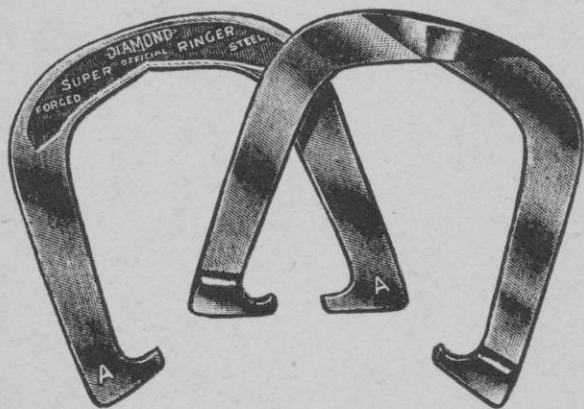


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

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



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Vol. 5

No. 6

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EDITORIAL

Just a word of thanks to those who heeded my plea for articles for the winter months. Ever since I started to publish this magazine, in 1948, the coming of each winter was something I dreaded. When a sport such as ours is practically dead in the winter, believe me that hoping to get articles is a real worry. But up to now I have been very lucky.

You folks won't be reading this until the end of February and by that time many of the horseshoe outfits will be working on their coming schedules for the coming season. As soon as you have them ready, send them in for listing in the "COMING EVENTS" column. This will prevent overlapping of tournaments in many cases. Thanks.

* * *

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

I have appointed the following committees on our National Publicity—Jack West, Chairman; Byron Jaskulek and Ted Allen.

For our local advertising committee, Paul S. Rose, Chairman; and Edward H. McGean.

The entertainment committee, Pete Harmon, chairman; Mrs. John Lindemeier and Mrs. Ralph (Marie) Kampschroeder.

* * *

CANADA

It being a new year, I couldn't think of a nicer way to start it than by dropping you a line to express the appreciation we in Canada have for The Horseshoe Pitcher. Admittedly, we do not give you much material to publish but we do enjoy reading about your tournaments and the problems that arise in the game. Believe me, our problems are very similar. Over here in Ontario, Canada, we have only two large tournaments each year, the Ontario Open in July and the Dominion Championships in August. There are of course, many tournaments at clubs and fall Fairs.

I am a newcomer to the game as this will be only my fifth season. Have been very fortunate in having won the Dominion once and the Ontario three times. Have made, in company with several others, two trips to Clearfield for the Eastern National and would like Mr. Kinhead to know that we Canadians really enjoy their tournament. He will certainly have several of us there again this year.

It is hoped that in the very near future our Dominion Association will be able to hold an International Tournament at the Canadian National Exhibition which will enable us to have some of your very fine pitchers from the States, over here. Would like to say that the article "Your Title is at Stake," by Charley Gerrish, was a very sound idea. Such matches, if held, could scarcely help but build up public interest in the game.

* * *

GENUINE GRIPE

By Anonymous

Editors Note: Because I think this pitcher has a real grievance and because I do not want these pages to be the battle ground for personalities, I am not mentioning the name of the author or the tournament.

As a subscriber to this magazine I want you to know that I enjoy reading all the articles and discussions that come up. I pitched in four major tournaments this year and also in the Eastern National held at Clearfield. There I met many new horseshoe friends and had a wonderful time. A lot of credit should be given to Dick Kinhead and his committee for making that tournament the success it was.

Now for my gripe. In one of these five tournaments I attended I had won all my games but one when I was pitted against a mediocre pitcher who up to this point had won only two games. He started to razz me from the start. He told the spectators he was glad that there was a scoreboard on our court so they could watch it and see how badly he was going to beat me. I had first pitch which was a ringer. Immediately he hollered and pumped in front of me. My second shoe was also a ringer and he again hollered and jumped in front of me. This happened all through the game until the score was 44 to 23 in my favor. From then on he acted so disgracefully that I got angry and upset to such an extent that I finally lost the game by a score of 50 to 48. His actions caused me to lose first place in the tournament in which I finished second.

In all my years of horseshoe pitching he was the only man I ever saw who acted that way. After the tournament was over I complained to the officials but nothing came of it. This was real barnyard golf in a semi-professional tournament.

