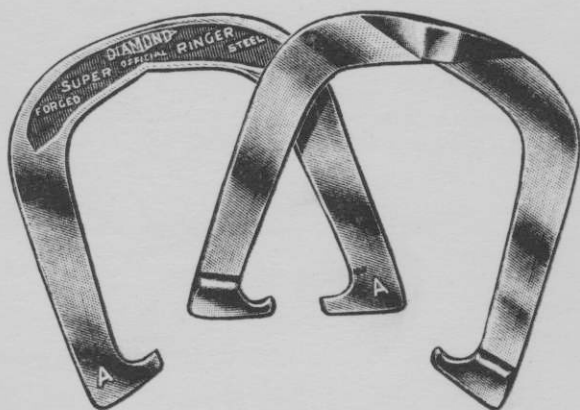


THE HORSESHOE PITCHER

Official Organ of
The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
of America



FEBRUARY, 1954

Vol. 6

No. 6

EDITORIAL

Before we know it the horseshoe pitching season will be upon us. For this reason, I urge every club secretary or manager to draw up their playing schedule as soon as possible to enable me to publish it under "Coming Events." As the pitchers from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut generally attend each others open tournaments it is advisable for them to get their schedules in early in case there are conflicting dates. This will give them time to revise their schedules.

When you send in results of tournaments this summer PLEASE do the following: If possible, use a typewriter but in no case use a pencil. Send in each pitcher's first name and the town in which he lives. Use only one side of the paper. If you will follow these simple rules it will make it much easier to get the magazine out each month. Hope you liked the percentage list of individual pitchers I published in last month's edition.

* * *

THOSE TWENTY QUESTIONS

By CLETUS CHAPELLE

If you are interested in the outcome of these questions, dig out your December issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher and your editor, Jake will give you the results:

- 1—Answer No, by six to one.
- 2—Answer No, by 100 per cent.
- 3—Answer No, by four to three.
- 4—Answer No, by six to one.
- 5—Answer No, by five to four.
- 6—Answer No, by five to two.
- 7—Answer Yes, by five to two.
- 8—Answer Yes, by seven to four.
- 9—Answer No, by six to one.

- 10—Answer No, by five to two.
- 11—Answer No, by five to four.
- 12—Answer Yes, by five to two.
- 13—Answer No, by six to five.
- 14—Answer Yes, by six to one.
- 15—Answer No, by 100 per cent.
- 16—Answer Yes, by seven to four.
- 17—Answer Yes, by eight to five.
- 18—Answer No, by six to one.
- 19—Answer No, by 100 per cent.
- 20—Answer No, by eight to six.

The three extra questions—The majority for the first question was to allow ribbing by the spectators. Second, get schools interested and industry. Third, newspaper and T.V. coverage.

The above figures do not represent the amount of answers received, they are based on average opinions.

* * *

ILLINOIS

By M. L. TATE

Why can a good sport like horseshoe pitching exist for thirty-five years and not advance to the forefront in that time? It is not the fault of the game but of pitchers themselves. Have heard about the request for a history of horseshoe pitching from the very beginning and that all the interest was in the various World and State Champions. My experience with the horseshoe pitchers are that the champions are the poorest boosters of the game. If the strength of the game depended on the support given by the champions it would have died years ago. The strength of this game depends on fellows like Andy Peterson of Moline, Illinois; Pete Harmon of Murray, Utah, and Jake Jaskulek of New York and many other fellows whom I never had the pleasure of meeting and to my knowledge have never pitched a horseshoe in their lives, but support the game with all they've got.

If the history is ever written I hope the one who writes it looks for facts and nothing but the facts and not just who were the champions.

Now for the betterment of the game I believe it is not only a game of skill but an endurance test as well and the best is not brought out in a person in the final hour or the second. I myself have to pitch continuously for about three hours to get my best game. I do not like to see the National Tournament shortened. I believe each contestant should play at least eight games every day. All other sports are based on the condition of the players. Horseshoes should be no exception. All pitchers in each class should get an equal chance at the top place. Some day I'll make it (Class "A").

