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Find yourself in the falls! Welcome everyone to the 2019, National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) World Championships! This year we have definitely *found ourselves in the falls!* Tournament competition will embark on the Kay Yaeger Coliseum and Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall at the MPEC in beautiful Wichita Falls, Texas! This year's *13-day* competition will feature some of the best horseshoe pitchers and horseshoe pitching class options to date! Competition begins on July 22, 2019, and all champions will be crowned by August 3. Pitching will begin at 8:00 am each day and run into the night about 10:00pm. Admission is free! Come on out and see the best horseshoe pitchers in the world!

This year we find the 2018, Womens World Champion, Mrs. Maxine Griffith, not "VOLUNTEERING" her world championship away. Maxine and her twin sister Marlene Ray come from Covington, Tennessee, with high hopes to bring it back to their town! Max has been dominant with her left-handed high back-swing pitch, while Mar has really hammered the shoes in with her right hand. Max has pitched consistent tournaments over 80%. She is definitely looking to repeat. Always a contender in the fight 9-time world champion Mrs. Joan Elmore. She as well is from Tennessee, just outside Nashville in Mt. Juliet. Elmore has been on mending trail, coming back from physical ailments. Hoping to come out of the losing side and take back what she has claimed as hers in the past. Amy Francis, Defiance, OH and Shalee Cason, Titusville, FL are awaiting their taste of sweet victory for the first time. Cason has been pitching well, racking up high games in Florida, will this be the year she adds Womens world champion to her already former Girls titles? Karen Graham, North Bay, New York, has had some fantastic tournament wins early on this year. She is looking to keep it up her pitching streak and pull out a win. At Team World, Penny Steinke, WI, came out with one miss from a perfect game. Wisconsin might have the edge since they have early wins this season. Lindsay Hodgins, British Columbia, Canada, comes back for her first year of World Tournament play in the Women's can she win a title, taking it back to Canada since 2003? The lady's competition will be fierce. Look for many upsets and close victories as these ladies always prove they are not done, till it's over.

Jumping in the falls are the Elder Mens classes. Current World Champion, David Holmes, Charleston, West Virginia, is not attending. So once again, it is back up for grabs! Russ Phillips, Grandview, WA, comes in as the top man this year. He was the 2011, world champion. Russ has had some minor injury in his shoulders; however, he is looking to put that behind him and take it back to Pacific Northwest. Jim Ellison from Alabama has won early this year. Taking home Gold in the Newberry Summer Fun Horseshoe Tour event in April. Ellison is on a hot streak with his lefthanded flip. Ellison was runner up in 2017, after a down year, can he bring the title to Alabama? Although Mr. Holmes is out, West Virginia, will be represented, Mr. Marcus Rice, comes to us from the mountains to prove the WV is not out just because the number one rank is not appearing. Jim "Iceman" Cooper from Tennessee has won a Senior Men world title, he has been perfecting his turn to try and take the lead. He made a great appearance in 2017, look for the "Iceman" to come back from behind a sneak in there and get em'! Other competitors that have come up short but are looking to take the title are JD Drake, MI; Jim Culver, KY; Gregg Craven, MO. Roger Vogel, KS, was the champ in 2017, he has suffered minor set backs but never count him out. Look for him to move up. Dennis Reid, IL, doesn't let anyone stand in his way. He makes you humble yourself. Dennis pitches in a wheelchair and inspires us to never let anything stop you from doing what you want! Look for the Elder Men's classes to be a surprise until the end.

Our future of the sport relies upon our juniors and cadet classes. Derek Reynolds, AR, is the current Junior Boys Champion. Derek has been slipping up on his seed number and his average this year. Reynolds is hoping to take it back to the Natural State. However, the bluegrass roots of Kentucky's Seth O'Nan might have

some rebuttal. O’Nan was the 2017, champion. Reynolds beat O’Nan in this highly contested match last year. However, O’Nan had a 82.5% tournament. He is perfecting his reverse turn to take back the gold. Look for Walker Forester, OK, to be in the ranks too. He has been consistently getting better at 30 feet. This is his first year in the Boys group, will the jitters get to him? Also from the Bluegrass state of Kentucky is Jarrett Keith. In tournaments early this year Keith has upset O’Nan, and will possibly be a factor in upsets for this years world? Ryan Russell, KS and Aaron Hanes, NC, look to make the championship cut and may be a set back to the tops. Look for the boys classes to get into the Falls with many ringers and high games. Will records be broken this year? Join us and find out!

In Junior Girls classes, Cameran Edwards, PA, has aged out, and is now in the Women’s group leaving the door open for a new world champion. Can her sister, Catrina Edwards, keep the title in the family or will she be upset like last year? Sarah Chaffee, WI, has been pitching consistently the past few tournaments. Sarah might beat the odds to win it for 2019, however, Ellyn Ohms, Utah, looks to take the championship win. Ohms took third respectively last year, can she pitch thru and take home the biggest win in the world? Skyla Rioux, CT, takes on her first crack at the Junior Girls division. Rioux competes with current Cadet World Champion Riley Malino, CT, on a routine basis. Have they practiced hard together to rack up two world champions in Connecticut? Stay tuned for results to find out!

