

The Horseshoe Pitcher's News Digest

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OF AMERICA**

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Volume 2

MAY

No. 5

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Recently I received an announcement from the Diamond Tool & Horseshoe Company stating that they are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this year. This company has been a pioneer in manufacturing the modern pitching horseshoe. They are now a member of our official family and we send them our hearty congratulations on reaching this golden milestone in their business.

At the time you read this issue, our National Tournament will be about two months away. As you should know, it will be conducted the same as in 1957, with one exception; double qualifying will be allowed for the first time in our history. The prize list will be printed in the June issue, but those interested in it may refer to the June 1957 issue.

It had been our intention to stage a Class C event this year, but the plans may be changed somewhat. If at tournament time there is sufficient demand, and suitable officials available; then such an event will receive serious consideration. The help available in the past has been extended physically to run the A & B Classes. As matters now stand, the answer to the above question now lies in the hands of the members who attend the tournament.

Horseshoe promotion is gaining ground in Oregon. Word reaches me that Canby is constructing ten new courts and that Roseburg possibly will construct eight. This is new area and will greatly increase our facilities. Rumor has it that other parts of the country are coming to life and more people will be pitching than ever before.

Cletus Chappelle, President

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS

By HOWARD J. WHITE

Now that the horseshoe pitching season is upon us and all ready to blossom out all over, let's all help the different club officials get spring activities under way. The success of the season is largely determined by the start. A poor start often means that things lag for the balance of the year. Let's hear those U-shaped irons clang so we can start with a bang.

President Chappelle's message of last month, **A Salute To Our Ever Faithful Ladies**, could lead to more womanly interest in horseshoes. I also asked my wife to write a line or two as did Chappelle and my luck ran the same as Mr. Chappelle's. (fruitless)

I had many inquiries concerning the picture of the New England Boys appearing on Page 5 in the April issue. The New England Pitchers' wish to thank Editor Cobb for printing it and to Mike Vecchito, my assistant Regional Director for Middletown, Connecticut, for sending it in. Mike's postcard, which I received yesterday, stated that he will be up again this year for the big meet. Connecticut also plans six or seven tournaments this year.

Thoughts And Suggestions Pertinent To The Horseshoe Game by H. G. Bowman, Hebron, Maine showed that he put forth a great deal of time and thought into that big 3 page article. Mr. Bowman's big question was on qualifying. He stated that Maine has been seeding pitchers according to their past percentages in the State Meet for some time now to a good advantage. I have noticed that quite a few states are now doing this. A point I would like to bring out is this: In a large meet like the National and New England, etc., there is a certain amount of thrill that comes to the lower group of players who have a chance of trying their luck with the Champ and other top men. If qualifying is done by throwing 50, 100 or 200 shoes, the fairest way to do

it is to have double qualifying so that one may have a second chance if he feels that he is in need of it. Knowing that we have this chance causes us to relax more and show our true pitching. I am certainly happy that they are trying this out at the National Meet this year as no doubt some will attend early knowing they will have two shots at qualifying.

In the New England Meet, qualifying is done by pitching 100 shoes and taking the best 50. You can pitch 50 during the day and another 50 at night if you so desire.

Received a long letter from Stanley Manker, Regional Director for the South Eastern States District. Ohio is very fortunate in having a man of Mr. Manker's caliber as the service he has been rendering is of much value to the N. H. P. A.

I certainly enjoyed Mr. Perl "Pep" Pepple's article. "**Put your Shoulder To the Wheel**". The South Central States Regional Director's regularity of articles that have been appearing monthly in the News Digest just goes to show where Mr. Pepple's shoulder is.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire may bid for the big Eastern National meet next year. To my knowledge New England has never had a meet of that significance. I feel certain that it would do a great deal for the area. Top players like Landry, Comeau, Burgeois, Heroux and others in New England, who are unable to attend the big meet would get their chance to see what they could really do against some of the world's best. I have been told that every horseshoe pitcher in New England would attend this, and if the New England Boys will support me in this, I am sure we will be able to have the meet here next year.

After working all winter on a combination scoreboard and percentage chart, I now have it perfected and am ready to put it on the market. I know of no other like it anywhere. The scoreboard is made out of $\frac{1}{4}$ " Fir plywood and varnished, $11\frac{1}{4}$ " x 15". The clamp secured in place at top of board holds the scoresheets and pencil or pen. The percentage chart consists of four standard size mimeograph sheets that start at 30 and go to 120-shoe games. They are inserted into two waterproof transparent folders which are secured to the scoreboard by 4 staples. To personalize this, I plan to stamp the person's name, city and state in wood at the bottom of the board, on request. Price: \$1.50 each. Please write for quantity prices. Check or money order accepted only — no stamps.

It should be a time saver in conducting tournaments as each score keeper can now conveniently look up the correct game percentage readily with a large comfortable scoreboard to write on. The chart may be hung at one end of the court to keep score yourself.

