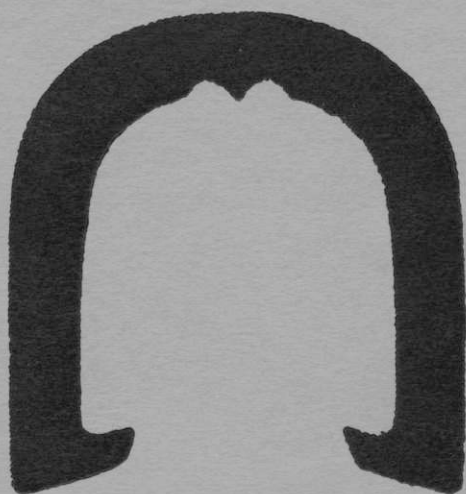


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Pucki Hooper

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



JUNE, 1952

Vol. 4

No. 10

EDITORIAL

Since 1946 I have not missed an N.H.P.A. convention and World's tournament and if the Fates are willing, I will not miss this one. Looking back to my first attendance I am sorry to say that there has been very little improvement shown in the conduct or results in our organization. Those of you who have been reading The Horseshoe Pitcher since the last convention noted many articles written by interested members and pitchers calling attention to many things which in their opinion should be rectified, put into effect or discontinued. Personally, I do not agree with everything they want done or undone, but as the pages of the magazine are open to all to express their opinions, I have seen fit to print them. As I see it, the main trouble of our convention meetings has been too short a session. Enough time must be allotted to enable a thorough discussion of ALL horseshoe matters even if it means holding two or more meetings. There are no games held in the mornings and if necessary a meeting could be held almost every day. Let's make up our minds to hold a REAL CONVENTION this year.

* * *

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

Each year delegates come to the national convention instructed by their home state members to propose or make certain constitution changes. Many of these changes are new ideas to the delegates at convention, and they do not know how to react to satisfy their membership at home.

May I suggest that if you have any proposed constitutional changes that you send them to The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine by July 25, so that the above proposed changes may be read by all members; and delegates sent to convention may have their criticism and comments on all proposals.

Please make the proposed changes conform to the style already used in the constitution so that it may be inserted, if passed, just like they are proposed. Please keep in mind that any changes in the constitution affects all players all over the United States and such changes should be made with their welfare in mind.

Tournament time is drawing near, and I hope that all of you will find it possible to make the trip to Salt Lake and Murray this year to make this our biggest and best tournament ever.

LOUIS DEAN, President

* * *

WORLD TOURNAMENT

By ARCHIE GREGSON

Tournament time is fast approaching. The World's Championship Horseshoe Tournament will be held in Murray, Utah, August 5-11, inclusive, this year. We hope you are all planning to attend.

The majority of the officers want a B Tournament. It will be limited to 16 players and play on the courts at Murray in the early afternoon.

There is one stipulation this year. Everyone who plans to pitch in the tournament **MUST** have a shirt bearing his name and post office address. **THIS IS A REQUIREMENT.**

The prize list for the A Class, B Class, and Women's Tournaments are as follows:

CHAMPIONSHIP (Class A)

1. \$500.00	13. 110.00	25. 62.00
2. 400.00	14. 100.00	26. 61.00
3. 325.00	15. 95.00	27. 60.00
4. 275.00	16. 90.00	28. 59.00
5. 225.00	17. 85.00	29. 58.00
6. 200.00	18. 80.00	30. 57.00
7. 180.00	19. 75.00	31. 56.00
8. 160.00	20. 72.00	32. 55.00
9. 150.00	21. 70.00	33. 54.00
10. 140.00	22. 68.00	34. 53.00
11. 130.00	23. 66.00	35. 52.00
12. 120.00	24. 64.00	36. 50.00

CLASS B

1. \$50.00	9. \$15.50
2. 40.00	10. 14.50
3. 35.00	11. 13.50
4. 30.00	12. 12.50
5. 25.00	13. 11.50
6. 20.00	14. 11.00
7. 17.50	15. 10.50
8. 16.50	16. 10.00

WOMEN'S

\$50.00
40.00
30.00
25.00
20.00
15.00
10.00
8.00
7.00
5.00

* * *

Long Beach California, May 4, 1952

OPEN CLASS "B" CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHING ASSOCIATION

	W.	L.	%
1. J. Frizzell, Long Beach	6	1	63.7
2. H. Wendt, Rosmead	6	1	61.9
3. G. Sechrist, Huntington Pk.	5	2	64.2
4. A. Nottingham, Redlands	5	2	60.5
5. H. Moeffeld, Bellflower	3	4	57.8
6. Norman Smith, Culver City.....	2	5	55.9
7. H. Dolan, Fontana	1	6	49.1
8. F. Burkhart, San Gabriel.....	0	7	42.4

Play-off game for first place won by John Frizzell 50—41.

