



The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association



NEWSLINE

VOL. 10 NO. 3

MAY/JUNE





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Steven Boga is the author of several books on sports and the outdoors, including croquet and Badminton. He lives near San Francisco.

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ON THE COVER

New Melle Wins Over Music City. See story on page 17.

President's Message

I haven't received a great deal of feedback on the proposed Bylaw changes in the last issue. Yes, there has been some, particularly on the idea of going back to a two card system, tournament player or league player. Officers from four charters have shared their thoughts with me. One large charter is very much against the proposal while the other three seem to be in favor of it.

It appears some feel we are trying to force a subscription of *Newsline* on members. It is true that the NHPA Council would like to see *Newsline* in the household of every member, but we drew the line at saying those interested in league only should be required to get the magazine. Our average member has only a passing knowledge of what is happening in the association. This is often proven to Council members by the array of questions and statements we receive from pitchers. Often basic fundamentals are unknown or misinterpreted. Questions are asked about things that have been covered in *Newsline*. Are the inquirers subscribers? Most times not. Would those who now want to say we are trying to force the magazine on them feel the same if when they had joined, the dues included a magazine? I think not. Because the NHPA failed to include a magazine or newsletter in its dues structure years ago, as the majority of progressive organizations and societies do, is that ample reason to say we should not now try to correct this oversight?

In the past couple of years, we have been receiving some comments to increase the dues. While I personally agree that \$12 per year is very inexpensive, I also realize that any dues increase would not be well supported, especially if nothing

new came with it. What then should we do, if anything? A current household of two adult members subscribing to *Newsline* pay \$36 per year to the NHPA. One member getting the magazine now pays \$24. Under the proposed Bylaw change, those same households would have their fees to the NHPA reduced by \$4 to \$32.00 and \$20.00 respectively. It is estimated that this reduction would effect about 30% of our members. We also estimate that another 25-30% of our members are primarily interested in sanctioned league only and pitch in maybe one, but generally no tournaments. That being the case, the majority of league only players, we surmise, would not be against a \$10.00 card that saved them \$2.00. They could separately subscribe to *Newsline* for \$12.00 if they wanted, but why not just take a tournament card for \$20.00 when it includes *Newsline*??

We have crunched the *Newsline* numbers with our printer. If we were mailing out nine or ten thousand per issue rather than the current 2,800, our per unit costs would be substantially reduced. Enough, we estimate, that \$8.00 per year would cover the magazine cost. Granted, a two-card system would probably be some more work for State Secretaries, especially those charters with a large number of league-only players. But, that does not, in the minds of the Executive Council, negate the wisdom of this proposal nor should it be sufficient reason for delegates to vote it down. Whatever your point of view, please keep an open mind to this and all the other proposals as well. In the end, the delegates will vote decisions that we can only hope voice the views of the majority.

Dave's Court Report

■ Walter Ray Williams Jr. holds the world record for the highest tournament average pitched, 92.37% on April 9, 1994 at Ontario, Canada. He also held what is believed to be the next two highest tournaments with a 92.28% on May 12, 1990 at Santa Rosa, CA and a 91.25% on Sept. 5, 1995 at Pleasanton, CA. Well, he has just added another with a 90.55% on March 21, 1998, also at Pleasanton. In this tournament of 8 games, including a play-off against Senior Ladies World Champion Teddy Guillotte, Walter had five games of 92.5% or better. He had one game of 97.5% pitching 39 out of 40. WOW!

■ Congratulations to Sol Berman, a 50 year lifetime member of the NHPA. Sol, who splits his year between Florida and New Jersey has, for much of his lifetime, been promoting horseshoes and filming the legends of the sport. He is a former top notch pitcher, having won several New Jersey State Championships where he was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1976. In 1986, Sol was inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame and on April 19, 1998, Sol became a member of the Florida State Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame.

■ 1997 membership awards will be handed out at the Awards banquet in Ainsworth. They will go to Missouri for most adult members, 967; Minnesota, most junior members, 126; Illinois, largest adult increase, 50; Vermont, largest adult percentage increase, 34.75%.

■ Plan on attending the NHPF sponsored Awards Banquet in

Ainsworth. Dinner will consist of Chicken, Beef Burgundy, Au Gratin potatoes, green beans with almonds, tossed salad, dinner roll, dessert, coffee and tea. The cost of a ticket is \$15.00, part of which is a tax deductible donation to the NHPF. Your ticket can be ordered or reserved in advance by contacting Earl or Vicki Winston. Their address/phone is listed on page 3 under 1st VP. Checks should be made payable to the NHPF.

■ Sad to report, word has reached us that junior pitching for credit in P.E. classes in the Vernon B.C. High School has been discontinued for lack of interest. Started ten years ago by then Horseshoe Canada President, Ed Murray, the program apparently succumbed to stronger competition from other sports.

■ Very few horseshoes are patented. In the last 20 years, only 3 patents have been granted for horseshoes. Clyde Martz obtained one for the Imperial in 1968, Ray "Pete" Donoho patented the Cal-Flip in 1987 and on January 6, 1998, Johnny Davenport received a patent for his Mr. D horseshoe.

■ Corporate sponsorship of horseshoe pitching is almost non-existent in the States and most provinces of Canada. However, in Nova Scotia, the local association has succeeded in not only getting horseshoe competition on weekly TV for several years, but having a regular corporate sponsor. For the past 6 years, "Labatt" has included "Jackpot Horseshoes," run by the Nova Scotia HPA among their family of sponsorships. Do they have a secret?

Three Bidders for Year 2000 World

It would appear that the recent changes (see President's Message, March/April 1998 *Newsline*) made to our World Tournament bid requirements had the desired effect. For the first time in years, we have received bids from three sites. That should make the convention a bit more exciting as the delegates try to vote a majority for one. If after the first ballot, none of the three receive a majority vote, by NHPA Bylaws, the following will happen. The site with the least amount of votes will be dropped from the second ballot while the two remaining will have a run-off. The bidding sites who will be represented and have booths in Ainsworth are:

Bismarck, North Dakota—With backing from the North Dakota HPA, the Bismarck-Mandan Convention & Visitors Bureau bid \$15,000 plus a commitment to meet all the other requirements of the contract. Their proposed dates are July 31-August 13, 2000. The offered indoor site is the V.F.W. All Seasons Arena of approximately 39,000 sq. ft. which will fit 32-46 courts depending upon layout. Numerous national sporting events have been held in this complex. RV parking is not available at the arena but some 400 sites can be found at six locations within a 15 minute drive. The Bismarck HC has 24 covered courts available for practice at their new Wildwood Horseshoe Complex. 2,500 motel rooms in various price ranges are available.

Gillette, Wyoming—Once again, the city of Gillette and the Cam-Plex Facility invite us there with a \$15,000 bid, plus agreement to meet the other requirements of the contract. Cam-Plex, site of the 1996 World, is proposing the dates of July 17-30, 2000. Their facility is known to be adequate with expansion space available in the adjoining arena if needed. Cam-Plex offers up to 600 RV spaces on their grounds, most with full hook-ups. Practice courts and over 500 motel rooms are available in town. They have retained the Missouri Blue Clay used in 1996 in hopes of getting us back.

Midland, Michigan—The Midland Horseshoe Club, the Michigan HPA and the Midland County Convention

& Visitors Bureau have submitted a \$15,000 bid. The proposed site is the Midland Civic Arena, a 60,000 square foot complex of two adjoining ice rinks with bleachers, very similar to Kitchener. No RV parking is available outside the building. There are 450 camper sites at the fairgrounds and 96 sites at Valley Plaza Resort, both about

2.5 miles from the arena. Practice courts would be at the Midland Horseshoe Club, 2 miles from the tournament site. Due to prior bookings, the Midland Civic Arena is proposing dates of June 11-25, 2000. Midland, the founding location of Dow Chemical, has over 1,000 motel rooms of all price ranges.

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Dave,

It seems that regularly in *Newsline* we are faced with the same complaint in the "Letters to the Editor" section. The problem is always the same. What to do with the 30' pitchers. I have been following this for an extended period of time now and feel compelled to present "an East Coast point of view." I say that because each time I read about a problem with 30' pitchers, it seems to originate on the West Coast, particularly in southern California. Is this a serious problem with our sport, or just a "West Coast" problem?

I have been a tournament director as well as a Regional Director for the NHPA for more than 15 years now in the Mid-Atlantic area of the East Coast. I have been to, as well as conducted, countless tournaments where pitchers are "mixed" with 30' players. It is rare that I hear any complaints. I honestly believe that this is because we use NatStats ringer percentages. What difference could it possibly make where a person stands—30' or 40'—if his/her NatStats ringer percentage is the same?

I have found that those who complain should try to focus on *their* game and not on where the opponent is standing. I realize that for many this is very difficult because there is so much timing and rhythm involved in the

sport that a 30' pitcher could, and many times does, shatter their opponents concentration.

In my opinion the 30' rule should stay exactly as it is without any changes because NatStats averages make horseshoe pitching fair to everyone involved.

Ray Matlock, Reg. Director #42-43,
Maryland, Delaware

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks Ray. I agree that too much may be written, but I publish what the members send me. Contrary to what it may seem, the problem and comments are widespread. Since January 1997, *Newsline* has printed 28 member letters on the controversy. Four originated with California members, six from Missouri, two each from Wisconsin, Utah, Oregon and Nebraska and nine from other states, five of which are east of the Mississippi River. While several were along the lines of your letter, we have found opposition to mixed play in all corners of the NHPA.

Dear Dave,

This letter concerns the 10 tournament rule for our NatStat percentages. The rule was originally made to prevent "sandbaggers." I don't think that this rule is doing that, in fact I think it is hurting us! The high caliber pitchers won't pitch in doubles tournaments because with the 10 tournament rule their percentage will drop. Hardly anyone pitches their percentage in doubles play, it's mainly for fun. The majority of horseshoe pitchers want to improve, not sandbag. My percentage will drop this month because my best tournament was only six months ago, and I've had over 10 tournaments since then. I'm trying to improve my percentage and be the best I can. A true sandbagger will find a way to sandbag regardless of the rules. Why can't we just have the top 3 or 4 tournaments within the last 12 months? This would keep some people from stopping at 10 tournaments, and enjoy pitching all of the tournaments they want.

Allen A. Baptist, Reg. Director
CHPA Secretary

Dear Editor,

To me, the most interesting part of *Newsline* are these letters from these strange pitchers with weird ideas, espe-

cially when they provoke some friendly controversy. Something must be wrong with us to keep at such a frustrating game these many years.

I suppose I'm belaboring this point on raised pits, but some of us with Ph.D.s in common sense were disappointed that the proposed rule change of adjusting the foul lines forward equal to the distance the pit was elevated was rejected. I thought we had proved conclusively that it did make a significant difference of from 6-8" or more depending, of course, on how high the path of the shoe is. Someone throwing a high arching shoe would not be affected as much. If these experts with Ph.D.s who are influencing this decision would get rid of the old paradigm of the change in distance which is infinitesimal would visualize or better yet, make a simple sketch of the path of the shoe, they would immediately see where the shoe meets the pit when it is raised. Or it would be the same as pitching up hill on a tilted court. That is why it is so important that courts be laid out perfectly level, and not have the material piled higher around the pegs than the pitching pads.

Is this nit-picking too much? Haven't all of you had a game that hinged on a ringer measurement of one thousandth of an inch? Oh, if only the points of the shoe hadn't been blunted. And here we are talking of 6".

I guess it really doesn't matter that much as raised pits aren't used that often and all players are nearly in the same boat. Some can make their own adjustment anyway if they pitch some distance from the foul line. Those that throw a high shoe or one hitting high on the peg, or those that can make a change easily or have a chance for some practice on elevated pits would be affected the least.

When the pits are placed, they could be placed a few inches closer together, then it should be the same as flush pits at the full distance.

Thanks again,

Dudley Trueblood, Ph.D. in Hot Air
P.O. Box 8, Howell, UT

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Newsline* believes the writer's name to be fictitious, but went with it since an address was given.

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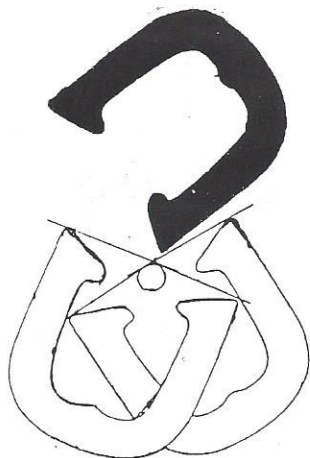
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TRUE Cancellation

by Sol Berman

True Cancellation was a topic of the 1997 convention when proposed rule changes were voted on. I do not believe the membership truly understands the reason why True Cancellation scoring of single points should replace our present scoring. The objective in horseshoes is to pitch an open shoe and a ringer. Due to the fact that a horseshoe has an open end and is not round makes the quoit scoring of single points unsuited for horseshoe pitching.



In the sketch, the black shoe gets a point under our present cancellation scoring system. The two white shoes are ignored. Scoring the shoes in the sketch using Count-all and True Cancellation will give the same results, 2-1 for the white in Count-all and 1-0 for the white in True Cancellation. In each case, white is ahead by only one point. But, in cancellation, black has the only point. If the two point touch proposal had been approved, the white shoes would have been ringers scoring 6 points. That's a seven point difference from where the black shoe leads 1-0.

