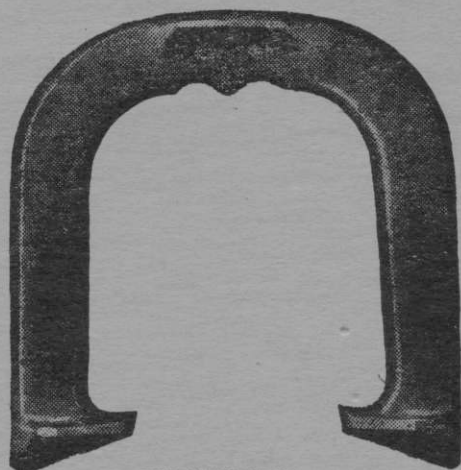


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



THE OHIO SHOE

**JUNE, 1950**

**Vol. 2**

**No. 10**

## EDITORIAL

Since our last convention in Utah, I have received lots of correspondence commenting about what was done and undone. Most of these comments were on the favorable side. But, by the same token, there were a lot that were just the opposite. Here are a few which come under the latter category. They came from members who were present at the meeting and from some who did not attend.

Several have claimed that the officers were very lax in allowing shoes to be used that did not come up to the official standards set forth in our constitution and by-laws. Others have complained that inasmuch as most of the fellows have to travel so far and at such a big expense that something should be done for them in the line of having a special tournament for them if they do not succeed in getting into the big tournament. These are their main gripes and they asked me to bring this to the attention of our officers.

Now, for myself, I'd like to get something off my chest. I have attended the last four conventions and expect to attend this one. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that this is the crucial year in horse-shoes. Never has there been so much money donated for prize money as this year. Never has the popularity of our game reached the heights it has up to now. It behooves every one of us to see that we keep going ahead and take no chance of losing the gains we have won. I believe if all our officers assumed an aggressive attitude and not be afraid to step on the corns of any individual officer or member who did not live up to his or her obligations to the N.H.P.A. or the game itself, we would make rapid strides ahead. And how about allowing the spectators to root and cheer for their favorites?

\* \* \*

## ARIZONA

By H. E. FREDERICKS

On May 7th, the Phoenix Horseshoe Club held a meeting. This club is composed of a grand gang of horseshoe enthusiasts. They have organized three new clubs in and around Phoenix. Tom Darrough is the President. Sixteen new courts are now under construction in Encante Park, the largest recreational center in Phoenix. These courts are the same blueprint specifications as those at Murray, Utah, and will be ready around the 15th of June.

After the meeting we had an exhibition match between Tom Darrough and Frank Dykes. Darrough won three out of five, in a real battle. Considering the early season, the percentage was good. Mr. Dean Pulliam, who was responsible for the trophy donations in our City and County tournaments, is on the roster of our club. He is with the Stapley Co. of Phoenix. Best regards to my Wisconsin friends.

\* \* \*

## ROY'S RAMBLINGS

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

A meeting of The So. Calif. Horseshoe Pitchers' Association was held on Sunday, April 30, at the Exposition Park courts in Los Angeles. Harlan Peet was retained as President, and Roy W. Smith as Secretary-Treasurer. Plans were discussed to hold the So. Calif. Championship Tournament, over the Labor Day weekend, at the Union Pacific courts, in Long Beach. Qualifying by the 200 pitched-shoes plan will be done on Saturday and Sunday morning. The 14 highest qualifiers will play off the rounds Sunday afternoon and on Labor Day.

The Long Beach newspapers always cooperate in a fine way. We, also, hope to effect a hookup with one of the radio stations. The 7 courts at the Union Pacific Club are in excellent condition and the cool ocean breezes should help to make this an ideal spot for the meet over Labor Day. All So. Calif. slipper slammers should mark this important date on their calendars. The qualifying fee will be \$2.00. Pitchers will get only *one chance* to qualify. Those with the highest scores for the total of 200 shoes will play in the finals.

Four league teams are being organized. Each team is composed of 5 players. Pomona, Long Beach, Exposition Park and Santa Monica have entered teams. All players must be members of the So. Calif. Association and the N.H.P.A. Each club will put up \$5.00 to go for prizes for the winning team, the player with the highest percentage, etc. A team-schedule has been drawn up to end sometime in July.

During the past 2 years, the Barnes Sports Library have been considering my manuscript for a new book on horseshoe pitching. I submitted 3 different revisions along the lines they prescribed. Recently, they rejected the book for the third and last time. The manuscript was well done because I had professional help in preparing it. The 20 full-page illustrations are the best ever collected for a horseshoe publication. It was not the fault of the manuscript that the book was rejected. Mr. Prat, the President of A. S. Barnes and Company gave the reason in these words: "After months of study, we have come to the conclusion that a book on horseshoe pitching will not sell." In other words, they do not feel that the game has what it takes. The chasm between the game and any commercial interest still remains as deep as the Grand Canyon.

