

* * *

Mesa, Arizona
Feb. 4, 1957

Mr. Ellis Cobb, Editor
News Digest
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Congratulations on your first edition of the Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest. It is thrilling to hear of the "Championship Horseshoes TV Program." This should do something to stimulate more interest in the grand old sport of Horseshoes.

We have just recently completed our Maricopa County Open singles and doubles Tournament and perhaps you would like to use some of the enclosed report.

Thanks again for the good work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Stearns
Arizona State H P A., Sec.

February 2, 1957

Editor
Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest
1307 Solfisburg Avenue
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Ellis:

I want to thank you for the fine effort you are making in putting the National magazine back into circulation. I hope that all horseshoe players appreciate it as much as I do.

I am very happy to hear about "Championship Horseshoes". I sincerely hope that it grows the same as bowling has. Is there anything that we fans can do outside of the Chicago area? I hope that we can eventually see it on our TV screens.

I believe that our new magazine together with that TV program will do more for our sport than anything has done for a long time.

Your friend
Stanley Manker
Martinsville, Ohio

* * *

February 5, 1957

F. Ellis Cobb
1307 Solfisburg Ave.
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Ellis:

I was glad to get the first edition of the "DIGEST". Congratulations on a good job. I want to wish you the best of luck and health and keep up the good work. Enjoyed catching up on the horseshoe news. Would also like to congratulate you and all those who are promoting "Championship Horseshoes" on TV. I am sure it will go a long way in boosting our game. I only wish that it could be "piped" east so we could all watch it. May our game continue to grow and take its proper place in the sports world.

Sincerely,
Lee Davis,
648 Abbott Ave.
Ridgefield, New Jersey

* * *

COMMITTEE FOR PLACEMENT OF EASTERN NATIONAL ANNOUNCED

The following men comprise the placement committee for the Eastern National Tournament.

Truman Standard, chairman, Rte. No. 2, Canton, Illinois
Paul Focht, 1051 West Dorothy Lane, Dayton, Ohio
Lee Jacobs, 11105 Quirk Road, Belleville, Michigan
John Fulton, Rte. No. 5, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Nelson Pickering, Rte. No. 5, Frankfort, Indiana

Anyone interested in making a bid for the Eastern National Tournament should contact any member of this committee as soon as possible. Please include with your bid the number of courts available, lighting facilities, the names of the local committee in charge of the tournament, method of play, possible dates and any other information that would be valuable to the placement committee in deciding where the Eastern National Tournament will be held.

This tournament has attracted a great number of players from the eastern section of the United States and the Dominion of Canada. It is hoped that another successful Eastern National can be staged this season.

Truman Standard, Chairman

DEADLINE FOR "NEWS DIGEST"—FIRST OF MONTH

A RESUME FROM IOWA HAWKEYE ASSOCIATION

By MARION LANGE

Anticipating a brilliant 1957 season, Iowa Hawkeye Association looks back upon the 1956 season with pride. The association held fifteen statewide tournaments. Four of them were open to players from other states. Three of them were won by Illinois players and one by an Indiana pitcher. In addition to these tournaments the Iowa State Championship for men and also a boys' tournament were played at the Iowa State Fair. The State Farmers' (amateur) and Non-Farmers' (amateur) championships were also conducted there.

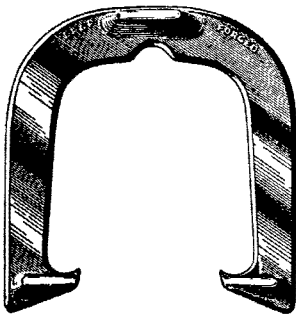
By the time the State Fair meet rolled around, Wellington Taylor of Grand River, Iowa had made somewhat of a record and was slated to take the state title as Dale Dixon of Des Moines, 1955 champion was out of the running due to injuries received in a bad fall. Willard James of Council Bluffs showed great improvement over his previous form and in the round robin ended up in a tie with Marion Lange of Bondurant, Iowa. In the play-off series James won two straight from Lange to take home the title.

The Farmers and Non-Farmers' amateur meet was staged immediately after the State tournament. Earl Wiges of Exira, Iowa went away with the Farmers' title while Willard James wrapped up the winners' portion in the urban section. In the play-off for the grand championship of both amateur divisions Wiges took top honors by defeating James two out of three games.