The reason for the 2 point touch (a straight edge touching both points of the shoe) is that it takes only 10 seconds to measure while trying to check that it is not a 3 point touch (current rule) could take 10 minutes. In 95% of cases where we now have a 3 point touch (not a ringer), it could probably be proved that the stake is not of the proper 3" lean as it has been beaten backward from all the shoes hitting it. If we could align it to the proper 3" as we measure for a ringer, we would find that most 3 point touches are really

clear ringers as a straight edge touches both points of the shoe.

About 100 delegates at the 1997 Convention in Kitchener voted against the 2 point touch and True Cancellation. A large number of delegates are low average pitchers. They probably believe that True Cancellation scoring would rob them of many single points. Even some better pitchers may believe that. But is it really true? Look at the sketch again. If the lower class pitcher were white shoes, he actually scores one point under True Cancellation where now only the black shoe scores.

In True Cancellation, shoes within 6" of the stake either score or prevent the opponent shoes from scoring single points. It doesn't make any difference whether the shoe is 1" or 5" from the stake. True Cancellation scores single points in the same manner as Count-all. All shoes within 6" of the stake are of equal value. They cancel one another just as a solid ringer is

canceled by one that just measures.

Think again of the object of the game (to throw an open shoe & ringer) and then think about the games and championships that have been lost because an opponent threw a bad shoe that rolled up against the stake and scored a winning point over the perfectly thrown shoe that was a 3 point touch (no ringer). Just because we have allowed this poor method of quoit scoring to prevail in horseshoes in the past, it is no reason to let it continue. Progressive sports make rule changes. Isn't it about time we did the same?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Newsline invites member response on the above. It will be interesting to see if the delegates truly voted the way the majority feel.

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A New Season is Beginning

by Bob Dunn

A fresh new pitching season is just beginning for most of our horseshoe leagues. It is interesting to note that most of our leagues and clubs are relatively young in relation to those that may be starting their 30th or 40th season. Most clubs are less than twenty years old. Yet, there are some older ones such as the St. Paul-Ramsey Club (MN), about to begin their 64th consecutive season. There may be a few other clubs that have had such longevity, and it would be good to know about them so we can give appropriate recognition. It takes a long line of dedicated promoters and

leaders for any club to exceed fifty years.

But how about a club celebrating its 100 anniversary? The horseshoe club of Meadville, PA has not been active for a few years now, but they have the distinction of being the nation's first horseshoe club. At least the earliest club to leave a record of their existence and their beginning. Now imagine that this club existed more than twenty years before there was the NHPA and ten years before the first World Tournament (1909).

Following, is an incredible story written in 1963 to then NHPA

secretary Bob Pence, by one of the original members, Hike Browning. The Meadville Club may not have been the largest club, but they were our first and the fact that this club was started by a bunch of youngsters just makes this all even more fascinating. Those kids did so well that the league was active for over seventy years.

To read this story, is to read about the very first league promoters of our sport. Now we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the first league season of the Meadville Horseshoe League...

The Meadville Horseshoe League

by Hike Browning (1963)

My first interest in horseshoe pitching was ignited in 1894 when as a boy of eight I attended a picnic and saw some men pitching. I was immediately fascinated, although I can remember very few ringers being thrown.

On returning home I contacted some of my friends and five of us started to pitch horseshoe. We had only two rules, the stakes to be 25 feet apart and the closest shoe to the stake counted one point. We played 11, 15 and 21 point games. We threw no ringers for a very lengthy time.

Before long we had about 30 boys playing but only when and who they chose to play.

In 1895, we had several players who were capable of throwing a ringer occasionally. We increased the distance to 30 feet and our rules were: Games of 11, 15 and 21 points; ringers 3 points; Hubbers 2 points; and the closest shoe to the stake 1 point, if not more than 1 foot from the stake.

In 1896, we found that at great intervals, someone would top his opponent's ringer, so we again revised our rules to include: If a player topped his opponent's ringer with a ringer or a hubber, he received all of the count, be it 5 points or 6 points.

In 1897, we played sets of games consisting of sixty shoes, with each player playing all other players the same total number of games. Only the better players entered this setup.

Some players had become interested in their scoring totals and in their ringer percentage, so in 1898, we scheduled a season of 150 games. We kept records of games won and lost, shoes pitched, total points, total ringers and percentage of ringers. The players ranged from 28% down to 14%.

That year, Leo Balizet and I played two brothers from Oilcity, PA, and won ten straight games which may well have been the first inter-city match ever played in horseshoe.

1898 Final Stats

Player	W	L	SP	Pts	R	%
Leo Balizet	89	61	2136	1949	601	28
Hike Browning	85	65	2134	1926	597	27
Shang Carey	76	74	2154	1847	519	24
Dan Kater	72	78	2134	1859	496	23
Norm Borquin	65	85	2130	1832	445	20
Chuder Kater	63	87	2118	1787	300	14

We were pretty cocky over our showing and in April of 1899 decided to for-

mally organize the Meadville Horseshoe League into four doubles teams of our best players and played a schedule of 150 games. In 1899, Leo Balizet had a ringer percentage of 34%.

1899 Final Standings

Teams	W	L	Pts	R	%
Bostonians	118	32	3300	815	49
Cubs	79	71	2270	501	23
Athletics	73	77	2214	481	21
Pirates	30	120	1764	450	20

Bostonians—Leo Balizet & Hike Browning
Cubs—Frank Carey & Lee Howery
Athletics—Dan Kater & Norm Borquin
Pirates—Ernest Kater & Harry Schisler

1899 Standing of Individual Players

Player	SP	Pts	R	DR	%
L. Halizet	1200	1850	419	27	34.0
H. Browning	1220	1450	396	22	32.4
F. Carey	1200	1223	270	16	23.0
D. Kater	1260	1220	276	12	20.0
E. Kater	1210	1004	264	14	21.0
L. Howery	1246	1047	231	7	18.9
N. Borquin	1270	994	205	9	16.4
S. Schisler	1220	780	186	6	14.5

From 1900 through 1923, we played

singles and matches, but in 1924, we had an eight team league of 16 regular players and 19 other players.

In 1905 we discovered that Leo Balizet was having his shoe with the heel open to the stake much more often than any other player but we had no idea why. We asked him but he didn't know why. Finally we noticed that he was putting his index finger up along the side of the shoe when he pitched and we all tried this out and finally accomplished what is now called the "open shoe."

First County League Finals (1909)

Player	W	L	SP	R	%
Leo Balizet	80	20	1476	650	44.0
Hike Browning	79	21	1498	652	43.5
Chuder Kater	46	54	1504	549	36.5
Ed Kater	35	65	1460	493	33.7
Edgar Balizet	30	70	1442	405	28.0
Biff Bossard	30	70	1464	370	25.2

1913 County League Finals

Player	W	L	SP	R	%
Hike Browning	76	24	1790	913	51.0
Leo Balizet	68	32	1782	878	49.0
Edgar Balizet	54	46	1766	826	46.0
George Balizet	48	52	1748	756	43.0
Chuder Kater	31	69	1774	703	39.0
Earl Weinegar	23	77	1788	684	38.0

Between the years 1924 (in which we secured regulation shoes) and 1963, we played both singles and doubles as well as match games. We made gradual improvement between 1924 and 1929, but the golden years, as we like to call them were from 1930 through 1950, when we had several players pitching from 50% to over 70%. In 1950, there were 12 players averaging 50%, led by Glen Sebring with 57%.

After 1950, the caliber of our pitchers declined due to the fact that practically all our top players had retired from active participation in the game and of this date we have only one player pitching over 50%.

We organized the Crawford County Association in 1932 and joined the

NHPA in 1935. We withdrew from the National Association in 1954 or 1995 due to a vote of the membership wishing to keep more money in our county treasury.

1931 County League Finals

Player	W	L	SP	Pts	R	%
Tom Browning	90	10	1714	1915	1114	64
Hike Browning	76	24	1736	1812	1101	63
Albert Keil	73	27	1738	1600	1084	62
Bill Weekly	67	33	1730	1500	1060	61
Art Baird	59	41	1748	1403	985	56
Bill Bradley	50	50	1754	1598	967	55
Bill Clancy	42	58	1782	1336	887	49
Jim Rogers	36	64	1792	1014	862	48
Woody Wilson	25	75	1788	1127	840	46
Regis Theuret	20	80	1758	994	803	45
Rodney Rogers	12	88	1770	1211	780	44

Since day one, we have kept a record of everything that each individual player has ever accomplished during his career in singles, doubles, tournaments and all other recorded games: Games Played, Games Won, Games Lost, Shoes Pitched, Points Scored, Ringers, Doubles, Top Ringers, Top Doubles, Championships Won, High Game %, High Series %, High Season, Career Average.

All-Time Career Games Stats For A Few Top League Players

Player Name	M.H.L. Doub.	M.H.L. Sing.	M.H.L. Match	Other Records
Hike Browning	2826	2364	2245	956
Total Games 8391, Career Avg. 63%				
Albert Heil	2707	689	177	477
Total Games 4059, Career Avg 53%				
Leo Balizet	150	1779	971	773
Total Games 3673, Career Avg. 51%				
N.E. Stainbrook	1725	418	230	532
Total Games 2805, Career Avg. 56%				
Bill Weekly	1166	433	105	230
Total Games 1934, Career Avg. 54%				
Tom Browning	1267	220	154	253
Total Games 1934, Career Avg. 68%				
Alex Levinski	480	138	136	436
Total Games 1190, Career Avg. 67%				

There have been early-day players credited with being the first to develop the art of pitching an "open shoe," most commonly that distinction has been granted to George May. Now there is one more credited with the feat in 1905, long before George May ever touched a horseshoe!

Believe it or not, there are horseshoe clubs that are not sanctioned. With the marvelous NHPA Sanctioned League Program available, this is difficult to understand. Would the officers of each non-sanctioned club please contact VP Bev Born and request a Red Book.

The Red Book describes the Sanctioned League Program and the various awards that are provided at no additional fee to club members beyond the \$12.00 NHPA membership dues. There are so many reasons for clubs to be in the Sanctioned League Program, and really no good reasons not to. We need more sanctioned clubs.

Charter officers probably don't need more tasks for 1998, but hopefully developing a new member packet is on the agenda for this year. This item was described in Focus on Promotion (Jan./Feb. 1997). Some charters are following through on this worthwhile project.

As more charters provide new members with a packet of information about *Newsline*, entering tournaments and other charter material, all charters will be enhanced as well as the NHPA.

Last issue recognized the youngest member of the NCHPA. Here is a welcome to the youngest NHPA members nationally—Emma and Erin Hardy, born February 2, 1998, daughters of Paul Hardy of the Brooklyn Park Horseshoe Club (MN) and twin granddaughters of yours truly.



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Junior Trust Funds Increase

by Dave Loucks

The NHPA is proud to be able to recognize some junior members who excel scholastically or become a Championship finalist in the World Tournament. In our Sanctioned League program, we award up to \$1,000 in trust funds yearly and at the W.T. we have typically awarded \$3,000 to \$3,500. This year, the Junior finalists at the World will receive a combined total of \$4,700 in trust money.

Our junior programs are showing improvement and we hope to make even greater strides in the future. It is our hope that the newly formed NHPF will one day have an endowment big enough to award not only larger trusts, but offer more programs and opportunities for the horseshoe pitching youth of America. Much will depend on your tax deductible donations to the NHPF as the Foundation will one day take over the funding of all junior horseshoe pitching programs.

In the ten years 1987-1996, the NHPA paid out \$19,629.27 in cash to 29 junior winners when they completed high school. In 1997, another \$3,797.51 was paid out as four more former juniors claimed their trusts. Their money went to Penny Steinke, \$1,124.03; Becky Kemper, \$764.15; Michael Newton, \$1,632.36 and Bridget Moody, \$276.97. As of the start of 1998, the NHPA is maintaining trust funds for 27 other juniors, the balance of which is \$12,317.21. That means that over the past eleven years, the NHPA has paid out or has set aside a total of \$35,744 for 60 different junior members. That's an average of nearly \$596 per junior. Pretty good, but let's all aim to do better.

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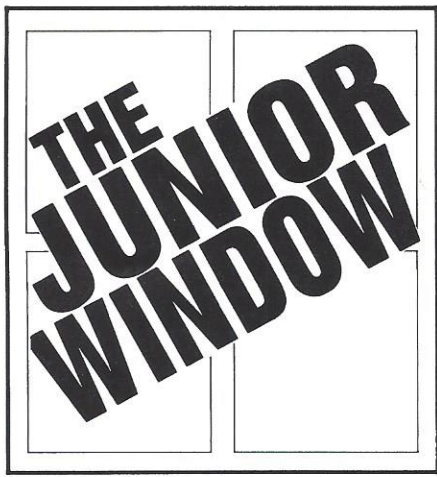
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Summer Leagues Are Forming

by Lorraine Sternberg, W206 N13520
Woodside Lane, Richfield, WI 53076

It's that time of year when summer leagues are forming. When putting together your junior league there are a few things to remember. ALL junior leagues should be sanctioned. The cost is \$5.00, plus state dues, if any apply.

