THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America



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NORMAN COMPTON, Asst. Editor

EDITORIAL

This is the twenty-eighth number of The Horseshoe Pitcher. Back in December, 1948, I had my first opportunity to wish all my friends in the horseshoe game a merry Christmas and a happy New Year through the pages of this little magazine. This publication was then only four months old. To be frank, I never expected to be able to do this again by this medium. But here we go again!

Of course, if it were not for all my subscribers and advertisers support it would not be possible, and I want all of you to know how grateful I am. This goes for my Asst. Editor and printer, Norman Compton, without whose help none of this could be. They say the first hundred years are the hardest, but if you ask me, it's the FIRST TWO.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Byron (Jake) Jaskulek

HARRY T. WOODFIELD

On December 6th, 1950, our Honorary President of the N.H.P.A. was stricken with a heart attack from which there was no recovery. This was the culmination of a career that covered the game of horseshoes in all its aspects The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association recognized hi worth by electing him to the office of President for seven successive years, 1941 to 1947. In 1948, at our convention held in Milwaukee, Wis., he informed the delegates present that he thought he was too old to carry on and advised them to elect some other man as president. Respecting his wishes, this was done; but he wa then designated as Honorary President for life. Thiss had no effect on his activities. His last article, in this issue, was sent to me just a few days before his demise. He had a host of friends, and they and the horseshoe fraternity will miss him, sorely.

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

LET'S ALL WORK FOR THE GAME

In accordance with our constitution, appointments have been made to committees which will function prior to and during the 1951 tournament. It is a rather difficult job to appoint committees as there are many good workers among our group, and there aren't enough appointments for everyone. However, the job ahead is big enough for each and every person interested in horseshoes, and I hope that during this next year regardless of whether you are on a committee or not you will do everything in your power to promote more interest among players and spectators. Not only the promotion of the game itself is important, but the publicity that everyone else can read and see is of paramount importance for our public today are publicity conscious; and the sports that are publicized are usually the ones which seem to have the greater spectator and player interest.

Each of you should appoint yourself as a committee of one to see that the game is promoted in your area so that 1951 will be the biggest and best yet in the game of horseshoes.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Louis Dean

National Horseshoe Pitching Association Committee Appointments 1950-51

Auditing and Finance:

Chairman Ray Ohms, Utah; Roland Kraft, Kansas; Aden Swinehamer, Illinois.

Constitution and By-Laws:

Chairman Ed McFarland, Texas; Dale Dixon, Iowa; Bruce Lyons, California; Ellis Cobb, Illinois; Ron Cherrier, Minnesota; Arner Lindquist, West Virginia; W. Maxwell, Ohio.

Grievance Committee:

Chairman J. H. Johnson, Kentucky; Alvin Gandy, Kansas; Dean Brown, California.

Membership Committee:

Chairman Archie Gregson, California; Casey Jones, Wisconsin; Ted Allen, Colorado; Harvey Clear, California; John Monasmith, Washington; Nels Peterson, Minnesota; John Lindmier, Illinois; Harold Shaw, Iowa; Harry Woodfield, Maryland; Stan Deleary, Arizona.

Publicity Committee:

Chairman Jake Jaskulek, New York; Marie Kampschroeder, Kansas; Roy Smith, California; Pete Harmon, Utah.

Tournament Committee:

Chairman Arch Stokes, Utah; Bill McCleary, Utah; E. O. Beller, California.

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

By Archie J. Gregson, Secretary, N.H.P.A.

The following is a list of the winners in various tournaments that I have sent certificates of championship to:

Guy Zimmerman, Box 505 Danville, California—won the California title Sept. 5, at San Jose, California.

James Johnson, 10 W. 28th St., Covington, Ky.—won the Kentucky title Sept 3, at Covington, Ky.

Grover Jackson, 19 Buttermilk Pike, Covington, Ky.—won the "B" class the same day.

John Elkins, Stella, Mo.—won the Missouri Open, Sept. 22 and 23, at Neosho, Mo.