Such a book WOULD sell. I am positive of that because I have had hundreds of players tell me that they have asked book stores for such a book. When they are told that there is no publication on the sport, they, naturally, cease asking. With no means of distribution and scarcely no advertising whatever, I have disposed of over 4,000 copies of "Science At The Stake." Of course, this isn't a drop in the bucket compared to what a publishing house could do. But try and convince them! After over 2 years of slaving effort, I hope someone else can sell them a book. But I doubt it. However, I will try to find another publisher. If any of you have addresses of publishers who might be interested, I will appreciate your cooperation. I hate to see 2 years work go to waste. And I would like to see the book made available to the horseshoe fraternity because I believe it is the most complete and beautifully illustrated work ever gotten together.

Without doubt, I could publish the book myself by obtaining advertising from the shoe firms and various clubs. Jake would print the book cheaper than any other printer. But, the big problem is advertising and distribution. Jake is in the same boat with his magazine. With over 2,000,000 "organized" pitchers in the country, good publications on the game should have a circulation of at least 25,000 copies. And 50,000 would be more like it. After almost 20 years of studying the game from every angle, will someone tell me what is wrong with it? Offhand, I can think of a dozen or so reasons, but are they the right ones? In the face of all this, I have decided that if I cannot find another publisher this year, I will drop the matter for good. Perhaps someone else can put one over. My hat is off to them, if they can.

Here is another matter that I want to discuss: many players here and all over the country have asked me to consider the office of N.H.P.A. Secretary this year. I have considered it from all angles. I DO NOT WANT THE JOB! My reasons are these: (1) I do not have the time to carry out the duties as they should be. (2) After over 2 years of the worst strife in the history of the game, the organization is split. This may prove to be a blessing in the long run, for now N.H.P.A. will HAVE to snap out of it or cease to exist. (3) After this year, I have other plans that will almost entirely exclude horseshoes, except for an occasional game, at my local club. My family comes first and I have been devoting too much time to the game. There are many guys and gals that are much better qualified to handle the office than I. My decision on this matter is final.

Sometime this summer I am going to try to sell the Al Jarvis Television Show on the idea of a pitching match between Fernando Isaia and a suitable opponent here. Many people have told me that this would prove to be a very attractive and interesting show.

Jake is running around there in New York all puffed up like beach ball. He informs me that he is a grandpappy! Congratulations Jake! Does that mean that the next edition of The Horseshoe Pitcher will have a stork on the front cover? How about a poem, describing the experiences of a new Grandpop, in the next issue? Quit whistling "There Will Be Some Changes Made"! We know there will be and we would like to have a picture of you making such a "change." That is one of the first duties of a grandpop you know.

A couple of weeks ago, Lowell Gray, a former state champion here, underwent an operation at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles. A mole on his back suddenly became malignant and drew the attention of several specialists before the operation. The Pomona and Long Beach boys all contributed to a collection that I took up for him. Peter Cartwright, Mr. Beller and myself visited Lowell at the hospital. I challenged him to a game of horseshoes, but he was more interested in the cigars and magazines we "brung." Anyway, he is home now and we all hope that his operation was a success. The doctor removed an area about four inches square from his back. Hope to see you on the courts real soon now Lowell! The big show, at Murray, is only a few months away now and you must be on the firing line again.

The game is beginning to perk up all over the country as evidenced by the increasing orders for my booklet. The \$5,000 meet at Murray, in August, should attract the cream of the crop this year. Without doubt, it will be the greatest tournament in the history of horseshoes.

\* \* \*

## GRANDPA SPEAKING

By JAKESPEARE

Really, I had no intention  
Not the slightest one, to mention  
About a certain goal that I did reach  
But when my good friend Roy  
Tells you all about my joy,  
It's time for me to make a little speech!

A Grandpa I have just been crowned  
The first child that we've had around  
(It seems to take much longer than before)  
But no matter, what the wait,  
Be it early, be it late  
There's a welcome mat that's always by our door.

Some changes made? there sure will be  
But that kind won't be made by me!  
We'll leave that to her mother  
Though the wife and little me  
Have made those changes (there were three)  
We'll never make another!

Now I know why, old Ma's and Pa's  
Are called Grandpa's and Grandmamas  
It suits them to a "T"  
You DO feel grand  
You'll understand  
I know you will agree.

It never rains but it will pour  
Because there's going to be more,  
Some time this next November,  
Now that we have a little "she"  
We hope the next will be a "he"  
A horseshoe playing member!

\* \* \*

## CANADA

By HAROLD BLACKMAN

The first tournament of the year was held at the Riverdale Horse-shoe Club on May 24th. This was an open tournament for class "B" players. Jim Gourlie, from the Beaches Club was the winner. Joe Coles finished second and Cecil Shields finished in third place. Mr. Joe Parfitt and Alf Ebbs conducted the tournament and both are enthusiastic in their support of the Riverdale Club.

