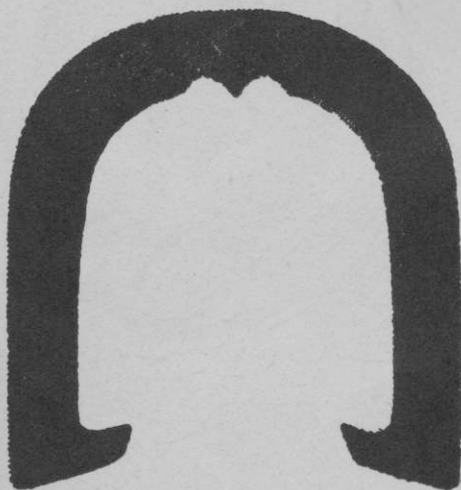


# THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

*Official Organ of*  
**The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
of America**



**DECEMBER, 1952**

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## EDITORIAL

THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, published on the 15th of each month at 5 Terrace View Avenue, Box 22, Kingsbridge Station, N. Y. 63, N. Y., Tel.: LO 2-8738. Subscription price, \$2.00 per year. Forms close on the first day of each month. Advertising rates on application. BYRON JASKULEK, Editor NORMAN COMPTON, Asst. Editor

Time marches on! Here is Christmas again and another New Year in the offing. Off hand I do not know how many horseshoe pitchers I know personally as well as their wives and children but they must amount to many hundreds. Since 1946, the wife and I have traveled over most of the U. S. and Canada and each year adds to the list of horseshoe friends we have made. This being the case it would be impossible to send each one a personal Christmas and New Year's greeting, much as we would like to. So, the obvious thing to do, so as to skip nobody, we will greet all of you through the pages of The Horseshoe Pitcher.

It is our sincere wish that you will all have the best Christmas you ever had and hope that the New Year will bring you all the things you wish for yourselves.

JAKE and the MISSUS.

\* \* \*

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

We wish all the horseshoe pitchers, wherever they are, a very happy Christmas and the most successful New Year you have ever experienced.

\* \* \*

### ARIZONA

By GEORGE ELDER

I don't profess to be the author of the game Razzle-Dazzle, nor do I know who he is. I first played it in '49 when a bunch of players from Phoenix came to Casa Grande to play in the Arizona State Tournament.

The game goes something like this: Preferably 3 players or as many as wish to—start from one end, pitch 2 shoes each, the man with the highest average starts first giving the hindmost players the advantage. The top ringer (or ringers if thrown by one person) is credited with the accumulated points at the stake. This means that if player No. 1 gets 1 ringer, player No. 2 likewise, player No. 3 misses, player No. 2 gets 6 points. During the course of the game the player who during that game has the highest score throws first, the player who has the next greatest score plays second, thus the order of players keeps changing all through the game. This always gives the greatest advantage to the last player.

However should the 1st player or second as the case may be throw 2 ringers then one of the following players must also throw two ringers in order to get credit for the points—otherwise the player who threw 2 ringers naturally wins the points for that particular throw. Do you catch so far? Close shoes also count except when there is no ringer on the stake in which case no points are scored.

Now this game may be known by some other name but Razzle-Dazzle is what we call it.

Hope some of your readers will get as much pleasure out of playing this game as we do.

As an item of news, this year the Arizona State Tournament is being held in connection with the Arizona State Fair on the 8th and 9th of November.

Stan DeLeary is expected to retain his Title. Shall have the Secy. write particulars after the Tournament.

\* \* \*

## CALIFORNIA

By W. P. Petersen

Bert Zumwalt of Fulton, California, had to pitch in top form to garner first place position at the horseshoe tournament held at the Santa Rosa, Calif. State Fair Grounds on October 26th. The Redwood Empire Club members were competing for the Santa Rosa perpetual trophy. Pitching an average of 74 per cent with a high game of 84 per cent was too much for the other five entries. The standings were: Zumwalt, won 5 lost none; Peters 4 and 1; Petersen 3 and 2; Bridges 2 and 3; Malek 1 and 4 and Mills won none and lost 5.

\* \* \*

## CONNECTICUT

By FRANK WAGNER

Following are the results of the Connecticut State Horseshoe Championship tournament held at Beardsley Park, Bridgeport, Conn. on August 17, 1952.

The new State Champion is Walter Bagley of Greenwich. His only losses during the tournament were to D. Smith, 1951 champion and runnerup this year, and F. Wagner of Stamford. Third place was won by Alex Popp of Byram.

The class B championship was won by J. Believe of Greenwich after a playoff with R. Barrows of Bridgeport. Third place went to J. Rose of Bridgeport.

High single game of 75 per cent was pitched by F. Smith of Southington.

Following are the scores on the tournament.

