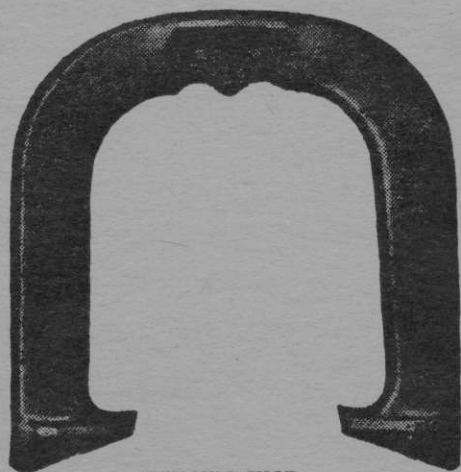


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



THE OHIO SHOE

FEBRUARY, 1950

Vol. 2

No. 6

EDITORIAL

Every once in a while I have been griping about how hard it has been to keep this little magazine going, due mostly, to the lack of co-operation between the National, the horseshoe manufacturers and myself. Now, after having published the eighteenth number, I am very pleased to let the world know that things look very much brighter for the successful continuation of The Horseshoe Pitcher. Not only have the subscribers gone along with me in the raising of the subscription price, but the shoe manufacturers are also doing their share to make this a paying proposition. Beginning with this issue, the Diamond Calk Horseshoe Co. have contracted for a full page ad to run for twelve months and I hope you fellows will do business with them. This goes for the Ohio, Giant Grip, Gordon and any other horseshoe manufacturer who advertises in this magazine. Please be sure to let them know where you saw their ad. Who knows? Maybe my griping did some good!

Editor.

* * *

FOR INFORMATION

To the Officers of the NHPA:
Subject: Committee Appointments.

The following people have been chosen to work on committees during 1950, up to, and including the National Tournament.

Constitution and By-Laws: Chairman, R. Ohms, Utah; P. Cartwright, California; R. Kraft, Kansas; M. Palmer, Wyoming; J. McFarland, Texas; and A. Moehn, Minnesota.

Membership: Chairman, Harvey Clear, California; R. Cherrier, Minnesota; T. Allen, Colorado; J. Sebek, Ohio; A. Swinehamer, Illinois; P. Printz, Indiana; and T. Brownell, New York.

Auditing and Finances: Chairman, L. Mortenson, Iowa; M. Jones, Wisconsin; and D. Titcomb, California.

Credentials: Chairman, E. Tiilikainen, Colorado; A. Lindquist, West Virginia; and P. DeLeary, Arizona.

Grievances: Chairman, B. McCleary, Utah; D. Dixon, Iowa; and F. Isaias, California.

Publicity: Chairman, R. Smith, California; B. Jaskulek, New York; and M. Kampschroeder, Kansas.

Resolutions: Chairman, G. Berger, Utah; D. Brown, California; and J. Elkins, Missouri.

Louis Dean, President, N.H.P.A.

* * *

OFFICERS OF N. H. P. A.

President, LOUIS M. DEAN, Pomona, Calif.
1st Vice President, Goff Berger, Murray, Utah.
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Marie Kampschroeder, Lawrence, Kansas.
3rd Vice President, Bill McCleary, Murray, Utah.
4th Vice President, Andy Moehn, St. Paul, Minn.
Secretary, Harvey W. Clear, Santa Cruz, Calif.
Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Jones, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY—VITAL

Quick action is essential to the future success of The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America. It is possible that a plan to relieve this emergency has already been put in motion by the Executive Council. If not, please consider the following.

I have before me, 17 issues of The Horseshoe Pitcher starting with September 1948 and ending with Jan. 1950. Every one received in the month printed on the cover. An achievement that its publisher Byron (Jake) Jaskulek can well be proud of.

Friend Council—All of you realize the tremendous amount of effort put forth by Jake and his able printer, Norman Compton, to produce the finest magazine our sport has ever had. The paper, editing and make-up are excellent and comparable to other publications of its type.

Jake was really proud when in the 1949 convention his paper was designated The Official Organ of N.H.P.A. It was a well deserved pat on the back, but so far, just words. It did not go far enough.

COMMUNICATION IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY

The free full page N.H.P.A. ads in the Oct. and Sept. numbers of The Horseshoe Pitcher were well written. The Executive Council should go into a huddle immediately and contract for a full page ad in each issue of Jake's paper Roy Smith should be official Ad Writer.

The Horseshoe Pitcher of January 1950 reflects how deep is Jake's disappointment. The official citation is missing from the front cover. As an offset for failure of N. H. P. A. to afford financial help he has increased the subscription price to \$2.00. To us who realize the important part The Horseshoe Pitcher has in the future success of N.H.P.A. and the pleasure we get from reading its contents, we will gladly pay the increase.

The National Treasury has a fund earmarked for publicity so Friend Council, let's keep the means of communication we have. We cannot afford to lose the Horseshoe Pitcher. Let's get that Official citation back on the front cover of the February number.

Advertising is the life blood of all publications. Let's all of us who love this grand old game read our own copy of the February issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher.

Pop Woodfield.

