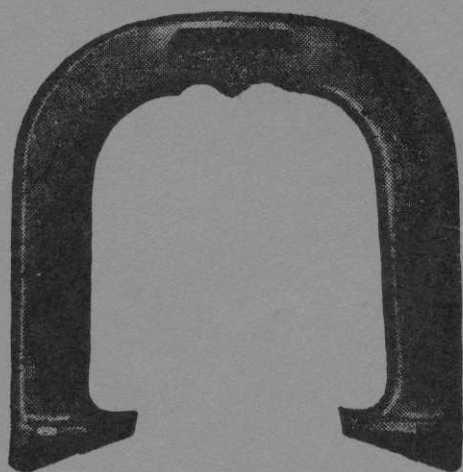


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



The Ohio Shoe

**MAY, 1949**

**Vol. 1**

**No. 9**

## EDITORIAL

Ever been to Salt Lake City? If you haven't, you probably were never in Murray, Utah, either. Back in 1947 I had the pleasure of attending the World's Horseshoe Championship games there. They not only have the best horseshoe courts in the Country but they have the best bunch of hospitable people I ever met. And that is not the only best things they have. They have the best scenery too. I cannot describe it myself so I will borrow a partial description of it from an encyclopedia. "Salt Lake City (and Murray), a city of Utah, the capital of the State and the county seat of Salt Lake County. It is on about a dozen railroad lines. The city is admirably located at the base of the Wasatch Mountains and is 4,334 feet above sea level. The valley is famous for its resources, climate and beauty. The city has an area of 52 square miles. The streets are among the widest and best planned in the world and hundreds of miles of fine roads lead from the city to points of scenic beauty outside. An extensive net of boulevards has been constructed." I could go into further details but this much should make it sufficient to make you decide to see this wonderful country next August. Let me hear from some of you folks who intend to be there. If the publishing of this magazine does not have me broke by that time I'll be there too. You fellows can help me get to Murray this Summer by telling my advertisers you saw their ad in THE HORSESHOE PITCHER.

\* \* \*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (N.H.P.A.)

Hats off to the horseshoe pitchers who gave the world one of the best pitching tournaments the world has ever known at Salt Lake City in 1947. To them go the honor and glory of the return engagement to the Murray, Utah, courts for this years' tourney.

Gentlemen, when any man in our N.H.P.A. organization who is an executive makes a decision and signs a document to that effect, confirming his belief, then mails it to your President to be used in balloting, and afterwards changes his mind because of hurt feelings, I leave the verdict in your hands.

Gentlemen, I have in my possession signed documents and letters by every member of the Advisory Council and the Executive Council regarding the Ohio situation, and I intend to present them to you at the Salt Lake convention as evidence of my honesty in this decision.

We of the N.H.P.A. want to thank Mr. G. A. Berger of Murray, Utah, for signing the agreement in conjunction with the Salt Lake Recreation Department, Salt Lake County Commission, Salt Lake County Fair Board, and the Murray Horseshoe Club for sponsoring the 1949 World's Tournament. I am in receipt of a most enthusiastic letter from Mr. Berger, and he is certainly a booster of the N.H.P.A.

ARLO E. HARRIS

## CALIFORNIA

### WORLD TOURNAMENT DATES

By Harvey W. Clear

Many of the horseshoe pitchers throughout the Country are unable to attend the Championship Games because of conflicting dates between these games and the games of their own leagues and states. They want to know whether we ever try to find out when they are to hold their tournaments and if we try to set the dates accordingly. It should hardly be necessary to point out the fact that all the World's Tournaments are sponsored by folks outside of the N.H.P.A. and that they are the ones who put up the prize money. They also name the time and the place where these games are to be held. In other words, it is entirely out of the hands of your officers.

I hope that every horseshoe pitcher and every horseshoe fan in the country has started making plans to attend this coming tournament at Murray, Utah. Would like to enlighten you on something pertaining to this tournament, so that we all understand the situation.

The Salt Lake County Recreation Department, of Salt Lake County Commission, the Salt Lake County Fair Board and the Murray Horseshoe Club are the sponsors of this tournament. Their wonderful courts are located in the County Fair Grounds, at Murray, a superb of Salt Lake City. The courts are situated approximately eight miles from down town Salt Lake City. In referring to this tournament, we suggest that you refer to its being held in Murray, Salt Lake County. The City of Salt Lake has no part in this tournament.

Plans for our coming tournament are shaping up very nicely, Mr. William F. McCleary, 159 East 7660 South, Midvale, Utah has been selected by the committee there as their chairman. Mr. McCleary has worked with Mr. Berger and the Murray horseshoe club in bringing this tournament to Murray. Anyone wishing information regarding reservations, etc., may write to Mr. McCleary at the above address.

Mr. Berger is still very much in the picture and will work with Mr. McCleary and myself in making plans for this tournament.

I want to make a correction on the horseshoe stamps. During 1948 the six manufacturers of horseshoes all purchased the five cent stamps. They are the Gordon, Ohio, Allen, Giant Grip, Lattore and Diamond Calk horseshoe companies. If anyone finds horseshoes on the market without stamps affixed to each carton, I would appreciate the information.

