



HORSESHOE PITCHING NEWSLINE



Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

March/April 2025

Spring season on the horizon!

Council updates, Valley of the sun
tournament report, announcements
and more in this edition of the
Horseshoe Pitching Newsline!



2025 Hall of Fame Inductees



**HAPPY
EASTER**
FROM THE NHPA



Renew your NHPA membership
for 2025 today!

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Hall of Fame Candidates

Ben Webb, NHPA President

Winter Meeting Report

Time is flying by in 2025! The executive council began our year in Sandy, Utah where we were brought in by our hosts for the 2025 World Tournament at the Mountain America Expo Center. We conducted a site tour of both the pitching venue and potential banquet locations along with holding our monthly council meeting. While we normally spend a few hours on teams each month meeting as a council, we were able to spend much more time together over these few days. Over the course of just a couple of days we spent several hours meeting to conduct and plan the upcoming business for the NHPA. We discussed several topics over the course of our meeting, including:

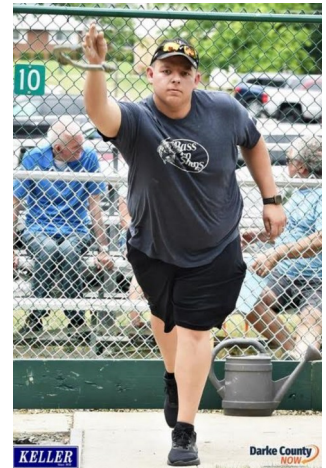
- 2024 and 2025 Financials and Budget
- Final Membership numbers for 2024
- Current Membership totals for 2025
- Several ideas and new efforts to increase membership in 2025
- Effect of waived Youth dues for 2025
- Revised Sponsorship packet
- World Tournament Scheduling Format
- Software options for the 2025 World Tournament and beyond
- Equipment upgrades for 2025
- Upgraded Promotional materials
- Revised officer/director responsibilities for 2025
- NHPA Standard Operating Procedure update
- Website and Newslines updates
- Inaugural World Doubles Championship in Wentzville
- Schedule formatting for 2025 World Tournament

We spent most of our time at the meetings discussing membership trends, financial data and finding ways to increase our membership for the coming year while keeping our budget on track for the fiscal year. I appreciate the time all of the council members took out of their schedules to spend at our winter meeting. We were able to make several decisions that will help us move in a forward direction this year.

HOF Announcements

2025 began with the resignation of Hall of Fame committee chairperson, Vicki Winston, who decided to step away from the role for personal reasons. I'd like to thank Vicki for her years of dedication as committee chair and all of the work that comes along with that very important job. Vicki also asked to step away from the committee as a voting member after the 2025 committee voting. We are actively seeking an interested candidate to fill a voting position on the committee.

Upon Vicki's resignation as chairperson, Stan Griggs was appointed as the new Hall of Fame committee chairperson. Amy Francis will be assisting Stan as needed with committee responsibilities. A big thank you to both Stan and Amy with all of their work this year in getting the voting completed on it's normal timeline.



Continued on Page 4

Ben Webb, NHPA President, continued

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Upon Vicki's resignation as chairperson, Stan Griggs was appointed as the new Hall of Fame committee chairperson. Amy Francis will be assisting Stan as needed with committee responsibilities. A big thank you to both Stan and Amy with all of their work this year in getting the voting completed on it's normal timeline. With that being said, the committee has completed its work and I'm very happy to announce that our 2025 Hall of Fame inductees are:

Historic Era Player: Monte Latino



Player: Roger Vogel



Promotor/Organizer: David Sidles



Here are a few snippets of each individuals success from their nominations:

Monte Latino – “Everyone knew him like he was a celebrity. People knew his car with the NHPA license plate frame, NHPA sticker in the back window”, “He won uncountable AA division tournaments all over at the local and state level. In his prime he threw in the high 80 percentile”

Roger Vogel – “Roger has the distinction of being the only pitcher ever to win Men’s State championships in five different states. Between the years of 1980-1982, he won titles in Illinois (4), Colorado (3), New Mexico (1), Texas (1), and Arizona (1)”.

David Sidles – “He is a tireless worker and thinker and continues his quest to work with and for NHPA in several capacities. He has been decorated with any awards from every level and place of his involvement”
A huge congratulations to the NHPA Hall of Fame class of 2025 as we look forward to our 2025 induction ceremony with these individuals, their friends, and families!



Equipment upgrade on the way

When I appointed Jerry LaBrosse back to the council in the summer of 2024, it was with the intent that Jerry would help raise our WT setup standards again, along with his other responsibilities. Recognizing over the past couple of years that the quality of our setup had slipped a little from previous years, it was necessary to reign this back in and standardize our setup process. We have plans soon to repaint the lines on our matting for the pitching lanes on all our WT courts, and to phase out some of the older equipment. Jerry quickly identified our inventory was very low on what we need to successfully conduct the WT and was able to identify a source to bring us several pieces of equipment that will last us for years to come at a very reasonable price. We have reached a verbal agreement and will soon be coordinating the transfer of this equipment.

Coming out of our winter meeting, our IT Director Josh Olson, had identified the need to upgrade our operating system for the WT. Our computers had become outdated and obsolete, causing several system issues when trying to conduct the event. The council unanimously voted to allow Josh to coordinate the purchase of new laptops to be used beginning in 2025. Josh is working with several of the larger computer manufacturers to get us the best possible pricing on this new equipment.

Newberry Kickoff

The 2025 Spring horseshoe pitching season is just on the horizon with many local parks beginning to see more and more traffic as warm weather approaches. Most charters have already set their pitching schedules for the year and we're in the best time to begin promoting your leagues and tournaments. I encourage all event directors to take advantage of free advertising: Newspaper stories, local Facebook group posts, community stories at local news stations, etc. Pre-season is the best time to get that new pitcher interested with a full season of events ahead of them.

Looking beyond local tournaments is where I intend to begin my pitching season for the spring of 2025. As someone who doesn't pitch many winter events, I participated in 1 tournament in Somerset, Kentucky with a sub-par outing from months of not pitching. With the warm weather increasing though, I'll begin practicing and preparing for my first event of the spring season. Consistent with recent years, I'll be travelling to Newberry, South Carolina for the kickoff of the Horseshoe Tour season at the Sue Snyder Memorial. This is always a great, early season event that begins on Friday night with the Horseshoe Tour Hall of Fame ceremony. This year's Tour HOF inductees include Ron LeGrand-MO, Pat Pertuit-LA, Jerry Dean-MD, Bob Koontz-SC, JoAnn Stanford-TN, Ellen Perry-NY, and current NHPA 2nd Vice President Dalton Rakestraw-CA! Congratulations to all of the 2025 Horseshoe Tour HOF inductees! If you've never participated in a horseshoe tour event, Newberry is a great place to kick off your year. A great, fun filled weekend with horseshoe friends, competing in a unique format you just can't get anywhere else!

Following the Newberry Tour tournament, I'll be travelling to our own Hall of Fame building in Wentzville, Missouri to compete in the annual HOF invitational tournament. A tournament that's showcased horseshoe pitching talent unlike any other in recent years. Outside of the World Tournament, this tournament brings a highly competitive, two-day tournament of 15 games between the top 16 pitchers in the world in both the 30 and 40foot divisions. The top 16 pitchers based on ringer percentage from each distance enter the tournament, from there playing a round robin of 15 games over just two days for a grand prize of \$1,200 in each division. Each match creates an unpredictable round that can see any top pitcher rise or fall in the standings.

From April until September, the season is in full gear with weekly tournaments, leagues and other events going on all across the NHPA! Where will you be beginning your 2025 horseshoe pitching season?

