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published July-August 2015

ESPN Studies Horseshoe Pitching

NHPA Teamwork Makes it Possible

by Tina Hawkins, 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

With the upcoming live SportsCenter broadcast from the 2015 World Horseshoe Tournament, the people at ESPN wanted to know all about horseshoe pitching. Not just rules and regulations or classes and divisions ... they wanted to KNOW horseshoe pitching from the inside out!

When NHPA 2nd Vice President Tina Hawkins received the decision on Saturday for a trip to California on Monday to do the project, the wheels needed to be set in motion QUICKLY. A whirlwind of planning then ensued!

Who would be comfortable doing the project? Who would do a good job representing the NHPA? Who could go on such short notice? The Council brainstormed a few ideas and decided to ask Austin Bailey of Illinois.

NHPA 5th Vice President Bill Marvin just happened to be standing beside Austin when the decision was made and promptly popped the question. Austin was overwhelmed to be asked to represent the association in this manner and immediately said yes.

Lucky that his boss felt he HAD to go do this once-in-a-lifetime experience because Austin never considered saying no.

Once the representative was confirmed, there was the challenge of getting a portable horseshoe court onsite in only two days! Jerry LaBrosse, 4th Vice President, started making phone calls and discovered that Hal Griswold, the NHPA Regional Director of Southern California, had access to a set of NHPA-style portable courts and could have them onsite in time for the study.

The courts were set up inside a large, hot building on an indoor sports turf surface. Cameras were strategically placed in five different locations, including on the top of the backboard.

Austin was fitted into a full-body suit with 17 sensors underneath his clothes. This "biomechanics" suit would measure all his body's motion during the project. After a brief interview and a short warm-up, the directors decided he was ready. Several pitching scenarios were experimented with and, according to Hal, Austin performed well. Austin said the suit felt awkward at first, but once he realized how form fitting and responsive it was to his own actions, it did not affect his performance. He recommends that anyone who has the opportunity to wear one gives it a try!

NHPA representatives were treated very well by the ESPN staff and crew. All tried to provide anything that was needed or wanted in order to make the experiment realistic, as

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well as comfortable for Austin who stated that they are definitely a great company who care about high standards in the way they treat their staff and all the sports personalities. Austin has said that this may be one of the greatest experiences of his life and is proud to be able to tell people about this piece of history – not just for himself, but for the sport and the association that he loves so much.

Thanks to the selfless contributions of all the people making up the NHPA Team who had a part in making this project come to reality. This, combined with the live coverage from the World Tournament, could very well spark interest in horseshoe pitching. And the exposure of our junior pitchers should get the message across that it is NOT an old-man sport, but a sport for all ages!

By the way, according to Austin, one part of the study will blow your mind! It blew his! But we can't tell you what that is. You will have to watch the show to find out!!

President's Message

Happy Summer! Talking numbers, Hall of Fame Tournament and World Tournament

by Stu Sipma, NHPA President

I want to take a moment and wish everyone a happy summer. Horseshoe season has officially started throughout the country and I want to thank everyone for their efforts in recruiting new members. Based on our preliminary numbers, it appears our numbers are about the same (maybe a little down) from last year. Congratulations to all the charters in their efforts to go out and seek new members.

The 4th Annual Hall of Fame Invitational was hosted by the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club (QRHC) this past May at the Hall of Fame building located at Wentzville, MO. Our new "rookie" officer Jerry Smith was the tournament director and in talking to Jerry, it sounds like it was a very successful tournament. I want to apologize to the participants and the QRHC for not being able to attend. The NHPA would like to thank all the sponsors who supported this event, and we look forward to another successful tournament next year.

The 2015 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 13–25 at Topeka, Kansas. The host site, the Kansas Expocentre, is located right in downtown Topeka. David Sidles, World Tournament Director, has reported a total of 1,404 pitchers, making this the seventh largest in NHPA history, based on number of entries. The NHPA is very pleased with the number, especially the large increase in the Cadets' Division.

I mentioned this in my last *Newsline* article, however, I do want to again mention that, speaking on behalf of the Council, I feel the changes we have made during these last years have improved the World Tournament and how the event is being run. Thanks to the NHPA Council for all their efforts in making these changes and for working together to make sure

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each and every World Tournament is run smoothly. For those of you who have never attended a World Tournament, it is an experience you will never forget.