### CLASS "A"

	W.	L.	%
1. Walter Bagley .....	9	2	5.10
2. D. Smith .....	8	3	52.6
3. A. Popp .....	8	3	4.75
4. J. Dudek .....	7	4	5.40
5. F. Smith .....	7	4	49.1
6. F. Wagner .....	7	4	47.4
7. J. Blomquist .....	5	6	46.7
8. B. Kenderski .....	4	7	41.3
9. C. Reed .....	4	7	38.1
10. D. Harrison .....	3	8	41.0
11. W. Schustek .....	3	8	32.1
12. W. Kamszik .....	2	9	37.1

### CLASS "B"

	W.	L.	%
1. J. Believe .....	7	1	44.2
2. R. Barrows .....	7	1	43.3
3. J. Rose .....	2	6	34.6
4. E. Ruddock .....	2	6	31.8
5. V. Spivak .....	2	6	30.2

\* \* \*

## CLASSIFIED CLASSES OF HORSESHOE PITCHERS

By HOWARD "MOOSE" WHITE

My hat is off to you "Jake" and your swell magazine "The Horseshoe Pitcher." I just received the September issue and after reading and re-reading it through several times, I find it rates a 21 gun salute. Being a short time Gunners-mate in the Navy I shall personally man the saluting battery and give the Horseshoe Pitcher the full salute when the next issue comes aboard. The September issue alone is well worth a years subscription price just to find out the results of the big horseshoe meets recently held, such as the World's Championship, Eastern National,

New England, etc. The Horseshoe Pitcher is only two dollars a year and you really get something for your money. I don't think seventeen cents a month will break any horseshoe pitcher that wants to really keep posted on the game.

After spending 14 years of pitching horseshoes and reading everything I could ever find on this great sport of ours, I have come to the conclusion that there are actually four classes of horseshoe pitchers instead of two. All the articles I have ever read on horseshoes frankly stated that horseshoe pitchers are either amateur or professional. Broadly speaking, that statement is 100 per cent correct. However, anyone closely associated with horseshoe pitching over a period of years have run into all kinds of players and we all know that there are a great many players that wouldn't even qualify as amateurs or good prize winning players that can't be classed as professionals because a true professional is supposed to be able to make a daily living at what he is doing. Now I don't expect everyone to agree with me 100 per cent on this article. I realize that there are many players subscribing to this magazine who are qualified much better than I am to write this article but as a fellow says, "thought I would take a crack at it anyway." So in this order here are the four classes of horseshoe pitchers as I see them. The Barnyard Golf Pitcher, The Amateur, The Semi-Professional and Professional.

#### The Barnyard Golf Pitcher

Horseshoes were pegged with the nickname "Barnyard Golf" back in the horse and buggy and model "T" Ford days when the sport was starting to become popular. Every farmer had a court out in his barnyard and used the shoes right off the horses hoofs and Ford Axles for playing equipment. In those days you could just about win a game with one pitch, provided your opponent had thrown a double ringer and you covered it with another. You then got credit for all the ringers around the stake. A game in those days was 25 points, ringers counted five and leaners three so if each player threw a double the one throwing last would score 20 points. It has been said that city news-papermen that went out to the farms to witness contests between those old fashioned experts, noticed the deep pits worn around each stake from the shoes digging the dirt away and found that it was an advantage to slide ringers on by having the shoes land open at the edge of the pit and from that observation got the idea to nickname horseshoes, "Barnyard Golf." Horseshoes have come a long way since those early country contests. The game is basically the same but the rules and equipment have changed to speed it up like in other sports. However, it seems to me that the majority of the 5,000,000 players in the country that play the game are not organized and are still using the original barnyard golf rules.

The Barnyard Golf Pitcher today plays only for the fun of it. It is just one of the many sports he indulges in on his free time. He is generally seen tossing the stallion slippers back and forth at some week-end picnic for an hour or less, then the next time you see him, he would probably be tossing a softball or engage in some other form of recreation. His interest in horseshoes runs about as high in spells as a customer knocking over bottles or breaking balloons with darts at a Penny Arcade. After he gets his kicks he moves on to something else. This type of pitcher spends hardly enough time at the sport to ever become a proficient ringer man. This type also reads nothing about horseshoes and doesn't even know we have a National Association or who the World's Champion is, but to hear some of those guys sound off at some beer picnic, you would swear he was the one who wrote the rules. Now his rules are somewhat different from our regulation rules, because you must place your foot against a Ford axle and flip your shoes end over end, this way the shoe is open at all times in the air and has a big advantage

over turns like the  $1\frac{3}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{4}$ . I wish I had a dollar or even a dime for everytime I have run into this Kilroy. I could retire and spend the rest of my summers on the French Riviera. Trying to tell this fellow the difference between his way and the right way is just like flying along in reverse and having "wrong way Corrigan for a navigator. However, there is hope for some of these bum dope experts because after watching the mechanical  $1\frac{3}{4}$  or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turn function they realize it isn't just luck, black magic or flying saucers the way the shoe turns around and comes open at the stake everytime. The Barnyard Golf Pitcher is seldom seen at tournaments as a spectator and almost never as a player, because he figures he is the best player anyway and it would be foolish wasting his time proving it. It has been said that there are 5,000,000 horseshoe pitchers in the country that play the sport. That may be true, but there is only a very small percentage that belong to a club or association, so the Barnyard Golf Pitcher make up the majority of horseshoe pitchers.