NHPA 1st Vice President Letter of Intent

NHPA President Ben Webb and NHPA Webmaster/Newsline Editor Blaine Scott,

Good evening Everyone, as you know my name is Austin Bailey. I am the NHPA 1st Vice President and I have been involved on the NHPA council since August of 2023. Since becoming an officer I have served as the interim President as well from May 2023-August 2023. I have also been involved at the state level in Illinois for 14 years as I am the 3rd Vice President and State Tournament Director which I have run the State tournament for 13 years. This will be my 27th year being a member of the NHPA. With last year being my official full first year as an officer I realized how much more I enjoyed it and I enjoyed being at the World Tournament from start to finish, it is something that I look forward to each year. I am fortunate enough to take almost 2 weeks away from my day-to-day job to do something that I have really come to enjoy. It is hard to imagine what I would be doing all these years later if I wasn't introduced to Horseshoes. After attending my very first World Tournament back in 1999, who would have thought I, as they say, was hooked from the start, and I have not looked back. The NHPA is a great big family that I have come to know and love. I want to make sure this organization is around for my kids and my grandkids. I am looking forward to this next year and years to come if I am reelected to set ground work and keep the NHPA alive and well. I feel like with my experience I can continue to make a difference on the NHPA council. I want to continue to serve you as the 1st Vice President of the NHPA.

This is my letter of intent as I plan to run for the 1st Vice President spot. I look forward to seeing you all on the courts!

Thank you!

Austin Bailey

NHPA 3rd Vice President Letter of Intent

Seeking NHPA 3rd VP position

Hello, my name is Jerry LaBrosse, MN and I am announcing my candidacy for the 3rd VP position. I am currently 3rd VP after being selected to serve the remainder of the term vacated due to council moves. My current assignments include Chairing the Rules Committee, and also managing our equipment inventory and the World Tournament setup and tear down. I served 3 terms as NHPA 5th VP beginning in 2007, and performed these same duties back then as well. Besides working with this fine group of officers on our current topics, my goals are to maintain the integrity and excellence of our rules and bylaws committee, and to build and improve our equipment procedures, and provide top quality conditions for our WT participants. I invite any questions from any members, and I am asking for your support.

Thank you

Jerry LaBrosse
NHPA 3rd VP

Miracles happened!

Ken Heinritz, NHPA Chaplain



We've been exploring the thought, that if the very God who created us, visited planet earth, what might we expect? We might expect that the Holy Bible, if indeed is authored by Almighty God, might say something about His Coming, by way of Old Testament prophesy. And IT DOES. At least 100 predictions about Jesus alone, ALL COMING TRUE.

And if God came to earth, we would expect His words to be absolutely amazing. And THEY WERE! The people were continually blown away after hearing Jesus speak. He made everyone speechless. But shouldn't we expect that if He really did come to this earth? We covered these in past Newsletters.

This article would be remiss if I didn't bring up the obvious. If God came to earth, we would expect Him to do amazing things. WOULDN'T WE?

Jesus Himself said (in John 10:38) "... though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." Let's take a look at just a small sample size of the works of Jesus recorded in Scripture.

Mark 2:12 after Jesus healed the paralytic "Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Mark 6:51 after Jesus walks on water & calms the storm "Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled."

Matt. 8:27 after Jesus rebuked the sea & the storm ceased "So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Matt. 21:20 after Jesus cursed the fig tree "And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

Mark 5:42 after raising a girl from the dead "Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement."

Mark 7:37 after healing the deaf & mute man "And they were astonished beyond measure ..."

Luke 5:9 after the unbelievable catch of fish "For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken."

Matt. 12:23 after Jesus healed a man demon-possessed, blind & mute "And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

Many more I could tell you. But I think you get the point. For the 3 years that Jesus publicly ministered, the people walked around with their mouths gaping open because of all the amazing things Jesus said and did. Healings are happening all the time. This is an outburst of miracles intended to demonstrate that the Messiah, God in human flesh, has arrived in the world. What Jesus did was unprecedented, such a healing display, giving evidence that He is God.

Matt. 9:35 says "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

At no time ever in history before or after Jesus, did one have such healing power.

And there are miracles not mentioned? Probably thousands!! Listen to what John tells us at the end of his gospel, he said, John 21:25 "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written ..."

Ken Heinritz, NHPA Chaplain

And what the Bible records is fascinating. He controlled nature turning water into wine. He stopped a raging storm all at once. He controlled fish, sending them into the net. He multiplied food to feed twenty thousand people. He walked on water. When it came time to pay His temple tax, He told Peter to catch a fish out of the sea and he would find the tax money in its mouth. Cursed a tree, and it dried up on the spot. He spoke to disease and it disappeared. He picked up a man's ear that was cut off put it back where it belonged. His works are just unbelievable.

When you look at Jesus' life, there is no possibility that men could come up with such a person. When he spoke, people said, "We never heard anybody speak like this." What He did, they said "We never saw anything like it." There is no human explanation for Jesus.

We can't mistake who He is and the only way you can look for Jesus and not find Him is if you don't believe what the Bible says. And if you take it upon yourself not to believe what the Bible says, you are putting yourself in greater authority than Scripture. A person may say, "I don't believe the Bible is true." Are you kidding me? Really?

And then we have the miracle of miracles: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Should this surprise us? Absolutely NOT!! Happy Easter everyone!!



See You Next Year
in



SALT LAKE!

2025 National Horseshoe Pitchers
Association World Tournament

July 21—August 2, 2025

FOR HOUSING REGISTRATION
AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
SALT LAKE, SCAN BELOW:



SPORTS
SALT LAKE

visitsaltlake.com



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Sponsorship Opportunities



\$75 – (circle one)

Website Sponsorship – Clickable Logo on the “partners” page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year
1/4 Page advertisement in 1 edition of the NHPA Newsline

\$125 – (circle one)

Placement on the “World Tournament Sponsored by” banner
1/2 Page advertisement in 1 edition of the NHPA Newsline
1 – “court sponsored by” sign behind 1 pit at the World Tournament

\$150 – (circle one)

Website Sponsorship – Clickable Logo on the home page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

\$175 – (circle one)

World Tournament preliminary class trophy sponsorship – 1 class Full page advertisement in 1 edition of the Newsline
“Yard” style sign outside of the venue entrance displaying company information

\$300 – (circle one)

World Tournament championship class trophy sponsorship – 1 class
3’x5’ banner, hung alongside tarps of pitching area displaying company information (hung inside the pitching area)
Standing banner in the corridor of the event stadium

\$500 – (circle one)

2 - 3’x5’ banner, hung alongside tarps of pitching area displaying company information and/or logo’s

\$750 – (circle one)

2 - 3’x5’ banner, hung alongside fence of pitching area displaying company information

Company Information:

Sponsor Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Information for purchased advertisement:

Company Name: _____ Location: _____

Additional Wording (Banners):

Sponsor Signature: _____ NHPA Representative Signature: _____

If paid advertisement please remit payment to NHPA Representative or mailed to NHPA Secretary/Treasurer within 10 business days of signing of this agreement, checks should be made payable to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Effective Date: _____



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association Sponsorship Packages



\$750, Silver Sponsor

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1-year

2 – “court sponsored by” signs behind 2 pits at the
World Tournament

Full page advertisement in 2 editions of the Newline

1/2 – page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

\$1,500, Championship Sponsor –

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

4 – “court sponsored by” signs hung behind 2 full
courts at the World Tournament

Recognition of sponsorship on 1 full set of
championship class trophies

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the
Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

2 – 3x5 banner, hung alongside the fencing of the
pitching area for the duration of the World
Tournament

\$1,250, Gold Sponsor

Clickable Logo on the home page of
horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

2 – “court sponsored by” signs behind 2 pits at the
World Tournament

1 – 3x5 banner, hung alongside the inside tarps of
the pitching area for the duration of the event

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament
program book

Become a Title sponsor of the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament!

Only 4 of this type sold per year

Clickable Logo on the home page of horseshoepitching.com for 1 year

4 – “court sponsored by” signs hung behind 2 full courts at the World Tournament

Recognition of sponsorship on 1 full set of championship class trophies

Full page advertisement in 3 editions of the Newline

Full page advertisement in the World Tournament program book

4 – 3x5 banners, hung throughout the venue for the duration of the World Tournament

Recognition as a Title Sponsor in press release and opening ceremonies

\$2,500

Attach additional sponsorship form for Sponsorship Package purchases

Seeking Sponsors

Austin Bailey, NHPA 1st Vice President

Greetings from Illinois,

I hope everyone is doing well. I am ready for warm weather. We hit a stretch of very cold weather and snow here and it made me realize how ready I am to get outside and start pitching again. I hope everyone is staying warm and healthy right now. I also hope that everyone took advantage of the world tournament discount that we did for people signing up. I think that we had a pretty decent turnout for the people that took advantage of the discount. I look for this to continue hopefully in the coming years. If you are pitching indoors still, I hope your winter season has been treating you well.