* * *

South Gate, May 18, 1952

CLASS "C" HORSESHOE PITCHING TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by S.C.H.P.A.

	W.	L.	%
1. E. Beller, Lynwood	7	0	55.1
2. N. Port, Santa Monica	5	2	41.2
3. L. Geer, San Gabriel	5	2	43.9
4. F. Klees, Huntington Pk.	5	2	40.9
5. D. Horwarth, Engelwood	3	4	37.4
6. G. Scott, Ontario	2	5	29.2
7. F. Unmack, Anaheim	1	6	32.1
8. R. Navaro, South Gate	0	7	32.3

A three way play-off for 2nd place. N. Port defeated each of his two opponents in a 25 point game.

Trophies for first two places. Medals for next three places.

* * *

IOWA

By C. HOPKINS

Harold Shaw, Iowa State Champ, won the seasons opening tournament on the Riverside Park courts in Ottumwa on Sunday, May 18th. Dale Dixon was runner up with Harold Darnold finishing in third place. Charley Hopkins and Marion Lange tied for fourth place. Elmer Johnson and Bill Waddle finished in that order.

At Des Moines, a tournament was held on May 25th on the courts in Birdland Park where Harold Shaw again came out on top by winning all twenty games with a percentage of 80.0. Harold Darnold came in second with Dale Dixon and Hugh Rogers tying for third place. There were no prizes involved here; just good competition.

* * *

KANSAS

Under "Jakes Jottings" in the April Issue I ran across this—Harold Blackman, of Toronto, Canada had a piece concerning John Calao of East Orange, New Jersey. He pitched 358 ringers out of 400 shoes in Ogden Park, Chicago.

Yes Mr. Blackman, I have heard of him—but not since 1935 at Moline, Illinois, during the National Meet held at Riverside Park. In the qualifying pitch, according to the September 1935 Issue of The Horseshoe World, which I have before me, Mr. John Calao, then of Chicago—pitched 68 ringers and 229 points, failing to qualify in the first 24 men division. He played in the Moline Daily Dispatch Tournament. In the finals of this meet Calao won 1 and lost 7, tying for 6th place with a ringer average of 59.3 per cent. This is quite a difference between his 89.5%—which he undoubtedly did in practice by himself. In 1933 at the World's Fair in Chicago—John Calao tossed 62 ringers and 219 points in the qualifying round of 100 shoe pitch. He won 10 and lost 13 in the finals—finishing in 15th place—his ringer average being 52.7%. What happened to his 89%? John Calao has not been

mentioned since 1935 so he has evidently quit pitching some time ago. The last I heard, he went in for operatic singing. He had a beautiful voice and was a very fine looking young man. Mr. Blackman—I hope this will prove satisfactory to you. I have been pitching shoes for thirty years and have issues of The Horseshoe World clear back to the early thirties.

NEW JERSEY

By LEE DAVIS

I just want to let you know Jake, how much I enjoyed "Briefs on the Life of Roy W. Smith" by H. E. Fredricks. I wish some of the people close to the top men in our sport would do the same for them as it makes very interesting reading and would let the pitchers know something about them. Like Roy Smith, they have many talents besides horseshoe pitching.

I want to thank Mr. P. S. Van Sickle for calling me a gentleman. I am only a man interested in our game and am glad to note that he feels the same about the cancellation system as I do. The only difference between us is that he was able to express himself on paper much better than I did. We find the same situation in our section of the country. All pitch fifty point games in between league games. But the 100% handicap brings in the new players and holds his interest and that is what we want. As much as I enjoy the league games I will have to admit that it cuts the players averages down; but I feel it is worth it to get new blood in the game. We can pitch for our percentages in tournaments and between times.

Ken Huber has a good idea if he can give us a plan to reach the million. For some reason, most pitchers that just throw the shoes are not interested in supporting the game even to the extent of fifty cents. Another way they could help would be to subscribe to The Horseshoe Pitcher. It's only two dollars a year and they would at least get something for their money.

NEW YORK

EMPIRE STATE OPEN TOURNAMENT

New York got off to a flying start in their open tournament held in Central Park on Decoration Day. The boys from six different States entered. Here are the results.