Being sanctioned is important so all Junior members are eligible for NHPA league and national awards. All league directors are also reminded about the NHPA Scholar Pitcher Award Program for Juniors. This program sometimes has been forgotten about and not all eligible scholar pitchers have been reported. The benefits and requirements are explained in detail in the NHPA Guide (red book). If you are in need of a red book, you can obtain one from Bev Born or myself. All forms for awards can be obtained from Bev Born.

Trying to get young kids to join a horseshoe league is not always an easy task. There are so many other sports that are competing against horseshoes including computers. So, it's up to ALL of us to work together to get Juniors involved in horseshoes. Some of our Senior members who have some spare time can be great coaches and mentors for these young kids. This can be rewarding for both the young and old. Make the league fun, but do remember to stress good conduct and sportsmanship on and off the courts.

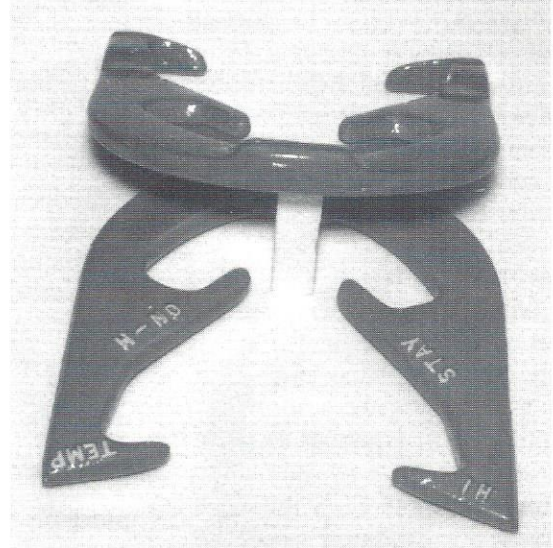
To make the league more interesting, you might want to try dividing your league season into two halves. The winners of each half have a playoff at the end to determine the overall league champion. Having a party the last night of league brings the kids together.

Another idea might be to put together a mini-tournament. This way kids get the "feel" of tournament play and they can feel more comfortable and willing to sign up for tournaments in their area. Contact your local newspaper to put pictures of your Junior league members and the results of their league play. This might "spark" other youngsters to join, which is exactly what we are striving to accomplish.

Bringing more youngsters into the sport of horseshoes will keep our sport going for years to come.

Good luck to everyone this horseshoe season!

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1998 NHPA Council Meeting

Condensed Minutes, Jan. 26, 1998

Minutes submitted by,
Dick Hansen, NHPA Sec./Treas.

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. by NHPA President Dave Loucks with all Council members present. Minutes were recorded on tape by Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen.

First order of business was to give each officer the floor to bring up any matter that pertained to his or her duties as NHPA officer.

Earl Winston had no new business to report on the Hall of Fame.

Casey Sluys reported that John Ortega, from California, a short distance pitcher, has requested to move back to the full distance. After some discussion, motion to allow the move was passed. An exception would be made in his case.

Bonnie Seibold also presented a letter from H.W. Coleman from Texas with the same request. This was also approved with the restriction on both that if they move back they must remain there for a minimum of two years and if after two years they again move back to 30 feet they shall forever remain a short distance pitcher.

Bev Born suggested that some changes needed to be made in the Junior Scholar Program and the Top Ten Program. After some discussion, it was suggested that Bev report back to the council with her suggestions.

Paul Stewart reported that the Software Committee is still working on a program for Sanctioned Leagues but has not been able to come up with one program that will work for all leagues.

The question came up as to the use of NHPA letterhead stationery. **Dick Hansen** reported that the only ones authorized to use NHPA stationery are the seven NHPA officers.

Bonnie Seibold reported that the Grievance Committee has had no grievances reported for the 1997 year.

Dick Hansen reported that the Vermont Charter is at this time the

only charter that has not submitted their 1997 final membership reports, but he has been in contact with the charter president on the matter. Dick also reported that the Maui Charter in Hawaii only has 25 members and that the one year grace to allow them to hold their charter with only 30 members has now expired. The Council then voted that the Maui Charter shall disband and all NHPA memberships shall be issued by the one remaining charter.

Dick requested a vote by the Council on the use, this year, of the plastic numbered cards that were used last year in Kitchener for the first time. After some discussion the Council voted to use them again this year.

Dick reported that he would like to purchase an enclosed trailer to transport equipment and supplies to and from the World Tournament. After some discussion the Council voted to approve the purchase of a 5 x 10 foot trailer for such use.

The subject of how charters are to determine residency to issue membership cards was discussed. The Council stated for the record that the state in which a member files his or her federal taxes shall be the deciding factor in what state a member must buy his or her membership card.

There was some discussion on the reports coming from NatStats that tournament results are being received with no NHPA card numbers for some pitchers. Dick reported that he is working with Glenn Jamieson, of NatStats, on an ongoing basis to help correct this problem.

Dave Loucks reported that he has received some correspondence requesting that pacers should not have to pay the scorekeepers at World Tournaments. The Council voted that it should remain the same. All pacers shall be required to pay the scorekeeper.

Dave also gave a report on the NHPF and that a financial statement and other information will be in the next *Newsline*.

Dave explained that Greenville, the host for the 1999 World Tournament, has requested that they would like to deviate from the normal trophies and use plaques instead of the standard trophies we have been getting. Council approved. Greenville also has offered to build the NHPA additional courts in exchange for the use of our existing courts. Council approved.

The World Tournament bid format and prize fund were then discussed in detail. Changes suggested include an increase in the entry fees with a portion of the entry fee used to help the World Tournament host with the cost of trophies and other World Tournament expenses. The prize fund per class and the number of places paid per class would also increase. All proposed W.T. entry fees and a new prize fund structure were given Council approval with details to be printed in *Newsline*.

There was some discussion on the Jack Freeman Courts in Joelton, TN, that will soon be leased to the NHPF, hosting the World Tournament. The Council agreed that at this time the facility would need many improvements to be able to handle an event such as the World Tournament.

There were 39 proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws. Of those 15 were approved by the Council to come before the delegates at the 1998 Convention in Ainsworth, NE. Details of those being approved were printed in *Newsline*, the March/April 1998 issue.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ODD SAYINGS from Odd Lieberg

Even shoes have
psychological problems.

Some are loafers and
some are sneakers.

Regional Directors Report

by Paul Stewart

It's World Tournament time again and that means—it's shoe checking time. Once again, the RDs and ARDs will be checking all shoes before your first pitch. Would you like to see the shoe checking line move faster? *You* can help by having your shoes checked at the local level. It is the pitcher's responsibility to correct any shoe that does not meet the requirements set forth in the *NHPA Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching*. If you know ahead of time that your shoes are good, it makes the checking much easier for you and the RDs. Thanks in advance for helping make this job easier for all of us.

RD Changes: We have two Regional Director changes to report. **Jerry Kahle**, Arkansas has decided to step down as Regional Director. **Richard Archer** from Ozark, will replace Jerry as Regional Director for Arkansas.

Frank Kallay, Pennsylvania, has stepped down as Regional Director due to health problems. The new Regional Director for Pennsylvania is **Darle Esh** from Milroy. Thanks, Jerry and Frank, for your years of work and dedication to the NHPA and your charters.

Sad Note: I am sad to report the loss of one of our Regional Directors. **Ron Vogel**, Regional Director for New Jersey, passed away Saturday, March 28, 1998 as a result of a massive heart attack. Our deepest condolences to his wife, Janet.

From the Mail Bag

West Virginia RD, Ken Wilhelm, reports that the WVHPA has a website page, thanks to Jerry Davis. The page lists ringer percent averages, a roster of officers and appointees. WVHPA Hall of Fame inductees and the annual State Tournament Champions beginning in 1931, along with other interesting data.

James L. Cook, Jr., has reported that the Wyoming County horseshoe pitching facility should be completed sometime in 1998 and is hoping to host as many as three sanctioned tournaments. **Charles M. Bunner**, WVHPA Sec./Treas., has reported that 163 resi-

dents were 1997 WVHPA/NHPA members. The Affiliated Horseshoe Pitchers-MCPARC placed four (4) sets of portable horseshoe pits on the Morgantown Airport's TARMAC during the October 1997 Morgantown Balloon Festival for the second consecutive year. Amateurs competed for ribbons on Friday. On Saturday a Pro-Am mixed walking doubles event and a Pro-Am mixed Singles event was conducted, awarding trophies to the winners.

Colorado RD, Allen Baptist, reports that he has just compiled a new list for the 1998 NHPA years of membership for Colorado. Patches will be given out to 30 people for 10 years membership, 10 for 20 years and 2 for 30 years. Colorado is very proud to have their second 50-year member in **Jim Tulk** from LaSalle, Colorado. Jim is still active in Colorado horseshoes; he competes in many tournaments and is tournament director for the Weld Food Bank Benefit. Colorado has also sent out to their members a Participation Survey. Input from members on any suggestions or ideas that they have on improving horseshoes in the CHPA is obtained from this survey.

Nebraska RD, Pat Wemhoff, reports that Juniors in their state have not been recognized for their skills and dedication to horseshoes. The 2nd Vice President is in charge of junior promotion and will spearhead a Memorial in care of **Glen Hodge**, who was a former Junior State Champion and a great all-around person.

Velma Smith and **Marion Thomsen** have volunteered to put on Nebraska's 1st State Walking Doubles Tournament, with mixed classes based on the combined total of the partners NatStats ringer percent. A contestant will need the same number of tournaments to qualify as for the state singles. You do not need to pitch in a previous doubles tournament to qualify.

Kansas RD, Duane Goodrich, reports that the 1998 Kansas schedule provides over 30 sanctioned tournaments. They welcome a new club at Belleville (Republic County Ringers) which scheduled one (1) sanctioned tournament and seven (7) non-san-

tioned tournaments to introduce their community to the sport. They welcome visitors to all their tournaments. Contact **Howard Reed** for more information on the Belleville tournaments.

The Pittsburg area may also soon have a club. **Henry Sims** is in the process of organizing and improving the local courts. He plans to have local league play started in April. Contact **Henry Sims** for more information on horseshoe pitching in the Pittsburg area.

Duane also reports that enough copies of the new edition of NHPA "Official Rules" have been obtained to enclose a copy with each membership card mailed out.

North Carolina RD, Rick Bolick, reports that they have good news on the horseshoe front in North Carolina. They now have three new areas attempting to build horseshoe complexes and get dates on our tournament schedule. **Gastonia** has already started the land grading for twelve lighted courts, which will be expanded to twenty-four later on. This pitching complex has been in the works for several years and they have finally worked through the red tape and are getting down to the business of building them.

Also, the **Blind Pigs Horseshoe Club** is currently working with the City Council of North Wilkesboro on getting a pitching complex in that area. As of this writing, the Council had allotted one area of land to the club for either eighteen or twenty-four lighted courts.

Last, but not least, **NCHPA 2nd Vice President Allen Fox** is in the preliminary stages of working with the Town of Rutherford College on building six to eight courts. This is exciting news for North Carolina pitchers.

Currently, most of the tournaments are located in a fifty-mile radius in the center of the state. With these potential pitching sites all being located in the western area and the addition of Burlington last year on the eastern side, this will go a long way in balancing the tournament schedule. This should add an additional membership base.

Hall of Fame

by Earl Winston

Some time ago I did an article on one of our past lady pitchers. This time I'd like to feature one of the male gender who was affectionately known as "Pop" Johnson. Many called him Jim. Vicki and I enjoyed the company of Pop and his wife, Genevieve, at several World Tournaments, especially those during the 1960s. Sometimes dining together, along with the Johnson's close friends Paul and Emma Focht, Pop kept everyone in stitches with his constant repertoire of stories. It's a wonder anyone had time to eat, we were so busy laughing.

Pop was quite a pitcher in his day. He lived in Covington, KY for many years and was the man to beat if you wanted the Kentucky state title. He won four in a row from 1947 through 1950. His average for the 1949 state tournament was 82.5%. He even won the 1945 National Amateur title with a 19-1 record.

Pop began to make a name for himself on the national scene when in the 1950 World Tournament at Murray, UT on the last night of play, Pop beat Stan DeLeary (AZ) and the famous Ted Allen back to back, thus hurting their chances to end up in a playoff for first place. In back to back games, Pop had polished off two of the top four. Fernando Isais won that year, even after losing a game to DeLeary.

At the 1952 World Tournament, again at Murray, UT and again on the last night of play, Fernando Isais was adding to his record streak of consecutive games won in World Tournament competition. It was the 33rd round, with only two to go. Pop's opponent that game was Isais and he defeated Fernando, thus ending the winning streak. This loss for Isais brought him even with Allen and murmurs began to go through the crowd that perhaps they were going to be treated to a playoff between Isais and Allen for the world title. In the 34th round, Pop stepped to the court next to where he had played Isais and his opponent was none other than Ted Allen. He went about the business of defeating Ted Allen, thus ending the hopes of the spectators that they would get to see a

pitchoff between the two giants of the game at that time. Pop averaged 77.4% for his 35 games that year and tied for 5th place. Remember, those were all 50 point games in those days.

In 1961, Pop and Genevieve moved across the Ohio River to Cincinnati, OH and lived there the rest of their lives. He was always a tough competitor and I can't describe his laugh, but it was different and you could hear him several courts away. It didn't make any difference if he won or lost. He could take it and he could give it right back. Pop eventually went into the Intermediate Division in World Championship play and won that 1974 Championship pitching a very respectable 67.4%.