I am looking forward to the upcoming tournaments that I will be attending in May with the first being the Hall of Fame Invitational. This is such a great tournament to play in and to come and spectate. Some of the best in the world will be attending this tournament and I look forward to attending this one every year. The 2nd tournament is Team World. If you have never played in this tournament, you should try and get a team together and come on up to Beloit Wisconsin. Jeff Secord and his team put on a absolutely fantastic tournament. This tournament draws teams from all over the US and Canada.

If you did not already know, I am up for re-election already this year at the world tournament. I will be running for this position again. I love serving the NHPA council and I really hope that all of you will still have the confidence in me to continue to serve you. This organization has been great to me over the past 27 years, and I want to give back.

The sponsorship committee meets once a month and we have a good committee of people looking to get sponsorships for the NHPA. I am overseeing this committee and I like the direction we are heading. We have a sponsorship form made out and if you know someone that would be willing to be a sponsor for the NHPA, please feel free to email anyone of us on the committee. We have several options and it doesn't have to be a huge amount to be a sponsor. I am trying to get my place of employment to be a corporate sponsor for you. I will have more information on this in the months to come. I have very good feelings about this, and I am excited to see what can happen out of it.

Also just to remind everyone I am also in charge of grievances as well so if you have something that you are concerned about, please reach out to me and I will help you out in the best possible way that I can.

See you on the courts
Austin



COMPLAINT

Grow the NHPA...Win prizes along the way!

By Lucy Strong, Promotions Director

Hello, Lucy Strong here! I am really looking forward to seeing growth and new faces in the NHPA this year. The referral prize pack drawing has officially gone live and the drawing will occur on September 1st!

To enter the drawing, simply refer a family or friend to sign up for the NHPA and attend one tournament. There will be two winners, one youth and one adult. The youth prize consists of a Nintendo switch lite, a console case, the Mario Kart 8 game, and a new pair of horseshoes. The adult prize contains Apple AirPods, an NHPA tumbler, \$50 gift card and a new pair of horseshoes. These prizes have a \$350 value!



There are google forms available to fill out as the entry form. This can be done on a computer or phone. Just copy the website link into your browser and fill it out.

The youth entry link is <https://forms.gle/p3TNE1mcmhpokWDo6>

The adult entry link is <https://forms.gle/ENDDifiM9Z3LFFvx5>

The World Tournament is quickly approaching! With that being said, the promotions committee will now be focused on promoting this tournament in the area. If you have any ideas, please email me at nhpa.promotionsdirector@gmail.com



Seeking Publicity Committee Member

Dalton Rakestraw 2nd Vice President

The horseshoe season of 2025 is underway and off and running...well pitching! By the time you read this issue of the Newsline, the Southern California charter will have already hosted 18 tournaments! We have been lucky so far this year that none of our horseshoe clubs AND families have braved the adversity here. The fires that outbroke back in January have finally subsided. A few members houses were in jeopardy however they survived with minimal to no damages. The horseshoe clubs in Burbank and Ventura were at most risk for the fires being in the "red" area and thankfully they have ZERO damages as well. We are all mourning the losses of lives and damages however this will be a great re-building phase for Los Angeles and hopefully I can work some horseshoe pits into the mix! Maybe...



Major Tournaments in the NHPA

Major tournaments continue to embark on the horseshoe pitching realm. Once again, by the time you read this issue, the Valley of the Sun tournament in Mesa, Arizona, will have completed. Congratulations to all the winners. I am sure the results and photos can be found elsewhere in this issue. As always, the results can always be found on eShoe. Major events are always a great time for friends to meet and greet outside the world tournament. One of the "majors" is the Hall of Fame Invitational. Look for the top players across North America come to compete at the NHPA Hall of Fame courts in Missouri. Team World in Wisconsin in May comes to mind for upcoming major events. Of course, the Ringer Classic in Ohio. The World Doubles Championships replacing the SLT in October. All great things to look forward too. Even the World Tournament! Look for great showcasing's this year as the horseshoe season progresses. The NHPA Council is looking at adding additional "prestigious" events namely US Nationals and US Open. As mentioned in the last article, Hutchinson, Kansas has submitted a bid. I have also received increased interest from Shreveport/Bossier, Louisiana. Stay tuned as these updates will be sent out when available.

World Tournament 2025 Member Updates

We are underway getting closer and closer to the entry deadline for this year's event at Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy, Utah! The SportsSaltLake team has been working with me on coordinating this event. If any charters or members would like "info" packets, please don't hesitate to reach out to SportsSaltLake via email at volunteer@sportssaltlake.com please include your name, charter, amount requested, and address when sending an email. Cassidy will quickly get those to you whenever you click send.

The host hotel continues to be **Hyatt House-Sandy**. The link has been sent for players to make reservations with preferred and partner hotels in the area. The link is listed below. There is currently no offers set for Hyatt House. There are several preferred hotels in the link. This will be a new form of reservations for the members. Reservation making is starting to become more popular with sites and links, secured payment options etc. Look for this to start coming to fruition in the future. I will be sitting in on a few education sessions for this type of player bookings at upcoming sports events.

<https://app.eventconnect.io/events/36778/hotels?nav=hidden>



Dalton Rakestraw, NHPA 2nd Vice President

Also, if anyone wants to call and book their reservation. You may call the support line at 1-888-723-2064 or email them with questions at support@eventconnect.io

The Hall of Fame & Awards Banquet has been set for Sunday, July 27th, 2025. This year we are having to outsource our night away from the arena and thanks to Barb Carson, when the NHPA council went to Sandy for the winter meeting, she found Ladu Events Center/Dance Studio. Barb and I went to Ladu, pprox.. 2.5 miles from the Expo Center and toured. We immediately were greeted by owner Daniel and knew this would be the place. Thanks to Michelle Foard as she will be driving to Sandy, and her brother lives in the area and is out at Farmer's Markets for décor. I for one am looking forward to this year's banquet. The menu will be as follows:

Appetizers

- Southern Style Assorted Dips

Main Meal

- Smoked Bourbon BBQ Brisket, Country Roasted Chicken & Smoked Pulled Pork – Mac & Cheese, Corn on the Cob
- House Salad w/Dressing
- Assorted BBQ Sauces
- Rolls w/Butters

Desserts Station

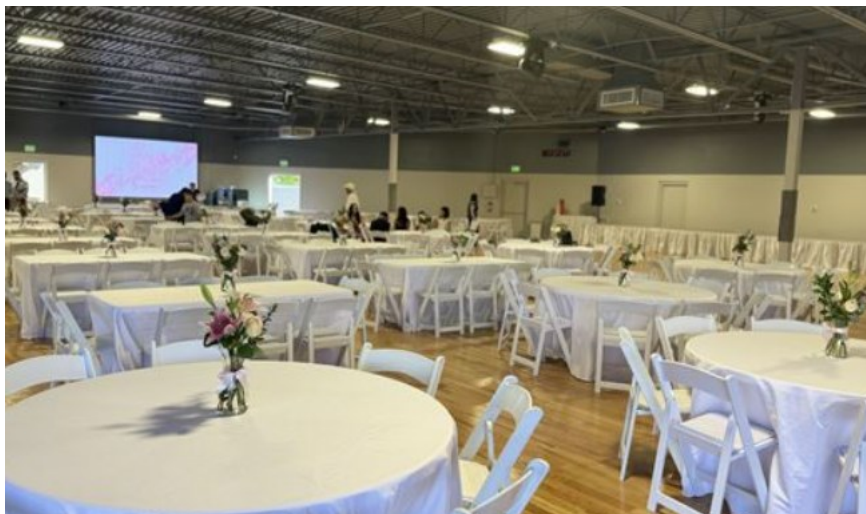
- Chocolate Fountain with Traditional Dipping Items
- Assorted Desserts
- Ice Cream (with assorted toppings)

Banquet tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at the link listed below:

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/nhpa-awards-banquet-tickets/>

Just click add to cart to be taken to the PayPal link for purchase. Or as always tickets will be sold on site. First come, first served for 150 tickets available for purchase.