At this writing, I am in San Francisco conducting a horseshoe tournament in the Civic Auditorium for the Sports, Travel and Boat Show for ten days, beginning April 22nd. I have chosen six of the outstanding pitchers from six different clubs in Northern California who are to compete for \$125.00 in cash prizes and Trophies. Guy Zimmerman is doing the trick horseshoe pitching between games.

Wisconsin Wizard in the near future and to observe him in action. Several people have tried to describe his playing form to me. All of them agree that his form is rather unorthodox compared to that of the average player. All agree that he is one of the greatest pitching machines to be seen on a horseshoe court. All agree that he is a quiet, modest, clean cut young fellow who displays a fine brand of sportsmanship and a willingness to do more than his part in creating a better game for all.

I have in my possession a fine photograph of Casey in action which my good friend Leland Mortenson of Des Moines obtained and sent to me. Studying this picture shows me that Casey has a beautiful and exceedingly graceful follow-through. Despite some of the little personal quirks that he may employ in his delivery, his fundamentals such as his stance, footwork, swing and coordination or timing is evidently perfect. They would have to be or he couldn't pitch the highest ringer percentage in the world. Casey looks to be a handsome lad with wavy hair and a friendly grin, about 5 feet 8 or 10 inches in height and weighing around 150 pounds. I will charge him a dollar or two for all these compliments when I meet him as prices are high on all things nowadays! How about this Casey me lad?

Charles, "Casey" Jones is 30 years old and started pitching ringers at the tender age of 11 when the horseshoe courts in a park near his Waukesha home captured his interest. Constant practice sharpened his skill so that by 1930 he placed third in the first tournament he entered—the Wisconsin State Junior Championship and went on to win the Junior championship in 1931 when he was fifteen. Because he was under age, Casey was unable to enter the 1934 State Men's Tournament, but the youth could not be long denied and he copped third place in the Midwest Meet at Des Moines, Iowa. In 1935, he won the first in a succession of ten Wisconsin State tournaments and in this same year he placed fifth in his first World Tournament at Moline, Illinois.

As the years went by Casey continued to mow 'em down and his record shows that he won the Midwest Tournament in 1937, the National Olympic Championship in 1938, placed second in the Midwest in 1939, fourth in the 1940 World Meet and bounced back to grab third place honors in the 1941 World Tournament. At the 1940 World Meet, in Des Moines when Ted Allen and Guy Zimmerman pitched the greatest game on record, Casey defeated Fernando Isais and kept him from winning the world's championship crown that year. Jones should have downed Allen then too and had he done so, Ted would have been out of the running. The score was 49—46 in favor of Jones and Allen missed the peg with both shoes! While Allen stood by with his heart in his mouth, Casey stepped up and prepared to deliver the mercy stroke to his long time rival. All he had to was score one point to shut Ted out. Casey swung his shoe and Allen and the large crowd of spectators watched it arch toward the stake in breathless suspense. The shoe went wild! Gone

## CANADA

Editor, The Horseshoe Pitcher:

Through our Mr. Harold Blackman of Gough Ave., in Toronto, who has been in contact with you regarding horseshoe pitching, I am writing to you on the possibility of a closer contact between Canada and the U. S. A., and with a view to the possibility of International play either in exhibition games, or of U. S. teams competing at the Canadian National Exhibition in the fall, as was the occasion in 1939 and 1940.

A few words may sum up the interest which I have in the game. Prior to the war, I organized and managed the Canadian team which competed at Washington and New York in May, 1939. Was President of the Toronto & District, then President of the Dominion Horseshoe Association, through from 1940, to hold office for the duration of the war. In R. C. A. F. during the war, afterward took over the organization of all sports in the above community, and finally was appointed full time Assistant Recreation Director. On seeing that horseshoes was not taking any steps to re-organize, Mr. Blackman and I then started the move last fall, and the election of officers for the Dominion Association will take place on May 4th.

It is believed at this point that both Mr. Blackman and myself will be elected to office in the parent Association, and we have already been in contact with the Canadian National Exhibition regarding an international tournament, and they seem kindly disposed toward it, as well as the Dominion Championships, and at the time of writing, it is felt that both events will go on.

To the point then, my feeling is, that if the U. S. have as they used to have, some pitchers who would wish to travel and compete here in August, for the prize money that is offered, which is usually comparable to any tournament. I would like to get your opinion on this matter, and if at all possible, to take back to our meeting on May 4th.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future, trusting that this is the first of another Canadian-U. S. organization friendship.

E. S. Steadman, Assistant Director

(Editor's note.) Have written to Mr. Steadman assuring him of my wholehearted support regarding the above.

\* \* \*

## THE MIGHTY CASEY

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science At The Stake"

"Come all you rounders if you want to hear  
The story of a great horseshoe pitcher."

