

Bring the Action of the Hall of Fame Tournament to You

New cameras provide a look-in this weekend

The Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament is happening this weekend at the NHPF Hall of Fame in Wentzville, Missouri, and live cameras are installed, letting you "be" there, in what they call "your building."

The series of five cameras capture the action of all courts, as well as the leaderboard. This annual tournament invites the top 50 pitchers in the 30- and 40-foot divisions with the top 16 entrants in each category competing in a round-robin tournament Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3.

Follow this link to tune in and see "the top guns" competing for \$8,000 in prize money. Further instructions are located at the link for viewing on your computer or mobile device.

Future Hall of Fame happenings will also be live via camera.

President's Message

Kicking Off the Season and the Pitch

by Stu Sipma, NHPA President

I just attended our North Dakota State Meeting on Saturday and am very excited about getting new members signed up and getting our leagues organized to start, so we can get outside and enjoy this great sport!

Just a reminder for everyone (and I know you have heard me say this before) that it is "all" of our responsibility to get out there and sign up new members to pitch this season. My selling pitch has always been it's a family sport where everyone can participate; you get to play outdoors; in addition to getting some exercise, you get to meet new friends and create new relationships; and where can you find a sport that is so reasonable to participate in? Please try and do your part and grow your clubs. We have found in North Dakota, our co-ed league is a league that has really grown due to the fact that it allows couples to participate together. For those of you who do not have a co-ed league, you might want to consider this. I am already looking forward to a great year of pitching shoes, along with attending the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Topeka, Kansas.

For the record, I want everyone to know that the Council is working extremely hard to control costs and increase membership. This has been a real challenge as the cost of doing business has risen significantly.

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In conclusion, I wish everyone the best and hope you have fun in your leagues along with a great year of pitching! The Council hopes to see you in Topeka and believe we could see a record turn-out!

Council Elections See No Competitors for Incumbents

by Stu Sipma, *NHPA President*

NHPA Executive Council positions up for election this year at the delegate meeting are 5th Vice President and President, currently Bill Marvin and I hold these positions respectively. Both of us have submitted our intentions to run for another term. For other NHPA members, April 1 was the deadline. With the deadline past, there are no other candidates running for either position.

Two Repeat Sites to Vie for 2017 World Tournament

by Stu Sipma, *NHPA President*

Two sites will be bidding to host the 2017 World Tournament. These sites include Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana and St. George, Utah. Both are proposing July 17-29 tournament dates and both will host booths during the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka.

Monroe/West Monroe

Scott Bruscato, Senior Vice President of Sales, has put together a bid package including hosting the event at the Monroe Civic Center, the same facility which hosted the 2011 World Tournament.

St. George

Kevin Lewis, Director of Sports Marketing, has assembled a bid package to include the Dixie Center as the tournament venue, the same facility that hosted the 2013 World Tournament.

Three Selected for 2015 Hall of Fame Induction

by Vicki Winston, *Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson*

The NHPA Hall of Fame Committee has elected three individuals who will make up the Class of 2015 and who will be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame at the 50th Annual NHPA Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet to be held on Sunday evening, July 19, in Topeka, Kansas. (See article at right for ticket information.)

Elected from the Player category is Jim Walters of Johnstown, Ohio. Jim is the son of Ken and the late Mary Walters and was born into a horseshoe-pitching family. It is

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not surprising that he began pitching horseshoes when he was eight years old. While in the Junior Division, he won five consecutive Junior Boys World Championships from 1989 to 1993 and did not lose a single game in any of those tournaments. During the years of 1994 through 2014, Jim has played in the Men's Championship Finals of the World Tournament 15 times and has finished in the top five in 11 of those tournaments. Jim is still a young man, and you will no doubt continue to see his name among the top contenders for many years to come.

The inductee from the Promoter/Organizer category is Lorraine Sternberg of Richfield, Wisconsin. Lorraine served the NHPA as 3rd Vice President for 12 years before stepping down to devote more time to her grandchildren. She served as the NHPA Sanctioned League Director during all of her years as an NHPA officer, while also holding down a full-time day job. During her first year as the Sanctioned League Director, she rewrote the red League Handbook and condensed it so it would be less costly to print. During her years as a NHPA officer, Lorraine started the NHPA Sanctioned League Tournament and served as the tournament director for that event as long as she remained in her NHPA position. This tournament continues to be held annually in October. Lorraine was also the NHPA Junior Promotions Director from 1997-2000. For her years of dedication and hard work, Lorraine received the NHPA Stokes Award in 2007.