In conclusion, I look forward to visiting with everyone, especially all the new members and first-time attendees in Topeka. I am really looking forward to watching the Junior and Cadet Divisions.

If you aren't able to attend the World Tournament, feel free to contact me anytime regarding how we can make this a better sport for everyone to enjoy.

I wish everyone safe travels to Topeka.

Proposed Rules Changes: Review and Update for Convention and Voting

by Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

Only a couple of weeks remain before this year's World Tournament and hopefully each of you has read through the Proposed Rules Changes (<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/rules/PRCs2015.pdf>) that will be voted on by the charter delegates. It is important that all members let their charter officers and/or delegates know about their thoughts and opinions for each of these proposed changes before the voting takes place on Sunday, July 19.

Delegate chairpersons are reminded that they should meet with their charter delegates *before* the Convention to discuss the proposals and how their tentative votes will be cast. The amount of time allotted for the presentation, discussion, and voting will necessarily be limited to no more than about 10 minutes for each of the 12 proposed changes. Even with these time limitations, it will take approximately two hours just for the completion of this single agenda item. So please come prepared to vote, with limited discussion on the floor, so that all items on the convention agenda can be completed in a timely manner.

ESPN SportsCenter to Broadcast LIVE from World Tournament, Focus on Juniors!

by Tina Hawkins, 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

The Junior and Cadet Championship finals will be the focus of ESPN SportsCenter's July 18 live broadcast from the site of the 2015 NHPA World Tournament in Topeka.

With pre-taped segments, special features, and possible celebrity appearances, the junior competition will take place in the background of the set. Hopes are high that a World Champion might be crowned LIVE during the broadcast in at least one of the divisions - Junior Boys, Junior Girls or Cadets.

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The broadcast will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern Time and conclude at noon (8-11 a.m. Central or Topeka time). All NHPA members, fans, family and friends are encouraged to PACK THE STANDS for this television coverage of our annual championship event! Come early to get a seat and to help with scorekeeping and judging!

ESPN coverage of the World Tournament was last done in 1989 when the tournament was in Spearfish, South Dakota.

50th Hall of Fame Banquet to be a Red Carpet Affair

by Tina Hawkins, 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

The 2015 NHPA Hall of Fame banquet will be the 50th such event in NHPA history. In celebration of this historic milestone, there will be a Red Carpet with backdrop to make your banquet photo opportunities more special and memorable! NHPA photographer Ernie Bowdell will be present to take professional red carpet photos. Be sure to wear your "red carpet finery" for this monumental event!

Make plans to attend this historic Hall of Fame Banquet on Sunday, July 19. Tickets are \$30 each and will be available at the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) booth at the world tournament until July 15.

The banquet will be held in the Sunflower Ballroom at the Capital Plaza Hotel adjacent to the pitching arena.

You Make the Call: World Tournament Judging Clinics to be Offered Again at World Tournament

by Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

World Tournament Judging Clinics will once again be offered during the World Tournament this year. This clinic is unique in that it includes a classroom session where 20 selected True/False – Yes/No questions have been selected and are used as a basis of discussion. These questions/answers deal primarily with situations that are more likely to occur during the course of tournament play. A slide presentation has been developed and is very useful during this discussion. In addition, several tabletop pit models will be available for demonstrating the use of measuring tools, including the bridge tool – have you ever heard of that one? All participants will have an opportunity to use each of the measuring tools that are featured.

One of last year's participants commented: *"Every pitcher should be required to attend this clinic, whether they plan to become a judge or not! If all pitchers were familiar with these questions/answers, there would be a lot fewer problems out there on the courts."*

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So, if you have the opportunity, please plan to attend one of these clinics! Look for posted announcements about the times/locations of these free clinics!

A Top 10 List for Those NOT Attending the 2015 World Tournament

by *Jerry LaBrosse, 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director*

With our focus on the World Tournament coming up next month, we don't want to forget the NHPA members who are not making their way to Topeka. Even from afar, you can be involved, almost feeling like you're there, and support our sport too.

Since David Letterman has retired, how about we bring back a Top 10 list? Check out the visual list here: (link to Facebook album with the following pics and descriptions.)

