



Newsline

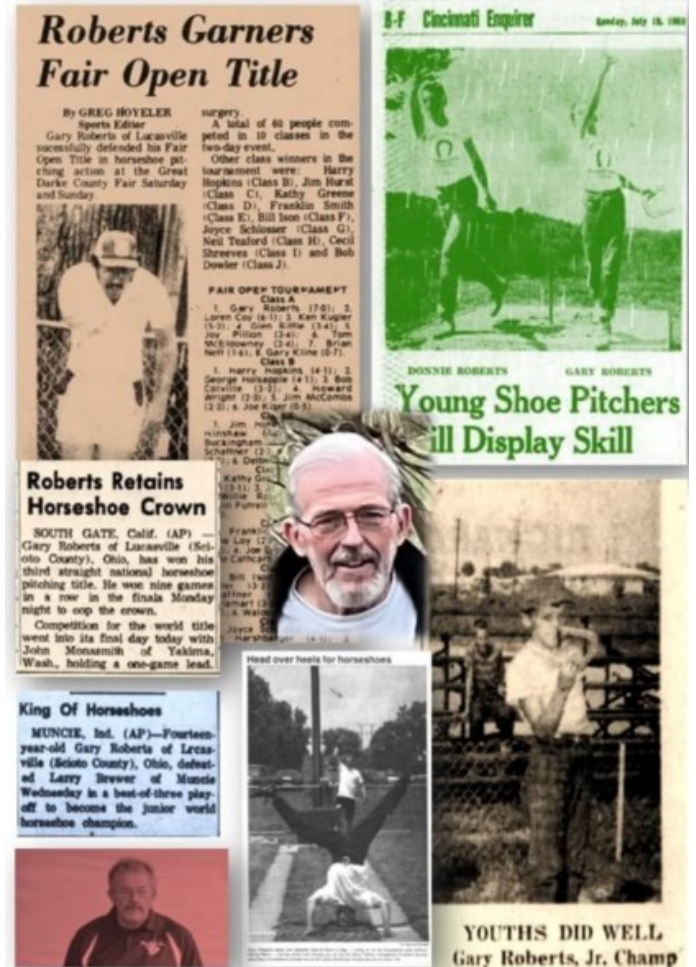
Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association



Gary Roberts

August 5, 1947-April 19, 2024

Gone but never forgotten



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Attempting to Walk in Very Big Shoes

Austin Bailey, NHPA 1st Vice President (Assuming the duties of President)

As I am writing this article, we are all still grieving the loss of a great man. The only way I can start this off is by taking this time to talk about Gary Roberts. Gary has done so much for not only the sport of horseshoe pitching but also for his country and community. Gary made a huge impact on his community and in our sport. His longevity in horseshoes speaks for itself. We have lost a great man in our sport. I want to take this time to once again give my condolences to his family and want them to know that they will always be a part of the NHPA family. The Roberts Family brings so much history to our sport. I will always be thankful to have known Gary as a friend growing up in the game and playing against him as a competitor as well. With taking over for Gary I will do my best to carry out all his wishes before a new president is elected at the World Tournament in July.



As I am writing this article, I can't believe that May is already here. We are getting ready to enter the heart of our horseshoe pitching season and I hope that everyone gets out and plays when they can. There are several major tournaments in May with the first being the Hall of Fame Invitational that just finished at the Hall of Fame building in Missouri on May 4th and 5th. The Top 16 40ft pitchers and the Top 16 30ft pitchers battled it out in 40-point games. It is always a fun event. Then you have the Team World Horseshoe tournament held in Beloit Wisconsin on May 17th, 18th and 19th which I am pleased to say had a record number of entries this year at 29 teams! They had to turn 5 teams away this year as they can only accommodate 24 teams. There are 9 different states represented as well as Ontario Canada. I was informed that this is also California's first appearance in over 20 years! The final big event in May will be the Horseshoe Tour May 25th and 26th in Clarksville, TN. This is the first gold event on the tour so please make plans to sign up and enjoy an awesome and exciting time in the 30 shoe ringers only format. You can find all the information on their website www.thehorseshoetour.com.

I want to encourage you to still sign up for the World Tournament. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there and with the format change you have a chance to come a few days early and see some of the top pitchers participate in the championship classes before you start your competition. We know that there are several concerns this year with the schedule, and I will be addressing some of those concerns once we get the final number and see the schedule. It is hard for us to determine anyone's pitching times until we know how many are going to be signed up. I have some ideas that might help with this issue in the future, and I am going to try and see what we can do to try and resolve this in future years. Please be sure to attend the delegate meeting this year, if you are attending the world tournament. For all the Charter Presidents please remember to email me the names of your delegates once we get closer to the world tournament so I can have the lists up to date. Also please be sure to attend our Hall of Fame Banquet, it is a great night of seeing people get awards as well as seeing our past Hall of Famers and new Hall of Famers inducted.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and confidence in me taking over as interim president. Like I said before I will do the best that I can and try and help our organization out. I am looking forward to this opportunity and I am always available if anyone would like to email, call or text me.

See you on the Courts !!!!

Austin Bailey



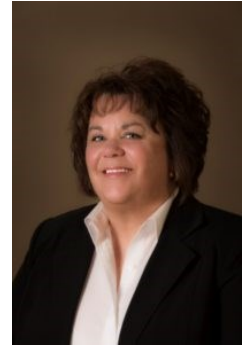
Membership, Sponsorship, Promotion, Publicity

Laurie Lampkin, 2nd VP Publicity & Promotion Director

COME JOIN US FOR THE 2024 WORLD TOURNAMENT!

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Everyone needs a break from their everyday routine, so let's go have some fun. The NHPA council would love for you to join us this year for the 2024 World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington. Remember, all entries must be "postmarked" with the date stamp on the envelope of May 20, 2024, to be eligible to enter. The entry deadline is quickly approaching, so don't delay. At each world tournament, there are surveys in your welcome bags along with comment cards on the table near the leader board and stat room, so make sure you drop off your survey.



UNSURE OF WHERE TO LOCATE 2024 WORLD TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Wanting local information on Rental Cars, Shuttles, Airports, Hotels, RV Camp Sites, The Venue, local urgent care centers, pharmacy's ? Visit the NHPA website, scroll down until you see this logo below, click on the logo and you can research any topic that may come to mind for your 2024 World Tournament experience. There is plenty to do and see when not competing.

The staff from the CVB and the City will be on hand at the venue daily to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the local area and tourism information. The staff will also have information about various modes of transportation in and around the city, including hotel shuttle service, shopping, winery tours, sightseeing, historical sites, and much more.

If you are traveling by RV, check each state's transportation cabinet websites. There you will see all of the highway information such as road construction and any potential delays in advance. If you are an AAA member, they will route you out showing all construction zones along your path.

TRIAL WT FORMAT CHANGE FOR 2024

You asked and now we are trying something new. Each year the council gets many requests to try something new to break up the same old pitching/competition routine each year, so things aren't boring and to increase the number of attendees as well as to allow the first week pitchers to see the Championship Rounds when they normally are already gone home. As everyone may know, this year, we are trying out that new format. Brian Poole, the NHPA Sec./Treas. is our "World Tournament Director" and will be putting together the format schedule for this year's event. The completed schedule will be announced by Brian by May 31st to allow the U.S. postal service to deliver any mail that is postmarked by the deadline date of May 20, 2024. While this format is a learning experience and a trial-and-error situation this year, we needed to try to see if it will work for future world tournaments.

We will have the survey's in your welcome bags on the format itself and would hope that everyone will complete the surveys so the council can review these and to also determine whether to continue using the new format going forward or go back to the original format. Sports survey questions play a crucial role in many ways and areas, such as the financial impact of the overall event, for the organizations planning of events, the CVB (City), new members joining and competing in a world tournament for the first time, and for everyone's pitching schedule and vacation time as a family, and of course travel time. It just gets the dice rolling, leaving the unknown behind of not trying something new.

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Membership, Sponsorship, Promotion, Publicity

Laurie Lampkin, 2nd VP Publicity & Promotion Director

WORLD TOURNAMENT VENDOR APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

If anyone is interested in setting up a booth at the World Tournament to sell any goods, please fill out the following form and return it to the address on the bottom of the form. They will be able to answer any



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association 2024 World Tournament VENDOR APPLICATION FORM

- **DATE:** Monday, July 29th – Saturday, August 10th, 2024
- **LOCATION:** The Toyota Center, Toyota Arena, and Three Rivers Convention Center
- **SET-UP:** Sunday (7/28) from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- **COST:** \$100 per table (includes one table and 2 chairs, additional tables are \$25.00 each)
- **BOOTH SIZE:** 10x10 area (electricity provided upon request)
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, June 28, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: Natalie Clifton, 509.735.8486

Email: Natalie@VisitTri-Cities.com

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDISE: _____

ELECTRICITY NEEDED: YES NO

IF SO, HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 Visit Tri-Cities
 Attn: Sam Galbraith
 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite B
 Kennewick, WA 99336



Membership, Sponsorship, Promotion, Publicity

Laurie Lampkin, 2nd VP Publicity & Promotion Director

2025 WORLD TOURNAMENT LOCATION - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The host of the 2025 World Tournament, Salt Lake City, Utah will be onsite at the World Tournament this year. There, everyone can stop by the booth and speak with Clay Partain, Executive Director of Sports Salt Lake and his staff. They will be there to give you any information or answer any questions you may have regarding your 2025 World Tournament experience. Dates for the event is July 21, 2025 through August 3, 2025.