* * * * *

MESSAGE FROM HANDICAP CHAIRMAN

In the handicap system that we recommended to you in an earlier issue of the Digest, one vital point was left out. It is to be called the Stokes Cancellation System. I have received many letters asking me what system was to be used. "Owing to the great distances involved between our state organizations and their officers and the variety of methods that are already in force, we as a committee believe that we as a National group can become a truly National group if a system can be worked out that could embrace both the Cancellation and Count-All systems. The system must be flexible for all those using it and yet be fair to all. For the present the committee will recommend another system to be tried by the members. It will be a Count-All method of play. Meanwhile please send your suggestions to any member of my committee for a Count-All method that you favor. We want all to be satisfied by having all methods represented.

Our next project after the National convention will be to bring both methods that you approve of and try to merge them into one basic system that could be used by both advocates, and I believe it can be done. I want to thank all concerned for all the cooperation that has been given the committee.

Don Titcomb, Chairman

MISSOURI STATE ACTIVITIES

By RAY CAVIN

The St. Joseph Missouri Horseshoe association will hold an Open tournament on Sunday, June 29. Qualifying will start on Saturday, June 28th at 1:00 P.M. Round robin tournament will start Sunday, June 29th at 12 o'clock sharp. There will be three six-man groups in the finals. Beautiful trophies will be awarded the winners of first and second places in each class. The entry fee will be \$2.00 for each man. Each entrant will pitch 100 shoes for placement in the finals. The top 18 men of the qualifying round will make up the three six-man classes.

The club has six courts with concrete pitching slabs and they are located at Noyes Field at 28th and Edmund Streets, St. Joseph, Missouri. All pitchers are invited to attend this tournament.

SPRINGFIELD, MO. CLUB ORGANIZED

Alfred O. Smith reports from Springfield, Missouri that a group of pitchers from that area have organized a club in Springfield. They invite all pitchers from in and around the Springfield area to join their club. Present plans call for team-play in league competition in the surrounding communities. Plenty of activity is anticipated this season.

NEWS AND NOTES OF HORSESHOE FOLKS

Word has just been received from Yakima, Washington that Mrs. John Monasmith was struck by an automobile while crossing the street and suffered a fractured pelvis. She is one of the Northwest's staunchest supporters. Everyone wishes her a speedy recovery.

1958



The 1958 Spin-On Horseshoe is rolling off the production line, it is a tried and true shoe, used by many in championship pitching. Get the shoe that has made great in-roads of success to many pitchers.

IT IS READY NOW — GET YOURS

Write for Prices

THE GORDON HORSESHOE COMPANY

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Cincinnati 26, Ohio

1958 SCHEDULE OF TOURNAMENTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION

May 18—Class "A" Added — Redlands	1957 Champ
June 1—Class "B" Added — Harvard	Dean
June 8—Class "C" Added — Baldwin Park	Nottingham
June 22—Class "D" Added — South Gate	Wendt
June 28—Special Class "A" (Night) — Ontario	Gaston
July 5—*Semana Hautica—Open "B" — Santa Barbara	Weeks
July 6—*Semana Hautica—Open "A" — Santa Barbara	Weeks
July 13—60 years and over — Montebello	Beller
August 3—Class "E" Added — Harvard	Durr
August 10—Amateur — Pomona	Esperanza
August 16-17—(2 days) Western "Open" (16 Man R.R.)—South Gate	Allen
August 24—Championship "E" — South Gate	Shipley
Sept. 7—Championship "D" — Harvard	Durr
Sept. 14—Championship "C" — Baldwin Park	Metcalfe
Sept. 28—Championship "B" — Ontario	Bonaly
Oct. 4-5—(2 Days) Victorville Open — Victorville	Weeks
Oct. 12—Championship "A" — South Gate	Moefield
*Open Class "B" Santa Barbara may be non-sanctioned tournament — July 5th.	

BALDWIN PARK, CALIFORNIA — MARCH 30, 1958

OPEN CLASS "A"

By JAMES WEEKS

This tournament was played in rather cold weather and rain, but a turn out of players and spectators which was one of our best turn outs in years with Louis Dean coming out on top. The fans said he was the best "mudder" they have seen in years. In the final game Dean pitched a remarkable 85% to defeat "fast track" Weeks. So fellow horseshoer's when it rains during a tournament in which Mr. Dean is taking part, watch out, it's hard to beat a great "mudder".

The Baldwin Park horseshoe club served hot coffee and doughnuts to everyone who was there. So hats off to the Baldwin Park club officers and members for helping us put on this class "A" tournament, thanks from the S. C. H. P. A.

