



*The Horseshoe Pitcher's  
News Digest*

**JUNE, 1958**

Vol. 2

No. 6

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Volume 2

June

No. 6

## Coming Tournament Dates

- June 15 — Connecticut Open Tournament, Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, Conn.  
 June 15 — Willamette Valley Tournament, Salem, Oregon.  
 June 27-28 — Lakeside Open Tournament, Lakeside, Ohio.  
 July 4-6 — "Ringer Round-Up", Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana.  
 July 5-6 — Red River Valley Open, Fargo, North Dakota.  
 July 20 — Richardson County, Nebraska, Falls City.  
 July 23-30 — World Tournament, Salt Lake County Fairgrounds, Murray, Utah.  
 July 26-27 — Northwest Tournament, Ramsey County fairgrounds, St. Paul, Minnesota.  
 August 3 — Annual Four State Open (MO., IOWA, KANSAS, NEBRASKA), Falls City.  
 August 3-9 — Eastern National Tournament, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania.  
 August 9-10 — Minneapolis Centennial Open, Loring Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
 August 12-13 — Illinois State Tournament, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois.  
 August 13 — Illinois Boy's Tournament, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois.  
 August 17 — Indiana State Tournament Qualifying at Frankfort, Muncie, Wabash and Bethel, Indiana.  
 Aug. 23-24 — 5th Annual Cornbelt Open, Crapo Park, Burlington, Iowa.  
 August 31 — Annual Nebraska State Tournament, Falls City.  
 August 31 and Sept. 1 — Minnesota State Tournament (residents only) Hibbing, Minnesota.  
 August 30-31 & Sept. 1 — New York State Tournament, Johnson City, New York.  
 Sept. 1 — Rock River Valley Open, Lawrence Park, Sterling, Ill.

## 1958 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE LIST — JULY 23-30

### Class "A" — Total Prizes \$3,924.00


1.—\$450	7.—\$152	13.—\$92	19.—\$65	25.—\$57	31.—\$51
2.— 350	8.— 142	14.— 82	20.— 63	26.— 56	32.— 50
3.— 300	9.— 132	15.— 77	21.— 61	27.— 55	33.— 49
4.— 250	10.— 122	16.— 72	22.— 60	28.— 54	34.— 48
5.— 197	11.— 112	17.— 69	23.— 59	29.— 53	35.— 47
6.— 172	12.— 102	18.— 67	24.— 58	30.— 52	36.— 46

### Class "B" — Total Prizes \$391.00

1.—\$30	6.—\$24	11.—\$19	16.—\$14
2.— 28	7.— 23	12.— 18	17.— 13
3.— 27	8.— 22	13.— 17	18.— 12
4.— 26	9.— 21	14.— 16	19.— 11
5.— 25	10.— 20	15.— 15	20.— 10

### Ladies Tournament — Total Prizes \$96.00

1.—\$25	5.—\$8
2.— 20	6.— 7
3.— 15	7.— 6
4.— 10	8.— 5



*OUR COVER PICTURE* — The blonde, vivacious young lady whose picture graces the cover of this month's "Digest" is none other than Gertsie Lou Selby who will be defending her World's title as Ladies' champion at Murray, Utah in July. She is eighteen years old and graduated from Longmont, Colorado High School this year. She is a lover of sports and participates in many and is a protegee of Ted Allen, World's champion in the men's division. It is him from whom she has copied his style and technique. Ever since she was eight years old she has spent her summer vacations travelling with her sister and Ted, her former brother-in-law, on exhibition tours. Her future interests are possibly modeling, of which she has had some experience in downtown stores in her home town, or a career as an airline stewardess and college. The NHPA is proud to have such a lovely lady as its Ladies' World Champion.

### **A FEW WORDS OF EXPLANATION ABOUT THE USE OF 1957 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FILMS**

There is a terrific demand for use of these films. Many would like to have them for a specific date for showing at an advanced advertised date. I tried very hard to meet these requests, but have found it impossible. If set up in rotation of requests it is necessary to break this rotation to meet these dates. Even then it cannot be accomplished. We not only have to depend on the promptness of the user but also the mails. It seems the mail service varies a great deal. I made an effort to have them in possession of one user over just one week-end, then to be mailed out on Monday. At one time there were nearly five weeks without a report on them. As there are only 52 weeks in a year it is impossible to accommodate all even at one week each.

All users could help if they would drop me a card the day they receive them, then another card the day they mail them out. Also state the dates. Information is incomplete if you just state, "I received the films, will mail them out to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ next", without giving any dates.

Another detail of importance: I am instructed by the Board to mail them to members only. Unless you have a 1958 card you are not a member. This seems only fair since we cannot meet all requests anyway. I know it is important to know in advance when you will receive the films. I shall continue to do my best to let you know.

Elmer O. Beller  
National Sec-Treas., NHPA.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **OPEN HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD AT MACON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, DECATUR, ILLINOIS**

Frank Cotton of Decatur, Illinois will superintend a new Open Tournament to be held on the Macon County Fairgrounds courts, on Tuesday, July 29th, at Decatur, Illinois.