#### **The Amateur Pitcher**

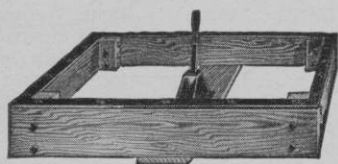
The Amateur Pitcher not only plays horseshoes because it is good exercise and recreation, but is good enough to win trophies and medals at the Class "B" and "C" meets. The amateur pitcher is generally seen tossing the shoes nights after work and is generally good enough to play on league and club teams. Horseshoe pitching is one of his or her favorite sports. They spend as much time at it or more than any other sport. The chances are he or she is a member of the State and National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and is a subscriber to "Jakes" magazine The Horseshoe Pitcher. The amateur pitcher is the backbone of our organization because they make up the majority in organized horseshoe pitching. They love the game and really put their shoulder to the wheel to promote and improve the general welfare of it. The amateur tries to enter all tournaments and if they aren't good enough to qualify likes the game enough to stay and give the tournament management a hand, such as keeping scores and upkeep of courts. We need the amateur pitcher and many more like them for a strong State and National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

#### **The Semi-Professional Pitcher**

These are the players that really love the game and would rather miss a good meal just to pitch horseshoes. These masculine cracks dominate the local tournaments and are generally good enough to win prize money at any one they enter. A large quota of experts make up this class and they are able to average a ringer percentage in the 60's and 70's. The Semi-Professional is able to make a small profit pitching horseshoes by winning prize money at tournaments, exhibitionists at fairs and sports gatherings, selling horseshoes, and publishing game information. They do not expect to make a living at it, it is just a part time job like any other Semi-Professional sport. Fellows like Charley Gerrish and Dale Carson are Semi-Professionals.

#### **The Professional**

The drawing card of any tournament—The big shots of horseshoe pitching. The ones that are good enough to make a daily living at it, like such polished pitching stars as Fernando Isais, Ted Allen, Guy Zimmerman, Casey Jones and Jimmy Risk. Ted Allen and Jimm Risk are two of the most widely known during the last 20 years. These men travel thousands of miles every year and really put horseshoe pitching over to the public first class. Most of the professionals enter the world's Championship every year and divide a big chunk of the \$5,000 prize money. Prize money ranging from \$100 to \$500 is given away to the first ten places and to finish in that division you have to do some phenomenal ringer shooting. To go under 70 per cent in any of your games is likely to be fatal as the other 26 players that make up the tournament are able to average in the higher 60's and 70's. The professionals are the boys who



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are consistently great over a period of years. They are able to make their daily living at the game by getting contracts at fairs, rodeos and sporting events with their trick horseshoe pitching acts, also making movies and television shots, advertising horseshoe equipment and selling horseshoes. Yes, the professional has to be good because horseshoe pitching is their business.

\* \* \*

## IOWA

By LELAND S. MORTENSON

The most important horseshoe activity by far in Iowa during this Fall of 1952, is the sensational exhibition invasion by Putt Mossman, since about Labor Day, Putt has put on about one hundred exhibitions at Iowa grade and high schools. He has shows booked into late December when his schedule calls for him to head toward California, and he has return engagements for the Spring and Fall of 1953. His present exhibitions generally include trick and fancy pitching, acrobatic performances, a lecture about his world travels and experiences, instructions on how to pitch and how to keep healthy, and a period for questions from the students and the school teachers.

This new turn in exhibitions in our schools is most welcome to those of us who would like to see school children and teachers become interested in horseshoe pitching. Many of the Principals and coaches have talked with Mossman as to how a general program could be put into effect whereby the schools could decide their champions and runner ups who could go to some final tournament for the State Title. Putt has invited the Iowa Horseshoe Pitchers Association to get into a huddle with him about the matter, but the desired huddle, much less a workable plan, have not materialized. Of course, this would cost a lot of money, but the writer is definitely of the opinion that the boys should get together with Mossman.

Putt Mossman assures us that horseshoe pitching, except on special occasions, has always been one of the main attractions of his sport shows regardless of whether it was before a small group of school pupils in Iowa or before the Emperor of Japan. The activity of Putt Mossman from 1924 to 1933 is generally known, but from 1933 to 1952 it has been much in the dark. All in all it has been a hard rough life in which Putt, like Charles S. Chapman of the Movies, was the promoter, manager, star, owner of the company, the director and about everything else. We have just one criticism to make about his activity; for nineteen years he was making news and headlines which could have been used to advantage by the officers of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. What wouldn't the late Harry Woodfield have done with weekly reports from Putt Mossman during that time? No, Putt let himself lose contact with his horseshoe pitching buddies. He promises to not let this happen again. Following is a general outline of him since 1933.