CLASS "A"

	W.	L.	%
1. Carson	9	0	73.9
2. Cope	6	3	72.8
3. Steinfelt	5	4	78.1
4. Fenicchia	5	4	69.9
5. Heroux	5	4	67.4
6. Fileccia	5	4	67.2
7. Zichella	4	5	66.2
8. Kolb	3	6	66.7
9. Durham	2	7	62.1
10. Davis	1	8	58.9

CLASS "B"

	W.	L.	%
1. Natale	6	1	59.7
2. Berman	6	1	57.7
3. Hardwick	5	2	56.9
4. Lugo	4	3	53.4
5. Bob O'Connell	2	5	56.1
6. Nellis	2	5	50.4
7. Earley	2	5	43.2
8. Brumek	1	6	46.1

CLASS "C"

	W.	L.	%
1. Penridge	5	0	63.6
2. Ray O'Connell	3	2	51.1
3. Kirk	2	3	48.6
4. Burrows	2	3	40.1
5. Seacord	2	3	34.2
6. Kamszik	1	4	41.9

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA

By J. H. BROWNING

I was quite interested in some of the articles that have been published in The Horseshoe Pitcher recently. Some of them I agree with and some of them I do not.

I have been pitching horseshoes for over fifty years and I have had an opportunity to see many changes in the game. Back in April of 1899, some of the young boys with whom I played horseshoes, among other games, had the bright idea of forming a horseshoe league and they did me the honor of electing me president.

The Meadville Horseshoe League as it was named, is still in the field and we have had many many happy and successful seasons and have, we think, the answer to many of the problems faced by horseshoe players throughout the United States.

When we first played the game we used shoes off the horses hoof and we pitched distances varying from twenty-five to forty-five feet and in the early days the player who had his shoe or shoes on top in case of a ringer having been thrown and the inning completed, was credited with all the count. In other words if I was fortunate enough to throw a double and my opponent threw a double on top he received twelve points.

As we progressed we were bothered, as many of the clubs are now bothered, with the inequality of players. That condition we have long ago taken care of by an arrangement whereby class A players play class A players in our leagues wherever it is possible to so arrange it and so with class B and class C players.

Our schedules have always been as near one hundred and fifty games for the season as is possible to schedule them, depending on the number of teams entered. In the Meadville Horseshoe League we play two man teams as do some of the other city and town leagues but in the Craw-

ford County League we play five two man teams at a meeting, thereby giving twenty of our players a chance to play in each match. Our county league plays on Tuesday evenings of each week. This year we will start on May 13 and we will finish on July 29 with six entrants in the league with each entrant having a roster of eighteen players, ten of whom will participate in each match thereby allowing sixty players to play at one time.

After our regular season is over we hold a tournament for single and double play in class A, B and C, which gives all of the players an opportunity to get in on the winning of the trophies which we give to the winners.

The thing that keeps interest up is the fact that we have competition all summer and then the tournament in the early fall.

I do not think much of the count all as it takes the zip out of the game and cuts down the players chances of making ringers.

We tried out the count all and the players feel that they may as well go out on the court alone and see how many ringers they can make out of one hundred shoes pitched. What greater thrill than to have an opponent be ahead say forty to your twenty and then come from behind and pour on the doubles and beat him out possibly by a score of fifty to forty-seven.

By playing the summer through and giving the three classes all the same opportunity in tournament play at the end of the season and by the players recognizing their ability and not trying to compete in class A if they are a class C player there should be no feeling on the part of the less talented player that he is frozen out.

We have kept records of all our players accomplishments for all of the years the Meadville Horseshoe League has been in existence and they are of great interest.

There are many things that can be done to improve our national set up and one of them is the qualifying of players. If a player travels to the tournament and pays his entry fee he should be assured of an opportunity to play in class B or C if he can not qualify in class A.

On the other hand unless a player is of exceptional ability he should be wise enough not to try and compete with such players as Ted Allen, Casey Jones, Fernando Isais, Guy Zimmerman and others of like ability.

It seems to me it would be a very good move on the part of the National Association to foster the forming of county associations in every state and give the State and County Associations certain definite authority under the national constitution.

I personally hope to see the day when we can have the individual, the club, the city, county and state organizations well organized and headed by the national association.

Wouldn't it be something if we could play off in the cities for the city championship and then let the several city champions compete for the county championship and in turn the county champions play for the state title?

Then with a champion from each state to compete in a national tournament for the world's title we sure would have something.

Of course, I realize that this is a dream of the future, but we could have it if we determined that we wanted it.

Another thing that I believe would be a very good idea would be changing the issue date of membership cards. Most of the states start play in the spring of the year and if cards were issued in May we would not have very much trouble getting dues paid. As it is now with cards issued in January we cannot expect the players to pay their dues at that time when they will not start to play for four or five months.

We issue our membership cards in the Crawford County Association on the first of May annually, and we have no trouble with the payment of dues.

I want to say one more thing that is of importance. We must have the national association as well as the state associations and we should, as I have mentioned above, have county associations. Members who cannot attend the national convention could possibly attend a state convention and if not able to do that they surely could attend a county convention and that in its self would create and sustain interest in the great game of horseshoes.