The qualifying round will begin at 8:00 A. M. and close promptly at 12:00 o'clock. Each entrant will have the privilege of pitching two series of 50 shoes each taking his highest total count as his qualifying score. There will be two classes, the top eight highest qualifiers will form Class A and the next eight will constitute the Class B division. Round robin style of play will begin at 1:00 P.M. and the cancellation method of scoring will be used.

Cash prizes for games won will be pro-rated from the \$100.00 premium fund plus entry fees received and after tournament expenses have been deducted. Entry fee will be \$2.00 for each man entering the tournament. As a further incentive, a special prize of \$5.00 will be awarded to the pitcher who has the highest qualifying score.

All pitchers throughout the mid-west and surrounding territory are invited to come out and join in the festivities in the friendly atmosphere of Macon County, in mid-state Illinois.

**HARVARD PARK, CALIFORNIA — MAY 4, 1958****OPEN CLASS "E"***GROUP ONE*

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	Pct.
Lewie Shell, Los Angeles .....	5	0	121	242	50.0
Floyd Adams, Baldwin Park .....	4	1	118	316	37.4
Don Barta, Pomona .....	3	2	87	226	38.5
Edwin Carl, Pasadena .....	2	3	109	264	41.3
Oscar Sandberg, Baldwin Park .....	1	4	112	330	33.9
Turk Ruge, Los Angeles .....	0	5	forfeited		

*GROUP TWO*

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	Pct.
Bill Rathbone, Huntington Park .....	5	0	127	278	45.7
Clark Bell, Covina .....	4	1	128	282	45.4
John Bellin, W. Los Angeles .....	3	2	97	270	35.9
George Scofield, Covina .....	2	3	64	316	20.3
Ernest Erickson, Downey .....	1	4	74	322	23.0
George Hamilton, Saugus .....	0	5	54	272	19.9

The top two from each group played a four man round robin to decide the championship.

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	Pct.
Bill Rathbone .....	3	0	89	200	44.5
Lewie Shell .....	2	1	91	194	46.9
Floyd Adams .....	1	2	85	210	40.5
Clark Bell .....	0	3	56	184	30.4

Bill Rathbone making his first tournament a good one, all wins and no losses. I want to thank Larry Geer and Ralph Navarro for taking over the duties of running the class "E" tournament.

The Tournament scheduled for July 13 for 60 Years and over that was to take place at Montebello Park, has been moved to Long Beach. So please pass the word along to all the "Silver Haired" horseshoe players about the change in location of tournament.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW JERSEY PITCHERS HONOR PAUL PUGLISE**

Sixty two members and friends sat down to a delicious steak dinner on Saturday evening, April 26th to pay honor to Paul Puglise, veteran New Jersey horseshoe promoter. It was also the 25th anniversary of the New Jersey State Association.

The president of the association gave a short talk and welcomed all the old timers and guests. He called upon Lee Davis as a representative of the National who in turn told Mr. Puglise that the dinner was in his honor and presented him with a letter of merit signed by all the officers of the National association in recognition of his many years of faithful service in the promotion of horseshoes. Following this Bill Fournier presented Paul with a similar letter from the state association which listed all his achievements through the years. W. E. Santro presented him with a beautiful plaque especially engraved for the occasion. Tributes were given by George Hart of the New York state association, Joseph Puglise, Paul's brother, and first official state champion. Larry Mahoney, boy wonder, was also strong in his praise for Mr. Puglise.

The last speaker was Arthur Scolari (who is now a lawyer) who gave a resume of his experiences in the game. He being one of Mr. Puglise's pupils and was the only player to ever to have held the Junior state title and the Senior state title. He praised the honored guest for all that he had done for him and many others. He spoke of things that had happened during his connection with the game starting when he was only a boy of 8 when he travelled with the Hillman brothers, Puglise brothers and the Cozines. His talk was a grand closing to a fine tribute to Paul Puglise.

Following the dinner speeches horseshoe pitching movies of various events were shown for the enjoyment of those assembled. As a memento of the occasion each one present was given a small trophy significant of the evening.

**REDLANDS PARK, CALIFORNIA — MAY 18, 1958****ADDED CLASS "A"***GROUP ONE*

	W	L	R	SP	PCT.
Louie Dean, Pomona .....	5	0	195	256	76.2
Fred Bonaly, Los Angeles .....	4	1	173	300	57.7
Amos Nottingham, Redlands .....	3	2	198	322	61.5
Henry Durr, Baldwin Park .....	2	3	158	284	55.6
Elmer Beller, Bellflower .....	1	4	155	302	51.3
Waldo Hagy, Long Beach .....	0	5	176	328	53.7

*GROUP TWO*

	W	L	R	SP	PCT.
Jim Weeks, Norwalk .....	5	0	222	306	72.5
Homer Moefield, Long Beach .....	4	1	211	312	67.6
Roy Hearn, Norwalk .....	3	2	204	334	61.1
Gunnar Hansen, Baldwin Park .....	2	3	198	338	58.6
Ralph Metcalfe, Ontario .....	1	4	138	276	50.0
Elick Keith, Cucamonga .....	0	5	148	294	50.3

The top two from each group played a four man round robin for the championship.