After the Chicago World Tournament of 1933, he traveled for George Hammid, big Eastern booking agent and appeared in horseshoe pitching, motorcycle and trick shooting exhibitions.

For most of the year of 1934 he starred in personal appearances at Paramount Theatre in horseshoe pitching and acrobatics.

In 1935 he headed his own sports troupe and went to Japan. For sixty days, he and the troupe appeared daily at the Yokohama Exposition in horseshoe pitching, tumbling, high kicking, motorcycle trick riding and racing. The Emperor as well as a million other persons who paid admission watched his performances. Again in 1935, he organized another sports troupe and started for a round the world exhibition tour. This trip took him to the Tahitian Islands, the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Waikiki Island, then Australia, Ceylon, up through the Suez Canal and finally to Southampton, England. He played sixty shows at Southampton

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and staged other attractions throughout England at Birmingham, Oxford, Liverpool, Manchester and at Wimbledon Stadium in London.

At Wimbledon he rode his motorcycle off the grand stand into a tank of water five feet deep, ten feet wide and fifty-three feet long with his machine rocket propelled and with his clothes on fire. He then went to Paris, France for exhibitions and then returned to England for more shows and then returned to America.

At Gilmore Stadium, in Hollywood, Cal., he drove up a plank on the rear of a car moving about twenty-five miles per hour and down and over a plank on the front end of the car.

In 1936 he started another trip around the world and this time he went to Arabia and Spain. The writer admits that here he lost the continuity of the story except that from 1939 to 1943 Mossman was in Africa and lived in Johannesburg and Durban and he appeared in horseshoe pitching shows at the African Consolidated Theatres. He rode his motorcycle through Central Africa from North to South and had breath taking experiences on the trip. He claims to have been the first motorcycle rider to cross the Sahara Desert. He has seen and talked to pigmies and cannibals, has been blocked on the trails by lions and a python, and he came near going swimming in a river thickly populated with alligators. He has talked to missionaries who claimed that the graves were guarded for two weeks after burial to prevent cannibals from robbing the graves and eating the corpses. Mossman says he has been the special guest of tribal chiefs.

He married an English girl in South Africa and a boy was born to this union. He hopes to bring the boy to America soon. Putt hunted in Africa and shot a wild boar, a buffalo and a Zebra. He played exhibitions at the gold fields of Johannesburg and the diamond mines at Kimberly. By the way, the girl he married was Hilma Gwynith Carpenter and the date of the marriage was May 6, 1940. On his return from Africa he went to South America. For a short time during the war he served with the Merchant Marine.

Mossman has tentative plans to publish a book about his life and horseshoe pitching activities and he also plans to again manufacture his own horseshoe pitching shoes. He believes there is a large potential market for both of these in the public schools where he appears.

\* \* \*

## MAINE

### YOUR TITLE IS AT STAKE

By CHARLEY GERRISH

A champion ought to be able to defend his title. So his title ought to be open to challenge. We think any champion's title is "At Stake" at every reasonable time. Any eligible challenger has the inherent right to try to lift the crown off the horseshoe king, as well as from a champion in any sport.

The writer has always felt that way about any title or titles he has won, as far as he can remember. They are and always have been at stake, or on the horseshoe stakes to any individual challenger by singles match play as proposed in our N.H.P.A. By-Laws—If the World Title is open to challenge as stated there then any lesser title is logically open also. Let us quote from Art. 3, Sec. 4 of the N.H.P.A. By-Laws, abridged for brevity: "The title of World Horseshoe Pitching Champion can be contended for . . . in World Tournaments . . . or in a series of games—6 out of 11 match style, authorized by Executive Council. . . Not more than three such contests annually . . ." A prize sum is to be sponsored for the contenders, 25 per cent to the N.H.P.A.

It would liven up the game a good deal and draw public attention to our sport if such matches were held. It is a question if these contests

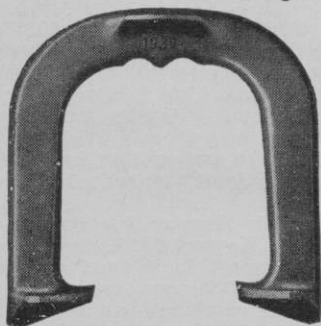
should be limited to 3 challengers or limited at all. Things that stir up excitement of the public and of players are things that are needed for the growth and good of the game.