It is rather difficult to write about a fellow whom I have never met, but the information which I have gleaned from several of the boys who knew Casey Jones makes me feel that I do know him quite well. I am looking forward to the great pleasure of meeting this Waukesha,

was one of Casey's chances. But he still had another one and that's all he needed. He wouldn't miss this time and his jaw was set in a determined manner as he again took his stance. With infinite care he gripped the shoe and swung it up in a high arch toward the stake. Allen squirmed as he watched it travel through the air. Why, oh why had he missed with both shoes he asked himself. He was fully disgusted with himself. And then a horrified cry came from the throats of the hundreds of spectators. Casey's second shoe had gone wild like the first one! Like another famous Casey of baseball fame, **THE MIGHTY CASEY HAD STRUCK OUT!** Oh! my friends, you may be sure that there was no joy in Waukesha that night. Allen recovered from his astonishment and went on to win the 1940 world's title once more.

But you can't keep a good man down and Casey has been back on the firing line in the National tournaments each year since. Like Guy Zimmerman, Casey has not given up his relentless pursuit of the crown. He hung his old mare moccasins up for a year or so and joined the Navy Air Corps in December 1942. The Japs were trying to cancel out the ringers of freedom and justice for everyone in the Pacific and Casey didn't like the way they were playing the game. He was in the service until November 1945 during which time he flew 30 missions in the Southwest Pacific, putting his deadly accuracy to might good use.

In 1946, Casey again took his place in the lime light when he won the State tournament and took second place in the World's Meet at Des Moines. He lost the championship by a scant one per cent to his old rival, Ted Allen who was also back from army service in Alaska. Casey won the first Masters Tournament opened to the world in July 1947 and the State meet both without losing a single game and averaged 80% ringers. He placed second in the World's Tournament at Murray, Utah, losing to Isais, the winner, by a one game margin. At Milwaukee, Wisconsin last year, Jones broke the world's record of 86.1% set by Zimmerman in 1940, by averaging 87.5% for the entire tournament of 31 games. Think of it! Almost 90% ringers over a period of five or six days under a grueling and continuous pressure like that. **AND HE WON 13 OF THESE GAMES WITH 90% AND OVER!** This is going to be a tough record to beat.

Casey excels in bowling too and his two chief rooters are his attractive wife Mary and his small daughter, Nancy Ann. They always try to be on hand to cheer for "Papa Casey" and will probably accompany him to Murray, Utah again this year when he makes another bid for the World's Title. Those guys, Allen, Isais and Zimmerman have been in his hair long enough. They have stood in his way just once too many times. He intends to do something about it this year for he is a frustrated and determined man. The crown is going to rest on his own curly locks for a change. He is tired of being a prince in the horseshoe kingdom. He intends to become King. And I am going to stick my long, bony neck out and predict that Casey Jones will win the World's



Title this year at Murray, Utah. My good friend Dean Brown, who is an old veteran of great ability here in California, concurs with me in this.

In making this prediction, "Brownie" and I are not discounting Isaacs, Allen and Zimmerman and others by any means. But we figure that considering all normal breaks and a few average upsets that usually occur in all tournaments. Casey Jones should win. He is long past due for it and he won't have an easy time doing it for it may be a long, hard grind of 35 games. Casey is by far the youngest of the Big Four and his youth should be in his favor when it comes to endurance. But anything can happen in a horseshoe tournament and it usually does. A few months will prove if we are right or wrong in our predictions.

In any event, "The Mighty Casey" has won many countless honors which definitely place him in the Horseshoe Sport's All-Time Hall of Fame. He is a fine show pitcher too and the people who are fortunate enough to see him perform are always assured of a fine performance whether he is demonstrating his ability in daring exhibitions or straight competition. All of us who are associated with the sport are mighty proud of "Wisconsin's Wonderful Wizard." His name will be one to conjure with for several years to come among those who participate in the major tournaments throughout the country. Yes, "Casey Jones is this fellows name and it was on a horseshoe court that he won his fame!"

\* \* \*

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## CONN. STATE HORSESHOE LEAGUE SCHEDULE

— 1949 —

### FIRST ROUND

May 8

New Britain at Bristol  
Manchester at (Bye)  
Stamford at Bridgeport

May 22

Bridgeport at Manchester  
Bristol at Stamford  
(Bye) at New Britain

June 5

Stamford at (Bye)  
New Britain at Manchester  
Bridgeport at Bristol

June 19

Stamford at New Britain  
(Bye) at Bridgeport  
Bristol at Manchester

July 10

Bristol at (Bye)  
Manchester at Stamford  
New Britain at Bridgeport

State Horseshoe Tournament to be held on August 14, 1949

Bridgeport (Beardsley Park)

\* \* \*

### SECOND ROUND

July 24

Bristol at New Britain  
(Bye) at Manchester  
Bridgeport at Stamford

August 7

Manchester at Bridgeport  
Stamford at Bristol  
New Britain at (Bye)

August 21

(Bye) at Stamford  
Manchester at New Britain  
Bristol at Bridgeport

September 4

New Britain at Stamford  
Bridgeport at (Bye)  
Manchester at Bristol

September 18

(Bye) at Bristol  
Stamford at Manchester  
Bridgeport at New Britain

## ILLINOIS

By Lee F. Miller

At our March meeting, The Greater Chicago Horseshoe League for 1949, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

R. Dykes, Center Club, president; C. Knize, Westtowns Club, vice president; G. Mellor, Welles Park, treasurer; L. Miller, Pine Club, secretary.