Please note *due to beer and liquor laws and permits in Utah, there will be no cash bar with beer and liquor on site at the banquet. The social hour will be soft drinks, tea, and lemonade.*



Dalton Rakestraw, NHPA 2nd Vice President

Sports Conferences 2025

The sports conferences is where all the beginnings and deals form for suppliers (cities) to begin to want to host the World Tournament. Thankfully, the NHPA is a hot commodity at these sports conferences. There is much interest in hosting our event however the final deals just cannot commit for one reason or another. Hopefully the tides will be turning, and it is looking good as one confirmed bidder has submitted for 2030 and that is Sports Lubbock for Lubbock, Texas! Here is the listed schedule for the Sports Conferences of 2025...

March 3-5: Missouri Sports Travel Exchange: Lake Ozark, Missouri

April 14-17: Sports ETA: Tulsa, Oklahoma

May 14-15: SPORTS Invitational: Lake Tahoe, Nevada

August 25-27: Connect Sports: Miami, Florida

September 8-11: SPORTS: The Relationship Conference: Columbia, South Carolina

October 13-16: TEAMS: Columbus, Ohio

Ben Webb has been working with a team called *Huddle Up Group* and has been to several local conferences in Kentucky and Virginia. So, the outlook of suppliers is hopeful. Stay tuned!

New Member Packages

The Promotions Committee has been in the works to revamp the new membership bags. Currently they are on pause as we are currently out of stock. We are working on filling these back orders. Lucy Strong, our Promotions Director, had a survey made and was emailed to the charter contacts and the response was split between keeping them and eliminating them. We feel this is a good thank you for joining. We are considering wrist bracelets, bumper stickers, and a newly created "new member patch" for the new members. We are outsourcing shirts. We would like to keep them, but costs are becoming more than the budget will allow. We are hoping to have this resolved soon.

That about does it for my article this month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the World Tournament and upcoming events leading up to that time. I am thoroughly enjoying working for you all on the NHPA council. It has had its challenges, but it is going quite well. As always, my communications are open to you all. Texts are preferred or emails first as I do work night shift in California. When you are going home from work, I am still sleeping for my shift. Haha! Sending you all much luck and many ringers.

Best,
Dalton Rakestraw
NHPA 2nd Vice President

Come join the greatest tournament experience

Jerry LaBrosse, 3rd Vice President

The first thing I want to say is that if there is anyone out there who submitted a rule or bylaw proposal and DID NOT receive an acknowledgement from me, contact me immediately. I will ALWAYS acknowledge any emails or texts that I receive.

There have only been a few proposals received this year, and I believe that's the way it should be.

For those of you who may have noticed that the Rules and Bylaws section of the website are not fully updated, I can assure you that we are working on getting that section completely updated and 100% accurate. This may take another month or two because of scheduling. I will write about this update project when it is complete, hopefully the next Newsline! After that, if anyone ever spots any discrepancy in our rules or bylaws, please bring it to my attention and I will quickly get it resolved.

I plan to go back several years to make sure that every rule and bylaw change that occurred has been updated in our master files.

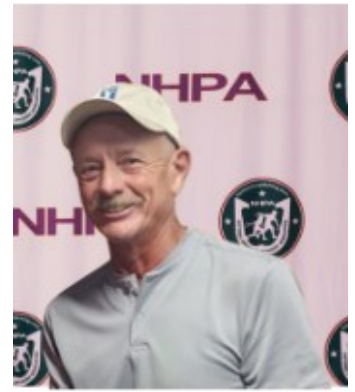
Are you thinking about attending the World Tournament for the first time? Make this the year!

Let me start by saying that if you have never attended a world tournament, you truly don't know what you're missing. It is the world's largest and greatest horseshoe tournament! Where else can you go and play against 15 other players in your division who are almost the exact same skill level as you are? The experience is extraordinary to say the very least. And who knows, you just might make a few new friends along the way. To win your class at world is a very difficult and rewarding achievement!!

This year's WT is in Sandy Utah, a southern suburb of Salt Lake City. The tournament will be held in the Mountain America Expo Center, a beautiful and large venue that will enable us to have all of our courts, including practice courts, all inside and under one roof, no split locations like we have had at some locations. We will also be setting up our annual Jukskei exhibition inside the arena. We are planning a few fun "extras", like perhaps a dunk tank? Wouldn't be fun to dunk your favorite officer?

The area has tons of great things to offer visitors. National Parks galore, great golf, and great local food are all part of a great WT experience awaiting you. There are other events happening during our stay there, and they will be highlighted in upcoming Newslines and NHPA Eblasts, so stay tuned. Make sure you have your 4 qualifying events and make the decision to attend, you won't be sorry. Everything you need to know about this year's WT is available on the NHPA website! Make this the year you enter the NHPA World Tournament!

In my next Newsline article I will outline the details of the tournament set-up plans. We need to do some updating to our equipment and will need extra help this year. If you are able bodied and willing to do some fun work with our crew, please feel free to reach out and learn more about this fascinating setup process. We are always looking for good folks willing to help us produce the finest experience we can for our members.



Welcome to the Hot Dog City League, Indiana

Barb Carson, 4th Vice President

Hello Everyone and Happy Almost Spring`

As I sit here in my office, watching it snow, it's hard to believe that Spring is just a couple of weeks away. I don't know about you, but I am so ready for sunny days and warmer temperatures.



It's been a very busy couple of months for me. We, the council, spent 3 days in Sandy, UT for our winter meeting. We stayed at the Host Hotel, which is the Hyatt House. If you are planning to go to the World Tournament, I highly recommend staying at this Hotel. The rooms are spacious and the hospitality was fantastic. They also provide a free breakfast, which is a good variety of food. We also visited and took a tour of the Mountain America Expo Center. The facility is beautiful and you are not going to want to miss pitching in this years World Tournament. The Salt Lake City area is easy to get around and the suburb of Sandy has so much to do and see. The view of the mountains is all around and is spectacular. There are so many places to eat and plenty of shopping areas. I would highly recommend adding a couple of days to your stay just to explore the area and take in all the beauty that the Salt Lake City Utah area has to offer.

I would like to thank all of you for getting your 2024 End of year League stats to me by the deadline. I have been diligently working on getting all stats into the Top 10 system. This is a manual process, so please bear with me as I get all stats entered. Congratulations to everyone on your high games and would just like to say Thank you for playing in Sanction Leagues. Also, thank you Sanction League Directors for all that you do to make league pitching a fun experience for everyone who plays. All 2024 stats have been entered into eshoe and all 2024 patch orders have been sent out. I have also received a few 2025 league stats and those have been entered into eshoe and the 2025 Top 10 system.

I would like to welcome our newest NHPA League in Indiana. Welcome to the Hot Dog City League which is located in Frankfort, IN. (Great name by the way) The League Director is Sam Payne and the address for the league facility is: 1201 Forest Drive, Frankfort, IN 46041. Please stop by and say hello, give them a big welcome, or come and pitch in the league with them. Thank you Sam Payne, League Director for making this league a reality for your area. I am looking forward to working with you and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. That also goes for every league director. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I am still waiting for some recommendations for League Director of the Year. If you feel that someone deserves to be recognized, please send me their name and a short biography on them.

Thank you to all of the RD's who have entered your 2025 Tournament Schedules into eshoe and for your prompt request for your Tournament patches. All of you have done an outstanding job this past year and so far in 2025, you are headed in the right direction again. Each and every one of you make my job easier and fun. I only have a handful of patch orders that still need to be submitted to me. As soon as I receive those orders, they will be shipped to you. I am glad to say that I had to re-order some more Doubles Tournament Champion patches. That means that more doubles tournaments are being scheduled this year. Those will also get you ready for the World Doubles Tournament that is in the planning stages. That tournament will be held in October at the Hall of Fame Building in Wentzville, MO. Ben Webb will be providing all of the information to you when he has everything in place to make that announcement. Hope to see all of you Doubles Pitchers there.