	W	L	R	SP	PCT.
Louie Dean .....	3	0	153	202	75.7
Jim Weeks .....	2	1	155	216	71.8
Homer Moefield .....	1	2	139	198	70.2
Fred Bonaly .....	0	3	91	164	55.5

"Brown Sugar" Louie Dean pitching in great form wins again, with a percentage of 76%. It looks as if Louie plans on returning to the Nationals, where a few years ago he was among the "Big Six".

Amos Nottingham of Redlands made a great showing for his club, and hope to see him in the next "A" tournament which will be held in Ontario. This will be the last chance for the class "A" players who plan on going to the Nationals.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MISSOURI OPEN TOURNAMENT**

The Missouri Open Tournament sponsored by the Neosho Recreation Department and the Missouri State association will get under way July 4, 5 and 6 at the new courts in Smith Park, Neosho, Missouri. Qualifying time will be from 8 A. M. July 4th until noon on July 5th. Tournament play starts at 1:30 P. M. on July 5th playing 5 games that afternoon. The remaining 6 games to be played Sunday, July 6th starting at 1:30 P. M. Entry fee will be \$2.00 for first 100 shoes and \$1.00 for second 100. Contestant may take the highest total. The twelve highest qualifiers pay an additional \$10.00 entry fee to form the 12-man round robin tournament. First place prize is \$25.00 and last place will receive \$12.00. Intermediate cash prizes. A total of \$200.00 will be awarded. Any further information can be secured by writing to John Elkins, 416 Grant Avenue, Neosho, Missouri.

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## JOHNSON CITY, NEW YORK TO BE SITE OF 1958 NEW YORK STATE TOURNAMENT

From all reports, all pitchers that journeyed to Johnson City for the New York state meet in 1957 really had a swell time and it is the firm belief that those in charge of this year's tournament will try to make those attending even more welcome. They urge that all players in New York get out and talk it up so that there will be a large turnout.

Under the able guidance of Tournament Chairman, Frank Michalek and his committee this great event should be an outstanding success. REMEMBER THE DATES, August 30, 31st and September 1st at Johnson City, New York. Any one that is planning to conduct a tournament please send your information to your state secretary who in turn will see that it is published in the Digest.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MT. PLEASANT, PENNA. TO BE SCENE OF 1958 PENNA. STATE TOURNAMENT

The 1958 Pennsylvania State championship will be decided on August 31st and Labor Day, September 1st at Mt. Pleasant, Penna.

Unlike previous years, the tournament this year will not have a B Class. All contestants will be in class A which will consist of the present state champion James Ohler of Scottdale and the top 17 qualifiers. The tournament will be run off in two days instead of one as agreed by the members present at the meeting following the 1957 tournament.

Qualifying may be started on Saturday, August 30th and continue until 1 P.M. Sunday, August 31st. Each contestant will throw 2 sets of 100 shoes each using his best 100 in his bid for tournament play. Round robin play will begin Sunday, August 31st. at 2 P.M. SHARP. The first 9 games will be played on Sunday and the remaining 8 games will be played on Labor Day, September 1st. beginning at 1 P.M.

Entry fee will be \$2.00 per person. As the tournament will be sanctioned by the N.H.P.A., all contestants must have 1958 State and National cards. If a contestant has not yet sent for his card and "The Horseshoe Pitchers' News Digest" which cost a total of \$3.50 plus \$1.00 for state expenses which was voted by the members present at the meeting following last year's meet, this means that such contestants must pay a total of \$6.50 before he can qualify. On the other hand, if he has already sent for his card and paid the additional \$1.00 voted upon, he must only pay the qualifying fee which is \$2.00. So many contestants last year were not familiar with the differences paid by contestants and the reason behind these differences that I feel should be made plain as possible now.

Membership cards will be available at the courts. Prizes are as follows

First Place — plus trophy .....	\$75.00	10th .....	15.00
Second .....	35.00	11th .....	14.00
Third .....	30.00	12th .....	13.00
Fourth .....	25.00	13th .....	12.00
Fifth .....	20.00	14th .....	11.00
6th .....	19.00	15th .....	10.00
7th .....	18.00	16th .....	9.00
8th .....	17.00	17th .....	8.00
9th .....	16.00	18th .....	7.00

Following the conclusion of the tournament, election of officers for the coming year will be held. Following the tournament, the site of the 1959 State Tournament will be selected.

### TED ALLEN HORSESHOE COMPANY

BOULDER, COLORADO

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## ATTENTION EASTERN NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS!

*By Alex Zebrun*

Recently I made a trip to Mt. Pleasant, Penna., to see how the fellows who are handling the Eastern National Tournament this year are coming along and am very happy to report that the 9 new courts are now completed and ready for use. The entire area has been landscaped, lights installed and grass sowed. It certainly is a beautiful sight to behold. The pitchers who will be participating in the tournament this year certainly are in for a real treat.

There are many reasons why the sight of Mt. Pleasant, Penna, is an ideal place for the 1958 Eastern National. Here are a few.

First of all, the town is located off the Pennsylvania Turnpike which makes it very accessible to not only local pitchers but also out-of-state pitchers. Also because the town is located near the Turnpike, there are ample hotels and motels to accommodate everyone.