A meeting was held at the Beaches H. C. and the Toronto and District Intermediate League was formed. Mr. Herb Mann of the Fairmount Club was elected President. He has put in a great deal of time and effort into forming this league, and a good season of friendly competition for the four clubs in Toronto will be starting this month.

\* \* \*



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**Super  
Ringer**

**Pitching  
Horseshoes**



**or Sets  
with Stakes  
in Wooden  
Case**

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 set are unexcelled.

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

**DIAMOND CALK  
HORSESHOE COMPANY**

**4615 GRAND AVENUE**



**DULUTH, MINNESOTA**

## ILLINOIS

By RALPH DYKES, Pres. Ill. H. C.

At a meeting of the Illinois H. P. Assn. held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord Peterson, of Varna, Ill., eleven of the top ranking pitchers of the State were present. Andy Peterson, of Moline, who is one of the top promoters of the game and I, were there also. Besides their wives, there were also ten children present. Everyone brought a basket lunch and the host and hostess served coffee. This proves that horseshoe pitchers do not spend all their time pitching shoes. The purpose of this meeting was to recommend changes in our Constitution and By-Laws of our association. These changes will be voted on when we hold our annual meeting at Springfield in August. Some of the issues that caused a lot of discussion were as follows:

Score boards for each court for spectator interest.

Let the spectators root and whoop it up, to put some life in the game.

The use of the count all system to induce beginners in the game; also for industrial leagues.

A drive to get new members in our association.

Whether to leave the stake at the 12 inch height or go to the 14 inch stakes.

Whether the boys that pitch in the boys State Tournament were jeopardizing their High School eligibility in sports and also lowering the age limit for boys, from under 18 years of age to under 16. (Since this meeting, Mr. Swinehamer, our Assn. Secretary, and I, have contacted the Illinois High School Athletic Assn. and have learned that our prize list for the boys, can remain as it was and that the boys can accept cash awards and not lose their eligibility in High School sports.)

To get the Illinois State Fair Board to move our State tournament back one day, in order to give the Illinois pitchers one extra day to return from the National, at Murray, Utah.

To move the boys tournament back to the last day of the men's tournament instead of having it the day before the men's tournament starts. I am pretty sure that the State Fair Board will cooperate with us 100%.

To change term of office of officers, to two years so that a whole new staff cannot be put in at one time. Some officers to be elected one year and the remainder, the next year. This way, there are always some holdovers who know what is going on in our association.

To have secretary send copies of all correspondence to other officers of the association.

Another issue that was brought up by myself, and I know our delegates to the National Convention are going to put on the floor, is in regards to having the National tournament run on the last four days of one week, with Sunday open for the Convention and then finishing the tournament on Monday and Tuesday after the convention. I know a lot depends on the ones that put up the money for the prizes, but the pitchers who travel from all over the States are a very big factor. Without these pitchers, the tournament would not be such a success. Anyone working in a factory only gets a two week vacation, and under the present set up it takes three weeks to make the National, one week going, one week there and into the third week to get home. If it were held as I suggested, the boys would have from Saturday to Tuesday to get to the tournament and Wednesday to Sunday to get home in. This way they can make it on a two weeks vacation because they have three week ends. Even if you ask your employer for a third



week, without pay, you can not always get it. If the tournament got rained out and had to run another day, the boys would still have four days to get home. I also know that the ones who live close will not be for it because it cuts in on two weeks for them, whereas, under the present set up, they only use one of their weeks for the tournament. But how many local boys qualify? It is the ones who travel far that should be taken into consideration.

At a meeting of the Chicago Horseshoe League new officers were elected. They are Ralph Dykes, Pres.; Chas. Knize, Vice-Pres.; Lee Miller, Secy., and George Mellor, Treas. Illinois has started to move the game of horseshoes ahead, so let's all get pushing and shove it to the top.

\* \* \*

## MAINE

By BELMONT W. ADAMS

### *PITCHING HORSESHOES IS MORE FUN!*

Because it adds so tremendously to the fascination of horseshoe pitching as a pastime, I will try to describe for others a method of counting which I have often used when practicing by myself. There are one or two refinements that probably few have tried, but which will mean a lot to some players.

When there is anybody to play against, a great many of us practice alone with four shoes. Many who do this have never bothered to count the ringers, not realizing that if they will try counting for an hour or

### 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



two, they will find out how to multiply the value and enjoyment of their practice many times over.

It only takes an hour or so to get the habit of counting, and thereafter it becomes rather automatic. It is necessary to count both ringers and shoes pitched, so that when you reach a hundred shoes pitched, you automatically know what percentage of ringers you got. Thereafter, you are forever trying to better your record, and you are forever noticing that you are constantly improving. From a somewhat meaningless routine of throwing the shoes back and forth, you have suddenly changed to a constantly challenging and encouraging occupation, in which you are always pleased but never satisfied, always succeeding in almost equaling your best previous record, and every so often achieving results that surpass anything you ever did before.