Barb Carson, NHPA 4th Vice President

I would like to welcome back a Court Complex that the State of North Carolina will be using this year. The RD in N. Carolina, Ray Callahan, is currently in the process of re-sanctioning this facility. I don't have any current information on this facility yet, but I will let everyone know as soon as possible. This facility hasn't been used for Sanction Tournaments since 2018. Great job Ray for getting this facility up and going again and thank you for all you do for the state of N. Carolina and the NHPA Sanction Tournaments.

At this time, I would like to congratulate Tom Moffat on being selected by the Victoria Foundation as the Male Master Athlete of the Year of Greater Victoria, Canada. Congratulations on your award and looking forward to watching you pitch at the World Tournament in Sandy, UT.

I just want to give a big shout out to everyone that is lucky enough to have indoor facilities to pitch in during this crazy, cold and snowy winter that we are having. Thank you Tournament Directors, Regional Directors and League Directors for running Tournaments and Leagues in these facilities. Looking forward to talking and meeting with you in July at the World Tournament.

Once again in 2025, I will be asking for volunteers to help me with player check in at the World Tournament. Check-in occurs on the Monday and Thursday of the 1st week and Monday and Thursday of the 2nd week. Times for check in are based on the pitching schedule and the number of entries. Please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer. It usually takes about 30 minutes out of your day to get everyone checked in. Please also let me know if you are interested in being a Shift Director, Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Barbara Carson
4th VP Regional Director Administrator
Sanctioned League Director
7618 Willow Woods Dr, North Olmsted, OH 44070
Bcarson848@gmail.com
216-548-9337



Horseshoe Pitcher Tom Moffat named top male master athlete of the year of Greater Victoria, Canada—Congratulations Tom!!!

See the following links for articles about Tom

Saanich News

<https://www.saanichnews.com/sports/langford-horseshoe-champ-caps-off-season-as-male-master-athlete-of-the-year-7856266>

Times Colonist

<https://www.timescolonist.com/sports/top-victoria-athletes-of-2024-honoured-at-government-house-10301011>

Island Social Trends

<https://islandsocialtrends.ca/2025-victoria-sports-awards-winners-announced/>

A Woman Who Sees With Her Heart

Kent Frailing

Paula Schwerdtfeger, (Kobelman) loves to pitch horseshoes. She wants to do her best and she is very competitive. Paula will welcome you with open arms to practice with her, at her courts at home, but be prepared. Paula practices late at night without lights illuminating the courts.

Earlier this year, Paula pitched at Summit Ridge in Wonewoc, WI, an indoor horseshoe facility, and finished in second place. So, what is so unusual about the second-place finish and pitching in darkness? Paula is legally blind.

When Paula's opponents meet her, most will never know of her condition as she does not walk out on the court with the aid of a white cane.

Paula can make out blurred shadows and objects in close proximity, however, her balance is crucial. Often, you will see Paula outstretch her arms like the wings of an airplane to maintain her balance.

Paula and I have worked together at many tournaments to help her determine stance and landing of her horseshoes. The problem, our vocal communication back and forth was a disruption to the other pitchers. I knew this was not going to be acceptable at the State Horseshoe Tournament, therefore, we submitted a request to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association, (WHPA), to allow the use of 2-way radios for communication purposes for Paula and her spotter. The WHPA unanimously voted yes.

At the Wisconsin 101st State Horseshoe Tournament, held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, I believe Paula was the FIRST blind person EVER to compete in a State Sanctioned Horseshoe Tournament.

Paula will pitch against you with or without the use of a spotter. The only problem, unless Paula hears the clang of her shoe landing against the stake, she has absolutely no idea where her shoe landed.

So, I am Paula's eyes. With the use of two-way radios, her opponent has no idea that I am communicating with her. It begins with her stance, posture and position on the court. If we cannot determine a suitable benchmark in the pitcher's box, often I will make a small mark with chalk so that Paula can adjust her stance.

After Paula is comfortable with her stance, Paula lofts her first horseshoe. I use letters and numbers much like the game, "Battleship" to allow her to zero in on the stake. During one of the matches at Summit Ridge, her opponent pitched their horseshoe and it landed upright in front of the stake. This time, I told Paula there was a leaner in front of the stake. "Pitch a little softer and a little higher". Paula nodded telling me she understood, pitched her horseshoe, and lofted a ringer perfectly.

Paula's next goal is to pitch at The World Horseshoe Tournament, providing the use of two-way radios is approved by the NHPA.

Paula encourages everyone to go after their dreams and not let a disability discourage them. I am proud to be Paula's friend.

So, my fellow horseshoe pitchers, if you are ever having a bad day on the courts, try pitching with a blindfold on.



Paula Schwerdtfeger, 47, practicing her passion of horseshoe throwing at her home in Waupaca on April 9. GABI BROCKEMA/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Story Time on the Courts

Josh Olson-5th Vice President

Something that I really enjoy about the horseshoes game is the comradery and family aspect that it brings. Whether it is a tournament or league night or even practicing with a family member or good friend of the game. We all have been there; we start talking about our best games or a scenario that happened while throwing some shoes.

On this addition of story time with the Hairless wonder, as Ben likes to call me. I am going down memory lane when my brother Cody and I won our class in the State Doubles Tournament back in 2011. It was my final year in the juniors and Cody had one more year. We played against 5 other teams in our class, I think we lost a game early on and ended up playing against the team that was 4-0 going into the last game. Cody and I had a 3-1 record, and we needed to win to have a chance at 1st place. I don't remember the details if the tie breaker was high/over average or anything like that. I do remember the final 10 shoes; Cody ends up throwing his best game of the day and ends with a six pack to seal the deal on the final 2 shoes. That tournament brings back some memories for me and my brother. We had a lot of fun, played against some people who we still see on occasion at tournaments, and I think one thing that is great is a moment that we both can share that we still can talk about and reminisce when we are at tournaments or when we are talking about horseshoes.

That's all I have for this addition of story time, next time I will talk Team World, Team World is by far my favorite tournament of the year, for more info on team world visit whpahorseshoes.com/team-world you can see previous year results and some great stats that Jeff Secord (Tournament Director) has put together for that event. Don't forget to sign up for World in Salt Lake (Sandy) this year! See you on the courts!



Class F

Joshua	Olson	Bertha	MN	4	1	44.00%
Cody	Olson	Bertha	MN	4	1	10.00%
Colleen	Szabo	Belle Plaine	MN	4	1	38.50%
Debbie	Duchene	Lino Lakes	MN	4	1	10.00%
Brandon	Kasper	Shoreview	MN	2	3	26.00%
Bud	Kasper	Austin	MN	2	3	17.50%
Rick	Wright	Stacy	MN	2	3	26.50%
Jim	Woods	Forest Lake	MN	2	3	16.50%
Julie	Kruse	McGregor	MN	2	3	22.00%
Harry	Kruse	McGregor	MN	2	3	14.00%
Jeff	Lawrence	Cottage Grove	MN	1	4	21.00%
Charles	Roeser	Vadnais Heights	MN	1	4	14.00%

Are you interested in becoming the NHPA Webmaster?

The National Horseshoe Pitching Association (NHPA) is seeking a horseshoe pitcher invested in the growth of the NHPA to learn and grow horseshoepitching.com. The NHPA Webmaster requires knowledge in Wordpress for designing, developing, maintaining, and optimizing the website. Our current development platform uses WordPress. Tasks for the position include: managing all content on the website, managing appropriate plug-ins, receiving updates from NHPA officers and posting them on the website, proactively updating the site during the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament, and updating all files on the site as requested ensuring website functionality, implementing security measures, and optimizing website performance for search engines (SEO).