* * *

INDIANA

By L. EDMONDSON

Received the January issue of your wonderful little magazine and as usual read it from cover to cover. I was much interested in the suggestion by Elmer Beller concerning World Tournament Play. To me it is the most worthwhile plan yet suggested among the many which

you have so graciously published the past few years. Mr. Beller's suggestion is similar to one outlined by the writer in the February 1950 issue of *The Horseshoe Pitcher*, but I believe has certain distinct advantages over my own plan.

I would recommend one or two minor changes with which I hope Mr. Beller will be in accord. Inasmuch as it will be necessary to provide a time for the last two 10 man round robins anyway, why not add two more 8 man groups to the six suggested—thus making it possible for 72 men to pitch in the final qualifying round? This would mean, of course, that the top two squads and the bottom two squads would consist of 8 men each whereas the middle four groups would be composed of 10 men each. If anyone objects to the differences in the number of pitchers within each group, perhaps 8 squads of 8 men each would be the answer.

My other suggestion is simply to divide the Class "A" and the Class "B" pitchers equally into groups of 18 each rather than 16 and 20 as recommended by Mr. Beller. This would allow two more players the thrill of participating in the championship round and would also balance the number of games to be played within the two classes.

I believe Mr. Beller's suggestion is a real challenge to the officials of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association to do something about the antiquated plan now being used for qualifications in the World Tournament.

To change the subject—there is an old adage which says "every dog has his day." In more recent years we have heard the saying "It's a poor dog that won't wag his own tail." Which leads me to do a little tail wagging for the horseshoe pitchers in the state of Indiana and to challenge any other state to equal her accomplishments in the art of horseshoe pitching. We had a record number of 94 entrants in our State Tourney last fall and 56 of these players qualified to pitch in the five classes provided for them. Despite two days of high winds mixed with rain and mud, final statistics disclosed 20 pitchers whose ringer percentage exceeded 60%. And everyone of the 56 pitchers in the tournament carried an average of over 40%. Wayne Nelson, the Class "A" champion averaged 76.9% and Curtis Day the Class "B" winner averaged 72.6%. If the weatherman had been more cooperative these percentages would have been increased all along the line.

I had hoped to see all of you at Murray this next summer but right at the moment the prospects are not too bright. There are certain disadvantages to being an accountant (pencil pusher). Perhaps the thrills

which I experienced at Milwaukee in 1948 will have to last a lifetime. Defeating Tamboer, Dean, Tommy Brownell—scoring a total of 95 points against Allen and Zimmerman—throwing 91 ringers against Isais—well you can be sure I've lived those moments over many times the past 4 and one half years.

Best wishes for a wonderful season to each and everyone of you!

* * *

"MAINE STOVE LEAGUE"

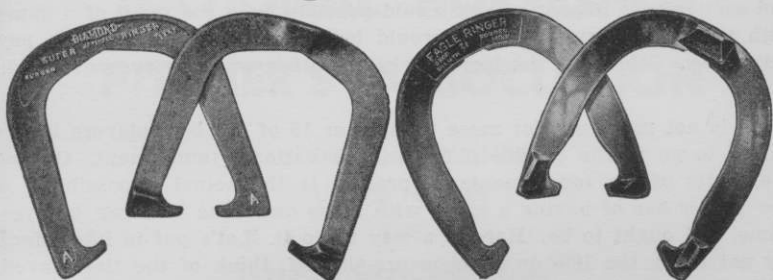
BY CHARLEY GERRISH

After receiving the January copy of The Horseshoe Pitcher from Jake, reading it through, and reviewing a few times, I feel so conversational about horseshoe matters that I've done some mental composition about it and titled this essay as a Maine "Stove League" chatter. I have no right to the Maine part in there, lack authority that is, only that I'm in Maine as I "chat." But I guess no one will object to such license on my part. Maybe we could use a Fireside Chat in horseshoes, especially in snow seasons. Have just struck off eight pages to Roy Smith, so I'm fairly thawed out and warmed up.