League play will begin the last week in May. We will decide, at the April meeting whether we will use the Point or Cancellation system in league play this year.

\* \* \*

## THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

It looks like the League will get off to a good start this year. Clyde Gregson, of St. Louis, Mo., is interested so it looks like the League will be composed of teams from St. Louis, Mo., Covington, Ky., Chicago, Ill., Canton, O. and the defending Champions, Indianapolis, Ind.

Entries are open till May 15th with seven days extension. Complete schedules and League Rules will be mailed to all Captains after entries are in. For further information write to Johnny Kovacs, 3303 Arbor Road S. W., Canton 10, Ohio.



## OHIO

By A. B. McCoy

We started this lad out at the age of six (6), he started pitching 17 feet, using the  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn. We increased his pitching distance, until today he is pitching 35 feet. We never allowed him to pitch a greater distance than he could with an easy motion. Today he can average about 80% while pitching Class A players.

The writer started to pitch this boy a game in 1945 when he discovered Jimmy was pitching  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turn, and thinking this change might hurt the boys pitching, I tried to discourage him by saying so, however, he came back with, you pitch it don't you? and what you can do, I can do.

Jimmy did pitch the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turn, and good, and he is still pitching it, although he does experiment with the  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , which I believe he will eventually pitch when he gets a little older.

Jimmy has pitched exhibitions all over the State of Ohio, and he has never been defeated in any of those exhibitions. He has received glowing newspaper write-ups wherever he has displayed his pitching ability.



**Jimmy Hook, 13 year old, is the Junior Champion of Ohio's Buckeye State Horseshoe Pitchers Association.**

This lad has been a member of the Buckeye State Horseshoe Pitchers Association since 1944, and is a member this year. At the conclusion of our State Tournaments, we have always had Jimmy play one game with the player that wins the Class A Championship. Grover Hawley defeated Jimmy in 1945. Sebek defeated him in 1946 (Sebek was at his best, pitching 88% ringers). Robert Cash also defeated him in 1947, however, Jimmy never gave up hope of defeating the Class A Champion, therefore in 1948 at Springfield, he defeated our 1948 Champion, Ralph Lackey.

We are going to have Jimmy pitch with the Class A players at our State tournament, which will be held at the beautiful summer resort,

Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio. We believe the game needs more color, and the fans will get a big kick out of watching the Junior Champ trying to defeat the big boys. We will use an odd number of players, therefore that game with Jimmy won't disrupt our schedule, as that game won't count in the players score.

Jimmy wishes to hereby challenge any boy or boys under the age of 16 years old, to meet him at Salt Lake's World Championship Tournament, for the Junior Worlds Championship.

\* \* \*

## **NEW JERSEY**

**By Paul Puglise**

I read Mr. John Sebek's article in the February Issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, in which he stated that some states are doing nothing to elevate the sport of Horseshoe Pitching, and that they are opposing any program that would serve the purpose.

If elevating Horseshoe Pitching means adopting the system of playing by scoring all points earned, with a definite number of shoes pitched per game, I wish to state that I am one of those who wishes to oppose such a system. I know that I am speaking for all the Horseshoe Pitchers that I have spoken to in this State of New Jersey. In my opinion such a system would not help to elevate Horseshoe Pitching. Instead, it would lower the game to a more amateurish kind of sport. And not only that, but it takes away all the thrills that one gets in pitching or watching a good game of horseshoes.

I wish to point out one of the many thrilling games that I had the pleasure of seeing pitched. This game took place in 1937 at a tournament held in Clementon Lake Park, N. J. A tournament in which we had the honor to have none other than Ted Allen, who held the title as World Champion then. This game was the final of the tournament which was between Ted Allen and Larry Mahoney, our State Champion. The game was a thriller if there ever was one. Of course, all of us were pulling for our boy champion, and Larry was pitching for all he was worth, giving the crowd thrill after thrill by jumping ahead of Allen, until he had him 48—29. Many of us were chewing our finger-nails. We thought this was it. Our boy was taking the World's Champion over. But our thrills were to come. Allen started to pour it on, double ringers after double ringers, winning the game 50—48. What a thrill! What an exhibition of real horseshoe pitching! Only a man with real professional ability, like Ted Allen, could pitch like that!

Thrills like these could not happen under the count all points system, Mr. Sebek. Your system of scoring would give me no more thrill than pitching a number of shoes in my own back yard. Perhaps a system of that kind may be all right for a handicap tournament or in league games, but never for a State or National Championship.

There are many of us who would like to submit ideas which would help to elevate horseshoes and build a stronger National Association. But I, like many others, are not fortunate enough, or have not the means to attend and submit our Ideas at the National convention and give our time for the work required. But I am going to submit some of my ideas and hope that if it gets to the readers of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, that some of the readers give it a thought or improve on it and be able to bring them to the attention of the N.H.P.A. convention.

