

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

President's Message

Moving into Fall and Winter

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

As we move into the fall – which has been very nice for us here in the Dakotas – for most of us, the 2015 pitching season has come to an end. I hope everyone had a great season of horseshoe pitching. I know many charters hosted their state tournament over Labor Day weekend. Congratulations to all State Champions and all competitors!

See the stories below for information about award nominations, election-related deadlines and more.

Don't forget to start making preparations to attend the 2016 World Tournament. Many of you have asked me if we were planning on having the same format and schedule. It is our intention to not change anything at this time, however each year is a challenge when working with different groups in different locations.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay warm and keep pitching.

Deadlines for Vice President Positions Upcoming

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

This coming year, 2016, sees our 1st and 3rd Vice President positions open to re-election or new candidates. Per the bylaws, incumbents running for an NHPA office must announce their candidacy in writing to be received by the President and the *Newsline* editor no later than February 1. NHPA members who want to run must announce their candidacy in writing to be received by the President and *Newsline* Editor no later than April 1.

Nominations Sought for NHPA Awards

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

Each year the NHPA votes to award an individual the Arch Stokes Award. (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/stokes.html>) This is the NHPA's most prestigious award and is awarded to a member who has done the most during the preceding three to five years to promote, foster, and build the sport. The entry deadline is March 31.

We also vote to award an NHPA Achievement Award (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/achieve.html>) to a member who the Council feels has worked at promoting and growing the sport of horseshoes. This deadline is March 1.

For charters who feel they have members worthy of being nominated to receive one of these awards, please contact me (link to: stuart.sipma@gmail.com) and I will send you a nomination form or you can find them on our website via the links above.

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

One other nomination for members to consider is the NHPA Hall of Fame. If any of you have an individual who you feel is a candidate, please see the online application (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/HOFNominationForm.pdf>) or contact me or Hall of Fame Director Vicki Winston (link to: horshuvicki@socket.net) for a nomination form. Completed forms must be received by Vicki no later than January 31.

Time to Vote on NHPA Logo Submissions

by [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

In an earlier issue of *Newsline*, the NHPA announced the launch of a logo design contest in an effort to bring a stronger visual identity to our association. We received 20 entries, which were on display during the second week of the World Tournament in Topeka. Now, it is time to vote!

Please keep the following criteria/logo requirements in mind when making your selection:

- **Professional:** This logo may be featured on our website, social media platforms and other mediums (stationery, pamphlets, t-shirts, bumper stickers, patches, etc). As a result, while we want the logo to be eye-catching, it must still be legible.
- **Theme:** Logo must be more distinct, easily recognizable, and have the name of the association (National Horseshoe Pitchers Association) clearly stated.
- **Color:** The NHPA logo has traditionally always been red, white and blue; however, there is not an official color scheme for the association. There are no limitations and any colors may be used. However, the logo must look good in color (if any) or black and white.
- **Integrity:** Logos cannot contain copyrighted material. Logos must have been created and edited by the contestant(s). Logos may not include images or licensed images that have been previously published. Must be easily reproducible and scalable for large and small formatting.

The submitter of the winning design will receive recognition in *Newsline*, on our website (link to: www.horseshoepitching.com) and social media platforms; a \$50 Visa Gift Card, and bragging rights!

Go Vote! (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/logovote.html>)

Rules Q & A: Forfeits and Tournament Requirements

by [Dan Sanders](#), 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

As I receive a fair number of questions about game forfeits, and about tournament requirements, here are several that I've received, mostly by email. These answers may be

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

helpful to you and others as you make choices about the tournaments you enter. Tournament directors should also be aware of these rules.

Q: Is it okay to leave the courts during a game for an emergency restroom break, and then return and finish the game? Or is that game forfeited?

A: Yes, this should be considered a legitimate reason for leaving the courts. But, you must let your opponent and/or the scorekeeper know why you have to leave, and should be back in a reasonable period of time.

Q: I recently had to drop out of a game due to a dizzy spell. I know that I forfeited that game, but what about the shoes that I had pitched? Are they still counted in my 'stats' for that tournament?