The Beller article on page 2 of January deserves hearty commendation. This plan of tournament play would be a help to attract entries and more players of different abilities into the national or other meets. That is one of the things needed to promote and enlarge the sport of Horseshoes. I would like to offer an amendment however, to Mr. B's plan at its start. That is regarding the 100 or 200 pre-game solo test, which perhaps he innocently carries on because of past custom. Some people think this is in the rules. For goodness sake, let's not put it there. We can do without that unfair 100 or 200 solo pre-pitchoff to "qualify." Ladies and gentlemen, this is not a method of "Qualifying," but is rather a method of cut-throat "Elimination." The injustice and pity of it is that it eliminates the lower scoring unfortunates without having the opportunity of playing a single game. I maintain that when one pays an entry fee to take part in any sport, he inherently is entitled to play at least one game of that sport in the affair of which he is an entry. I go so far as to feel that it is illegal for a player to be eliminated without playing a game at all in the event for which he has entered. Misfortune always comes to some good players who do not "qualify" by this solo pre-pitchoff. An epic instance of such circumstance is that of our New England champion Ed Landry, who about three tourneys ago had been a 70 per cent ringer man al season, yet at the N. E. event he failed by a few points in this solo trial to get into the round robin finals.



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A 67 per cent ringer average won the N. E. title that year. The next two years Landry has been our 6-state champ, averaging well over 70 per cent each time, so of course he really belonged in the finals group that year he muffed it. To get back to the Beller groups. They could be Drawn by Lot into 5, 6, 7 or any number of groups, and carry on play in the way Mr. B. outlines. This hit and miss grouping is an improvement as it gives the chance to a lowly player of meeting a top player including even the champion, in his group. Wouldn't this draw more players into entering tournaments? The answer is, of course it would. Isn't this one of the things we want in our sport? The more players, the more interest and excitement. If poor players could possibly have the thrill of a game with a star in a meet, then it would be an incentive for them to pay entry fees. Otherwise the logic works the other way—by present trends

there is not much use for more than 10 or 15 of the best players in the nation to go to the trouble of entering a national tournament. One of the faults of big tournaments at present is the actual impossibility a low player has of having a game with a top one. The lack can be overcome, and ought to be. Here is a way to do it. Let's put in into effect. By not using the 100- or 200-shoe pre-pitchoff, think of the time saved, with its confusion, annoying pressure on tardy or neglected pitchers, boredom of scoring, and vast added bookkeeping that goes with this sorry solo non-game elimination.

Full measure of praise is due Mr. Beller for his Constitution expressions at foot of page 3 and over. "The constitution should be written, so not to bind the tournament play to only one set of definite procedure." This is so right. There should be quite liberal procedure. Sometimes a rule or procedure is impractical, like how to settle tie standings for example, so there should be some freedom of judgment in certain cases rather than a rigid rule to which all tourneys must conform. New things should be tried out and explored, and the laws of The Game should not be written so to forbid any such things that are reasonable. "If the constitution does not permit us to advance, let's make a constitution that will." Here's a cheer for that line, E. O. B.—Doc Berman brought up this point again in the last few sentences of his letter, on page 8.

Horseshoes is such a swell game. What a tribute it is for the Ohio state handball champ to say that "horseshoes has all other games beat as far as I am concerned for genuine recreation and fun," as E. Hendren said on page 8. Them's my sentiments, boy. Praise be horseshoes . . .

That Horseshoes Hoo's Hoo is a fine idea, page 10. Good to have a get-acquainted outline of each of our officers and other celebrities. Let's carry on with it, Jake.

JOIN and SUPPORT . .

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Salt Lake City, Utah

Mary Jones, Treasurer
R. 3, Box 804c
Waukesha, Wis.

Archie Gregson, Secretary
Crestline, California

My approval goes with the proposal of our editor, top page 14, to have each day's play of the National Meet written up and sent to every state secretary of the N.H.P.A. And I'd add to this that these copies be sent to any others who would pay what is needed for them. Many of us severely lack this information every national event. Often it is months after, before we get word.

Byron Jaskulek is a wise man. His third paragraph top page 14 proves it, if it hadn't before been done. Instead of waiting a year or perhaps more, to approve a meeting's minutes, they should be read over, corrected and approved right at the end of each meeting. By the time of the next meeting most of us have pretty well forgotten what was done. Why hasn't someone thought of doing that before this? That is, of having the Minutes of a Meeting read and approved at that meeting just before Adjournment. Mister Roberts and other Rules of Order experts have been wanting, in neglecting to realize the importance of this need in the Order of Business for all meetings. So I move that the Constitu-

tion of our N.H.P.A. Order of Business include this item to just precede Adjournment: "Reading and approval of the Minutes of this meeting."