You can pick up information on the area, venue, Hotels, RV campsites, local transportation modes, The Olympic Village and much more. The Mountain America Center will be the venue for the event and has approximately 243,000 square feet of space.



TRIVIA: How did Salt Lake City get its name? Who founded Salt Lake City? This is just a little trivia for you, and you can get your answers and more when you stop by the booth. You can also visit their website at <https://www.visitsaltlake.com/> and take a look around.

HOSTING WEEKLY TOURNAMENTS AND PROMOTIONAL EVENTS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP COMES WITH A COST

While many charters, clubs, and local horseshoe organizations look for ways to increase membership, scheduling promotional pitches and tournaments all come with a cost to the charters, clubs and the NHPA. The NHPA Liability Insurance coverage provides coverage only for your charters, clubs, and local tournaments, however, the insurance premiums “Do not provide coverage” for any “Non-Sanctioned” or “Promotional” events on any public or private properties.

These events must be “**Sanctioned**” with a charter RD assigning you a token number for that tournament as they normally would do and is listed in eShoe. If the tournaments are “non-sanctioned,” these tournaments will not count toward your required number of tournaments to compete in your state or give you your required number to enter the World Tournament. Remember, these non-sanctioned events can affect your percentages and classing in tournaments, leagues, when competing in non-sanctioned events.

Throughout the year, there are many local fairs, festivals, etc. that go on and these are normally great ways to peak interest, attract potential new members and to give the sport of horseshoes attention. If your local city, county, parks, and recreational departments have separate insurance coverage, you would have to contact them directly to see if they would place any tournament or pitch on their insurance policy temporarily for that specific event. Some city/county parks and rec departments do not want the liability on them for any potential claims for injuries, as any claim can cause their insurance rates to increase as well. If you do not have a current 2024 insurance certificate at your “Sanctioned” site, contact the NHPA Sec./Treas., Brian Poole by email at bjpoole3564@gmail.com.



Membership, Sponsorship, Promotion, Publicity

Laurie Lampkin, 2nd VP Publicity & Promotion Director

The Ohio Charter would like to cordially invite everyone to attend the annual 2024 Ringer Classic to be held in Greenville, Ohio on July 6 & 7, 2024. You can print/download the entry form from the NHPA website, under the tab "Upcoming Events." Hope to see a big turnout. There will be raffles, food, and plenty of camaraderie going on for two days in addition to the fierce competition. Lot's of fun!

[2024 Ringer Classic - 64th Annual](#)

July 6&7, 2024

Horseshoe Pitching Capital of the World!

[Greenville City Park, Greenville, Ohio-NHPA Sanctioned Tournament](#)

\$30 entry fee for Adults/\$10 for juniors. Men's, Women's, and Elder's class A will pay extra \$20 at the tournament-All pitchers will pay scorekeepers \$1.00 per game during the games.

Payout depending on the numbers of entries and sponsor money- posted on the first day of tournament.

All Classes except A-B may pitch 40 points or 40 shoes, whichever comes first. This depends on entries, weather, and time allotted-Decision and changes made by tournament director.

Call (937) 239-6877 for questions.

<https://d.docs.live.net/5b8b092feb0efec7/Pictures/Ringer%20Classic%202024.docx>

Hotel Accommodations:

Quality Inn (937) 316-5252: (Ask for the "Horseshoe Rate" \$119/night)

Holiday Inn Express-Newly Renovated! (937) 548-1328 (Ask for Horseshoe Rate \$129/night)

Camping Accommodations:

Wildcat Woods Camping (937) 548-7921 Arrowhead Camping (937) 996-6203

Baymont Inn (937) 548-3613 Darke County Fairgrounds Camping (937) 548-5044

NO PHONE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!! MAIL ENTRIES TO Tournament Director: BRIAN FISHER, 9655 NEW PARIS HILLSBORO ROAD, NEW PARIS, OH 45347. NO RETURN OF ENTRY FEE AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR POSTMARKED DATE ON 6/27/24.

Changes to the pitching schedule are at the discretion of the tournament director. By entering this tournament, you acknowledge that it is your responsibility to review the posted pitching schedule by July 1, 2024 on the OHPA website at <https://www.ohiohorseshoes.org> **We will no longer call entrants to remind them of their scheduled pitching times. Similar to last year, a simplified online entry form will be available on the OHPA website after 4/1/24.**

Please enter me in the 2024 Ringer Classic:

Mens____ Womens____,Elders____ Juniors____ Name: _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

PHONE NUMBER_____ Email_____

If mailing, money for entry must be sent with this form and postmarked by 6/27/24, or if you prefer, enter online at <https://www.ohiohorseshoes.org>

Make the check payable to [Darke County Horseshoe Club](#).

As a participant in the Ringer Classic Horseshoe Tournament, I hereby waive release and forever discharge the Darke County Horseshoe Club, City of Greenville, Greenville City Park, and the Ringer Classic Tournament Committee, Officers, employees, directors and all fellow participants of this event for any and all illness, action, damage, loss, or injury which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the Ringer Classic Horseshoe Tournament.

Signature required to participate: _____ Date: _____
(Parents must sign for Junior pitchers)

Who is the Greatest NHPA Youth Pitcher in History?

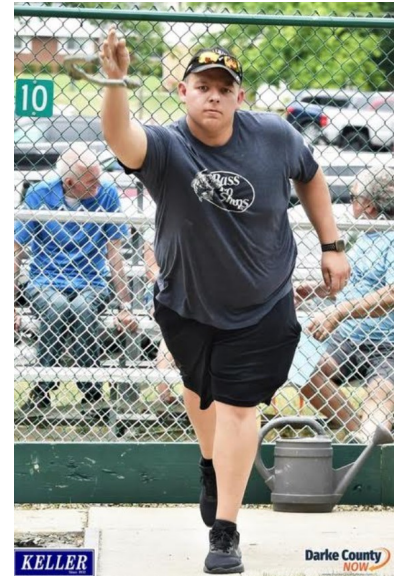
Ben Webb, 3rd Vice President

In the last edition of the Newslite, we started a March Madness style bracket to determine the best Youth pitcher in NHPA history. While this has sparked much debate, it's important to remember that this is purely "fantasy booking", based on the stats and opinions of a few select panelists. Let's look at this finale of our bracket:

Elite Eight:

Jim Walters vs Jeffery Williams
plays the winner of
Sarah Chaffee vs Kipp Barody

While the thought of a brother vs brother final game is an interesting one, Jeffery Williams runs into a wall here with a pitcher who had one of the most dominant runs in NHPA youth history in Jim Walters. While it's possible that Jeffery could've upset Jim in this round, our panel and Jim's record were in full agreement that this would be the end of the road for Jeffery Williams in our quest to determine the best of the best.



Sarah Chaffee, a name who held an iron grip on the Junior Girls division, now seemingly holds the same grip on the open women's division. While Kipp had an impressive 2 year run in the youth division, holding averages in the 80's both years and picking up a world title to boot, this simply isn't enough to overcome the dominance we've seen from Sarah at the World Tournament in recent years. This is where those previous 2 years in the women's stats come into play to support Sarah in advancing in our bracket. Because Sarah could have pitched in the girls these years, and was at the age to be considered a youth pitcher, these stats must be considered in this bracket. Therefore, Sarah Chaffee will advance to meet Jim Walters in the Final Four.

Walter Ray Williams Jr vs Mark Seibold
plays the winner of
Alan Francis vs Steve Hohl

4-time World Champion, Mark Seibold will compete in his 60th World Tournament this year in the tri-cities. Going back to where it all began, Mark would build on his average in his first 5 years in the youth ranks to the low-80's in his final 2 years in the Junior Division. These efforts netted him two Junior Boys World titles back in 1966 and 1969, however, as with Kipp Barody across the bracket, Walter Ray's record in the Junior Division will push him past the 1984 Hall of Famer and onto our Final Four.

One record that can never be overstated is that of Alan Francis, if you were to define dominance in the horseshoe pitching world, you would need to look no further than Alan's record. While Steve Hohl had an impressive 5-year run starting in 1974 and ending with three 80+% world tournaments and the 1978 Junior Boys World Championship to boot, this simply is not enough fire power to overcome Alan in this round. Netting four world titles in 6 years Alan will advance to our Final Four.

(Continued on Page 8)

Ben Webb...continued



Final Four, opinions and brass tacks

Jim Walters vs Sarah Chaffee

To determine who would win this with any certainty at this point would be impossible. Thus, we lean back on the stats and make the best calls we can.

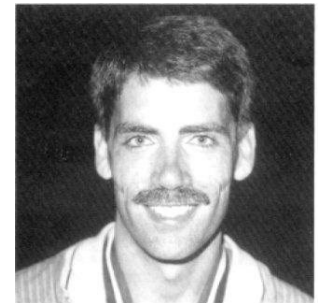


2015 Hall of Fame inductee, Jim Walters meets 4-time world champion (the most dominant youth pitcher of our time) Sarah Chaffee in this round. Most dominant of our time unfortunately doesn't mean most dominant ever. Jim Walters blazed through the youth ranks beginning in 1989, after busting onto the scene in 1989. While we've seen these same impressive feats from Sarah Chaffee in the last few years, the age in this era was 16 instead of the current 18. This is the point where we roll back the curtain on the past two years to separate the stats. In the years Jim would've been 15 and 16, Jim averaged 88+% both years, while in both of those years Sarah was 80 and 88%. Now, we must look at competition, in both these years Jim would've had significantly stronger competition to defeat in the likes of Vorn Ven, Ronnie Meredith and a slew of other strong Juniors. While Sarah is certainly one of the best of our time and will certainly go on to break many records and join the NHPA Hall of Fame with our other 3 finalists, Jim Walters' record advances him to the final game.