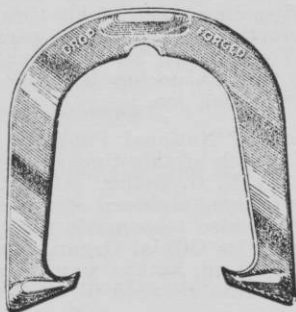
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UTAH

By ARCH STOKES

I am taking this course to answer the many inquiries relative to a "B" Class Tournament here this Summer. Yes, there will definitely be a "B" class as well as a Ladies and Junior tournament. We are not so much interested as to what method is used to determine who will be

GORDON SPIN-ON HORSESHOES



"In Horseshoe Pitching it is the shoe that counts, especially when a championship is involved. For the Third consecutive year, the Championship was won by Fernando Isais who each time he won pitched the Gordon Spin-On Horseshoe. Gordon Spin-On shoes have been tried, and found capable of doing the job. The 1952 Gordon shoe is ready now; get your pair today."

THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY

235 Tennyson Street

Cincinnati 26, Ohio

"A" or "B" just so long as it is arranged so that as many as possible will be in there pitching.

The Recreation Committee have never placed any definite restrictions on how the prize money should be distributed. It is generally understood that the bulk of it will go to the "A" class, and the amounts for each class to be decided by the officers of the Association. The only suggestion they have is to let as many participate as our courts will handle. We hope to have more courts built within a radius of five or six miles so the Juniors may not have to use the main courts. We have to keep the clay in good shape so there must be a short period when the courts are idle.

I feel sure of this—if we are going to increase the number of pitchers to our National Tournament, we must give them every assurance possible before they leave home that they are coming here to play. The same is true of our local clubs; keep them all pitching and they will be back and bring a friend with them. In our local prizes, instead of a two dollar cash prize, let's all, as much as possible, make it a year's subscription to The Horseshoe Pitcher. If the prize is three dollars, include a membership card to the N.H.P.A. if they haven't one already. We hope to see all of you this August and good luck with your clubs and tournaments.

* * *

GIVING 'EM HAL

By H. E. FREDERICKS

Briefs on the life of Roy W. Smith
(Conclusion)

In 1949, Roy won fourth place in the So. California tournament in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. He attended the National at Murray for his first time and was appointed to a committee to help re-write the N.H.P.A. Constitution and By-Laws. Spending much of his time on this committee gave him little time for practice on the courts resulting in his failure to qualify for the World Tournament, his one great desire. Then, like a good sport, he took over the announcing job and acted as M. C. at the banquet where he did a top notch job.

In 1949-50 he served as Chairman of National Publicity and devoted all of his spare time to the job. Much of this time he devoted to boosting the scoring devices invented by E. O. Beller. After the 1950 tournament at Murray, the Utah folks ordered eighteen of these devices to be used at the Murray courts. Roy is also responsible for the fight to persuade the N.H.P.A. to help support its Official Organ, The Horseshoe Pitcher with a monthly paid ad. This ad, by the way, is given by Jake at a reduction of one third of the rate charged to any other advertiser.

Roy's twenty-one years of association with horseshoe pitching has seen him teaching both sexes and those of all ages in schools and colleges in the art of pitching horseshoes. Many newspapers have written stories about him and the time he has spent helping scores of interested players. Also in 1949, Mr. Douglas, Compton's City Manager, cooperated 100% with Roy and five new courts were installed at the Community Center. Roy's "Science at the Stake" is in the library of the University of Iowa, free copies were sent to service men overseas and boys schools, and he is an honorary member of Father Flanagan's Boystown.

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**THE
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PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION**

ACCEPT NO HORSESHOES
UNLESS YOU SEE
THE
N.H.P.A. OFFICIAL STAMP
ON THE PACKAGE

These are the only "Official" Pitching Shoes Approved by
THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOCIATION

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Pomona, California

Arch Stokes, 1st V. P.
1310 Woodland Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah

John Lindemeier, 2nd V. P.
2030 S. 18th Avenue
Maywood, Illinois

Dale Dixon, 3rd V. P.
4903 Holcomb Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

Marie Kampschroeder, 4th V.P.
810 South Cedar
Ottawa, Kansas

Mary Jones, Treasurer
1006 East Main
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary
Crestline, California

At one time, he was a member of five different clubs in So. Cal. and at the present time is a member of the Union Pacific Club of Long Beach. He has a large and fine collection of information and photographs pertaining to horseshoes, some of which has been sent to him from all parts of the U. S. A. Now, at the age of 44, Roy is tall, straight and distinguished looking, with iron grey hair which he wears close cropped. He is sophisticated and cynical and has a deep, sardonic sense of humor. Betty, his wife, says he is stubborn as a mule and has the memory of an elephant. But, she adds that he is a hard worker, a kind husband and father and a good guy to have around the house.