* * *

CORRECTION

By Harvey W. Clear

I would like to make a further explanation regarding the article which I had in the November issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine. I had no idea that there would be such an issue made of that or I would have been more explicit at the time. So for the benefit of my good friends, Mr. Roy Smith, and Mr. Peter Cartwright, I will tell you just what I had in mind.

First let me say that I have nothing but praise for the Committee that drew up the new Constitution and By-Laws, they worked night and day and I know they did a wonderful job and for my part I want to thank them one and all.

The thing which I had in mind concerned only the horseshoe manufacturers. The reason for my mentioning Mr. Harris, and why I felt sure that he was the one that proposed this was because I worked with Mr. Harris for a year during his administration as President of the

N.H.P.A. and on a number of occasions he practically demanded that I write threatening letters to the horseshoe manufacturers. I could find nothing in our Constitution which would back me up in this, so I did not write the letters. Later on Mr. Harris came out with a circular letter stating that I did not cooperate with him.

In my two and one half years of dealing with the horseshoe manufacturers, I feel that they are cooperating almost 100 percent. The stamp sales are increasing every year, and I don't feel that any pressure is needed with them at this time, and I would like to see this taken up again at the next convention.

As I understand Mr. Cartright's article I think that he was of the opinion that I was refering to The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine. Let me say now that I am for the magazine and I will gladly pay as much as five dollars a year for it, rather than see it discontinued. Mr. Jaskulek has accused me of being in a way responsible for his starting this magazine, and I know that he is correct. I am sorry that this agreement with the combine dues and the magazine could not be carried out, but I truly hope that at the next convention meeting some agreement can be made satisfactory to all concerned; I know it will be. Mr. Jaskulek in his editorial in the January issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher states that he had asked the President to help support the magazine by inserting a one page ad. I don't feel that Mr. Dean should be wholly to blame for this as he took the matter up with me and we went into it from every angle. It was unfortunate that this could not have been taken up at the convention meeting and some provisions made to reimburse Mr. Jaskulek with an ad or otherwise. According to our Constitution, any bill amounting to more than twenty dollars I am to take up with the Executive Board and have the consent of the majority. This does not state that we could do this every month. Then, too, according to the Constitution, our publicity fund is made up from 25 percent of the money collected in horseshoe stamps, and we do not have that much on an average. I know that if we can possibly keep this magazine going until the next Convention meeting, I feel sure that Mr. Jaskulek will be reimbursed for any shortage this year, and a real contract be drawn up satisfactory to him for the future.

* * *

OVER THE COFFEE CUP

By Leland S. Mortenson

I see by Roy Smith's article in the January issue that the "constitution" which appeared in a recent number of the Horseshoe Pitcher was not the final draft. I, for one, would like to see the final draft and also the by-laws and the rules, for I understand all of them got a "working over" at Murray, Utah.

Inasmuch as Roy Smith was the official reporter at the tournament and convention in behalf of The Horseshoe Pitcher, I think an article by him, accompanying the constitution, by-laws and rules, pointing out what changes were made at Murray, would be helpful to the readers. Perhaps including the new or changed parts and numbering them would help to clarify them in an article of explanation.

The subject of horseshoe pitching uniforms occasionally comes up for discussion. Back in the twenties, Putt Mossman designed a uniform and arranged for a clothing company to manufacture them for him. He sold a few suits to perhaps a hundred or more pitchers and he attempted to have the National Association officially declare his pattern as the one and only wearing apparel for sanctioned tournaments. I don't

believe the delegates "went" for it; at least, if they did, and if it was adopted, it was never enforced.

If my memory serves me correctly, Mossman's uniform consisted of a white shirt, and white trousers with black or red stripes down the sides.

In 1948, Mr. Guy Wertz, director of the National tournament at Milwaukee, attempted to enforce a ground rule that every entry had to wear an all white uniform, but several of the pitchers would not conform.

Personally, I am not in favor of forcing the contestants to wear uniforms. I believe that each entry should wear what suits his own taste, except that I am in favor of insisting that no clothing shall be worn which reflects upon the dignity of the game.

In the thirties, we had a ground rule at the Mid-West National tournaments and also at the 1940 National tournament that all contestants must have their first and last names and post office addresses sewed on the front of their shirts, and that they were to be large enough so as to be read from the bleachers. We had no difficulty in securing the co-operation of the players with this rule.

Maybe the officers of the National Association should give some thought as to whether such a ground rule should not be enforced at the 1950 National tournament.

Whenever you see a group of men pitching horseshoes, you can be quite certain that they are contented. This is a universal notion, and I believe it is correct. During World War II, there was a Major General Groninger who had his headquarters at the New York Port of Embarkation in Brooklyn, N. Y. He was also Commander of Camp Shanks, N. Y., another Port of Embarkation. This General wanted the men going through his camp to be happy; he was known to love horseshoe pitching and he believed that if the men were pitching, they were happy and all was well.

The non-commissioned officers, including Melio Bettina, ex-light heavyweight boxing champion of the world, who were in charge of the main gymnasium and adjoining athletic field of Camp Shanks, told me that every time the General came into Camp they received a tip-off 'phone call advising them to "get some men out pitching horseshoes." They declared that if the General saw some men pitching horseshoes, he would smile and drive on, but if there was no one pitching, then he would become suspicious that things were not right, and he would stop his car and inspect the gymnasium. Obviously, the non-commissioned officers did not want the General to stop and inspect.