The first person to be inducted from the newly formed Historic Era Player category is Harold Anthony of Ohio. Nominees in this category are all pitchers who played in their last World Tournament Championship Finals 35 or more years ago. Harold was born in 1915 and lived to be over 90 years of age, but is now deceased. Harold pitched qualifying shoes for 12 World Tournaments during the 1960s and 1970s, making it into the Men's Championship Class nine times. His career ringer average for those nine events was 75.36 percent. This was during the time of onsite qualifying. The Championship Class consisted of 36 men most years and they played 50-point games. Harold was involved in the longest game of three different World Tournaments. Those games went 164, 150 and 144 shoes and he won two of them, averaging 79.8, 84.6 and 80.4 percent. Harold pitched over 3,000 shoes in two of his Championship Finals and over 2,900 shoes in two others. By comparison, in the 2014 World Tournament, only two men in the Men's Championship Finals pitched over 900 shoes and several pitched less than 800 shoes. The male participants definitely had to work harder in those days than they do now.

Hall of Fame Awards Banquet Tickets Available

This year the NHPA will be hosting the 50th Anniversary Hall of Fame Awards Banquet. The special event is open to everyone and will be held Sunday, July 19 at the Sunflower Ballroom in the Capital Plaza Hotel, host hotel of the World Tournament. This is your chance to meet many of the greats of our sport up close

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and personal. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased along with your World Tournament entry (in one check) or separately by mail. Send banquet ticket requests to: NHPA, 17259 Jefferson Street, Omaha, NE 68135.

All tickets ordered by mail after June 15 will be available for pickup at the NHPA tournament office. Tickets can also be purchased during the first week of the World Tournament at the NHPF booth at the Kansas Expocentre.

World Tournament Entry Notes

Deadline approaching; Social Security numbers; and notes for cadets and juniors

The deadline for submitting your entry for the World Tournament is May 18. Entry forms and more information are available on the NHPA website.

Note that you do NOT need to include your Social Security number on your World Tournament Entry Form.

Please be sure, when submitting your entry, you are registering in the proper division. Parents of cadet and junior pitchers, this is especially important so your child will not be disqualified from the competition. Note also, we raised the adult entry fee from \$125 to \$130. The additional five dollars will go toward covering World Tournament expenses. All junior divisions will remain the same at \$25.

Entries for the 2015 World Tournament are Ahead of Last Year

With less than a month to go before registrations are due, entries for the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka, Kansas, are ahead of last year at this same time by 30 percent. More than 50 percent are NHPA members who were not entered last year!

Watch the NHPA website for a list, updated weekly, of entered pitchers.

Hotels in Topeka have more than twice the number of reservations to entries. RV Parks are also filling up.

In short, enter now and reserve rooms or campsites now!

Topeka Taking Advance Orders for World Tournament Shirts

Charters, clubs and individuals are being encouraged to pre-order 2015 World Tournament shirts. T-shirts and polos feature the tournament logo and are customizable with your name – first and/or last – and state. Shirt orders can be shipped to you for a charge or picked up in Lawrence, Kansas, beginning July 11. The shirt vendor will be onsite at the Kansas Expo Center July 11-25, taking orders and printing logos and lettered shirts there too. See the order form for additional details.

Previewing the World Tournament; Lots of Extras Anticipated

by Jerry LaBrosse, 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director

Have you sent in your World Tournament entry? It must be postmarked by May 18. If it is late, you will be placed on a list and filled into the tournament only if an opening occurs within your class.

Remember, you need four sanctioned events in your division within the past 12 months (May 18, 2014 – May 18, 2015) to be eligible. Leagues count for qualifying events.

We encourage all charter officers and league directors to print off copies of the entry form from the NHPA website to share with those members who may not have internet access.

This is going to be the largest tournament we've seen in years, and there are lots of exciting extras in the works. If you have never been to a world tournament, this would be the perfect year to try it out. This is the only tournament in the world where you can go up against a class of players who are nearly the exact same skill level as you are. You will meet new friends from all over the country, as well as some other countries like Canada and maybe others.

Electronic scoring is standard now, and the tournament will be streamed live on the internet. So even if you cannot make the tournament, you can still see the action, and the leaderboards to track your favorite players. NATSTATS Director Rob Hagman has built a custom website to make it super easy for you to tune in and catch the action. There will be much more information announced before the tournament, so stay tuned for that!

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If any of you wish to be involved with the setup of this event, it will begin the morning of July 8. All help is welcome, and the process is fascinating. If you have any questions regarding setup, and what you can expect, contact Terry Cuthbertson.

If you have any questions at all regarding the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka, seek out any NHPA officer and they will help you find your answer.