Tournament directors often made use of Pop's ability to devise changes in round robin schedules to fit specific needs. His brain worked like a computer. If there was a dropout or if after a few days play it looked like a revision of the schedule would make for a more exciting conclusion to the World Tournament, Pop could make that happen. On site qualifying often didn't seed the pitchers in an order that would find the top contenders meeting one another on the final day, but Pop could fix the schedule so they would.

Always wanting to serve where needed, Pop Johnson also was a member of the NHPA Hall of Fame Committee and served as chairman for two years. He had a dream of finding a way to make record keeping at World Tournaments a less strenuous task. Pop brought his own personal computer to Genola, MN in 1981 just to experiment. His weren't the official records, but he worked with many of the classes trying to devise a way to ease the strain of using Master Summary Charts for a tournament with 1,215 entries. Perhaps his efforts served as inspiration to Walter Ray Williams Jr. who, in the not too distant future, wrote a computer program for running the World Tournament that eventually allowed the tournament to be totally dependent on computers. At last, Pop Johnson's dream was realized.

In 1985, we inducted James "Pop" Johnson into the NHPA Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, he could not receive the honor in person, but his daughter represented him. Once again we were reminded of the days gone by and watching a high, wobble-gear Allen horseshoe in flight.

Profile On Colorado HPA Hall of Fame

by Allen Baptist

The CHPA Hall of Fame was first organized in 1981 by Bob Champion and John Huntzinger. Many tireless hours were spent by the two, gathering information on putting the rules and regulations of the Hall together. In 1982 six charter members were inducted into the Hall of Fame, 3 for pitching excellence and 3 for service. Over the years we have expanded the awards to include elder 30' pitchers in both categories and in 1993 we included awards in both categories for the juniors.

In 1988 Steve Ruddock donated a 10' x 40' trailer to be used as a permanent Hall of Fame building. After many hours of hard work by CHPA volunteers the building was dedicated on August 18, 1990. It is located at the Knaub indoor arena in Milliken, Colorado. Bob Champion was curator from 1990 until 1997. CHPA Vice President Clarence is now taking over the job as curator. The building is full of memorabilia such as horseshoes, trophies, pictures and many great items generously donated by various people. There is also a great collection of Ted Allen memorabilia donated by Ted's family.

Thirty eight states, plus New England, have a Hall of Fame, and thirteen states have Hall of Fame buildings. The CHPA is more than willing to help the charters that don't have a Hall of Fame. We will help anyone by giving out what information we have, for starting a Hall of Fame in their charters.

NHPA Hall of Fame Charter Members

Participants at World Tournaments no doubt have noticed the listing on the Hall of Fame page in the official program and have wondered about the qualifications of the seven listed.

Charter members were inducted in 1966 and the information first appeared in the 1967 World program. Since 1966, 117 more NHPA members have been elected into the Hall of Fame. The seven charter members date back to 1909, and include three pitchers who dominated play during their tournament play. Four were selected for administrative abilities (service). In some cases, additional information was added.

Charter Members 1966

- Archie Gregson, Crestline, CA
- David Cotrell, North Cohocton, NY
- Ted Allen, Boulder, CO ◦
- Frank Jackson, Kellerton, IA ◦
- Fernando Isais, Los Angeles, CA ◦
- Ray Howard, London, OH
- Arch Stokes, Salt Lake City, UT
- Deceased ◦ Pitching Excellence

TED ALLEN Colorado

Ted Allen of Boulder, CO, holder of ten official World Championship titles, ranked as the Babe Ruth of horseshoes since he won his first title in the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. He held more records than any other player and gave exhibitions all over the United States including New York's Madison Square Garden. His mark of 72 consecutive ringers is still on the books. Ted died in 1990 at the age of 81. His popular horseshoe, first manufactured in 1938, is still on the market. Ted competed in the World Tournament 31 years.

FRANK JACKSON Iowa

Frank Jackson, an Iowa farmer, was a legendary figure of the game, but his exploits on the court were very authentic. He won the first recognized

World Tournament in 1909, and in 1915, the first sanctioned by the National group. He completely dominated the sport until 1920. He also won the 1920 tournament and again in 1921 and again in 1926. His last World Tournament was at the age of 65 in the 1935 event at Moline, Illinois, when he finished fifth with a 72.9 ringer percentage. He barnstormed all over the country until 1940.

A rugged, husky individual, he originally pitched a $2\frac{3}{4}$ turn, but as the game improved, he changed to a $1\frac{3}{4}$ in 1926 and regained the World title. He pitched from a stationary position without a stride. He died in 1955 at the age of 85.

FERNANDO ISAIS California

Fernando Isais of Los Angeles, won eight Worlds including a string of six consecutive wins. His ringer duels with Ted Allen were classic. Fernando used the $1\frac{3}{4}$ turn and was a picture of rhythm and grace in action with his high arching toss. His last World Tournament appearance was at South Gate in 1963, when he finished in a sixth-place tie. His last World title came in 1958. Fernando died in 1994 at the age of 79.

ARCH STOKES Utah

Arch Stokes of Salt Lake City, Utah, is the "Grand Old Man" and probably the most beloved figure of the game. It was he who put the game on its feet and gave the World Tournament a home following World War II. His efforts built the beautiful 18-court facility at Murray, Utah, and brought the World Tournament there in 1947, and from 1949 through 1959. During these years, he served four years as NHPA President and was always the guiding father of the organization. He passed away in 1957, but his influence is still felt in the form of the Arch Stokes Memorial Award given by his family each year to the outstanding contributor to the game for Service.

DAVID D. COTRELL New York

David D. Cotrell of North Cohocton, New York, designer of the first horseshoe scoresheets and an orderly system of tournament results, served as NHPA Secretary from 1925 through 1933. A brilliant organizer and promoter, he published the first comprehensive book on the history of the game and how to play it in 1927. He was a World traveler and spent his winters in Florida promoting the World Tournaments of those days. In private life, he was the owner and founder of a magazine distribution agency. He died in 1937, at which time he was still active in horseshoes in New York state.

ARCHIE GREGSON California

Archie Gregson of Crestline, California, served both as secretary and as president of the NHPA at various times dating back to 1940. His contributions to the game were many and varied as player, administrator, organizer, tourney manager, and master of ceremonies. Along with his wife, Katie, they formed the most-valuable husband and wife team in the history of the game. At the time of his death, Archie still maintained an active interest in the game and was regarded as the NHPA's elder statesman.

RAYMOND B. HOWARD Ohio

Raymond B. Howard of London, Ohio, published the *Horseshoe World* for more than 20 years from 1920 until the start of World War II. Seven of these years, he was secretary-treasurer of NHPA, but his greatest contribution was to bring cohesion and unity to the game by means of the game's first monthly publication, the *Horseshoe World*. Without it, the NHPA would never have achieved the stature of a national organization. Howard held a high position in the Secretary of State's office in Ohio, and helped renew the NHPA's nonprofit charter in the early 1960s.

NHPF Donation Progress Report by Dave Loucks

Is your charter doing its part? From May 1997 through the end of March 1998, a span of eleven months, I have received just 61 contributions to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF). Three of these deposits came from the World Tournament in Kitchener. Two donation boxes yielded \$250 and \$594 while donation proceeds from the banquet tickets sales brought in \$1,052. The other 58 contribution checks have come from individuals, clubs or charters. All contributions to date total just \$12,435.

It is pretty sad that in nearly a year's time, so few members have had the compulsion to contribute to what could be the greatest opportunity our sport and association has ever had. It is particularly disturbing to see how few of our top money winning pitchers have contributed. Among the top ranks, we thank Walter Ray Williams Jr. for \$2,000 and can list only Vicki Winston and Tommy Gann as other top pitchers who have made a contribution. You guys and gals who are playing for the bulk of the money in the sport should remember that you have an obligation to protect the integrity and build the traditions of the game. It is important that you lead in ways other than money won.

In ranking contributions by State, the most money has come from

Massachusetts though almost all was a \$3,800 donation by Ed Domey. In the number of donations received by state, California leads with nine. Donations have been received from only 22 states and eight of those have been just a single check. Here is the ranking by state, number of donations and total dollar amount.

1. Massachusetts, 3 for \$3,925
2. California, 9 for \$2,783
3. Missouri, 6 for \$685
4. Tennessee, 2 for \$460
5. Wisconsin, 5 for \$425
6. North Carolina, 3 for \$320
7. Colorado, 3 for \$300
8. Washington, 2 for \$300
9. Minnesota, 7 for \$276
10. Florida, 3 for \$225
11. Oregon, 2 for \$200
12. Michigan, 2 for \$110
- 13., 14., 15. tie. New Jersey, New York and Texas each with 1 for \$100
16. Kansas, 3 for \$75
17. Indiana, 1 for \$50
- 18., 19. tie. Idaho and Kentucky each with 1 for \$25
20. Ohio, 2 for \$25
21. Iowa, 1 for \$20
22. Illinois, 1 for \$10

Newsline will periodically print updates to this ranking. Keep in mind that your tax-deductible contribution will go to the endowment fund of the

NHPF which was established to foster the growth of horseshoe pitching at the amateur level, support and build Junior programs, make grants to build or improve courts on public property, build and maintain a Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame, museum and eventually own and control the 38 court complex in Joelton, Tennessee known as the Jack Freeman Courts. Dr. Freeman has already donated 57 acres valued at \$400,000 and within another two years or so, he will donate another smaller, but improved parcel, valued at \$600,000. It is here that the World Tournament will occasionally be held and the NHPF plans to build the Hall of Fame. Contributions at the current level would not be sufficient to maintain the existing grounds and facility, let alone improve them. It is therefore important that we get the word out to all members and encourage everyone to contribute. You may not pitch in a World Tournament or ever visit Joelton, but funds could eventually flow back to help your club, support junior programs or otherwise promote the sport in your area. If enough members make a commitment to contribute annually, we will be able to support the planned programs and build the Hall of Fame. Do your part. Send a check now to the NHPF, 140 Sierra Blanca Ct., Grass Valley, CA 95945.

NHPF Contributions Received

Sixteen contributions to the NHPF were received during the months of Feb. and March. They totaled \$1,175. We would like to thank all the contributors and acknowledge them here.

Donating \$10-25

Arthur Moran, MN (2 donations)
Herman J. Pint, WI
Jesse Lyda, ID

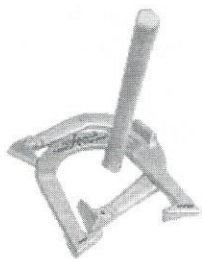
Wayne Luoma Sr., OH
Wayne Henderson, MO
Robert Wight, CA
James A Schneider, MI

Donating \$50-\$100

Jim & Phyllis Quist, WA
Louis J. Gancos, NY
Casey & Gail Sluys, CA
Curley & Bonnie Seibold, IN
John & Janice Decker, MI

Donating \$200

Bellingham Horseshoe Club, WA
Keith Thompson, CO
Eau Claire Horseshoe Club, WI



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NEW MELLE WINS OVER MUSIC CITY 74-71

by Mary Bastian

The third annual New Melle-Music City Tournament got underway after Joe Faron announced that he personally had polished and packed the trophy for the round trip back to New Melle. Forty-two pitchers and others from New Melle safely arrived by bus, car, airplane and van on Friday, March 13. That night they feasted on catfish at Uncle Bud's, a restaurant famous for its catfish. Joe Faron and Karen Henry again handled the arrangements from Missouri while Jack Freeman and Mary Bastian worked out the details in Tennessee.

The format of the tournament was the same as last year. Two flights of five six-person classes pitched on Saturday, March 14, and one flight of six six-person classes pitched on Sunday morning. Match-ups were made by a committee and total wins were posted after each flight.

Fourteen pitchers (seven each from New Melle and Music City) were the designated match-ups in the first flight. At the end of the first flight the score was New Melle 19-Music City 15. At the end of the second flight, ten pitchers from New Melle added 30 points to their first flight score; Music City's ten pitchers added 21 points to theirs. The score weighed heavily in New Melle's favor: New Melle-49, Music City-36. Joe Faron got the empty box and was ready to repack the trophy. Music City was subdued, but thinking. Watering and covering the courts for the night, the New Melle group left to take in some night spots.

On Sunday morning Jack Freeman gave the Music City pitchers a threatening pep talk before pitching got underway. All the pitchers took to the courts and the sound of shoes hitting the stake became a roar. After the playoffs in three classes were finished, the committee retired behind closed doors to tally the final result. Meanwhile, the pitchers decided to eat a catered lunch of barbecued chicken, white beans, slaw, Mexican cornbread and banana pudding and wait for the results.

The final ceremony began by having Joe Faron and Jack Freeman each say a few words. Joe walked to the table and picked up the trophy and immediately Jack had a hand on it. They wound up in the middle of the courts each with a hand on the trophy trying to become the sole possessor. Donnie Roberts briefly summarized the first two flights. Giving a significant pause for the sudden silence which had settled over the crowd, he announced that fifteen pitchers from New Melle and fifteen from Music City had pitched amazingly well under pressure. Music City picked up 35 points and New Melle 25. Quick mental addition and the Missouri pitchers knew they were taking the trophy with them. Jack reluctantly released his

hand from the trophy and shook Joe's hand. Final tally: New Melle 74-Music City 71.