1. Tune in to streaming coverage. Daily, check out setup starting on July 8 and then pitching beginning July 13. Cameras will be on all courts and on the leaderboard. Find out what class you want to view, then select the cameras on those courts. You'll find the link to the cameras on the NHPA website homepage. (link to: www.horseshoepitching.com)
2. Watch the ESPN coverage. Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. – noon, Eastern Time.
3. Check out the list of participants (<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/topeka/classesSchedule.pdf>) and see which of your horseshoe friends are going to be there.
4. Send your horseshoe friends a text message, email message or give them a phone call to wish them good luck and safe travels, and then another to congratulate them on their performance, and wish them safe travels home.
5. Make sure your state charter officials/delegates know how you feel about the proposed rule changes (<http://conta.cc/1JQQqqv>) that will be voted on at the Convention.
6. Ensure your state charter officials/delegates know your preference between the two bidders for the 2017 World Tournament site (<http://conta.cc/1JQQypW>).
7. Follow the coverage on the NHPA website (<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/>) and see class and champion pictures, read "The Daily Shoe," and see what else is happening.
8. The Annual Convention will be held Sunday, July 19. The world tournament page will be updated promptly, so check the results of all voting and other decisions.
9. Purchase some World Tournament Experience Raffle tickets. You might win a World Tournament prize package worth over \$1,500, including a week's stay at the host hotel. This raffle also supports the NHPF. Contact Raffle Director Chris Callihan (cj.callihan17@yahoo.com) for more information.
10. Make sure you qualify for the 2016 NHPA World Tournament in Montgomery, Alabama. You'll need four sanctioned events on your NATSTATS record by the May 2016 entry deadline.

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Pitching Etiquette for World and Beyond

by Bill Marvin, 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director

The horseshoe world is looking to the beginning of the 2015 World Tournament. By now the schedule has been set, reservations made, and travel plans are in their final stages. Understandably, this is the most anticipated event of the year. Before the pitching begins, I felt it might be a good time to review the “pitching etiquette” as outlined in the Official Playing Rules, Requirements, Guidelines and Specifications, or better known as the RGS book. Rule 12 covers “Appropriate NHPA Member Conduct.”

Most of these rules are common sense: be courteous; turn off your cell phone; and no alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal controlled substance allowed for pitchers, scorekeepers or judges. Heckling or other inappropriate gestures meant to distract opponents are not only against the rules, but are mean-spirited and not in the best interest of anyone. These violations can lead to suspension from the NHPA of up to one year.

Further suggestions for play of the game are included in the schedule received from Tournament Director Dave Sidles and also found on the NHPA website. (link to) Turning and watering (if needed) courts is to be done prior to every game, with each pitcher responsible for one pit.

One additional suggestion that I always abide by is that if I am pitching against someone who uses the same side as I do, after delivering my shoes, I always step around the front of the pit, and not straight back. This may seem like a small thing, but the flow of the game seems to go smoother and causes less confusion as my opponent prepares to pitch. Needless to say, virtually everyone will follow the rules/guidelines. If there is a breach in procedure, contact a judge and they will handle the situation. This will be the first World Tournament for many. It can be intimidating, and everyone should go away with a pleasant experience. If you see someone who looks confused, lend a hand.

Best of luck to everyone, and ringers to all.

Looking at the Job of the 3rd Vice President

by Jerry Smith, 3rd Vice President and Sanction League Director, Junior Scholarships

Last year when I was approved to fill the remaining term of David Sidles as 3rd Vice President, I, of course, wondered what the job entailed. I have since come to learn that the job is quite a bit more complicated than one would think. So, what does the Sanction League Director do anyway?

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You might think that the World Tournament (WT) is the big item on the plates of all NHPA officers, and I think it is fair to say that statement is mostly correct. I am looking forward to the WT and feel that it is my (our) job to make the WT the showcase of NHPA yearly activities. But, as it turns out, the WT may be a time for me to slow down. This year I have had to learn the processes of league play and the many ins and outs of how this is accomplished.

I started the year studying the Redbook and found it to be outdated and/or missing items that we currently do. The software to handle league stats and such was complicated and not overly user friendly. I also received a large box of plaques and certificates for 2014's Top Ten Awards Program which needed to be sorted out and shipped. With deadlines approaching for WT program ads, I had to plan for and produce an ad for October's Sanctioned League Tournament. And of course, I must meet the deadline to write something meaningful for this publication.