Tracking and Awarding World Tournament Participation

File provides historical data; patches for milestone years of participation

by Mel Yockstick, NHPA Statistician

NHPA Officers approved a World Tournament Participation Patch, much like the Membership Patch, to be awarded to those who have pitched in 10+, 20+, 30+, 40+, 50+, or 60+ World Tournament events. A new World Tournament Participation file has been created for the NHPA website showing each player's years of tournament participation and results.

Thanks go out to Lombard "Bart" Sargent from Massachusetts who has kept our past pitching history available and up to date by compiling the National Horseshoe Pitchers World Tournament Record Book from 1909-2003. He recorded every player that pitched in world tournaments, their state, class, position, wins, losses, ringers, shoes pitched and percentages, plus other important data.

Steve Summerlin, NHPA Webmaster, took Bart's 697-page book and scanned it into a Microsoft Excel file. From this Excel file, Jerry Smith, NHPA 3rd Vice President, and I have entered records from 2004 through 2014, as well as modified the file by adding World Tournament location, class division and world/class champions titles.

This file gives you a chance to review your own world records as well as follow other pitchers who have played in World Tournaments. It will also give the Hall of Fame committee an opportunity to verify World Tournament results for all future nominees.

The file is at home under the World Tournament tab on the NHPA website. Retrieve the file by going to the bottom of the "WT Participation" page and hit "Download File." The Excel file is copied to your computer, allowing you to save or open it, depending on what works for you. When reviewing the file, make sure you begin at the top of the page, and note the multiple worksheets of information. Editing the file will not change the master file, but only your computer file.

Your local state's/province's Secretary/Treasurer will have these patches available soon.

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Please report any errors to me, Mel Yockstick, NHPA Statistician, via email or mail at 7659 Routt Court, Arvada, CO 80005 or via phone at 303-421-6433.

It's Time I Introduce Myself, Jerry Smith

by Jerry Smith, 3rd Vice President and Sanction League Director, Junior Scholarships

As a new NHPA Officer, I felt I would use this first article to introduce myself. Those of you that frequent the World Tournament probably know me from the stat room, my home away from home for the last five years.

I got my first NHPA membership card in 1985 and pitched in (and won, by the way) my first tournament in April 1986. In November of 1988, I was elected to 3rd Vice President of the Northern California charter (NORCAL) and in 1989 directed the first of many state championships in both California and Idaho. In 1991, I was elected to the position of NORCAL Charter Secretary/Treasurer and, in 1994, to the position of statistician. I felt honored to be elected to the NORCAL Hall of Fame in 1999. I held these offices until 2012 when my wife Diane and I moved to Idaho.

I was elected Idaho Secretary/Treasurer in 2005 and appointed statistician in 2007, holding both these positions today.

In 2009, my old and dear friend, Glenn Jamieson, NHPA NATSTATS Director, asked me if I would be interested in assisting him in the stat room at the World Tournament and the council approved his request. Unfortunately, I never got to work again with Glenn with his passing just before the 2010 World Tournament. President Stu Sipma asked if I would come work at the tournament anyhow and I quickly learned HSMaster and started working the stat room with then newly appointed NATSTATS Director Rob Hagman and crew. It has been an extreme pleasure to work and help usher in the modern technology of HSMaster and electronic scoring.

I was asked to join the HSMaster Oversight Committee in 2011 and have enjoyed working to help prioritize improvements to the program through program developer Kurt Whaley. In 2013, I was appointed to the NHPA Hall of Fame Selection Committee where I enjoy working with an All-Star cast of mostly HOF members selecting the yearly HOF selectees.

Last summer, when David Sidles ran for and was elected to be the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer, I tossed my hat into the ring for his vacant two-year term and was appointed as 3rd Vice President by the NHPA Council. My life has changed a great deal with this position, which includes being the Director of Sanctioned Leagues and the many and varied related responsibilities. This job is much bigger than it appears on the surface, but that's a story for another day.

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I have written a couple of horseshoe pitching books and I guess one could say that my life revolves around the sport we all love. I will be writing about sanctioned leagues in the future and will try to keep everyone informed.

Don't Throw Them to the Wolves; Be a Mentor

by Tina Hawkins, 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

You are always encouraged to recruit, recruit, recruit!

But what do you do with those new people once you get them?

Be a mentor to your new members!

Many people come home from a horseshoe tournament, complaining about how Joe Blow doesn't even know how to call his score, Jane Doe never knows who is supposed to pitch first, and Little Jimmy never stands in the right place while his opponent is pitching.