Eldor Rohmaller of Carthage-won the "B" class on the same dates.

Henry Knauft, E. 19 Queen Ave., Spokane, Wash.—won the Northwest tournament (Ore., Wash. and Idaho) on Sept. 30-Oct. 1, at Yakima, Washington.

Ralph Randall, Tulsa, Okla.—won the Oklahoma title, Sept. 19th at Tulsa. Earl J. Wall won the "B" class and R. C. Hogan the "C" class (Okla.) Lewis Getchell, 5115 S. Cushman, Tacoma, Wash., won the Washington title, Sept. 2-3-4 at Seattle, Wash.

John Juracich, Tacoma-won the "B" class.

Edward Fishel, Neilton, Wash.—won the Grays Harbor County tournament, August 13, at Aberdeen, Wash.

Ed Wetzel, 2308 W. 6th St., Aberdeen, Wash.-won the "B" class,

Carl Steinfeldt, 17 Hickory St., Rochester, N. Y.—won the New York State Championship, Sept. 2-3-4., New York City.

Neilo Rankka, 115 North D, Aberdeen, Wash.—won the Aberdeen City Championship on July 9 at Aberdeen.

Ralph Warthen, 806 Grand Ave., Hoquiam, Wash.—won the Hoquiam City title on June 25, at Hoquiam.

Wm. McNeley and Ed Fishel, were the team that won the Grays Harbor County League.

Ralph Lackey, West Middletown, Ohio—won the Ohio State Title, Aug. 26, 27, 28, at Columbus, Ohio. He also won the District No. 4 title at Wilmington, Ohio, August 5-6.

Harold Thompson, Coshocton, Ohio—was winner of District No. 12 held July 4 at Buckeye Lake, Ohio.

With All Best Wishes
GUY C. WERTZ

Walter Allison, Gallipolis, Ohio-won the District No. 13 title on May 30, at Gallipolis, Ohio.

Leroy Hill, Columbus, Ohio-won the District No. 9 title on July 23, at Columbus, Ohio.

Paul Focht, Dayton, Ohio-won the Montgomery County title, Aug. 12-13 at Dayton, Ohio.

Harold Thompson, Coshocton, Ohio-won the Coshocton County title June 11 at Coshocton, Ohio.

Leslie Alban, Oak Hill, Ohio-won the Gallia County title on July 4th at Galliopolis, Ohio.

Herman Oney, Waterville, Ohio-won the Franklin County, Ohio title June 9, at Columbus, Ohio.

Eddie Fouse of Wilmington, Ohio—won the Clinton County title, Aug. 12-13 at Wilmington, Ohio.

Carroll Jones, Kenton, Ohio won the Hardin County title, Aug. 13 at Kenton, Ohio.

On Sunday, October 8th, Fernando Isais was on a West Coast Television Show for a fifteen minute interview. I didn't get to see the show, but friends told me of it a few hours later—said they certainly enjoyed it.

CALIFORNIA

By Elmer O. Beller

In reply to an article in The Horseshoe Pitcher for suggestions as to picking a date for the start of the World's Championship Tournament next August at Murray.

If the tournament is always to start on Monday, I think it should be a fixed Monday. Say the second Monday in August every year. Then it could never start earlier than the 8th or later than the 14th. of the month. Then anyone interested would always know definitely the date in advance and could make his arrangements accordingly. Then other clubs and State associations could plan their local and State tournaments so they would not interfere with the National tournaments. If the eastern part of the states plan a big eastern tournament, as has been somewhat discussed lately, they should set their dates so anyone wishing to do so could participate in both.