Walter Ray Williams Jr vs Alan Francis

Ahh, the game we've seen, and seen, and seen again. Walter Ray and Alan Francis have played more times than either man can likely recall. They have played on the small stage, the big stage and stages in between. While I doubt either man would call this a rivalry, anyone who has been around these tournaments knows the atmosphere changes when Walter Ray and Alan Francis are set to play. If there's a tournament where you might think no one can



give Alan a good game on this day, you can bet if Walter Ray is in the picture there will be at least one person standing up to the test wherever they may play. As everyone once was, both men were once boys and ten years apart as they made their way through the Junior ranks. Anyone can put their records side by side and it's difficult to pick a winner. Our panel voted and we must give the nod to...Walter Ray Williams Jr. These two records were simply too close to call, so we looked at the competition. The competition was only slightly tougher during Walter Ray's time than Alan's. While Walter Ray had 7 years with a low average of 78.43%, Alan had 6 years with a low of 75.07%. This one was almost the hardest game for the panel to call, well almost.

That leaves us with our final game to determine the greatest NHPA Youth Pitcher of all time:

Jim Walters vs Walter Ray Williams Jr

Does anyone have a coin? We would be robbing the readers if we did not choose a winner but separating these two is nearly impossible. For this pick, I had to go beyond the panel, almost doubling the number of voters to get a separation. We have already looked at both records over the course of this article, so we'll keep this short. While Jim had very stiff competition, we must use the metric of WRW's competition to give Walter Ray the win in this section, but we're not done.

(Continued on Page 9)

Ben Webb...continued

Looking at pure dominance, Jim Walters was clearly more dominant once he became dominant. Both pitchers had 7 years in the division, Jim Walters did not start out as hot as WRW, averaging mid-60's his first year in the division to WRW's 78% first year. When you add up all their ringers and shoes, Walter Ray averages around 5% higher than Jim Walters during their 7-year runs.

Given the circumstances, when we go through every metric, this is the closest game of the bracket. But our panel, along with the other recruited voters must give a close win and title of greatest NHPA Youth Pitcher in history to none other than 1988 NHPA Hall of Famer and 9-time World Champion Walter Ray Williams Jr!

Newberry is a wash! Hall of Fame then onto Clarksville

My season started in Newberry, South Carolina on the horseshoe tour. This event saw the largest turnout in the history of this site on the horseshoe tour, but mother nature had other plans. Play concluded on Saturday flawlessly, but rain was imminent. In the 30-foot division, defending champion Joan Elmore was set to meet Ron Legrand while Eli Sullivan, fresh into the Junior Boy ranks this year off his historic 2023 run, was set to meet Jerry Wingfield. The winners of each of these games would meet to determine the tour champion in the 30-foot division in the season kickoff.

The 40-foot side saw "Dapper" Dan Watson set to face rising podcast sensation and former world champion Dalton Rakestraw in round 1. Across the bracket saw the 2022 and 2023 defending champion, myself, set to battle forever rival Tyler Howard. Tyler and I have pitched each other in almost every tournament setting and game type imaginable, except the horseshoe tour format. When we had both signed up, everyone knew there was a strong chance we would meet in this arena for the first time.

When it's raining at 6 a.m. and set to rain for several hours, what do you do? You go off the seeding, without pitching, that is all you can do. As the rain called off the finals and washed away my chances of pulling a 3-peat at this event in Newberry, it locked in Tyler Howard as the 40-foot champion and Joan Elmore as the 30-foot champion for this event. As Bobby White phrased in the lobby of the hotel "You should've thrown a few more ringers yesterday," Day late and dollar short so they say. Nevertheless, it's always a fun time on the horseshoe tour.

A big shoutout to Ron and Barbara, Bobby, Dalton, Shelly, Mike, and all those who help the tour run flawlessly. I look forward to seeing the tour staff and followers in the volunteer state in May. Clarksville, Tennessee is the next stop on the tour...a very central location, and an excellent city for a weekend trip. I play many tournaments a year at this site, a short 50-mile drive from my home, Clarksville features ten covered courts so there's no rainout potential and 14 outside courts to boot. The city has many dining and entertainment options for visitors and is a short trip from music city in Nashville, Tennessee. A huge tourist attraction, there's countless things to do in Nashville. That weekend in Nashville, country music legends Gene Watson and Vince Gill will take the opy stage for anyone interested in seeing a show while in the area, the Grand Ole Opry is one you must see if you haven't before. The signup deadline is May 15th, so get those entries in soon! You can either mail in your entry or utilize the Horseshoe Tour's online entry system for your convenience. If you have not already, please make sure you're signed up for the Horseshoe Tour's emails to stay connected to all the happenings on the tour this season.

Before we get to the next tour stop though, many of us flocked to the annual Hall of Fame invitational tournament where 16 of the best 40 foot and 16 of the best 30-foot competitors pitched in a star studded tournament that is one of the most exciting of the year!

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March Madness – Best NHPA Youth Pitcher!

Ben Webb-3rd Vice President

I look forward to seeing everyone in Clarksville in a few weeks...especially Tyler Howard, I still have that gift for you when we get to Clarksville.

World Tournament on the Horizon, Junior Activities

Looming on the horizon and fast approaching is the 2024 World Tournament in the tri-cities. The NHPA Council has faced numerous challenges over the past few months: new council members, a changed format, and now down a council member. We are in one of the most difficult periods many of us have ever seen, but we will push forward. I am optimistic that with the ease of online signups many are holding off until the last few days to enter the tournament. I try to keep my world tournament sections short because I'm positive our other council members dive into the same ground I would likely retread. One thing to remember though is the Youth events at the World Tournament. We have made the decision to switch the larger event that would typically take place on Sunday to Wednesday before the youth divisions start. Don't confuse this with us doing less than normal for our youth. We have events planned at family fun centers for both the Wednesday before and the Sunday after the Youth pitch. We also have our annual Brian Simmons Memorial Youth/Adult doubles returning and are looking at several other options to keep our youth entrants active during the tournament. I'm also happy to announce that 3 youth entrants will receive their entry fees back at the tournament. This donor has generously given us the opportunity to reimburse 3 of the youth entrants their entry fee back at the tournament through a drawing. The way we will do this is: We will draw one male entrant, one female, then combine the names and draw a 3rd, this is the fairest way we could come up with.

If you haven't already...Send in your entries for the 2024 World Tournament, I look forward to seeing everyone in Kennewick this Summer!



(Continued on Page 11)

NHPA Foundation is rocked by the loss of a legend

Ben Webb-3rd Vice President

I stated last year at the Youth awards ceremony before giving the speech for the Alex Carson Memorial award that it would likely be the most difficult speech I'd ever given and asked the audience to bear with me. This is certainly the most difficult article I've ever written for the Newline.

Two months ago, if you had told me I'd be writing this article I would've said you were out of your mind and unfortunately, I would have been wrong. Over the past 2 years, Gary Roberts and I had spoken usually 2 or 3 times a week. As I spoke to Gary on the phone, standing in a conference room at work not too many weeks ago, he was in line at Tim Hortons, "small coffee, 1 cream" is what I heard Gary say before he came back to the phone and told me that Tim Hortons had the best coffee. As Gary left the coffee shop, he was headed to the gym to lift weights on just another weekday afternoon. Little did we both know just how close Gary was to the end of his road.

Gary and I had met on a few occasions, but we never really talked much. When the world shut down in 2020 with the Covid pandemic, I made my way to the Greenville Ringer Classic in Greenville, Ohio. Tournament director Brian Fisher was making his regular calls trying to recruit the best in the country to the annual event and this time I agreed to come. After pitching on Saturday, myself, Gary, Brian Fisher, Cynthia, and Dave Rose all went to Tolly's Gastropub in Greenville, home of the best chicken wings you will ever eat! As we all indulged in the unhealthiest meals we could find, Gary simply had grilled chicken, a salad, and a cup of water. The world tournament had been cancelled this year but through nonsensical conversations Gary crafted a solution. Our idea was to take the top sixteen in each division to a neutral site, pay an entry fee with no added money and simply crown the world champions for history's sake. I sent the email to the then NHPA council who in turn shot it down immediately. Gary's next idea was to petition the council to act, but this unfortunately fell by the way.

This experience is an example of Gary's leadership and outside the box thinking. Gary was a person who was always on the side of progress, on the side of what was right not who was right, on the side of peace, and on the side of horseshoes. Once Gary began to get me involved in the administrative side of horseshoe pitching, he would often impart his thinking on things to myself and others around the council.

When he and I sat on a couch in the lobby of the venue in west Monroe, Louisiana, I asked Gary what he wanted me to do if I were to go forward with being the NHPA Youth Director. All he would say is he wanted to do things that had never been done before. He would talk about years past where youth was an afterthought and something "just to get out of the way". He knew we had to change this.

Gary asked me last fall to attend the 2023 Bob Evans festival to see his show. He knew then that his time to put on the show was limited and wanted to ensure that it would go on, even after he would be unable to pitch it. I spoke with Gary on April 13th of this year for the final time, and we discussed this festival once again. As long as his family wants the festival to go on, I assured him I would be there if needed.