Maybe nobody has ever taken the time to explain proper horseshoe pitching etiquette to them.

Don't just throw your new recruits onto the courts and forget about them! Take them under your wing and coach them! Especially the youngsters, as they are like sponges, observing and absorbing what is happening around them. SHOW them proper tournament behavior by example.

The lessons need not stop when they put their shoes in the bag. Teach all your new members how to keep score and to judge a shoe. Scorekeepers are often in short supply during an event and that could be because not all horseshoe pitchers on site know how to do it. It will benefit THEM as well. How can a pitcher check the score sheet for accuracy if they don't know how to keep score themselves?

Learning to judge shoes will benefit all involved, as well. When pitchers carry a tool and are able to measure their own shoes and determine who scored, tournaments will run much more efficiently.

New pitchers should also be schooled in court care. Be it a sand pit or clay court, it needs to receive some attention during an event. Be sure to demonstrate those methods to your recruits, so other players will not have to take up the slack tending their courts.

Recruiting new pitchers is GREAT!! But don't stop there! Follow up with your new members and help them be prepared for competition, especially if they intend to enter tournaments, and even the World Tournament. Everybody will get more

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enjoyment out of the sport if all members are trained in proper behavior and etiquette.

Now, get out there and RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!!!

A Little Horseshoe Tournament Protocol Please

by *Bill Marvin, 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director*

The calendar says it is Spring, which means the outdoor pitching season can begin (in most areas). Tournament schedules have, for the most part, been set. Take the time to call in advance to notify tournament directors if you are planning on attending their event. The tournament director will appreciate it, making their job easier.

While on the subject of tournaments, plan on arriving early and help out. Simple things like uncovering courts, setting up scorekeeper chairs, filling water cans ... you get the idea. These tasks take time and should be shared. And bring correct change for entry fee; expecting change for a \$50 or \$100 is just silly.

Membership in a sanctioned league is a good way to give exposure to our sport, while at the same time honing your skills. It is also a way to introduce horseshoes to newbies. The same faces each week will make them more comfortable while learning how to pitch, keep score, call points, every facet of the game. No league in your area? Contact 3rd Vice President Jerry Smith for the details on getting one going.

Thanks for Nomination Letters

by *Stu Sipma, NHPA President*

The NHPA Council thanks all charters who provided nomination letters recommending individuals they feel deserve an NHPA Achievement Award. The council will be reviewing the applications and the recipient will be receiving their award at the Hall of Fame Banquet in Topeka.

Attempting to Break a Guinness World Record

Connecticut horseshoe pitchers Mitchell Miles and Mathew Shanahan will be attempting to set the Guinness world record for continuously playing the game of horseshoes. They will begin at 3 p.m. on May 22 and plan to pitch until at least 3 p.m.

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on May 23, at the American Legion Hall in Bethlehem, Connecticut. Mitch is the president of the Bethlehem Horseshoe League, and Matt is a member of the league.

For the attempt to be an actual record, they must play for at least 24 hours (with 5-minute breaks for every completed hour). Mitch and Mathew will be pitching against each other, walking back and forth for the full 24 hours.

This record-setting attempt is being held as a fundraiser for renovations of the Legion Hall, American Legion Post 146 of Bethlehem, Connecticut. Food will be available and there will be a 50/50 guess chance open to whoever stops by. The winner must correctly guess – or have the closest guess – the total number of points scored between the pitching pair. The winner will take half and the Legion will keep half for the renovations.

The benefit project, called “Operation Sustaining Heritage,” is requesting charitable donations, however large or small. Checks can be made out to OSH and mailed to American Legion Post 146, Bethlehem, CT 06751.

Two witnesses per hour – witnesses can work for no longer than four hours at a time – will be required to verify the record attempt. The record also requires continuous video for the entirety of pitching time, with a clock visible in the video, showing the running time.

If you would like to help with this project in any way, please contact Mitchell Miles.

HOF Committee Says Goodbye to Reno and Leclerc, Hello to Elmore and Seibold

by Stu Sipma, NHPA President

After many years of serving on the National Hall of Fame Committee, Ottie Reno and Andre Leclerc have decided to step down. Thanks to Ottie and Andre for all of their years of service on the committee. As the NHPA President, I have appointed Joan Elmore and Mark Seibold to serve on the HOF committee. My sincere appreciation to these two individuals for agreeing to serve on the committee.

Updated Information on Proposed Rule Changes

by Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

Most of you are probably aware that 2015 is the year for Charter Delegates to consider and vote on Proposed Rule Changes (PRC) to the RGS Book. This voting will take place at the NHPA Convention in Topeka, Kansas, the location of this year's World Tournament. There have been an unusually large number of PRCs submitted

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this year and it is taking longer for our Rules Committee and NHPA Council to process all of these proposals.