Key Responsibilities:

- **Website Design and Development:**
 - Build and customize WordPress themes and pages as requested
 - Implement for optimal viewing across devices.
 - Integrate third-party plugins to enhance website functionality.
- **Content Management:**
 - Publish new content, including articles, images, and videos.
 - Update existing content as needed.
- **Website Maintenance and Optimization:**
 - Perform regular backups and updates to WordPress core, themes, and plugins
 - Monitor website performance and troubleshoot technical issues
 - Implement security measures to protect against cyber threats
- **SEO Implementation:**
 - Optimize website content for relevant keywords
 - Implement on-page SEO best practices including meta descriptions and header tags
 - Monitor website analytics and adjust SEO strategies accordingly
- **Collaboration:**
 - Work with designers to implement visual elements on the website
 - Collaborate with content creators to ensure website content aligns with brand messaging

Required Skills:

- **Proficient in WordPress:** Deep understanding of WordPress core functionality, themes, plugins, and custom development
- **Front-End Development:** Strong knowledge of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
- **PHP Programming:** Basic understanding of PHP for custom WordPress development
- **SEO Best Practices:** Awareness of current SEO trends and techniques
- **Problem-solving:** Ability to troubleshoot technical issues and find solutions

Communication Skills: Clear and concise communication with NHPA officers and members

Compensation:

Compensation for this position is negotiable with the NHPA executive council.

Note from current Webmaster, Blaine Scott—I started this position almost 6 years ago in 2019 with no knowledge of WordPress and struggled through the learning process. I know there are probably skilled Webmasters out there with extensive experience in WordPress that would do an awesome job as the NHPA Webmaster. I encourage you to reach out to Ben Webb or Josh Olson if you are interested. Thanks for your continued support for me over the years.

2025 World Tournament...Register today!

By Brian Poole, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer

Hello fellow horseshoe pitchers! Hope your holidays were great and you got to spend some time with family. I spent a week in West Yellowstone snowmobiling and relaxing at the condo. My winter time has been filled with ski patrolling, refereeing basketball, teaching snowboarding & snowmobiling. It has been a normal winter here in Idaho, but with March approaching we are getting some warm days and will be out pitching horseshoes in no time. My first tournament in Pocatello is on April 19. Please come and pitch if you are in the area.



I want to encourage everyone that is not entered into the 2025 World Tournament in Sandy, Utah to get your application sent to me. The less that I have last minute will make it easier on me to get the schedule built and put together. My plan is to publish it on June 1 and get all email & mailed copies sent. Please check the list in eShoe and make sure you are in the correct division. Call or text me if you are not and I will get it corrected. If you don't see yourself on the list, also call me so I can get your information and verify your payment and get you entered. There is an issue with the online entry where I am not getting your entry form submitted to me. We are currently at 350 entries and I hope that number doubles before May. The Council is working very hard to make sure we have everything covered and make this a great World Tournament for everyone.

I would also like to inform you that I am available most weekdays from 9am to 5pm and will answer my phone if I am not busy. If you get my message please leave me a message or text me so I have your information and I will try really hard to get back with you that day.

Thanks for everyone's hard work in talking with those you associate with and inviting them to join the NHPA and enjoy this great family sport. It would be amazing if we all could get 1 new member to join. Think about gifting someone a pair of your old horseshoes and get yourself a new pair!

Take care and see you on the courts!

Brian Poole
NHPA Sec/Treas

Current entries in the World Tournament...355

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2025 World Tournament Prelims

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[Standings](#)



National Horseshoe Pitchers Association
2025 World Horseshoe Pitching Championship
 July 21 - August 2, 2025 Salt Lake City, Utah



NAME: _____		2025 NHPA Card # _____ (or Canadian #)				
Address: _____						
City: _____		State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____				
Telephone: _____		Cell: _____ Birth Date: _____				
Email: _____						
Circle One >>>>>> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">I will Print My schedule</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Email my schedule</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Mail my schedule</td> </tr> </table>				I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule
I will Print My schedule	Email my schedule	Mail my schedule				
Circle the Division you are Entering: (You may enter only one Division) (See notes at bottom on page)						
Open Men 40 ft	Sr Men 40 ft	Elder Men 30 ft	Open Women 30 ft			
Sr Women 30 ft	Elder Women 20 ft	Jr Boys 30 ft	Jr Girls 30 ft			
Cadet Boys 20 ft	Cadet Girls 20 ft					
Note #2 Note #1		Note #2 Note #3				

All application information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete.

ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 19, 2025

NO REFUNDS will be made after June 1, 2025.

NOTE: A processing fee of \$15 will be deducted from 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, employee's, agents and the servants of the NHPA, 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 its legal representatives (NHPA Officers) assigns, and retains the right and permissions to publish, without charge, photographs taken during the 2025 World Tournament. These photos or videos 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 Pitching Tournament and the sport.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

* Mail top half only *			
Entry Fees	US Adults -- \$130 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$150 Feb 1 to April 30, 2025 --	\$170 on May 1, 2025
	All Juniors/Cadets -- \$25		
	Adults outside US -- \$135 before Feb 1, 2025 --	\$155 Feb 1 to April 30, 2025 --	\$175 on May 1, 2025
	Entry Fee includes Scorekeeping Fee		

Mail to: NHPA
 2660 S Fairway Drive
 Pocatello, ID 83201

Telephone & Email inquires 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 19, 2025. You may enter anytime prior to May 19, 2025 using this form or on our website link. Entries received with a postmark after May 19, 2025 shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the World Tournament only as spaces are available. All Adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months prior to May 19, 2025 in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors/Cadets. 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 19, 2025. 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 2025. Any Man/Women that turns 65 years of age in 2025, or has an approved Medical exemption may enter the Elders Division. Entrants in the Junior Boys and Junior Girls Division must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2025 calendar year. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Division entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2025 calendar year.

NOTE #1: 30 ft Men with a Medical Exemption must be in NHPA eShoe as "Exempt" to pitch in this Division. A copy of the Exemption Form must be sent with this application.

NOTE #2: For Prelim Class play, a minimum of 48 pitchers must enter Sr Division's or it may be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Division if canceled.

NOTE #3: Junior Boys & Junior Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play. Cadet Boys & Cadet Girls Divisions will be mixed for preliminary class play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31, 2025 and published on the NHPA website www.horseshoepitching.com. If you indicate above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the 2nd week in June. Please write address clearly & readable.

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 or any false or misleading information on this form, cannot validate 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 above deadline. No pitcher will be moved from a class or pitching time, without notification, after the final schedule has been published.

Encouraging the Next Generation The Power of Sportsmanship in Horseshoes?

By Aleena Lepak, Junior Director

As adults, we often carry the responsibility of instilling values in the younger generation. Whether through our words or our actions, we can shape their character, and one of the most impactful ways to do this is through sports. Sports not only teach physical skills but also valuable life lessons, especially when it comes to sportsmanship. In particular, horseshoes, with its blend of friendly competition and community, offers the perfect opportunity for us to guide young people in understanding the importance of fair play, respect, and camaraderie.

Participating in sports provides a wide array of benefits that go far beyond the physical. For adults, it's often easy to focus on competition or achievement, but these aspects should always be balanced with an emphasis on teamwork, integrity, and respect for others. As we see more and more young people becoming increasingly distracted by technology and social media, sports like horseshoes can serve as a powerful tool to re-engage them in healthy, face-to-face interaction.

Through playing horseshoes, young people can experience firsthand the joy of competition, where success is celebrated, and defeat is met with grace. More importantly, they can witness the way adults behave in these situations—how we model sportsmanship, handle wins and losses, and respect our opponents. Our behavior directly impacts how they learn to navigate their own sports experiences and develop lasting habits of good character.

Adults have a unique position of influence when it comes to shaping the next generation's approach to sports. By becoming role models in the sport of horseshoes, we not only contribute to the physical and mental development of young players but also to their moral development. Here's how we can promote positive sportsmanship:

1. **Lead by Example** – Children and teenagers watch the adults in their lives to see how to behave. When we play, we should demonstrate respect toward our opponents, whether we win or lose. Compliment good plays and focus on effort, not just outcomes.
2. **Encourage Fair Play** – Horseshoes, like any sport, operates under rules that ensure a fair game. As adults, we should teach younger players to respect those rules and not seek to gain an unfair advantage. Teaching fairness helps develop integrity both on and off the court.
3. **Promote the Value of Effort Over Results** – While winning is a natural part of competition, focusing on personal growth and the effort put into improving one's skills can be more important than the outcome of the game. Celebrate progress and the determination to learn.
4. **Create a Supportive Environment** – Children should feel encouraged, not pressured, when they take part in sports. By fostering a supportive atmosphere, adults can ensure that young people find joy in playing the game and feel a sense of belonging within the horseshoe community.
5. **Mentor and Encourage Participation** – Often, young people don't participate in sports simply because they aren't introduced to them. As adults, we can make a concerted effort to include the younger generation in horseshoe games and tournaments. This could be through casual weekend games, school events, or local community leagues.