GROUP ONE

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Louie Dean, Pomona	5	0	203	276	73.6
Fred Burkhart, So. San Gabriel	4	1	165	274	60.2
Homer Moefield, Long Beach	2	3	261	382	68.3
Henry Fisher, Compton	2	3	189	314	60.2
George Sechrist, Los Angeles	2	3	142	254	55.9
Gerald Schneider, Montebello	0	5	78	184	42.4

GROUP TWO

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Jim Weeks, Norwalk	5	0	236	330	71.5
Ned Shaver, Whitter	2	3	220	342	64.3
W. Shipley, West Covina	3	2	192	326	57.4
Elmer Beller, Bellflower	2	3	208	332	62.7
Gunnar Hansen, Baldwin Park	2	3	235	402	58.5
Henry Durr, Baldwin Park	1	4	191	336	56.8

The top two from each group played a four man round robin for the championship.

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Louie Dean	3	0	129	174	74.1
Jim Weeks	2	1	145	198	73.2
W. Shipley	1	2	89	182	48.9
Fred Burkhart	0	3	93	186	50.0

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA — APRIL 13, 1958

OPEN CLASS "B"

GROUP ONE

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Ned Shaver, Whittier	5	0	200	300	66.7
Gunnar Hansen, Baldwin Park	4	1	180	328	54.8
Fred Burkhart, So. San Gabriel	3	2	151	308	49.0
Henry Fisher, Compton	2	3	181	324	55.9
Norman Smith, Culver City	1	4	158	322	49.1
Larry Geer, So. San Gabriel	0	5	123	294	41.8

GROUP TWO

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Ralph Metcalfe, Ontario	3	2	225	370	60.8
Elmer Beller, Bellflower	3	2	199	328	60.7
Harry Morse, South Gate	3	2	174	308	56.5
Henry Durr, Baldwin Park	2	3	209	354	59.0
R. A. Long, Santa Paula	2	3	191	336	56.8
Walter Krowel, Manhattan B.	2	3	211	372	56.7

The top two from each group played a four man round robin to decide the championship.

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Ralph Metcalfe	3	0	123	222	55.4
Ned Shaver	2	1	127	204	62.3
Elmer Beller	1	2	108	216	50.0
Gunnar Hansen	0	3	103	210	49.0

Ralph Metcalfe pitched one of his best games of the tournament to overtake Ned Shaver in the final game 50 to 49 to win the championship. Just look at the improvement of Shaver, our class "C" pitcher. In the class "A" Open a couple of weeks ago Ned averaged 64.3%, and in this tournament had a 64.9%. Last year, Ned averaged only 49.8.

Elmer Beller pitched the highest game of the tournament, 82.2%, and this is also the best game I've ever seen our National Secretary pitch. So beware, their's lots of ringers left in the old boy.

You horseshoe players that have not obtained your National card, let's not put it off, buy now.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA — APRIL 20, 1958

HARVARD PARK

OPEN CLASS "C"

GROUP ONE

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Ned Shaver, Whittier	4	1	195	354	55.1
Wally Shipley, W. Covina	4	1	180	352	51.1
R. A. Long, Santa Paula	3	2	170	336	51.6
Henry Fisher, Compton	3	2	167	332	50.3
Wally Haugland, Los Angeles	1	4	162	366	44.3
George Lowe, Culver City	0	5	108	288	37.5

GROUP TWO

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Henry Durr, Baldwin Park	4	1	162	290	55.9
Gunnar Hansen, Baldwin Park	4	1	161	290	55.5
Norman Smith, Culver City	4	1	161	314	51.3
Archie Gregson, Crestline	2	3	106	284	37.3
Bob Schneider, Rivera	1	4	102	262	38.9
Billy Crick, Los Angeles	0	5	93	268	34.7

The top two from each group played a four man round robin to decide the championship.

	Won	Lost	R	S.P.	%
Ned Shaver	2	1	101	204	49.5
Henry Durr	2	1	95	200	47.5
Gunnar Hansen	1	2	120	216	55.6
Wally Shipley	1	2	83	172	48.3

Ned Shaver defeated Henry Durr 50 to 49 to win the class "C" Open. This was Baldwin Park's Horseshoe Club day, the top two from each class were members of this new, and growing club. The next class "C" tournament will be held June 8 at Baldwin Park.

THE MAGIC KEY TO SUCCESS

By PERL "PEP" PEPPLER

Regional Director, South Central States

An official of a large corporation once said: "If I were to decide between two men of practically equal ability, I know that the one with more enthusiasm will go further than the other because enthusiasm acts as a self-releasing power and helps focus the entire force of personality on any matter at hand . . . Enthusiasm is infectious; it carries all before it." The surge of enthusiasm of the citizens of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, infected the former Boston Braves, and as a result the Braves last year won the World Series in baseball. When the radiant light of enthusiasm breaks in on the human mind it forces the intellect and sensibilities into an aggressive state of action. People who go ahead constructively in life are those who pour boundless enthusiasm into whatever they are doing. A person with a purpose, and enthusiasm, and a will to back it up, can accomplish great things. Life will give us no more than we give it.