So, instead of publishing them in this issue of Newsline, they will be distributed in a future communication via the NHPA to the Newsline distribution list. If you are getting Newsline, the proposed rule changes will arrive in your email box shortly.

Measure your Measuring Device

by Jerry LaBrosse, 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director

I wonder how many games, class titles, or even tournament championships have been decided incorrectly because a crooked or otherwise inaccurate measuring tool was used. Have you ever checked your tool for straightness? Do you know for sure what part of your tool measures six inches for a point?

If you have a caliper-style straightedge, pull out the calipers to a right angle and measure from the tip to the back of the tool. It should read six inches exactly.

The first-ever tools of this type were built this way, and set a standard for all similar tools into the future. This is the way the NHPA views these types of tools. I can tell you that not all tools are built this way, so I want you to check yours to see if it is accurate ... it could save you a win.

We wish to create awareness of the fact that there are good tools and bad tools out there. The NHPA has established a set of specifications for measuring tools. This information will be shared via announcements and also at the World Tournament. NHPA Game Related Sales will only sell tools that meet these specifications.

So before you come to the world tournament, or any other sanctioned event, take a minute to check your measuring device. Don't lose out on hard-earned ringers and points. If you need a new tool, seek out any NHPA GRS distributor and choose the tool right for you.

Council Urges Preparation for the Delegate Meeting

by Stu Sipma, NHPA President

This summer's delegate meeting will have a large agenda with this year addressing our rule proposal changes and two sites competing to host the 2017 World Tournament. The NHPA Council wants to remind all charters that when you choose your delegates, make sure you provide the information to them prior to the meeting so they are prepared to vote and maybe speak on each topic.

We're in it for the Smile: A Few Ways to Support the NHPF
by Casey Sluys, President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation

Please check out the top contributors by state on the NHPF website. There has been some movement. Congratulations to Texas, as they moved up to the tenth spot. Is your state listed among the top 15? If not, it should be.

We have plenty of bricks left for you to purchase. All charter presidents were sent about 100 or so NHPF brochures. If you need information on the brick order see your charter president or see this link. More will be available at this year's World Tournament and anyone who would like to distribute them is welcome to take some back to your charter.

How much shopping does your family do online? Do you shop around Christmas time, birthdays, for the convenience of having it delivered to you home in days? It certainly beats driving a 50-mile round trip to a box store. There is a new program with Amazon where half of one percent of your purchase will be designated to the charity of your choice. The NHPF has applied and received permission to become one of those recipients.

You can now make your AmazonSmile purchases just like a normal Amazon purchase and the NHPF will benefit from your shopping. Our registered number is 62-1671910, if you need to submit it.

It's a pittance when figured on an individual basis, but it adds up if 10,000 people spent \$100 per year that's \$500.00 per year we didn't get anywhere else. Please tell all your friends and relatives about this great opportunity to assist the sport you love. Imagine if we had all your friends and acquaintances participating in this, what a great source of revenue for our foundation and your Hall of Fame. We thank you in advance for spreading the word, and participating in this worthy program.

Share this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1671910> and bookmark this link so all your eligible shopping will benefit National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

We express our sincere thanks to the following most recent donors:

Donating \$10-95

- Republic County Ringers, KS
- Charles Bunner, WV
- Carl R. Kaiser, IA

Donating \$100-195

- Arthur and Jan Anderson, CA

Donating \$200-\$300

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- Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Bricks Purchased By

- Sonoma County Horseshoe Club, CA
- Denise Wheeler, MO
- Tri Valley Horseshoe Club, CA
- Do Drop Inn Horseshoe Club, IL
- North Carolina Horseshoe Pitchers Association
- Minot Horseshoe Club, ND
- Bill Arnold, IL
- Sharon Del Pietro, MO (2 bricks)

Other Income

\$700	Rent, NHPA GRS
\$2,500	Rent, Quail Ridge HC, MO
\$43.50	Sales Income

Junior Profile: Dylan Holmberg

I'll be Back

by Aleena Lepak, Junior Promotion Director

It all started on a warm sunny day in Tampa, Florida. Dylan Holmberg was helping his mom with the dishes when he saw his dad and a friend outside. He asked his mom what they were doing and she replied, "playing horseshoes."

Intrigued, Dylan went outside to give it a try. His first shoe was a ringer and the sport has stuck with him ever since.