Thus endeth for this time a Maine-yak's fireside chat, or maybe we better call it Charley's Chatter. Anyway, it's one way to give testimony and speak your mind. It would surely be interesting to hear from many others.

* * *

NEW JERSEY

By LEE DAVIS

From reading the December issue, I am not the only one who thinks you are doing an excellent job, Jake, with The Horseshoe Pitcher and for the game itself. I liked Moose White's article on the classification of horseshoe pitchers. When I read it I felt it was the only way you could classify them. He not only put them in the right category but went on to explain what he meant by each classification.

While I was reading it I felt that a far greater number fall in the barnyard golf class than one would think. The action and deeds of a great many, supposedly in one of the top three, are really in the barnyard class. I think that is one of the reasons he dealt on this class so much. He probably feels that this class covers by far the greater number of pitchers.

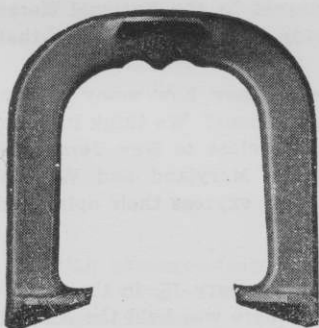
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Station F

Columbus, Ohio

Jake, I like your note at the end of the Oregon article. I still feel that anyone who wants to win on a foul can't really be any kind of a sport but a poor one and do not see how he can enjoy winning a game under these circumstances. A win on a foul is an empty victory while a good clean sportsman, when he wins, glows all over.

We in New Jersey held a meeting in December and elected the following officers: President, Doug Fogel; First Vice President, Paul Puglise; Second Vice President, Walter Haring; Treasurer, Paul Hanas and Secretary, Lee Davis. Many new ideas were mentioned and it looks like a good year for horseshoes in New Jersey.

* * *

PENNSYLVANIA

By J. E. FULTON

We here in New Freedom, Pa. have eight new courts and want to hold a Pennsylvania State Open Tournament this coming Summer. This is in the southern part of Pennsylvania, seventeen miles south of York, Pa. This tournament will be open to anyone wishing to enter. We are trying to create some horseshoe interest in this part of the State. This tournament will be sanctioned by the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association as we have already received a letter to that effect.

Now, we would like to know how many of you horseshoe pitchers are in favor of such a tournament? We think it is about time this section held a tournament which is close to New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland and West Virginia. Anyone in favor of this tournament can express their opinion through the pages of The Horseshoe Pitcher.

On Thursday evening, January 15, in the small arena of the eleven acre Farm Show Building, there was held the Annual Farmers Horseshoe Tournament. This was the eighteenth consecutive year for the tourney, barring the war years and of them all, including the 1932 tourney, this was, in my opinion, among the poorest, as the champion averaged less than fifty per cent and the runner up a mere thirty-five per cent.

There were eight men entered and were eliminated by the bracket system. Joe Mayes and Stanley Thurston went into the finals, Thurston coming out on top followed by Mayes, Sharp, Eyth and Clippinger. A crowd of several thousand people were on hand during the contest. The courts were in fairly good shape but the tournament was very poorly run.

* * *

Now for a recapitulation. First we find that the average percentage of the first seven men has gone down in the first four years and the fifth year has seen a rise of only seven tenths percent over the pervious year.

The highest average was made by Casey Jones in 1948 which was 87.5. The lowest average was made by Johnson and Brown in 1952 which was 73.9.

For the five tournaments Isais led with an average of 84.1, followed by Allen with 83.1 and Jones with 81.8. Combined averages for the seven top men for each year were 82.2, 79.8 78.5, 78.4 and 79.1.

The highest qualifying score was 547 made by Ted Allen in 1948 and the lowest which enabled a man to get into the tournament was 430 in 1949 made by Larry Geer.

Perhaps, if you go over these records you will be able to pick out a few more interesting facts.

