

NHPA SPECIAL REPORT

Albuquerque, New Mexico



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ALBUQUERQUE

SPORTS COMMISSION

— A division of Visit Albuquerque —



ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

April 2026



Thanks to ABQ Sports Commision and Participants!



**NHPA PRESIDENT
BEN WEBB**

The NHPA has seen many evolutions over the years for big events, from the beginning of the World Championships outdoors, to them moving indoors many years ago. At one point in history the NHPA attempted to hold regional level events but they went by the wayside with time. While many charters have done a great job at continuing to hold multi-state, large scale events with events such as the Ringer Classic, the Valley of the Sun tournament, the Western Regional, Team World, the Horseshoe Tour, and many others continuing to host these big events year after year, the NHPA wanted to do more for the players from a national level. While we've rolled out several new concepts in the past couple of years, one constant theme we received from our connections with tourism entities was the

desire to host an NHPA event.

Dalton Rakestraw quickly drew up a contract for a smaller scale event than the world tournament, that he would begin circlulating within the industry quickly after his appointment to the 2nd Vice Presidency in 2024. While he spent time rebuilding our relationships that had been strained in the past, and while he would be working on getting bidders for the world tournament, he concurrently would circulate these RFP's for the smaller scale events, and got alot of interest! These efforts resulted in 2026 seeing us bring back NHPA produced, regional level events, at no cost to the membership. Through partnerships with host cities, we've been able to secure a couple of events for this year and have several options on the table for the years to come. We kicked off the first of these in early April in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where we saw close to 70 unique participants come from 14 states to play in the events of the weekend. With each day holding a new tournament, participants had the option to play in 3 different sanctioned tournaments over the 3 days, drawing over 140 total entries between the tournaments!

I would like to extend our upmost gratitude to the ABQ sports commission, the New Mexico charter, and all of the participants who came out for the tournaments. It is all of you who made this event possible! I'd also like to thank Brian Poole, Jim Kinney and especially Dalton for coordinating, planning and running 3 successful events over the 3 days in ABQ. This team pulled off a great 3-day event for our members and created a memorable, first time event. If you didn't get a chance to try out the event in ABQ, we hope to see you in Hutchinson, Kansas this May for our next regional event!

Live Results in eShoe!

In case you missed it during the regional event, we have began using eShoe scoring for all NHPA events! You can watch each game unfold with live scoring as the game progresses! Check games, standings, final results and more in the featured events section of eShoe! Special thanks to Jim & Beth Kinney for their help rolling this our in ABQ!

[eShoe](#) [Home](#) [Stats](#) [Events](#)

[Featured and Favorite Events](#)

ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

April 2026



From the Tournament Directors' Desk



2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DALTON RAKESTRAW

The US Open event was a success in Albuquerque! The Sports Commission, City, and Parks Dept all were amazed at the level of competition and hospitality brought by all the horseshoe pitchers. We sincerely thank everyone that put forth an effort to ensure the courts were in great shape and that everything came together. I couldn't possibly start to mention everyone without forgetting someone. What an fantastic weekend we had! Thank you to the Albuquerque Horseshoe Club and the New Mexico Horseshoe Charter for the wonderful hospitality in welcoming the players. Word on the street in ABQ is pleased with the horseshoe competitions and are looking forward to next steps! I will see them next week in Las Vegas! Photos and results from the US Open can be found elsewhere

Another Chapter in the Book!

Dalton Rakestraw and Ben Webb first met in Knoxville, TN in 2012, on Dalton's way to a legendary Junior Championship outing. Since that World Tournament, New Mexico marked the 10th state Dalton and Ben have pitched for different championships in: Tennessee, Utah, New York, Washington, South Carolina, Missouri, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, including 2 state championships in Kentucky!

Running a tournament and being an administrator certainly has an impact on your games at times...while neither pitched well in New Mexico for their game against each other, it would mark another chapter in a decade and a half long history on the courts!