Aleena Lepak, Junior Director

6. **Incorporate Teamwork and Community** – Horseshoes, while an individual sport, can be an excellent way to build community. Organizing team-based events or involving families in the sport can highlight how sports bring people together and foster a sense of belonging.

By actively engaging in the sport of horseshoes and promoting positive sportsmanship, we're not just passing on a game, we're passing on values that will last a lifetime. The lessons learned through sports extend far beyond the court: young people who practice sportsmanship are more likely to grow into adults who approach life with fairness, kindness, and a sense of responsibility.

Moreover, by encouraging the younger generation to embrace horseshoes, we ensure that this wonderful game continues to thrive. The relationships, traditions, and joys that come from playing horseshoes should be shared and preserved, allowing the sport to grow and evolve through the involvement of new, younger players.

As members of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, we all share a passion for the game, but it's time for us to take action and introduce the sport to the younger generation. Let's make a conscious effort to reach out, mentor, and show them why horseshoes is a game worth playing. Through our guidance and example, we can help shape a future where sportsmanship, respect, and community are celebrated. Together, we can ensure that the game we love will not only survive but flourish for generations to come.

Aleena Lepak



It is time to grow our sport!

Are you engaged in Social Media! Be a horseshoe influencer!

By Michelle Foard, Social Media and Publicity Director

On the social media front Tik Tok is here to stay. It is available in the app store as well. I went Live at my last tournament in Becker, Mn. I go Live for each class shutting down for pictures and awards. I finally gained over 1,000 followers. During the whole day I had over 211,500 views. Most people are just scrolling, but many do stop and take a look. That day alone I gained 192 new followers. I was Live for a total of 7 hours. Many people comment, Horseshoes is still a thing? Many people don't realize horseshoes is an organized sport. So again it's all about sharing. Do you post horseshoe stuff on your own social media pages? If not you should. You never know there might be that one person who is interested.



I just got back from Valley of the Sun tournament in AZ. Wow, what an experience. All the pitchers were so friendly and welcoming. Most knew who I was. In my class I only knew 3 of the people, the rest were new to me. I took pictures with all my competitors. I didn't pitch well the first day, but did better the second day to finish in 7th place. VOS is a great tournament. I had a lot of fun besides getting sunburnt. After the tournament on Sunday a bunch of us went out to eat and visit. It was a great way to end the day. A couple of my friends made sure to get down there to come see me. My heart is full with all the love from my horseshoe family. So if you get the chance check out the VOS tournament. A big thanks to Robert Chubinsky, Mary Fimbres, Jacob Fimbres and all the other who helped run this and of course the scorekeepers.

Team World is coming up soon! May May 16-18 in Beloit, WI. I will be there strictly as social media. I love to play, but with so many Mn people wanting to play I gave up my spot again this year. Mn has 4 teams set to go. If you want to get a team from your State to go I highly suggest going to Team World. It is such a unique pitching experience. Max teams allowed is 24. Many states bring multiple teams. If you are from a State that has only 1 team you will get in and a state with multiple teams their lowest average will get cut. So those of you from states that haven't gone...get a team. I recommend a team of 5 which you need a minimum of two 40 footers. That way you can have 1 person rest up or as a back up. Lots of pitching in 3 days, 23 games plus more if you reach the championship. If you have questions feel free to reach out to me. There is info on the WHPA website. Also Dalton did a podcast with Jeff Secord last year about the tournament. I hope to see new faces at Team World!



Michelle Foard

Social

Why Have Halls of Fame?

By Dave Sidles, NHPF Director



Halls of Fame exist to publicly recognize and celebrate individuals who have achieved exceptional excellence in a particular field, usually sports, by preserving their history, inspiring future generations, and serving as a tangible

reminder of the highest standards within that domain; essentially acting as a way to honor the "best of the best" and showcase the legacy of a sport or industry to the public.

Key points about Halls of Fame:

Preserving History:

They act as a repository of information and memorabilia related to the achievements of notable individuals, allowing people to learn about the past and how the field has evolved.

Inspiration and Role Models:

By highlighting outstanding accomplishments, Halls of Fame can motivate aspiring individuals to strive for greatness.

Community Building:

They can bring together fans and enthusiasts of a particular sport or field, creating a sense of shared pride and connection to the legacy of the game.

Educational Value:

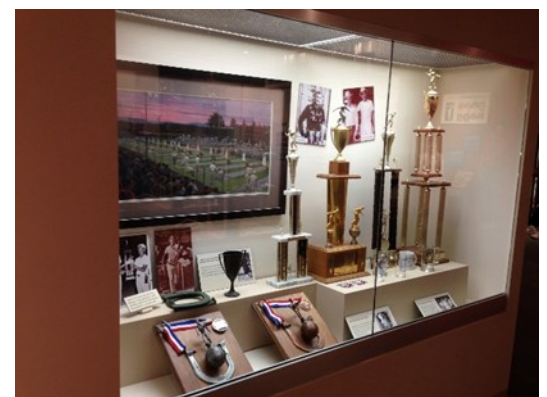
Many Halls of Fame operate as museums, providing educational exhibits and historical context around the achievements of inductees.

The Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame came officially into existence in 1966 with the selection of seven charter members as the games outstanding personalities of the past. The seven charter members of the newly formed Hall of Fame would be officially honored and installed at 4 ceremonies during the 1966 World Tournament in Murray, Utah, next August. Their names and pictures would be inscribed on a permanent plaque which would be placed on display at major tournaments all over the United States in the future.

It wasn't until 1996 that the NHPF was formed. One of its goals was to have a permanent home for a NHPA Hall of Fame. After many difficulties but with the leadership and guidance of Dave Loucks, Joe Faron, and certainly Dr. Jack Freeman, on May 6th, 2006 ground was broken at the current location in Wentzville, MO. Today you can see displays of all the Hall of Fame members as well as historic artifacts and memorabilia from over 100 years of horseshoe pitching.

All of this is made possible primarily through the financial support of people who have been involved in the sport of horseshoe pitching at all levels. The continuing role of the NHPF is to work with the NHPA in promoting and advancing the sport. Your tax-deductible donations are always welcome and always appreciated. Visit the NHPF website for more information and ways you can help ensure the future of the NHPA Hall of Fame.

<https://nhpf.info/>



Something Old Brings Something New to the NHPA/NHPF Hall of Fame in Wentzville, Missouri

By Rich Altis/Jeanette Claas

If you haven't been to the NHPA facility in Wentzville, MO lately, you will be surprised what Rich and Mary Altis have created by adding more horseshoe history to the building.

Bob Dunn, the late NHPA Historian from Minnesota, had a great passion for the sport of horseshoes especially his interest and knowledge in the different types of horseshoes which he proudly displayed at world tournaments. He also wrote many books and the column "The Horseshoe Trader" which appeared in the Newsline Magazine. Throughout the years he collected hundreds and hundreds of horseshoes from across the USA which was stored in his basement. Tragedy struck when Bob was in a fatal car accident which ended his life on September 26, 2018.

Bob's family and the NHPA officers decided to ship the shoes and books to the Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville. With the help of several NHPA members, Jerry LaBrosse, Jerry Smith and Jim Kinney volunteered to gather the items and began transporting them to Missouri. Most shoes were loose in boxes and dumped into a couple of large crates. Rich Altis spent three months to separate, identify and record the rack location of Bob's shoes that had not been on display boards.