The New Hampshire Horseshoe Pitchers Association has made a bold step in this direction. The writer has been long in the development of the game in Maine and New Hampshire states—probably a decade or two longer than any presently active participant in or devotee of our beloved sport. To get back to the New Hampshire by-laws as adopted at the State Association meeting on July 19, 1951, we want to quote the following from Art. 6 S. 10—"A feature—could be that of players coming forth to challenge the champion. A recommended method of play is to win two (of possible 3) matches held probably a week or more apart. Each match to consist of best 6 of 11 fifty-point games. If the defending champion lost in such a series he would have an early opportunity to regain title by challenging back. . . . A purse or split purse—may be included in such a Match Play if the Defending Champion desires it. . . ."

We think this sort of thing could be done very often and be really beneficial to the game. Such matches could be played for welfare benefits or in any number of other ways and places to provide sport and build up appreciation for the horseshoe game—So let's be good sports and open Our Sport to challengers of all championships. Valiant champions and courageous challengers will give more color to the game and promote public interest in ringer artistry.

A Gerrish Jot—H. "Moose" White's well written November item may go to my head, or maybe has done so. I don't merit all the fine

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compliments Howie, but want to say Thank You to a good friend. Any of us can stand some praise perhaps, but there are doubtless a few of my acquaintances who figure I don't deserve it. By the way, that 50—47 game Moose relates is remembered by me the other way around—that is: the 50 points being the White score.

Congratulations to sailor Piazza for that wonderful article of his. The navy is helping us have a far more widespread horseshoe world.

\* \* \*

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

By CHARLEY GERRISH

It seems odd that no report has been sent you of that New England "Open" meet held on Sept. 21, at Dover Point, N. H. As an individual may remember it, here is a brief on it . . . A fine set of players came to it. Highest 100-shoe qualifier was Ed Landry, of Lowell, Mass., the N. E. champion, with 126 points. I remember Gerrish got 125. Ed won his eleven games and the event. Pete Heroux of Providence lost two for second place. Third and fourth were tied by Joe Comeau of Lynn, Mass., and Sterling Cook of Kittery, Maine—Joe winning playoff 50—47. They had lost three each in 11 games. Jackson and Gerrish tied 5th and 6th places with 7 wins and 4 losses. Cook had his third loss in his last game, to Gerrish. Landry beat me, Gerrish, in what I believe was the "top" game, 50—40, 75 R. to 70 R. with 16 four-deads. They told me the highest ringer percentage game of the day was 84.4 per cent in a game done by a Maine player who perhaps ought to be modest enough to not mention it.

At the annual New Hampshire State horseshoe tournament held at Dover Point on Nov. 2, the winner and still champion was Charley Gerrish. He won all his games in a round robin among three pitchers—all players being former New Hampshire state champs, Howard White gaining second place and Paul Tobey third. Each man played against the others for two out of three games, and the scores in order of play are as follows: White 50, Tobey 49; Gerish 50, White 10; Gerrish 50, Tobey 40; White 50, Tobey 42; Gerrish 50, White 23; Gerrish 50, Tobey 29; Score sheets showed an average of about 70 per cent by the champion. The winner was awarded permanent possession of a beautiful horseshoe plaque trophy made up by the Ryan Club two years ago to go to the first pitcher who could win the state title for two straight years. Paul Tobey was the winner of it the first year in 1950. Charley has proposed to retire from 1953 N. H. State competition by letter to the New Hampshire Horseshoe Association Secretary who is Sterling J. Cook of Kittery, Maine.

Gerrish was again the winner also of the Greater Portsmouth City Area championship this year on October 26. Howard White runner-up.

Howard has challenged Charley for his state title, in singles matches. So a series of matches has been arranged. One may read about the outcome later, though it would be better if he came and saw the contests in person. Gerrish says his titles are "at stake" by individual matches any time with any eligible slinger at the stakes.

\* \* \*

## NEW YORK

Horseshoe pitching ace Alvin Winter of the Bronx and Vito Fileccia of Manhattan emerged with the city's top horseshoe tossing honors capturing the 1952 Greater New York junior and senior championships by their skillful hurling with the "lucky" U-shaped irons.

Heckscher's courts in Central Park were circled by spectators for the finals of the record city-wide tournament sponsored annually by the Mirror and Dept. of Parks.

The new senior kingpin, Fileccia snapped Joe Zichella's three-year reign, defeating the latter, 50—35. Winter, a husky 17-year-old senior of

DeWitt Clinton H. S., finally snared the junior title by stopping a strong tosser in Harry Koehler, 17 of Queens by seven points in the playoff of a deadlock for first place.

After referee Morris Cohen of the Park Dept. sent the tourney's eight leading contenders on their way at 1 p.m., Fileccia began tossing ringers with amazing regularity. He paved his way to the coveted title by stopping Louis Stine of Queens, who finished third, 52-27. Ted Penridge, Manhattan was his next victim, 55-29, before Zichella succumbed in the final game which both men had entered undefeated.