Under a new set of rules concerning Iowa players it provided that the top eight players in the State tournament would not be permitted to compete in meets sponsored by the Iowa State Fair Association.

In an endeavor to keep the youth of the association interested in horse-shoe pitching, a State Junior Boys' Tournament was also conducted. Stepping into the lime light in that division was Leland Wiges also of Exira, Iowa, who swept the field to take his third straight State titles.

... **1957** ...



Congratulations to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and best wishes on the new publication. For 1957 as in the past the Gordon Spin-On Horseshoes will be on the Top, used by the Top-Notch Pitchers, to establish new records and break the old ones.

*Get your new 1957 Spin-On
Horseshoes today*

WRITE FOR PRICES

THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY

235 Tennyson Street

Cincinnati 26, Ohio

WEST LOS ANGELES HORSESHOE CLUB HANDICAP HORSESHOE

By Wally Haugland

Using a handicap system in pitching horseshoe is somewhat similar to what all states are doing already to put players on an equal basis, that is, they divide them into different classes, but in a horseshoe club with not too many active players, a handicap is given to each player, so that everyone can compete on an equal basis with one another.

I will try to explain our method of play, and conditions why we started using handicap.

First of all we only have 12 to 18 active members, and only 3 courts. Our percentage is from 8% to 60%, so we only had 2 players with the same percentage. It is no fun to play the same pitcher all the time, nor is it fun to nearly shut out a man, so with a handicap any person can play another and make it fun for all.

Our problem was not enough courts, because only six could play at a time in walking games, so I decided to play standing games, 4 men on a court, that way 12 men could play.

I divided the 12 men into the 6 high percentage players and the 6 low, then have either side draw a partner out of the six. The reason for this is that you could have a different partner each week and nobody is compelled to be there. We always try to match partners that pitch the same shoe (Allen-Gordon, etc). With six teams we play 5 games in a round robin. The winner for the evening is the team (2 men) who can score the most total points, not the most games won. It is amazing how many times teams have been tied in total points. In Handicap play you only pitch 50 shoes and you must absolutely have the 6 high percentage players pitch against each other on one side of the court and visa versa, that is in standing games of this method.

Here is how I figure the handicap. I use a basis of 150 shoes. 70% handicap if a player's average is 40%. He will have 60 ringers out of 150 shoes, subtracting 60 from 150 leaves 90, 70% of 90 would be 63 which is his handicap for every 50 shoes he throws. If a player's average is 55%, he would have to have 83 ringers out of the 150 shoes. 83 from 150 leaves 67. 70% of 67 is 47 his handicap for every 50 shoes. Even now in walking games you add each man's handicap to his total score at the end of 50 shoes pitched. Another good reason for only the 50 shoes is that all games end at the same time and you know just how long a round robin will take.

I have almost forgotten our most important asset, that is we have a large blackboard on the end of each court and one man from each court can easily keep score. We show points, ringers and shoes pitched. At the end of each 50 shoe game I recap on a tally sheet. Not only does this eliminate scorekeeping problems but all players or any audience can see exactly what each man and team is doing.

I keep a running average on each player as his handicap might vary from week to week.

To make things still more interesting we each throw in a dollar, taking out a dollar or two for the club and split the rest between the winners. I have also made a 4 dead sign that lights up and a bell that rings every time 4 dead is thrown.

All our members agree with the handicap system of play and enjoy it very much. We have not missed a week's play with full attendance since we started using handicap system about a year ago. I myself think it is a very good way to have a happy organized club.

We had a wonderful handicap tournament at the end of the season. I took 18 members with an established average and divided them into groups of six (three). Played a round robin (walking) in each group. Took the two winners from each group and had a final round robin. These groups were divided from the 6 highest, 6 next highest and 6 low percentage players. A 20% player won 1st prize, the two high percentage players placed 2nd and 6th. If you don't agree with the handicap, just use 80 or 90% instead of 70.

Would be glad to hear from anyone and get any new ideas or handicap you might work out.