A: The answer is . . . (see also below) "... *this player will receive a loss for that game and any accumulated statistics (shoes, points, ringers) for that game will be deleted from their records.*"

Q: After my fourth game in an eight-person class, I was just too tired to pitch my next game. If I forfeit that fifth game, am I allowed to return and try to finish my remaining games, or do I have to forfeit all of my remaining games?

After forfeiting (sitting out a game), you are allowed to return and finish any/all of your remaining games, so long as the reason for sitting out is legitimate. If necessary, you can choose to sit out for more than one game. You should also explain this to your next opponent and to the tournament director, who may choose to put in a pacer for that game.

Q: At my age, I no longer have the stamina to complete all games of an eight-person round-robin schedule. What are some things that I can do to ensure that I can more likely complete a tournament and receive NatStats credit for it?

There are a couple of things I can recommend. When you send in your entry, include a note to let the tournament director know that you may not be able to finish all games of an eight-person round-robin, and that you would prefer being placed in a six- or seven-person class. If a seven-man class, ask the tournament director if he/she will adjust your player number so that you have your bye after the third or fourth game. Also, for any game(s) you cannot complete or start, you can forfeit those games and return for the remaining game(s).

Q: I remember that to receive NatStats credit for a tournament, you had to complete at least half of the games for that round-robin schedule; three of five games in a six-person, or four of seven games in an eight-person schedule. Someone said that this is no longer the rule?

The "at least half of the games" requirement is no longer in effect. The current Rule reads: "For singles and doubles events, a contestant must have pitched a minimum of 100 shoes to receive NatStats credit."

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

Also, please note that this 100-shoe requirement could be met in just a couple of games, depending on the pitching format (i.e. 50-shoe games). However, also remember that if you have to drop out of a game, those shoes pitched cannot count toward the 100-shoe minimum. **(RGS – Requirement 2 – Section E – Tournament Credit)**

Playing Rule 11, Section G regarding forfeits also says: If, for any reason, a pitcher must forfeit a game prior to its completion, this player will receive a loss for that game and any accumulated statistics (shoes, points, ringers) for that game will be deleted from their records. His/her opponent will receive a win for that game and any accumulated statistics (shoes, points, ringers) will remain in his/her records. A contestant may forfeit any number of games, due to illness, injury, or other legitimate reasons approved by the tournament/league officials, and still be permitted to return to the competition. Any contestant who forfeits such games will finish wherever their win-loss record puts them in the standings.

Looking Ahead to the 2016 World Tournament

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

The 2016 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 25– August 6 at the Multiplex located in Montgomery, Alabama. The NHPA trailer has already arrived from Topeka and plans are being finalized for the preparation for this event. For more information, Ron Simmons of the Montgomery Chamber and his staff have put together a video and website (link to: <http://visitingmontgomery.com/sporting-event/2016-nhpa-world-tournament>) that provides a glimpse at the venue, area attractions, hotels, camping information and more.

National Sanction League Tournament: Ultimately a Battle of Illinois Teams

by [Jerry Smith](#), 3rd Vice President and Sanction League Director, Junior Scholarships

The National Sanctioned League Tournament was held in Wentzville, Missouri, at the NHPA's Hall of Fame facility on October 3 and 4. Twenty three-person teams competed for the top prize of \$1,500 over the two days of pitching. The teams were cross-seeded into the Scarlet and Gray divisions and played a full nine-game round robin. The tournament was handicapped at 85 percent and count-all scoring was utilized. Bonus points were awarded when a team won two or three games from an opponent during any given round. The winners of the two divisions then played for the championship. Monetary prizes were given for second through fourth places in each division.

The NHPA and the White Distributing Horseshoe Company sponsored the tournament. I directed the tournament with the assistance of my wife, Diane, and NHPA Secretary/Treasurer David Sidles and his wife Carla. The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club provided valuable assistance as well as staffing the snack bar. Many thanks to all those who helped.

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

The Gray division was hotly contested right up until the last game when the Illinois 1 team of Larry Thomason, Dalton Rakestraw, and Bill Arnold won the division by scoring three points on the last round. This team was the defending champion and would go to the finals with a chance of defending their title.