Winter in gaining the junior crown, had an able assist from his Bronx Demon A. C. teammate, Mickey Spotto, who twirled a 50-43 upset over Koehler which enabled Winter to gain the deadlock and subsequent playoff. The junior champ had earlier defeated Spotto, 50-7, and Morris Belzer of Brooklyn, 50-12. His only defeat, before the playoff, was administered by Koehler, 50-27.

The eight finalists were among a record entry of 2,412 when the tourney began last Sept. 8.

Champs Fillecia and Winter and their three runner-ups were presented with 17-jewel Benrus watches by genial John Downing, Park Dept. director of recreation, in behalf of the Mirror.

\* \* \*

## OHIO

My Buddy, Paul Focht and I have pitched horseshoes since 1944 from the Mississippi River east to New York and from Canada south to Kentucky but never have we had such a good year as this year, 1952.

We want to take this time to thank all our friends we made this last summer for treating us so wonderful.

We made our first trip to New Jersey in June, had a good time and saw many new faces.

Many thanks to Mr. Kinkead for a very fine Eastern National. A lot of work Dick, but a fine tourney.

Many thanks to our very good friends of Baltimore, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Dale Carson. We had the pleasure of visiting them in September and going with them to New York on Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Fort George Courts and a nice tourney. Many thanks to the members of the Fort George Club for a very fine time.

When one stops and thinks what made all this possible, well it all goes to the editor of this grand magazine, The Horseshoe Pitcher, for without this we would not have known about these tournaments.

Jake, we want to thank you for all you have done for The Horseshoe Pitcher and keep up the good work.

We hope to see most of you all next summer and may we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Harry Sibert and Paul Focht.

\* \* \*

## OREGON

I realize that Lee Mortenson and Mr. Byers have turned in articles regarding the proposed new Constitution and By-Laws. I'd like to add my two bits worth.

Our present constitution is entirely adequate in my estimation but should be brought up to date and a few minor changes and revisions made. No new document could be devised that would provide for the satisfaction of all nor would it make the horseshoe game as played now, one of the outstanding sports. I believe the game itself needs changing in some manner that would provide more spectator interest as well as to instill the desire in more people to play the game. We may be old fashioned but we could stand for some innovations in the game without losing a thing.

So with that in my mind, I propose a new scoring system. Count all ringers five until twenty-five points are reached in a game, from there until the forty point score is reached, count all ringers three and then for the balance of the game, count all ringers one.

This would present a few problems but could be easily taken care of. If one player has twenty-four points and scores a double ringer he would receive five points for one and three for the other. If, at the same point in the contest a player scored a ringer and a single point, score the point first and allow three for the ringer, making twenty-eight points in all. The same method would be used when passing from the thirties to the forties. It sounds screwy but it has some good points. The same player, using either method of scoring, would practically always be the winner except perhaps in a very close contest. The loser would score more points than under the present system. It does not change the ringer percentage in any way. But most important of all, the beginning of a game, which is usually unimportant and uninteresting to the spectator's angle, is shortened, the next part of the game is not changed but the climax part is lengthened and that in itself should be a crowd pleaser. Many would say that drags out the ending too long; if so, then change the breakover point of changing ringers from three to one from the forty-five mark instead of forty. That is brain storm number one.

From ninety odd players in 1950 to sixty odd in 1952 has been our experience in Murray, Utah. Why the drop is the question and we would all like to know the answer? Our sponsors there are interested primarily in drawing people to Murray. If we can't get more class "A" pitchers to go why not concentrate on class "B" and even class "C" events? How? I believe the answer is not too difficult. Most of us have a yearly vacation but there aren't many interested in spending it at a National Horseshoe tournament because that is for the experts. If Mr. Average Pitcher could be made to feel that there is a place for him there also, he would be more interested in going. How could such a tournament be played? Limit class "A" to twenty or twenty-four at the most and make it the cream of the crop. That's a drawing card in itself. If there were another fifty, sixty or seventy qualifiers, divide them into two groups of equal size but according to their qualifications to be known as class "B" and class "C". Class "C" would play in the mornings as our present class "B" has done. Class "B" would play from three thirty or four p.m. until seven or seven thirty. The size of the group would designate the starting time. Then class "A" would take over for the rest of the evening. Such a method would permit the local residents that are interested in the tournament ample time to get home from work, clean up, eat and get to Murray on time to see all of the big show at night. That is brain storm number two.

We have long Winter months ahead that permit no pitching but the time could well be utilized in formulating new ideas to improve the game I suggest that others send in their brain storms and we should get a wealth of ideas to work on.

Can anybody answer Charlie Gerrish's question on the best method and proper procedure of calling fouls? It's a question for the Constitution Committee to decide and incorporate it in the new document. Editor's Note—Why not skip calling fouls unless one of the pitchers complain? Nobody WANTS to pitch a foul; it throws him off.

