

# MARCH

1940



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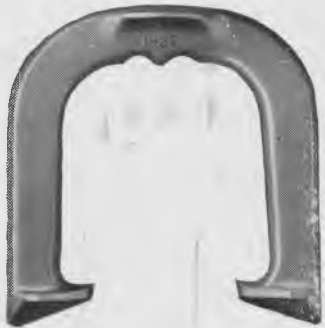
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# The HORSESHOE WORLD . . . *The Pitchers' Journal*

Vol. XIX

No. 3



March, 1940

**T**HIS is the time to give attention to your horseshoe pitching equipment. It is the time when you should dust off the old Dobbins and see if you think they will go through the season or if it wouldn't be a good idea to try one of the new 1940 models. The horseshoe equipment manufacturers have their 1940 model shoes ready and from all reports many improvements have been made—and besides, what gives a fellow more confidence as he starts a new pitching season than a brand new set of shoes?

## 1940 Models Out

And this is the right time to get the members of your club interested in fixing up the courts. New clay, possibly new boxes, better scoreboards and a hundred and one other things may be given attention, seeking more enjoyment for the summer season. Nothing promotes good fellowship better than a neighborhood horseshoe club,

## Good Fellowship

with good courts, well lighted, where pitchers and their families may gather on summer evenings. There need be no objection of "horseshoe widows"—take the Mrs. along and possibly there might be room for a lane or two for the ladies, as ladies' horseshoe clubs become more popular every year. And don't forget these ladies, if properly interested, can help your club get its finances in the black by holding ice cream festivals, entertainments, etc. Many clubs have financed new lights for the courts by such methods.

Yes, let's make 1940 a good horseshoe year and let's make it a game for the whole family!

The Horseshoe World would be pleased to have short letters from clubs that have financed new courts, new lights, etc., through various money-making schemes that we might pass them on to our readers.

We are quite sure that horseshoe clubs could be of benefit to other clubs if they would give us their ideas each month on improving their club and just how they accomplished improvements. We will pass 'em on and if the idea does the other fellow some good it certainly will be worth your while.



Warmer weather has stirred the horseshoe pitchers from California to Maine and things are beginning to "hum" in the horseshoe realm . . . that's good news to our ears as horseshoe news has been rather scarce, except in the East where they do a better job of getting publicity for their clubs or something . . . what we want now is some news from some of the Western states and the Middle-West . . . how did you folks in Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and some of the other states make out during the winter . . . Ohio has been snowed under for the greater part of the winter but there is a prospect of a state tournament at the Ohio State Fair and we Buckeyes are perking up for spring practice . . . a lot of things have been going on back of the scenes regarding a national tournament and we hope that a date and place can be announced soon . . . we have had letters from President Page and Secretary Rose and each promises news soon . . . let's work something out, boys, so we can have a 1940 tournament if possible.

*In publishing THE HORSESHOE WORLD, our readers come first. The magazine is printed monthly for them. Suggestions to the editor for the betterment of the magazine are always welcomed.*

*The time that your subscription expires is printed on the address slip, directly after your name, showing the month and the year.*

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R. B. HOWARD,  
Publisher and Editor

Business Offices, Madison Press Co. Building  
45 W. Second Street, London, Ohio

Official Organ of the National Horseshoe  
Pitchers Association

# What's Wrong With Horseshoes?

## An Article Wherein Alvin Dahlene Gives His Version of the Lack of "Omph" in the Grand Old Sport

I hope that those who read the following article will give it plenty of thought before condemning the writer. This has been on my mind for some time and I just had to get rid of it. I have been a booster for the game for years—and also a constant subscriber for the past seven years to our good little magazine known as the Horseshoe World. Whatever I have said comes straight from the shoulder—it is no use flying under a false flag and leading ourselves into disappointment. Horseshoes to me will always be a hobby and a fine way of exercising and making friends. If the men pitching shoes in this country are doing so with the financial goal always in sight, they are doomed to bitter disappointment. Only the champion can hope to derive financial remuneration for his highly skilled ability. The rest of us will have to be satisfied with the sport of it. If you do not enjoy playing a game, then you are missing half your life. The sport is the thing.

Ty Cobb, the immortal of baseball, was once asked this question: "What is the secret of your success?" To this he replied: "Two per cent perspiration and 98 per cent inspiration." Use a little of this philosophy with your game of shoes and you will enjoy it better.

ALVIN DAHLENE

\* \* \*

The subject that I am about to dwell upon has been drifting through my cranium for some time, so I guess I had better dispense with it. If I say some things that get under your hide, fellow horseshoe pitcher, and friends, please forgive me—I am really sincere.

Why is it that horseshoe pitching is always taking a back seat? Some say that the kill-point system is a potent factor in eliminating the prospective pitcher. Maybe so, but the man with a little intestinal fortitude will stick to it regardless. I, along with many others, too numerous to mention, had to go through the "growing pains" of taking a "skunk" many a time, but I lived through it; in fact enjoyed it.

The real trouble, I think, with our game is its lack of spectator appeal. Why should I make such a statement? Well, after 15 years of playing, promoting, handling publicity,

making courts and what not. I have come to the sad conclusion that my work has almost gone for nought. It's true that I have made many friends through the medium of our fine game—a fact that I am well proud of. A warm friendship is something to be desired and cherished.