National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association

Arch Stokes, President
1310 Woodland Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sam Somerhalder, 1st V. P.
Ruskin, Nebraska

Cletus Chapelle, 2nd V. P.
7018 Greenwich
Portland, Oregon

Ray Ohms, 3rd V. P.
1510 S. 14 E.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. Truman Standard, 4th V. P.
Route 2
Canton, Illinois

Elmer Beller, Secy-Treas.
15316 Cabell Ave.
Bellflower, Calif.

These are your Regional Directors on Publicity. Contact them for information, or any assistance you might give them.

Pacific Coast States

Don Titcomb
1057 E. Duane, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Rocky Mt. States

Ray Ohms
1510 S. 14th E, Salt Lake City, Utah

North Central States

Chas. Hopkins
912 E. 2nd St., Ottumwa, Iowa

South Central States

Marie Kampschroeder
Ottawa Bowl, Ottawa, Kan.

New England States

Howard J. White
942 Woodbury Ave.
Portsmouth, N. H.

New York, New Jersey, Penn.

Walter N. Haring
478 Fairview Ave.
Westwood, N. Y.

Southeastern States

Charles A. Stephens, 3751 42nd Ave., N., St. Petersburg, Florida

Please Send Your Subscription and Membership Blank to your State Secretary or if your state does not have an Association send it to the National Secretary, Mr. Elmer O. Beller, 15316 Cabell Ave., Bellflower, California.

STATE SECRETARY ADDRESSES

Arizona—Walter Stearns, 332 West 9th St., Mesa, Arizona
Northern California—Earl Davis, 6915 Flora St., Oakland, Calif.
Southern California—James Weeks, 12133 Graystone, Norwalk, California
Colorado—Eino Tikikainen, 850 Leyden, Denver, Colo.
Connecticut—Wm. Kamszik, 35 Frank St., Bridgeport, Conn.
Dominion of Canada—Ted Burrows, 61 Forest Ave., Port Credit, Ontario, Canada
Florida—R. B. Woodrow, Green Valley, Ill.
Illinois—Ellis Cobb, 1307 Solfisburg Ave., Aurora, Ill.
Indiana—Robert Pence, 341 Polk St., Gary, Ind.
Iowa Hawkeye—Earl Wiges, Route No. 1, Exira, Iowa
Eastern Iowa—W. R. Martin, Robins, Iowa
Kansas—Harold A. Pontius, 505 Mississippi St., Lawrence, Kan.
Kentucky—Grover Jackson, 19 Buttermilk Road, Covington, Kentucky
Michigan—Lee Jacobs, 11105 Quirk Road, Bellevue, Michigan
Minnesota—Andrew Moech, 286 Farrington, St. Paul 3, Minn.
Missouri—J. A. Larson, 722 Broadway, Sedalia, Mo.
Nebraska—Tom Novacek, 1410 Garfield St., Omaha, Nebr.
New Hampshire—Howard J. White, 942 Woodbury Ave., Portsmouth, N. H.
New Jersey—Walter N. Haring, 478 Fairview Ave., Westwood, N. J.
New York—Steve Fennichia, 141 Belknap St., Rochester, N. Y.
Ohio Buckeye—Sam Goodlander, 35 Roth Ave., Reading, Ohio
Ohio—Northern—C. A. Benedict, Johnstown, Ohio
Oklahoma—Herbert Anderson, 1501 Crescent Drive, Bartlesville, Okla.
Oregon—Cletus Chapelle, 7018 N. Greenwich, Portland, Oregon
Pennsylvania—Alex Zebrun, Rte. 2, Clearfield, Penna.
South Dakota—Leigh Dunker, Warner, So. Dak.
Tennessee—Carl Humphrey, Route No. 4, Elizabethton, Tenn.
Texas—B. E. Sipple, 1836 Matamoras St., Houston 23, Texas
Utah—Wilford Andelin, 651 E. 5600 Suth, Murray, Utah
Vermont—Paul Cote, 98 Western Ave., Brattleboro, Vermont
Washington—Arthur Liedes, 1111 E. Market St., Aberdeen, Wash.
Wisconsin—Robert Klement, Black Hawk Island, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
West Virginia—Anna Lindquist, 305 6th St., Morgantown, W. Va.
Wyoming—A. L. McNeil, 421 E. 18th St., Cheyenne, Wyo.