One is that the N.H.P.A. should set assessments each year, the money to be used for the National Championships. In this manner, the Championship could be held in different parts of the country, instead of hoping for a Santa-Claus to donate the money each year, and it seems it mostly happens in a few sections of the country. As I feel sure that if the National Championship was held in different parts of the country, it would help a great deal in stimulating interest in Horseshoe Pitching which in turn would mean a great many more members.

Two, that the N.H.P.A. divide the membership into eight districts, whereby each district would hold a championship each year before the National, this to be a sixteen man round-robin. The winner and runner-up of each State championship to play the winner and runner-up of each other district. This would be titled the National Try-outs. Whereby the winner of these tournaments would be the qualified challenger for the World's Title and would play the champion an eleven game match for the World's Champion title.

This match would be held at a place where it would draw the largest possible crowd and where admission fees would be charged. Thus, by a little hard work in staging a good program, it would be possible to raise a nice purse in prize money which would be paid to the Title-Holder and the Challenger, on a percentage basis.

Now picture this in your mind if you please, and see if this is not the most professional method in choosing the National Champion.

No more need of pitching qualifying rounds of horseshoes.

In each of the processes, you would qualify each man by actual competition, which would bring together the cream of the crop.

No more twenty-four, or thirty-six men pitching a round-robin.

It would make it possible for each district to aid their qualified representatives financially, to the National Try-outs.

It would help bring together the State Associations a little closer.

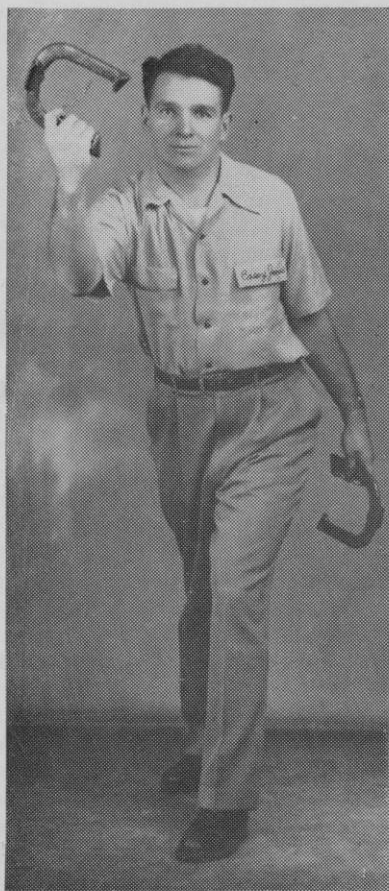
With out doubt the World Champion would have been derived who would be unquestionably the Champion.

Look at the amount of Publicity that would be obtained and in building up interest.

Hope to hear from some of you horseshoe pitchers.

\* \* \*

**Pitch Ohio Horseshoes and Increase Your  
Ringer Percentage**



★

"CASEY" JONES champion horseshoe pitcher and holder of two great world's records (87½% ringers and 13 games of 90% and over in the Milwaukee National tournament), says, "I changed to OHIO shoes in 1948 and increased my ringer average over 5%. OHIO shoes are well balanced and stay on the stake. I recommend them to beginners and all players who want to improve their game."

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## NEW YORK STATE

By Anthony Sauro, Syracuse

Have enjoyed reading the various comments on the scoring systems and all the other articles in THE HORSESHOE PITCHER but I am disappointed to note that none of the so-called lovers of the game, have not touched on the real cause of horseshoes not showing any appreciable gains in popularity in comparison with other major sports. It seems to me that everybody is devoting all their efforts to seeing how much prize money can be put up, how many players they can get to enter the tournaments and how many records can be broken. Has anyone ever said anything about making the game understandable to the spectator? Where are the future players to come from if we do not make horseshoe playing interesting for them?

The spectator should know what is going on all the time. Standings should be posted after every game. Before each game, someone should begin from court one and continue to the end and announce who are opposing each other. There should be a scoring system on each court so everybody can follow the score after every pitch. I was one of the ninety players who came to Milwaukee last year and although I tried to qualify, and almost made the last round, I must confess that I did not think I could make it, in the first place. Still, I made my little sacrifices to get to Milwaukee for the sake of witnessing the greatest tournament of the year. Although I had a great time meeting all those swell fellows and watching them in action, I was disappointed to see a tournament of that scope run in the way it was and more so because very few of the players seemed to care for the spectators point of view.

I was a spectator so I will make a few comments on what I saw. There were upwards of fifty thousand people a day coming to the Exposition and about five thousand of them walked by the courts. I don't believe there were over one thousand a day who stopped over five minutes to watch the tournament. They did not know who Isais was or anyone else for that matter. So, they passed on and probably the horseshoe game lost lots of potential players. Watching Ted Allen pitching, I could only see about ten per cent of the other games scores with the result that I missed some of the most contested games of the tournament. The score board was not big enough. The names of each player should be printed on cardboard and should be on view at each court where they play.