Why does our game lack average spectator appeal? Our game is highly skilled to be sure, and our national champion is almost a superman with the irons. He is an ambassador of good will wherever he goes, and his stunts are extraordinary. However Mr. Allen's pitching comes under the category of trick or fancy pitching—hence his popular appeal.

But let us take two good pitchers, let's say who are capable of pitching 80 per cent ringers. Let them tangle with the best they have in them. The game soon becomes a monotonous routine of "four dead" and no score. If the fans who watch this game are pitchers, they can well appreciate the skill involved—marvelous co-ordination of nerve, eye and muscle. But what about the average on-looker (a non-pitcher) does he really enjoy it? He will a few times, and then give it up, taking for granted that these two hot shots will continue to burn the pegs up all the while. Maybe the folks back east or the far west do enjoy it, but out here in Kansas there is a different story. Very few people come to watch it, regardless of the calibre of the said tossers.

Here is an example to prove the above assertion. Last Fourth of July, my home town, Lawrence, Kansas, put on a "wow" of a celebration. There were softball games, soap box derby, boat races and fireworks. I got plenty of publicity for a swell match game between two of the best pitchers in this section of the country. Here are the results: Several hundred people watched the ball games; better than 5000 attended the soap box derby; the river was lined for the boat races, and 25,000 witnessed the fireworks display. But lo and behold, a mammoth crowd of 24 people came down to see the horseshoe pitching contest. Some of the best pitching ever to be put on in this section was to be seen that afternoon. That shows very conclusively that the average sport fan does not give a damn about a game unless it has variety.

Take the four major sports in

America, namely baseball, football, basket ball and ice hockey. Millions of people go to see these sports annually and put in many million dollars into the sport treasury. What lures them through the turnstiles? I'll tell you what—VARIETY, unending variety and tense situations.

Baseball, America's greatest sport, has no equal for entertainment. From the time the "ump" yells play ball until the last out is made you can see and enjoy dozens of hair-raising plays.

What is the biggest thrill in baseball? To some it is the home run. Young and old of both sexes go out to the old ball park to see some husky chap come up to the plate and give the spheroid a ride over some distant fence, and then yell themselves hoarse. Maybe in the next inning some player executes a difficult catch that leaves everyone spellbound. Still later a double steal or squeeze bunt puts the crowd into hysterics. Then the pitcher strikes out the Bambino with the bases full and everyone howls in glee. Such is baseball — you can't beat it for sheer thrills day after day.

Can't you see, dear horseshoe pitcher, that our game can never compare with it. Maybe you think so, and this being a free country, you have a right to your own opinion. I have spoken my piece and will stick to it. Horseshoe is a game of monotonous skill, but how I like it—I am a pitcher; my neighbor cares nothing about it.

So, you see, my friends, unless something is done to kill the monotony of the game it will never be anything but a minor sport. It can be compared with archery, bait casting, ping pong and other small sports.

I want every pitcher who reads the World to think of me as a friend. I am merely trying to put across to you what I really feel down in my heart. It can be summed up in one little word—MONOTONY.

Maybe some bright fellow can start the ball rolling for a new and better life for the grand old game. Every sport has been battered in the process of evolution. Life never stands still; you either progress or you fall back.

IS SHOE FAN

Frank Gannett, newspaper publisher, and aspirant to the Republican nomination for President, is a horseshoe fan. He recently pitched on the St. Petersburg, Fla., courts.

## ADVICE TO PARENTS—BUILD A COURT

A small mistake can wreck your boy's future. Health and mental improvement can be obtained free for your boy or girl as they grow up.

Dad, if you care to know just what they are doing, and where they are, just build them a horseshoe court in the back yard, then get them each a pair of pitching shoes; playing rules will come with them; Help them learn the rules and obey them. You will enjoy getting them started right.

Remember there is no other game that requires so much science and skill to play. It will furnish the best of clean enjoyment, build for them strong healthy bodies, and in short time mother will also know just where to find dad; why, of course, out playing with the kids.

Horseshoe pitching has been called the barnlot game. Well, it may be so, but those who have given it most thought and study know that it requires more science and skill to be masterly controlled than any other game; while I think bowling comes next. Also some of our best players are doing some very nice and difficult stunts with their pitching

shoes; it might seem that older players have made a failure.

More than 20 years we have had our State and National Associations, allowing them to go year after year without our support. A very small membership fee, and it far too small, was their only request; and we failed them. It is easy to raise the membership fee to the need of success, but unless you, we, the players, join our associations and back them with our membership, this great out-door sport will disappear as one of our national sports. Do your part and do it now; be loyal to the game; join both State and National Associations.

We can't hold tournaments without cost. You, the players, must help. Get into your local club and help put it over in a big way. We should make this a year round sport. We need it most of all in the long winter months. It will keep your pitching shoes bright, also your eye and mind keen. Then take the Horseshoe World, for all the news; learn just what the other fellows are doing.

WILLARD RUSE, Aledo, Ill.

### LONG ISLAND NEWS

At the last monthly meeting of the Long Island Horseshoe Pitchers Association, Henry Christy, one of the outstanding horseshoe pitchers of Long Island suggested that the association conduct an open horseshoe pitching tournament on Long Island, this tournament to decide an eastern champion.

The title for the championship has not yet been decided upon; it may be known under one of the following suggested titles: Long Island Open Championship, Eastern U. S. Championship, Northeastern States Championship, or Atlantic Seaboard Championship.