At the courts, there is ample parking for 300 to 500 cars. Also, located at the courts is a very good restaurant which can furnish a variety of sandwiches or a full course meal.

While talking with James Ohler, who is the Pennsylvania State Champion and currently on the committee organizing the Eastern National, I was told that this year there will be 44 men participating instead the usual 36 as in previous years.

Qualifying will be held August 3, 4, and 5 and round robin match play lasting 4 days, August 6, 7, 8, and 9th. Each participant will throw 2 sets of 100 shoes, using his best 100 for his bid for round robin play.

It is not yet official but tournament officials believe that the classes will be divided thus: 18 men in class A; 18 men in class B and 8 men in class C. The top 17 qualifiers and the present Eastern National Champion who is Milton Tate of Peoria, Illinois, will compete in class A.

The prize money this year is higher, competition is keener and as a result of early advertising, this promises to be the best Eastern National Tournament ever held.

We have received word from some of our horseshoe friends in Canada who are inquiring of the Eastern National and we wish to extend to each a very cordial welcome. Some of these men are top pitchers in the country and that is what makes the Eastern National the tournament that it is — good competition.

All persons who plan to attend the tournament and wish to make reservations for lodgings are requested to write to: Mr. James Ohler, 405 Scottdale Avenue, Scottdale, Pennsylvania. If any additional information is requested concerning the Eastern National Tournament, please get in touch with James Ohler also.

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## WYOMING STATE ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE

*By Ward Albin*

Activities in Wyoming started June 1. Wheatland and Cheyenne will have city handi-cap leagues. Saratoga has plans for new courts for this season. State and National cards are necessary for play in any sanctioned tournament. Also 100 shoe qualification on your home court required for tournaments and round robins. The 1958 schedule is as follows.

- June 1 Wheatland at Cheyenne.
- June 8 Cheyenne at Denver.
- June 15 Cheyenne at Greeley. — Saratoga at Wheatland.
- June 22 Round Robin at Saratoga.
- June 29 Round Robin at Wheatland.
- July 6 Saratoga at Cheyenne.
- July 13 Denver at Cheyenne. — Wheatland at Saratoga.
- July 20 SOUTHEAST WYOMING at Wheatland. (Sanctioned)
- July 27 Cheyenne at Saratoga.
- Aug. 3 Greeley at Cheyenne.
- Aug. 10 Cheyenne at Wheatland.
- Aug. 17 TRI-STATE at Cheyenne — Starts at 11 a.m. (Sanctioned)
- Aug. 24 WYBRASKA at LaGrange. — (tentative) (Sanctioned)
- Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 WYOMING STATE at Cheyenne. (Sanctioned)

## MESSAGE FROM SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

*By Perl Pepple*

"My term of office (as I understand it) as one of the Regional Directors of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association expires at the annual meeting of the National Association about July 23. I do not know how much good I have done in this assignment but time will tell. I do know I did my best, and much of the time under severe handicaps, firm in my convictions that I employed my time in a worthy cause. Through personal contact and by correspondence I have benefited because I learned much and gained new friends in the performance of duty. For this I am grateful. This opportunity would not have been available to me were it not for the fact that some National Association Officers had faith in my ability and integrity to serve the horseshoe fraternity, and appointed me as one of the Regional Directors. As the years roll by I am hopeful that nothing may arise to prevent me from continuing to merit the friendship of those who believed in me and cooperated in promoting our great game.

I leave with you all, one parting suggestion: Let's be sure we have our State-National Membership Card paid for this year. Most of us do not realize the importance of having our dues paid, and in the hands of the National Secretary, as far in advance of the date of the Annual Meeting as possible. Doing the right thing at the right time is inspirational to all of us. And there are hardly any limits to the accomplishments to be attained by an inspired person. In meditation I am inclined to compare our organization with a swarm of bees . . . By each one doing his duty we get results, but with too many "drones" we fail. A job well-done gives great satisfaction, and the best thing I get out of efforts to serve my fellowman, horseshoe pitchers and all others, is PEACE OF MIND — the greatest possession a person can ever own.

\* \* \* \* \*

## GERRISH'S COMMENTS FROM MAINE

The "Main News From Maine" in the April issue of the Digest was the title over the writer's name, but it was a very humble item compared to the thoughtful and pertinent essay of three pages by our esteemed friend H. G. Bowman of Hebron, Maine. We are glad to see his capable expression in the pages of our neat magazine again. His argument in favor of the Cancel game is surely good. Anyhow the Non-Cancel type of play is not generally favored over the country for tournament competition.

I am in agreement with his criticism of the 100-shoe means of classifying pitchers. It is a means of eliminating or disqualifying a pitcher in solo pitching without game competition. As he says, men get into wrong classes that way in every tournament that has such "qualifying." Other methods he mentions are better, fairer and more intelligent. Maine simply goes by a man's ability or known record to determine his class group, and that is good and sufficient.