When I was directing the E. T. O. championship tournament at Nuremberg, Germany, there was a contestant from Nebraska. I regret that I do not remember his full name, but his last name was Carlson, and he had been a school teacher. He was a swell fellow, just like all horseshoe pitchers are, or should I say "nearly all"? (See next section below).

Well, Carlson told me that the Army flew him overseas, that because of weight regulations, he could not put his pair of Ohio horseshoes with his baggage, but he got by by sticking one horseshoe in each pocket of his overcoat.

In the first paragraph of the preceding section, I was about to refer to all horseshoe pitchers as swell fellows. Then I remembered that I had seen a photo of Tojo pitching horseshoes while a prisoner. Obviously, he was anything but a swell fellow.



OFFICIAL

SUPER RINGER SETS PITCHING HORSESHOES

The finest pitching horseshoes ever made. Drop forged from special carbon steel and heat-treated to prevent chipping or breaking. Specially designed to catch stake with minimum danger of bouncing or sliding off. Perfectly balanced for easy control.

Dead-falling qualities of Diamond Super Ringer sets are unexcelled.

Write for information on our complete line of Diamond Pitching shoes and accessories.

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE COMPANY

4615 GRAND AVENUE



DULUTH, MINNESOTA

ROY'S RAMBLINGS

By Roy W. Smith, Author of "Science at the Stake" and Secy.-Treas. of
So. Calif. H. P. A.

For the past two years, I have been putting in all my spare time working on a proposed new book for the horseshoe game. Recently, I got up my courage and wrote to President Truman for a photograph of himself—and his horseshoes. Here is the reply that I received from The White House:

"Dear Mr. Smith:

"This will reply to your letter of January fourth, addressed to the President, requesting a photograph of the President with his horseshoe pitching shoes.

"I regret that we have no picture of this kind and I am unable to tell you where you might obtain one. It is possible that one of the news picture agencies might have one and if so you could obtain a print from that source.

"The courtesy of your letter and the kind expression of good wishes to the President are appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES G. ROSS,
Secretary to the President"

Do any of you guys and gals know of any news agency that might supply me with a negative or print of the President and his shoes? Such a picture in a horseshoe guide would provide an incentive for youth all over the world to emulate "Our Nation's Number One Horseshoe Pitcher."

Or, maybe some of you "big-shots" whose words carry a lot of weight, can write to the President and persuade him to raise the Republican's taxes so there will be more available pictures of the President. No! Don't, for heaven's sake say nothing about the taxes of us Democrats! They are out of this world already.

Recently, I shipped 100 copies of my instruction book to the Iowa Supply Co., at Iowa City. This is a supply house for the University of Iowa, I believe. Also, some copies have gone to the University of Michigan. The University of So. Calif., here, stocked 50 copies a year or two ago. I could name many other schools all over the country. The good old sport is growing! More and more Teen-agers are getting interested!

The January issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher is one of the finest issues to come out yet, especially in this respect: It shows the wide-spread and ever-growing interest in the welfare and future of N.H.P.A. Players are becoming more organization-minded. They DO appreciate your fine magazine Jake! So much so, that I'll lay you a hundred to one that the 1950 Convention does something worthwhile for the publication. Want to bet?

It is great to see more ladies taking an active part in the sport. Many of us at the 1949 Convention insisted that the girls be well represented on the official staff of N.H.P.A. We need more glamor in the game! Besides, the ladies have a lot of talent, and they work hard. The women pitchers of Kansas are fortunate, indeed to have such an attractive and able leader as Mrs. Marie Kampschroeder. Let's hear more from Mrs. Jones, "Pat" DeLeary, Mrs. Lindquist and all the others. Just haul off and give us your ideas. (I don't have to ask my "horseshoe widow" for her ideas. She often just hauls off and gives me her ideas whether I want them or not!)

George Hilst of Illinois presents a number of splendid ideas about allowing spectators to root at a tournament. More such freedom for the audiences would greatly increase the popularity of the sport. Rooting would help to keep down tension too! The players can, and should, train themselves, so that rooting would have no effect on them. Look at a baseball pitcher, or a prizefighter. Why can't a horseshoe pitcher apply their psychology to his own methods of training?

A. B. McCoy of Ohio had a fine promotional article in the January issue too. It sure pleases me to see more such men bring out the sore need of more color, more showmanship, and more publicity for the sport. Leland Mortenson, of Iowa, also had a fine article. He always writes well, clearly, and to the point.

Johnny Kovacs presents a very good argument in his Open Letter. He is 100% right when he says that promotion is a year around job—not just for a tournament now and then. Also, I agree that league-team-play is the finest of all promotional methods. Team-play appeals to most of the youngsters—and oldsters too. I have never been opposed to the Point System—except for the National tournaments. I believe that our champions should stand out and shine as “Stars.” Boxing has its Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, and Joe Louis. And many other great stars, as do all the other major sports. Horseshoe Pitching has its Fernando Isais, Ted Allen, Guy Zimmerman, Casey Jones and many others. We need our stars! Let them keep shining with increasing brilliance!