Roy has preached more showmanship, but to no avail. He believes that Utah has paved the way for a successful sport. His sporting heart is all out for horseshoes and has done his share to accomplish a lot to create a better sport and Association on the game. He has made many interesting and valuable contacts with people from all walks of life and knows many stories about the sport and pitchers he has met.

In closing, I want to say that it must be admitted that horseshoes has received a wealth of publicity from his efforts which would not have been the case if the sport had not caught his fancy back in 1941.

* * *

BRIEF HORSESHOE PITCHING RULES

By CHARLEY GARRISH

Rules are usually rather cumbersome, and sometimes it is hard to get at a matter of detail. The following is offered as suggestion for Simplified Rules, shortened for ready use, and to help more players and non-players to get familiar with Rules of the Game.

Courts and Equipment:

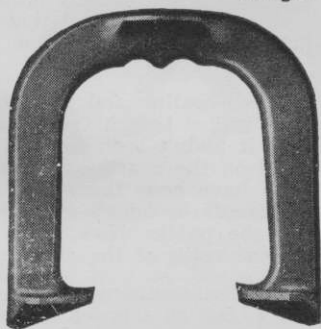
1. Stakes for men are forty feet apart.
2. For women and boys under 16, thirty feet.
3. The stake pit may be of dirt or sand or moist clay, etc.
4. a. Each stake should be of solid one-inch iron about 30 inches long, set so it extends 14 inches above the step platform. b. Each stake is inclined 3 inches toward its mate.
5. Stepping boards on such surfaces should be 15 inches clear of the stake and should end 3 feet forward of the stake.
6. A foul line, such as an edgewise plank, should be set so to be 3 feet in front and clear of each stake and across stepping area—with this edge up about an inch above the step surface.
7. Adjoining courts should be at least 10 feet apart.
8. a. The official horseshoe weight $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. b. The opening shall not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. c. Its length limit is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and width 7 inches.

Scoring:

9. A "regulation" game is for 50 points.
10. Other point limits may be used, under fair conditions.
11. Two shoes pitched by each player makes an "inning," "frame" or "box."
12. Points are scored only after each player has thrown his 2 shoes, when shoes are then in "scoring position."
13. A shoe must be within 6 inches from the stake to score.
14. In the ordinary "cancel" game, one player only scores in any inning.
15. The shoe closest to stake scores 1 point.
16. Two shoes closer than opponent's are 2 points.
17. One ringer scores 3 points.
18. Two ringers 6 points, if none by opponent.

19. One R and closest shoe by same player 4 points.
20. Player having 2R against 1R gets 3 points.
21. When 1 R by each, the next closest shoe scores 1 point.
22. 2 R by each cancels all but Rs are credited in score-sheet Box of each player, so to compute ringer percentage.
23. All opposing equals or ties score no points.
24. A "leaner" shoe has no value over one that touches the stake.
25. Choice of first pitch to start a game is usually made by tossing up a shoe or coin.
26. a. The first pitch of an inning goes to the point winner of the preceding inning. b. in case of a non-scoring inning the last pitcher pitches first the next inning.
27. The loser of a game has choice of first pitch for next game when with same opponent.
28. Points each inning are ordinarily settled by the players, but a referee may be called when pitchers do not agree.
29. a. Before shoes are touched each inning the one who scores shall call out the result to the scorekeeper. b. In case of tie the last pitcher calls.
30. The definition of a ringer is a shoe around the stake enough that a straight-edge will touch across the opening or heel ends of the shoe without touching the stake.
31. If a pitched shoe breaks the player may pitch another in its place.

Pitch Ohio Horseshoes and Increase Your Ringer Percentage



1952 MODEL
Made in 4 tempers

"CASEY" JONES champion horse-shoe 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 \$4.00 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 31 years.)

Station F

Columbus, Ohio

32. Convenient abbreviations on score sheets are: P for Points, R for Ringers, DR for Double Ringers, SP for shoes pitched, Pc. percentage ringers, OP opponents points, W games Won, L games lost.

Fouls:

33. Any declared foul shoe shall not be scored.

34. A foul may be called if a player touches a shoe before point winner is settled after each pitched inning.

35. Heckling is not permitted. A spectator may be expelled for this.

36. Any unsportsmanlike conduct is foul.

37. Unfair bothering of an opponent may be called foul.

38. It is foul to ask for shoe position before end of an inning.

39. It is foul if a player while other is pitching does not stand in area on opposite side of pitching box and to rear of stake.

40. A foul is committed when a pitcher's foot or step extends on or over the foul line which is 3 feet front of the stake.

41. Any foul shoe shall be removed at request of opponent.

42. a. If foul is protested, decision may be made by referee or score-keeper. b. Any such officials may declare a foul whenever proper, or rule thereon.