After picture taking and elated goodbyes, the New Melle pitchers boarded the Mid America bus for the long ride home.

The entrance hall to the Jack Freeman Courts was decorated in the spirit of St. Patrick's day with a floral arrangement which included leprechauns and a pot of gold. A shamrock was on each scoring device. Local floral designer, Ann Nicholson, was responsible for the timely decorations. The luck of the Irish was with the New Melle pitchers.

New Melle had 42 pitchers, one of whom was from Illinois. Music City had 31 pitchers from Tennessee, Indiana, Alabama, Kentucky and Ohio. Total payback was \$880 with first place paying \$35.00 and second place \$20.00 in all classes. Marlene Ray of Tennessee had the women's high

game percentage with 42 ringers out of 50 shoes for an 84% and the tournament high percentage of 72.8%. Chad Hyatt of Indiana had an 80% game and a tournament percentage of 71.6%. Joan Elmore of Tennessee had an 82% game and an overall 71.2%. Bill Ungetheim of Indiana had two 80% games and a 70.8% total on Saturday.

Roy Evans of Missouri and Mary Bastian shared computer chores. Donnie Roberts checked scoresheets and manned the microphone both days, maintaining the pace and keeping the scorekeeper chairs filled.

The Horseshoe Pitching Pro Shop had game related items available for those who needed to do some shopping.

Jack Freeman, Facilities Director at the Courts, summed up the tournament this way. "The New Melle-Music City 'Match-Up' was an excellent tournament again this year. I thought for awhile, 'The Road to the Final Four' has nothing on us. We were playing against the largest horseshoe club in the world! We matched up well, and we pitched well, but we got beat 74-71. In spite of our defeat, it was good to see all the New Melle pitchers back again. They were smiling, too. Were they think-

ing, 'easy win'?"

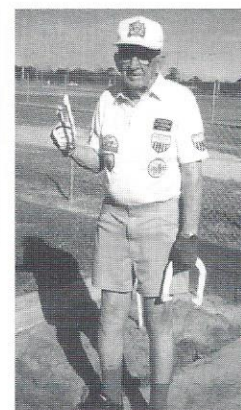
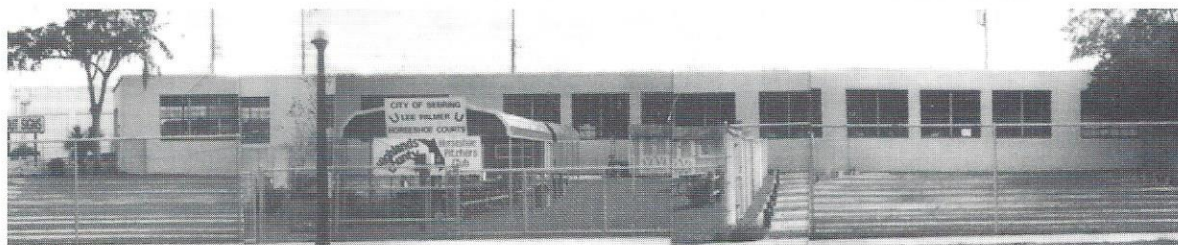
"I gave my pitchers a pep talk before the last flight of 6 games. We closed the gap from 13 games behind to only 3. If we had one more flight, we would have done fine, possibly. Maybe it was the coach's fault? Maybe I should have coached more.

"We plan to take a group to New Melle November 14 and 15. If anyone out there wants to pitch for "Music City" (any non-Missouri pitcher), get in touch with me (Jack Freeman). I will give you the details."

**We
matched
up well,
and we
pitched
well,
but we
got beat
74-71.**

**Jack Freeman
Facilities Director**

City of Sebring Dedicates Lee Palmer Horseshoe Complex

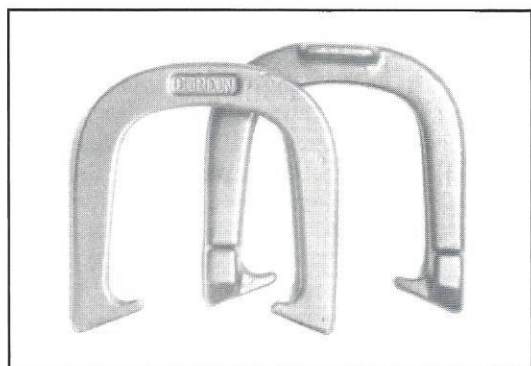


It took nearly two years to complete, but on December 10, 1997, the city of Sebring, Florida, dedicated the new 18 court complex in downtown. This new site is very high profile and will offer a great deal more public exposure than the former location in the park at Max Long Field. The complex is aptly named the Lee Palmer Horseshoe Courts. Lee is a lifetime member of the NHPA and was 91 years old March 30, 1998. He has just moved to a shorter distance, 37 feet.

These new courts got a big boost in funding when Lee Palmer donated \$15,000 cash to help in the construction.

With the value of the land, restroom construction (yet to be done) the courts, fencing and other improvements, it is estimated that nearly \$100,000 will be used. It is very unusual that city fathers offer horseshoe clubs such a prime location. Whatever the reason, Sebring club members are thankful. The downtown exposure nearly doubled club membership in just two months.

The club dedication went very well, followed by a tournament with 84 pitchers. Free coffee and donuts were served to all including over 200 visitors who stopped by. The Mayor of Sebring tossed the first shoe. The only down thing was that Lee Palmer was unable to be at the dedication. This, one of the biggest days in his life, had to be the time when, in the early morning hours, he became ill and had to be rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation to have his gall bladder removed. Lee missed the fun, but his operation was a complete success and he is now back on the courts.



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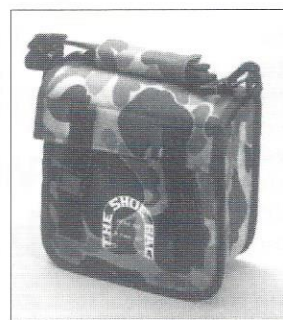
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Here & There

Dave Loucks reports happenings around the NHPA

Detroit, Michigan

On October 27, 1997, the City of Detroit, Historic Designation Advisory Board, officially recommended and the City Council approved a resolution to change the name of Maheras Park to Maheras/Gentry Park. This 53 acre park was originally dedicated in 1928 as Algonquin Park. In 1943 it was renamed Maheras Park posthumously in honor of Army private Peter Maheras who died in combat January 14, 1943.

For the last 40 years, NHPA member Bronson Gentry has been very active in the community and has fought to save the park from developers and gain equality of treatment and recreational opportunities for the community's youth. Bronson Gentry, a father of 4 children residing in the community, served as the head of various community associations, fighting to bring developed recreational facilities into Maheras Park.

Despite promises as early as 1959 and some budgeting in 1965, it has taken years for Bronson to work through the bureaucracy and keep the park out of the hands of those who would otherwise develop this riverfront land. To this end, he has prevailed with the land being declared an historic district and renamed Maheras/ Gentry Park. Congratulations.



Minnesota to Hawaii

Len Lipovsky is the NHPA Regional Director for the State of Minnesota. Len likes to travel when he can and this year made a January trip to Hawaii. He contacted fellow RD John McCormack who set up some friendly games with the State Officers on the island of Oahu. Their 12 beautiful



courts are set against a backdrop of the mountains on one side and the ocean on the other. Len had a good time giving some lessons to the fellows, most of which pitch a flip shoe. They really like the game and support the NHPA though most have not had the opportunity of watching top caliber players in competition.

If anyone is going to Hawaii and would like to pitch some and can give good advice on pitching, be sure to call John McCormack. His address/ phone is listed in this publication under Tournament Travel Contacts.



Fairmont, West Virginia

No single individual in the NHPA has been able to exceed the promotional activities of Charles M. Bunner, the Secretary/Treasurer of the WVHPA. Mr. Bunner has been able to generate more positive newspaper coverage of horseshoe pitching activities than any other member known to the NHPA. The clipping files maintained by NHPA Publicity Director Bob Champion contain more from Charles and West Virginia than the next 3 combined. Mr. Bunner was the force behind getting a World bid from

Morgantown where we would be pitching this summer if it were not for unforeseen problems at the University of West Virginia, the intended pitching site. While that was a setback, Mr. Bunner continues to push his state and local governments for funds and park and building improvements that would enable larger sport venues to be held in West Virginia. Also, Mr. Bunner worked for nearly 10 years to get funding to locate the NHPA Hall of Fame in the state prior to a Tennessee land donation by Dr. Jack Freeman.

Recent promotion activities set by Mr. Bunner include a Pro-Am Snowball Benefit Doubles Tournament to support the Union Rescue Mission of Fairmont; The Sports Challenge whereby sports announcers of Clarksburg station WBOY-TV will pitch against NHPA members; A Point Challenge involving teams of two against the media and the listing of three Fairmont Horseshoe Tournaments in the 1998 West Virginia Tourism book of events. Charles never fails to include photos. Herewith is (left to right) Rick Cale, WV State Champion, Charles M. Bunner and Davis "Catfish" Woodward.

Rock Springs, Wyoming

Matt Laurunen of Rock Springs is 93 years old and has been pitching only since 1975. He started at an age when many have already hung em up. Matt has won many trophies but his special is the plaque he received upon being inducted into the Wyoming Horseshoe pitchers Hall of Fame in 1991. Often, age is not a barrier to pitching horseshoes and people like Matt prove that you can still stoke up a competitive fire in the old stove. Way to go Matt!

ODD SAYINGS from Odd Lieberg

Taxes and golf are similar.

You drive hard to get to the green

and then wind up in the hole.

THE HORSESHOE TRADER

The GORDON Shoe

by Bob Dunn

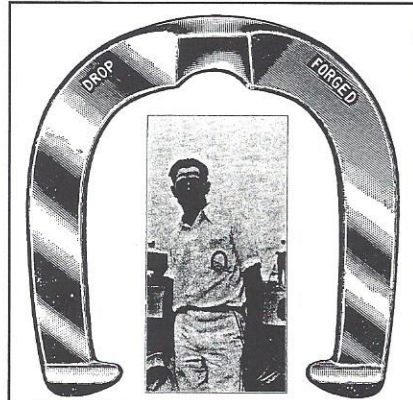
The Queen City Forging Company of Cincinnati, Ohio has been producing Gordon horseshoes since 1932. The company originated in 1881 as a producer of carriage and buggy parts. The company has 26 employees and manufactures 2-4 runs of horseshoes annually. They also manufacture the Gordon "Spin-On" Standard shoe in medium, dead soft and hard temper; the Gordon Gold; and the Multi-Grip horseshoe, the newest edition to the Gordon line, is designed for flip and turn pitchers. All shoes are produced by hot forging with grinding, polishing match weighing, painting and packing done by hand.

In the late 1800s, Cincinnati was the center of the buggy and carriage industry west of the Allegheny Mountains. Sometime before 1880, James Williams and Oliver Walker started their business, Williams Walker & Co., to supply the carriage building industry with the hardware needed in the construction of horse-drawn vehicles.

During 1881, the business grew beyond the scope of the original proprietorship. In that year, Williams, Walker & Co. was replaced by a new corporation, the Queen City Business Co. The company's focus during the late 19th and 20th century was primarily carriage hardware with some attention given to custom drop forging.

The early 20th century saw the beginning of the automobile industry. At the outset, the "horseless" carriage was exactly that, and some companies in the carriage and buggy business built early models based on the vehicles they already produced. Queen City Forging was no exception. Around 1908, several vehicles were built, named the "Carrico," which mounted an internal combustion engine under the seat of a wagon. It was clear from the start, however, that the company did not have the abilities to continue in this endeavor.

As the automobile industry replaced the carriage industry, the company realized it had to enlarge the scope of its manufacturing. In 1931, John Gordon asked the Queen City



**This Is The Boy and This Is The Shoe
That Won The World's Championship**

THEODORE ALLEN, of Alhambra, California, came out of the Golden West pitching the Gordon "Spin On" Shoes, and established a new world's ringer record in National Tournament play of 73.7 per cent, as well as winning the World's Championship. You, too, can increase your ringer percentage by pitching the "Spin On" Shoes.

For Sale by all Dealers — Special prices to Clubs

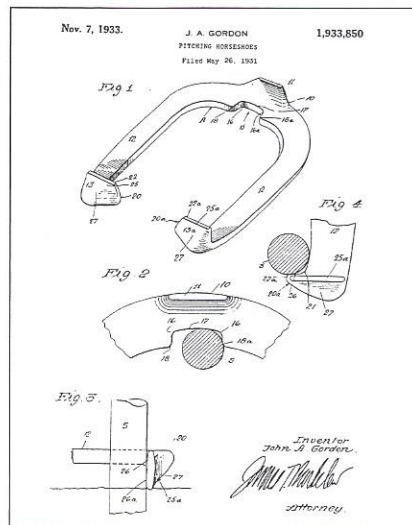
GORDON HORSE SHOE CO.

Western Office: Union Hardware & Metal Company, 417 E. First St., Los Angeles, California
Eastern Office: The Queen City Forging Co., Station C, Cincinnati, Ohio

Forging Co. to produce a pitching horseshoe for him. John Gordon was a champion pitcher who had filed a patent for his design of a shoe and believed he could successfully market them. The company agreed to participate and began production of the Gordon "Spin-On" horseshoe. Following Gordon's lead, other champion pitchers have won tournaments with the Gordon horseshoe, including Ted Allen.