My purpose in giving these introductory remarks is because I am "enthusiastic" about the fine game of pitching horseshoes, and its promotion. I hope I may enthuse and inspire others, which will result in more people pitching horseshoes than ever before. If we start now to think POSITIVE thoughts we will start to become enthusiastic. It is that easy, that simple, and as profound. Instead of being ordinary we will become extraordinary in our endeavors. Inspiration and "perspiration" will win for us the battle of life, insofar as it is possible of attainment.

Really, there is no limit to what can be accomplished by a horseshoe club if the members once decide to throw off the "yoke of negative thoughts" and supplant them with positive, constructive, ideas. Progress and success begins by creating thoughts that produce action. And, man was born to create . . . to create his future, his destiny, and the course he chooses is all important. Man is the only animal on earth that has the ability to say "yes" or "no", given him through the powers of reason. He can reason and decide to act, and be a success, or he can remain idle, and be known as "impassive, unaffected," . . . and be a failure. We all know too well what happens to a horseshoe club when the members lose their enthusiasm to work for its future existence. It is my hope that every member realizes that he possesses this great miracle power of enthusiasm and will start using it to achieve marvelous results for himself and his club. Extremely few are the people who can truthfully say they are using all their intellectual capacity to gain the goal for which they are striving. Let us all wake up and live to the fullest.

INDIANA DIVISION OF THE N. H. P. A.

By **BOB PENCE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 25 — State Team League matches.
 June 7 & 8 — Qualifying round of Newcomers Tournament at Frankfort (Dorner Park), Kokomo (Highland Park), Indianapolis (Garfield Park) and Geneva (High School Courts).
 June 15 — State Team League Matches.
 June 21 & 22 — Regional finals of Newcomers Tournament at Frankfort, Indianapolis, Kokomo and Geneva.
 June 29 — Newcomers Tournament Championship finals at Highland Park, Kokomo.
 July 4, 5 & 6 — MIDWEST RINGER ROUND UP at Dorner Park, Frankfort.
 July 13 — State Team League matches.
 July 19 & 20 — Qualifying round of Northern Indiana Tournament at Wabash (City Park), Lafayette (Kingma Courts), Geneva (High School Courts) and Gary (Ridge Road Courts).
 July 26 & 27 — Northern Indiana finals at City Park, Wabash.
 July 27 — State Team League matches.
 August 3 — State Team League matches.
 August 10 — State Team League matches.
 August 15 — Hoosier Classic Invitational at Rensselaer.
 August 16 & 17 — Qualifying round of the INDIANA STATE TOURNAMENT at Frankfort (Dorner Park), Wabash (City Park), Muncie (Heekin Park) and Bethel Courts.
 August 24 — Old Timers Tournament at Milligan Park, Crawfordsville.
 August 24 — State Juniors Tournament at Kingma Courts, Lafayette.
 August 30, 31 & Sept. 1 — INDIANA STATE TOURNAMENT at State Fair Grounds, Indianapolis.

Work on the ten new courts being constructed at the high school athletic field in Geneva was started in April and will give Indiana another fine set of courts.

Paul Tattman reports that the city of Portland has been donated a 17 acre tract of land for an athletic field and the horseshoe pitchers of that city are endeavoring to have horseshoe courts made a part of the construction program.

Cecil Sutton, head of the Chamber of Commerce in Rensselaer has written the Secretary of the Indiana Division of the N.H.P.A. asking the Association to supply players for an exhibition match for the city's Fourth of July celebration and for six or eight top caliber players to participate in an Invitational Tournament at the Jasper County Fair in Rensselaer on Friday afternoon, August 15.

Oris Harshman and Nelson Pickering are working hard in preparation for the annual MIDWEST "RINGER ROUND UP" Tournament to be held at Dorner Park, Frankfort over the Fourth of July week end. They are busy raising prize money and getting out an eight page souvenir program. \$600 in prizes and trophies is expected to be available and the prize distribution employ the "Pickering Plan" whereby each player receives a specified amount of cash for each game won plus a bonus for the players finishing first and second in each of the six classes.

Northern Indiana Tournament

Finals in the fifth annual Northern Indiana Tournament will be held at City Park in Wabash, Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27.

A 100 shoe qualifying round will be held the previous week end at three centers, the Kingma Courts in Lafayette, the Geneva High School Courts and at City Park in Wabash in order that traveling will be held at a minimum. Players may qualify on any of the three sets of courts they desire to use.

Clyde Green will be in charge at Geneva, Bob Pence at Lafayette and Art Moore at Wabash.

The round robin finals at Wabash will consist of eight man classes, the number of classes depending upon the number of entries. All entrants must be members of the State Association and the \$2.00 entry fee per player will be used for trophies and prizes.