Anyone who tries it, even if he never pitched a shoe before, is likely to experience quite an awakening—something like what happened to my wife, who for years was supremely indifferent to the game, but would go with me for company when I went to the courts for practice. One day she threw a few shoes just to see if she could possibly throw them such a distance; and sure enough pretty soon she was excited to find some of them actually landing in the box. It wasn't long before she had a ringer; soon she counted a hundred shoes pitched, and found two or three ringers. You know the rest. She was unable to forget it; she improved almost every day; and now, with only a few months of playing, she is regularly pitching 20% ringers or better, and secretly getting a big kick out of winning games from men who used to lick the daylights out of her; she has become a leader in the local club, and made a lot of wonderful friends, and is actively helping to get other girls and women interested. And of course she's constantly pushing that percentage upward, and looking for the day when she'll give the local women's champion a run for her ringers.

Now for a few important details to give you the most enjoyment and most rapid improvement from your counting. Let's suppose you've only been playing for two or three months, and you can do five or ten per cent. You're practicing alone with four shoes—you want official shoes if possible, of course. You start to count when you get a ringer. When you pick up the shoes, you say to yourself, "One out of four," meaning you have made one ringer out of four shoes pitched. You always change the count in your mind at just one time—when you pick up the shoes. Next time you get no ringers, but you change the count to "One out of eight." It may continue like this: "Two out of twelve," "Three out of sixteen," "Three out of 20," "Three out of 24," "Four out of 28," etc. Then you get a rare thrill with a double ringer. "Six out of 32!" Then some bad luck for a while, but you end up with the best score of your life so far—"Twelve out of 100!" You've broken your record again, and it's a red letter day. They come often until you get up to 50%—and then if they come once a month you're still well pleased.

Now this method of counting is all very wonderful for beginners; but experts, and even some beginners, are going to want one or two improvements. You usually count 100 shoes pitched, and then start over. Some of your hundreds are better than your average, and some are poorer than your average. You soon decide you don't care about counting any farther if a 100 has started out poorer than your average; it's a disadvantage in two ways; it gives you a result that tends to discourage and does no good, and if the last part of the 100 is good, it causes the good pitching to be counted with some poor pitching and conceals the effect of the good pitching. Therefore you will after a while get the habit of keeping a reasonable percentage in mind as a standard, and

when your count drops to this standard, you lose interest in that 100, stop counting on it, and start over again. For instance, a player whose record is approaching 40% will perhaps not be interested in a 100 that he has started to count, if he finds that he has only gotten one ringer out of each three shoes pitched. He will prefer to start a new 100. He will probably not start when he gets one ringer with the four shoes; he will probably wait and start when he gets two out of four. That way you are pretty certain to know instantly when you have broken your record; but otherwise you may far exceed your record without realizing it, as for instance when your first fifty shoes are poor, but the next 100 are the ones that break the record.

One more suggestion. As far as I know, the way to get the greatest possible amount of practice in a given time, is for two players to use two courts and two sets of shoes. Player A throws four shoes North, while Player B is throwing the other four shoes South in the next court. They finish at practically the same instant; each then picks up the shoes just thrown by the other, in the other court, and returns them. Thus A is always throwing North, and B is always throwing South. It is constant pitching, and no walking; it is pure practice.

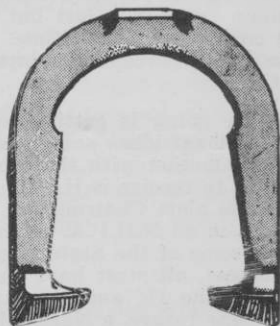
I should be interested to know of other who have developed these methods of practicing, and what other or better ones they may have found. There must be many an interesting story that could be sent in, of how somebody got interested in the game, the methods and incidents that stimulated their progress, up to a championship or at least an intense and lasting interest. It would be exceedingly interesting to read some of these stories.

\* \* \*

### **THE TED ALLEN HORSESHOE**

The shoe that is fast becoming recognized as the toughest one to break, and the easiest to handle. Letters every week tell of the joy of improved pitching.

The only shoe this year which has 10¢ in stamps on each pair as passed by the 1949 convention.



**THE TED ALLEN HORSESHOE CO.**

**1045 Tenth Avenue**

**Boulder, Colorado**

## 1950 REVISED PRIZE LIST

Don't fail to get your National card from your State Secretary, before coming to the tournament.

Replying to my request, suggestions for the 1950 tournament prize list, this seems about what the majority think it should be.

1, \$550; 2, \$425; 3, \$350; 4, \$300; 5, \$250; 6, \$200; 7, \$190; 8, \$180, 9, \$170; 10, \$160; 11, \$150; 12, \$140; 13, \$130; 14, \$120; 15, \$110 16, \$100; 17, \$90; 18, \$85; 19, \$85; 20, \$80; 21, \$80; 22, \$75; 23, \$75; 24, \$70; 25, \$65; 26, \$60; 27, \$55; 28, \$55; 29, \$50; 30, \$50; 31, \$50; 32, \$50; 33, \$50; 34, \$50; 35, \$50; 36, \$50.