However, I do not subscribe so well to Herbert's "mental spontaneity" regarding his non-usefulness of the NHPA and non-justification for supporting a national organization and affiliating with it. Like the States' need of joining to the federal government, so the different horseshoe associations need to join with the national association to make a united horseshoe government and organization. We have enumerated many other good reasons for the NHPA a number of times, for this "united states" of horseshoe pitching, a brevity of which we again repeat:

1. It is a parent organization for all.
2. It is a Rules and Constitution authority.
3. It gives official sanction for tournaments.
4. Serves as a champion Certifying board.
5. A place to Recognize and Record champions.
6. An affiliation center for all associations.
7. A federal guide and guard for tournaments etc.
8. An advisory board.
9. Sponsor for top horseshoe events.
10. A capital seat for Our Game.

And you can add more. A well pointed outline of NHPA uses and benefits were detailed by our Secretary Beller not long ago.



# Minnesota's Chief Executive Extends An Official Invitation to Join in Centennial

## STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SAINT PAUL 1

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN

GOVERNOR

Dear Mr. Cobb:

*This year, 1958, Minnesota is celebrating her one hundredth year as a state.*

*On behalf of all the people of Minnesota, I would like to invite all horseshoe pitchers, their families and friends to visit our great state during this Centennial year. We have four full seasons each year and consequently our citizens enjoy all types of sports, including the all-time favorite, horseshoe pitching.*

*On August 9th and 10th, at beautiful downtown Minneapolis Loring Park, a special Centennial Open Horseshoe Tournament will be offered. I hope that you and your fellow horseshoe enthusiasts can be with us for this event.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Orville Freeman*

*Mr. F. Ellis Cobb, Editor  
The Horseshoe Pitchers News Digest  
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America  
1307 Solfsburg Avenue  
Aurora, Illinois*

## FIFTH ANNUAL OZARK OPEN TOURNAMENT

David Baker of Wentworth, Missouri will defend his title in the Ozark Open Tournament on June 14th and 15th on the Smith Park courts in Neosho, Missouri. The meet will be open to players from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Qualifying will start at 10 A. M. June 14th and close at 10 A. M. June 15th. 12 men will play in the round robin starting at 10:30 A. M. June 15th. Entry fee will be \$2.00 for the first 100 qualifying shoes and \$1.00 for the second 100. Contestants may then choose highest total of his two series. A trophy will be awarded to the first and second place winners. All contestants must hold a card in the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, and the rules of the NHPA will govern the tournament.

## VIRGIL TAYLOR, INDIANA ACE, TO LEAVE FOR SERVICE

Virgil Taylor, handsome young Indiana ringer artist who has been such a familiar and popular figure at the past three World Tournaments in Utah has a date with Uncle Sam come the month of June and will probably be lost to competitive horseshoe during the 1958 season.

His friends in Indiana and all over the country will miss him at this year's tournaments, but wish him the best of luck during his stint in the armed services.

Virgil celebrated his 21st birthday by playing on the TV show, "Championship Horseshoes" in Chicago last year.

His first appearance at the World Tourney was three years ago where he had a bad qualifying round but came back to sweep the Class B title without the loss of game while averaging 76.6% ringers.

He won 24 of his 35 games in the Championship finals of 1955 to tie for 10th place and averaged 73.4. Last year he finished in a tie for 15th place and had a ringer percentage of 77.2 which was higher than many of those who finished ahead of him.

Last year he averaged 77.2 in the Mid West "Ringer Round Up" and the year before he finished in a tie for third in the same tournament.

Virgil lives on a farm near Greencastle in western Indiana and has been employed at the IBM plant in Indianapolis. He comes from a horseshoe pitching family as his father, Burl Taylor and uncle, Earl Green are both well known pitchers.

\* \* \* \* \*

## TO STAGE JULY 4TH TOURNEY — IOWA PITCHERS ONLY

The Eastern Iowa association will stage a tournament July 4th open to Iowa players ONLY. It will be held at Atkins, Iowa, 9 miles west of Cedar Rapids on Route 30 and 3 miles north. Qualifying starts at 9 A. M. and closes at noon. Finals start at 1 P. M. There are twelve courts and a trophy will be awarded. The meet is sponsored by the Atkins Community.

# 1958



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## HORSESHOE PITCHING GAINING MOMENTUM IN PIKE COUNTY, OHIO

*By Ottie W. Reno*

Horseshoe pitching in Pike County, Ohio, has grown enough in the last two years that it may be of some interest to the readers of your magazine. Prior to 1956 there had been no organized horseshoe pitching in Pike County in many years. In the summer of 1956 the first league was organized and had eight pitchers. Gene Reno was the league champion with 39.3% ringers. The composite ringer percentage of all eight pitchers was only 16.5%.

The summer of 1957 saw our league more than double. Twenty pitchers threw a composite ringer percentage of 24.9% and Bill Skidmore had to throw 45.5% to win the championship.

Our third league was an indoor league made possible by a very interested pitcher, Virgil Parks, a service station owner who converted a cinder block garage into four horseshoe courts for the 1957-58 league. Again our participation doubled with a total of 40 pitchers taking part. Their composite ringer percentage was increased again to 27.7% in spite of several beginners and J. D. Jennings, our champion, threw 49.7% in winning. This league showed five 40% pitchers and nine 30% pitchers. High game for the season was a 70% effort by Jennings on March 26 when he pitched 35 ringers out of 50 shoes.