The suggestion of Henry Christy met with the hearty approval of all the delegates of the various clubs represented. The president thereupon appointed a committee composed of Henry Christy, chairman, Peter McGill and Frederick Egger, to work out a plan for such a tournament.

The committee plans to meet in a few weeks and make up a plan which will be presented to the delegates of the various clubs of the Long Island Horseshoe Pitchers Association for consideration.

The plan which the committee has in mind at present is novel in regards to the method in which it is

planning to conduct it. The committee expects to have about 80 to 100 horseshoe pitchers enter this contest; these players will represent the best from the various states which will be included as eligible to enter the contest.

In order that a tournament of this size can be carried out, to give all an opportunity to play and without going to the expense of constructing a large number of courts in one place the committee is in hopes that all the clubs who are members of the association will offer the use of their courts for this tournament. As each club has five courts entries will be assigned to each club. These entries will play a ten-man preliminary round robin the top men in each 10-man round robin will play in a semi-final round robin. This will be played on the courts of four clubs. The top men in each of these round robins will play in a 12-man round robin for the championship.

It is planned to award medals of some description to the winners of the preliminary round robin and the entries in the semi-finals will have a chance to play for a place in the final round robin where all will have an opportunity to play for a cash prize.

With the above arrangement, with 35 courts available at seven clubs, we could handle a maximum of 140 entries. Each club could handle two round robins of 10 men each, pre-

liminary round; six clubs could handle one round robin of 10 men each, semifinals. The two top men in the six semi-final round robins will play at one club in a 12-man round robin for the title.

The time being considered by the committee is the week of July 4th.

As soon as full details of this tournament are drawn up and approved by the club delegates to the Long Island Association, the committee will go into action, and a more exact description on how this contest will be conducted will be circulated among the followers of the sport.

If individuals wish further details, write to Henry Christy, chairman, Horseshoe Tournament Committee, 37 24 111th St., Corona, Long Island, New York.

### Signs O' Spring!

Just as kite flying and marble games by the boys indicate the approach of spring, when the older boys go to clearing off the horseshoe pitching ground it can't be long until summer.

Bill Frazier, Jap Parton, and "Apple Bill" Smith cleared the snow from the horseshoe courts near Sees' blacksmith shop Monday, and with Lufe Smalley held a workout, Smalley and Smith pitching against Frazier and Parton, with the former pair winning in a five-game match 3 to 2.

Bill Smith is urging that Goodland get either the Western Open or the Worlds Horseshoe Tournament this summer, which would bring a lot of professional pitchers, possibly as many as 125 for the world's tourney, here for about five or six days of competition.

Ted Allen, world's champion for seven years, who has been here several times in the past, and once put on an exhibition of pitching in Goodland, is expected here soon to tell more about the possibility of a big tournament here. Goodland has seen some other topflight pitchers, such as Fernando Isais, former national champion, and Putt Mossman, who gave an exhibition at the Northwest Kansas Fair one year when he was national champion. Allen has a world record of 98 ringers, and Isais is close behind with 97.

The chamber of commerce at its meeting at noon, discussed the horseshoe tournament, but decided to defer any action until a later time, and it was moved to lay the proposition on the table until some future time.—Goodland (Kans.) Daily News.

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Lawrence, Kansas  
Third Vice President

Little time remains for prospective entries into the National Team League to file notice of prospective entry of a team in this league. This notice does not mean that you intend to actually enter a team, but if you are interested in entering one at all, notice must be filed with the National Secretary before April 15th.

The idea behind this notice is to allow the National Secretary to obtain some idea of how many teams will line up for this first year of league play. To all you people who think you have a team in your state strong enough to compete with teams from other states, or you people who have a strong team which you believe can beat any other team in the country, this league is a challenge.

For several years, now, we have seen articles in the papers and in the Horseshoe World, telling about this team and that team being the best in the country, and laying claims to being the national or the world's champion. This year, and other years to come, this mythical title will become a reality to be actually played for. Teams who have been claiming to be the best can go out and prove it now, and the winner will be officially recognized as the world champion team. No greater chance for team play has ever been offered before! Let's get those prospective entries filed!

When you have filed your notice with me you will receive a team contract to sign your players to. Each team will be allowed to sign as many as ten players, and this will give them three alternates. Sign your players from anywhere you can get them, and the better they are, the better league we'll have. While you are signing players, look around for a commercial sponsor, and get them interested in backing your team. Have them buy your uniforms, pay your \$10.00 entry fee, and possibly furnish funds for transportation for road games. Let's get a real professional big league going.

I have had several letters asking what the \$10.00 entry is to be used for. Well, it is my idea to use this money to defray the extra expense that handling the league will entail, but the bulk of it I figured to use to bring the division winners together for a world series if at all possible. However, I am willing to leave it up

to the majority to decide, and will let each team make known its choice on its own contract.

I had hoped to spring a big, welcome surprise in this issue by definitely announcing a world tournament, but I am certain that the next issue will see a world meet all settled. Since I have been asked to keep names and places a secret until negotiations are completed, I can only say that no less than four sites are desirous of obtaining the meet this year, and one of them is sure to get it. I might say that two of the sites are near the East, one is in the Middle-West, and one is farther west.