*2026 ABQ Sports Commission Championship Class
Final Game*



World 2012 Boys Championship

1. Dalton Rakestraw 7-0

Opponent

1. Ben Webb

Score	Rgrs	Shs	%
40/15	48	54	88.89

Scoresheet						
Ben Webb			Name	Dalton Rakestraw		
Rgrs	Points	Score	Shoe	Rgrs	Points	Score
-	1	1	2	-	0	9
O X	3	4	4	X	0	9
O O	6	10	6	-	0	9
O O	6	16	8	-	0	9
-	0	16	10	-	1	10
X	0	16	12	X	1	11
X	0	16	14	O X	3	14
X	0	16	16	X	1	15
X	0	16	18	X	1	16
O X	3	19	20	X	0	16
X	0	19	22	O X	3	19
O O	6	25	24	-	0	19
O	3	28	26	-	0	19
O	3	31	28	-	0	19
O O	6	37	30	-	0	19
X	1	38	32	X	0	19
-	0	38	34	O O	6	25
O	3	41	36	-	0	25
X	0	41	38	X	0	25
X	0	41	40	O X	3	28
41			Score	28		
23			Ringers	15		
6			Doubles	4		
10			Dead	10		
40			Shoes	40		
57.50			Percent	37.50		

ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

ABQ Sports Commission Championship



Jones Dominates in Stacked A Class

The 2026 US Open in ABQ kicked off on Friday with the ABQ Sports Commission open. 54 players gathered at Mariposa Basin Park to kick off the event on Friday for the kickoff of the weekend. Following opening ceremonies, the first shift would get under way with the championship class pitching in the morning. It became evident quickly that Albuquerque's hometown pitcher in the class, Ken Jones, was the contestant to watch after just a couple of games.

Ken entered the tournament as the #6 seed and would defeat #3 seed, California's Sandra Johnson, in the opening game. Game #1 would see Ken not need the handicap to pull out the win. The only time Ken would need the handicap en route to his eventual ABQ Sports Commission Championship would come in round 2 against 2nd VP and tournament director, Dalton Rakestraw. Dalton would throw his best game of the day at Ken with a 67.50% showing but this was slightly under Dalton's entry average, Ken pitching around 10% over his entry average with a 57.50% game would defeat Rakestraw 38-31 in round 2. Jones continued to have a strong showing defeating Webb 58-18 with a 60% game, finishing out the class with wins over Santonio Collado 38-12, Allen Baptist 40-20, and Jim Kinney Jr 48-17. Ken finished the tournament with a 56.67% average and an undefeated record. He was also the only player from A, B, or C class to pitch over his entry average!

Opening Ceremonies in ABQ!



ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

ABQ Sports Commission Championship



ABQ Sports Commission Championship Top 3's

A CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE	E CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE
Champion	Ken Jones	6	0	60.00%	Champion	Phillip Contreras	5	0	31.00%
Runner-Up	Sandra Jonson	5	1	57.50%	Runner-Up	Linda Chavez	3	2	25.50%
3rd Place	Santonio Callado	3.5	2.5	62.50%	3rd Place	Lenora Barbone	3	2	27.50%
B CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE	F CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE
Champion	Henry Charley	5	1	42.08%	Champion	Mike S. Flores	5	1	28.33%
Runner-Up	Vicki Barham	4	2	42.08%	Runner-Up	Shannon Velarde	4	2	26.67%
3rd Place	Cody Williams	3	2	43.00%	3rd Place	Laurence Smith	3	2	21.50%
C CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE	G CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE
Champion	Emery Jackson	5	0	39.50%	Champion	Shirley Smith	5	0	12.50%
Runner-Up	Stacey Trujillo	4	1	32.50%	Runner-Up	Bryan Doerner	3	2	11.50%
3rd Place	Glenn Burton	2	3	38.00%	3rd Place	David Greer	2	3	11.00%
D CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE	H CLASS	PLAYER	W	L	AVERAGE
Champion	Elmer Trujillo	4	1	40.00%	Champion	Jamie Dunn	5	0	23.50%
Runner-Up	Mike A. Smith	3	2	40.48%	Runner-Up	Carlos Gutierrez	4	1	10.00%
3rd Place	Julian Romero	3	2	39.00%	3rd Place	Brian Poole	3	2	9.38%

ALBUQUERQUE

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ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

US Open Championship



Mike Massari Claims US Open Title

Mike Massari came out hot in the US Open on Saturday, steamrolling his first 3 opponents, his average began to fall in the 4th round by the end of regulation play Mike would find himself in a playoff with Callado & Rakestraw. Callado would eliminate Dalton Rakestraw first in the ladder playoff before moving on to the championship game to meet Massari. Santonio would lead the playoff at 26 shoes with only 14 shoes to go. This was the point where Mike's grit proved out though when he would hit 11 ringers out of his last 14 shoes to claim the championship.