The Scarlet division was nearly over after eight games when the Illinois 2 team, comprised of Austin Bailey, Ken Reid, and Denise Daly, took a three-and-a-half point lead into game nine. They needed only one point to win the division title and Austin won his ninth straight game to accomplish that. It was the only point the team scored in game nine and the Tennessee team scored all their points to finish only one point behind.

The championship round pitted the three players from each winning team against their counterparts on the other team. The Champion would be the team that won either two or three of the games. Bill Arnold won his game against Denise Daly. Kenneth Reid won his with Dalton Rakestraw. This left the two teams tied with one win apiece, and one game still in progress. Austin Bailey hung on to win his tenth straight game, giving the Illinois 2 the Championship. This team was runner-up last year and redemption was truly sweet, I'm sure.

The winning team received \$1,500 and the runners-up, \$900. A one-hundred-dollar bill was given to the player from each division who pitched the highest percentage game over their average. Jim Kinney, Sr., won in the Scarlet division with a 19.19 percent game over his average and Ron Stanerson won in the Gray division with 18.37 percent over his average.

I am looking forward to the 2016 tournament with hopes that more teams from around the country will enter. Make your plans early as only 20 teams can be accommodated.

The top four teams, all of whom received some prize money, were as follows:

Scarlet Division			Gray Division		
Place	Team	Points	Place	Team	Points
1	Illinois 2	25	1	Illinois 1	26
2	Tennessee	24	2	Iowa 2	23
3	Missouri 6	21.5	3	Missouri 7	22.5
4	Missouri 2	21	4	Missouri 1	20
5	Missouri 3 (lost head-to-head battle with Missouri 2)	21			

Thanks to all of the teams that entered and to all those that helped run the tournament. Like always, horseshoe pitchers came through.

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

Connecting to Showcase Horseshoe Pitching and the World Tournament

by [Stu Sipma](#), *NHPA President*

As part of my duties as World Tournament Coordinator, I attended the Connect Sports Marketing Convention August 26-29 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This conference is an opportunity for the NHPA to showcase our event to a wide variety of cities throughout the country. Over 150 planners attended this conference, along with another 100 sponsors.

During the three-day conference, I had over 47 appointments with various tourism and convention and visitors bureau groups. There were also educational seminars each day to train organizers in the field of planning and executing their events. Once again, the interest in horseshoes and the prospect to bid for the World Tournament remains high. It was interesting to hear stories from the tourism and convention and visitors bureau groups about how the economy has affected their budgets. Some regions of the United States are doing great, while others are struggling to maintain.

From this conference, I am happy to report the following locations have expressed an interest in bidding for the 2018 World Tournament: Knoxville, Tennessee and Charleston, West Virginia. We also have many other locations that have expressed a high interest in bidding.

Publicity/Promotion Director/2nd Vice President Tina Hawkins and I will be attending the TEAMS (Travel, Events, and Management in Sports) Conference in Las Vegas November 9-12. I look forward to these events as I believe they benefit the sport of horseshoes by not only drawing interest in sites bidding, but also in raising awareness among sports marketing groups from all over the country that horseshoes are played at a competitive level.

Regional Directors, your local tourism and convention and visitors bureau group may contact you, as I provided them your name(s) to start the communication. I have encouraged them to team up with their local horseshoe clubs before starting the bidding process, as I have found that teams comprised of both horseshoe pitchers and tourism groups seem to be more successful during the bidding process.

It's Time to Start Fall/Winter Recruitment Activities

by [Tina Hawkins](#), *2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director*

Now is the time to start planning and creating a horseshoe-pitching entry for your local Christmas parade! Most such events occur within a week of Thanksgiving, so get those creative juices flowing!

No need for an elaborate, over-the-top, Rose Bowl-quality creation ... you can bring the sport into the public eye with something as simple as portable horseshoe pits on wheels, with a rope between to keep them at the right distance. Pulling them through the parade and stopping from time to time to allow a couple of shoes to be pitched will be even MORE of an attention grabber!