And now, we reach the question of sanctioned horseshoes. This is a point that has caused more trouble in the past than anything else, and the National Association took what it believed to be the necessary steps to create once and for all a foolproof rule which would settle this question to the satisfaction of all concerned. This step was to reach an arbitration on the definition of a shoe, and to extract a promise from the manufacturers to use five-cent stamps on their product for the building up of a tournament fund. And to make sure that no manufacturer crept outside the rules in making his shoes, each one was supposed to post a \$100 bond as a guarantee of good faith, said bond to be forfeited if the manufacturer were found guilty of stepping over the rules. To date we have five manufacturers using the stamps, but not one of them has posted his bond as yet, though two have promised to do so in the near future.

To you horseshoe pitchers who will soon be buying shoes for the coming season, we say this: "BUY ONLY SANCTIONED SHOES!" The sanctioned shoes to date are the Lattore, Allen, Gordon, Ohio and Diamond Calk.

I have repeatedly written other companies urging them to use the stamps, but they have either refused outright, or did not answer at all. All pitchers are asked to co-operate with the National, and make sure your shoes are properly stamped with the red stamp of our association, or for a while, with five green stamps, since some of the companies have a few green stamps left over.

If you find one of the above-named shoes without any stamps at all, please inform me at once.

CANADIAN NOTES

Keen competition featured the annual mid-winter horseshoe tournament held in the Eaton Annex recently.

Cliff Smith, Furby Street Club, gained the main singles championship by defeating Al Smith, a former provincial champion, in a close match.

Sam Bopha and Roy McCann, of Birtle, captured the doubles by defeating Al Smith and Stan Fidler in the final. McCann also took the ringer contest with 31 out of 40.

M. Fidler shone in the Veterans events. He won the singles and paired with A. Bateman to win the doubles. In the singles Fidler didn't drop a point.

Mens' open singles...., 1, Cliff Smith, Furby St.; 2, Alf Smith, St. James; 3, S. Dahl, Furby St.; 4, S. Bopha, Canucks.

Mens' Open Doubles....1, S. Bopha and R. McCann, Canucks; 2, Al Smith and S. Fidler; 3, K. Davis and S. Dahl, Furby; 4, E. Ferns and W. V. Matthews, Furby.

Ringer Contest—1, R. McCann, Canucks; 2, A. Smith, St. James; 3, S. Bopha, Canucks.

Novice Doubles— 1, E. Ferns and H. Anderson; 2, W. Billingham and J. Sanders; 3, W. Tucker and W. Sharpe; 4, W. J. Crawford and I. Hogue, Brandon.

Veterans' Doubles—1, M. Fidler and A. Bateman 2, A. Brown and W. Hogue, St. James.

Veterans' Singles—1, M. Fidler, Furby St.; 2, J. Saunders, unattached; 3, F. Brown, St. James; 4, A. McMillan, Miami.

Ladies' Singles—1, Miss C. Porteous, St. James 2, Miss M. Fawcett, unattached.

Juveniles—1, R. Welsh, Furby St.; 2, E. Carlson, unattached.

The Manitoba Horseshoe Pitchers' Association held its annual championship tournament on the St. Vital courts on Labor Day. The tournament was featured by the sensational pitching of Sam Bopha, an Indian  
(Continued on Page 7)

## Belsky Is Best

By JOHN J. ENRIGHT  
(In Long Island, N. Y. Daily Press)

Michael Belsky, of the Elmhurst Club has been selected as the Number One horseshoe pitcher of Queens for the 1939 season.

Belsky won the annual county championship last August and represented Queens in the State Fair tournament at Syracuse, when he finished in second place. He will receive a trophy at the dinner-dance of the Queens All-Sports Association to be held at the Pomonok Country Club on March 30.

His excellent performance in local match game competition made his selection by the Long Island Horseshoe Pitchers Association a logical choice. An all-season record of 43 games won and 10 lost, with a ringer average of 56.6, put Mike at the top of the Queens Class A list.

Belsky resides with his wife and four children at 66-10 Grand avenue, Maspeth. He is a house painter by trade and a horseshoe enthusiast by conviction.

### Since 1934

He has been playing shoes since 1934. As a member of the old Emerald Club he learned the rudiments of the game in Central Park. Later he transferred to Fort George, where the veteran Tom O'Hara took him in charge.

He was runner-up in the first Eastern U. S. Open held in 1936. He enjoyed his first big season in 1937 when he won the City Parks championship, the Metropolitan title at Ft. George, and again finished second in the Eastern U. S. Open.

Coming to Queens in 1938, Mike joined DeKalb and helped the Brooklyn Club win the Long Island team championship. He finished second to Vito Fileccia for the Long Island State Parks title. He played with Elmhurst last season.

Unlike most ringer fans, Belsky admits to a year-round enthusiasm for the game. He keeps in shape during the winter months by practicing a half-hour a day on a court in the basement of his home. Despite his strenuous program, he manages to find time and energy for a weekly bowling match or softball game in season. His performance in both these sports is above the average.

Mike was surprised and pleased when told of his nomination. Characteristically, he prefers to consider the All-Sports award as more of a tribute to the game than to himself. "I certainly appreciate the honor," said Mike, "and I'm glad to see that the game is getting the public recognition it deserves."

A large delegation of local horseshoe fans will be at the Pomonok dinner to see Mike receive the trophy.

### HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW?

Radio quizzes have most folks all tuned up for all sorts of questions and it will be interesting to see how many of our readers can answer the questions submitted by Bill Mulligan and printed in a recent issue of the Long Island Press.