In Cadet’s twenty feet competition, Riley Malino, hopes to retain his world championship title. Malino has continued progress with his flip shoe. Malino grabs wins in New England, can his shoes still make the trip and tough pitching of newcomer Brady Fox, MO? Fox has had some great tournaments this year! Fox beat out current Womens world champion Max Griffith, at a tournament at the Hall of Fame. He is a kid on a mission to put “Show Me” back on the world champion charts. Hastiin Begaye, California, pitched an 80% game on PBA Hall of Famer Walter Ray Williams Jr. earlier this year. Begaye has been improving, now that his first year of attending the world tournament was in 2018, will he finally have what it takes to bring California the gold? The Cadets always pitch with confidence and always put on a great tournament. The outcome is unknown.

The Senior Women will take the courts during week two of competition. Barbara Taylor, South Carolina, is the defending champion. She has been off to a slow start this year, however, her game has been improving as the months go by. Will she be able to take her Horseshoe Tour wins to the World Championship level? As always, Sheila Shepard, Colorado, has six titles to her name. Can she bounce back from last year’s bounce off and take title #7? New to the division is none other than Terry Beagle, Michigan. Beagle had a great run in the Open Women’s division in 2017, placing third. Could this be the year she takes a world championship win? Her faith in God motivates her to continue pitching ringers. Has she smoothed out her pitch and perfected her follow thru to take on Taylor and Shepard? Linda Aurell, CT, has competed for a few years now, however coming up short. Aurell seems to get shaky in the beginning stages but finds her groove too late. Will she be able to get it and stay with it from the beginning? Barbara Carson, SC, is part of the NHPA Staff. She is looking to pitch her way into the finals and maybe sneak into a championship title. Julia Charlton, IN and Marlene Cooper, OH, are not to be counted out. Look for these ladies to make some noise when it counts!

The next level of competition is the Senior Mens classes. Gary Roberts, OH, has just recently stepped down from NHPA Office, will this help him take on another world title? Roberts met Ray Bedard, MA, four times in competition in 2018, losing all but the one game that counted. The world title game! Roberts is pitching well, his performances early this year and at the Hall of Fame Invitational make him seem to be odds on to win. Bedard is not out though, he has came in and won games when the time was needed. Bedard seizes every opportunity to take a win. James Dunlap, MI, comes back to competition since 2016. Dunlap was

undefeated throughout competition in 2016, but fell short in championship play. Could this be the year Dunlap pulls out a title and takes home the win? Larry McAfee, MO; Gary Currier, ME; Ken Jones, NM; Dennis Wilson, PA, are not to be out done! There could be a dark horse in this group. Several men have made this championship cut, it is anyone's for the taking. The ole' no step flip from Arizona, Jacob Fimbres, will make another debut into this group. Fimbres has been racking up wins in the Southwest, can he take that same competitive drive to the world tournament and pull off an upset? David Mallory, OK, has been gearing up for great success for this year. He pitched an outstanding tournament in Arkansas here a while back and looks to take that same ringer rally to the courts at world. Look for the Senior Mens classes to be a competitive group none the less.

In the Open Mens division, the present and twenty-three time world champion, Alan Francis, Defiance, Ohio, will battle again to attempt and keep his seven year title run streak since 2012, going. Although Alan has appeared to have control the past seven years, last year he was hotly contested almost losing his title run. Alabama's Dan Watson, has been a contender for quite a while now, coming up a few ringers short year after year. Could this be the year he perfects his pitch and takes the title? We shall soon find out. Expect nothing less of Oklahoma's Gary Bearpaw. Although, his disadvantage is less experienced pitcher in world tournament play, he never ceases to amaze us. Breaking the world record for highest average by a flipper from 40 feet in 2018. Bearpaw has placed 2nd the past three years, is this his year to take gold? The PBA Hall of Famer, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Florida, will also be attending this event this year. Never count him out as he is a solid contender and has seven championship titles. Will this be the year that Walter Ray regains momentum and adds another trophy to his collection? Look for him to sneak in and take a shot at victory. Coyote shoot man, Gale Greene, VT, is none short of amazing. Greene now, 77, pitching the full distance, and never giving up. Greene's best finish was in 2017, placing 3rd. Can this be his break thru year? Tom Williams, MI and Austin Bailey, IL look on to try and take a crack at a number one place finish. But watch out for those move ups, they can sure cause an upset.

The NHPA would like to welcome anyone to come out and attend the event. Opening ceremonies are on July 22, 2019, at 11:00am.

Competitors from other countries in attendance this year are from Norway, Germany, Canada, and the USA. Come out and see what all will happen in the Falls!

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