The starting date of our 1958 summer league was May 19. It will be a night league at the Pike County Fish and Game Farm. The Fish and Game Farm provides six fine courts, clean rest rooms, picnic area, facilities for refreshments and a beautiful daytime view of the green Pike County hills. We have set aside Sunday afternoons for team matches with any teams in our area who want to pitch on a home and away basis.

One feature of our league which is unusual is that we are sponsored by the YMCA of Pike County. They require us to be members of the YMCA, and in return they provide all trophies, score pads, publicity and meeting facilities, and schedule and conduct all league play. It has been a wonderful arrangement so far.

In the 1956 and 1957 summer league we all pitched in one class since we didn't have too many pitchers. But for our winter league we threw 100 qualifying shoes and divided the pitchers into three classes, A, B, and C. It provided a lot more balance in the matches and increased interest a great deal. We used the count all points system, pitching three 50-shoe games each league night. Four classes have been set for the summer league. The pitchers who threw in the winter league will be placed according to the averages they maintained, while new pitchers will be placed by throwing a 100 shoe qualifying round.

Several of our pitchers are going to pitch in your sanctioned tournament play this summer for the first time and if they display the sportsmanship and interest in your tournament that they have shown in our league, I am sure you will enjoy having them. We are short on ability and long on enthusiasm at the moment, but maybe we can learn something as we go along.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LOOKING BACK AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPEN TOURNAMENT

*By Ted Allen*

We are sorry there will not be any Rocky Mt. Open in Boulder again this year, but we will see what can be done for 1960, the Centennial year for Colorado.

Our 1957 tourney was again a success. With 32 of the classiest players filling every spot. It must have lived up to its publicity as a "Warm up" tourney for the World's tourney. As they went on to Utah and records fell right and left at the World's meet.

All the players and wives who had the free breakfast furnished by Boulder Horseshoe Club, atop Flagstaff Mt., which looks almost directly down on the city, the morning of July 16th, were delighted with the atmosphere, scenery, bacon and eggs picnic style over an open fire. Before and after eating they viewed the scenery of the valley to the east and then the glacier pocked mountains to the west. The beautiful drive up and back on switch-back turns afforded more scenery.

It had been my worry as to how we would get the meal served to 50 or 75 people. I never counted heads, but we had quite a nice gathering in the early morning sun. To

my surprise and delight, not to mention relief, Gertsie Lou and I had plenty of help.

Out of the group there appeared several with the culinary art in the outdoors. Mr. Manker, Jr., son of Stanley Manker of Ohio, exceptionally expert, Harold Wolfe, Ohio, Dave Fuller and Fred Engle of Greeley, Colo. and Gertsie all took turns at flipping the eggs and bacon and serving. Speed wasn't the word for it. It was amazing. It was all done with in a little over an hour. But I never knew how much fun it was to never mind a couple of eggs missing the mark and ending in the fire. Considering the speed done, I now wonder, even tho it is tough cooking for a large group of hunters, why it ever took us two hours to get breakfast for ten deer hunters. Maybe the mud got too deep.

Hurrying back to the courts to get Class A underway, we finished about 10:30 P.M. Class B players had finished the day before and had started on their way to Utah earlier in the morning. All summer long we had been plagued with an unusual weather condition. Regular as a clock a strong wind would come down the canyon about 8:00 P.M. and subside about 10:30 P.M. It didn't fail us again at the tourney. And I'm a dub in the wind with my floating shoe. Class B playoffs between Earl Winston, La Monte, Mo. and Earl Graves, Denver, won by Graves in two out of three. Class A championship was taken by Harold Reno, Sabina, Ohio, in two out of three with Ted Allen, dethroning the 1956 champ Milton Tate. But the record qualifying score set by Tate in 1956 still stands, 88 ringers in 100 shoes.

The local club members appeared after working hours to help with tourney duties. Probably one of the busiest if not the busiest, was World's champion lady Gertsie Lou, who won that title later, being the tournament clerk, and helping to arrange for score keepers, keeping records, etc. We appreciated the help and loan of Denver men, and their score boards.

It appears that this year I will be able to get away in time to loaf along the way to Utah, fishing, rock hunting, etc. and doing things to balance my legs. One of the things which I consider an important part in my training is to take short hikes up a mountain each day before getting to Utah. It strengthens the legs, makes it easier to toss shoes. But the walk must be done at a normal pace, too fast will stiffen the muscles. It takes practice and experience to know how much.

Practicing in Colorado in the winter time isn't anything unusual. The general belief from out of staters is that we are locked in winter, and read about the record cold at Frasier every winter. What they do not know is that Frasier is in a cold pocket where it seems the cold air settles, in the high valley on the other side of the divide. Along the foothills we have many warm sunny days suitable for playing in shirt sleeves, in the daytime.

In the next issue I want to tell you how much easier it is to promote a world's tourney in your area than you think.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ROEDING PARK CLUB NEWS FROM FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

*By Major Dalton*

Ira Allen, a brother of the World's champion Ted Allen, and who was winning local, valley and state tournaments more than two decades ago, still has that "magic" touch with the horseshoes. Ira swept through the seven game round robin of the Roeding Park Club tournament without a loss. The meet was held on May 11th. Following in his father's footsteps but at a slower pace was Leon Allen who finished seventh. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 9814 are sponsoring the Roeding club this year and through Marion Hicks, their representative, presented trophies to the top three players.