(Of course some are New York questions, but most of them should be familiar to all our readers. The answers will be found in another part of the magazine).

Here they are:

1. Who was the first pitcher to try for ringers instead of points?
2. Who invented the scoring system, and score sheet, now in use?
3. When was this system first used?
4. How many times was Frank Jackson national champion?
5. When was the last national championship tournament held?
6. When did Ted Allen win his first national championship?
7. Who was the national titleholder before Ted Allen?
8. Who is the present women's national champion?
9. Who is the present national A. A. U. titleholder?
10. Who is the Canadian champion?
11. Who was the New York State champion before Vito Fileccia?
12. Who is the present state champion?
13. Who won the 1939 New York State Farm Bureau tournament?
14. Who is the present New Jersey State champion?
15. Who is the present Massachusetts state champion?
16. Who won the 1938 Long Island championship?
17. Who won the 1939 Long Island State Parks trophy?
18. Who won the first Queens-City Park Department tournament?
19. Where did Ted Allen give his first Long Island exhibition?
20. What was the name of the first Long Island horseshoe club?

### DAISYTOWN CLUB

The Horseshoe World has a letter from Nick Wohar, president of the Daisytown, Pa., Horseshoe Club. He gives a few facts regarding his club which we reprint:

"I am president of the Daisytown Horseshoe Club and manager of the team which won the 1938 Mon Valley Horseshoe League championship over the crack Fayette City crew which was sparked by George Curry, Penn-

sylvania state champion for 1932, '35, '37 and '38. One of my members of 1938 Mon Valley Horseshoe League champions was Bill Penttila, now 1939 state champ, who deposed Curry and bested Bill Good of Johnstown in a ringer duel to win the state crown.

In winning the 1938 Valley League title our club shattered the ringer record of 433 ringers set in 1937 by Fayette City's crack aggregation of horseshoe stars composed of George Curry, Ray Fazenbaker, Frenchy Bourret, Clarence Dawson, Don Evans, Bill Curry and Sam Winters. Our club set a new high of 521 ringers against Fayette City, surpassing our own record of 484 which was set in a match against Millsboro. Our team was comprised of Bill Penttila (1939 state champ), Tommy Nichols, John Tonkavitch (now dead, passing away in the spring of 1939, at the age of 23); Eddie Shubra, Joey Wohar, John Cherney and Nick Wohar.

"After the death of Tonkavitch we did not schedule any match contests for 1939; however this spring we are organizing our club early and are in the market for games before our league is re-organized.

In 1938 we met and defeated Fayette City, Washington, Monessen, Allenport, Millsboro, Crescent Heights, Carmichaels, California, Richeyville and Vesta Six. The only club we were unable to defeat was Johnstown. We played the match at Johnstown and they had picked the cream of the Johnstown area players while we used our regular club."

### Forest Hill Club Has Indoor Courts

The Forest Hill Horseshoe Club is having a very successful winter session on their new indoor courts located at Lincoln Avenue and Carteret Street, Newark, New Jersey. Match games with other clubs along with their regular intra-club matches have kept their two courts busy all winter.

The Indoor Club consists of 25 members. Francis Kemp, 482 Summer Ave., Newark, is president; Howard Holman, 20 Emily Ave., Nutley, is secretary; Herbert Holman is treasurer, and Al Ford, 820 Parker Street, Newark, is manager.

While they have only two courts at present, there is ample space for at least two more which gives them plenty of room for expansion. They have a wealth of material to draw from in Newark, their former outdoor club listing some 75 horseshoe pitchers, and in another winter season should become the most active club in New Jersey.

## NEW JERSEY PLANS BUSY 1940 SEASON

The Executive Committee of the New Jersey Horseshoe Pitchers Association held their annual Spring meeting on March 10th, at the club rooms of the Hudson County Horseshoe Club, 671 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, and made plans for a very busy season for 1940.

The first tournament is scheduled for May 19th, at Emil's Log Cabin in Middletown. This is the Central Jersey Open Tourney and all the pitchers from neighboring states are invited.

The Hudson County Open at Lincoln Park, Jersey City, sponsored by

the Hudson County Horseshoe Club, is tentatively set for June 23rd, but ask that the pitchers watch for a possible switch in date, depending upon the counter attractions on that date.

The state championship tournament will be held on August 18th, but the location is not definite at this time.

The New Jersey Open is to be held at Emil's Log Cabin, either on August 4th or September 15th, depending on future developments.

A tournament is planned for Garfield on July 14th and at Clemondon Park, near Camden, on June 9.

### Handicapped, But Good

"It's an old story, now," writes Dan Salvesen, "that Brooklyn was very much in the league last season—the horseshoe league among others. With DeKaig setting the pace and Sunset Park bringing up the rear, the Dodger County pitchers had Class A surrounded from start to finish.

"The fact that Sunset won only one match and finished deep in the cellar surprised no one; certainly not Salvesen and Co. Sunset had no business in the upper ringer brackets and was lucky not to lose all ten matches. One 50 per center doesn't make a winning team in any league.

"Everyone agrees that we were something less than sensational in our Class A debut. But who will say that this same team would not have added pace and punch to the Class B pennant fight.

"Sunset's season average of 38.4 compares favorably with College Point's 38.2 trophy mark—and there's reason to believe the Pointers could have bettered that figure if pressed.