To improve the game from the spectators view; I believe each State should pick a combination of two colors and that the pitchers accept something similar to each others shirts in that color combination. From the same state, as Illinois, blue and gold and any other state two different colors, approved by the various state horseshoe associations. White is clean but there would be no attraction if everything was white. Horseshoes are mainly played in the summer. Everything that blooms does it in the summer and it adds a lot of color. Let us try it and I believe it would attract more spectator interest. There should be a fifteen minute break after the fourth game and a horseshoe act or something entertaining. This would break up the monotony and the mental strain of the pitchers.

* * *

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NEBRASKA

By T. NOVACEK

I would like to know what it takes to belong to the N.H.P.A. and what their constitution is. I have never read it. What methods at present are being used for distribution of the answers to the above two questions? Does anyone have a plain or clear and fair handicap system which could be easy to apply in leagues or tournaments?

Advertising is the essence of business success. Today, business and sport walk hand in hand. For example, the leading horseshoe manufacturers give a pamphlet with each pair of shoes they sell which has much information pertaining to our game. But it is not enough. Any such information is promoting the horseshoe game and that means more sales of horseshoes.

I want to buy, if I can't get it free, some printed matter to help me learn to pitch a good game but I do not know where to get it. It's not advertised in The Horseshoe Pitcher so what is to be done? The advice of the former sports writer on page 4 of the December issue was very good; in fact a sample of the type of coverage newsmen like to handle best and could be put in The Horseshoe Pitcher.

* * *

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAMPIONS OUTCLASSED

By CASEY GERRISH

We hear it now and then, and now we've heard it again. Those stories of ringer feats by unknowns who far surpass anything ever done by any top pitcher or world champion.

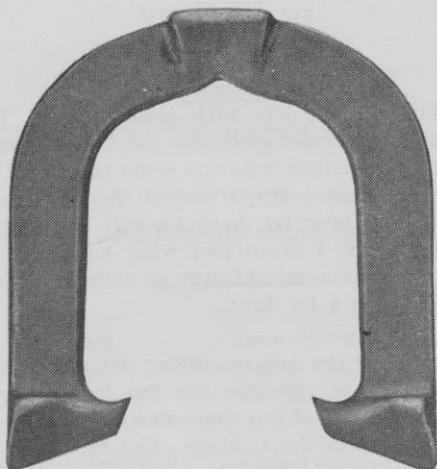
This time a man tells of his father easily tossing 145 ringers out of 150 shoes, as his regular ability. That was five to ten years ago when they were pitching. Right here in a neighboring town, and this scribler never heard of them until 1953. Though the writer has won a number of titles, including state and New England, for more than the past 20 years, now is the first time they ever heard of him. It seems the son could win a fair share of games he had with his father. Three-quarter turn, caulks up and clay courts. They don't know about the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ turns.

A police chief in Claremont, N. H., not very far away could do 150 ringers with 150 shoes. My informer had seen this done in fact by the

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This shoe has been tried and approved
by the best pitchers of the nation.

Designed for easier grip and natural turn.
Will not raise sharp places to cut hands.



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•

DES MOINES, IOWA

However, I am sure we all agree that the magazine is a most important medium through which we all keep in touch with what is going on throughout the country and it is up to us to help make it interesting.

In looking back over some of the past issues it seems to me that some of the most interesting articles were of the type written by H. E. Fredericks, called "Briefs on the life of Roy W. Smith," and the article by J. H. Browning in which he tells about the changes he has seen in the game during his life time. These articles appeared back in early 1952.

I think most of us would like to read similar articles about some of our top national pitchers and also about many of our state champs, so how about some of you doing a little writing of a Biographical Nature, or perhaps Auto-Biographical?

By LEE DAVIS

I read Don Titcomb's article with great interest because I think he has hit the nail on the head as far as making our game an outstanding sport. He wrote the article with the same spirit and knowledge that he uses to pitch horseshoes. He is one of the best and if either Ted Allen or Fernando Isais ever let down he will be right there ready to take over. By "let down" I mean just what happened to Casey Jones this year. Whether it was a case of over or under practice, stage nerves or what have you, it was a let down.