In terms of progress, Gary's administration was plagued by bad luck, running into health issues very early into his administration, a shifting and rapidly changing council, a membership that had been rapidly declining for years resulting in a depleted budget and a host of other issues, Gary had his back against the wall, but he never gave up. Gary knew that for the NHPA to flourish and turn itself around he needed to involve younger leadership, being instrumental in getting myself, Josh Olson and Austin Bailey involved with the council.

(Continued on Page 12)

Ben Webb...continued

Austin spoke for all of us when he told Gary on the last meeting he'd be on that we would do everything in our power to carry out the visions he had as long as we were on the council.

As Gary and I would talk, we would discuss what has happened, what is happening and what needed to happen. There were many times Gary would be just thinking through things aloud and somewhere in the conversation, he would find his own answer, but then there was the path. Gary never started a journey without a map, he'd find the goal and work backwards most of the time. When most people start a plan, they say I'll do A, that'll lead to B, B leads to C and so on. Gary taught us, the council, to work backwards. The goal was D, now how do we get there, what's C, B, A?

I believe and will always believe that had Gary not had the complications he had with his health early in his tenure, that run as NHPA President would've yielded even more great things. As his son Ryan said to me on the day of the funeral "Dad wanted it done, but he wanted it done right." If Gary were here today, I believe I speak for the entire council when I say, as long as we do it, we'll do it right.

Gary was very proud of not his own but his family's legacy, a lineage that can't be overstated. When I and Robert Taylor visited Gary to obtain some historical documents to be scanned for preservations sake, we were overwhelmed by the amount of history he had at his home. Gary had things that he didn't even remember having in terms of history, things that are now being scanned and taking their place in the National and Ohio hall of fames.

I cannot overstate just exactly what Gary Roberts meant to not only myself, but the OHPA, the NHPA, and many horseshoe pitchers across the world. Having friends in other countries, both in the sport and in other aspects of his life, Gary's absence will leave a hole with all that knew Gary. His wisdom, knowledge, and kindness can never be replaced and has left us that remain on the council feeling a little less put together in recent days.

The best way for us all to honor Gary's memory is to press forward for the good of the sport he gave his life to...horseshoe pitching. Before Robert and I departed from Gary's home on that cloudy day and made our way back to Kentucky, I remember Robert shaking Gary's hand and saying, "I'll do my best Gary", a sentiment that I, and many others in our great association share and will strive to uphold.

We often say that "if there's horseshoe courts in heaven" but it's never been truer than with Gary Roberts. So as you're reading this, if there's horseshoe courts in heaven there's likely someone standing on their head halfway down the court, someone straddling the stake, and someone laying in front of the stake with their head on the stomach of another while Gary pitches his patented 1 ¼ Elmer Hohl for another classic Bob Evan's trick shot.

Ben



Patches-Consider the date, save money

Barb Carson, 4th Vice President

Happy Spring. I hope everyone is having a great start to the 2024 season and pitching lots of ringers. I wish you all good luck at your Tournaments, but more importantly have fun and enjoy your horseshoe families. I am really looking forward to traveling and spending time with my horseshoe family. I can't wait to see everyone again after a long cold winter here in Ohio.

This is a very sad time for the NHPA. As all of you know, we lost a great friend and horseshoe pitcher last month. Our NHPA President lost his battle with cancer and passed away on April 20th. This is a huge loss to the NHPA. Gary was also the Ohio Pitcher's Association President. I went to his funeral and it was so awesome to see so many of his horseshoe pitching friends there. It was a beautiful and very touching service. Our prayers go out to his family and friends. Rest in peace Gary. You are loved and will be missed by all of us. Thank you for being a great leader and for everything you have done for the sport of horseshoe pitching.



As we look forward to bigger and better things in 2024, we the council have been busy preparing for the World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington. Don't forget that the deadline for getting your entry form and payment is fast approaching. Don't miss out on the chance to see your friends and horseshoe family. We hope everyone is looking forward to the new World Tournament format that will begin at the 2024 World Tournament. This is a huge milestone for the NHPA and is a step in the right direction that will benefit everyone. I am very excited and proud to be on the council and to be a part of this new change. We have switched up the weeks that the higher pitchers will pitch the first week and the lower pitchers will pitch the second week. This will give the classes that will be pitching a chance to come a couple of days early to see the championship tournament. I would love to see all of the RD's participate and be a part of this exciting new venture.

Thank you everyone for submitting your 2024 Patch orders. You all make my job easier and I appreciate everything you do to make it run smooth. I do have patches left over, so go ahead and add more tournaments. Just email me and I will send you the requested patches. Just as a reminder, the tournament sanction certificates are no longer required. Only sanctioned tournaments are in eShoe, therefore you no longer have to fill out a certificate for each tournament. You will notice that we left the year on the patches for this year. Thank you to everyone that submitted your charter votes. We heard your comments and the majority of the charter votes were to leave the year on them. We will be discussing this topic again this year during the charter president/RD and league meeting at the 2024 World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington. Please keep in mind the cost of the patches have increased significantly and the number of patches that are thrown away at the end of your season. That is money that is being thrown away because you can't use them for the next year. Also, remember that the year will remain on all State Tournament patches. Changing this would decrease the number of patches and the cost for the next year because if you have class champion patches left over, you can use them for the next year and your patch order would decrease. Tournament dates are July 29 – August 10, 2024. Please see Laurie Lampkin, 2nd VP for more information on Hotels and/or RV parks and where to eat and to shop.



(Continued on Page 14)

Barb Carson...continued

The council has decided to eliminate the formal shoe check again this year, and implement the modified version that we used last year in Lansing, Michigan. Your shoes will be measured and shirts and close-toed shoes will be checked on day 2 or day 3 when you pick up your round robin card. On day 1 you will still need to arrive 1 hour before your scheduled pitching time to the designated room for class photos and announcements from the shift director. We hope to see all of you in Tri-cities, Washington for the 2024 World Tournament.

Attention RD's. Just a reminder, the year 2023 was a court sanction year. I have received some of your court sanction lists, but I still need a few. I don't need a copy of your court sanction certificates. I only need a list of your states court facilities that have been sanctioned. When you have finished your court sanctioning, simply e-mail your list to me at bcarson848@gmail.com.

RD's, please remember that you are required to renew your NHPA membership before January 1st, 2024. We will also need people to help with the World Tournament set-up process, If there is any possibility that you can come a couple of days early and you are pitching the first week, we would appreciate any help you can give us. I know that a lot of you come early to pitch in the Warm-up Tournament that is held the Saturday before the 1st week. The date of the Warm-Up Tournament is July 27, 2024. Watch for more information as we complete our plans for the World Tournament. I will also need the RD's who are planning to attend the World Tournament to assist me with the check-in process. It usually only takes about 30 minutes out of your day for each session. I would appreciate your help with this process as it makes the check-in process go faster.

We will also be having a charter/RD/league meeting during the World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington. I will let all of you know when that will be scheduled as soon as I have a date and time. Thank you again to everyone for all of your hard work and dedication. Good luck and keep pitching those ringers. Hope to see all of you at the World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington. Have a great spring. Please stay warm and be careful.

Barb



Bring your Cameras and Stream LIVE

Josh Olson-5th Vice President

I would first like to send my condolences to Alvita and the rest of the Roberts family on the passing of Gary. I remember the very first time I saw him practicing with Blake, his son, back at the World Tournament in 2011 in Monroe. I also remember when Blake and I pitched against each other in the Junior B class. I then had the opportunity of being introduced to Jukeski in 2014 and even getting to share the courts with him a few times throughout the years, and then to serve on the council alongside him to the end. I have many memories that I will remember Gary by, and I hope to continue many more in his honor while being on the NHPA council. He will be missed but never forgotten. RIP Gary



The World Tournament is less than 100 days away, and we are just days away from the deadline to sign up for the Tournament as well. Have you signed up yet? The World Tournament will be here before we know it. As a reminder, we will be allowing personal devices on the courts for “Live Streaming”. All devices on the courts should respect the wishes of your opponents while on the courts. Please be cautious regarding the placement of your phone stands/tripods. One really good idea that was brought up is a camera/phone mount that might be able to hang on the fence and point at the court. That would be out of the way and can still get all the action right there LIVE. The NHPA is not responsible for any damage of personal devices. It is at your own risk and discretion for using your own device to stream your pitching while competing at the World Tournament. The NHPA will have a couple of devices streaming throughout the tournament. The idea of having a dedicated “shift” Live streaming during a shift or multiple shifts at the World Tournament is on the table with more details to come on whether that will happen...or not.

We will be using HSMaster/HSScorekeeper like in the past. We have some very exciting options for running and keeping score for horseshoe tournaments that will be made public in the very near future. Scoreholio is still a viable option for running tournaments. I ran my first tournament on Scoreholio a few weeks ago and it was a very successful tournament. We had a few hiccups along the way, but that was expected with using a brand-new system to the horseshoe world for running tournaments. Scoreholio has a lot of potential still for tournaments and I would encourage new and experienced tournament directors to investigate Scoreholio and see what they have to offer for running horseshoe tournaments, I’m available for any questions regarding Scoreholio, and there are many resources online. Just search for Scoreholio and see what options you may have.

I was lucky enough to see a new and exciting “ONE STOP SHOP” website that could be the future of how Tournaments are set up. I was really impressed by the presentation, and I personally hope it has a future with the NHPA World Tournament in a couple of years! So, keep an eye out for Play Horseshoes. That is all for now. If you have any questions comments or concerns that I might be able to help with, feel free to email, call or text me, my contact information is on the NHPA website. See you in Kennewick!