* * *

THE CASE IS CLOSED

By ROY W. SMITH, Author of "Science At The Stake"

A double salute to Andy Moehn of Minnesota for his very fine article in the April issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher. You really hit the nail on the head, Andy. Mr. Beller's piece was excellent too and if he is still wondering why all the many good suggestions submitted for the betterment of the game and the NHPA are blindly and blandly ignored, Mr. Moehn's article explains why. Many others are convinced that the NHPA, with its present policies is a dictatorship as absolute as any on earth.

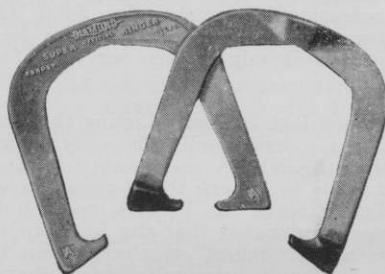
In 1949, I devoted a great deal of time to boosting and publicizing the scoring devices. Some opposed them and wailed that a truck would have to be bought to carry them around. If it hadn't been for me, the first scoring machine built and demonstrated on the courts at Pomona, during the Los Angeles County Fair, would have been thrown off the courts. The progressive people of Utah assumed the added expense of the machine in putting the game over to the public. Now, even the most thick-headed individuals realize the great value of the devices.

Also, in 1949, I contacted a publicity and advertising man for a major oil company here. When I mentioned \$7,500 as a hoped for prize list in the near future, he seemed to regard this as not too high a figure and said that it was just a fraction of the amount his company spent on advertising each year. But, he couldn't see tying up \$7,000 or \$8,000 for pitching courts and having them lay idle for fifty weeks out of the year. I suggested the possibility of portable pitching boxes that could be easily and quickly moved in and out of stadiums which were already lighted, equipped with seats and full facilities for radio and television hookups. Then, he wanted to know what kind of a SHOW they would get for their money. Again, I was able to submit several suggestions of which he approved. Then, I began to preach the value of COLOR and SHOWMANSHIP in presenting the big tournaments to the audiences. I asked for a 50-50 chance to take time off from my job so I could go and put some of my ideas into action. The first and only time I ever asked the NHPA for a little cooperation, I was given every



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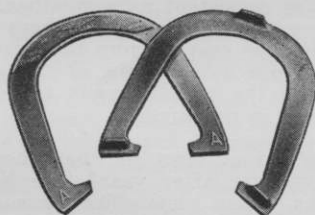
Pitching Horseshoes



SUPER RINGER



EAGLE RINGER



DIAMOND JUNIOR

STOCKED BY
LEADING JOBBERS
EVERYWHERE

The finest pitching horseshoes ever made. Every shoe is beautifully made, perfectly balanced, designed to catch the stake with the least danger of bouncing or sliding off. Diamond Pitching Shoes are drop forged from special carbon steel heat-treated to prevent chipping or breaking, without destroying dead falling qualities.

"THERE'S NOTHING FINER THAN A DIAMOND"

DIAMOND CALK
HORSESHOE COMPANY

4615 GRAND AVENUE

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

excuse under the sun as to why it couldn't be done. The NHPA wouldn't put up five cents unless it could see \$500 coming back immediately. The newspaper publicity I could have arranged for was not THAT important! I always will think that by proving the NHPA had some semblance of a show to offer in 1950 and 1951 could well have resulted in a larger bid. The boat was missed as usual.

With the Barnes Publishing Co. and others wanting to know the status of the Association, I, along with several others, began to beg, plead, needle and goad the officers for a full financial report. No soap. It was stated in convention that it would be unwise to let the members know just how much money was on hand because some would want to spend it foolishly. Yet, the members are told in effect: "This is YOUR organization! Just join and send in your dues but DON'T ask any questions about it. It is used for promotion, never fear." At the same time, it was proposed to hire a professional promoter for \$400. Of course, this hasn't been done because a good promoter can't be had for such peanuts. But, \$150 spent in 1950-51 might have served a far better purpose.

When a "report" (?) was finally issued last December, many thought—and continue to think so—that it had a bad smell. The only effort put forth was the attempt to show that the NHPA was bankrupt. And all because such a great sacrifice was made to finance the B-class tournament! Now, some of the A-class players want the B-class meet eliminated. Even though the December report admitted that the less expert pitchers pay most of the bill, the so-called "deficit" is charged up to the B-class players. Why not put it where it belongs? Many others, along with me, simply cannot understand these and many other equally contradictory policies. They are about as consistent as a weather vane in the month of March. No, Andy, very few of the top pitchers want to play for smaller prizes. They are out for every penny they can get and give little or no thought to the future development of the game. They only come out of hibernation when the cake is ready to be cut, then go back and wait until another one is prepared.