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

Since we don't all have a Dalton Rakestraw, who is pretty dependable with ringers, precautionary measures can be taken, such as constructing a wire cage around the pit to stop any errant shoes from making their way into the crowd.

A flatbed trailer decorated with horseshoes, trophies and horseshoe pitchers themselves could be a simple alternative. Create signs from poster board with your club name and location to hang on the sides.

With people handing out club information to parade-goers, both options could be effective advertisement to recruit new members into your local club. Give it a try and see what happens!

Sanctioned League Program Sees New Pitchers

by [Jerry Smith](#), 3rd Vice President and Sanction League Director, Junior Scholarships

The NHPA Sanctioned League Program is a key component of our efforts to expand or keep up our membership numbers. During the processing of league stats, I am amazed at the large numbers of pitchers that are not currently in [NASTATS](#). Some are pitchers that are returning after absences, but many are brand new pitchers. The league program is a time-consuming, labor-intensive program for both the national director and the NASTATS director, but the new pitchers being exposed to our game makes it all worthwhile.

Checkin' Shoes and Reporting on Them

by [Bill Marvin](#), 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director

During the first-day check-in process for each class at the 2015 World Tournament, we attempted to capture the shoe brand and pitching style of each pitcher. As 5th Vice President, one of my assignments is shoe check at the World Tournament. With the help of several regional directors, as well as other volunteers, this process went very smooth.

Anyone who has been at check-in on the first day of competition knows about the organized chaos – first-time entrants are beyond excited; there are first-day logistical glitches, and the all-too-early 6 a.m. check-in times. With that chaos, there were most likely a few errors made collecting this data. Surprisingly, there were some pitchers who didn't know which of the 119 brands sanctioned by the NHPA they were pitching, or if they threw a flip or turn.

Nevertheless, we can draw several conclusions about what shoes were pitched in Topeka, as well as the most popular pitching style, and complete results can be found on the NHPA website. (link to: http://www.horseshoepitching.com/topeka/Shoes_Used_Topeka.htm)

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

Ted Allen was the most popular brand at 14.24 percent, followed closely by Snyder at 13.87 percent. By far, the most prevalent pitching style was the flip at 55.93 percent. In second place was the one and one-quarter at 22.67 percent. By the way, the term “flop” refers to a shoe that both turns and flips. Some refer to this as a “flurn.”

Below is a chart of what types of shoes and style the World Champion for each class pitched in Topeka. Again the Flip was the most common style, with three of the eight champions using this delivery, and two pitching one and one-quarter. Francis Signature was used by two of the eight, and the remaining six each used a different brand.

2015 World Championship Divisions								
Division	Name	State	World Titles	W-L	Average	High Game	Shoe Brand	Style
Men's	Alan Francis	Ohio	20	15-0	88.41	97.50	Francis - Signature	3/4 Reverse
Women's	Debra Brown	Vermont	1	13-2	77.87	85.93	Allen	1 3/4
Elders'	David Holmes	West Virginia	2	12-3	78.47	87.03	Imperial	Flip
Senior Men's	Ron Deckard	Florida	6	10-1	58.66	68.96	M & M	1 1/4
Senior Women's	Ruth Rife	Ohio	2	6-1	68.89	79.16	Elmer Hohl	Flip
Boys'	Tyler Howard	Kentucky	1	8-1	72.96	89.28	Francis - Signature	1 1/4
Girls'	Denise Daly	Illinois	1	5-0	64.20	71.42	6 - Pak	Flop
Cadets'	Malcolm Clark	Iowa	1	6.5-.05	67.27	83.33	Glory	Flip

Constructing NHPA and Home Courts

by [Jerry LaBrosse](#), 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director

In the last issue, my article, “What’s in the Truck?” was about the NHPA equipment inventory. The article spurred several positive responses, along with some questions. Here I’ll address some of those questions, providing information for those who wish to build some portable courts for their own use.

The first and most common question is “Where can I buy some of these courts?” The simple answer to that is nobody makes these courts for resale, to my knowledge.