These are some of the things we must consider if we want to make our sport more popular with the public. The only way we will ever get any real publicity is to do something for the spectator.

\* \* \*

## JAKE'S JOTTINGS

**New York City**—The Metropolitan Horseshoe Pitchers Association will start its Inter-Club games on Sunday afternoon, May 22 with eight teams fighting for the flag. The teams are the Hilltop, Hillside, Inwood, Woodlawn, St. Marys, College Point, Williamsbridge Oval and Sunnyside Horseshoe Clubs. The final games will be played on Sept. 25th. Schedules will be sent to all clubs in the Association by the Secretary.

\* \* \*

If you have not sent in your vote on the Point System vs. the Cancellation System, **DO IT NOW**. Just drop the editor a post card saying which system you prefer.

\* \* \*

Last December, Tommy Brownell's wife presented him with what he claimed was the 1970 Horseshoe Champion, when his son was born. Already, he has a competitor. Doc and Mrs. Harrison, of Hoosick Falls had a son born to them on February 2nd and the good Doc expects both boys to compete against each other. Too bad I won't be able to see that competition!

\* \* \*

Members of The Empire State Branch! Many of you still have not paid your dues. Just send me a buck and I will be glad to forward your 1949 membership card.

\* \* \*

Norman Compton is flying to Cleveland on the 7th of May to bowl in the PBC (Printcraft Bowling Congress). Norman sports a 186 average in league play. Lots of luck, kid.

\* \* \*

I'll send anyone interested, a sample copy of this magazine. How about some names and addresses of some horseshoe fans?

\* \* \*

I still have a few more pads of score sheets that are available for distribution to subscribers. Ask your Postmaster what three pounds of Parcel Post Mail will cost from New York. Then send me the postage and I will mail them to you, gratis. But the supply is not very large, so first come, first served.

\* \* \*



## **GORDON SPIN-ON HORSESHOES**



This is the shoe that the World's Champion uses and there are more of them used in Tournament play than all others combined, and we predict that this shoe will bring home the bacon at the World's Open in Salt Lake this year. Our 1949 model is truly an improvement over any that has gone before.

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SECRETARY TO ALL STATE SECRETARIES**

I just want you to bear in mind that Mr. Harris our National President reversed his decision in regards to sending you the membership cards without you having to send me the money for them before I sent them.

Now, please don't think you must hold up sending the money in for cards sold until you have sold all of the cards for the year. Send the National share of the dues in, and when more is collected you can send that in then. REMEMBER, all dues collected before August 1st must be sent in to me by that time. This is so important, don't fail.

I am asking you to please cooperate with us if you wish to continue to have the cards sent out as we have this year. If you don't cooperate then we will have to clamp down on you.

**Your National Secretary-Treasurer, HARVEY W. CLEAR**

## UTAH

By G. A. Berger, Murray

To all horseshoe players—We, of the Murray Horseshoe Club, wish to invite each and everyone of you to come to Utah this year for the National Horseshoe Championships next August and we will try and make your stay here the most pleasant. With your help, we can make this the best Championship Tournament ever held. The Meet will be conducted on the best lighted courts in the Nation, located on the Salt Lake County Fair Grounds in Murray City. Also, I would like very much to hear from any of the horseshoe pitchers who are planning to come to Utah this year for the tournament. I'll be seeing you in August! My address is P. O. Box 113, Murray, Utah.

\* \* \*

## HIGHER STAKES

By Dr. N. L. Fitzgerald

After reading all the various articles in THE HORSESHOE PITCHER since its origin, I am prompted to try to give my views on some of the subjects mentioned. First, I want to make it clear that I am for what the majority want and do not wish to criticise anyone. It should be the aim of all to do what we can to help our leaders in the promotion of our Association as much as possible and give our assistance in every way that we can to our editors of THE HORSESHOE NEWS and the HORSESHOE PITCHER. They are our only means of expressing our ideas to each other, and as we all know, it takes combined ideas to build, so let's have them. Here is one for you to think over.

In the January issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, there was an article by Alvin Dahlene in which he gave us some food for thought. Now, I agree with him that the National Rules should be strictly adhered to at all times, but when something has been discovered and proven by experience to be a help to all, then that thing should be adopted by our National Association and made a part of our By-Laws.

I feel that if the higher stakes, such as were used at Milwaukee last year were an aid to the pitchers to attain better scores and higher percentages, why not raise them if we can all do better? I feel we could; that is what we want and what we are striving for. I started pitching back in the Davis Era, in 1920, when we used eight inch pegs. Then they were raised to ten inches and later, twelve inches. Each time it helped. I know that I, for one, would not care to go back to the short pegs. The same may be said in a year or two of the twelve inch stakes we are now using.

Do you remember when hooks first came in? I knew of at least two fairly good pitchers that were so disgusted about it that they quit

the game and have never pitched since! But who would want to go back to the old out-moded shoe now? We must progress if we want to keep up. In the earlier days it was the opinion of our leaders (and I agreed with them) not to make it too easy for the pitchers; they felt that if you ever won the National Championship you had to really be good, but now that this was a mistake. It discouraged many a beginner who quit long before he attained his peak, or best form.