I enjoyed the humorous article by E. J. Thompson, of Wyoming, about the Indian's version of horseshoe pitching. Andy Moehn had a dandy too. Plenty of food for thought in it. All were good. Despite our differences of opinion about some things, we are all converging toward a definite goal. The teamwork that I mentioned in my article is becoming a reality—not just wishful thinking.

1948-49 were stormy years. But in many ways they showed us that our sport is a healthy and robust one. It had to go through its “growing pains” stage. Here the history of our sport parallels that of our country. Out of all the travail came a more democratic constitution. Men with talent for leadership, vision, organizational ability, and constructive promotion—on both sides of the controversy—helped set the stage for a promising future. The frontiers of horseshoe pitching are being extended throughout the world. Many centuries have elapsed since Socrates and Euripides played the game at the noon hour. But many of the democratic teachings, and the favorite sport of “Soc” and “Rip” continue to live. Several great leaders of modern times are also enjoying the game during their noon hour. These leaders represent the greatest nation of all time. America, the land of the free, where everyone can have a horseshoe court in his backyard, if he so desires. And many so desire!

Horseshoe pitching originated with the ancient Olympic Games. I believe it will regain its lost heritage in the not too distant future. Why not? Less deserving sports are included in the games.

The science of pitching, and the scoring methods (notice I used the plural “methods”) are so well established that they are now able to progress without so much of our time being devoted to them. I don't mean that we can forget them entirely, but we can devote more and more time to down-to-earth promotion. We must publicize, advertise, and sell the game as never before. Because, never before have we had such a splendid opportunity as we have now. With the wealth of talent for promotion and leadership that we have in the game today, many fine things are in store for the sport.

I received a long letter from Ted Allen a few weeks ago. He commented on the new constitution as follows: "I said at the time, and I say now, that the convention really got down to business. It got more done than any convention held in 14 years. I think it should go down as having accomplished more in the right direction than any other in history. There was only one other convention that was near its equal. That was in 1935, at Moline. . . . You have certainly done some good writing for The Horseshoe Pitcher, Roy. There is just one little thing I want to correct you on; that is this: ONLY PART of the stamp fund is earmarked for publicity. The shoe makers intended for most of this fund to be used for tournament prizes. Personally, I think, with the nice prizes we now have, the stamp fund should be built up and held in the treasury for a 'rainy' day, when we might not be having a bidder for a national tournament."

Thanks for "them thar" kind words, Ted. I stand corrected on my former statement that "the stamp fund is earmarked for publicity."

"Pop" Woodfield contributed a fine drawing of a detailed court lay-out for my proposed book. Who might have a good 8 by 10 inch glossy print photo showing a good stunt pitching act in progress? Or any other photos showing a good stance, swing, etc. (Good negatives will do, and those who might want to contribute them, will receive full credit in the book, if the photos can be used.)

Keep up the good work, guys and gals. Our game will be a nifty in 1950. "Teach the Teen-agers to Toss Through Team-Play." "Promote Pitching by Proper Publicity." "Members, Make This Magazine a MUST"!

Despite our differences of opinion regarding promotion and policy, we are making fine progress! (Final note: Republicans, I was only kidding about having your taxes raised!)

* * *

ARKANSAS

By Joe E. Bacon

I have enjoyed reading The Horseshoe Pitcher, and in response to an invitation from you in a recent issue for subscribers to speak their piece, I should like to comment briefly.

It is estimated that there are at least two million horseshoe pitchers in the United States, nearly all of them amateurs. Probably 98% of them have a ringer percentage of 10% or even less, but nearly all the horseshoe magazine talk I have read in the past three or four years is about the three or four great pitchers who head the list. My guess is that the remaining 1,999,996 players are much more interested in how to pitch horseshoes than in what these four greats do each year. All of us like to read how the big tournaments come out, to see if Isais is still tops and how close Ted Allen and Casey Jones and Guy Zimmerman came to the champion, but I think most of us would also enjoy just how other good pitchers pitch.

About three years ago, I sent Roy Smith four bits for his "Science at the Stake," and I have just about worn it out reading and re-reading it. I am sold on what he says about the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ turns, the pendulum swing, coordination, etc., but as the old saying has it, there's more than one way to skin a cat, and, speaking for myself, I'd like to see items about the fairly good pitchers that violate most of the sugges-

tions laid down in Roy Smith's book; because there are no doubt many able pitchers who flop the shoe or even put their forefinger around a heel calk and throw a $2\frac{3}{4}$ turn, as in the horse-and-buggy days. Many of these have tried to pitch scientifically and when they find that somehow they can't they lose interest in the game and quit; whereas if they read about good pitchers who were still old-fashioned in their method of pitching it would encourage them to pitch for the fun of playing the game, with its exercise and good fellowship, instead of being too ringer-conscious.

It is, of course, necessary to print articles about the Association's Constitution, but if this game is ever to be popularized in print, we will require more human interest stories—one thing that has made the Sporting News the great magazine it is, is the emphasis on human interest stories—and interesting articles in every issue on how ordinary pitchers pitch horseshoes, orthodox or unorthodox.