If you can’t buy them, the next most common question is how to construct them and where do I get the materials needed. Having assisted many folks in building these courts for their own private use, I tell them all that NHPA courts are built for easy assembly and teardown

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

without any special tools. So, if someone is building portable courts for home use, the design can be greatly simplified.

The stake assembly is one of the biggest items. I have suggestions for a simple and effective stake that has been tested and proven. The front bumper pads can also be simplified, as well as the backstop.

The rubber walkways are one of the most effective pitching surfaces I have ever seen. The rubber came in three-foot-wide rolls, 50-feet long from a company in Pennsylvania, Dodge-Regupol. We tape them together to make a six-foot-wide mat. The quarter-inch-thick rubber cuts fairly easily with a razor knife.

Lines are then painted on with a stencil. When setting up the world tournament, the short distance foul lines are established and the mats are spotted on those lines for reference. The clay filled boxes are then set on the painted marks, creating the perfect spacing for the courts.

As I mentioned in the last *Newsline* article, we are planning to repaint the lines on all of the mats this year in Montgomery. I have already made and tested out two stencils on my home courts, which are identical to the NHPA courts.

Shown is a peek at what this operation will look like. Notice that the short distance foul lines are applied with white tape. The reason for this is that we need to tape the front of the mats down to the floor using three-inch-wide, black, Gorilla Glue tape. We then put a short strip of two-inch-wide white Gorilla Glue tape to mark the foul line.

There is an effective alternative to the rubber matting, and that is thin, rubber-backed carpet. The three-foot by six-foot size is a very common one, and can be worked with easily. Put two of them together and you have a six-foot square, which just happens to be the same size as the pitching platform. I recommend using Gorilla Glue tape to secure it to the floor. The sandpaper strips applied to the box bottoms will grip the rugs as well as the rubber matting, thus minimizing court movement. Rugs are also a nice non-skid surface to throw from as well. There are companies that rent these rugs and sometimes have used ones for sale at dirt-cheap prices.

If anyone out there wishes to build a smaller number of these portable courts, I am available anytime for some quick advice. Remember, the complete drawings for these portable courts are posted on the NHPA website. (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/gameinfo/bldraised.html>)

In closing, we will need all the help we can get to do maintenance on your World Tournament equipment in Montgomery, Alabama, prior to the 2016 event. So, if you can donate an extra day or two, we would greatly appreciate your help. The work will likely be

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

done on Monday and Tuesday, July 18 and 19. More information about this will be posted in upcoming articles.

Recognizing Special World Tournament Helpers

by [Bill Marvin](#), 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director

(Editor's Note: My sincerest apologies to Bill for missing this submission in the last Newslite. The delay in getting the message out is my fault, not his!)

The Kansas Horseshoe Pitchers had everything ready for the World Tournament this year. Topeka welcomed horseshoe pitchers with open arms and made the event a huge success. Kudos to Dave Sidles on his first tour as World Tournament Director. In spite of running behind schedule a couple of times, there were very few glitches from start to finish. The Expocenter was a terrific venue with room for 60 courts.

I must compliment the Kansas folks for their extremely hard work and dedication in each and every task it takes to put on a successful World event. Larry Collette, Roger Vogel, and Terry Cuthbertson did a terrific job organizing the volunteers and making sure everything was ready to go whenever a need came up. As a group, they never lost their excitement about being the hosts. From setup, which began on July 7, to teardown, they were there and more than willing to attack any job required.

Not only were there Kansas volunteers, I counted NHPA members from five states who came ahead of time to assist in the setup process. Two Wisconsin pitchers, Kevin Brekke and John Resch, not only did much of the taping on the mats, but anything else they were asked to do. Thanks to you both.

On average, it takes two and a half to three days of hard work to set up. From unloading the truck, mixing the clay, loading the boxes, laying out the courts, building the fence – the list goes on and on – each step has to be orchestrated carefully. Teardown is the process in reverse, but also requires that the mats be cleaned, the boxes be emptied and power-washed, stakes cleaned, and each and every piece stored in a particular way to expedite loading the truck.