Harrison Maitlen of Berne is the defending champion, having won the title in all four of the previous tournaments.

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1958 INDIANA STATE HORSESHOE LEAGUE

SCHEDULE

May 25

Grant Co. at Windsor
Connersville at Muncie
Adams Co. at Wabash
Kokomo at Noblesville
Clinton Co. at Indianapolis
Bethel at Frankfort

June 15

Windsor at Kokomo
Muncie at Adams Co.
Portland at Connersville
Wabash at Clinton Co.
Lafayette at Grant Co.
Indianapolis at Bethel
Frankfort at Crawfordsville

July 13

Windsor at Portland
Noblesville at Wabash
Crawfordsville at Lafayette
Indianapolis at Connersville
Clinton Co. at Bethel

July 27

Crawfordsville at Clinton Co.
Frankfort at Indianapolis
Portland at Muncie

August 3

Muncie at Windsor
Grant Co. at Portland
Adams Co. at Kokomo
Wabash at Lafayette
Noblesville at Frankfort
Bethel at Crawfordsville

August 10

Connersville at Adams Co.
Kokomo at Grant Co.
Lafayette at Noblesville

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CHICAGO SCENE OF FIRST ANNUAL WINTER

OPEN TOURNAMENT

By G. A. BROWN

The first annual Winter Open Horseshoe tournament of the Chicago Indoor Horseshoe Club was held at the club's indoor courts located at 2015 West Race St., Chicago, Illinois, on March 16th. Art Dugle, 1957 Mid-West Open champion and 1957 Chicago Open champion, supervised the tournament.

Winners of Class A and B were awarded beautiful trophies and many cash and merchandise prizes were awarded to the runners-up.

Frank Palka of Chicago was the winner of the Class "A" division by making a clean sweep of all his games and finishing his campaign for top honors with a grand average of 76.8 ringers.

Walter Crim, a newcomer to tournament surroundings, defeated veteran Ralph Dykes of Chicago for first bid in the Class "B" section. Dykes is the president of the Illinois state association, and has contributed much to the furthering of the sport. Bernie DeCoursey of Laguna Beach, Calif. and Chicago captured top position in class "C" by winning all his games with an over-all ringer percentage of 51.9.

This tournament culminated a lot of hard work put in by this new club and it is hoped that by the time the out-door season gets into full swing all members of the club will have N. H. P. A. cards.

LOOK FORWARD TO VERY EVENTFUL YEAR IN NEBRASKA

By K. C. YOHE, Secretary

As the new secretary for the state of Nebraska I wish to take this opportunity to say how much we in Nebraska enjoy and appreciate the "News Digest". As is known, Nebraska has some very fine horseshoe pitchers of note, namely Howard Robinson, Sam Somerhalder, Sid Harris and others. Our new state champion, Don McCance is another example of youth stepping into the picture. There are many other fine pitchers who are likely to be heard from in the future. Interest in our fine sport keeps growing in Nebraska.

The Falls City Horseshoe Club originated just two years ago. In that time the club with the help of the city has built twelve modern courts complete with clay, concrete pitching slabs and equipped with lights for night games. Thus, we were able to promote the Nebraska state tournament for the coming year. We are proud of our accomplishments. We undertook our first tourney last season when we conducted the Four State Open (Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska). We were surprised and delighted with the results. We plan to hold three tournaments at the Falls City courts this year. The dates are as follows: Richardson County, Nebraska, July 20; Annual Four State Open, August 3; and the Nebraska State Tournament, August 31.

At a recent meeting of the Falls City club, the wives of the members served a bountiful potluck dinner after which we enjoyed the movies taken of the last World's Tournament at Murray, Utah. We want to thank those responsible for such a fine film. We are looking forward to a big year here in Nebraska.

NEW CLUB ORGANIZED IN KNOX COUNTY (ILLINOIS)

A new horseshoe club has been organized in Knox county in and around the Galesburg area. The club began activities during July of last year and has a membership of 65. Mr. Hubert Bradburn, club secretary, is to be congratulated along with the other fine horseshoe pitchers in the organization of this new group of pitchers. Although they all do not belong to the state and National association perhaps in the not too distant future, after they become more deeply rooted, they may desire to affiliate with these larger associations.

They are very proud of their new courts located at the Knox county fairgrounds at Knoxville, Illinois, and are looking forward to expanding this year. All those interested in joining with this new club are most cordially welcome.

MINNEAPOLIS CLUB PREPARING FOR CENTENNIAL OPEN

By GENE ALEXANDER

The Minneapolis Horseshoe Club is busily engaged in preparations for the Minnesota Centennial Open tournament to be held on the courts in beautiful downtown Loring Park. This meet is expected to draw pitchers from throughout the midwest and surrounding states. It is also expected to be one of the outstanding tournaments of the season. The tournament will get under way August 9th and 10th.