The next big attraction for the Roeding Park Club will be the Northern California Class B tournament to be held on June 21 and 22 at Fresno.

In an effort to promote horseshoes among the Girl Scouts and Brownies in the El-O-Win Council of the Fresno district a letter was received from Miss Gertsie Lou Selby, World's Women's Champion to the girls which was a thrill to each of them. A copy was given to each girl. There are over 500 girls in the council and of that group 36 are now receiving instructions in pitching and are very keen about the game.

Below are the scores of the May 11th tournament.

	W	L		W	L
Ira Allen .....	7	0	Ray Lambeth .....	3	4
John Roscoe .....	6	1	Bob Hollander .....	2	5
James Wilfong .....	5	2	Leon Allen .....	1	6
J. W. Fulton .....	4	3	Les Sage .....	0	7

## HUGH ROGERS WINS CENTRAL IOWA OPEN TOURNAMENT

Iowa Hawkeye activities got under way on May 18th at Birdland Park, Des Moines, Iowa, with the Central Iowa Open Tournament being the first event.

A terrific wind made it very difficult for all players to do their best. However, at the close of the 7-game round robin, Hugh Rogers, Cedar Falls, Wellington Taylor, of Grand River and Harry Page of Waterloo were all tied for first place honors in Class A. In the play-off, Rogers emerged the victor, thereby taking possession of the trophy. In Class B veteran Dale Dixon of Des Moines got the nod for first place, while down in the Class C section Marvel Bean, also of Des Moines took top honors.

<i>Class A</i>		W	L
1. Hugh Rogers, Cedar Falls, Trophy .....	7	1	
2. Wellington Taylor, Grand River, Ia. ....	6	2	
3. Harry Page, Waterloo, Ia. ....	6	2	
4. Earl Wiges, Exira, Ia. ....	4	3	
5. Harold Shaw, Fairfield, Ia. ....	2	5	
6. Marion Lange, Bendorf, Ia. ....	2	5	
7. Clarence Spier, Waverly, Ia. ....	1	6	
8. Harold Darnold, Burlington, Ia. ....	1	6	

<i>Class B</i>			
1. Dale Dixon, Des Moines, Ia. Trophy .....	7	0	
2. John Paxton, Ottumwa, Ia. ....	6	2	
3. John Weakland, Osceola, Ia. ....	5	2	
4. Ernie Danielson, Sr., West Burlington, Ia. ....	4	3	
5. Othe Casey, Des Moines, Ia. ....	2	5	
6. Burch Merferd, Des Moines, Ia. ....	2	5	
7. Royce Gale, Des Moines, Ia. ....	1	6	
8. Leo Mamand, Peru, Ia. ....	1	6	

<i>Class C</i>			
1. Marvel Bean, Des Moines, Ia. ....	7	1	
2. Oscar Abrahamson, Des Moines, Ia. ....	6	2	
3. Carl Bennett, Des Moines, Ia. ....	5	2	
4. Ernie Danielson, Jr., West Burlington, Ia. ....	4	3	
5. Charles Boston, Des Moines, Ia. ....	3	4	
6. Harry Savage, Des Moines, Ia. ....	3	4	
7. Roy Anderson, Des Moines, Ia. ....	1	6	
8. Fred Burkman, Des Moines, Ia. ....	0	7	



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## 1958 WORLD TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Tournament play will be July 24, through 30.
2. Qualifying dates are July 21, 22, 23. Qualifying will end at 12:00 midnight, Wednesday, July 23.
3. Entry fee is \$10.00 per qualification.
4. Entrant must be a member of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.
5. All contestants must have their name, town, and state lettered on their shirts to be readable at a distance of 50 feet. These are to be worn in qualifying as well as tournament play.
6. Only N.H.P.A. sanctioned shoes may be used during qualifying and tournament play.
7. Contestants will pitch 200 consecutive shoes, total points to count. A scorekeeper will be stationed at each end of the court, keeping duplicate scores; said scorekeepers must reside in a state other than that of the qualifier.
  - (a) Contestants may have a second chance to qualify provided:
    - (1) They declare themselves within 15 minutes after their first qualification is completed. Scorekeepers will designate completion time on score sheet.
    - (2) A second entry fee of \$10.00 is paid at the time of declaration. *The second score only will be used.*
8. The delegates assembled in the 1957 convention voted to use the same method of play in the 1958 World Tournament as was used in the 1957 tournament.

### FINALS — GROUP I

At the end of these two 18 man round robins, the top 7 men from each group will form a 14 man round robin for the championship (13 games here), 5 games to be played the fourth night, 4 games the fifth night and 4 games the sixth night.

### FINALS — GROUP II

The next six high men from each group of the Semi-Finals will form a 12 man round robin and play 11 games, 6 games to be played the fourth night, and 5 games the fifth night. This group plays for a trophy and for 15th to 26th places.

### FINALS — GROUP III

The last 5 from each group of the Semi-Finals form a 10 man round robin and play 9 games, 5 games to be played the fourth night and four games the fifth night. This group plays for a trophy and for 27th to 36th places.