The 1933 ad copied from a *Horseshoe World* magazine (above), shows a young Ted Allen endorsing the new Gordon shoe. Note the small hooks of this model. The Gordon shoe did not develop full sized hooks until 1935. A reduced view of the actual patent by John Gordon is also presented.

While there was generally one model of Gordon shoes in any given year, the Gordon is a great line to challenge the collector. From 1931 (the first model) through 1936, the shoe was redesigned each year. There are many years that Gordons were dated, so a tremendous amount of display space can be dedicated to this one brand.



TRADER JOTTINGS

■ To learn more about Gordon horseshoes or the Queen City Forging Co., you can visit their website at www.qcforge.com. or use e-mail at sales@qcforge.com.

■ Several members (non-collectors) have made inquiries about old shoes

they have. Most have included photos of the shoe in question. In all cases so far, the shoes have been identified and a bit of additional information mailed back. Some of these shoes have been made available to our collectors as well as offers to the NHPA Hall of Fame collection. If you want information about an old shoe, write in! Shoes make a fair copy off a photocopy machine, just be careful placing the shoe on the glass.

NHPA Internet Website www.geocities.com/~nhpa

The NHPA website was put on the internet March 31, 1997, just a few months before we had it "live" at the 1997 World Tournament at Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. By our 1st anniversary, March 31, 1998, a total of 24,000 "hits" told us viewers were visiting the website regularly, much of the time averaging over 100 "hits" per day.

The NHPA website will be at the Ainsworth, NE World Tournament site...providing the same chat, message, guestbook, and other functions as before, plus audio and video clips, still pictures (color of course), video action shots of games and crowds, and daily class results, all throughout the two week tournament.

When are you scheduled to pitch? If you pitch the first week and return home, check the website to follow the action for the second week. Or, if you arrive the second week, check the website the first week and see how the earlier classes are doing. And, if you are not lucky enough to attend the 1998 W.T., check the website daily and follow the entire tournament.

How to access the NHPA website:

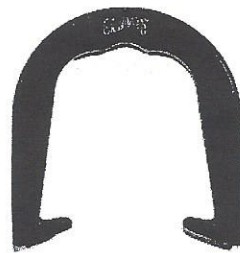
You need to have an internet connection and "browser" program (free download Microsoft Internet Explorer (4x) or Netscape (4x) recommended). Enter our website location in the browser as "http://www.geocities.com/~nhpa" Some 386 CPU computers and some Windows 3.1 software and 14.4 modems may be suitable, but 486 and Pentium CPU computers with Windows95, and 28.8 or faster modems are recommended.

Most of the NHPA website can be viewed with no need for "frames," applets, plug-ins, etc. but there are a few website enhancements that use them. In many cases, using 486 and Pentium equipment and Windows 95 software, the browsers may prompt and guide you to free download of plug-ins, etc. The NHPA website currently plays "midi" background music, plays voice messages and combination voice/video chat programs (free audio/video player may be downloaded) and is expected to have even more features by W.T. time. More detailed information will be provided on the NHPA website as we approach the W.T. starting date of July 20th.

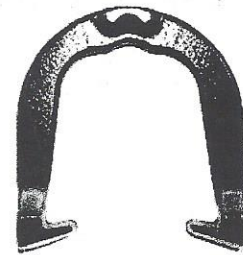
Once you access the NHPA website, you may seek help online by any of several means. Mention your need in a Guestbook or Message Board response, or send e-mail to Paul Stewart, NHPA 5th VP (e-mail: nhpa5th@bellsouth.net). Paul and other NHPA website administrators will give free assistance on how to get around on the internet or help you build and maintain a charter website.

Many charter websites are now online (see list in NHPA website menu). Charter websites provide local informations such as charter schedules, tournament results, club officers and club information. There is a wealth of horseshoe pitching history, current discussion topics, court construction, rules, bylaws, information on world tournament sites, tips, schedules, and chat opportunities "online"...

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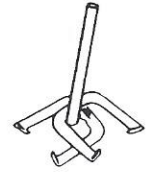
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Bob Champion's

Charter Chatter



Chatter knows many states do not have indoor facilities for winter pitching but certainly welcomes letters with news items for this column. Even if you do have winter newsletters, every pitcher is welcome to contribute to *Chatter* anytime.

In some cases, personal items concerning pitchers will not be published in your newsletter. I'm talking about personal items that would be interesting to everyone in the NHPA.

If a pitcher in your state has pitched a perfect sanctioned game since April 26, 1997, please send the following information: name of pitcher, state, date, where pitched, opponent, number of shoes and whether pitcher was a man, woman or junior.

Send news and perfect game information to Bob Champion, 5505 Valmont #176, Boulder, CO 80301.

ALABAMA

The state now has six indoor courts in Huntsville, including heat and plumbing. This is a first for the AHPA. Pitchers are invited to enter their indoor tournaments. They have had five events so far and the courts have been open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for practice.

Two pitchers closed the 1997 season with percentages above 60%. Topping the list is Jack Henderson with 62.9. He also won 10 tournaments, tops for the state. Allen Smith and Amos McGhar each won five. Michael Byram was second in percentage with 60.2.

CALIFORNIA

The Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association wishes to thank Genevieve Lavett for her time in editing the NCHPA newsletter the past four years. The new editor is Cathie Loucks, wife of NHPA President Dave Loucks. The revised newsletter is now called *NorCal News & Views*.

The northern charter has scheduled 141 sanctioned tournaments for 1998. Twenty-one were due to be completed by the first weekend of April but "El Niño" had other ideas. Less than half were played as the state battles continued rain and swampy conditions. Must be the same in the southern region as *Chatter* hears very little from them.

COLORADO

Short distance flinger Dee Powell from Arvada and Everett Snead, Colorado Springs, captured the Class A title in the 7th annual state doubles at Knaub Arena. They finished one game in front of Don Wild of Longmont and Jan Knaub of Milliken. Jan is the wife of Ed Knaub, who built the 8-court indoor facility in 1985.

In an effort to boost entries in three CHPA sanctioned events, statistician Mel Yockstick initiated the "Triple

Challenge." Plaques will be awarded to pitchers who win first place in any class in the 1997 state singles, the 1998 state doubles and the Ted Allen Memorial.

Paul LaCrosse, who is listed as the 12th best pitcher in NHPA's internet posting, won his fifth Valley of the Sun Class A title at Mesa, Arizona in February. Paul is a 14-time state champion.

FLORIDA

The Highland County Horseshoe Club dedicated a new 18 court Lee Palmer Horseshoe Complex last December. This complex has been the joint effort of the city of Sebring, the Highland Club and Lee Palmer. Palmer donated \$15,000 toward the building fund for this complex.

The state executive council approved a plan to have mixed distance doubles during the regular state singles tournament. Mixed distance means that each team will have one full distance pitcher and one short distance pitcher. They will conduct this event if a minimum of 8 entries are received.

Charlie Thornburg has formed a new club near Fanning Springs. The club pitches on eight sand courts located behind the Moose Lodge. Clay will be added in the near future. Three sanctioned tournaments have been scheduled this year.

GEORGIA

Iris Sandham from Snellville writes in the charter newsletter: Think about this! Many times we wait until it's too late to nominate someone to the Hall of Fame in the state, then say to ourselves, "I should have. Do I know someone deserving to be nominated? I'm sure you will think of someone." Does this apply to your charter?

The Georgia officers suggested in their card application form that all pitchers list the number of years they have been members of the NHPA and Georgia Association.

The main purpose for this is that the NHPA gives patches of longevity and they want to make sure everyone is given a patch when their time comes. Patches are given for 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years as members.

KANSAS

Allen Clark, a second year Junior horseshoe pitcher will be heading to Los Angeles, California with his mother for the National High School Chess Championships May 7-14.

Allen will be on a team representing Wichita Northeast Magnet High School. Allen missed most of the winter horseshoe pitching because of weekly chess tournaments in Kansas City. He also competed in the state chess championships in March. Results were not available at this printing.

The top ten ringer percentages for the state as of February

CHARTER CHATTER

1998 finds Mary Ann Penninger in the lead with 78.5. Merlin Potts is second with 74.69 followed by Priscilla Hedges 68.61, Charles "Bud" Green 68.24, Allan Hillman 66.73, Robert Booe 65.87, Charles Pringle 65.61, Bill Whitley 65.28, Wayne Shellingbarger 63.73 and Deanie Reheis 62.30.

LOUISIANA

Congratulations to John Wilson from Marrero who will be inducted into the LSHPA Hall of Fame this year. He will be the fourth member into this elite group.

John is a 13 year member of LSHPA and a 15 year member of NHPA. He was president of the Harahan Horseshoe Pitchers Association, a NHPA Regional Director, a member of the advisory board for NHPA rule changes, president of the Louisiana State Association from 1985 to 1992, and nominated for the NHPA Stokes Award in 1986.

He was instrumental in the formation of the LSHPA Constitution and Bylaws and devised formats for many tournaments. He originated the existing state newsletter and personally wrote copy at the onset.

Wilson participated in numerous World Tournaments and was the first LSHPA class champion in the World Tournament after the state was granted a charter in 1984.

MARYLAND

The Baltimore Metro Horseshoe Club enters its fifth year and announced the addition of four indoor courts which will compliment their 12 outdoor courts.

On May 16, the club honored Grant (Pappy) Powers, with a tournament named in his honor. His prowess does not stop with horseshoes. He was offered a baseball contract with the International League Baltimore Orioles, but was needed on the family farm. He was multi-talented, starred in duckpin bowling, way above average with a pool cue and was willing to take on all comers.

He served his country well in World War II as a belly gunner on a B-17 which was shot down over Belgium.

The state considers themselves very fortunate to have known such an outstanding individual who is very thankful for all that he has, including his love for fellow man.

Incidentally, Grant is a former Class A Maryland state champion, winning eight titles during the 60s and early 70s.

MICHIGAN

NHPA longevity patches have been issued to state pitchers for 10 and 20 year participation.

Ten year patches were presented to Jim Aleman, Jack Aretz, Greg Ferri, Duane Govitz, Jr., Bob Mullenhour, Cheryl Singer, Dave Singer, Bob Warner and Kenneth Warner.

Twenty year patches were received by Frank Barnes, Roy Colby, Andy Diamond, Dorothy Falk, Marv Flak, Andy Mathews, Don Mattingly and Harold Morris.

Marty Quillen dominated Class A play with three first place finishes during December, January and February play. Marty won the Jackson, Brighton and Clio events, Marlene Cooper had two firsts and a third during this same period,

Jim Urie garnered a first, a second and two thirds and Rod Turner had a first, two seconds and two thirds.

MINNESOTA

Daniel and Lorrain Erickson of rural Cokato were blessed with nine children, five boys and four girls. Seven of the family play horseshoes in the same Cokato league.

They play four to a team, count-all with handicap. Every Tuesday evening during the summer, they all come to have a good time playing horseshoes. Dan has a team and his son Rodney has another.

On Dan's team is son Ken, who drives 30 miles from St. Cloud. Daughter Cathy drives from Monticello, 30 miles away and Cindy lives in Cokato.

Son Rodney has a team with Paul, a brother-in-law, Dan's son Ralph, a pastor who lives in Dassel. Larry Anderson, a cousin, and another son, Paul subs for both teams.

Horseshoes pitching really helps to keep the family together. Mom, Lorrain, is a regular spectator. Dan, a retired construction worker and farmer, is 77 and does a lot of work for the local courts.

The state is blessed with several indoor facilities at Duluth, Upsala, the Andy Paglarini Arena in Genola, and covered courts in West St. Paul. No wonder they have so many great pitchers in the state. All year fun.

MISSOURI

With a membership as large as Missouri it is no wonder that 40 members received 10 year longevity patches and nine others were eligible for 30 year awards. To top off the awards Charles Kilgore received a 40 year patch.

We'll wait until all those 10s reach the 20-year mark, but let's give credit to the present 20s. They are Robert Barnes, Frances Dominique, Leroy Dominique, John Eggleston, Sr., Calvin Jaeger, Eugene Mosley, Jeff Mudd, Eugene Newkirk and Dale Owens.

Missouri boasts 24 horseshoe pitching clubs. The New Melle Club may be the largest club in the United States with 222 members. Other clubs with high figures are the Golden Triangle Club with 112, Independence Club 78, Greater St. Louis 71, and the First Capital Women's Club with 69. Guess the latter club has little trouble with the 30-40 foot controversy.

For seven years in a row Missouri has won the Bob Pence Memorial Award for the most adult members.

NEW JERSEY

Ed Quigley, the "Old" lefthander found a home in Florida during the Winter, and has been giving lessons of his short distance delivery. Ed, one of the main spokes on the NHPA Publicity Committee, won three first places at Orlando, Sebring and Winter Haven—plus as second, third and fourth during his stay.

According to figures in the latest issue of *Jersey Jargon*, Joe McCrink, Jr. tops the percentage list with a husky 76.64%. Bob Brown is 10% behind with 60.23. Seven pitchers are in the 50% bracket led by John Forti 59.13 followed by Bob

CHARTER CHATTER

Manzoni 56.77, George Egel 56.18, Al Birchler 55.85, Brian Urban 54.35, George Patrick 52.40 and Hobart Shelton 51.13.