Two additional folks deserve a shout-out:

Ron Smith from Louisiana contributed in a huge way in the set-up process. He is a tireless worker, and deserves the moniker “Crazy Cajun.” His nonstop action is amazing; he is indeed an asset to the set-up crew.

Tom Bush is a supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department in Montgomery, Alabama. He came to Topeka to get an idea of what it takes to put on our World Tournament. Not only did he get an idea, he was involved in every part of the process,

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

mixing the clay, setting the mats and boxes, putting up fence ... you get the idea. I have full confidence that Montgomery will be ready to do the job in 2016.

How Many World Tournaments Do You Have?

by [Mel Yockstick](#), NHPA Statistician

World Tournament participation patches will be sent out to the state secretaries by month-end for those 2015 pitchers eligible, meaning they pitched in 10 or more World Tournaments.

Want to see your own World Tournament results from 1909 to 2015, visit the World Tournament Participation page on the NHPA website (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/participation.html>). Once on the page, go to the bottom of the page and click on "Download File."

How many World Tournaments do you have? Here's the list of pitchers who have recorded at least 30 from 1909-2015.

Name	State	From	Last Year	Total Years	Last Division Played
Ottie Reno	Ohio	1959	2014	55	Elders'
Earl Winston	Missouri	1951	2007	54	Elders'
Mark Seibold	Indiana	1964	2015	52	Men's
Walter Ray Williams, Jr.	Florida	1970	2013	42	Men's
Merlin Potts	Kansas	1966	2012	42	Elders'
Floyd Hix, Jr.	Virginia	1972	2012	40	Elders'
Vicki Winston	Missouri	1953	1995	40	Women's
Barry Chapelle	Oregon	1953	2015	39	Elders'
Homer Cain	Oklahoma	1977	2015	38	Elders'
Don Titcomb	Idaho	1947	2010	37	Elders'
Elwyn Cooper	Missouri	1978	2015	36	Elders'
Jim Knisley	Ohio	1964	1999	36	Men's
Alan Francis	Ohio	1981	2015	35	Men's
Deborah Michaud	Massachusetts	1974	2015	35	Sr. Women's
Frank Stinson	Minnesota	1924	1987	34	Elders'
Ted Allen	Colorado	1933	1974	34	Men's
John L. Brown	Ohio	1971	2015	33	Elders'
Gary	Ohio	1960	2015	33	Seniors'
Art Tyson	New York	1971	2009	33	Men's
Charlie Killgore	Missouri	1973	2007	33	Men's
Dave Loucks	California	1951	2013	32	Elders'
Bonnie Seibold	Indiana	1962	2002	31	Sr. Women's

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

NHPF: The Creation

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

The NHPA and the National Horseshoe Pitching Foundation (NHPF) exist because of horseshoe pitching. The NHPA is the governing body of organized horseshoe pitching. As years went by, it became apparent that the NHPA was collecting quite a bit of memorabilia – pictures of pitchers, world records, old horseshoes, great-game score sheets, world tournament program books and so on. All of this was stored in someone's basement.

Once a year, some memorabilia would be hauled out and displayed at the county fair, in the care of Earl Winston. Determining that these artifacts were of some value, regarding our history, it was requested in 1970, that a certain sum of money be set aside for an eventual Hall of Fame (HOF). In 15 years' time, this amount had grown to \$75,000. Put into an interest-bearing account, by 1997, it had grown to \$160,000. Approval was granted by the NHPA delegates to establish a tax-exempt foundation with a long-term goal of building the NHPA Hall of Fame.

The NHPA became familiar with Dr. Jack Freeman in 1990 at the Stone Mountain (Georgia) World Tournament. Jack shared his plans to build an HOF on property that he owned in Joelton, Tennessee. It was around 2003 when Jack Freeman created a room in the outdoor courts facility that would be the first NHPA HOF Museum.

The memorabilia that Earl Winston collected through the years was stored in the basement of the Winston home. Joe Faron and Gary Buehler traveled to the Winstons' in LaMonte, Missouri and loaded all the memorabilia into a trailer, and headed to the Joelton property. Earl and Vicki Winston came along to help organize it all. When they arrived, they were met by Dr. Freeman and Mary Bastian. Mary was Jack's secretary and handled all the horseshoe events that were held at the Joelton facility.