Sometime ago someone from the east wrote an article advancing the idea of starting the national tournament in midweek. His argument sounds good for those that have to come from a long way. This would permit anyone from almost any part of the U. S. to attend by taking just two weeks off from their work or business. That would give them three week ends, and still take only two weeks off. When tournament starts on Monday they must take a part of three weeks off. Even from California it is difficult to pitch in tournaments and report to your job Monday morning following tournament week. Qualifying could be pitched Wednesday and Thursday forenoon. Finals could be started Thursday

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William McCleary, 3rd V. P. 159 E. 7660 South Midvale, Utah

Mary Jones, Treasurer 1006 East Main Waukesha, Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary Crestline, California evening. It would be necessary to play only seven games each day. Twenty-one would be pitched Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Then Sunday could be passed up. Give all a chance to see Salt Lake, the parks, the Zoo, the Temple or attend church or just rest or practice. Then pitch other fourteen games Monday and Tuesday. Or if they would rather start one day later in the week and finish one day later. I do not think this could be arranged for this next year, but it is something to think about before tournament time. It could be taken up then if enough are interested.

MARYLAND & WASHINGTON, D. C. NEWS

By Harry T. Woodfield

THIS WEEK, the Sunday magazine, is part of each Sunday issue of The Washington Evening Star. In the Nov. 19 number is an article by Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota. The title, "We Can Give the World a Vision of America." Boiled down, it is a plan to fight Communistic influence by Television, especially in Asiatic countries. To be shown on 6 foot out-door screens.

The Associated Press has an article in the Sunday Star of the same date with the same end in view although operated through different channels. Through radio (by way of "The Voice of America" broadcasting American Democracy Ideals over the air in Europe now for some years) and now by "The Air Bulletin" published semi-weekly by the State Department and distributed to the radio and press of over 60 countries.

Sports will play an important part in anti-communistic propaganda and that Dept. will be under the direction of J. Richard Skuse. In a letter to Harry T. Woodfield, addressed as Pres. of N.H.P.A., Mr. Skuse requested that as many Horseshoe Publications as possible be mailed to him from which he would, from time to time, publish articless of information of the port. Here follows my reply.

Dear Mr. Skuse:

I have requested that copies of the following horseshoe pitching publications be mailed to you as per your letter of today. Science at the Stake, by Roy Smith, Horseshoe Pitching as a Hobby, by W. I. Williams, The Horseshoe Pitcher, by Byron Jaskulek, and Sport for the Fun of It, by John R. Tunis.

May I suggest that your first article on horseshoe pitching published in The Air Bulletin be in the form of an invitation to all countries outside of the United States interested in learning about the sport of horseshoe pitching, will receive a free copy of a book containing in full detail, how to pitch as the experts do, including playing rules as developed by The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America, during the past 30 years. Plans of a court, or playing field, with a list of all materials needed will be enclosed. Write to Harry T. Woodfield,

Honorary President of N.H.P.A., 4002 Oliver Street, Hyattsville, Maryland, U. S. A.

Thanks to Roy Smith, it is possible to furnish the book. It is his first edition of Science at the Stake, published many years ago, his Red Book. When he revised it and published his 2nd edition (Blue Book) he sent a large quantity of the old edition to me to be disposed of as I thought best.

Harry T. Woodfield.

THE NAME OF N.H.P.A. IS SPREADING!

It is significant that I received that letter from Mr. Skuse, that more and more people are learning that there is a National Association, and what is more importnt, the location of its members who have information on hand that is sent to them promptly. I am proud to be one of these. Most of all, that after ten years continuous efforts, a perfect drawing of a horseshoe court has been reproduced in a book written by a famous sports writer and published by the Barnes Co. of New York, the leading publisher of sport books in the U. S.

I also requested that Mr. Smith and Mr. Williams send copies of their books to John R. Tunis, Rowayton, Conn., so that they would be included in the Bibliography of the story of horseshoe pitching by Mr. Tunis in the 2nd edition of Sport for the Fun of It, now being prepared for printing. The first edition has been sold out.

In this 2nd edition, as in the 1st, there is a full page size plan of a modern horseshoe court as originated by "Pop" Woodfield, the drawing from the skilled pen of Tommy Brownell, now of Amsterdam, New York. You will have to see it to realize that here is perfect draftsmanship. It is a credit to The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America to have as a member such a skillful artist.