To meet these needs, I produced a rough draft of a revised Redbook. As league data started rolling in and with the immense help of Kevin and Pat Snelgrove, we made changes to the software so that my simple mind could grasp its use. I have entered about 50 leagues, and the program works just great. I decided how I want to run the Sanctioned League Tournament, got a flyer ready for publication, and I am trying to meet *Newsline* deadlines. So far, I have kept my head above water, but drowning has occurred to me as a distinct possibility.

I attended the winter meeting in Topeka and got my first look at the inner workings of the NHPA council. It was very enlightening to say the least. Since that time, as the pitching season has gotten rolling in most places, the council has an almost daily exchange of emails dealing with a wide and diverse range of topics. Few people know how busy an NHPA officer is and particularly the Sanctioned League Director. It may sound like I'm complaining, but I'm not. It is busy but fun, and it keeps me mostly safe from my wife's "honey-do" list.

I now seem to receive summer league membership reports daily and seem to go to the post office every day to ship league materials and patches. I am working hard getting the "longevity" plaques ordered and soon will need to ship them all out. Most of the 42 clubs that are eligible for the longevity awards – given for each five consecutive years of league activities – have responded positively.

As some people say, "never a dull moment." This certainly describes my life. I hope to see many league directors at the WT so we can chitchat. I am looking forward to seeing many old and true friends at the World and hope to make many new ones. Topeka, here I come.

Mission Accomplished

An update from last issue's "Attempting to Break a Guinness World Record"

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Connecticut horseshoe pitchers Mitchell Miles and Mathew Shanahan report that they successfully played the game of horseshoes for 24 hours and 30 seconds consecutively, fulfilling the requirements for consideration in the Guinness World Record Book. After submitting all evidence, the pair awaits confirmation.

Over the course of their May 23 feat, Mitch and Matt completed a total of 110 games with Matt winning 60 of them. Matt totaled 842 points and Mitch had 703, over the course of all the 10-inning games. Mitch threw 110 ringers and Matt was close behind with 105. "Needless to say, the pits were hard to reach the last couple of hours," said Mitch.

The pair figures with all their pitching, they threw approximately two tons of metal over eight miles.

NHPF Adds Board Members, Addresses Issues at Annual Meeting

by Casey Sluys, President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) Board of Directors has added two new members to its board. They are Ron Deckard of Florida and James Scully of Connecticut. Geographic location was indeed considered when asking these two gentlemen to serve on our board. With the added members we hope to broaden the awareness of the NHPF, thereby increasing participation in our brick purchase program and our fundraising effort to assist in supporting the NHPF Hall of Fame (link to: <http://www.nhpf.info/index.html>) in Wentzville, Missouri.

The NHPF held our annual meeting during the Hall of Fame Invitational tournament with all board members present. A few items that were discussed include:

- The brick plaza is beginning to show signs of heaving. Some bricks are raised and some sink down a bit. We spoke to the St. Charles County Parks Department, and they informed us that it is up to us to fix this. Presently it's a minor concern and will be looked into. Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club has members capable of doing this work.
- A letter went out to most NHPF grant recipients thanking them for their past contribution and hoping that they will continue to support us.
- The highway signs are costly, \$1,200 for new signs and \$3,000 per year for a (two-year minimum) contract. It was decided to wait with a decision on new signs for I-70 until we have a meeting with the NHPA Council at the World Tournament.
- We will have some new banners made in time for the World Tournament. Jim Scully will get these made at no cost.
- A second iteration of the NHPF brochure will be made soon, perhaps with a new cover design.
- All World Tournament participants will once again receive our brochure in their welcome packets. Please don't overlook it. Thank you, Roger Vogel, for assisting us with this.

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- We have transferred the tax-exempt status to both Missouri and Tennessee and there is no need to rewrite our bylaws.
- New grants will be limited to six per year with a maximum amount for each of \$3,000.
- A listing of all bricks, and their purchasers, will be available soon courtesy of work done by Bob Dunn, NHPA historian.

As a reminder to all of you online shoppers: please don't forget to log into Amazon Smile. (link to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1671910>) The NHPF has received their first check from Amazon as a result of your online shopping. Thank you very much! Keep up the great work!