After much discussion and various negotiations Jack donated his land and indoor court facility to the newly established NHPF. (link to: <https://youtu.be/4EEUwzJuKfw>)

Due to Dr. Freeman's untimely death and the lack of an active horseshoe club in Joelton, the present site was chosen from among others that included West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Springfield, Missouri. When the Quail Ridge site was approved, the New Melle Horseshoe Club was dissolved and became the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club. At a St. Charles County Council meeting, approximately 40-45 New Melle Horseshoe Club members attended, all wearing their horseshoe club shirts. The Council members were very impressed at the uniformity of the club.

Your Hall of Fame opened on October 5, 2007, and the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club was appointed guardians of the new facility.

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

We should indeed be proud of this fine establishment and owe a debt of gratitude to all the members of the Missouri Horseshoe Pitchers Association, particularly the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, for assisting in making this Hall of Fame and Museum a true world-class place to visit. Simply walking and reading the brick plaza (link to: <http://www.nhpf.info/pdf/bricksnew.pdf>) will give you pause for reflection and make you realize that you belong to a great association.

As of this date, the NHPF has awarded over \$125,000 under our grant program to assist clubs, areas, counties and charters with the building, rebuilding, expansion of horseshoe courts and facilities, and more. Two brand new facilities -- one in Bronson, Kansas, and one in Belchertown, Massachusetts – have sprung up with the assistance of grant money from our program.

Presently, we are restricted to six \$3,000 grants per year. With the advent of some significant building costs on the horizon, we may need to taper down the grant program. Your continued financial support of the NHPF will allow us to continue to provide grants at this pace.

The NHPA is the association you belong to, and the NHPF raises funds to keep your Hall of Fame and Museum in tiptop condition. This is merely a brief synopsis of the two entities; further details can be found in back issues of *Newsline* or contact me (link to: kcslus@sbcglobal.net) with specific questions.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

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

Donating \$25-95

Charles Bunner, WV
Southern Tier Horseshoe Club, NY
Karen Graham, NY
Ken Fraser, NY

Donating \$100-200

River Raisin Horseshoe Club, MI
Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association
Paul & Nancy McGee, MD
Maryland Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Donating \$200-\$300

Balboa Park Horseshoe Club, CA

Bricks Purchased By

Jim and Phyllis Quist, WA
Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, MO (3 Bricks)

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

Other Income

\$700	Rent, NHPA GRS
\$910	NHPA HOF Banquet
\$2,500	Rent, Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, MO

Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore

Hall of Fame Members

by [*Bob Dunn*](#), NHPA Historian

Each year, members are being inducted to the NHPA Hall of Fame at the World Tournament Hall of Fame Banquet. Often there are articles about the most well-known players in the Hall of Fame, but seldom is there mention about other members of the Hall of Fame, especially those inducted decades ago. The next series of articles will feature some of the past members who we should remember and get to know a bit.

Elmer Beller was born in Nebraska in 1890 and moved to California in 1925. He operated a garage business in Mojave, California, and began pitching horseshoe in 1948. He served both as NHPA Vice President and NHPA Secretary-Treasurer, President of the Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association for 10 years and President of the Long Beach Horseshoe Club for 10 years. He designed the first scoring devices used in World Tournaments, 1951 through 1959, at Murray, Utah. He attended 18 consecutive World Tournaments, working long and hard at each. Beller was the first recipient of the Arch Stokes Memorial Award in 1958, served as a member on the initial Hall of Fame Selection Committee, and was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1968. Elmer passed away September 14, 1974.

Bob Pence was born December 7, 1909, and became possessed with an undying love for the game of horseshoes. He was an incredible promoter of the sport, a prolific writer of articles, and traveled thousands of miles each year in his efforts to boost his favorite sport. Bob was a good pitcher, with better than a 70 percent ringer average, pitched in his first tournament in 1927 and joined the NHPA in 1929.