"HORSESHOE PITCHING, A RECREATIONAL HOBBY"

New 42-page illustrated handbook purposefully writen to guide the amateur or beginner to correct procedures and progressive interest in the art of pitching horseshoes. Send 50c to:

Walter I. Williams, Horseshoe Pitching Coach
P. O. Box 496

Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.

Tommy was on his way to eventually becoming World's Champion Horseshoe pitcher. The trip to Murray each year is too expensive for him to assume. It is the hope of the writer that through the proposed Eastern National Tournament that Tommy and others in the East, who show promise, will get the kind of competition to prepare them for the World Tournament when they can make the trip.

MINNESOTA

By Ken Huber

In organizing a National Horseshoe Pitchers State League Association, many things would have to be considered. I will dwell briefly on a few of them. My only hope is that we may eventually have a National Association. We can, if we only all get out and push.

With a National Association, we would have to set up percentages for each division. At the present time we have five divisions in our League in St. Paul. What would be the best for all of us would have to be determined. By having a set percentage in all division, we could then give prizes or awards for any outstanding game or games which would make a player try a little harder. It gripes me when players will admit that they deliberately throw off to stay in a lower division. People like that should be barred.

All records would be sent into our National Headquarters each year. They would have a record of every player from year to year. In case a player would move to another city where they played horseshoes, he could then be placed in the division he belonged.

The foregoing sounds like a lot of work, and maybe to some it may sound like unnecessary work, but if you are going to have an Association that amounts to any thing at all, you've got to keep accurate records.

Every player would have to join the National Association in order to play in a league. The cost should be \$1 per man per year. I sincerely believe that every player should take The Horseshoe Pitcher. Just think of all the interesting news you would eventually have—news from every corner of the U. S., Canada, etc.

Every player should belong to his State Association at a cost of 50c per year. By having a charge like this, every player would feel more like going out for the Fall and State tournaments at no extra cost to the player. At the present time in Minnesota, you have to belong to the National & State in order to play in the State tournament. However, with the few we have signed up, it is necessary to charge \$2 more in order to have enough for the trophies and medals we give to the winners.

My idea of an ideal situation would be to charge each player \$10 to belong to an Association. Out of this money, the player would automatically be entered in the National Association, the State Association and he would also receive The Horseshoe Pitcher. The balance of the money would be to defray expenses connected with the club. These expenses would be furnishing the trophies for the season, paying for the

Fall Party, repairs to the courts, etc. The sponsors of the teams should pay \$10 plus shirts for the players.

I will appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested in furthering the sport of horseshoes. We have a long way to go and the sooner we get started, the sooner we will arrive. I also believe that Horseshoe Associations should have their own property.

I will appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested and if you have any questions about anything let me know and I'll answer them. We have a lot of ground work to do so let's get going.

NEW YORK

(From The Daily Mirror, Nov. 13, 1950)

Horseshoe pitchers Tommy Glynn, 18, of Manhattan, and Joseph Zichella, 39, Bronx, yesterday proved once more that when it comes to tossing the "lucky" U-shaped objects—it's skill that predominates. Both lads, for the second year in a row, captured the Greater New York junior and senior division titles.

A large gallery of spectators gathered at Heckscher's courts in Central Park to witness the finals of the record citywide tournament sponsored annually by the Mirror and Dept. of Parks.

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Station F Columbus, Ohio

After referee Peter Petrowski, of the Park Dept., sent the tourney's eight leading contenders on their way at 1:30 p.m., young Glynn rippled into action. The smooth 18-year-old performer successfully defended his junior crown by vanquishing sturdy Mickey Spotto, Bronx, 50—3, Anthony Brennen, also of Manhattan, in a tight tussle, 50—48, and Alvin Winter, Bronx, 50—20. Winter annexed second place honors in the roundrobin by defeating Spotto and Brennan.

In defending his senior crown, Zichella, a New York City Housing employee, performed with deadly acuracy, clicking with 73 ringers out of 100 tosses. The senior champ, whose wife and two daughters also do some pitching on their own, defeated Louis Stines, 50—28, Joseph S. Virga of Brooklyn, 50—21, and Thomas Kirk, Queens, 50—3. Stines, Queens borough champ, downed Virga and Kirk to gain runner-up honors,

The eight contenders were among a record entry of 2,027 when the tournament was launched two months ago. They survived district, borough and inter-borough play.