\* \* \*

## MARYLAND & WASHINGTON, D. C. NEWS

By Harry T. Woodfield

*N.H.P.A. is 29 going on 30*

The National Assn. is 6 weeks into its 30th year. The 29th anniversary came to an end May 10, 1950. It was established May 10, 1921. It hasn't reached the numbers in membership nor accumulated a financial rating, visualized by its founders during those first few years when the change from horses shoes to those specially designed for pitching was made.

### *Competition Tough*

In the four years that Fernando Isais has won the World Championship title (the last three in a row) it has been by the close margin of one game less in his lost column than the runner-up. In 1948, three tied for the runner-up spot, Allen, Zimmerman and Casey Jones each lost 3 games. Fernando lost but two. It was that close. The winner has to be on his toes at all time. He cannot afford to coast, even with one of the lower percentage players. A loss here can mean failure to take the title.

While the going is getting tougher each year on the courts, none of the promotional ideas submitted requiring national cooperation have been put into motion with the exception of the TEEN-AGER Program (which failed to receive N.H.P.A. indorsement at the 1949 convention in Murray). The alert Chairman of Publicity, Roy W. Smith, did include mention of it in an N.H.P.A. ad in two issues of The Horseshoe Pitcher. As a result, some of the State Assns. have started Teen-Ager programs. To be a success, all must have these features. Expert supervision and instruction on the  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  turns. Suitable state and local awards. And in the near future, a National Championship sponsored by N.H.P.A. coincident with the World tournaments. All strictly amateur.

### *Let's Promote*

Innumerable remedies have been offered, but only the constitution was amended and a National and State membership, combined in one card, made official. In the opinion of the writer, if a plan of association-wide promotion could be adopted in the 1950 convention that would fit easily into the programs of all affiliated assns. and clubs, it may be that the Teen-Ager program is just what is needed to get the entire

membership of N.H.P.A. combined. Meet with the Executive Board of your local Boys Club or other Teen-Age organizations. Very few have horseshoe pitching. There are some boys who cannot make the grade in Baseball, basketball, football and boxing. Have regular periods of instruction with a tournament as the final goal. It won't be easy and results may be slow, but keep pegging.

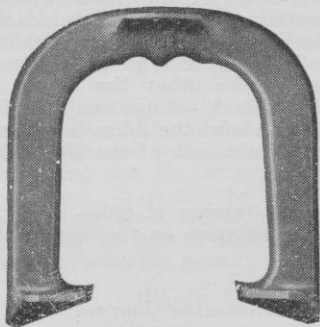
If N.H.P.A. can put this over, it won't be long before the public will realize that the National Horseshoe Pitchers Assn. of America is performing a worthwhile public service.

#### *Our State Associations and the World Tournament*

These are our most valuable assets. Through them, with full cooperation of our members, we can build a strong National Organization. Our 1950 world tournament will start in just about two months from now, but only 1½ months away when you will read it. Even in the short time we have, much can be done to make it better entertainment to those who sit in the stands. It would help in this respect, if small boards visible to the spectators were set up on each court close enough to the scorer in the center so he could operate them, showing the progress of the game, in numbers large enough to be seen from both north and south sides.

I made mimeograph copies of a plan I had in mind and they were mailed to all national officers and to the Publicity Chairman, Roy Smith.

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



**1950 MODEL**  
Made in 4 tempers

"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."

Price \$3.50 per pair postpaid. Write for quantity prices in lots of 4 or more pairs.

**(We use the 5c association stamps)**

### **OHIO HORSESHOE COMPANY**

*(Makers of quality pitching shoes for 29 years.)*

**Station F**

**Columbus, Ohio**

Then I started work on the board. Many hours have been spent experimenting with changes that seemed to improve it. Finally I finished it but realized its weakest point was the metal squares on which scoring numbers were painted, had to be removed and replaced at each change of the score. In the meantime and up to now, none of the National officers have sent me word either of approval or condemnation.

Again Roy Smith went into action. He sent a photo of a device made by Mr. E. O. Beller of Calif. that was so far superior to mine that I was really elated that the idea was getting somewhere. He also mentioned that an electric apparatus was being assembled by the Kamp-schroeders and that Goff Berger was at work on one similar to mine. Is it possible that Messrs. Dean, Mohen, Clear, and Casey or his wife Mary, are also at work secretly on score boards? Suppose several others were making models. Stretching my imagination further, at least 18 could be sent to Murray for a try-out that would bring the one that would win approval.