"Though the Sunset boys would have appeared more frequently in the games-won column, it would have been no walkaway. Not with fellows like Jimmy Ruggles, Schlee, Henrichs, Ziegler, Benish and Rebish to compete with. For various reasons we would have found Class B competition more rigorous than Class A. With all team averages under 40 per cent, it would have been a fight—not an exhibition. And don't forget that Sunnyside, with 37.7, finished in a field of eight."

Dan's comment on the prospects of Sunset Park in Class B is no post mortem pipe dream. It almost happened. Sunset's application for membership in the Long Island Association arrived one day late. Because all B berths were occupied, Dan agreed, reluctantly, to enter his team in Class A. The result is horseshoe history.

The fact that the Sunset Club completed the schedule and took nine lickings without alibi or complaint is evidence of rare good sportsmanship and a large appetite for the ringer game. Under the 1940 classification plan the Sunseters will be given ample opportunity to annex a trophy for themselves—and Brooklyn.

#### Sunset Summary

	W	L	Pct.
D. Salvesen .....	39	11	54.2
L. Jonassen .....	11	19	40.2
J. Salvesen .....	19	31	38.0
T. Gramstad .....	10	30	36.7
O. Salvesen .....	7	34	30.7
H. Thompson .....	0	17	27.4
J. Nerwik .....	0	5	29.0
L. Larson .....	2	6	25.0
J. McIntosh .....	0	9	20.5
Team final .....	1	9	38.4

#### PUBLICITY HELPS

The promotion and advancement of the sport of horseshoe pitching can be accomplished by securing all possible publicity in the newspapers in which the events occur. It is up to the local horseshoe pitchers to secure the co-operation of their local sports writers and newspaper publishers. It can be done. Take, for example, the progress of horseshoe pitching on Long Island can be greatly attributed to the splendid co-operation of the Long Island Daily Press and its sports writers.

If you take into consideration that in the spring of 1937 the sports writers and columnist of the Long Island Daily Press were unaware of the existence of any horseshoe clubs on Long Island. Having been active in horseshoe pitching in upstate communities of New York State for a number of years, I moved to New York City in 1936, remaining more or less inactive during that year, as I was not acquainted with any of the clubs in my neighborhood.

In February, 1937, I moved to St. Albans and felt the urge to get back in the harness, so I wrote to the

Long Island Daily Press for some information. As the Press carries the column, "Mr. Fixit," who answers questions of inquiring subscribers, I addressed my letter to him. I was sorry to receive a reply that the Long Island Daily Press could not inform me of any existing horseshoe pitching clubs on Long Island.

A short time later I journeyed to Mt. Kisko to play a game of horseshoes with my old friend Frank Springet, who recently moved from Geneva, N. Y. Frank took me to the courts at White Plains, N. Y., where I met all the active members of that club, and through them I learned of the nearest club to my address. This club was located at W. Hempstead, L. I., and I communicated with Peter McGill of that club.

Pete can be credited with being one of the cornerstones of the present Long Island Horseshoe Pitchers Association. I was invited to join the West Hempstead Club, and since that time I have seen the activities of the sport of horseshoe pitching grow, through the endless efforts of the past and present officers of the Long Island Horseshoe Pitchers Association and the hearty co-operation of the Long Island Daily Press, which today publishes more information on horseshoe pitching than any other newspaper in the world.

The weekly column by the Long Island Secretary, John J. Enright, has been one of the most valuable assets to the sport on Long Island. This column will now be included in the issues of the Long Island Star-Journal, through the efforts of Mr. Enright and the popularity it has created among the horseshoe pitchers and other sports enthusiasts.

If horseshoe pitchers will build up their local publicity in the newspapers, and through this medium items of interest can be forwarded to the Horseshoe World for publicity on a national scale, horseshoe pitching can be placed on a level with other sports which it justly deserves, on account of its science and skill which has been attained since Carl May introduced, what is known today as pitching the open shoe.—F. J. EGGERS.

#### Name Officers

The St. Albans Club has installed a new executive panel for the current year. It is made up of Clarence Shepherd, president; Thomas Byrne, vice president; Louis Lenhardt, treasurer; Ralph Van Nostrand, financial secretary, and Egger, corresponding secretary, and publicity manager and John Steproe, sergeant-at-arms.

Pitch Only Official Horseshoes,  
Bearing the National Red Stamp



# Tournament "Scrap" Continues

## THE HORSESHOE WORLD PRINTS "BOTH SIDES"

The Secretary says:

In the last issue of this magazine it was stated that the official National or World Tournament would go to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Ontario. Since that time the Executive Committee has overruled the decision of the National Secretary and has just about decided to award the meet to the Iowa State Fair for the sum of \$800.00.

Toronto, however, has not yet given up hope, and has stated that they will stage a world tournament regardless, and will endeavor to raise \$2000.00 in prize money for it. If this happens the Executive Committee will have a lot of explaining to do.

The best policy in a case of this kind should be to wait and see if the C. N. E. will really guarantee this amount, and if such a guarantee is forthcoming it would only seem just that they should get the official world tournament, and that the stamp money raised by the National Association should go toward increasing the prizes.

After all, the American pitchers stand a good chance of carrying away the lion's share of the prize money, and since the Iowa Fair has stated that they would still hold the Mid-West meet for \$500.00, it seems that the horseshoe pitchers would benefit more if Toronto landed the big meet.