\* \* \*

## PENNSYLVANIA

By R. G. KINKEAD

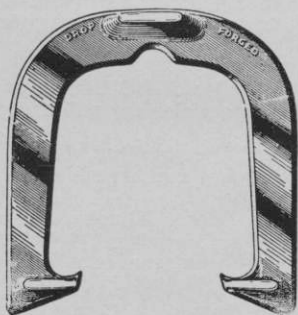
In the October issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher Charlie Gerrish stated, and quite correctly, that he was the loser of a game in which he called his opponent's shoes foul and the alleged foul was disregarded.

In defense of our decision, I would like to state that Charlie's opponent denied having fouled and not one person would admit having been watching at the time. This put the committee in a very ticklish position. The score was tied 49—49, Gerish had yet to pitch, and there were enough points showing to win the game for Tischalk unless Charlie could cancel them. How would you decide?

Several men admitted about a month later that they had been watching and they had seen the foul but would not say anything at the time because they were not horseshoe pitchers and did not wish to become involved. Had these men spoken up at the time, Tischalk's shoes would have been removed from the box in accordance with the rule regarding foul shoes. All Charlie would have had to do was score one point and the final standing would have been 17th, Gerrish 3 wins 14 losses, 59.5 per cent ringers; 18th, Tischalk 3 wins 14 losses, 53 per cent ringers.

We also had another tough problem in selecting the 18th man to compete in class "A". After all the men had been selected, but before the start of match play, Shaw of Iowa had to withdraw because of illness. This necessitated moving the high man up from class "B" to class "A". Upon checking the qualifying sheets we found Harry Sibert and Tony Natalie were tied with points; also ringer percentage. We then decided to use the double ringers and found both men had 24 doubles out of their 100 shoes. Time was short and the other pitchers were impatient to start, so we decided to use their other 100 shoe pitch to determine the 18th man. The same thing happened again; both men had the same number of points, also the same ringer percentages. Following the same plan as before, we counted the doubles and found Harry had 23 and Tony 22. The committee had not foreseen anything like this and it was not posted in the tournament rules, but both men took our decision

## GORDON SPIN-ON HORSESHOES



Again in 1952, Gordon Spin-On Horseshoes have led in sales of horseshoes. The pitchers know their shoes, and that is the reason for our big lead in sales of horseshoes. Many horseshoe pitchers have switched to Gordons. When you buy, buy the very best, buy Gordons. Write for prices.

**THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY**

**235 Tennyson Street**

**Cincinnati 26, Ohio**

without any outward show of emotion other than Sibert's big sigh of relief.

Plans are now underway for another tournament next year with more and bigger cash prizes plus a more complete set of tournament rules and a referee on each court.

\* \* \*

## JAKE'S JOTTINGS

If you watch television in the afternoons you probably have tuned in Garry Moore's show that goes on at one thirty. He always has a good show, but on December first his show was enhanced by the appearance of Vito Feliccia who gave an exhibition of trick horseshoe pitching. His performance lasted about ten minutes. In the course of his exhibition, Garry Moore had nerve enough to put his chin on top of the peg while Vito pitched ringers. According to the applause of the studio spectators the act was well received. They built a special box for Vito that held three stakes placed about a foot apart. Part of his performance consisted of putting on three ringers while the stakes were concealed by a blanket. He also lit matches and put them out with the horseshoes and also had a watch laying in front of each stake and he made ringers without harm to the watches. It was a smooth performance.

\* \* \*

Charlie Gerrish says he thinks he's still the oldest State Champ in the U. S. A. and particularly the senior (65 next birthday) to be title holder in two States, Maine and New Hampshire. His titles are open to challenge to any eligible pitcher who wants to lift a crown from him. He has proposed retiring from New Hampshire competition by letter to the New Hampshire Association secretary.

\* \* \*

Al Hudson, of West Warwick, R. I. says "just how can you keep clay in good condition for a whole tournament?" With his question, he sent a circular regarding a substance called Kriium part of which says that if you mix it with earth or clay it will keep it moist, porous and keep it from forming into hard clods. He thinks the N.H.P.A. should try it out as an experiment and let the pitchers throughout the country know the results.

\* \* \*

If you want this magazine to contain a lot of NOTHING during the winter months just refrain from sending in articles for publication.

\* \* \*

It's been a long time since I published the standing of states as far as subscriptions to The Horseshoe Pitcher are concerned. Here are the twelve leaders:

1 California; 2 New York; 3 Iowa; 4 Ohio; 5 Illinois; 6 Minnesota; 7 Pennsylvania; 8 New Jersey; 9 Indiana; 10 Utah; 11 Missouri; 12 Washington. How about trying to change these standings?

\* \* \*

How about the N.H.P.A. bringing the Horseshoe Compendium up to date? I am sure Lee Mortenson could do a fine job on this.

\* \* \*

Know anyone who would like a sample copy of The Horseshoe Pitcher? Just send me his name and address.