In my opinion they should all have this one feature. Clear visibility to the spectators from both sides. They should not be over 20 in. in width and easily operated by the scorer. Here's an idea for some one who has skill in metal work. A piece of plywood 20 in. x 20 in. x  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick with a circular dial 18 in. painted white. The upper half outside the circle painted red, the lower half black. Clips for players names at top and bottom. Painted equal distance around the circle in large black figures, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50. In between, numbers 5, 15, 25, 35, and 45 would have substituted fair size triangular points. The other numbers in between smaller points. Two hands (similar to those on a clock) one red the other black would point to the scores, as earned. These pointers would be attached to those on the other side in the manner of a bicycle crank hanger. Both sides of the board would be similar except the side next to the scorer, the pointers would move clockwise. On the other side anti-clockwise. Of course the figures on this side would be shown in reverse. The player who put his name card at the top would use the red arrow, the other the black. The problem is to make pointers stay put. The black pointer could be longest and have a spindle bent at right angles about the diameter of a six penny nail to rest in holes bored  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep on each of the 50 divisions of the complete circle.

The red pointer could fit into the same number of holes in a circle one inch or more smaller in diameter. The pointers on the side opposite the scorer would not have the spindles.

RUSS LYNCH, Sports Editor, *Milwaukee Journal*

*Versus*

LOWELL EDMUNDSON of Indiana

There are two schools of thought on the number of finalists in the World Tournament. Russ Lynch, Milwaukee Journal (his reporting of the 1948 tournament in that city was one of its highlights) claims there are not 32 pitchers in the game capable of competing in a world's tournament. He favors a limit of 16. He adds 32 to 36 finalists, are more a contest of stamina than skill and besides the real champions wear the skin off their fingers pitching the lower bracket players games that do not hold the interest of the spectators.

Edmundson's plan is to qualify 72 in the 200 shoe pitch. Divide these into 4 groups with each playing the other in that group one 50 shoe game, COUNT-ALL POINTS. The 18 scoring the most total points selected in order from all groups to qualify for the championship flight. The second 18 to qualify for a consolation flight. Both groups to play each member in their group one 50 point game by cancellation. The winner of the 2nd group would be awarded the prize for 19th place.

#### *Count-All Is Out*

His plan has merit. It permits 72 players to compete in a Worlds tournament, which is, an extra qualification round by competition, using COUNT-ALL. In the 4 groups 17 games, 50 shoe matches, 54 would be barred from games with the World Champion and other top ranking tossers is the overwhelming desire of many who try out for a spot in the finals. But as CANCELLATIONS only are permitted in mach play, in a World tournament the rules would have to be changed to stage the second phase of Edmundson's plan.

#### *If More Could Pitch Would More Attend*

The member who can come up with the correct answer to that would be a modern Solomon. In 1948 at Milwaukee only 32 of the more than 90 who entered the 200 shoe pitch played in the finals. There is no question but that a Consolation of a second 32 pitchers in the 200 shoe pitch would have put on a whale of a tournament and the bitter disappointment of failing to make the first squad, considerably eased. It was impossible. Twenty additional courts would have been required.

At Murray a consolation group would have to start early in the morning. Each year there has been a gradually increasing demand that competition for more players should be provided. An early morning schedule could be the answer. The problems to this plan would be, scorers, amount of prize money, trophies, etc.

Here is a constructive-controversial idea. WHAT'S YOUR OPINION? You fellows who agree that more should have the chance to compete. Why not send a letter to Pop Woodfield. At Moline in 1935, there was a consolation squad of 24 and they pitched at night. The championship flight, also 24, played in the day. A Moline newspaper sponsored the night event.

There is one point overlooked by Edmundson. There could not be 18 competing for the championship flight unless the present champion Isais, agreed to enter the 2nd round of qualification. Of course he could, and no doubt would, as a warm up for the finals. Regardless of points made by him if COUNT-ALL was legal or games won scoring by cancellations, his place in the finals would be assured.

#### *What's the Total Annual Attendance?*

How many members make the trip to the World's Championships? Fans and pitchers? How many come as spectators who are not members? We have never made a record of the numbers. We should. There are many cities who may be induced to become sponsors who would demand that information and also the length of their visit.

Let's have some opinions of how best to compile an attendance record. Suppose we guarantee 500. With that number remaining one week, 100 would spend at the lowest calculation of \$35.00 each a total of \$3,500.

For each additional 100 visitors add \$3,500. A total of 500 visitors at Murray for the tournament would spend \$17,500.00. A sizeable sum, even at \$35.00 a head, a very conservative estimate.

\* \* \*



## MINNESOTA

By DR. CHARLES W. VANDAS

I do not intend, by my following suggestions to take sides in the heated discussion between Johnny Sebek and Roy Smith, but I think these following suggestions may help prevent further differences of this type.