And what good would a fool-proof set of laws do when they are thrown out the window to favor a few year after year? The NHPA seems to be keeping three sets of books. When some officers are asked for a clear, honest report, they quote either the old or new laws by the yard. And, if that doesn't work, they seek sanctuary in the minutes of a decade ago. Our 1949 Committee did not have access to such minutes; therefore few knew anything about them. Now, do either of the three sets of laws provide for the legality of pitching shoes to be ruled upon, unsight and unseen, by way of telegrams? And there was McLaughlin of Canada, all warmed up and ready to qualify with a pair of the most legal of all shoes, who was forced to wait and cool off while his shoes were checked! No wonder he almost failed to qualify after his long, hard trip. Is such bungling as that any way to promote the sport on an international basis?

I want to thank Secretary Gregson for his "clue" to the stamp fund. At least, his explanation is the most complete one published for many years. For his benefit, also that of Mr. Frank Drassal of Minnesota, my question did not concern the amounts of the annual percentage of the fund returned to the various states each year. I asked why all the mystery and confusion was attached to such reports. The same question can be asked about the financial and membership report. Has it ever

been answered correctly? No! It has been admitted to be incomplete. All the members know is: "The membership total was greater in 1951 than in 1950 and the stamp sales have decreased." Obviously then, the players either bought fewer shoes or fewer shoes were stamped. The same old run around. If the officers are ashamed of the organization they head, they should not accept the offices. This, also, makes many people ashamed to join.

I know why the report was issued as it was. It was because I asked for help to go handle the mike and add a few features to attract more publicity for the tournament. My request worried a few individuals. Now, I'll put their minds at rest. Under the present setup and existing policies of administration, I would not touch the job with a 40 foot pole, even if it was offered. And there is no danger of that. Neither would I cross the street to attend another of those "under the bush, two-hour conventions" that profess to plan a whole year's activities with so much bluster and so little action.

I did not ask Secretary Gregson for a detailed report on how he spent his salary; neither did I infer that he and Katie haven't done their part. They have and more too. So have others. I've spent considerable time and money trying to create a better sport and when I question the repeated bungling and shortsightedness that prevails, season after season, it IS NOT that I am singling out the bad points of certain officers. *But, when the inner workings of an organization are kept in the dark and it refuses to meet its obligations to those who support it, I question its policies—or, rather its lack of policies.* Weak excuses are not acceptable but they still come.

Since 1949, I have made a number of good contacts with schools, the armed forces and labor organizations. A recent one was Mr. Raymond A. Hare, American Ambassador, in Jidda, Saudi Arabia. But, last fall, I quit trying to sell something that does not exist. A bluff can be carried only so far, then SOMETHING must be produced to back it. Cooperation must be mutual and, since there has been none, I gave up trying and devoted my time to other hobbies. I've got many letters full of good suggestions and complaints about the NHPA. I've referred the writers to the officers but many say they are ignored. Yet, a larger membership is greatly desired. But the public must come to the game! It would set a precedent to start taking the game to the public as other sports do.

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It is safe to say that the Utah Recreation Commission is interested in only one thing for their tournaments. ATTENDANCE. Wherein the show gets monotonous, or the B-class meet is eliminated and the attendance drops, the prop that the NHPA is leaning on so heavily will be removed. Perhaps, as Secretary Gregson said: "The game needs new blood." But, a blood transfusion won't do a corpse much good. When the prop is removed it will plop back into the barnyard with such force that it will bury itself. I decided, months ago, that I didn't want to be around for the funeral.

Many are hoping that a millionaire or "sugar daddy" will come along and put a lot of money into the game. I hope one does. But, "sugar daddies" don't grow on trees and they want SOMETHING for their money too! Many good men, who have tried to reorganize the sport on a sound basis have been hamstrung and forced to quit in disgust. The same old drifting and dreaming policy, the same old run around continues. Why? The articles by Messrs. Moehn and Beller give the answers. The reluctance of certain officers to present a factual perspective of the organization supplies the remaining answers. Many other questions could be asked. And the answers to just as many are obvious. Let the lip-service boys answer and find them. It is simply a matter of putting up or shutting up; and in my case, I've lost all incentive to put up. So, I am shutting up. I thought last fall that I would write and illustrate several articles on playing techniques, but since the NHPA does not care enough for most of its members to even supply its magazine with pictures of the national tournament players each year, I dropped my idea. Keep everything in the dark and keep trying to force Jake to operate under the threat of a controlled press. However, if I know Jake as I think I do, he will never submit to a policy of refusing to print criticism when it is due. And, a lot is well past due.