Just a little plug for the non qualifying set up is the results of the Indiana State Tournament. Besides the top men in each class being higher than the bottom half of the class above, except B over A, class D had a higher average than the C class. The top three in B class and the winner of D class should have been in A class. Of course I know that a man can be off his game and drop in his average. But on the other hand a fellow can be hot for a day and go up but not for 10 or 15 per cent for nine games. Unless they change next year I doubt if they will have that big a turn out.

I liked the last paragraph that Alvin Dahlene of Kansas wrote in his article. All too many are willing to sit back and let George do it and then criticize. I agree that we need constructive criticism but not criticism that disgusts the ones who are trying to do their bit. Anyone who has tried to run a tournament or league has made mistakes and wants to correct them; but unless we have those fellows who are willing to stick their necks out we would be going nowhere, but fast! Those

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Cletus Chapelle, 4th V. P.
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Portland, Ore.

Mary Jones, Treasurer
Random Lake,
Wisconsin

Archie Gregson, Secretary
Crestline, California

chief, who could readily do it any time. (Why the 150 shoes, as a standard number-)

Now to return to the present days, and get our feet back on the ground. In three 50-point games with the son who had not pitched for a year or two, the writer won each, with the loser scoring 4, 8 and 2 points respectively.

Maybe we shouldn't be unkind about it, but we wonder if we better not rate these yarns of 150 ringers and so forth as in the class of entertainment? Yet the fellows who tell of these sensational feats seem to do it in full sincerity.

The above brings to mind an amusing story printed in a large newspaper of these parts, about a game of a few years ago. The writer was reported as one of the participants in this notable (?) contest. It was a tough long struggle which reached a 49—49 tie score, after an amazing pile-up of double ringers and cancellations. Then with one point to win, the two opponents had a session of four-deads for a full fifteen minutes, when one of the ringers slid off so the other player got a lucky win. (We believe the only proof for this game is by daffydavit.)

* * *

NEW JERSEY

By W. N. HARING

Here we are right smack in the middle of winter, a time of the year when most of us must lay aside our shoes and be content with looking forward to next seasons activities.

This is an excellent time of the year to take stock of things and make plans for the future so that we can boost the sport of horseshoe pitching just a bit further along during the next season.

My shoes have been idle for several months now and I have been amusing myself from time to time by looking over back issues of The Horseshoe Pitcher magazine. In doing so I noticed this statement appearing many times under Jake's Jottings, "If you want this magazine to contain a lot of nothing during the winter months just refrain from sending in articles for publication."

It would be nice if we could write articles for the magazine and help make it interesting to read during the winter months, but it isn't easy to think of something to write about that others would enjoy.

men who have made mistakes will be better next time. There never was a cowboy who claims he was never thrown from a horse. If he makes that claim he just isn't a cowboy.

* * *

NEW YORK

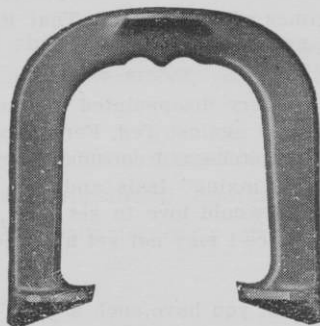
By CARL STEINFELDT

I have just finished reading your December issue and found it, as usual, very interesting.

There are a couple of articles I would further like to express my feeling on. The first one is the good article by my friend Charlie Gerrish. Charlie is 100 per cent right. I do not think the player scoring should always be allowed to shoot first. Let's take a few of the other sports and see what they do.

1. In baseball the schedule is split so that you play as many games away from home as you play at home. The home team of course has the last time at bat so the results are 50—50.

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Columbus, Ohio

2. In football the team scoring a touchdown kicks off to the opposing team and gives them first crack at the ball. They also change fields every quarter. Results 50—50.