The National Secretary is endeavoring to get a guarantee from the C. N. E., and if same is received, one more attempt to persuade the Executive Committee will be made, and it is hoped that the meet will go to the place making the best offer, and that the offer will be judged on its merits alone.

LEE ROSE,  
National Secretary

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1., George May, 1920; 2, D. D. Cottrell; 3, AT February, 1923; national tournament; 4, Four times; 5, 1935; 6, 1933; 7, Blair Nunamaker; 8, Esther James, at 30 feet; 9, Hubert Trinkle; 10, Dean McLaughlin; 11, Bob Brown; 12, Carl Steinfeldt of Rochester; 13, Harry Harrison of Rensselaer; 14, Larry Mahoney; 15, Stan Deleary; 16, Vito Fileccia; 17, Pete Beaton; 1, Marty Ambrose; 19, Elmhurst, 1935; 20, Nassau, H.C.

**Pitch Only Official Horseshoes,  
Bearing the National Red Stamp**

March, 1940

The President Says:

To All Members, N. H. P. A. of America.

Greetings:

I had hoped at this writing to be able to announce the site and all details in connection with the 1940 National Tournament. A few minor points remain to be decided upon at this time. The next issue of the Horseshoe World should carry the official announcement.

Regarding Mr. Rose's statement in the last issue: At present the committee has come to an agreement on the issue involved, but there remains a few statements which need clarification. In the first place, no one had any authority to set February 18 as the last day on which bids would be accepted for the 1940 National Tournament. In the second place, I have written proof that each member of the Executive Committee either wrote or wired Mr. Rose in the negative, so that the votes would reach the secretary's office not later than February 17. Thirdly, although Toronto may be nearer to the majority of members of the National Association, we, of the executive, must remember that this Association has members from coast to coast and border to border, and to place a National Tournament nearer to one section of the country than another, would be unfair to the prospective entrants in the far section. It would be very unjust to force an entrant from California to travel over 3000 miles each way to the tournament, while the New York entrant traveled less than 1500 miles both ways. A central location is fairest to all, therefore, we of the committee have rejected the Toronto proposal of \$500. We have, however, suggested that the Canadian National Exhibition conduct a Canadian-American meet for which we will be very glad to grant a sanction.

At present we have the bid of the Iowa State Fair for \$800. To this we propose to add \$300 of Stamp Funds, making a total of \$1100 for the 1940 National Tournament. Des Moines is centrally located and the Iowa State Fair Association has consistently offered high cash prizes for a horseshoe tournament each year since 1923.

Mr. A. R. Corey, the Fair Secretary, is an ardent supporter of the game, and certainly deserves fair consideration for the first National Tournament since 1935. The Fair

Ground courts hold practically all world records, each year bringing some new record achievement on the pegs. All who have attended the Fair Tournaments in the past have commented on the fine quality of the show, the newspaper and radio publicity in connection therewith, and the fair and just manner in which the tournaments were conducted and the entrants treated.

Your President and Secretary are in accord that the Association for 1940 shall establish a precedent for achievement and co-operation. The Executive Committee are a group of two-fisted square shooters, insisting on justice, honesty and equality. What more is there to ask?

With your enthusiasm and co-operation, we can go places in 1940! Let's do it!

Yours very sincerely,

C. LEROY PAGE, Pres.

### CANADIAN NOTES

(Continued from Page 4)

from the Birtle district, who, along with his partner, R. McCann, carried off the men's senior doubles, the Manitoba singles championship, and finished second in the ringer contest after tying with S. Dahl of the Furby Street Club, with 14 ringers out of 20 shoes pitched. Dahl was the ultimate winner of the playoff, pitching seven ringers out of eight shoes, while Bopha made five out of eight.

McCann played brilliantly to defeat Bopha in the champion of champions contest, the winner receiving a beautiful gold medal donated by the father of horseshoes in Manitoba, F. Orchard, of Miami. Mr. Orchard announced that this would be his last year in the game due to failing health. He will be missed by all.

Results:

Veterans Singles—1, F. Brown, St. James; 2, W. Hogue, St. James; 3, A. McMillan, Miami.

"A" Doubles—1, R. McCann and S. Bopha, Canucks; 2, K. Davis and Cliff Smith, Furby St. 3, R. Dick and S. Dahl, Furby St.; 4, A. D. Mousseau and Art Mousseau, St. Vital.

"A" Singles—1, S. Bopha, Canucks; 2, W. V. Matthews, Furby St. 3, S. Dahl, Furby St.; 4, E. Crowston, St. Vital.

Ringer Contest—1, S. Dahl, Furby St.; 2, S. Bopha, Canucks; 3, Alf Smith, St. James.

"B" Class Singles—1, F. Horrell, Furby St.; 2, W. Frazer, St. Vital.

"B" Class Doubles—1, W. Frazer and P. Parriessienne, St. Vital; 2, F. Horrell and A. Harwood, Furby St.

Champion of Champions Contest—1, R. McCann, Canucks; 2, S. Bopha, Canucks.

Page Seven

# SPARKS

## OFF THE PEG!

We are indebted to Paul Vogel, of Brackenridge, Pa., for news of the Natrona Horseshoe Club. Its membership includes Dale Carson, former state champ, Thom Jones, Gill Lang, George Campbell and Walt Queen, all splendid pitchers, and Charlie Hamilton, 63 years young, who still can pitch with the best of 'em. Mr. Vogel, also a member, is the Allegheny county champion.