Santonio would try to hang on but the late game flurry by the veteran would prove to be too much for Callado to overcome as Massari won the playoff 37-21!

A CLASS					E CLASS				
	PLAYER	W	L	%		PLAYER	W	L	%
Champion	Mike Massari	4	2	60.83%	Champion	Rick Weaver	6	2	21.25%
Runner-Up	Santonio Callado	4	3	46.07%	Runner-Up	Roy Stallsmith	4	3	25.00%
3rd Place	Dalton Rakestraw	3	3	50.00%	3rd Place	Shannon Velarde	4	3	23.21%
B CLASS					F CLASS				
	PLAYER	W	L	%		PLAYER	W	L	%
Champion	Henry Charley III	4	1	44.12%	Champion	Mike S. Flores	5	1	28.33%
Runner-Up	Ed Karnes	3	2	37.75%	Runner-Up	Shannon Velarde	4	2	26.67%
3rd Place	Cody Williams	3	2	41.00%	3rd Place	Laurence Smith	3	2	21.50%
C CLASS					G CLASS				
	PLAYER	W	L	%		PLAYER	W	L	%
Champion	Gene Gurule	5	0	45.00%	Champion	Leo Trujillo	6	0	25.42%
Runner-Up	Amy Mauk	3	2	34.50%	Runner-Up	Eli Abila	5	1	28.75%
3rd Place	Glenn Burton	2	3	32.84%	3rd Place	Laurence Smith	4	2	16.25%
D CLASS					H CLASS				
	PLAYER	W	L	%		PLAYER	W	L	%
Champion	Phillip Contreras	6	1	30.71%	Champion	Aaron Charron	6	1	15.71%
Runner-Up	Kalie Trujillo	5	2	37.50%	Runner-Up	Carlos Gutierrez	5	2	11.79%
3rd Place	Marty Luther	4	2	30.00%	3rd Place	Collin Trujillo	4	2	15.42%



ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

High Desert Ringers Open



Jones Drops First Game but Still Prevails!

Jim Kinney Jr, Sandra Johnson and Santonio Callado pitched in all three championship classes over the weekend but Ken Jones was absent from Saturday's competition. Ken would return to the courts on Sunday for the High Desert Ringers Open and would drop his opening game to Jim Kinney Jr in a 22-31 showing against the former NHPA Secretary/Treasurer, this would be Jim's sole win on Sunday. This wouldn't shake the ABQ champion though as he would stroll through the remainder of the class, letting no other opponent get within 8 points of victory as Ken claimed 2 out of 3 tournament titles over the weekend. It makes you wonder, what would've happened on Saturday if Ken had met Mike Massari on the courts in Mariposa Basin Park?



A CLASS		W	L	%	E CLASS		W	L	%
Champion	Ken Jones	5	1	45.83%	Champion	Anthony Toledo	5	0	21.50%
Runner-Up	Santonio Callado	4	2	50.42%	Runner-Up	Eli Abila	3	2	26.00%
3rd Place	Sandra Johnson	3	2	50.50%	3rd Place	Mike S. Flores	3	2	19.00%
B CLASS		W	L	%	F CLASS		W	L	%
Champion	Cody Williams	5	1	43.03%	Champion	Jamie Dunn	5	0	25.00%
Runner-Up	Amy Mauk	4	2	40.83%	Runner-Up	Karen Bristol	4	1	24.00%
3rd Place	Gene Gurule	3	2	42.00%	3rd Place	Ivan Montoya	2	3	12.50%
C CLASS		W	L	%	G CLASS		W	L	%
Champion	Julian Romero	5	0	37.50%	Champion	Fabian Bailon	5	1	15.83%
Runner-Up	Elmer Trujillo	4	1	40.50%	Runner-Up	Don Bristol	4	2	14.52%
3rd Place	Mike A. Smith	3	2	37.50%	3rd Place	Aaron Charron	3	2	15.50%
D CLASS		W	L	%					
Champion	Joe Romo	5	1	28.75%					
Runner-Up	Rick Weaver	4	2	26.64%					
3rd Place	Roy Stallsmith	2	3	17.00%					

ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

April 2026





2026 U.S. NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

MAY 29-31

- ◆ **FRIDAY: VISIT HUTCH CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- ◆ **SATURDAY: US NATIONALS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- ◆ **SUNDAY: JIM'S RICE PARK RINGERS OPEN**

- ✔ **Entry Fee: \$50 per tournament or \$125 for all three. Scorekeeping included.**
- ✔ **8 person classes, 40 shoe games**
- ✔ **Classes for Saturday's regional tournament will **NOT** be handicapped. Friday and Sunday could be if spread is more than 15%.**
- ✔ **Cash prizes and plaques to top three of each class**

Rice Park

2040 Hendricks St, Hutchinson, KS. 67502

DEADLINE TO ENTER MAY 25TH



ABQ SPECIAL REPORT

April 2026



Hall of Fame Invitational Preview

An annual highlight of the horseshoe pitching calendar is the Hall of Fame invitational tournament in Wentzville, Missouri. This year is no different and shaping up to be a phenomenal tournament yet again. Every year 16 of the best 40' and 30' players in the world travel to the Hall of Fame Facility in Wentzville to compete in many pitchers' season opener.

Defending 40' champion, Alan Francis and 30' champion, Maxine Griffith are both set to attend to attempt to defend their championships this year. On the 30' side, Virgle McCown, Marlene Ray, Pam Meyer, Dale Moles, Doris Hieden, Kelly Glidewell, Kevin Shields, Amy Francis, Brandy Morehead, Ron Legrand, Dan Molineaux, Don Gillette, Joan Elmore and Helga Hewlett fill out the class with defending champion Maxine coming in as the #2 seed. Jennifer Gegg enters as the #1 overall 30' seed this year and may be the one to watch



2025 40' Champion - Alan Francis

this year. The defending Women's World Champion from 2025 dropped the HOF championship to Maxine last year in a playoff, Gegg has spent the winter practicing in Wentzville though, even pitching a perfect game back in February!

Over on the 40' side Stan Hayward, Kyle Peterman, Bobby Bartell, Justin Narup, Stan Griggs, Gary Currier, NHPA 5th VP Josh Olson, Joseph Smith, Matt Fuller, a returning Gary Bearpaw, Michael Bowman, Andrew Adams, Dan Watson, 1st NHPA VP Austin Bailey, and NHPA President Ben Webb, fill out the field with reigning Men's World Champion Alan Francis yet again leading the class as the #1 overall 40' seed. History has proven that Alan is perhaps the most unbeatable pitcher in history, seemingly holding a mental stranglehold over the rest of the division. Alan hasn't been defeated in a 40 point game by a Men's division player since Tyler Howard defeated him in 2018 during the South Carolina World Tournament, Alan would still pull out the 2018 championship that year though. Alan has dropped shoe limit games to both Austin Bailey and Dan Watson at the 2024 World Tournament preliminaries, but would go 15-0 in that years championship, just like last year. 2025 had the WT Prediction committee believing Austin Bailey would overtake Francis for the title but it was not to be. Austin had a strong showing at the 2025 WT, consistently pitching over 70%. However, when he met Francis on the last game of the last day, with both players being undefeated with 14 wins, Bailey would pitch his 5th lowest game of the championship at Francis, with a still respectable 71.43% showing. Francis has shown a slight drop in average in recent years, but still consistently averages in the mid-80's most games. The player who eventually dethrones the most dominant champion in history will need to shoot 80+% for around 90-100 shoes to get the job done. Austin Bailey and Dan Watson have both proved capable of this in recent years, but can they overcome the mental blockade of Alan's legacy to claim the 2026 HOF Championship this Spring?