I am 64 years old and have been retired eight years by a damaged heart, but the doctor lets me pitch horseshoes in moderation, and I'd like to see a national tournament; so, from a selfish standpoint, I hope that some of them will be held more centrally located, say Kansas City or Indianapolis. And I'd enjoy seeing lesser tournaments in the central part of the country, except that, through no fault of yours, the tournaments often have been held by the time The Horseshoe Pitcher reaches the subscriber.

(EDITORS NOTE: Send in dates of tournaments to be held, and where.)

* * *

GORDON SPIN-ON HORSESHOES



The new 1950 Spin-On Horseshoes, are now on the market. They are the best balanced and most pitched shoe. The 1949 shoe won the 1949 Tournament at Murray, Utah. Get your 1950 shoes now. Write for Prices.

THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY

c/o THE QUEEN CITY FORGING CO.

Station C

Cincinnati 26, Ohio

D. C. & MARYLAND

By "Pop" Woodfield

Horseshoe pitchers in Richmond, Cumberland and the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area were shocked, just a few days before Christmas, to learn of the sudden death of Fred J. Niner.

He was in charge of auto repairs for the Federal Works Agency for many years. Originally from Cumberland, he moved to Washington several years ago to enter Government service.

His widow, Mrs. Alice G. Niner, two grown sons, Richard and Charles, one brother and six sisters survive.

Fred first appeared on the local courts early in 1937 and every day of each year when the ground was not frozen, would come to the courts, shovel in hand, to get the clay worked up and work up an appetite for dinner.

He was the spark-plug of horseshoe promotion in the Washington area and especially helpful in inter city competition. He had much to do with the success of the first annual open tournament on the D. C. Commerce courts sponsored by Md. and D. C. pitchers and with the A.A.U. tournament both staged in Sept. of last year. He would have played an important part in the Teen-Ager program and in a proposed Eastern Open Tournament and the pepping up of A.A.U. events. We will miss him.

January 27, Buckley Maits, Associate Editor of "The Country Gentleman" came to Hyattsville in search for additional material for a story in that nationally famous publication after interviewing Jake in New York and John Fulton of Carlisle, Pa. He said horseshoe pitching was still a favorite with the farmers. While I did not feel there was much I could add to the farmer angle, since his interview of Fulton (Pennsylvania State Farmer champion many years in each alternate year he is permitted to pitch) I did suggest that all horseshoe pitching would expand wherever the best courts were set up and, I agreed to furnish construction plans and list of materials for those who would write me.

Mr. Maits made an excellent suggestion to further the Teen-Ager program and I pass it on to you. "Why not get the leaders in the 4.H. clubs to promote the game during their local and National Meets?"

So there it is fellows. Let's put everything we have back of the Teen-Ager program for 1950. Working through boys' clubs, 4.H. clubs and other youth organizations and when the 1950 N.H.P.A. convention meets again in Murray, Utah, having N.H.P.A. place their official O.K. on it will be a mere formality.

The Maryland and Washington D. C. division of N.H.P.A. will hold a combined meeting early in March to prepare their 1950 program.

A SUGGESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

I can sketch a rough draft of an approved court with list of materials showing two types of peg holders with the finished drawing done by an expert, suitable for reproduction by mimeograph on legal size paper. The other side of the paper to have condensed rules of play and ads of N.H.P.A. and The Horseshoe Pitcher and a brief story of the

Teen-Ager program. N.H.P.A. to pay costs of paper and printing by duplicator in a large quantity for free distribution through N.H.P.A. headquarters and affiliated State Assn. Newspapers and magazines to be informed of this service.

I have been doing this in a limited manner for several years. This is a promotion year. Where it is possible, let's get behind the game and build it up to the high level it deserves and reduce the countless number of deep holes, all kinds of pegs and sliding shoes. Our best bet is BEST COURTS, and APPROVED PITCHING SHOES followed by expert instruction in the one and a quarter and one and three quarter turns.

A recent letter from Kelly Laraway of Washington State Assn. reports the accidental death by a fall in a garge of Mel Zuber. All who came to the last three tournaments will remember both Zuber and Laraway, always together. The big husky Laraway and the slight built Zuber.

Laraway states that Zuber was tops in promotion in his section and he adds that the game will be set back because of his passing. The writer knew little of Mels promotional background as he was the type that had little to say.

Here's an idea Kelly. Why not take up where Mel left off?

JARRELL TO DIRECT COUNTY RECREATION PROGRAM

Former Maryland State Horseshoe Champion, Temple R. Jarrell of Berwyn, has been appointed Director of Prince Georges County Recreation Program. He graduated from Maryland University with a BA. degree in 1935 and won his M.A. in 1939. From 1935 to 1940 he served as playground supervisor of the D. C. Recreation Dept. In 1940 he became Asst. Director of Physical Education and Recreation in the Division of Schools, Panama Canal Zone.

His next position took him to the home of the Atomic Bomb, Oak Ridge, Tenn., where as Director of Recreation he organized, developed and supervised recreational activities for a city of 200,000 war workers as well as conducting a program for children of all ages.

Many authorities have considered Oak Ridge to have one of the finest community recreation programs in the country. Returning to the County in 1948, Mr. Jarrell assumed duties as Executive Secretary of Recreation of the United Community Services. With the full cooperation of all connected with the Prince Georges County Boys Club, one of the best in the U. S. and the Maryland State Division of N.H.P.A. The way will be made smoother for the new director.