If the figures don't lie and McCrink brings his steady pitching eye, the defending champion should win his 8th title and 5th in a row dating back to 1993.

NEW YORK

The current leaders of the High Percentage Tournament listings finds Sue Twyman's 80.17 in the Moreau Open high in Class A. Glenn Brown, Moreau Open (B) 66.15 followed by Dave Rundell, NYS Championships (C) 61.11; Ron Mosher (D) Falconer Open 49.65; Reginald Charron (E) NYS Championships 52.65; Clair Rigby (F) Falconer Open 44.16; Ernest Pound, Jr., NYS Championships (G) 40.09.

NYS Hall of Famer John Ruston, one of the wheels behind the World Tournament at Syracuse, has made the move to Florida. He's not sure he can handle all that golf. He may come back for New York Winters.

NORTH CAROLINA

The state's membership grew from 157 in 1996 to a record 185 in 1997, a 20.57% increase. This was very encouraging because it shows that North Carolina horseshoes is on the rise and not just treading water.

Two new sanctioned tournament locations have exceeded the state's wildest expectations. Albermarles' attendance for two tournaments has increased, Burlington has had more pitchers than the courts could handle so the tournament director, Charles Cooper has had his hands full keeping things going smoothly. Mike Hamra is the Albermarles tournament director.

OKLAHOMA

President Bob Reese has viewed the facilities located in Shawnee that might be used for a World Tournament. The Exposition Center directory and another city resident are thinking of a 2001 bid. It is believed they have the required number of RV spaces with utility hookups, motel rooms or college dormitory rooms and air-conditioned spaces for court construction.

Shawnee officials plan to visit this year's tournament at Ainsworth in order to get the feel for what might be expected of them in 2001. A World Tournament has never been held in this area of the USA.

Tom Goff was voted into the OHPA Hall of Fame. He becomes the 20th member so honored since organized pitching began in the state in the 1930s.

Tom Gibson reports he will be assisting the Moose Lodge on the east side of Tulsa in building four more courts on the Lodge grounds making a total of eight.

Glenn King donated \$100 toward the rebuilding Choctaw Club's 12 horseshoe courts in the City Park.

OREGON

The Wren Indoor courts were first opened in the early 1970s, writes Barry Chapelle. They were built and maintained by members of the Corvallis Club with Vic Joyner probably the key person in getting the courts started.

The first sanctioned event at Wren was on January 20-21, 1979 sponsored by Northside Lumber of Philomath where Vic was employed. It was won by Bob West with a 72.87 ringer percentage and high game of 84.6. Francis Phillips was the top woman with 49.73% and high game of 53.6.

The records show that the highest tournament pitched at Wren was 79.14 by Ben Wiedrich in March 1984. In January 1985 Ben had a high game of 93.3. Patty Sapp holds the women's record with a tournament high 69.50 in November 1994 and high game of 83.33% in December 1994.

SOUTH CAROLINA

NHPA Regional Director for the state, Ron Taylor from York was inducted into the SCHPA Hall of Fame last November. The induction ceremony was part of the annual awards banquet at the York Electric Co-op offices.

The state's Hall of Fame was established in 1992 to recognize individuals for their contributions to horseshoe pitching for service or for pitching excellence.

Ron joins previous Hall of Fame inductees: 1992—A.J. Nave, Ron Miller, Willie Stephens, Bill Gibby, J.P. Reeves. 1993—Pee Wee Murr. 1994—Norman Kelly, Cecil Williford. 1995—Bill Penland. 1996—Huberta Stephens, Barbara Taylor.

NHPA 5th Vice President Paul Stewart had this to say about Ron: "I have never met a person in horseshoes who is more dedicated to the sport and the members of the SC charter than Ron. To all members of the SCHPA: You have chosen the most deserving person in your organization for your horseshoe Hall of Fame. There is no way I would be an NHPA officer today if it were not for Ron Taylor."

TENNESSEE

The battle is on for Horseshoe Pitcher of the Year in the state and the point leader as of February 28 is Melvin Cooper from Signal Mountain with 96 points. Frank Jones, LaFollette is second with 91 followed by Het Birchfield, Knoxville with 90.

Points are based on entries and finishes. Three-time World Champion Sue Snyder from Kentucky nailed the New Year Open and Kentucky's Becky Kemper, one of the leading young pitchers in the country, won the Midwinter Open.

In February, Joan Elmore won the Deep Freeze Open and the President's Open, finished third and fourth in the two January events. Bill Ungetheim from Indiana copped three seconds and a third in the four events.

CHARTER CHATTER

UTAH

Somebody in the state sure likes to throw the figures around. The latest numbers included in the Southern Utah Newsletter shows a new special—"Most Shoes Tossed in 1997." In most charters it is tough enough just to keep track of games won, lost and percentages.

But here goes! Leading the parade is Leola Peterson with 6862 pieces of iron heading to the stake. Cleo Wardle is second with 6454 followed by J.J. Steffen 6066.

The Top Ringer percentage for 1997 is owned by Bud Schardine with 61.68. Also in the top five were Mont Lewis 61.0, Shirley Steffen 60.76, Cleo Wardle 58.33 and Gary Wood 55.14.

The top five Most Improved from 1997 are Verle Leavitt (plus 17.58) Schardine (plus 9.09), Steve King (plus 5.50), Lewis (plus 5.39), and Dan Thacke (plus 5.09).

WASHINGTON

The association's official top ten rankings finds Brandon Lund Junior State Champion on top with a 77.19 figure. Short distance pitcher Jack Moore has the second highest ringer percentage with 72.35 followed by Herb Criss 70.09, John Reedy (SD) 69.26, Michelle Ives 66.38, Peter Clark 66.27, Arnie Coleman (SD) 65.75, Art Sperber 65.73, Bob Cook 64.58, and Henry Knauff 64.06.

As of this writing, three Winetroutr Classics have been staged. John Reedy won Winetroutr I, Brandon Lund took Winetroutr II and David Brown from Oregon captured Winetroutr III.

In 1974 the first five members were inducted into the Washington Hall of Fame. They were John Monasmith, Francis (Winnie) Winetroutr, Floyd Sayre, Art Liedes and Rudy Allones.

WISCONSIN

Here's one that Gail, the Sandbar hostess, says is strange, but true. A lady living on one of the new streets near the Sandbar had to call the Arena Fire Department after a flash fire developed while cleaning her oven. She reported the address as 123 Lois Lane. The fire department was not aware of the new street, but they did drive around town looking for smoke.

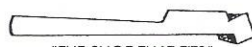
Chatter Editor's note: Maybe they should have called Superman? Get it—? Lois Lane...Superman?!

Scuttlebut from Arena. Seen on the

courts. Fred Decorah's shirt says: "Merrimac Fire and Rescue," including the promise—"Same Day Service."

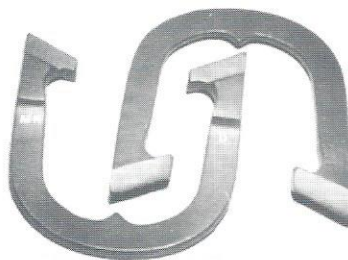
A photo in the March-April issue of the state newsletter shows Clayton Gage, Jane Smith and Edie McKinney taking another load of used, donated trophies to join other awards in the collection. Smith runs a summertime horseshoe school and manages to find reason to make a trophy award to each participant. Those old trophies are going back into circulation.

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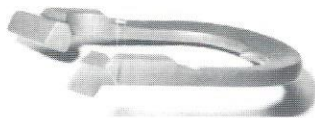
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The edges of the Mr. D. Shoe are not round like they are on other shoes. The extra, extra heavy heels tend to keep the heels down as the shoe rings the stake, giving the square edges, and the calks on the bottom of the heels a better chance to grab the pit surface, or the other shoes on the stake, to prevent the shoe from turning around. This will lessen the chance of it being knocked off the stake.

An ideal flip has the shoe coming to the stake as it has just leveled out. Sometimes our aim is off just enough that the point, or heel, of the shoe will hit the stake as the shoe comes in. The points of the heel of the Mr. D. Shoe are at a slant, so that the first part of the shoe to hit the stake is on a plane with the bottom of the shoe. This forces the point of the shoe down, therefore; the extra, extra heavy heels on the Mr. D. Shoe will force the calks on the bottom of the shoe into the pit. The "dead soft" rating then entices the shoe to drop next to the stake for a point.

Because the heel of the Mr. D. Shoe is so heavy, sometimes the heel that doesn't hit the stake will jerk around the rear of the stake. This causes the other heel, that is now holding onto the pit surface, to hook the stake for a ringer as the shoe turns around the stake.

Shoes with hardened points, that hit the stake in this manner when flipped, have a tendency to jump away from the stake and spin to the rear, out of scoring range.

Shoes with blunt points, or shoes flipped with the slope of the heels going up, makes the top plane of the shoe to be the first part of the heel to hit the stake. This, more apt that not, will cause the shoe to flip over backwards and come to rest several inches from the stake - a lot of times out of scoring range.



The Toll of Time

BILL BROWNFIELD

Northern California lost a fine gentleman and friend with the death of Bill Brownfield on December 15, 1997. A member of the San Jose Horseshoe Club, Bill pitched in several World and Las Vegas Open Tournaments. He loved the game and was always willing to help out. His wonderful singing voice was heard at many tournaments including the World, where he often was asked to sing the National Anthem. A resident of Morgan Hill, CA, Bill, who succumbed to cancer, leaves a wife, four children and many friends.

JERRY KANE

Jerry Kane was a member of the Franklin, Ohio Horseshoe Club and a

resident of South Lebanon the past 18 years. Jerry passed away in the first days of February at age 55. He had been fighting lung cancer for some time. Last winter, his horseshoe friends held a benefit for Jerry in Hamilton that drew pitchers from across the state. Jerry attended and was overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection. A slender man, Jerry never appeared down. He was a good pitcher and a good man. At his request, Jerry was buried in a red shirt with the Franklin Horseshoe Club logo.

JAMES KORTE

Illinois member James Korte of Highland, passed away February 11, 1998 at the age of 62. For the past ten years, Jim had been serving as the Third

VP of the ILSHPA. He was the founder of two leagues in Highland that could count more than 100 members. With help from his wife Marilyn, he ran an average of 18 tournaments a year and served as the State Tournament Director. Jim retired just a little over two years ago from McDonnell Douglas where he worked 29 years as a machinist. He loved horseshoe pitching, being with people and traveling. Jim pitched in several World Tournaments and always enjoyed the Winter get-away to the Las Vegas tournament. He is survived by his wife, three married children and one grandson.

RONALD D. VOGEL

The NJSHPA mourns the loss of Ronald D. Vogel (1936-1998) who passed away on Saturday, March 28, 1998.

Born in Manito, Illinois, he had lived in Middlesex, NJ for over 30 years. Ron was an army veteran. He worked as a senior supervisor consultant for telecommunications at IBM. He was a member of the Elks in Middlesex.

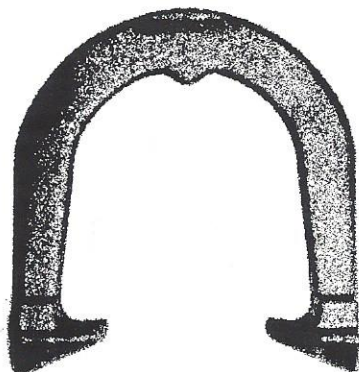
Ron was a 48 year member of the NHPA. He was serving as Regional Director and Statistician for New Jersey. Ron was inducted into the NJSHPA Hall of Fame in 1991. He was a former president of the state association from 1985-1994. He had also been state 1st VP and Sec./Treas. in earlier years. In 1971, when the World Tournament was held in Middlesex, NJ, he was co-chair of the tournament committee. Also a member of the Middlesex HPC Hall of Fame, he had held all offices in that club over the years, most recently that of secretary. He was a member of the Hunterdon CO. HPC. His dedication to the sport and to the NHSHPA was fervent and tireless.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Janet and his family.

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A "Great" Very Few Knew

Dear NHPA Newslines,

I have read the NHPA *Newslines* for several years now, and enjoy reading about horseshoe greats that have helped our sport over the years. I would like to tell you about a great that no one has read about in your publication. This man has done a lot for horseshoes in his own way. His name is David (Dave) Burrell and is from Stuart, Florida. He has been a pitcher for years, but only for about eight years or so a member of the NHPA and FHPA. He is not a high average pitcher, only about 20% or so. He is, however, one that has promoted horseshoes in his town, building several pits himself and getting people involved in weekly gatherings to have fun.

This man is my father. He pitched horseshoes in our backyard for years. All of his eight children grew up pitching, although not in any kind of serious way. When my dad retired from the New York Port Authority, he moved his family to Florida. That is where he became more involved in horseshoes.

When I moved to Georgia, he told me, "Cath, get involved with the GHPA. You will be a champion someday." I joined, and my dad was with me when I went to my first tournament. Some of the people there probably remember that day, because this man from Florida was pitching with his daughter in the same class. I came in second and he came in third. That year I was the State Champion in the Women's Class A. I was so proud to call Dad and tell him.