Josh



From the desk of the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer

Are YOU Registered for the World Tournament?

By Brian Poole, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer

Hello Horseshoe Family! It has been great to get out and get my first 2 tournaments in for the year and with more to come. I don't understand why I can throw a 30% game and then throw a 2.5% game. Sometimes it gets very frustrating to be so inconsistent. That's why it is said Practice, Practice, Practice! The more you get out and throw shoes every day and work on your timing and follow through will bring your ringer percentage up.



I would like to encourage everyone to get your 2024 World Tournament entry submitted as soon as possible. I will try to get a preliminary schedule done with what I have between May 15-20 but the more entries I get that are postmarked on May 20 and trick in by snail mail will move stuff around. I will work hard to get the schedule published as soon as I can and before the May 31 deadline.

I would also like to help our numbers by showing everyone the patches that we have and that I send out when members reach 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, & 80 years of membership. I would like to see those that can't pitch can still buy a membership and look forward to earning one of these patches. We need to do all we can to build our membership but we also need to keep our current membership renewing every year so when we add new members our numbers go up and not just stay flat replacing those that don't renew.

I look forward to seeing all those that come to the World Tournament and participate in a game we love and renew the friendships that I have made over the last 12 years that I have been coming to the World Tournaments. This will be my 13th WT that I have attended and the 11 in a row. Hope to see you there!

See you on the Courts!

Brian

Brian Poole
Secretary/Treasurer
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA)



ENTRY FORM (READ CAREFULLY)
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
 July 29 - August 10, 2024 Kennewick, Washington
2024 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships



Name: _____		2024 NHPA Card # _____	
(Please Print)		(or Canadian #)	
_____ First	_____ Last		
Address: _____			
City: _____	State/Prov: _____	Zip/Postal Code: _____	
Telephone: _____	Cell: _____	Birth Date: _____	
Email: _____			
Check One -----> <input type="checkbox"/> I will print my schedule. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail my schedule to me.			
Circle the <u>Division</u> you are entering: - You can enter only one division - (See notes near bottom of page)			
OPEN MEN 40 Ft	SENIOR MEN 40ft (see note #2)	OPEN WOMEN 30 Ft	SENIOR WOMEN 30ft (see note #2)
			ELDER MEN/ME 30FT (see note #1)
			JR BOY / JR GIRL 30ft (see note #3)
			CADET BOY / CADET GIRL 20 Ft (See note #3)

All applicable information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete. **Entry Deadline May 20, 2024**

No refunds will be made after May 31, 2024 Note: A processing fee of \$15.00 will apply to all refunds.

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), all officers, employees, agents and servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. The NHPA and it's legal Representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, Photographs taken during the 2024 World Horseshoe Tournament. These photo's, video's may be used in any publication, or in audio-visual presentations including "Live" interviews, promotional literature, advertising, sponsorships, or in other similar ways that the NHPA sees fit to use on behalf to represent and promote the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament and the sport.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

..... mail top half only

**ENTRY FEES: U.S. ADULTS -- \$135.00 • ALL JUNIORS/CADETS -- \$25.00 • U.S. FUNDS ONLY
 ADULTS OUTSIDE US - \$138.00**

CANADIAN ENTRIES MUST USE MONEY ORDER IF SENDING PAYMENT - ENTRY FEE INCLUDES SCOREKEEPER FEE

MAIL THE TOP PORTION OF THIS FORM ONLY along with REGISTRATION FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA)

TO: **NHPA**
 2660 S Fairway Dr
 Pocatello, ID 83201

Telephone & Email Inquiries to:
 Phone: 208-201-3326
 Email: sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a **postmark no later than May 20, 2024**. You may enter at anytime prior to May 20, 2024. Entries received with a postmark after May 20 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the tournament only as space is available. All adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 20, 2024, in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All averages used will be the average on record in NHPA-eShoe as of **May 20, 2024**. Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. Please see note regarding refunds.

READ CAREFULLY: Any adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the **OPEN MEN'S DIVISION** regardless of age, just as any adult female may enter the **OPEN WOMEN'S DIVISION**. To enter the **SENIOR DIVISION**, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2024. Any man that turns 65 years of age in 2024, is older than 65, or has an approved medical exemption may enter the **ELDER MEN'S DIVISION**. Entrants in the **JUNIOR BOY and JUNIOR GIRL DIVISION** must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2024 calendar year. **CADET BOY AND CADET GIRL DIVISION** entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2024 calendar year.

Note # 1. 30ft Men with Medical Exemptions must be in NHPA-eShoe as exempt to pitch in this division.
Note # 2. For class play, a minimum of 48 must enter this division or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Preliminaries.
Note # 3 Junior Boys & Junior Girls divisions will be mixed for preliminary play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls divisions will be mixed for Preliminary play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by **May 31, 2024** and published on the NHPA website. If you indicated above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the second week in June.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons; any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NHPA-eShoe, any false or misleading information on this form, if the NHPA cannot verify through its established procedure the validity of any Medical Exemption, or for any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA also reserves the right to add qualified entrants and to make class participant changes after the deadline. No pitcher will be moved from class time or division, without notification, after final schedule has been published.

NHPF Report

Promotion...It is a Community Effort!

By Dave Sidles, NHPF Director

Along with the NHPA, the Foundation Board of Directors is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its members, Gary Roberts. Gary first joined the Board when he became NHPA President and was a valuable asset. Gary was, in my opinion, the greatest ambassador the sport of horseshoe pitching has ever had. He will be greatly missed.



There has been much talk the past several years about the decline of the NHPA. The term "promotion" is probably used more than any other to describe the action or actions that need to be taken to stem this decline.

What is promotion and why would you do it? The term *promotion* derives from the Old French, *promocion* meaning to "move forward", "push onward" or to "advance in rank or position" which in turn, comes from the Latin, *promotionem* meaning "a moving forward". The use of the term *promotion* to refer to "advertising or publicity" is very modern and is first recorded in 1925.

In marketing, promotion refers to any type of marketing communication used to inform target audiences of the relative merits of a product, service, brand or issue, persuasively. It helps marketers to create a distinctive place in customers' mind, it can be either a cognitive or emotional route. The aim of promotion is to increase brand awareness, create interest, generate sales or create brand loyalty. Promotion is also one of the elements in the promotional mix or promotional plan. These are personal selling, advertising, sales promotion, direct marketing, publicity, word of mouth and may also include event marketing, exhibitions and trade shows. A promotional plan specifies how much attention to pay to each of the elements in the promotional mix, and what proportion of the budget should be allocated to each element.

There are three objectives of promotion. These are:

- To present information to consumers and others (i.e. prospective members)
- To increase demand.
- To differentiate a product.

To say the NHPA and NHPF are not doing any promotion would be inaccurate. Since Covid, the rate of decline of number of paid members has decreased significantly. It's not out of the question that membership could actually increase in 2024 even if it's only a slight one.

I'm not suggesting that we've turned the corner. There is obviously more that can and needs to be done and part of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation's purpose is to join with the NHPA in these efforts.

David Sidles
NHPF President



National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation



“Gary Roberts Starts His Streak”

Stan Griggs

“It isn’t the date on either end that counts, but how they used their dash”... Linda Ellis

As we prepare for the upcoming World Tournament and at the same time, we all are dealing with the loss of one of our greatest leaders Gary Roberts, I wanted to take everyone back to where it all began.

Sixty-three years ago, in a small town in Indiana, Muncie played host to the 1961 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships. Gary Roberts, a 13-year-old lad from Lucasville, Ohio became the new World Junior Champion. After defeating Larry Brewer of Muncie for the title in a three-game playoff. With a record of 8 -2 and ringer percentage of 53.4%. This was just the beginning of something very special, make note that Gary is a real champion that pitches from the Men’s distance of 40 feet at this young age.

1962 in Greenville, Ohio Gary easily retained his World Title on the night of July 31st, the day before his 15th birthday. Three World Records were broken with the following: Pitching 16 consecutive ringers, 33 ringers out of 40 shoes for a single game average of 82.5% and averaging 62.4% for the complete tournament.



Gary Roberts

Sue Gillespie

Harold Reno

(Continued on Page 20)

Junior Boy's Championship Class Finals – 1962

		Age	W-L	%
Gary Roberts	OH	14	7-0	62.4%
Dan Kuchcinski	PA	11	4-3	45.5%
Jerry Tomlinson	IN	15	4-3	44.3%
Hal Brown	IN	15	4-3	44.2%
Andy Deem Jr.	WV	13	4-3	43.9%
Eddie Hinshaw	IN	16	3-4	48.4%
Larry Brewer	IN	16	2-5	43.8%
Gary Craig	IN	14	0-7	28.2%

Gary Roberts, along with fellow Ohioan Dennis Riffle, made the trip to California for the 1963 World Tournament being held at South Gate. They were the only two out of state players in the Junior Boy's Division. The rest of the players were all from California. Gary celebrated his 16th birthday by winning his third consecutive World Title with his top game another record breaking 24 out of 28 for an 85.7%.