The Minneapolis Park Board is in close conjunction with the club and are building four additional courts which will make twelve in all. There are concrete pitchways beside the stakes and also six feet wide blacktop strips between and behind each court. These twelve modern courts are also equipped with high powered lights for night pitching.

Loring Park has a beautiful scenic lake in it and is just one of many that will be found in Minneapolis which is known as the City of Lakes. If your vacation plans call for a visit to Minnesota, plan on spending two wonderful days at the Minnesota State Centennial Open tournament, August 9th and 10th.

SLOW DOWN . . . LIVE . . . PITCH HORSESHOES

By BEN COOPER

Advertising and Sales Manager

Diamond Tool and Horseshoe Company

This is the age of ballistics missiles and of spherical laboratories in orbit-whirls of 18,000 miles an hour, but it's also the age of a leisurely game which had its birth in antiquity and which has persisted in popularity through all the ages without the benefit of ballyhoo.

The sport is horseshoes and it is finding new adherents every day as modern man turns away from global agonies to the ease, relaxation and enjoyment of the life his grandfather talks about.

The game has grown tremendously through the years. I can well remember going to an old blacksmith shop on the West Side of Chicago to beg worn out horseshoes. I was somewhat afraid of horses and would walk past them timidly to get to the far end of the shop to ask the smithy if I could have some old ones. I considered myself a lucky boy to get free horseshoes and still luckier to get out without being kicked.

Pitching worn out horseshoes was quite a problem — as many of you will remember. They were of different sizes, shapes and patterns. They all had edges worn into peculiar contour from miles of pounding on city streets. Often, they required filing before use.

What a difference from today's modern pitching horseshoe — no blisters or cuts from the smooth drop-forged steel shoe!

Pitching shoes are made quite differently from the hand-made ones of the old blacksmith. They are now forged, using expensive and modern drop-forging hammers. A long bar of special analysis steel is heated to a cherry red in oil-fired furnaces. The bar is then bent at the end like a walking cane. This end is placed on a die block and hammered by a weighted die of about 2,000 pounds. This pounding of the steel into a shaped cavity forms the pitching shoe by a method called "drop forging." The excess metal is trimmed away and the edges smoothed.

Heat treating, or hardening, pitching shoes is an exacting process. Making the shoes too soft is not desirable, because they would nick easily. Neither is too hard a shoe desirable, because it would bounce off the stake.

The machinery used to manufacture pitching shoes is altogether different from that required for most sporting goods items. This probably is one reason there are so few manufacturers and that most formerly made shoes for horses years ago.

Although horseshoe pitching is increasing in popularity, the game has not been promoted like other sports, probably, because this must start with the manufacturer and there are just a few of them.

Then, too, the modest amount of equipment needed to play and the low cost of it, has had a bearing. The shoes do not wear out or break. There are no new models each year. It is true some are lost, but usually pitching shoes last a lifetime.

Sales are made almost exclusively to new customers and growth is not fostered by repeat sales as in many sports or hobbies. At any rate, the game is coming out on top or close. It is ranked third in popularity by the National Recreation Association in regard to recreational activities afforded by the municipal park and recreational departments.

Horseshoes is led only by baseball and softball. In 1950, there were over 11,013 horseshoe courts in municipal parks. This figure does not include courts found on school properties.

The popularity, I feel, is due to the genuine interest in a leisurely game that is, perhaps, symbolic of the unhurried life of yesterday's generations.

This is an ideal game for industry competition. It can be enjoyed by young and old without worry about physical exhaustion. It is healthful and develops muscular co-ordination without fatigue.

Nevertheless, competition can be keen, like bowling, both as an industrial sport and as team play. Handicap systems are easy to determine and interest is higher when the low team has ample opportunity to better players.

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association promotes the sport, specifies dimensions and weights, and each year sponsors a world tournament, usually at Salt Lake City.

NHPA also directs activities and numerous contests on the state level.

Horseshoes can be a terrific game. Constant practice can produce expert top players like Ted Allen of Boulder, Colo., who has established a record of 93.5 per cent ringers during the qualifying round at the world tournament in 1953! The all-time record in tournament play was 87.5 per cent ringers for 31 games, made at the world tournament at Milwaukee in 1948 by Casey Jones.

For those who have not watched good pitchers, I suggest you go down to the local park some evening and relax awhile and watch.

It's a simple matter to set up courts for a game that will help anyone slow down, relax and LIVE.

Editor's Note: The above article appeared in the April issue of THE SPORTING GOODS DEALER. We are grateful to Diamond Tool for their efforts in promoting the horseshoe sport and extend our best wishes to them in this their "golden anniversary year".

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UTAH'S NATIONAL SANCTIONED OPEN TOURNAMENT

By WILFORD ANDELIN, Secretary

These tournaments are strictly open meets, and any one is invited who has a national card. We find that this has perked up interest in Horseshoe pitching here in Utah tremendously. Many of the cities and places (prison) have built new courts just to get in on the circuit.