Certain individuals can think of me as they will. I don't care. Constructive criticism and good suggestions cannot truthfully be called "confusion" or "disunity." These things have prevailed for a long time. So, it all reverts back to the original question. "The music continues to go 'round and 'round" with nothing coming out but a lot of noise. The rhythm is terrible and no one is dancing. Why should the pipers expect to be paid? My case against the stamp fund is closed. Also, my case, either for or against the NHPA is closed. I can have much more fun, during my spare time, going to the beach and fishing in the mountains. If I should catch a horseshoe with the calks too long on it, I'll submit it to the NHPA for inspection. I have no doubt though, that if some of the big boys have practiced with the model, it will be passed as legal, even though it is as large as a hoop. Good luck! Enjoy the "four story" house of cards while it remains standing.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

The Endicott-Johnson Corp. has just finished building some new horseshoe courts for their workers which are also open to the public. The courts are located on Main Street in Johnson City. This is where their Industrial League will be found this summer to battle it out.

* * *

Rochester, N. Y. also have an Industrial Horseshoe League. This consists of twelve teams representing that many industries.

* * *

On May 24th, the Fort George Horseshoe Club of New York City held a Social and Dance at their club rooms, 1672 St. Nicholas Ave. They furnished music, dancing and refreshments to all those present. The proceeds of this affair were donated to the Empire State Branch of the NHPA to help defray the expenses of the New York State Championship Tournament to be played on August 30, 31 and September 1st.

* * *

The Dominion of Canada H. P. A. have quite a schedule of games to be played this season. Look them over in the "Coming Events" column. Maybe some of you vacationers can take in some of the games.

* * *

Anyone wanting the address of any writer in this magazine can have it by writing to Jake for it. Putting the addresses at the head of each article would entail more work, use up more space and there are other reasons too.

* * *

A subscription or two to The Horseshoe Pitcher will be a welcome tournament prize to lots of pitchers who do not subscribe. Send me the name and address of someone whom you think would like a free sample of the magazine.

* * *

Now is the time to pay your dues to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for 1952. The members of the Empire State Branch can send their dollar to the Secy-Treas., George Hart, 559 West 191st St., New York, N. Y. You will have to show your dues card to be able to enter the State Tournament.

* * *

Did you move? If you did, send me your new address because the Post Office does not forward this class of mail. Lots of magazines are returned to me each month because of this reason.

* * *

Mr. Horace Lytle, of Dayton, Ohio, conducts a half hour program on Station WHIO-TV every Thursday evening from 10:30 to 11 o'clock which is known as "Outdoor Sports." On May 15th his entire program was devoted to the game of horseshoes. As guest stars, he had Paul Focht of Dayton and Harry Sibert of Union, Ohio, two top notch horseshoe pitchers. In the course of the program, Mr. Lytle was good enough to tell his audience about our magazine, The Horseshoe Pitcher. Through his efforts, I received quite a few requests for a sample copy. This is the sort of publicity our game needs. Why not try for more of this kind of advertising?

* * *

COMING EVENTS

June 22, Hartford, Conn, Pope Park—No. Conn. & Fairfield County
June 22, Elizabeth, N. J.—Rosset Memorial Open
June 29, New York City—Fort George Open
June 29, Ontario, Cal.—Open, Class A
July 4, New York City—St Mary's Open
July 5, Listowel, Ont., Can.—Western Ont. Championship
July 6, Canton, Ill.—Open Tournament
July 12, East York, Ont.—Ont. Major Championship
July 13, New York City—Inwood Open
July 13, Huntington Park, Cal.—Amateur
July 19, East York, Ont.—Ont. Sr. Championship
July 20, Bridgeport, Conn., Beardsley Park—Conn. Open
July 26, East York, Ont.—Ont. Inter Championship
July 28, Newark, N. J.—N. J. State Open
July 27, Long Beach, Cal.—Class A
July 30-Aug. 2, Clearfield, Pa.—Eastern National
August 4, Riverdale, Ont.—City Major Championship
August 5-11, Murray, Utah—World's Championships
August 10, Fairmount, Ont.—Senior Doubles
August 10, Bridgeport, Conn.—Connecticut State
August 17, Riverdale, Ont.—Sr. & Major Mixed Doubles
August 17, Santa Monica, Cal.—Class "C"
August 17-18-19, Sedalia, Mo.—Missouri State
August 23-24, South Brewer, Me.—Maine State
Aug. 23-24-25 Hillsboro, Ore.—State Tournament
August 24, Newark, N. J.—State Championship Meet
August 29-30, Toronto, Ont.—Dominion Championship (C. N. E.)
Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1, New York City—State Championship
August 30, Hemet, Cal.—Open, Class B
August 30 to September 1, Portland, Me.—New England Tournament
August 31, Hemet, Cal.—Open, Class A
September 14, New York, N. Y.—Woodlawn Open
September 14, Ontario, Cal.—Class B
September 28, Huntington Park, Cal.—Boys 18 and under

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- 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**—Beardsley 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 View Park, Rock Island.
- INDIANA**—Brookside Park, Indianapolis; Dorner Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville.
- 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.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**—South Playground, Portsmouth; Ryan H. S. Club, Dover Point; Poy 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.
- 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.
- 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!