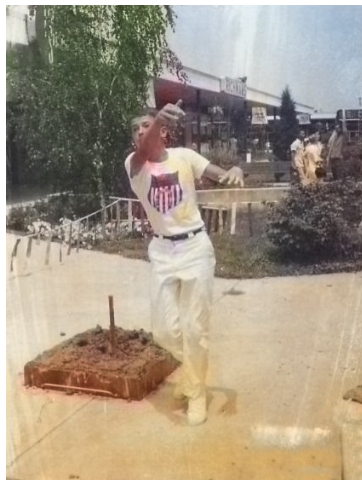
The 1964 World Championships being held in Greenville, OH is still known as *"The Greatest World Tournament of all time"* with 13 men averaging over 80%. But not to be forgotten is the unprecedented 4th straight Junior Boy's World Title that was being captured. A record that would stand for nearly 30 years.

Alan Francis a young gun from Missouri tied the record of 4 in a row with his win in 1985 and then the record would be broken by another Ohio boy by the name of Jim Walters in 1993 with his 5th straight win. Interesting tidbit with Alan moving to Ohio in 1995 meant that all three, Gary, Alan and Jim would compete against each other for many years in the Ohio State Championships.

With another record-breaking performance Gary averaged for the tournament 67.6%, again let's not forget this was being done at 40ft.

Junior Boy's Championship Class Finals – 1964

		W-L	%
Gary Roberts	OH	6-1	67.6%
Andy Deem	WV	5-2	66.9%
Dennis Riffle	OH	5-2	63.2%
Dan Kuchcinski	PA	5-2	61.3%
Ross Stevenson	CN	3-4	62.4%
Billy LaBrosse	MN	2-5	50.0%
Delbert Lykins	IN	2-5	44.5%
Gary Craig	IN	0-7	40.0%



(Continued on Page 21)

A Junior Division Memories – By Gary Roberts...



Harold Reno

Gary Roberts

Ottie Reno



Gary Roberts

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in five consecutive Junior World Championships (1960-1964).

I grew up in a family with a horseshoe pitching tradition. My mother, Marjorie Reno, is a sister to Ottie Reno, whose accomplishments in the horseshoe world are well known. My grandfather, Eli Reno, taught me to pitch at a very young age. His brother, Charles Reno is the father of Harold Reno, a former Men's World Champion in 1961 and 1964. On Sunday afternoons we would often go to my grandfather's house for good food and horseshoe pitching.

I pitched in my first sanctioned tournament in 1958 at the age of 10 from the full distance of 40 feet. There was no opportunity to pitch in tournaments from 30 feet in my area. I developed a two-step approach initially to generate enough power to deliver the shoe. One regret that I have about my Junior Division pitching is that I did not pitch from 30 feet. I believe I would have developed a better delivery had I done so. Alan Francis, Mark Seibold, Jim Walters and Walter Ray Williams Jr. are adequate proof that great 40-foot pitchers develop from great 30-foot pitchers.

In 1962, the World Championships were held in Greenville, OH. Greenville was like a second home to me since I had been pitching in the Ohio State Championships there since 1958. Our Lodging consisted of a blanket under an oak tree in the park.

In 1963, I traveled to South Gate, California with Ottie Reno, Ottie Jr., Harold Reno and Gary Kersey. We traveled in Ottie's 1958 Ford. The car had to be put in neutral when stopped, or the motor would stall. This trip was a real adventure, as I had never been further west than Indiana. Our lodging consisted of two people sleeping in the car while the others slept with a blanket on the ground. This worked well until the night we were in the Rocky Mountains and the temperatures dropped below 30 degrees. I nearly froze that night. The Mojave Desert also presented problems, The '58 Ford boiled over and we had to purchase water to refill the radiator.

Somehow, we made it to South Gate and checked into the Avon Motel, which has a daily rate of \$9, which equated to \$1.80 per person. I slept on the floor of the room, which was an upgrade from sleeping on the ground.

Hall of Fame Nominations Due by Jan 31, 2024

By Vicki Winston, Hall of Fame Committee Chair

I'm sure that many of you already know the names of the two individuals who will be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame at the 2024 Banquet in Kennewick, Washington. You may also have seen what I wrote up to be used as an announcement. I am going to make an effort to embellish that article a bit and add a few things that weren't in the announcement.

This year in the Pitcher category we have elected Marlene Ray (aka Mar). Last year we elected her twin sister Maxine Griffith (aka Max). You may think that the twins have always lived in Tennessee, but such is not the case. They were raised in upstate New York on a dairy farm and are the daughters of the late Walter and Wilda Shakelton. The entire family was into horseshoe pitching, including their three brothers. The interest in horseshoe pitching no doubt came from their Grandfather, George Tweedy, who pitched Putt Mossman horseshoes. The twins were in New York thru high school, but both attended college in Tennessee, so that seems to be the time when they became residents of Tennessee. They played volleyball and basketball and were into some archery competition. Both would go on to become teachers. Mar introduced horseshoe pitching to the physical education classes in her school. Both had the same desire to become World Class horseshoe pitchers and we have witnessed the intensity of that desire. Mar has come close, but has not yet become a World Champion. Mar has finished in the top 5 of the Women's Championship Finals seven times. She has three 2nd place finishes, two 3rd place finishes, one 4th place finish and one 5th place finish. She has also averaged over 70% in 11 Women's Championship Finals. Several were in the high 70's and one was almost 83%. There are many other noteworthy tournaments in which she has pitched extremely well. She is very deserving of being elected to the NHPA Hall of Fame and it was a privilege and a pleasure to be the person to speak with her on the phone and congratulate her on receiving this high honor.



The other inductee for 2024 is the hard worker, Mel Yockstick, who was elected in the Promoter/Organizer category. Mel is a resident of Colorado, but I don't know if he has always lived there. From the date on the bio we received for his nomination, Mel is closing in on 50 years of NHPA membership, if he hasn't already reached that number. Although he enjoys pitching, he is much better known for the work he has done for the NHPA when not on the courts. In 2010 Mel was appointed as the NHPA World Statistician by the NHPA President Paul Stewart. The main objective was to develop files on the NHPA website that would report results and highlights from all WT divisions and not just the men. With that first job, Mel was off and running and he didn't stop. In 2011 he received approval for a "World Championship 90% Game" patch. That patch was for anyone who had ever achieved those games in the championship finals of any division. He mailed them retroactively and then handed out new ones annually. This was researched for both the 50 point era and the 40 point era. The WT Participation file that Bart Sargent (MA) started and included the years 1909-2003, was corrected and brought up to date by Mel and Jerry Smith. This file now lists every pitcher (known) that pitched in each WT from 1909 to the present. Mel kept the file current each year and maintained it on the website. In the past couple of years he has turned that job over to Stan Griggs (MO) who is also an avid fan of statistics. Mel has also been researching and getting approval on many other patches over the years since 2010. One was the WT "Participation Patch" for those who have participated in at least 10,20,30,40, 50 or 60 WT's. Another was the "Consecutive WT Patch" for 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50 consecutive WT's. I know a couple of 50 years have been given. Don't know if anyone has made it to 60 yet. Any patches that have been approved and have been done retroactively, Mel has personally mailed all the patches if he could find the person(s) who earned them. I could use several pages of Newslines to describe all of the lists that Mel has created and maintains that go into State Championships, as well as the WT's. I am told that he also updates the data for the WT Program Book each year.

(Continued on Page 23)

Vicki Winston (Continued)

I once asked him, with all of the research and maintaining of files he was doing, how he ever found time to sleep, because he was also being active in league work and in his state charter work. In 2010 Mel was the recipient of the NHPA League Director Award. In 2003 he was given a NHPA Presidential Award and in 2018 Mel was appointed to serve on the NHPA HOF Committee. He is so busy he was taken by surprise when I called and informed him that the committee had just elected him to the NHPA Hall of Fame. He hadn't even thought about that being the reason I was calling. In case you are wondering, Mel did not get to vote for himself. He was required to abstain from voting in that category, but got to vote in the other two.

I am proud of my HOF Committee and think we have elected two very deserving people in 2024. I am hoping that many of you will be able to attend the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet in Kennewick, WA in July and will be able to offer your congratulations in person. I'm sorry but I will not be able to be there to join you.

Usually, that would be the end of my article, but I have some sad news for those who might not know. The NHPA has lost Gary Roberts. We knew his death was imminent, but it was a shock when his passing came so quickly. None of us were ready to part with him, but we don't have the final say in such matters. I will miss Gary so much because he was a long time friend and a very helpful member of the HOF Committee. Gary was elected to the NHPA Hall of Fame in the Class of 2013, which also happened to be the year that it had been approved by the NHPA to give living inductees a Hall of Fame shirt. Gary received one of the originals. The design has been changed a bit since then. I often referred to Gary as an ambassador for our sport, as he traveled to foreign countries to promote horseshoe pitching. He would have loved to continue his work for several more years, but sadly that isn't going to happen.

Before Gary's passing, he did appoint Robert Taylor of Kentucky to take his place on the HOF Committee so there would continue to be 15 voting members. He also took part when the committee voted to make a slight change in our SOP's. Depending on who is elected NHPA President at the Convention this year, that person will be acting as an ex-officio member and will not have voting privileges. If someone currently on the HOF Committee is elected NHPA President, that person will have to step down as a voting member and a replacement will need to be appointed. According to NHPA By-laws, the NHPA President is on committees and appoints committee members. Ex-officio members do not take an active part in the business of the committee. The committee voted to make this change in wording so that we would be conducting our business in a more professional manner.

I wish everyone good pitching and safe travels as you go about your horseshoe pitching schedule in the months to come.

Vicki



A Tale of Two Scanners

Robert Taylor, KY & Casey Sluys, CA

On far too many occasions in my 38 years in this sport we've witnessed a member pass on with a book full of knowledge that they take with them. Those of you that have been here 20+ years know exactly what I'm talking about. We cannot allow this to continue to happen and that is one of the central points in this article.