3. Basketball—They do the same as in football only they change baskets at half time. Results 50—50.

4. Tennis—The players take turns serving every game. Results 50—50.

5. Table Tennis—The players change serves after every 5 points. The game is 21 points. Results 50—50.

I think that if you go down the list with all other sports you will find the same results. Why then, should the game of horseshoes be so different than other sports.

I hope the executive board will do something about this in the very near future.

The second article I would like to express my feelings on is the system they are going to use for the National tournament. I honestly believe (maybe I am wrong because I have been wrong before) that the majority of the players will not agree to this system for 2 big reasons.

1. You can't expect a man to travel anywhere from 500 to 2,500 miles to pitch just 5 games of horseshoes. That is what he will do if he is knocked out the first day.

2. I for one would be very disappointed if I traveled that far and did not get a chance to pitch against Ted, Fernando, Don, Casey, Gandy and all the rest of the good pitchers. I considered myself very lucky last year to defeat "Smooth Swinging" Isais and Don Titcomb and I am sure these same gentlemen would love to get even. If the new system is used there is a good chance I may not get a chance to meet all of the top notchers.

It is wonderful Jake that you have such a good "Horseshoe Pitching Magazine" that the different players can express their feelings on different points of the game.

I hope some of the other boys will write and express their feelings on the coming National Tournament.

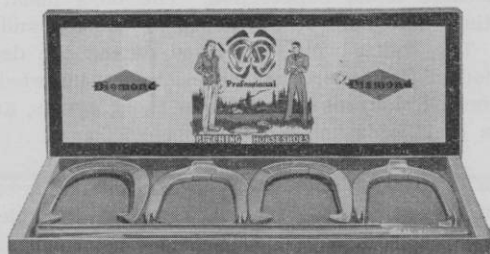
I also hope Archie will write and tell the boys just what days and dates the qualifying round will be held.

* * *



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OREGON

By E. T. PRESCOTT

I have just finished reading the December issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher and wish to compliment the contributors on their timely articles.

I have been a constant reader of The Horseshoe Pitcher and believe it plays a very important part in maintaining interest in a most important sport, which, if properly promoted, should become much more popular with the general public.

Schools have coaches for baseball, basketball, football, tennis, and other sports but they have no coaches for horseshoe pitching. In Salem, where I live, there are two large school athletic fields, each having horseshoe courts where the boys can secure horseshoes. There are no instructors and there is no supervision. The boys insist on pitching forty feet and they take hold of the shoes by the toe and throw them over and over. The courts were developed during the depression and during this period of time there has never, to my knowledge, been but two real horseshoe pitchers developed from those courts, and those two had help from a real horseshoe pitcher.

What is true in Salem is undoubtedly true all over the country. With proper supervision in this sport the city should be able to produce hundreds of good horseshoe pitchers. It is a good clean sport—even if one does get his hands dirty! You never see a horseshoe pitcher hailed into court. It provides an excellent wholesome way to occupy ones leisure time.

Salem has a new, large park under development. The first improvement was the development of a horseshoe court with ten lanes. It is conceded to be the best court in the pacific northwest outside of Murray, Utah. Five lanes were lighted last season and the remainder are to be lighted this season. The local horseshoe club was instrumental in getting the court built and lighted, and while there is much interest in horseshoe pitching here, just think what the interest would be if the boys had proper coaching. Here is one field for profitable cultivation.

* * *

JAKE'S JOTTINGS

Archie Gregson says I just detected an error in the method of play for the 1954 tournament. I couldn't get the total to add up to twenty two games maximum as it is printed in the December issue. Here is how it should be:

Quarter finals—36 men, one night—5 games.

Semi finals—24 men, two nights—7 games.

Finals—6 men, one round robin, one night—5 games.

Top two men in finals play three out of five for the championship—
one night—5 games (max.)

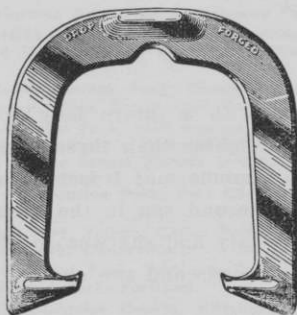
Total—5 nights, twenty-two games.