I suggest all important or unimportant ideas for rule changes that effect the actual play of the game be presented at the annual meeting and also submitted in writing so that they may be mimeographed and then sent to the secretary of each state organization. It will be his job to see that they are distributed to each secretary of local leagues so as to finally reach each and every member of N.H.P.A. so that he may vote, signing his name so as to be recorded and it in turn be sent in to the National secretary. This way every member will have his just voice in the administration even though it be impossible for him to attend the meeting.

Speaking as one of the less skilled players and I believe as one of the majority, you will find sentiment against raising of the national dues. This I believe would drive away all membership except those planning to pitch in the National tournament. Instead of meeting our financial problem in this respect, I suggest for us to start from another angle and that is, to organize all leagues under national leadership and require all league members to be national members also.

To stimulate interest along this line let the N.H.P.A. present certain awards to individuals for exceptional achievements such as is done in bowling. They give acknowledgment to extremely high individual performances and team accomplishments. By doing this you will stimulate more interest and membership in the less skilled players. After all, that is where the future of horseshoes is and not in the older and more skilled members. This automatically solves our financial problems and also builds a stronger foundation for the future and betterment of horseshoes.

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By JIM SKARSHAUG

Being a constant reader of this magazine, which I think is fulfilling its endeavors to a "T", I have been following the various debates over this and that in horseshoe matters. One of these is the women's problem of whether to set the foul line at thirty feet or forty.

Of course, in time, when horseshoes really comes into its own, women will play on an equal basis with the men. But, with things as they are now, and with our sport still short of maturity, we must act with common sense.

Whereas some women find it advantageous to pitch at forty feet with the men, the larger percentage, including beginners, prefer thirty feet. So why not retain the foul line at thirty feet and permit pitchers to use their preferred distance inasmuch as forty foot pitching is not going over the foul line? This way, such pitch would not be disqualified.

Why bar women pitching forty feet, many of whom are among the best women pitchers, from doing their best in Meets or from even participating in tournaments? Why do this when we can permit them to play from their preferred distance with perfect legality?

We should encourage newcomers to pitch forty feet, but in the meantime, we must do whatever is the best for our sport. We must propagandize all sides of our sport if we expect it to expand. Let's do this at the National Women's Tournament at Murray, Utah, this year. Let's bring out the best talent among the women as well as the men.



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## NEW YORK

By BYRON JASKULEK

It's a peculiar situation we horseshoe players in the five boroughs of New York City are up against. Not only has New York State the largest population of any state in the union, there are thousands of horseshoe players. This being the set up, you would suppose there would be no difficulty in having a state tournament sponsored by someone. However, it is just the opposite. So we have to take the bull by the horns and do what we can ourselves.

The past two years, we have run the N. Y. State Championship Horseshoe Tournament in Central Park, N. Y. C. and to raise funds for this purpose we held a raffle. This year we are going to do the same thing but we are going to do something else. On Friday evening, July 28th, we are going to hold a Summer Night's Dance as well as the usual raffle. The proceeds of both these endeavors will be used to finance the cost and prize money for the tournament.

We do not expect anyone from far away states to come to the dance, but we would appreciate it very much if some of you faraway horseshoe players would buy a book of raffle tickets. Each book contains twelve (12) tickets. The price is only one dollar per book. If you care to help us with this, just send me a buck for as many books as you can use. Thanks!

The Empire State Branch of the N.H.P.A. held an Open Tournament in Central Park on Memorial Day. Pitchers came all the way from Syracuse and points in Connecticut, New Jersey and Long Island to participate. There were three eight man groups, A, B, and C. They all played a round robin and were awarded cash prizes for first, second and third in each group. Here is how they finished in the "A" group: Pat Brady, Charles Seacord and Louis Stines. In group "B" it was Walter Bagley, Doc Berman and B. Mullady. The winners in group "C" were Norman, Millican and Red Earley.

\* \* \*

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## WASHINGTON STATE

By JOHN I. MONASMITH

The Oregon and Washington interstate playoff at Tacoma, Washington, May 6th and 7th, was won by Washington. Oregon did not have the pitching power in their line up they are capable of producing. However, we are planning on another playoff between the two at Portland, Oregon, in July. There was a swell turn out and we all had a wonderful time. The round robin of the four top high men from each State for the playoff was conducted like clock work, thanks to Bill Bentley and Art Liedes.

\* \* \*

## JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Here is a copy from a local paper in Lawrence, Kansas—Alvine Dahlene, embarking on his 27th season as a member of the Lawrence Club, defeated Ben Ridgeway, Shawnee County Champion, 3 to 1 in a match played at Gage Park, Topeka, on Sunday, May 7th. After losing the first game Dahlene came back to win 3 straight and the match. (Roland Kraft has been a member of the Lawrence Club for 20 years and Al for 27 years. Some record!)

\* \* \*

One of the vice-presidents of the Empire State Branch of the N.H.P.A., Lloyd L. O'Ree, says their Syracuse Industrial League is now going in full swing. They have two leagues consisting of 14 teams of 8 men each. After finishing their playing schedule in August they will have a banquet where they will distribute trophies and cash prizes.