Some years ago when our webmaster passed away we needed a replacement rather quickly. One was located and when the transfer of computer files took place some material was inadvertently lost. We spent weeks searching for the lost files, but they were never located. (Apparently incompatible computer language was the fault) This caused one scanner 174 hours of scanning categorizing and filing the printed issues of the NHPA magazine Newsline. Upon putting the information on a flash drive and sending it to our present webmaster it is fortunately restored for your reading enjoyment.

As the planning for this restoration was in effect I learned there was an effort underway to locate issues of the magazine called "*The Horseshoe World*." Knowing that the Northern CA Hall of Fame had a box of "old" magazines, I took them home for safekeeping for about five years. In the meantime issues began to appear online sporadically. When I became aware of who the impetus was behind this digitization effort we began communicating, it seemed logical to begin scanning the 29 issues that the NCHPA owned. They are now safely located in our Hall of Fame in Wentzville, MO. Here is part of the second scanner's story.

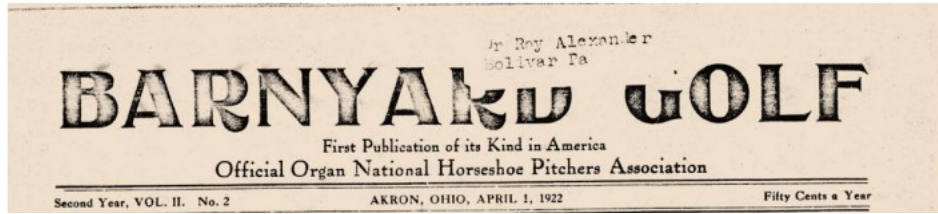
Robert Taylor KY while researching Kentucky horseshoe history with Tony Hankins KY would locate an occasional issue of "The Horseshoe World" on Ebay, purchase it and read it looking for KY historical items. When Robert became aware that one issue that Tony purchased was not on the NHPA website he submitted it and thereby fueled his drive to help. Robert learned that this magazine was published from 1922 through 1943. He found a few more issues on Ebay and began doing internet searches for the magazine. He became aware of an online source called "Worldcat" an archive of publication listings and materials. There was a listing from the "Ohio History Connection" in Columbus, OH that when contacted were agreeable to scan and PDF each issue they held that we needed for the website, for a fee, of course.

Having received some copies, on loan, of the magazine from NHPA historian Gary Kline many years ago because they had KY articles in them, I knew many of those issues, including all of 1927, went to Gary Roberts when Gary Kline passed. Robert made arrangements with Gary to come over and search through his stash of historical paraphernalia. Coming away with multiple issues of the treasured magazine.

We have contacted the surviving family of R B Howard, the publisher, and were told that there is a small chance that there could be some information in one of the grandchildren's storage facilities in AZ. Robert will pursue this avenue a bit more thoroughly.

We have had the assistance of 3 or 4 individuals who have loaned us their copy so that we could scan them in an attempt to complete this library. We are also aware that not every issue has been located therefore we are asking your assistance as you inherit your grandfathers, your father's, your uncles, or whoever's boxes of horseshoe material. Please go through them in detail and send us the copies of "*The Horseshoe World*" that are missing from the archives? Take a look on this page to see what we still need: <https://www.horseshoepitching.com/hs-world/> All that you find and send to us for scanning will be returned. There was also another 4 page publication called "*Barnyard Golf*". It pertained to horseshoe pitching and probably Quits play also. It was published in the early 1920's. If any of you have access to any of these publications please scan them for us and send to either one of us. Our contact information is on our respective Charter websites.

Sincerely, **Robert Taylor KY & Casey Sluys CA**



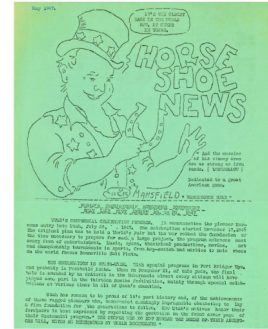
Coming Soon!!!



R. B. Howard, Publisher and Editor

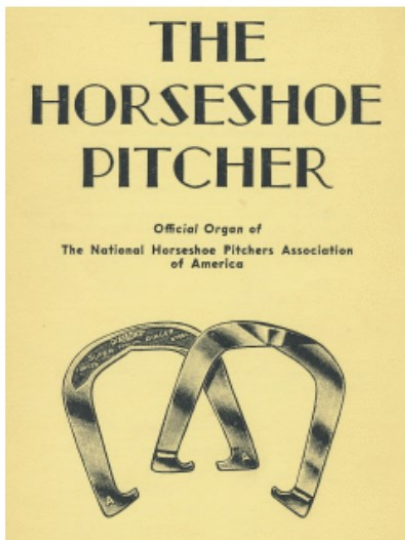
1923-1943

www.horseshoepitching.com/hs-world/



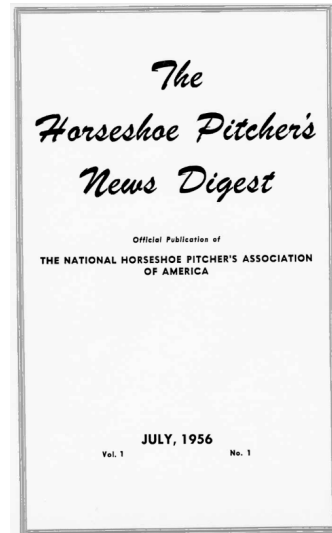
1947-1948

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/hs-news/>



1948-1956

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/hspitcher>



1956-1988

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/news-digest/>



Horseshoe Pitching March - April 2024

Newsline

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

1989-2024

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/news-newsline/>

NHPA Website/Newsline Advertising options available

There are advertising rates and options available for the NHPA website. There is an annual contract and fee of \$100 for each ad.

Please provide the artwork/file and to the NHPA webmaster, Blaine Scott at horseshoepitching@gmail.com. The payment must be submitted and paid in full along with the signed contract to Jim Kinney, NHPA Sec./Treas.

You can print a copy of the contract shown below on the NHPA website under the Newsline/Website Sponsorship tab. The advertisement will not post until payment in full is received.



NHPA Website Advertising

This agreement shall be between the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, herein known as NHPA, and advertiser: _____.

The purpose of this agreement is to outline and confirm certain terms and conditions between the two parties, specifically regarding advertising on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com.

The NHPA grants the advertiser the right to advertise their product on www.horseshoepitching.com. In addition, the NHPA and named advertiser agree to the following conditions.

1. **Advertising Fee** – An advertising fee of \$100 will be paid/received by Jim Kinney, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer prior to posting the ad on the website.
2. **Advertising Image** – The advertiser listed above will provide a jpeg image not exceeding 300 x 150 bpi (.png, .jpg) which will be placed on the website www.horseshoepitching.com in one or more locations.
3. **Link to advertiser webpage** – The advertiser listed above will provide a link to their website where the product can be viewed/purchased.
4. **Website content** – Information/content located on the advertiser webpage must always be appropriate for youth since it may be viewed by cadet/junior horseshoe pitchers any time. The NHPA reserves the right to remove the link if the content does not meet that requirement.
5. **Term of advertising** – Advertising will be provided for a term of 12 months beginning with the date of first posting on the website for a period of 12 months.
6. **Point of contact** - The NHPA Secretary/Treasurer shall be the single point of contact to manage all financial communications between the two parties. The NHPA Webmaster will be the single point of contact to manage all advertising specifics for posting, availability, and adding/removing ads from the website: www.horseshoepitching.com.

Sponsorship Opportunities

By Laurie Lampkin

(If Interested in any of these, please contact Laurie Lampkin or mail payments and artwork to Jim Kinney)

Bronze Level \$2,500 (annually)

Sponsorship at this level will entitle your company to:

- One 2' x 3' banner prominently displayed on the event site throughout the competition.
- Your name listed on posters displayed at charter events throughout the country, along with other bronze level sponsors.
- Footer banner ad in two issues of the NHPA's NEWSLINE e-newsletter.
- A quarter-page ad in the event program for the World Tournament.
- Your logo on the NHPA website (www.horseshoepitching.com) through the completion of the event.

Silver Level \$5,000 (annually)

- Sponsorship at this level will entitle your company to two 3'x5' banners prominently displayed on the event site throughout the competition.
- Your name listed on posters displayed at charter events throughout the country, along with other silver level sponsors.
- Large right column ad in two issues of the NHPA's NEWSLINE e-newsletter.
- A half-page ad in the event program.
- Your logo, linking to your website, on the NHPA website through the completion of the event.

Gold Level \$7,500 (annually)

- Sponsorship at this level will entitle your company to four 3' x 5' banners prominently displayed at several locations on the event site.
- Your name listed on posters displayed at charter events throughout the country, along with other gold level sponsors.
- Large right column ad in two issues of the NHPA's NEWSLINE e-newsletter.
- A full-page ad in the event program.
- Your logo, linking to your website, on the NHPA website through the completion of the event.

Platinum Level \$30,000 (3-year agreement)

- Only ONE Platinum sponsorship will be entered into per vendor.
- Sponsorship at this level will entitle your company/brand to naming privileges of the event, such as "Your brand presents the NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Championships",
- The event will be called such in all press releases, NHPA and charter websites and news coverage.
- Your brand name or logo will be included on all commemorative merchandise made available for the event, including trophies.
- Your brand/logo will appear on the front cover of the event program.
- Full-page ad in the event program.
- Brand prominently displayed as 4'x 6' fence panels throughout venue.
- Posters will be displayed at events throughout the country prior to the competition each year.
- Headlining ad in two issues of the NHPA's NEWSLINE e-newsletter.
- Listings in the newsletters and on websites of NHPA charters.
- Your advertising banner, linking to your website, on the NHPA website for the duration of your sponsorship.