1948

1 Isais	84.8	
2 Jones	87.5	High average—Jones87.5
3 Zimmerman	86.0	Low average—Packham74.5
4 Allen	84.5	High qualifier547 points
5 Brownell	80.6	Low qualifier480 points
6 DeLeary	77.6	
7 Packham	74.5	

1949

1 Isais	83.3	
2 Allen	81.9	High average—Isais83.3
3 Jones	80.4	Low average—Brownell77.0
4. D. Brown	79.5	High qualifier529 points
5 DeLeary	78.7	Low qualifier430 points
6 Titcomb	77.9	
7 Brownell	77.0	

1950

1 Isais	83.5	
2 Jones	80.9	High average—Isais83.5
3 Allen	82.0	Low average—Gatewood74.3
4 DeLeary	76.7	High qualifier540 points
5 L. Gray	75.9	Low qualifier461 points
6 D. Brown	76.2	
7 Gatewood	74.3	

(Bung Eyed Bake and the Stake

One eye is gone, but still I can see,
For the good Lord had once given two eyes to me,
As long as its only one that's bereft,
I'm thankful indeed for the one that is left.

So cheer up don't let your self down,
I still can find my way around town,
And as long as I have a good arm and leg,
I think I'll be able to still find the peg.

O terrible thought, O what would I do,
If I should not be able to pitch the horseshoe,
I think that I would rather die
Than lose the sight of my other eye.

So as long as I'm still awake,
The game of horseshoes and stake,
With a busted bubble, and all my troubles
I still hope to pitch a few more doubles.

So THIS IS THE STORY OF BAKE
Half blind but still sees the stake,
With five nifty fingers, he still throws the ringers
All comers HE'S WILLING TO TAKE.

* * *

LOOKING BACKWARD

By JAKE

The title of this article does not sound very progressive but I believe it will interest all horseshoe pitchers. Have dug up the records of our National tournaments of the past five years. Several conclusions can be drawn from them and maybe the answers to some questions in the minds of many. As you will note, I have taken the top seven men from each of these tournaments showing the percentages they finished with and have also shown what the highest and lowest qualifying scores were to enable a pitcher to enter these contests.

1951

1 Isais	85.7	
2 Allen	83.2	High average—Isais85.7
3 Tamboer	76.0	Low average—Lindmeier74.8
4 Packham	75.0	High qualifier524 points
5 Lindmeier	74.8	Low qualifier458 points
6 Jones	77.6	
7 Gatewood	77.0	

1952

1 Isais	83.5	
2 Alen	84.2	High average—Allen84.2
3 Jones	82.7	Low average—Johnson & Brown.....73.9
4 Tamboer	77.9	High qualifier543 points
5 Titcomb	77.4	Low qualifier451 points
6 J. Johnson	73.9	
7 D. Dbrown	73.9	

* * *

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JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Have already heard from one State organization about the raise in dues. Some of them were talking about getting out of the National. They suggested that the National and the officers issue a statement regarding the benefits of belonging and what duties do the officers perform that warrants the raise.

* * *

When sending in your schedule of tournaments please mention the town and park where they are to be played as well as the dates.

* * *

I'm not out of the wintry woods yet as far as articles are concerned so please keep them coming.

* * *

Know anyone who would like a sample copy of this magazine? 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.

* * *

If you have moved, please send me your new address, because the Post Office Department does not forward this class of mail. Many copies are returned to me each month because of this reason.

* * *

COMING EVENTS

May 17—Audubon Park, Jersey City, N. J., Hudson County Open

May 30—Central Park, New York, N. Y., Empire State Open

June 14 or 21—Elizabeth, N. J. Warinanco Park, Rosselet Memorial

July 3 & 4—Clearfield, Pa., Pennsylvania State Championship

July 12—Newark, N. J., Branch Brook Park, New Jersey Open

July 21 to 27—Murray, Utah, Fair Grounds, Worlds Championship

August 23—Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J., New Jersey State Champ.

August 30—Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J., N. J. Doubles Champ.

Be sure to get your tournaments listed early to prevent overlapping.

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- 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; 3rd Street Park, Bloomington; Greendale Park, Lawrenceburg.
- 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!