### CLASS B

Class B shall consist of 20 men, qualifiers 37 through 56. These 20 will be divided into two equal groups of 10 each, playing 9 games.

Class A plays only 6 games per night, starting at 6:30 and playing straight through.

Class B will play 3 games an afternoon for the first three days, starting at 3:00 and playing to 5:30.

### FINALS, CLASS B

The two top men from each group of 10 will form a 4 man round robin playing 3 games the fourth day for the championship of Class B.

**RULES FOR PLAY.** A round robin schedule allowing the best players to meet in the final games will be used. The best players can be placed according to their performance in the 18 man Semi-Final round robin. Since 4 games will be played the final night, this method allows the deciding games to be played then.

9. Contestants are encouraged to keep games on schedule; a player shall not stall or take unnecessary time in playing a game. Any player guilty of this offense will be warned by the tournament officials. If the offense is repeated, he must forfeit the game.
10. Contestants involved shall throw 50 shoes in the following cases:
  - (a) If there is a tie in the qualifying score for 36th place in Class A
  - (b) If there is a tie in the qualifying score for 20th place in Class B
  - (c) If tied in equal number of games won for 14th man in group 1
  - (d) If tied in equal number of games won for 12th man in group 2
11. In case of a tie in qualifying scores (except for last place) a player's ranking number will be decided by the flip of a coin.
12. In case two players tie for first, the World's Championship will be decided by a best 2 out of 3 game play-off.
13. Final place of a contestant, except a tie for first, (world's champion only) will be decided as follows:
  - (a) By games won.
  - (b) By points accumulated.
  - (c) By ringer percentage.
14. Any other unforeseen problems will be settled by the tournament committee.

## MID WEST "RINGER ROUND UP"

150 Shoe qualifying round — Friday afternoon, July 4, Saturday afternoon, July 5. Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana. Class A will contain 12 players, Class B ten players, and Classes C, D, E, and F will each contain six players. Championship play in Classes C, D, E and F will begin at 7:00 P.M. Saturday evening. Class A and Class B will begin play at 9:30 Sunday morning. Entry fee will be \$3.00 and all entrants must hold 1958 N.H.P.A. memberships which will be available at the Tournament.

Approximately \$600.00 in cash prizes and trophies will be up for grabs, the same as last year. The recession has hurt memberships and cash donations by local merchants for the event, but the tournament management hopes to equal last years array of cash prizes.

## SUGGESTED RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS FOR DELEGATES

It will be about a month from now that the National Tournament at Murray, Utah will take place. So I am sending a few things for the one's who are going to the National Convention to think over.

Quite a few letters have come to me about the Horseshoe Digest; they all think it is a good magazine and hear about all the tournaments. Would like for a motion to be made if 2 persons in one family buying a horseshoe card and receiving the Horseshoe Digest, the 2nd, Digest should be made optional. In other words if the 2nd card is sold in one family it will be up to him or her if they want the Digest or not. Such as father and son or daughter, mother and daughter or son, man or wife, and last father, mother and son or daughter. It can get a little involved.

Another motion or resolution be made to honor a player or a Promoter, who has served his state in promotion of horseshoe by the National Association. Such as a Certificate like the National Horseshoe Champion receives, after he or she has worked for the promotion of horseshoes for 25 years. Number of years can be decided upon at the National Convention.

Now I am coming to the last Motion at this time and that is about the NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Official Rules Constitution and By-Laws Scoring Rules Book, that is given out at the National Convention. This book should be given to each National member. If that isn't advisable then the Secretary of each State Association should receive enough to give to his Officers of his Association.

Paul Focht, Dayton, Ohio.

## NOTICE TO STATE OFFICIALS REGARDING DELEGATES

The State secretaries should send in all names and dues of all members they have on hand before July convention at Murray, Utah. The number of members you have in your State determines the number of delegates you are entitled to seat in convention. So make an effort to rally all you can.

Your State president should appoint, in advance, delegates from members who intend to be present at the convention. Send me their names in advance or send credentials with them. Check your constitution to determine number of delegates you are entitled to seat.

Elmer O. Beller National Sec-Treas.

## PORTSMOUTH JUBILEE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

This tournament is in connection with the Portsmouth Jubilee, a week long celebration comprising of many events.

PLACE — The 8 clay courts are located on the Junior High School Field at the South Playground in back of the Parrott Avenue Armory in Portsmouth, N. H. Time — 10:00 A.M., June 29.

This tournament will be sanctioned by The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America. Competition will be staged in three classes namely "A", "B" and "C". ELIGIBILITY — Open to any pitcher in the world. All pitchers must have a combination state and National card. Cards will be sold at the courts. ENTRY FEE — \$1.00 for all classes. QUALIFYING — There will be no qualifying unless a pitcher is unknown then he will be asked to pitch 50 shoes to determine the class he shall belong in. Following are the three classes competing in the tournament: (Determined ringer percentage) Class A — Those pitching 50% or over. Class B — Those pitching 35% to 50%. Class C — Those pitching up to 35%.

PRIZES — A total of nine beautiful trophies, three to a class. In addition the 3 class winners will receive official championship certificates with National gold seal signed by the National President and Secretary.



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