RHODE ISLAND

By C. S. Gerrish

Peter Heroux of Providence won the New England Horseshoe Tournament held on October first at Hamilton, R. I. He won all his eleven games among the twelve qualified finalists. Twenty-four men paid entry fees. Another Rhody champion, Roy Pearson, won the runner-up position. Third place went to Joseph Comeau of Lynn, Mass. The Connecticut champ, Dwight Smith, got fourth place. Maine's title holder and oldest entry, Charley Gerrish, came out number five. Sixth was John Bessey of Conn. Seventh was Guido Georgetti from Conn., eighth Al Phaneuf of Springfield, Mass., ninth, J. Arnold, tenth, Gill Brinkman, eleventh, Lloyd Welch and last, Ray Pearson of R. I.

As the scores of Heroux were all 50's, we give those of his opponents as follows: Smith 9, Comeau 47, Ray Pearson 28, Welch 36, Brinkman 40, Bessey 12, Arnold 43, Phaneuf 20, Georgetti 21, Gerrish 17, Roy Pearson 21. Pete averaged about 66 per cent ringers. His highest game was 79 per cent in the 10th game, against Gerrish. In four games he went over 70 per cent and only twice did he get under 60 per cent. Roy Pearson and Gerrish twice went over 70 per cent. Bessey, Comeau and Smith each did over 70 per cent once.

Roy Pearson made second high average with 63.5 per cent ringers for 11 games. His only loss was his last game, 21 points against Heroux. Comeau and Gerrish tied for third ringer average with 62 per cent each. Gerrish was the only player to hit over 80 per cent when in his eighth game he did 82 per cent while jousting with John Arnold, 36 ringers out of 44 shoes. John got only 9 points for lowest score of the meet in this game, though he threw 22 ringers against Gerrish.



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DULUTH, MINNESOTA

The big game of the tourney was the 96-shoe contest won by Georgetti 50 to 46 against Gerrish. Each flinger made 21 doubles and all four shoes were on eleven times in this game. 65 ringers for Guido to 63 for Charley and 68 per cent against 66 per cent.

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

That twenty-four page booklet of the Constitution and By-Laws of the N.H.P.A. is a good looking job and another step forward by the National. If you haven't got your copy, write to the Secretary.

* * *

The teen agers are going to have their chance at Murray this coming year when we hold the World's Championship games early next August. And how about a tournament for those who fail to qualify in the first thirty six?

* * *

Here is a note from Guy C. Wertz, who needs no introduction.

Even though you haven't heard from me for a long time, you have kept me pretty well posted as to what is doing, through the magazine.

It is my observation that some progress has been made but this grand old game of "Horseshoe Pitching" is still in the doldrums.

There are many good men in the organization and out of it, who are interested in horseshoe pitching. If it were possible to bring them together, two or three days, once a year, I am sure it would pay off. This could be one of your projects for 1951.

* * *

It's nice to know that John Gordon is up and around again after his second accident, but he is still using crutches.

* * *

SAVED BY A HORSESHOE! This comes from Down Under, Sydney, Australia—A lucky horseshoe saved Ian Taylor when he was swept from a bridge in the dark by Namoi River flood waters. Carried against a tree, he clutched for a hold and got a grip on a horseshoe nailed there as a hook for horse's bridles. He clung to it for four hours, then was rescued.

* * *

Now my oldest son and his wife went and done it. They made me a two time grandpa with a six pound nine ounce baby.

Mr. John R. Tunis, of Rowayton, Conn., has just published a 248 page book entitled "SPORT FOR THE FUN OF IT". In it, he describes 19 different games of sports with all the rules and regulations governing them. He includes horseshoes, 20 pages of it including diagrams of the layout of a horseshoe court and material needed. These drawings were by Tommy Brownell and supplied by Pop Woodfield.