Types of Sponsorships/Advertising available during the World Tournament:

- Leader Board
- Website
- Web Cams
- Back Drops
- Front of Podium
- HOF Banquet
- Result Sheets
- W.T. Fences (Sponsor name on the top, horseshoepitching.com on bottom)
- Shirts

NHPA OFFICERS



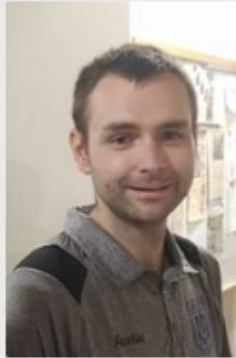
Gary Roberts

President

gbroberts5542@yahoo.com

638 Salem Cave Road
Beaver, Ohio 45613

(740) 835-1925



Austin Bailey

1st VP-/By-Laws/Rules/Grievance Dir.,
Medical Exempt Form

zringersix08@gmail.com

215 Dickinson Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 891-6531



Laurie Lampkin

2nd VP-/World Tournament
Coordinator/Publicity
Promotion Director

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Bloomfield, KY 40008

502-507-2597 - Cell



Ben Webb

3rd VP-/Sanction League
Director, Junior
Scholarships., Junior
Director

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Barbara Carson

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Sanctioning

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Wellington, Ohio 44090

(216) 548-9337



Josh Olson

5th VP, IT Director

itnhpa@gmail.com

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Verndale, MN 56481

(218) 639-4641



Brian Poole

Secretary/Treasurer

bjpoole3564@gmail.com

2660 S. Fairway Dr.
Pocatello, ID 83201

208-201-3326



NHPA

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

"Come Pitch with Us!"

Add your advertisement to NHPA History!

By Blaine Scott, NHPA Newsline Editor (Email: newsline@horseshoepitching.com)

Placement *	Rate **	Size
Header (top 1.25" of page)	\$255	1.25" x 7.5"
Footer (bottom 1.25" of page)	\$80	1.25" x 7.5"
Square (4 squares per ½ page vertical)	\$100	2.2" x 2.2"
¼ page	\$300	3.5" x 4.5"
½ page (vertical or horizontal)	\$400	Vertical: 3.5" x 9" Horizontal: 4.5" x 7"
Full page (pages 3-10 selected by editor)	\$600	7" x 9"
Full page (pages 11-999 selected by editor)	\$500	7" x 9"

Prepayment is required at time of order

Ads must be scheduled in advance with Blaine Scott, NHPA Newsline Editor

Artwork must be received by the 15th of the month prior to placement

Payment should be mailed to National Horseshoe Pitching Association,

ATTN: Newsline Advertising, P.O. Box 205, 125 Walnut Dr., Drexel, MO 64727

Womens Top 100 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	280216	Sarah	Chaffee	WI	Women	85.16	8
2	350626	Shalee	Cason	FL	Women	83.75	9
3	330031	Marlene	Ray	TN	Women	82.21	17
4	330030	Maxine	Griffith	TN	Women	79.46	16
5	623905	Lindsay	HODGINS	AB	Women	79.35	5
6	490476	Skylla	Rioux	CT	Women	79.14	9
7	664710	Sylvianne	Moisan	QC	Women	79.05	13
8	330173	Joan	Elmore	TN	Women	77.94	17
9	220130	Doris	Hieden	TX	Women	76.80	15
10	800439	Pam	Meyer	MO	Women	75.74	16
11	360294	Amy	Francis	OH	Women	74.83	13
12	280078	Penny	Steinke	WI	Women	74.67	24
13	190875	Jennifer	Gegg	MO	Women	73.77	16
14	300441	Denise	Daly	MI	Women	72.46	10
15	190819	Melanie	Zerr	MO	Women	71.49	6

(Continued on Page 30)

Mens Top 100 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	360940	Alan	Francis	OH	Men	84.98	13
2	320292	Tyler	Howard	KY	Men	77.93	16
3	320063	Ben	Webb	KY	Men	76.78	24
4	657381	Drew	BECKER	ON	Men	76.74	8
5	260084	Dan	Watson	AL	Men	74.63	11
6	100290	Brandon	Tenijieth	AZ	Men	74.15	3
7	290652	Austin	Bailey	IL	Men	73.44	14
8	300151	Andrew	Adams	MI	Men	73.13	8
9	390143	Randy	Zeiders	PA	Men	72.94	15
10	440124	Ken	Fraser	NY	Men	72.75	10
11	10058	Matt	Fuller	WA	Men	68.60	14
12	460059	Gale	Greene	VT	Men	68.24	15
13	350369	Walter Ray	Williams Jr	FL	Men	67.30	24
14	190693	Michael	Bowman	MO	Men	66.58	17
15	200023	Gary	Bearpaw	OK	Men	66.25	4

Elders Top 100 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	614016	Tom	MOFFAT	BC	Elders	78.19	20
2	370121	David	Holmes	WV	Elders	77.39	9
3	191256	Virgle	McCown	MO	Elders	76.37	16
4	350350	Bob	Gray	FL	Elders	76.23	5
5	660765	Jacques	HOULE	QC	Elders	75.94	7
6	370298	Junior	Peters	WV	Elders	74.71	13
7	220577	Danny	Patterson	TX	Elders	74.11	20
8	100192	Mike	Massari	AZ	Elders	73.58	31
9	420337	Tom	Mills	MD	Elders	73.52	10
10	220870	Tom	Routh	TX	Elders	73.46	20
11	340080	Zane	Goggin	GA	Elders	73.13	7
12	95094	Benj	Rains	UT	Elders	72.95	23
13	361017	Don	Epps	OH	Elders	72.83	13
14	10092	John	Bruhn	WA	Elders	72.27	8
15	350363	Ron	Deckard	FL	Elders	71.58	18

(Continued on Page 31)

Girls Top 25 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	340280	Lily	Strong	CA	Girls	51.05	13
2	191533	Sadie	Wolken	MO	Girls	46.25	10
3	280115	Lillyan	Kildahl	WI	Girls	39.72	8
4	802674	Madeline	Workman	NV	Girls	38.59	11
5	31233	Kaidence	Begaye	CA	Girls	33.13	1
6	180473	Danyelle	Russell	KS	Girls	30.17	6
7	803569	Aislinn Raye	Klapik	CT	Girls	29.78	13
8	95085	Kayla	Julander	UT	Girls	29.50	8
9	190110	Eli	Delacruz	MO	Girls	28.38	5
10	652230	Emma	CALHOUN	ON	Girls	25.00	2
11	130865	Cherie	Harges	IN	Girls	24.79	2
12	800812	Lilli	Light	MT	Girls	24.58	4
13	616571	Erica	MCNAB	BC	Girls	24.32	2
14	150396	Uria	Gabel	ND	Girls	23.96	7
15	95096	Adilaide	Ohms	UT	Girls	23.21	10


Boys Top 50 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	31151	Hastiin	Begaye	CA	Boys	75.00	5
2	380630	Eli	Sullivan	VA	Boys	73.33	1
3	360365	Caiden	Hogue	OH	Boys	59.02	5
4	300469	Kayden	Fowler	MI	Boys	56.47	3
5	480516	Zack	Grzembksi	MA	Boys	52.33	18
6	280127	Blake	Benzing	WI	Boys	51.77	5
7	490452	Riley	Malino	CT	Boys	51.72	6
8	95078	Coulson	Ohms	UT	Boys	47.89	7
9	220641	Isaac	Nelson Jr.	TX	Boys	46.41	2
10	190085	Warren	Highley	MO	Boys	45.47	24
11	231968	Tristan	Dehkes	MN	Boys	44.58	1
12	150403	Jackson	Johnson	ND	Boys	44.31	11
13	260172	Tyler	Harris	AL	Boys	44.17	4
14	802657	Tom	Grose	NV	Boys	44.05	4
15	803169	Ryder	Smith	MT	Boys	41.61	3

(Continued on Page 32)

Cadets Top 25 Stats *7 May 2024*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	801315	Evan	Bedard	MA	Cadet Boys	54.31	9
2	31223	Adakai	Begaye	CA	Cadet Boys	41.09	4
3	231913	Lucas	Rasmussen	MN	Cadet Boys	34.42	2
4	802539	Zachary	Smith	IA	Cadet Boys	32.44	18
5	804087	Gavin	Begaye Jr.	CA	Cadet Boys	31.10	5
6	370009	Max	Martin	WV	Cadet Boys	27.87	4
7	803323	Bryant	Seegmiller	UT	Cadet Boys	27.78	2
8	803798	Tah-dsoka	Jeff	CA	Cadet Boys	25.54	2
9	803792	Jacob	Barney	UT	Cadet Boys	25.23	9
10	803216	Beau	Dehkes	MN	Cadet Boys	25.00	1
11	803456	Jeremiah	DeMello	WA	Cadet Boys	24.58	10
12	804088	Eben	Begaye	CA	Cadet Boys	22.81	5
13	802463	Jackson	Vancleave	MI	Cadet Boys	21.64	6
14	801361	Cody	Brickell	CO	Cadet Boys	20.55	4
15	802970	Alexzander	Schmidt	GA	Cadet Boys	19.64	3



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Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association