Dad came with a pitching friend, Paul Cyr, and pitched in the World Tournament in Perry. I was so proud of him. They stayed with me for 10 days, and we pitched every day. He entered in 8th place and finished in 8th place, but the memories were wonderful. He pitched in a few more tournaments, but then got sick.

He got a cold, which he could not shake. That led to bronchitis, and coughing spells he could not stop. One night it got so bad my mother rushed him to the hospital. This was just before Christmas in 1995. His eight children were all with him, as his condition in the hospital did not get better. After three weeks, they did a bronchoscope test and found cancer cells. We soon found out Dad had a week to live. Both lungs were filled with cancer. He came home with the help of Respite, and all his children were there. God gave us a week with our Dad, to spend with him and reminisce about our lives together. I heard him tell the nurse, "I am getting weaker every day. My only wish is to get in a wheelchair and go outside to watch my kids play horseshoes one more

time." At this point, he was too weak for any of that. On one of our private times together, he said to me, "My dream of being your coach won't happen, Cath." I told him, "You will be coaching me from up there," and I pointed up.

A doctor came and could not figure out why he was still alive. His lungs were completely full, and soon would be useless. We knew when it was time, and we were all there with him. He went to heaven exactly one week out of the hospital. We painted his horseshoes gold, and buried them with him. By now he has probably built golden pits and has angels pitching. That is my dad!

He is my "Great."

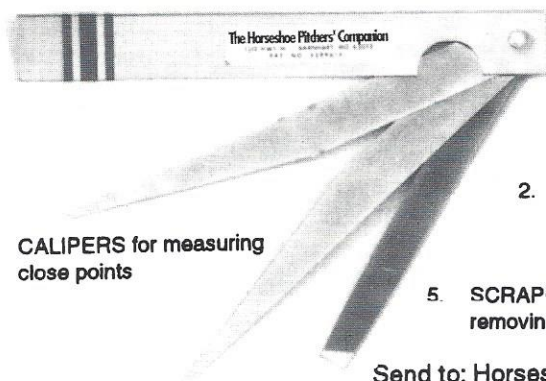
Thanks for listening.

Cathy Tuel, Eatonton, GA

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NHPA Income and Expenditures February and March, 1998

Income

Membership Dues	\$27,388
Newsline Subscriptions	7,593
Newsline Advertising	2,463
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	700
Misc. Patch Sales and Income	169
2000 W.T. Bid Deposits (3@ \$5000)	15,000
Bank Checking & Affinity Card Interest	1,964
Total Income	\$55,277

Expenditures

Newsline Printing and Mailing	\$4,256
Newsline Editor Allowance	616
Sanctioned League Patches & Awards	99
Sanctioned Tournament Patches	101
Regional Directors Allowance	4,709
Regional Directors' Postage, Phone, Supplies	168
Equipment Purchases, Rental, Repair	155
NHPA Office Printing and Supplies	290
NHPA Postage	1,045
NHPA Officers' Phone	552
NHPA Officers' Travel	2,160
Secretary/Treasurer's Allowance	3,080
President's Allowance	924
Special Events	472
Insurance	7,345
Misc. Bank Charges, Refunds and Fees	173
Total Expenses	26,145

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen.

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Special Events Calendar

MAY 1998

23-24 Summer Music City Team Tournament—Joelton, TN, 3-person teams, maximum 48 teams each limited to no more than 150 combined ringer percentage based on NatStats average as of April 1st. Entry fee is \$90 per team and total payback will be \$4,500 based on 48 teams. All team entries and fees must be received by April 15. Mail to: Mary C. Bastian, 3730 Old Charlotte Pike, Franklin, TN 37069. Phone: 615-794-5620.

23-25 Head-of-the-Mon-River—Fairmont, WV. \$3,000 in cash & awards based on 150 entries. Non-mixed event. Pre-register by May 8th. Entry fee \$25 adults, additional for championship group, payable to Tri-County Horseshoe Club, 1133 Sunset Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554. Phone 304-366-3819.

JUNE 1998

19-21 Eastern Nationals—Erie, PA. Total purse \$3,000+. No gender mixing. Below 35% play 30 pt. games. Women will handicap below Class A. Entry deadline June 9, fee \$25. adults, \$5. juniors. Checks payable to Erie Horseshoe Club. Mail with entry to Sally Siegel, 4147 Stanton St., Erie, PA 16510. Phone 814-825-0666

20-21 Oregon Open—Hermiston, OR, Weber Field. Separate 30 & 40 foot groups. \$4,000+ prize money. Entry fee \$20. (\$25 for championship groups). Entry deadline 10 p.m., Thursday June 18. Send entry and fees to: Rick Rebman, 80037 Ross Lane, Hermiston, OR 97838. Phone 541-567-8560.

26-28 Valley of the Rouge—Rogue River, OR. Entry fee plus \$1,500 added purse prize money. All groups pitch 2 days. Additional fun doubles and spaghetti feed on Thursday, June 25. Tournament entry deadline June 23, 10 p.m. Mail entry and \$35. fee with average and NHPA card # to: Charles Anderson, 107 Ash Dr., Rogue River, OR 97537. Phone 541-582-1456, e-mail chuck@alpro.net.

27-28 Dakota Sioux Casino Tournament—Watertown, SD. \$1,000 added plus 80% entry payback. All classes mixed, play two days. Entrants receive a free buffet and \$10 gaming coins & Blackjack play. Deadline June 20. NatStats averages used. Send \$25 entry to Clifford Ziehl, Box 1402, Mitchell, SD 57301. Phone 605-996-7986 evenings.

JULY 1998

3-5 Ringer Classic—Greenville, OH, conducted by Darke County H.C. Entry fee: Adults \$16, Juniors 0. Entry deadline June 20th. Large cash purse. Women pitch July 3, Men July 4-5. Fees payable to Darke County Horseshoe Club. Mail with NatStat average to Joel Loy, 628 Southbrooke Dr., Greenville, OH 45331. Phone 937-548-4320.

11-12 Danville Open—Douglas Park, Danville, IL. Purse \$1,000 added to entry fees plus free monogrammed towel to all pitchers. \$2,000 in awards based on 72 entrants. Deadline July 4. Entry fee \$15, includes scorekeeping. Checks payable to Danville H.C., mail to Leo Bratland, 41 Country Club Dr., Danville IL 61832. Phone 217-443-5818 or Martin Drummond, 765-793-4075.

July 20-Aug. 1 NHPA World Tournament—Ainsworth, NE. Pre-register only on NHPA Entry Form and mail with postmark no later than May 7th. Entry fee: \$75.00 adults, \$15.00 Juniors, payable to NHPA. Mail to NHPA, 3085 76th St., Franksville, WI 53126. Phone 414-835-9108.

SEPTEMBER 1998

19-20 Try County Horseshoe Pro-Am—Zanesville, OH. A benefit fundraiser for Genesis Hospice of Zanesville will match a top Pro player with an Amateur (under 50%). A charity pitch and Pro-Am dinner on Saturday and double elimination tournament on Sunday. \$700+ prize money. Pro Players selected by invitation only. Contact Donald "Fuzzy" Hittle, 740-796-6401 or Try County Club 740-796-6009.

Promote your special event here.

If your tournament is set apart from the usual, to benefit charity, raise funds or has in excess of \$1,000 prize money, mail details to the Newsline Editor at least 90 days in advance.

Special Tournament Results

The annual Valley of the Sun Tournament in Mesa, Arizona, concluded its 40th year of play with a week long event February 7-15, 1998. It attracted 182 entrants from 26 states and 4 Canadian Provinces. A total of \$8,320 was awarded in prize money. Three thousand of this came from donations raised by club members. There was a bit of wind and rain a couple of days that kept some averages down but overall, Tournament Directors Russ Martin and Jim Conlin did a wonderful job. The two Class "A" champions were Paul LaCrosse of Colorado and Bev Nathe of Minnesota, both five-time winners.

40'A	W	L	%
Paul LaCrosse, CO	10	2	72.94
Rich Pintor, CO	8	4	63.31
Ben Wiedrich, OR	7	5	62.86
Frank Farley, AZ	6	6	59.35
Bob Booe, KS	6	6	57.34
Ron Lipinski, AZ	4	8	60.00
Art Sperber, WA	1	11	53.13
30'A			
Bev Nathe, MN	8	2	72.66
Jack Moore, WA	6	4	65.07
Earl Dewald, OR	5	5	61.07
Myrna Kissick, AB	4	6	67.65
Mary Ann Peninger, KS	4	6	67.38
Marion Thomsen, NE	3	7	57.87
40'B Dave Loucks, CA	10	1	49.23
40'C Walt Higginbotham, WA	10	1	48.73
40'D Ed Guyer, OH	9	1	45.40
40'E Russ Magoon, NH	11	0	41.82
40'F Bob Hansen, WA	11	0	43.09
40'G Leonard Pederson, NE	9	2	28.73
40'H Floyd Lewis, BC	7	2	25.56
40'I Ernie Swann, AZ	6	2	23.75
30'B Marv Stanek, IA	9	2	53.99
30'C Stan Ulku, MN	9.5	1.5	48.00
30'D Chet Rolly, AZ	10	1	49.64
30'E Russ Dunning, MN	11	0	38.18
30'F1 Helen Velasquez, AZ	3	1	27.50

30'F2 Barb Fuller, CA	3	1	36.50
30'G Jean Geer, WY	6	2	19.50

TENNESSEE INDOOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jack Freeman Courts, Joelton
March 28, 1998 Sanc.#33-97-007

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Loyd Wyatt	7-0	62.29
Hank Irwin	5-2	57.14
Shannon Banks	4-3	54.57
E.T. Hensley	4-3	50.57
Bobby Fields	3-4	53.14
Jack Freeman	3-4	50.86
Pat Richardson	1-6	46.00
Frank Jones	1-6	42.00

CLASS B Elmo Cox 6-0 56.86

CLASS C Melvin Cooper 5-1 30.67

CLASS D Willard Williams 4-1 25.60

ELDER MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Abbott Kemp	3-2	50.40
Marvin Zimmerman	0-5	22.00

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Joan Elmore	5-0	72.00
Marlene Ray	4-1	
74.00Maxine Griffith	2-3	53.60
CLASS B Lou Dean Murphy	1-4	52.00

COLORADO STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Ed Knaub Arena, Milliken, CO
Jan. 31, 1998 Sanc.#13-98-002

MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS

A1 Dee Powell	6-1	62.30
A1 Everett Snead	6-1	34.34
A2 Don Wild	5-2	74.03
A2 Jan Knaub	5-2	35.44
A3 Dan Martinez	5-2	58.21
A3 Jim Tulk	5-2	41.18
A4 Don Schneck	5-2	50.00
A4 Arch Wood	5-2	42.54
A5 Paul LaCrosse	3-4	64.74
A5 Ken McKenzie	3-4	21.95
A6 Rich Pintor	3-4	52.78
A6 Richard Pintor	3-4	26.03
A7 Ray Heim	1-6	44.37
A7 Floyd Holmes	1-6	31.43

MIXED CLASSES

B1 Bob Engel	5-0	50.00
B1 Clarence Garner	5-0	29.37
C1 Vickie Lisco	5-1	44.30
C1 Keith Thompson	5-1	38.27
D1 Stan Bonnes	6-1	32.64
D1 John Petraitis	6-1	25.35
E1 Debbie Junker	5-0	43.08
E1 Duane Zolman	5-0	6.67



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Tournament Travel Contacts

The following is a list of all NHPA Regional Directors and the states or territory they cover. Those of you who travel and want to get out-of-area tournament information, are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Director. Each RD maintains a full list of all NHPA sanctioned tournaments in their area. If your travel plans call for stops in several states and you need multiple state information, you might want to write the NHPA 5th Vice President who is in charge of all RDs. He should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 5th VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

REGION	REGIONAL DIRECTOR
1. Washington	Rick Rebman
2. Oregon	Rt. 5, Box 5257
8. Idaho	Hermiston, OR 97838 (541)567-8560
3. Northern California	Gail Sluys
	1721 San Ramon Way Santa Rosa, CA 95409 (707) 538-3128
4. Southern California	Dave Garbani
	317 E. Wilson Ave. Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 375-6376
6. Hawaii	John McCormack
	91-941 Kalapu Street Ewa Beach, HI 96706 (808) 689-8033
7. Nevada	Don Weaver
	2206 Sunnyslope Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89119 (702) 736-7348
9. Utah	Bud Schardine
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10. Arizona	Joe Kubiak
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11. Montana	Rich Paul
	P.O. Box 1012 Lincoln, MT 59639 (406) 362-4659
12. Wyoming	Pat Bacus
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13. Colorado	Allen Baptist
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14. New Mexico	Charles Knotts
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15. N. Dakota	Clint Bryson	33. Tennessee	Dexter Stallings
16. S. Dakota	901 Custer St. Belle Fourche, SD 57717 (605) 892-2195		731 Reed Drive Powell, TN 37849 (423) 947-7865
17. Nebraska	Pat Wemhoff	34. Georgia	Jerome Kennedy
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27. Louisiana	Ron Latiolais	44. New York	Lance Twyman
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28. Wisconsin	Jim Haupt	45. Maine	George St. Pierre
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29. Illinois	Dave Shreve	47. New Hampshire	Burlington, MA 01803 (781) 273-4007
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