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
2026 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship
 July 13 - 26, 2026 Wausau, Wisconsin



2026

NAME: _____ NHPA Card # _____
First (Please Print Legibly) Last (or Canadian #)

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Birth Date: _____

Email: _____

Circle One >>>>>>>

I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule
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Circle the Division you are Entering: (You may enter only one Division) (See notes at bottom on page)

Open Men 40 ft	Sr Men 40 ft	Elder Men 30 ft	Open Women 30 ft	Sr Women 30 ft	Elder Women 20 ft	Jr Boys 30 ft	Jr Girls 30 ft	Cadet Boys 20 ft	Cadet Girls 20 ft
	Note #2	Note #1		Note #2		Note #3			

All application information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete. **ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 18, 2026**

NO REFUNDS will be made after June 1, 2026. **NOTE: A processing fee of \$15 will be deducted from all refunds.**

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), all officers, employee's, agents and the servants of the NHPA, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. The NHPA and it's legal representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, photographs taken during the 2026 World Tournament. These photos or videos may be used in any publication, or in audio-visual presentations including "Live" interviews, promotional literature, advertising, sponsorships, or in other similar ways that the NHPA sees fit to use on behalf to represent and promote the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament and the sport.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

* Mail top half only *

Entry Fees Adults -- \$150 before Jan 1, 2026 -- \$170 Jan 1 to May 18, 2026
 All Juniors/Cadets -- \$25 All Fund must be US Currency
Canadian Entries must use a Money Order if sending payment Entry Fee includes Scorekeeping Fee

Mail to: NHPA Telephone & Email inquires to:
 2660 S Fairway Drive Phone: 208 201-3326
 Pocatello, ID 83201 Email: sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a postmark no later than May 18, 2026. You may enter anytime prior to May 18, 2026 using this form or on our website link. Entries received with a postmark after May 18, 2026 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the World Tournament only as spaces are available. All Adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 18, 2026 in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors/Cadets. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and Foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All Averages used will be the average on record in NHPA-eShoe as of May 18, 2026. Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. Please see note regarding refunds.

READ CAREFULLY: Any Adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the OPEN Men's Division regardless of age, just as any Adult Female may enter the OPEN Women's Division. To enter the Senior Division, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2026. Any Man/Women that turns 85 years of age in 2026, or has an approved Medical exemption may enter the Elders Division. Entrants in the Jr Boys and Jr Girls Division eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year OR through September 30th of the year of completing high School - not to exceed 19 years of age. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Division entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2026 calendar year.

NOTE #1: 30 ft Men with a Medical Exemption must be in NHPA eShoe as "Exempt" to pitch in this Division. A copy of the Exemption Form must be sent with this application.
NOTE #2: For Prelim Class play, a minimum of 48 pitchers must enter Sr Division's or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Division if canceled.
NOTE #3: Junior Boys & Junior Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31, 2026 and published on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com. If you indicate above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the 2nd week in June. Please write address clearly & readable.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons: Any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NHPA eShoe or any false or misleading information on this form, cannot validate Medical Exemption, or for any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA also reserves the right to add qualified entrants and to make class participant changes after the above deadline. No pitcher will be moved from a class or pitching time, without notification, after the final schedule has been published.

PRINT AND MAIL IN TODAY OR ENTER ONLINE!



FOR BUSINESS

EXCLUSIVE FOR NHPA
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



WELCOME TO SIXT, NHPA!

We're excited to welcome you to SIXT, where association members get more perks! With the newest cars, friendly service, and great rates, SIXT is here to help you get where you need to go.

100 years of expertise

In mobility solutions around the world

Skip the counter

With mobile check-in on your smartphone

Exclusive perks

Including loyalty matching & special rates

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH SIXT

01 Register for a SIXT business profile to book at NHPA's preferred rates:

Register now

02 Scan the QR code with your phone to get verified and save time during pick-up:



03 Use the link below to book your rental with NHPA discount rates automatically applied:

Book your rental now

STATUS MATCH

Already have elite status with another car rental company? SIXT will match it to the corresponding SIXT status, giving you immediate access to member-only offers and premium perks.

To request a status match, email sixtcard-us@sixt.com with proof of your current status.

CONTACT

Have questions about setting up your SIXT profile, making a booking, or how any of our services work? Reach out to our customer service team at:

SIXT help center

SIXT rental info

Phone: [+1-754-301-4238](tel:+1-754-301-4238)

Email: corporate-us@sixt.com