At the Utah State Prison the players salvaged some cement, had some sand and gravel hauled in and built 8 regulation and fine courts. They received a load of fine clay from the local brick factory — the same outfit that furnishes the clay for the World's tournament.

Each year they look forward to their state sponsored, nationally sanctioned Open tournament. Players from 150 miles South to 70 miles North come and enter it. It is strictly a championship meet, played off on the same basis as any of our state tournaments.

Utah's Nationally Sanctioned Open Tournaments:

May 17th, 3rd Annual Prison Open. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

May 30th, 5th Annual Memorial Day Open, at Murray Park. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

May 31st, 4th Annual American Fork Open. Defending Champion, Hugh Galpin, Salt Lake City.

June 7th, 4th Annual Vernal Open. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

June 14th, 4th Annual Salt Lake Open. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake

June 21st, 4th Annual Payson Open. Defending Champion, Ralph Hall, Salt Lake City.

June 28th, 3rd Annual Logan Open. Defending Champion, Ray Ohms, Salt Lake.

July 5th, 2nd Annual Riverton Open. Defending Champion, Carl Davis, Provo, Utah.

July 12th, 4th Annual Toocle Open. Defending Champion, Roger Parsons, Midvale, Utah.

July 19th, 4th Annual Murray Open. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

August 2nd, 4th Annual West Jordan Open. Defending Champion, Leighton Edmondson, Union, Utah.

August 23rd, 4th Annual Ogden Open. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

Official Utah State Class A, B and C Tournaments:

Class A, Friday and Saturday, August 8th and 9th at Murray Park, Murray, Utah. Defending Champion, Clive Wahlin, Salt Lake.

Class B, Friday and Saturday, August 15th and 16th, at Lester Park in Ogden, Utah. Defending Champion, Melvin Swain, Payson, Utah.

Class C, Friday and Saturday, August 29th and 30th, at Jensen Park, West Jordan, Utah. Defending Champion, Jerry Bird, American Fork, Utah. (This tournament is sponsored annually by Marvin Jensen and Gene Fullmer, former World's Middleweight boxing champion.)

Any horseshoe players passing through Utah this summer are invited to play in any of our 12 Open tournaments.

* * * * *

Coming Tournament Dates

May 31 — Ft. George Open, Ft. George, New York.

June 1 — Bryant Memorial Tourney, Laurelhurst Park, Portland, Oregon.

June 15 — Willamette Valley Tournament, Salem, Oregon.

June 27-28 — Lakeside Open Tournament, Lakeside, Ohio.

July 4-6 — "Ringer Round-Up", Dorner Park, Frankfort, Indiana.

July 5-6 — Red River Valley Open, Fargo, North Dakota.

July 20 — Richardson County, Nebraska, Falls City.

July 23-30 — World Tournament, Salt Lake County Fairgrounds, Murray, Utah.

July 26-27 — Northwest Tournament, Ramsey County fairgrounds, St. Paul, Minnesota.

August 3 — Annual Four State Open (MO., IOWA, KANSAS, NEBRASKA), Falls City.

August 3-9 — Eastern National Tournament, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

August 9-10 — Minneapolis Centennial Open, Loring Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

August 12-13 — Illinois State Tournament, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois.

August 13 — Illinois Boy's Tournament, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois.

August 17 — Indiana State Tournament Qualifying at Frankfort, Muncie, Wabash and Bethel, Indiana.

August 31 — Annual Nebraska State Tournament, Falls City.

August 31 and Sept. 1 — Minnesota State Tournament (residents only) Hibbing, Minnesota.

August 30-31 & Sept. 1 — New York State Tournament, Johnson City, New York.

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FORT GEORGE (N. Y.) CLUB TO HOLD SPRING TOURNAMENT OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END

The annual spring horseshoe pitching tournament of the Fort George Horseshoe Club will be held at the Fort George Park courts on Saturday, May 31st starting at 1 o'clock. In case of rain the meet will be held Sunday, June 1st. Tom O'Gara, club president will direct the activities.

Trophies will be awarded in Classes A, B, and C.

NEWS FROM IDAHO STATE ASSOCIATION

By JAMES KOSTERMAN

We are happy to be a part of that organization which does so much for horseshoe players everywhere. Idaho is just starting its first year as a charter member of the N. H. P. A. Most of the horseshoe playing on an organized basis is centered around our capitol city of Boise. We had several tournaments last year. The Boise City Horseshoe Club sponsored and managed most of the tournaments. They also conducted a handicap league patterned after Art Leides, Washington State Secretary's most successful method of handicap play.

The Boise Club has already managed its first tournament this year. This play was for the Pac-Out Trophy. The holder of trophy must defend it the last Sunday of each month. This play has proved to be a big factor in promoting horseshoe competition and also to receive favorable publicity in local newspapers. This play is on a one loss elimination basis.