Mr. Jarrell has never lost his love for horseshoe pitching and this Spring as we move into the second stage of the Nation-wide Teen-Ager Horseshoe Program we of N.H.P.A. here look forward to State-wide participation in 1950. We extend an invitation to Cumberland, Hagerstown, Baltimore, Westminster, Salisbury and other sections of the State to sponsor entrants in a Maryland State Teen-Ager horseshoe pitching championship tournament in 1950. For full details write "Pop" Woodfield, 4002 Oliver St., Hyattsville, Md. Phone WARfield 4035.

INDIANA

By Lowell Edmundson

For some time now there has been considerable discussion concerning the fact that too few individuals are permitted to participate in the World Horseshoe Tourney each year. Because of the hundreds and even thousands of miles necessary to travel to the scene of the event it does seem unfortunate that only 32 or 36 pitchers actually get to pitch in the round-robin tourney. This seems particularly unfair to those really good players who have difficulty throwing high qualification scores, but who if given the opportunity would give a good account of themselves in the tourney itself.

Here, then, is the writer's suggestion for a bigger and better (but not longer) tourney:

1. Use the present 200 shoe qualification system with qualifications on Sunday and Monday.
2. Divide the top 72 qualifiers into four groups of 18 each—to be designated simply as Group I, Group II, etc.
3. Conduct round-robin matches within each group using the "Count All" system—50 shoes constituting a game. Two groups can be pitching simultaneously and can alternate with the other two groups, each pitching half their games on Tuesday and the balance on Wednesday.
4. At this point each of the 72 pitchers will have pitched 17 games or 850 shoes. Disregarding the original groupings entirely, place the 18 pitchers compiling the most points in their 17 games in a "Championship Flight" and the second 18 in a "Consolation Flight".

All day Thursday should be reserved for compilation of the necessary facts and figures to determine the proper classes for the high 36 scores. The annual Meeting of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association should also be held on this day.

5. On Friday and Saturday a round-robin tournament within each "Flight" should be conducted using the "Cancellation" System. The winner of the "Championship Flight" would of course be the world's champion. The winner of the "Consolation Flight" would simply have earned nineteenth place in the standings with perhaps an additional cash award granted him for winning in his "flight".

I believe the above plan has several advantages over our present plan, the predominate advantage being, of course, the increase in the number of eligible participants. This I believe would do more to encourage a large entry each year than any other one thing. After the Milwaukee Tourney in which the low qualifying score was 480 points I'm sure that a great many pitchers throughout the nation decided against risking the long trip to Salt Lake City for fear of failing to qualify. I know that such was true in my own case; even though I was lucky enough to finish in an 8th place tie at Milwaukee. The risk was too great to warrant a 3,000 mile trip.

The above plan would also serve as a compromise between the two factions supporting the two scoring methods. My friends in Indiana will verify that I am once and for always a "Cancellation" booster. However, I see no way of handling a larger group of contestants in our World Tournament without the limited use of the "Count All" system. The real championship, however, would still be decided under the "Cancellation" system when the top 18 pitchers fight it out on the final two days of the tourney. This should really be worth seeing.

The proposed plan would also mean that each pitcher would throw some 600 or 700 fewer shoes than with the present system of 35 games. This is brought about by the use of the "50 shoe" game during the first half of the tourney and the elimination of one game entirely (it would only be necessary to pitch 34 games under the suggested plan).

Well, fellow pitchers, there it is. Kick it around and see what you think of it. Any suggestions or criticisms will be appreciated.

* * *

KANSAS

By Alvin Dahlene

Four Dead on the Stake—But Lots of LIFE in the Stands

Hats off to George Hilst of Illinois and his "rootin tootin" idea at the tournaments. The average horseshoe tourney is more like a memorial service than an athletic event. I can recall some funny happenings in my days with the horse hardware. Take the case of the certain pitcher who "blew his top" because a piece of paper happened to blow across the court when he was pitching a game. This incident happened at the Worlds Fair in Chicago in 1933 and I was there to see it. He lost the game because of a piece of paper, and the fact that his opponent seized upon his apparent weakness to such a trifle. That man had World Championship possibilities at one time—but I am sorry to relate, champs are made of sterner stuff. I could recite numerous cases such as this but will not bother you with it now.

Now back to Mr. Hilst and his great idea to inject a little life into the greatest sport in the world. The rooting would not have to be abusive and I hardly think it would ever go so far. If so, said rooter could be ejected from the gallery. If the average pitcher only knew, he could relieve some of the "butterflies in the belly" by talking between the stakes—he could improve his game. You have to give vent to your nervous inner tension at certain intervals or else you will eventually have an emotional burst.

Right here, I want to relate an incident that happened in Kansas City, Missouri, about 12 years ago. It was at the Kansas-Missouri Interstate Meet and the game was between Alvin Gandy of Topeka, Kansas and myself (Alvin Dahlene). The battle of ringers, was one of the greatest staged in the Show Me State. The game went 122 shoes and Dahlene won 50—49 with 101 ringers to Gandy's 100. In the last part of the game there were runs of 7 consecutive 4 dead and 8 consecutive 4 dead. Was the crowd dead? Far from it. It was the noisiest bunch of enthusiastic people that I ever beheld. They enjoyed every bit of it and Gandy and I spent several minutes shaking hands after it was over. The crowd wanted thrills and they got it many fold.