Special Thanks to Our Donors

We express our sincere thanks to the following most recent donors:

Donating \$25-95

- Leo & Debby Bratland, IL (in memory of Sharon Tate)
- Leo & Debby Bratland, IL (in memory of Cecil Steele)
- Sodbusters Horseshoe Club, VT
- Heartland Indoor HA, MO
- Charles Bunner, WV
- Darrel & Lorraine Koistinen, WA
- Raymond Hall, NY
- Michelle M. Schack, CA (In memory of Bill Virgen)

Donating \$100-200

- Henry & Linda Westbrook, SC
- Oak Bend Horseshoe Club, FL

Donating \$500-600

- Dave and Carla Sidles, NE

Donating \$800-1000

- Emerald Horseshoe Pitchers Association, OR

Bricks Purchased By

- Sharon Del Pietro, MO (2 bricks)
- Kenneth Tate, IL
- Larry and Karin Myers, GA

Other Income

\$9,900	NHPA Annual Membership Donation
\$87	Hall of Fame Donation Box
\$700	Rent, NHPA GRS

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\$2,500 Rent, Quail Ridge HC, MO
\$54.50 Merchandize Sales

To learn how the NHPF came into being and exactly why we exist, view this quick, informative seven-minute video. (link to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EEUwzJuKfw&feature=youtu.be>)

Junior Profile: Kevin and Dillon Kyle

Double Ringers: California Brothers Bonded in Sport

by *Aleena Lepak, Junior Promotion Director*

A bond between brothers is one of the strongest there is, no matter the time or their age. This couldn't be truer for two brothers from Bakersfield, California: Kevin and Dillon Kyle. Nine-year-old Dillon and 11-year-old Kevin are close in age and share many of the same interests.

Kevin plays basketball and is in band, recently receiving "most improved" in percussion. Dillon is also in basketball, along with football and track where he recently advanced to the Valley finals for long-distance running. The pair is as involved in Royal Rangers with Kevin earning a Bronze Medal in Adventure, and Dillon a Golden Falcon in Discovery. They both love to swim and play "Minecraft" on their Xbox in their spare time, and both have a love for the game of horseshoes.

It all started when their dad was 18. With his father, in a back alley that had four courts, over time, it became a sport for the family. When Kevin turned five, he wanted to give it a try and found that he really liked it. At seven years old, Dillon tried, and it has stuck with the boys ever since. With their mom, dad, and sister Victoria in the stands with constant support, the boys have achieved a great deal at a young age.

Kevin is a two-time state champion, a three-time southern California champion, and took fifth in the cadet championship at the World Tournament last year. Dillon also took fifth in Cadet Class B last year. Both have placed in many, many tournaments and practice every day in their backyard, leading up to the World Tournament.

As they are both in the Cadet class, they often find themselves pitching against one another.

"I don't like that he makes a ringer when I do," explained Dillon. These brothers may have a competition between them, but they always have fun and will cheer each other on.

With all of these accomplishments, the boys have much to look forward to. Kevin likes technology and one day hopes to be a ship engineer. Dillon is good with animals and may be a veterinarian when he grows up. His favorite animals are cheetahs and monkeys. Both of these brothers have amazing personalities and great ambitions.

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Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore

Who is the Greatest Woman? (Part Two)

by Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian

Before we get into the article, I need to make a correction for last issue's article. When talking about our first Women's World Champion, I inadvertently stated that Marjorie Voorhees was from Asbury, New York. That is not correct. Marjorie was from Asbury, New Jersey. Thanks to Anne MacIntyre, for pointing that out to me, and for adding that Marjorie Voorhees is a member of the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

And now back to our story!

The 1970s brought more new stars. Ruth Hangen, a veteran of four world tournaments, with two third-place finishes and one runner-up finish, opened the decade with four straight world championships. That was an unheard of record. Previously, seven times a woman pitcher had consecutive titles but the record stood at just two in a row. Hangen had won four consecutive titles and pitched 79.6 percent ringers in the 1973 event. Was she about to step up to the top of all time?