\* \* \*

Ted Allen's father passed away on Sunday evening, May 7th, due to a heart condition. He was once the Kansas state champion, when in his prime. He had visited many of the World Tournaments and the Midwest tournaments since he became too old to pitch. Although he never played in any of the World tournaments, he was a great follower of the game. He raised ten children, had 41 grand children and 32 great grand children. He and Mrs. Allen, who now survives, were married 58 years. Every one of their five sons and five daughters have all played horseshoes at some stage of their athletic endeavors. In 1948 at Milwaukee they celebrated their anniversary and again last year at Murray, Utah.

\* \* \*

Missouri members of their State organization held a meeting on May 21st in Municipal Park in Carthage, Mo. Roman Carver of Wentworth was elected as president, Leonard Coffey of Joplin, vice-president, and John Elkins as secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \*

If you have changed your address, let me know what it is because the Post Office Department does not forward this class of mail. And there are going to be lots of other things the P. O. are not going to do. Economy???

\* \* \*

If you know anyone who would like a sample copy of this magazine, just send me their name and address and you will do us both a favor.

\* \* \*

NOTICE: If you are coming to Utah for the big tournament and want us to see about your reservations, please let us know about ten days or two weeks in advance, and we will send you the information on reservations. Write to Darrell Holfeltz, Chairman at 4393 S. State. For information about the tournament get in touch with Goff Berger, P. O. Box 113, Murray, Utah.

\* \* \*

By the time you read this, our good friends, Ralph and Marie Kampschroeder, of Lawrence, Kansas, will have started on their new venture. They have opened up bowling alleys in Ottawa, Kansas. If you ever get out that way, look them up at 810 South Cedar. Best of luck.

\* \* \*

If you happen to pass through Ottumwa, Iowa, at any time, drop into Riverside Park at the horseshoe courts and ask for Charley Hopkins, he'll be glad to see you.

\* \* \*

You've all heard of baseball pitchers who have sometimes "thrown out" their arm and thereafter were unable to pitch any more, or for at least quite a while. Well, I know of a certain horseshoe pitching dentist who had the same thing happen to his arm. But not from pitching baseball. His reason was on account of PULLING TEETH.

\* \* \*

Members of the Empire State Branch. Send me your dollar for your 1950 dues. Jake.

\* \* \*

Ted Allen is now on a one month tour pitching horseshoes. Did you notice his ad in this month's issue?

\* \* \*

When you answer any of the ads in this magazine, don't forget to tell them where you saw it.

\* \* \*

Our New York State Women's champion, has given birth to a son. This happy event came to Ruth Hoelzle on May 21st. The newcomer weighed in at eight pounds and twelve ounces. He must be almost as big as his mother, because she is only a handful herself. Good luck to you both.

\* \* \*

Ken Huber, of St. Paul, Minn., says the ladies are having a horse-shoe league this year. They will play on Tuesdays, after the Major League has finished. The ladies keep score for the men and in return, Ken has asked the men for a big turn out at their first game. He also reminds the men that it's the ladies who always put on a nice feed for them at the meetings.

\* \* \*

## COMING EVENTS

- June 24-25, Hyattsville, Md.—Hyattsville Open Tournament.  
June 25, Hartford Conn.—Invitation Tournament at Pope Park.  
June 25, Yakima, Wash.—Pioneer Open Tournament.  
July 4, New York, N. Y.—Open Tournament, Hilltop H. C., Central Pk.  
July 15-16, Port Huron, Mich.—Blue Water Open Tournament.  
July 22-23, Covington, Ky.—Northern Kentucky Open Tournament.  
July 23, Moline, Ill.—Moline Despatch Tournament.  
July 28-29, Utah—Utah State Tournament.  
July 29, Wildwood, N. J.—Invitation Tournament.  
July 30, Hartford, Conn.—Northern Conn. Tournament.  
August 6, Bridgeport, Conn.—Fairfield County Tour. at Beardsley Park.  
August 7-12, Murray, Utah—World's Championship.  
August 17-18, Springfield, Ill.—Illinois State Tournament.  
Aug. 19, Yakima, Wash.—County Championships.  
August 20, Bridgeport, Conn.—Conn. State Tournament.  
August 26-28, Columbus, Ohio—Buckeye State Champ. Tournament.  
Sept. 2-4, New York, N. Y.—New York State Championship.  
Sept. 4, Rock Island, Ill.—Labor Day Tournament.  
Sept. 10, Bridgeport, Conn.—Conn. Open Tournament.  
Sept. 10, Berlin, Conn.—Open Tournament at State Fair  
Sept. 10, Neosho, Mo.—Open Tournament, Southwest Missouri Fair  
Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Yakima, Wash.—Northwest Tournament (Oreg., Wash., Idaho, & Mont. players).

EDITOR'S NOTE: What have you got scheduled for this season?

\* \* \*

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