\* \* \*

Send in your ideas for changes in our constitution and by laws. Either to me or the committee.

\* \* \*

Payment of National dues is now in order for 1953.

\* \* \*

## **THE PERFECT SCORE SHEET**

Now is the time to stock up on your club supplies.  
Don't wait until the last minute. You can have  
the name, city and state of your club, printed on  
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## WHERE TO PLAY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

- ARIZONA—Casa Grande Park, Casa Grande; Rendesvous Park, Mesa; Encanto Park, Phoenix.
- ARKANSAS—Fair Park, Boyle Park, MacArthur Park, Little Rock.
- CALIFORNIA—Community Center, Compton; Exposition Park, Los Angeles; Union Pacific Courts, Long Beach; Mosswood Park, Oakland; Horseshoe Grounds, Ontario, Golden Gate Courts, Candlestick Cove, Crocker-Amazon Courts, San Francisco; Memorial Park, South San Francisco; Lincoln Park, Santa Monica; McNear Park, Petaluma; Ives Memorial Park, Sebastopol.
- CANADA—Dieppe Park, East York.
- COLORADO—City Park and Washington Park, Denver; City Park, Greeley.
- CONNECTICUT—Bearsley Park, Bridgeport; Pope Park, Hartford.
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Commerce Courts, Washington.
- FLORIDA—South Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg.
- ILLINOIS—Welles Park, Chicago; Athletic Park, Canton; Riverside Park, Moline; Mineral Springs Park, Pekin; Reservoir Park, Quincy; Long Viaw Park, Rock Island.
- INDIANA—Brookside Park, Indianapolis; Dorner Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville; 3rd Street Park, Bloomington.
- IOWA—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa; Crapo Park, Burlington; Island Park, Cedar Falls; Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids; LeClaire Park, Davenport.
- KANSAS—Forest Park, Ottawa; Gage Park, Topeka; Katy Park, Chanute; Huntress Park, Clay Center; Riverside Park, Iola; Klamm Park, Kansas City; South Park, Lawrence; City Park, Manhattan; Prospect Park, Wichita.
- KENTUCKY—Shady Shores, Covington.
- MAINE—Auburn, Riverside Courts, Bangor; Bangor Club, Farmington; City Park, Hebron; Community Courts, Portland; Deering Oaks, Rumford; High School, So. Portland; Wilkinson Park.
- MARYLAND—Carroll Park, Baltimore; Magruder Park, Hyattsville.
- MASSACHUSETTS—Municipal Playgrounds, Westfield.
- MICHIGAN—Grand Rapids, Franklin Park.
- MINNESOTA—Como & Elfelt, St. Paul; Soldier Memorial Field, Rochester.
- MISSOURI—Municipal Park, Carthage; Neosho, Fair Grounds, Springfield; Grant Beach Park.
- NEBRASKA—Harmon Park, Kearney; Dewey Park, Omaha.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE—South Playground, Portsmouth; Ryan H. S. Club, Dover Point; Pop Ryans, 14 Central Ave., Portsmouth.
- NEW JERSEY—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Park, Newark; Wildwood, Beach Park.
- NEW YORK—Central Park, Fort George, 193 Fort George Ave., Inwood Hill Park, New York City; St. Mary's Park, Williamsbridge Oval Park, Woodlawn, Van Cortlandt Park, all in the Bronx; Parade Grounds, Fort Green Park, Brooklyn; Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon, L. I.; Johnson City, Endicott-Johnson Courts; Kirk Park, Syracuse.
- OHIO—Jermain Park, Toledo; Cedar Point, Sandusky; Williams Memorial Pk., Wilmington. Community Park, Cedarville.
- OREGON—Laurelhurst Park, Portland; Bush Pasture Park, Salem; Atkinson Park, Oregon City.
- PENNSYLVANIA—District Courts, Pittsburgh; Pt. Marion, Frank Murphy's Courts; Joe Mett's Courts, Revere; Oakhurst Courts, Johnstown; Playground Cts., New Freedom.
- RHODE ISLAND—Columbus Square, W. Warwick.
- TEXAS—Will Rogers Park, Amarillo; Elwood Park, Amarillo; Mason Park, Houston; Bellvue Park, Wichita Falls.
- UTAH—County Fair Grounds, Murray; Liberty Park, Salt Lake City.
- VERMONT—Stolte Field, Brattleboro; Memorial Park, Bennington; Ethan Allen Park, Burlington; Local Athletic Field, Springfield.
- WASHINGTON—Zelasko Park, Aberdeen; City Park, Bremerton; Woodland Park, Seattle; Wright Park, Tacoma; Fair Grounds, Yakima.
- WEST VIRGINIA—Bar B-Q Courts, East Nitro.
- WISCONSIN—Washington Park, Milwaukee.
- WYOMING—Union Park, Cheyenne.

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED HERE, GET BUSY!