Lorraine Thomas brought Hangen's string to a halt in 1974 as she won her second championship, pitching 80.16 percent. Vicki Winston won her ninth title in 1975 and Hangen returned to the winner's circle in 1976 with her fifth and final championship. Ruth Hangen was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1975. Hangen's world championship record:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1970	1	7	1	298	414	72.0
1971	1	7	0	323	440	73.4
1972	1	7	0	354	462	76.6
1973	1	7	0	363	456	79.6
1976	1	8	2	509	682	75.6

Then to close out the last three years of the decade, three new champions surfaced. Debby Michaud (Raynham, Massachusetts) won the Women's World Championship in 1977; Opal Reno (Pike County, Ohio) followed as the 1978 champion and Phyllis Negaard (St. Joseph, Minnesota) won in 1979. The women's class was expanded to 12 players for the 1978 and 1979 events.

The 1980s brought three new champions into the arena and there was a sharp increase to the competitive factor. During the 1980s, there were 20 80-percent performances and an additional 33 pitchers over 75 percent. Opal Reno opened the decade with her second title. Debby Michaud got her second title in 1985. Debby Michaud was inducted in the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1990 and Opal Reno was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1992.

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Tari Powell (Rankin, Illinois) became a first time women's champion in 1984, and in doing so became the first former Junior Girls' World Champion (as Tari Carpenter in 1976) to also win a Women's Championship. Diane Lopez (Lompoc, California) was a first-time winner in 1988.

There were major highlights during the 1980s. In 1981, Vicki Winston won her tenth championship in her 24th world tournament appearance, going undefeated in Preimesberger Arena and pitching 78.0 percent. This would be her final championship, and at that moment, those 10 titles were thought to be a record that would never be broken.

Oh, by the way, Vicki Winston's 10 titles still stands as the all-time record and when her pitching career ended in 1995, she had another record that may never be broken: 39 Women's Championship Class appearances. Vicki Winston was the first woman inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame (1970) and her record of World Championship years follows:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1956	1	9	0			52.6
1958	1	6	0			54.8
1959	1	4	0	75	142	52.8
1961	1	7	0	125	228	54.9
1963	1	7	1	170	290	58.8
1966	1	8	2	264	364	72.4
1967	1	7	0	290	394	73.6
1969	1	7	0	384	482	79.6
1957	1	7	0			73.5
1981	1	11	0	596	764	78.0

In one of the most memorable Women's World Championships ever, Sandy McLachlin (Dresden, Ontario and now Sandy Janssens) won the championship in Eau Clair, Wisconsin. She was the previous year's Junior Girls' World Champion, pitching 67.33 percent. She had one more year of junior eligibility remaining, but waived that to enter the Women's Division. What chance could she have against the incredible talent in the Women's championship Class? And in 1986, the women's class had been expanded to 16 players.

Going into the last game of the round robin, Sandy was undefeated at 14-0 and playing fellow Canadian Diane Cantin who had just one loss, a 37-40 loss to Phyllis Negaard. Cantin pitched an 89.6 percent game to beat the teenager and force a playoff Game.

Sixteen-year-old Sandy McLachlin won that playoff game in 108 shoes, 40-31, and averaged 88.2 percent for the entire tournament, to establish a new women's world record. Just as impressive, Diane Cantin averaged 88.1 percent as runner-up. Sandy Janssens was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2001 and Diane Cantin was inducted in 2002.

Beyond all this, the decade of the 1980s belonged to Phyllis Negaard. She won four times during the decade and now her total stood at five championships. She certainly was now

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among the few to be considered the greatest. To this point there were only five women that held at least five titles: Mayme Francisco (5), Laura Lanham (6), Ruth Hangen (5), Vicki Winston (10) and Phyllis Negaard (5). But this would be her final championship. Phyllis Negaard was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1989. Her world tournament title years are as follows:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1979	1	10	1	513	730	70.2
1982	1	10	1	518	652	79.4
1983	1	9	2	589	700	84.1
1986	1	14	1	706	890	79.3
1989	1	14	3	830	1026	80.9

The 1990s can be considered the most competitive decade with 25 80-percent performances and another 33 of over 75 percent. The classes remained at 16 players. Tari Powell opened the decade with titles in 1990 and 1991 to bring her total to three championships. Sue Snyder (Indiana, Kentucky) became a first-time winner in 1992, as did Cathy Carter (Council Bluffs, Iowa) in 1993.