Three years later, at the age of 14, Dylan is still in love with the sport. He practices every day in his backyard, keeping his eyes focused on the stake, keeping his mind focused on horseshoes. His practice has paid off. He has won the Florida Junior Boys state title three years in a row, and at his first-ever World Tournament in 2012, he made the Boys Championship class and finished second. Dylan's friends think that his accomplishments are awesome. They see him on the news, getting interviewed, and it has interested them to go to tournaments with him.

When he isn't practicing or hanging with his friends, Dylan has a newspaper run of about 500 papers. At school he enjoys physical education, math, science, language arts and music. When he grows up, Dylan wants to be a construction worker, inspired by his Dad who is a handy man. With sincere admiration in his voice, Dylan's immediate response to being asked about his hero was: "Dad is my hero. He does everything for me. Whatever he can, he will do it."

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His family is one of the most important things to him, and he hopes to one day get them involved in horseshoes as well. Though we haven't seen him at the World Tournament recently, he has big plans of returning. "I miss all y'all and wish I could go, but I promise to come back."

Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore

Who is the Greatest Woman?

by *Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian*

In this issue, we will take a look back in history and determine who is the greatest woman horseshoe pitcher of all time. Very little has been written about the Women's Division in World Tournament competition, although it dates back to 1920. There is a written book, "The World Champions of Horseshoe Pitching," that is somewhere between being published and some other form of distribution. That book does tell all about the women in the World Tournaments and all the other divisions also. Being that I did the research and wrote the book, I am equipped to write this article and determine who are the great ones in the women's history.

It began in 1920, in Akron, Ohio, as Marjorie Voorhees (Asbury Park, New York), won the first Women's World Championship. There was little fanfare for this event, as there were just two contestants, but it was a start for the ladies. That is significant, as the sport was a male-dominated sport, and remained so for four more decades.

The influence of the sport in Florida during the wintertime is what allowed the women's participation in the sport, and its World Tournaments, during the 1920s to grow and flourish. The snowbirds from Minnesota and Ohio and a few other northern states had strong horseshoe pitching organizations that welcomed women's participation. However, most were spouses of pitchers.

It took a couple of years to develop a star of the sport, but by 1923 Mayme Francisco (Muskegon, Michigan; Columbus, Ohio) had won three championships (1922W, 1923S, 1923W) and was "Queen of the Courts." For five years in the 1920s, a winter world tournament was held in Florida, so there were actually 14 world tournaments conducted during the decade, and Francisco won five titles total (also 1928W, 1929). She was a star, and included with those five titles, were four runner-up awards. She was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1990. Mayme Francisco's world tournament record:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1922S	2	7	1	88		
1922W	1	3	0	15		
1923W	1	5	0	114	252	45.2
1923S	1	7	0	145	384	37.8
1924W	2	5	1	122	262	46.6

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1925W	2	14	3	291	566	54.1
1926	2	10	4	222	216	43.0
1927W	2	11	2	252	536	47.0
1928W	1	12	1	245	446	54.9
1929	1	2	0	60	11	54.5

Another multiple title winner in the 1920s was Mildred Brouillette (Minneapolis, Minnesota), who won in 1926 and the winter tournament of 1928. Her career began in 1922 and extended through 1934, and included the two championships and four runner-up finishes (1924S; 1927S - 56.4 percent; 1928W -54.9 percent; 1929). She was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1991. Mildred Brouillette's championship years' records:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1926	1	14	0	228	516	43.2
1927W	1	10	3	246	502	47.0

But neither Brouillette nor Francisco was the greatest in the decade. That recognition is for Laura Lanham (Bloomington, Illinois) who entered seven events and won six titles, and the seventh event was a runner-up finish. She was the best of the decade, carried the highest tournament averages and was the first woman to pitch a 70-percent game in a world tournament. She was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1971. Laura Lanham's world tournament record:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1922S	1	8	0	108		
1923S	2	6	1	147	316	46.5
1924S	1	11	0	212	380	56.0
1924S	P	2	0	43	80	53.7
1924W	1	6	0	145	256	52.7
1925W	1	16	1	245	428	57.2
1927S Prelims		7	0	169	290	56.0
1927S	1	8	1	241	439	56.9
1928S Prelims		7	0	198	384	51.0
1928S	1	9	1	298	538	55.2

If you think the averages were low, they are, if compared to today's standards. Remember these were the pioneers of our sport, these ladies were pitching hookless shoes, and their averages were higher than the events of the 1940s and 1950s.