Last year, as I sat in the grandstand at Milwaukee and observed the greatest tournament in horseshoe history, from start to finish, it was by far the greatest show that I have ever seen or expect to see again unless we keep on progressing. That is why I say that if the higher stakes helped so much at Milwaukee, let's have them again at our next National Tournament.

\* \* \*

## **HORSESHOE PITCHING**

**1940 - 1948**

**By Leland S. Mortenson**

(Continued from Last Issue)

Woodfield knew that his job did not call for him particularly to carry on promotion with the members of the association or to merely write articles for the Horseshoe World, but to publicize the sport to people who regularly have no contact with the association. He did a fine job at this post for a year, a year in which he also became better known to the members of the association.

Page resigned as President a few months after the 1940 convention, and he was automatically replaced by Jack Claves.

### **"SCIENCE AT THE STAKE"**

This 66 page book is a complete analysis of the Scientific art of tossing ringers. Contains 1001 hints from the champions on how to improve your game. Well illustrated. No horseshoe pitching fan can afford to be without this book. Send only 50c in coin or (3-cent) stamps. No checks or C.O.D. orders please.

**ROY W. SMITH**

**1442 East 153rd Street  
Compton 3, California**

The 1941 convention at Des Moines saw nothing specially important happen except that Mr. Woodfield was elected President; Archie Gregson of Miami, Oklahoma, husband of the out-going Treasurer, was elected Secretary-treasurer; Clayton Henson, Arlington, Virginia; Dale Dixon, Des Moines; and John Rossellet, New Jersey; took the vice-presidents posts.

As president of the association, Woodfield was destined to lay down a record for performance which is unmatched by any past officer.

The war delayed another convention until 1946, again at Des Moines. Woodfield was re-elected, as was Gregson who had proved to be a good right-hand man to him; Rossellet had been killed in the war.

Again in 1947, Woodfield was re-elected, this time at the Salt Lake City convention. Harvey Clear, Santa Cruz, was elected secretary-treasurer; Archie Stokes, Salt Lake City, already a second vice-president, was elected first vice-president; Guy C. Wertz, Waukesha, Wisconsin, who delivered a bid of \$3,000.00 for the 1948 tournament, was chosen second vice-president; and Jimmy O'Shea, Brockton, Mass. was elected third vice-president.

At Milwaukee in 1948, Woodfield was replaced as President by Arlo Harris of Indianapolis, Indiana, but before this took place, the delegates showed their appreciation to Mr. Woodfield by electing him Honorary President for life. Byron Jaskulek, New York, who had served as second vice-president from 1946-1947, was elected first vice-president. Mr. Wertz was re-elected second vice-president; and Louis Dean, Pomona, California, became third vice-president.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

The 1940 world championship tournament was held at Des Moines. In the round-robin, Ted Allen, Boulder, Colorado, defending champion; Guy Zimmerman, then of Sac City, Iowa but later a California resident; and Fernando Isais, Los Angeles, tied for the title. The playoff finished in the above order.

One of the tournament games, between Allen and Zimmerman, saw each man pitch 145 ringers for the greatest game of horseshoes ever tossed. That is still the topnotch of all games. Zimmerman averaged 86.1% ringers for the 31 game round-robin, a world record that was to stand until 1948.

The 1941 world meet was also held at Des Moines. In this event, Fernando Isais, 27 years old, lifted the crown from Ted Allen. In the Isais-Allen clash, Isais hooked 130 ringers. He had 15 double ringers in a row.

Allen had been King of the pitchers since 1933, and he had been the undisputed master of the thirties, regarded without question as the

number 1 tosser of all time. The forties, at least to 1948, was to see him relegated to the back seat, but yet, still a very dangerous threat to the driver, Isais, who is driving the championship car as this article is being written.

The war delayed the big tournaments until 1946 when the title was again settled at Des Moines. Isais did not appear to defend his crown.

This tournament produced the greatest climax and suspense of any match in all horseshoe history. So large was the audience, that several men perched themselves in nearby trees nearly an hour before the contest in order to assure themselves of excellent viewpoints.

Ted Allen and Casey Jones, Waukesha, Wisconsin, were the combatants. Jones had lost a round-robin match to John Lindmeier, Chicago, while Allen had been handed a setback at the hands of John Sebeck, the Ohio Express.

The suspense was supreme as Allen and Jones came out into the courts to settle the Championship of the World in one fifty point game. Two of the official scorekeepers, Mrs. Archie Gregson, and Andrew Stolarik were so taken by the suspense that they mentioned that their knees were trembling.

In what still stands as the second greatest match of all time, Allen scored 139 ringers to 137 ringers for Jones to regain the championship of the sport which he loves so much and for which he has done so much to elevate.