Then Sue Snyder won again in 1994 and repeated for her third championship in 1995. Both were very impressive performances of 85.16 percent and 84.19 percent.

With five championship class appearances on her record, Bev Nathe stepped up and won consecutive championships in 1996 and 1997. She became the 12th woman pitcher to accomplish that feat. But even more unusual, she was the sister of Phyllis Negaard, and this is the first and only sister combination to be Women's World Champions. Bev Nathe was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2002. Her title years record:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1996	1	15	0	858	1050	81.71
1997	1	17	2	1061	1320	80.38

Sue Snyder was runner-up to Nathe in 1996. She averaged 88.38 percent ringers, setting a world tournament record, and came in second place.

Becky Kemper (Pleasureville, Kentucky) was just two years out of the Junior Girls' Division and had just one year of experience pitching in the Women's Division. She became a first-time winner in 1998, pitching 82.53 percent. Then Sue Snyder pitched 84.52 percent to win her fourth championship in 1999 to close out the decade and be the best of the decade.

The first decade of the new century remained as competitive as the 1980s and 1990s, and a new star stepped up, Sylvianne Moisan (Chertsey, Quebec, Canada) winning the first four events of the 2000s. She wasn't new to the Women's Division though, as she had been runner-up in 1995 pitching 85.49 percent; runner-up in 1997, averaging 85.1 percent; and again runner-up in 1999. There was also a third place finish in 1992, a top-ten finish in

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1993 and a fifth place finish in 1994. She became only the second women's pitcher to win four consecutive championships and only the second Canadian to win a women's title. Her quest for another championship continued but there were two third-place finishes and four more runner-up finishes. Sylvianne Moisan was inducted to the National Hall of Fame in 2004. Her title years are shown as follows:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
2000	1	14	1	870	1040	83.65
2001	1	14	1	895	1070	83.64
2002	1	15	0	743	864	86.00
2004	1	22	1	1085	1312	82.70

The Women's Championship Class was expanded to 24 in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Sue Snyder won two more titles, in 2004 and 2005, to bring her total to six championships. Only three women pitchers had accomplished six or more titles and Sue Snyder won hers in the most competitive era of the sport.

In 2006, the class was reduced back to 20 players as it remains today. Joan Elmore, (Mt. Juliet, Tennessee) a veteran of seven championship class appearances, and coming off runner-up finishes in the past two years, became a first-time winner in 2006. Elmore won again in 2007. Sue Snyder broke Elmore's string of consecutive wins, for her seventh championship in 2008. Sue Snyder was inducted to the National Hall of Fame in 1995. Her championship years were:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1992	1	14	1	885	1046	84.61
1994	1	17	1	666	782	85.16
1995	1	15	0	889	1056	84.19
1999	1	18	1	857	1014	84.52
2004	1	21	2	885	1140	77.63
2005	1	22	1	870	1056	82.39
2008	1	19	1	1065	1234	86.30

Joan Elmore then went on a four-year spree by winning the women's crown in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Elmore run was stopped by Cindy Hoffman (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) in 2013 at St George, Utah. Elmore returned to the winner's circle in 2014 and now at present has seven championships. Joan Elmore was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 2009. Her championship years are:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
2006	1	18	2	845	1028	82.20
2007	1	19	1	949	1166	81.39
2009	1	19	1	1166	1372	84.99
2010	1	18	1	795	1000	79.50

NEWSLINE Text

published July-August 2015

2011	1	14	1	688	848	81.13
2012	1	15	0	721	852	84.62
2014	1	15	0	631	726	86.91

So at the last count of Women's World Championships: Vicki Winston, 10; Sue Snyder, seven; Joan Elmore, seven; and Laura Lanham, six.

Now you can be the judge!

If you enjoy reading about the history of our sport, there are a couple of new books available for sale. First is the "AAU National Amateur Horseshoe Pitching Champions" and just recently released is "The Lee Rose Story." Both have received strong reviews. They are available for purchase from your Game Related Sales distributor or direct from me. (link to: bobcharlesdunn@aol.com)

If you are attending the 2015 World Tournament, stop by the display of my horseshoe collection – all 36 feet of it. View the antique shoes, visit and purchase copies of the new books.