* * *

John Fulton of Carlisle, Pa., walked away with his seventh Penna. State Championship at Harrisburg on Jan. 14, by winning all his games with a percentage of 75.9. His best high in previous championship wins was 75.0. Nice going.

* * *

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Gordon Shoes have been the leader in the field of Official Horseshoes. The new 1954 shoe will be out soon. The horseshoe pitcher is entitled to the best, so get your Gordon Spin-On Horseshoes today.
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Al Hudson of Providence, R. I., wants any New England team or teams of five men to challenge his Rhode Island team this summer. Tate of Illinois, claims they have a ten man team that will challenge any team from any state.

* * *

Chris Harshman of Frankford, Indiana says they are holding their state meeting on March 7 at Frankfort. All Indiana pitchers can get their state and national membership cards by writing to him at 959 N. Main St. Price, three dollars per card.

* * *

To those who have written in asking about Pyrocan—I expect to get some data on it soon and when I do, will advise you.

* * *

Al Ward and Jake thank all you fellows who wrote me regarding your reactions on the state wide percentage list we compiled in last month's issue. We're glad you liked it. My Assistant Editor and printer, Norman Compton, said it was a headache for him!

(You're not kidding, Jake, it was.)

* * *

Don Titcomb's wife presented him with a future lady horseshoe pitcher. She weighed in just one ounce lighter than three horseshoes, seven pounds and seven ounces. That reminds me; I just became the grandfather of a third girl born to my second son in the first month of this year. Because it happened in January and she was so nice they called her Janice. She only weighed six pounds and two ounces.

* * *

All those members of the Empire State Branch of the N.H.P.A. who wish to pay their dues should send them to Tommy Brownell, Route 5, Amsterdam, N. Y. That means a buck and a half.

* * *

WHERE TO PLAY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

- ARIZONA**—Pearl 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; Bradenton Trailer Park, Bradenton.
- ILLINOIS**—Welles Park, Chicago; Athletic Park, Canton; Riverside Park, Moline; Mineral Springs Park, Pekin; Reservoir Park, Quincy; Long View Park, Rock Island. Big Creek Park, Canton; Laura Branley Park, Peoria; Bradley Park, Peoria.
- INDIANA**—Brooks Park, Indianapolis; Dorner Park, Frankfort; Columbia Park, Lafayette; Forest Park, Noblesville; 3rd Street Park, Bloomington; Greendale Park, Lawrenceburg; Jackson Park, Gary.
- IOWA**—Birdland Park, Des Moines; Riverside Park, Ottumwa; Crapo Park, Burlington; Island Park, Cedar Falls; Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids; LeClaire Park, Davenport. Byrnes Park, Waterloo.
- KANSAS**—Forest Park, Ottawa; Gage Park, Topeka; Katy Park, Chanute; Huntress Park, Clay Center; Riverside Park, Iola; Klammer 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; St. Joseph, Noyes Blvd. at Edmond; Forest Park, St. Louis; Liberty Park, Sedalia; Memorial Park, Sweet Springs.
- NEBRASKA**—Harmon Park, Kearney; Dewey Park, Omaha.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**—South Playground, Portsmouth; Ryan H. S. Club, Dover Point; Pop Ryans, 14 Central Ave., Portsmouth; White's Courts, 942 Woodberry Ave., Portsmouth.
- NEW JERSEY**—Warinanco Park, Elizabeth; Branch Brook Park, Newark; Wessel Brook Park, Wessel Brook Playground; Nash Park, Clifton.
- 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; Recreation Park, Port Chester; Edgerton Park, Rochester; K of C Courts Hoosick Falls.
- 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; Columbia 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; Olney Courts, Washington.
- SOUTH DAKOTA**—McKenna Park, Sioux Falls.
- TEXAS**—Will Rogers Park, Amarillo; Elwood Park, Amarillo; Mason Park, Houston; Bellevue 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; Wheeling Island, Wheeling.
- WISCONSIN**—Washington Park, Milwaukee.
- WYOMING**—Union Park, Cheyenne.

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