The sport suffered an incredible decline in the 1930s as there were just three world tournaments held. That doesn't mean there was not some excitement and significant performances. In fact, one of the most outstanding pitchers of all time appeared in the 1933 event. The 1933 World Tournament was held as part of the World's Fair in Chicago, which was also the first world tournament for the famous Ted Allen, and

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for the Schultz sisters of Harvey, Illinois. To this point in time, the highest tournament average by a female pitcher had been 56.9 percent (by Laura Lanham in 1927). So, 21-year-old Caroline Schultz set everyone back on their heels by pitching an unheard of 73.8 percent tournament. Yes, she went undefeated in five games. Her sister Charlotte was runner-up, pitching 65.1 percent.

The 1934 tournament (Los Angeles, California) was even more spectacular as Caroline pitched 81.3 percent to win her second title. Her sister Charlotte was again runner-up, pitching 69.7 percent. In fact, the entire eight-player class pitched well as six players averaged over 50 percent, a feat not accomplished in the 1940s or 1950s. In fact, it was 28 years later, in 1962 that a women's class again had six players over 50 percent ringers. The final standings of the 1934 event:

Place	Player	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1	Caroline Schultz	7	0	266	326	81.6
2	Charlotte Schultz	6	1	290	416	69.7
3	Grace Jackson	5	2	222	334	66.7
4	Grace Zimmerman	4	3	213	406	52.6
5	Dessie Grant	3	4	231	398	58.0
6	Mildred Brouillette	2	5	189	362	52.2
7	Nellie Young	1	7	59	262	22.5
8	Josephine Briggs	0	7	123	348	35.3

Note: Grace Jackson was the wife of Carroll Jackson, son of the famed Frank Jackson. Dessie Grant was the sister of the very popular Putt Mossman. And Grace Zimmerman was from Iowa and the spouse of Guy Zimmerman, 1954 Men's World Champion.

The 1935 World Tournament was back in Moline, Illinois, right in the Schultz sisters' backyard. A strange turn of events took place as Esther James (Hastings, Michigan) came out on top in the qualifying round, pitching 86 ringers in her 100 shoes, and both Schultz sisters withdrew from the tournament, supposedly due to the weather and the wet conditions. Well, James went on to win the title with a 66.4 percent average. Esther James was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1983.

At this point, the Women's Division was discontinued, although there were few World Tournaments held. It was another 12 years (1947) for a women's class in a World Tournament. There were few skilled women pitchers due to this lag, so when the Women's Division was reinstated, there were no great performances or what could be considered strong competition. Often there was the need to recruit players from the sidelines to fill out a class. But most importantly, a class was held and champions were crowned, and that is what is most important. Also very important, there has been a Women's Championship class held every year at every World Tournament ever since.

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A point should be made here regarding Caroline Schultz. How unfortunate that more events were not held in the 30s and 40s, as she would no doubt have won more than her two championships. She certainly was the greatest woman pitcher up to that point in time, and with more titles, just maybe of all time. Caroline Schultz did continue pitching some after 1935, but mostly exhibitions, one of which is on film and available to view in the Winston Theatre at our Hall of Fame Museum. Caroline Schultz-Decker was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1982.

Three events were held at the tail end of the 1940s. There were two champions, Katie Gregson (Crestline, California) in 1947, averaging 50 percent and Anna Lindquist (Morgantown, West Virginia) in 1948 and 1949, averaging 43 percent and 48.2 percent. There was just the one 50-percent performance for the decade.

The 1950s had six different champions and no significant performances. The classes had eight players and there were six 50-percent performances for the 10 events in the decade. Katie Gregson won in 1954 to become a multiple champion (she was inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1975); Pat DeLeary (Phoenix, Arizona) won 1950 and 1953; Sarah Byers won in 1951 and 1952; Hazel Haris won in 1955; Gertsie Selby (Boulder, Colorado)(Ted Allen's sister-in-law) was champion in 1957; and a young teenager from Portland, Oregon won three championships (1956, 1957 and 1959) in the decade. Her name was Vicki Chapelle. She was the daughter of Hall of Fame member Cletus Chapelle, and her brother was Hall of Fame member Barry Chapelle. She later married Earl Winston, who also is a Hall of Fame member. Today we know her as Vicki Winston and now we know how her career began.