Bob was Secretary of the Indiana Association for five or six years before being elected Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association in 1958, a position he held for 24 years. Under his administration, several improvements were implemented to the World Tournaments: Classes C and D were added to the Men's division, the Women's division was expanded to include B and C, a Junior Girls' division was begun in 1967, the Senior Men's division was implemented, and the Intermediate Men's division in 1967, and the World Tournament was rotated around the country for recruiting more members. Game Related Sales was initiated, benefiting the NHPA with increased revenue, championship patches and recognition awards were also instituted, and the Hall of Fame was established in 1965,

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

all with his involvement. Pence was awarded the Arch Stokes Memorial Award in 1961 and inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1969. Bob Pence passed away May 18, 2002.

Blair Nunamaker of Cleveland, Ohio, won the Men's World Championship in 1929, pitching 69.5 percent ringers, and losing just one game. He held the title (although no World Tournament was held) until his third place finish in 1933, behind Ted Allen and C.C. Davis. Nunamaker's World Tournament record:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>%</u>
1923s	11	5	10	409	958	42.7
1925w	7	25	30	2070	3754	55.1
1926w	4	21	9	1064	1836	58.5
1927w	3	27	6	1284	2056	62.5
1928w	3	23	10	1437	2171	66.2
1929w	1	14	1	660	950	69.5
1933	5	18	5	1034	1504	64.3

He was Ohio State Champion four straight years from 1933 through 1936. Nunamaker was a popular, well-liked individual, and during his reign as national champion, he traveled coast-to-coast giving exhibitions and playing in open tournaments. He did much to stimulate interest in the game. Nunamaker was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1970. Blair died in June of 1944 in Florida after a lengthy illness.

Laura Lanham of Bloomington, Illinois, was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1971 and was the second woman to be inducted. For all her playing years, Lanham was known only as Mrs. C.A. Lanham, as was the practice in the early years. In fact, that is how her name appeared in all NHPA records until about 1992 when her actual name was discovered. Lanham was no doubt the best woman pitcher during the first decade of the World Tournament, as she pitched in seven World Tournaments, won six World Championships and placed second in the other event, losing by only one game. Her titles came in 1922s, 1923s, 1924w (in a playoff), 1924s, 1925w, 1927s, and 1928s (in a playoff). Her career record is 80 wins and four losses, which still ranks her 21st on the Women's All-Time World Tournament Wins List. Laura Lanham was born April 3, 1895, and died March 6, 1971, at age 75.

Fred Brust of Columbus, Ohio, was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1971. Brust won the Men's World Championship in 1919 at age 33. Besides his championship, Fred had two third-place finishes in World Tournament competition. He was one of the founding fathers, as the NHPA was formed and organized in the state of Ohio in 1921. He also developed the Ohio pitching shoe and founded the Ohio Horseshoe Company that was one of the top-selling tournament shoes for over 70 years. He ran the Ohio Horseshoe Company until 1950 when he sold the business. Fred passed away in May 1971 at age 85.

Just a reminder that the Holiday season is again upon us and the recently published horseshoe pitching history books would make great gifts and a pleasant surprise for the

NEWSLINE Text

published November-December 2015

horseshoe pitchers in your life. *The Lee Rose Story* has become a good seller and has received many compliments. Also the *AAU National Amateur Horseshoe Pitching Championship* has had two years of good sales.

Remember, I do not profit from the sales of these two books, as the publishing costs are recouped, all proceeds will go to the NHPF. You can order the books through games related sales or direct from me. (link to: bobcharlesdunn@aol.com)

Most of you have noticed on the front page of our website, the announcement of the recently published *World Champions of Horseshoe Pitching*. This large book covers all championship classes in all divisions in the World Tournaments from 1920–2010. (Of course, the Men's division is not included as those events have been published in Gary Kline's book and in the book that Jerry Smith published.) The book covers 90 years and is 650 pages. The book is available online, but a very limited number of copies were printed and all sold at the 2015 World Tournament. I have started a list of those wishing for a printed copy and will order those copies from the publisher when a sufficient number have requested them. These orders should be placed directly with me. (link to: bobcharledunn@aol.com) The cost is \$35 plus \$5 postage.