Michael Vecchitto, Meriden, Conn., is an enthusiastic horseshoe pitcher.

Ray Kearney, Sons of the Legion athletic director for New York, will introduce horseshoe pitching to the sports curriculum of the Sons of the Legion this summer.

Harry Woodfield has organized a new club in Washington. Twelve new courts, complete with lights, congressmen and other local bric-a-brac, have been set up within pitching distance of the Capitol.

Hostilities in the war between horseshoe husbands and their "widows" will be resumed on May 7 over a nation-wide hookup. On that date a squad of venturesome St. Albans gentry will attempt to outwit a team of St. Albans ladies in "The Battle of the Sexes," an N.B.C. quiz program. Names of the contestants will be announced later.

### Battle of Sexes

The St. Albans Horseshoe Club will enter a team of men on the "Battle of Sexes" radio program May 7th, 1940, at 12:30 P. M. to 1 A. M. This is time period for the Western hook-up of this program, Eastern Standard time.

In competition with the men on this program will be a women's team made up of horseshoe widows of the St. Albans Horseshoe Pitching Club.

The director of this program is in possession of a list of names of both

the women and men's teams and the persons who will be on this program will be personally notified in sufficient time, to be prepared.

Paul Gensler	36	32	3052	1209	39.6
Wm. Cramer	1	12	494	164	33.2
Daniel Bouder	9	36	1700	471	27.7

### Perfect Season

The Stone Tavern Horseshoe team made a clean sweep of a 16-game schedule last summer and is looking forward to the coming summer for a much more interesting season.

This team consists of some very fine players, who, in a few seasons, will be among the top pitchers in this state, and then there are some of the players that are not so good as the complete totals tell.

	W	L	SP	R	Pct.
John Fulton	81	16	5204	3382	64.9
Paul Rhoads	65	12	3010	1728	57.4
Clar'nce Bouder	41	24	2958	1364	46.7
Earl Fulton	14	5	916	408	44.5
David Durff	45	25	3070	1334	43.4

### Fulton Winner

On Thursday evening, January 18, John Fulton, former Pennsylvania farmer champion, matched his skill against 12 other contestants for the title. After winning two matches, Fulton was matched against Dean Mayes, of Huntington, who was champion in 1937. In the first game of best two out of three, Mayes took a 17 to 3 lead by throwing double and single ringers without much trouble; then when Fulton found the range of the pegs Mayes was stopped cold, with Fulton winning 50-25. The next game Fulton won with ease, 50 to 9.

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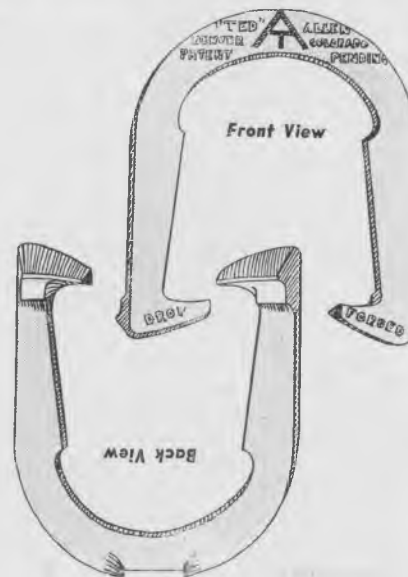
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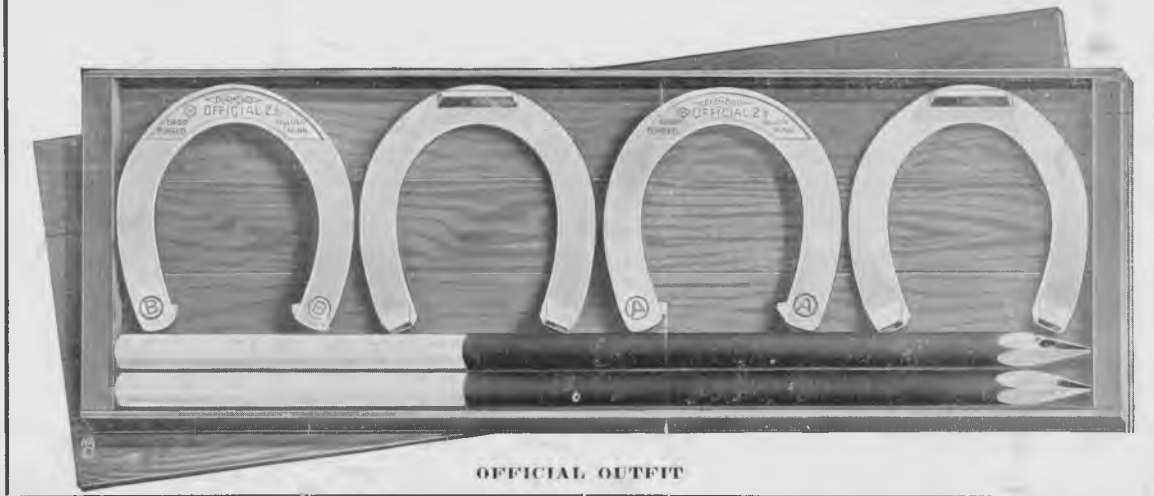
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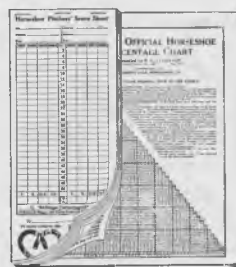
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