The 1960s brought bigger highlights, new stars and more champions. Classes remained at eight players and there was one 80-percent performance and four of 75 percent, and if counting, there were 51 other performances of over 50 percent. That is a traumatic improvement. The decade had four different champions: Esta McKee won in 1960 and Lorraine Thomas won in 1968. At a record young 15 years old, Sue Gillespie (Portland, Indiana) won the 1962 Women's World Championship, pitching 65.31 percent. Gillespie won again in 1964 with a resounding 81.13 percent, matching Caroline Schultz's 30-year record. Gillespie repeated as champion in 1965. Now she had three titles, a record-setting performance and could have been looked upon as potentially the greatest ever with many years ahead of her if she had continued to pitch horseshoe, but 1965 was her last championship. Sue Gillespie was inducted in the NHPA Hall of Fame in 1976 and her world tournament career records:

Year	Place	W	L	R	SP	Pct.
1961	4	4	2	113	264	42.4
1962	1	7	0	256	392	65.3
1963	3	4	2	199	332	59.9
1964	1	7	0	344	424	81.1
1965	1	8	1	343	452	75.9
1966	3	5	2	261	426	61.3

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1967 4 4 3 259 442 58.5

Vicki Winston (now from LaMonte, Missouri) had won in 1961 and again in 1963, for her fourth and fifth titles. Then she won again 1966 (72.41 percent) and 1967 (73.6 percent) and 1969 (79.6 percent). She had eight titles, more than any other lady pitcher, now pitching almost 80 percent, and the last five titles were against meaningful competition. She was the best woman pitcher at this stage of the sport.

To Be Continued

Due to the length of this article, this is a good spot to take break and continue in the next issue with the rest of the story. Please tune in to the next issue of Newsline.

Making the Connection: Horseshoe and the Sport of Jukskei

by Casey Sluys, *President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*

With the first ever South African Horseshoe Tournament having been played on April 3 (story at right), it's the perfect time to shed some light on the relationship between jukskei, a 270-year-old sport, and horseshoe.

My initial contact with jukskei and South Africa (SA) began in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the 2010 World Tournament. The SA contingent was there to showcase jukskei and point out its similarities to horseshoe pitching. Realizing that their Afrikaans language and the Dutch language are similar piqued my interest. Listening carefully, I found I could still understand some of their words, as I was born in Holland and immigrated to the U.S. when I was eight. My grandson Travis took a keen interest in jukskei and became quite good at it quickly.

A plan was devised for alternate visits to each others' countries along with a grandiose plan to combine the two sports under one umbrella called "precision throwing sports." In 2011, a group of horseshoe pitchers traveled to SA to compete in their Jukskei Championships. From there, the plan was put in motion.

The name agreed upon was Precision Throwing Sports and we applied for membership in The Association For International Sports for All (TAFISA). This organization exists as one showcasing indigenous sports to any and all countries that want to become involved. In 2011, Dr. Gerrie Jacobs put together an extensive paper with the argument that "Precision Throwing Sports" should be included in TAFISA's repertoire of sports and submitted the same for inclusion.

We came together under the umbrella of the International Jukskei Federation, which included horseshoe pitching, and originally intended to include petanque. and bocce, but those sports sought different avenues of participation. In fact, petanque was showcased by itself. We travelled to Lithuania in 2012 to showcase horseshoe pitching and jukskei for TAFISA. Jukskei was represented by South Africa and

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Namibia and horseshoes was represented by the three of us from the U.S., Gary Roberts, Travis Sluys and me. Due to conditions that were less than acceptable, this venture proved trying as all of us just had one day, out of eleven, to showcase "Precision Throwing Sports." Regardless, we were able to put horseshoes in the hands of almost 20 of the 65 countries that participated with TAFISA.

The involvement with SA, Namibia and horseshoe pitching flourished though, and as a result of combined efforts by a few dedicated horseshoe pitchers and some willing participants in those countries, SA held their very first horseshoe tournament in early April. Fifty participants pitched horseshoes under a singles format and HSMaster was used as a statistics program. Everyone was placed in groups according to age, experience and/or gender. The folks I've chatted with via the web say it was *baai gezellig* "very pleasant" and all who pitched shoes had fun.

We sincerely hope to continue this partnership with the International Jukskei Federation (IJF) and horseshoe pitching and wish SA and Namibia great success in future horseshoe pitching events. Last December the junior contingent of the IJF pitched horseshoes also.

Plans are underway to demonstrate horseshoe pitching and participate in their Jukskei Championships in 2016 and perhaps hold an international championship in horseshoes. We would like to encourage anyone wishing to take a trip of a lifetime and to participate in both jukskei and horseshoes in South Africa in 2016 to contact Gary Roberts or myself. Time frame would be last week in March and first week in April. One week for sightseeing and one for jukskei.

South Africa is slightly smaller than twice the size of Texas, making it the 25th largest country in the world.

REMINDER: Logo Design Contest entries must be sent to publicity@horseshoepitching.com in order to be considered. Entries are due by June 30.