We take no credit for originating this monthly competition. It was a suggestion from our capable president, Cletus, and has certainly proved to be popular.

E. J. Wiley of Nampa, Idaho's great player, who many remember at Murry, it the present holder of the Pac-Out Trophy; however he is going to receive plenty of competition, for Idaho has some other capable players. Ivan McKenzie, our new State president, holder of the Boise City title, Kleffner Horseshoe Open and a great competitor is one of several Wiley must defeat to hold the trophy.

* * * * *

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE LET'S BECOME PUBLICITY MINDED

Dear N. H. P. A. Members:

I have a big favor to ask of you. Will each of you be co-workers with me — on the publicity committee?

We are a growing organization with many fine players, who need to be recognized for their skill and championship qualities. In the past a Horseshoe Champion hasn't compared with other sports champions, cash or publicity wise. If we are going to interest new and young members, in becoming Champions we will have to give them something to work toward.

How are we going to enthuse someone else in the sport unless we members show some enthusiasm, by **working** to get the game publicized?

"You have ideas for getting the Horseshoe sport in the public eye. Put these ideas to work in your own locality."

Dr. Sol. Berman, Elizabeth, New Jersey, sent me some of his good ideas. I also received some workable plans from Stanley Manker of Martinsville, Ohio.

In order to gain more members and the public interest, which will in turn get more paid sponsorships — we need to have a goal. We, the members, are going to have to meet this goal individually.

Here is my suggestion.

TO START —

To the President or Secretary of each local Horseshoe club or group: (If you have no organized group, proceed alone and you soon will have.) —;

Will you — **right now**, get the following, in your local paper and over your local Radio and T. V.?

A picture of a local player, with some local club information and an invitation to join your group and the N. P. H. A. Follow this up every week or as often as you can, with pre-tournament news and some personality and background of your individual members.

Sell it to the Ladies Too. (Outlined Suggestions)

Ladies:

A Horseshoe wife needn't be the proverbial "Horseshoe Widow." Horseshoe is a clean outdoor, competitive sport, which is not expensive to take part in. It pays off, not only in a feeling of satisfaction, but in lasting family friendships.

When you encourage your husband to play horseshoe, you are doing your whole family a big favor. You are most welcome at the tournaments. Enjoy a picnic and family outing, and boost "your" player's morale!

Why do we have so much Juvenile Delinquency in our Country? Because families are not sticking together. The family that **plays** together, stays together.

We need some of the old traditional family group activities. Encourage your boys and girls to play Horseshoe. Get out there and play with them. Create a feeling of family closeness by becoming interested in a family sport. Everyone, old and young can play Horseshoe.

Statistics prove that the person with a hobby lives longer and doesn't become old in spirit. Keep young at heart by making Horseshoe your hobby.

Try it for excitement. I would compare it to fishing; When you catch a fish you just can't wait to catch another. In Horseshoe, when you make a ringer, you just can't wait to make the next one.

Pitch Horseshoe for Health, Happiness and family unity.

(Off the record; If we all do our part in selling the sport, we can add **WEALTH** to this list of benefits.)

Lets all get in there and **Pitch** Publicity.

Elois Standard
Publicity Chairman

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

I received a list of 1958 memberships from Mr. Beller and from that list it indicates that about half of our last years' members are still to be heard from. It is urged that all who have not sent in their 1958 dues to their state secretary please do so NOW. Leading the list of states in 1958 memberships was California, first with 96 and Indiana a close second with 90.

I know that some states are blessed with several top notch pitchers. This makes it a lot easier for the state officers to promote and hold pitching interest. Several state officers will have to work overtime if they are going to enjoy a good N. H. P. A. membership year. There are several ways to increase your membership.

I agree with Stanley Manker of Martinsville, Ohio who says that most of our memberships come from organized league play or sanctioned tournaments. He suggests a method that will increase your membership. Divide your state into five sections, or districts. Have a district commissioner in each, appointed by the State president or executive committee. These commissioners could appoint a county commissioner for each county. The duties of these men would be to promote organized play and toward the end of the season, see that a sanctioned tourney by N. H. P. A. be held in their district or county. I want to thank Mr. Manker for this suggestion. I agree with Mr. Manker that the state and National associations would receive many new members from these sanctioned tourneys.

I would like to ask each secretary along with all state officers to make every effort possible to get their former members as well as new members to pay their dues well in advance of the National association convention in Murray, Utah, on July 23rd.

My thanks and appreciation to all the Regional Directors for the grand job that they are doing.

Curt Day, Chairman



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Drop forged from special carbon steel, heat-treated to prevent chipping or breaking, without destroying dead falling qualities. Designed to catch stake with the least possible danger of bouncing or sliding off. Perfectly balanced for easy control.

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