The 1947 world tournament was played at Murray, Utah, on what are said to be the best tournament courts ever constructed. Isais regained his championship. Probably the outstanding performance in the tournament was a new world record of 22 straight double ringers by Wayne Nelson, Muncie, Indiana. Murray, Utah, won the reputation of having been the most generous host that the world meets had ever had. Free tickets for refreshments were provided daily to the contestants.

In 1948, at Milwaukee, Fernando walked away with the championship by about as uncomfortable a margin as anyone could afford. Allen, Zimmerman, and Jones tied for second place with Tommy Brownell, promising 26 year old world war veteran right behind. (Allen and Jones are also war veterans as are many others in the National Association.)

In this Milwaukee tournament, Allen finished one game with 29 consecutive double ringers and started the next one with seven straight; Guy Zimmerman pitched the first perfect game in all history, twenty-two straight doubles out of 44 shoes; Jones had 87.5% ringers for a new world record for 31 games.

There were daily radio and television broadcasts at which the pitchers appeared. In addition to the pitchers, Mr. Wertz gave a talk on

the benefits to ones health from pitching, the writer talked about his experiences as Director of Horseshoe Pitching for the Army in World War 2, and Byron Jaskulek told about horseshoe pitching in New York City. Several wives of the contestants appeared in television.

The prizes awarded at Milwaukee amounted to \$3,000, very good, the weather was excellent, but the pitchers went away with a gripe such as has never been equalled in horseshoe history.

The courts faced east-west, the pegs were not set solid and most of them came loose during the games, only one groundkeeper was hired, and he was a 110-pound man, 62 years old, and he could not possibly handle the work that had to be done, a roller coaster within 30 feet of the courts caused as Roy Smith says, "An infernal" roar, and the writer serving as announcer for the tournament did not have sufficient electric cord to cover all of the courts. These are only part of the complaints. Alvin Dahlene recently wrote about the 17-inch "telescope courts." This causes one to wonder if any of the records established at Milwaukee will be recognized as official.

Another complaint was that it had been announced before the tournament that the players would be treated to two banquets, and the Director of the Tournament, Mr. Guy C. Wertz, contracted on his own responsibility to produce a certain number of dinners. But, when the pitchers learned that they had to pay for the plates and that nothing was to be free, many of them did not go to the banquets.

The operating expenses of the tournament were paid by the Wisconsin Centennial Commission. The writer received his pay directly from that source, as did Mr. Wertz. The writer was definitely under contract with the Centennial Commission, not the Association.

But Harvey Clear, hardest working official at the tournament, was unpaid for the tedious job he performed. Around twenty persons who served as scorekeepers went unremunerated. This was another oversight.

But, let's not forget this. Suppose Mr. Wertz had offered \$2,000 which was what was paid at Salt Lake City, our guess is that if he had made that offer when he made a bid of \$3,000, he would still have had the tournament. The pitchers divided \$1,000 more than they received the year before, but they received some inconveniences in addition.

The horseshoe game had been on an increasing march of national popularity since 1944, and by the time of the Milwaukee tournament, the peak was the highest yet reached in all history.

### WOODFIELD AND HIS SPECIAL PROJECTS

Harry T. Woodfield is an untiring fellow, and there is no limit to his vision. He constantly thinks horseshoes, and as Dale Dixon of Des Moines declared at the Milwaukee convention, "he has more horseshoes



in his blood than all the rest of us together," and he also constantly is alert as to what he can do to help the horseshoe pitchers which causes one to remember a printed statement made by Rod Thomas, Washington newspaper correspondent, "In more than 35 years of working in the newspaper field and meeting people in all walks of life, Harry Thorpe Woodfield stands out as that person who is most earnestly desirous of wanting to help his fellow man."

During his seven years as President of the Association, Mr. Woodfield performed service after service, but two of them stand out brilliantly over the others, the Army Program, and President Truman's pitching activities.

In the Fall of 1944, Mr. Woodfield was successful in having the writer appointed Director of the Army Horseshoe Pitching program. The result of the entire project was that horseshoe pitching by June, 1945, was the third most played game in the army, and the writer was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon for Outstanding Service.

A complete report on the army project is contained in the Horse Lover Magazine, as is a report on Jimmy Risk's exhibition before President Truman. A copy of the Horse Lover article is also on file with the War Department.

In 1946, Major General Vaughan had become impressed by the results of the Army program, whereupon he conceived the idea of suggesting to President Truman that he have a court installed at the White House.

As President Truman had pitched horseshoes as a boy, he was easily convinced that the General had an excellent idea. Before the plan could be put into effect, it was in the newspapers. President Woodfield read about it.

Mr. Woodfield thought that the President of the United States should have good courts, and he wasn't trusting anybody about it, so he offered his personal services for building the courts. The offer was accepted.

Admiral Nimitz, a personal friend of President Truman, an ardent horseshoe pitcher, and a friend of Jimmy Risk, wanted to get things started right, so he invited Jimmy to come and pitch an exhibition before President Truman.

Risk, a colorful young man, a first-class salesman, a dapper dresser, and an excellent exhibitionist, threw all of his best into the show and made a fine impression upon the President, upon the army and naval officers present, and upon the press which was well represented.

(To be continued in next issue.)