The Moral Is: Let the fans be enthusiastic but courteous; give the horseshoe fan his freedom to make a little noise and I believe he will come back for more. As Mr. Hilst stated, if a pitcher can't stand a little noise from the stands let him get a room in some quiet hospital zone. That's all folks, for this time.

* * *

MAINE

By Colby G. Berry

STANDING OF PORTLAND HORSESHOE CLUB TO JAN. 1, 1950 Activities from Sept. 1, to Oct. 31, 1949

These percentages were made while playing with other clubs in Main and New Hampshire.

CLASS "A"

Samuel Davis	2538	1074	640	40	42.3	77.2
Joe Davis	1936	898	450	30	46.4	76.8
Tom Barker	1522	695	420	28	45.6	74.6
Roy Crabtree	1498	652	375	24	42.8	71.2

CLASS "B"

Frank Hart	1504	584	119	23	38.8	63.2
John Fitzpatrick	1046	389	58	28	37.2	48.9
Irving Sawyer	1490	407	70	22	27.3	36.2
Howard Clark	974	212	54	17	21.7	33.6

CLASS "C"

Colby Berry	194	43	12	4	22.1	30.6
Belmont Adams	—	—	—	5	25.2	—

TEEN-AGERS

Harvey Tracey	—	—	—	1	14.0	—
Lewis Sawyer	—	—	—	1	16.6	—

LADIES PITCHING

Mrs. Edna Libby won the Portland City Championship by defeating Mrs. Marion Adams in the finals 50—35 and 53—39. Mrs. Libby again demonstrated her pitching ability at Portsmouth, N. H., on Sept. 18, 1949, by defeating Mrs. Herman Hanson 25—19, while Mrs. Adams lost to Mrs. Hanson 20—26. Mrs. Libby and Mrs. Adams were handicapped as they had to pitch 40 ft. while Mrs. Hanson pitched 30 ft.

* * *

MISSOURI

By John Elkins

I would like to offer a few words of comment about the printing of the National Tournament results in reply to Secretary Harvey Clear's item in the November issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher.

I think any pitcher who competes in the National Meets would be interested in seeing a box score of his games as they were printed in 1947 and 1948. I agree with Mr. Roy Smith that \$150.00 is quite an

expense, but if a copy for each contestant could be furnished, I believe that this would be appreciated by all the contestants; and perhaps if the \$150.00 were turned over the magazine, our Editor would print a more complete list of results.

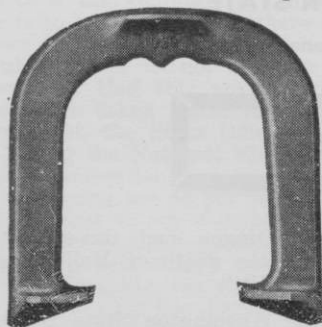
Let's hear from other pitchers on this as this is only one man's opinion.

Another thing I would like to mention; our membership dues are too cheap. I think \$5.00 would be a small fee. This has been brought up before, many times, but I am sure that anyone who travels as far as pitchers do to National Meets would pay \$5.00 just as quick as \$1.00. That goes for anyone who is really interested in the game.

I also wish to state that we have a fine group of Officers of the N.H.P.A. and the group at Murray, Utah are a real live wire bunch and deserve a lot of credit.

* * *

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PENNSYLVANIA

By John E. Fulton

Here are the results of the 1950 Pennsylvania Farmers Tournament held at Harrisburg on January 12th.

Pitching his way through a field of ten players Harold Clippinger, seventeen year old High School student, won the championship. He is the youngest player ever to have won this title. He was a little scared as the final matches got under way as his opponent got the first pitch and ran the score to 19 to 0; but then he seemed to get straightened out and jumped ahead with a score of 50 to 34.

The second game was a tight affair all the way. There was no more than eight points difference at any time. Burris led twice, 29 to 23 and again with 46 to 42 but Harold's steady pitching paid off with 50 to 46.

In other rounds Clippinger defeated Joseph Mayes, Rodney Groff 50 to 46 and 50 to 28. In the finals Clippinger only averaged 50% while Burris had 42%. This was not as good an average for Clippinger as was expected. This, I think was due to its being the first big test but I believe he will get much better as time goes on. He pitches a very nice and easy $1\frac{3}{4}$ turn. Since 1931 the championship has been won three times by Steward Straw, three times by R. Bourret and four times by me, John E. Fulton.

* * *

WASHINGTON STATE

By John I. Monasmith

MELL ZUBER

Horseshoe pitchers in Washington, Oregon and throughout the National were deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mell Zuber, of Bremerton, Washington on December 4th, 1949.

Mell was Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington State Horseshoe Pitchers Association. He was also the top promoter of our favorite sport here in the Northwest. Mell, having attended numerous National Tournaments, had many friends throughout the Nation. He conducted our State tournaments here in Washington to perfection.