* * *

Speaking of books—Mr. W. I. Williams, of Mattituck, N. Y. has written a 42 page booklet called "HORSESHOE PITCHING" which I recommend for all novices and advanced pitchers. (See ad, this issue.)

* * *

During the last war the government restricted the use of steel to such an extent that for quite a long time we were unable to buy any new horseshoes. Now the restrictions are with us again. I would suggest that you buy your favorite shoes RIGHT NOW.

* * *

Thanks to you fellows who used the extra subscription blank I enclosed in last month's magazine. How about you guys who didn't?

GORDON SPIN-ON HORSESHOES



The New 1950 Gordon "Spin-On" Horseshoe is now available in all three tempers. The Gordon "Spin-On" horseshoes have led the field of horseshoes in sales again in 1949 of those using the 5¢ Association Stamp, because it is the best balanced shoe made. Write for prices. Buy the shoe that won the National Tournament in 1949.

THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY c/o THE QUEEN CITY FORGING CO.

Station C Cincinnati 26, Ohio This bears repeating: Ever since the first number of this publication appeared I had it in the mails right on time. Now, since the U. S. Post Office Dept. has seen fit to go back to the horse and buggy days, I have had many complaints about not receiving it on time. If this happens to you, will you please complain to your local Postmaster? And if you move, let me know your new address because the P. O. D. does not forward this class of mail.

Remember, the pages of this magazine are open to everyone. Let's hear from you.

* * *

Address me at Box 22, Kingsbridge Station, New York, N. Y. And who do you know that would like a sample copy of this magazine? When answering any of these ads, please let them know where you saw it.

* * *

John Fulton, former Pennsylvania State champion, will soon be getting into training for the forthcoming State Farmers Horseshoe Tournament which will be held at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show at Harrisburg on Thursday evening, January 11th, 1951. Fulton has won this tournament five times and will be a top-heavy favorite to repeat. He holds the record for top percentage of 75 in 1949 and will be out to better that record this time.

* * *

Anyone interested in the State League set-up Ken Huber has written about should drop him a line at 1241 Osceola Ave., St. Paul 5, Minnesota. How about you secretaries of leagues throughout the country?

"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.

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WHERE TO PLAY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

ARIZONA-Encante Park, Phoenix.

ARKANSAS-Fair Park and Boyle Park, Little Rock.

CALIFORNIA — Community Center, Compton; Exposition Park, Los Angeles; Union Pacific Courts, Long Beach; Mosswood Park, Oakland; Golden Gate Courts, San Francisco; Lincoln Park, Santa Monica.

CANADA-Dieppe Park, East York.

CONNECTICUT—Bearsley Park, Bridgeport; Pope Park, Hartford.

DIST. OF COL.—Commerce Courts, Washington.

ILLINOIS-Welles Park, Chicago.

INDIANA-Brookside Park, Indianapolis.

IOWA-Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa.

KANSAS-Gage Park, Topeka.

KENTUCKY-Shady Shores, Covington.

MAINE—Wilkinson Community Park, S. Portland; Sunset Park, South Portland.

MARYLAND-Carroll Park, Baltimore; Magruder Park, Hyattsville.

MASSACHUSETTS-Municipal Playgrounds, Westfield.

MISSOURI-Municipal Park, Carthage.

NEW HAMPSHIRE-South Playground, Portsmouth.

NEW JERSEY-Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Pk., Newark.

NEW YORK—Central Park, Innwood Hill Park, New York City; St. Mary's Park, Williamsbridge Oval Park, Woodlawn, Van Cortlandt Park, all in the Bronx; Parade Grounds, Fort Green Park, Brooklyn; Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon, L. I., Kirk Park, Syracuse.

OHIO-Jermain Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky.

PENNSYLVANIA — District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Revere.

RHODE ISLAND-Athletic Field, West Warwick.

UTAH—County Fair Grounds, Murray.

WASHINGTON-Wright Park, Tacoma.

WEST VIRGINIA-Bar B-Q Courts, East Nitro.

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