In 1949 he came to Yakima, Wash., and supervised our Northwest tournament between Washington and Oregon, an annual affair held here at the Central Washington Fair after our State tournaments. He was "tops" in the hearts of all contenders.

He mentioned in his last letter to me that he had a new score board made for the affair next year. He really looked ahead. I first met Mell in May, 1948 at Portland, Oregon. Washington was playing Oregon in a weekend playoff. I had only pitched one season and being a

stranger, he struck up quite a conversation with me. After selling me a State and National card, he invited me to the Washington State tournament to be held at Bremerton over Labor Day. He took my address and wrote me several times before I saw him at the State tournament. I placed seventh in this event and I was well satisfied. I went back home and we corresponded all Winter.

Through him, when the 1949 season opened, I had horseshoes in my blood. I won the Pioneer tournament in June, the Yakima County tournament in August, the Washington State on Labor Day and the Northwest on October 2nd.

Mell was my inspiration and we will all miss him in the future. This will give you an idea of his great promoting qualities.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Roy Smith writes that he has just gone over the new Constitution, By-Laws and Playing Rules, and he has found them to contain all the corrections that he listed in his last month's article.

* * *

Here is another comment on the new Constitution sent in by Harold E. Fredericks, of Blythe, Cal. My suggestion to amendment to article V is as follows; The State Association President of which he is also a member of the NHPA, should have the authority in supervising the final O. K. and condition of the courts prior to the National Tournament. This is to hold true, only where the National Officers are not in position to see the courts and layout before the yearly event. My amendment is submitted so as not to have a repetition of the 1948 event held at Milwaukee. Had this amendment been Official, the tournament would never have taken place. As you may recall this sad part of the 1948 tournament, the State Officers were supposed to be on the committee, but having the National Vice President as Chairman, we were not given much consideration. But ten days before the tournament was to be held and the courts not as yet built, and finally when building of courts were started, much to our disappointment we found the courts were not being built to tournament plans. This is where the President of the State Association was finally asked to see what could be done. I tried to correct this error, but to no avail. The Wisconsin State Fair Manager told me I'm only the State Association President and that the National Vice President had full charge.

* * *

The early bird catches the worm! Goff Berger of Murray, Utah, has this to say: Once again it is time to be thinking about horseshoes and the next National Tournament. Well, it looks like "back to Murray" for 1950. We have started the ball rolling to have a bigger and better National Tournament this year in Murray on the Salt Lake County courts and I wish to invite each and every one of you to come and take part in this big event. Just as soon as I can get the dates and time fixed, I will let it be known. If you have not been to Utah before you have missed seeing the finest lighted courts in the Nation. If you've been before, I know you will be back. Make Utah National Champion-

ships a MUST on your calendar. (If your car needs gas or what have you while you are in Murray, pull into Goff Berger Service at 29 West 48th South. Jake)

* * *

From the Columbus Dispatch, Ohio—Does horseshoe pitching have anything to do with football? On the surface, no. Yet a prominent Central Ohio horseshoe pitcher accurately predicted the final score of the Rose Bowl game. And C. A. Benedict of Johnstown, Ohio, forecast the field goal as well.

* * *

Get one of your horseshoe playing friends to subscribe to this magazine. You'll do us both a favor.

* * *

If you have changed your address let me know what it is because the Post Office Department does not forward this class of mail.

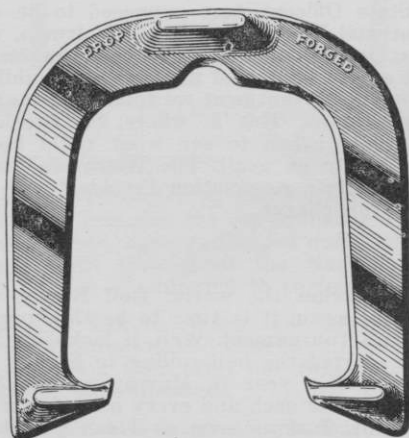
* * *

Attention! Members of the Empire State Branch of the NHPA. It is now 1950 and that means it is now in order to pay your dues. Just send a buck to your Secretary-Treasurer, Byron Jaskulek. (Jake)

* * *

Have a few back numbers to October if any of you fellows want to subscribe at \$1.50. Those starting with the January number will be at the new rate of \$2.00 per year.

* * *



THE GORDON SHOE

HOW TO CURE A COLD

By Jakespeare

I had a cold all Winter long
However, I endured it
It made each thing I did, seem wrong
But nothing, NOTHING, cured it!

I even went to see my Doc
He gave me pills and dope
I almost had to put in hock
My shaving brush and soap!

That Doc of mine is pretty smart,
I thought he'd make me well
But way, way down, deep in my heart
An idea seemed to swell.

I diagnosed my feeling
I thought the Doc's "all wet"
My brain was really reeling
I surly was upset

I couldn't eat, or even sleep,
I walked just like a snail
My voice was like a chicken's peep
I hardly answered mail.

But then I had a brilliant thought
I hadn't much to lose
If I went to the store and bought
A bottle of good booze!

Now boys, I'm not a rummy,
I don't believe in drink,
But when it hit my tummy
It made me stop and think!

I drank the stuff until it went
It made me feel Okay
The booze was just like heaven sent,
I'm well and strong today!

* * *

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* * *

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