The shoes remained locked away in the Game Related Sales room as the years went by. In 2023 Jerry Smith, former National League Director, was at the HOF facility and the discussion of where and how to display the eighteen pegboards with their horseshoes was decided. QRHC members, Norm Pierce, Steve Gamache, and Mark Neubauer, cut and fixed the braces to help enforce the shelf where the shoes would eventually be on display.

Rich and Mary began gathering material for this project in December 2024 and worked diligently almost every day putting in many, many hours to complete it. New pegboards and zip ties were purchased. The horseshoes on the old pegboards were removed, sorted by age, style and manufacturer and attached to the new pegboards. The making of the labels was very time consuming as they had to fit inside of the horseshoes, not all the horseshoes were the same size and shape. The labels were laminated and centered inside each shoe. The nineteen new 2' X 4' pegboards held 339 shoes. With the help of the QRHC members they were able to install the display in the north pavilion (the Dave Loucks Courts) for all to see. QRHC members Steve, Mark, Dave Krzyzanowski and Dave Sullivan installed the new display. The horseshoes, in many colors against the white peg boards, are a brilliant collection and sight to see. During this project Rich and Mary became so involved in the history of horseshoes learning many facts and features of each horseshoe.

Rich was looking for a rare 1934 Gordon Spin-on which had Ted Allen's name on the shoe. That shoe would make a great addition to the collection. Mark Neubauer found a collector, Jeff Ferguson in the state of Washington, who had two pair of Madison Ace shoes which have a heart shape on one blade and the words Pat Pend on the points. The toe and heel calks are very unique not to mention the raised heart on the blade. The calks of the Madison Ace are identical to the calks of the Madison shoe of 1936. While talking to Jeff, Rich asked if he would be willing to part with a pair of the shoes. With a little bit of horse trading, the shoes soon arrived.

We need to thank the horseshoe collectors for their time and donations to make the history of horseshoes more meaningful and appealing. Rich and Mary feel sure that Bob Dunn would be pleased with what they have done with the boards and displays that he collected and took to many of the world tournaments.

Something Old Brings Something New (Continued)



Plan your visit
to Wentzville,
Missouri
today!

Managing the eShoe system!

By Jim Kinney, NHPA eShoe Director

We are well into the 2025 membership year. So far everything has been looking good. There have been some changes in the eShoe program in 2025 but nothing that should affect the membership's everyday use. We are constantly working on making eShoe a user-friendly experience in every aspect of the program from looking up percentages to entering events. If there are any suggestions from anyone, please contact myself at eshoe@horseshoepitching.com or text me at 816-738-0868. Most of the time when I receive text I can respond faster. I am responsible for granting access to the eShoe program. We try and limit access to three primary users.

- Secretary/Membership Director renews and manages membership
- Regional Director works with Tournament Directors and entering events
- Charter presidents monitors their charter

I have had requests to give access to other than these three primary Officers in the charter. The only one who should be granting this additional request at the charter level is the President. If the Officer who has been granted the additional request starts abusing their position I will remove their user access. This is the reason we try to keep access to three for each charter.

There is another issue that comes up periodically—online renewal of membership. When you go to the NHPA website it will have two buttons to choose from. If you are an existing member or have held a membership since 2019 you will choose “RENEW”. When you choose this button and you cannot access your membership, you will have to contact myself or the charter secretary you are renewing for. If you have moved from one charter to another you will have to contact myself or the secretary of the last charter you were a member of. Do Not use the JOIN button if you have ever been a member of the NHPA prior to the 2025 membership year. This duplicates your membership by assigning a new membership number. This is easy to correct if this happens, but I need to be notified so the charter can receive the correct billing on the NHPA invoice.

If you are a new member and have never been a member of the NHPA then you will choose “JOIN” and proceed to the page where it states, “Become an NHPA member”. I am here to help with anything that pertains to the eShoe program. If I do not have an answer I have a team of experts who will be able to assist us.

See you on the courts

Jim Kinney Jr
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Drexel, MO 64742
816-536-9845
eshoe@horseshoepitching.com



“2025—The Year of the Wood Snake”

By Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician

*Known as the Year of the Snake in the Chinese Zodiac,
Major change, insight and fresh starts are anticipated in this year.
When paired with the nurturing quality of wood, the snake,
a representation of strategy and intuition emphasizes
transformation and growth.*



*Stan Griggs,
NHPA World Tournament Statistician
NHPA Hall of Fame Chairman*

This year brings many changes and fresh starts for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. I thought it would be best for me to do a **“Bundle-Rooski”** since I am in Kansas City.

After many years of serving as Chairperson to the NHPA Hall of Fame, Vicki Winston has decided to step down due to personal reasons. She asked me if I would be willing to take over this most important job and wanted to recommend me for appointment. Of course when it comes to horseshoes I have always had a problem of saying no. I want to thank Ben Webb and the entire council for their support and confidence in me.

I also cannot thank Vicki enough for the trust and belief she has in me, as I am the fortunate one to have known, pitched and worked by her side for so many years. I would have first met her as a 12 year old boy pitching in my first Missouri State Tournament in 1976, little did we both know who each other was and what would become of it. Side by side years later we served on the MOHPA council together for over 30 years. Through many of those years we also shared a horseshoe court together, the opportunity to pitch against one of the Legends of our game are memories I will keep forever.

In August 1965 the delegates approved a proposal and the NHPA Hall of Fame was born, the chairman was Carl Steinfeldt of New York. Following in his footsteps were Marvin Chrisman (IN), Carl Von der Lancken (NY), Bernard Herfurth (MA), Ruth Hangen (NY), Barry Chapelle (OR), Earl Winston (MO) and Vicki Winston (MO). It is my honor to continue the tradition that has been set for me.

As for the 2025 Inductions, the deadline for nominations was January 31, 2025 and we did receive three new nominations which Ben announced in his article. I want to also share that we have an amazing committee that represents every spot in the country and they serve us well. I thank each and every one of them. If you are attending the World Tournament make sure you get your tickets for the Hall of Fame Banquet it will be a special night for some.



Continued on Page 33

Stan Griggs, NHPA World Tournament Statistician...continued

World Tournament Statistics are current and updated on our web page. As a reminder if you ever see anything missing or in error please let me know as we want our historical records to be as accurate as possible. If something is missed and never reported those records will be lost years down the road.

With the upcoming world tournament who knows what new records might be set or broken. The chances of inscribing a new name in the record books is a challenge we all should look forward to.

I will leave you with this last thought...

***“Records are made to be broken,
It is in one’s nature to
continue to strive to do just that”***

Richard Branson



The Year of the Wood Snake began on January 29, 2025, and is also known as the Year of the Green Snake. What to expect in the Year of the Wood Snake:

Transformation
Progress
Harmony
Communication
Celebrations

Sounds like a year designed for our horseshoe community. Come and pitch, transform your game, increase your ringer percentage, get along with everyone on and off the court, communicate kindly with others, and by all means...celebrate our time together.

Newsline Editor—Blaine Scott

NHPA OFFICERS



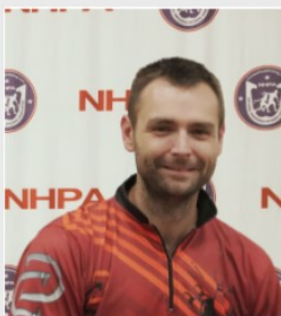
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NHPA

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

"Come Pitch with Us!"

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Stan Griggs – MO

Welcome to eShoe, a place for National Horseshoe Pitchers Association members to track stats and renew their membership online.
This site uses cookies which are necessary for users with a login.

Accept

Stats

Alabama	Nebraska-West	Mens Top 100
Alaska	Nevada	Womens Top 100
Arizona	New Hampshire	Elders Top 100
Arkansas	New Jersey	Boys Top 50
California-North	New Mexico	Girls Top 25
California-South	New York	Cadets Top 25
Colorado	North Carolina	Complete File
Connecticut	North Dakota	
Delaware	Ohio	Alberta
Florida	Oklahoma	British Columbia
Georgia	Oregon	New Brunswick
Hawaii	Pennsylvania-East	Ontario
Idaho	Pennsylvania-West	Quebec

<https://www.nhpa-eshoe.com/Home/Stats>

Womens Top 100 Stats 1 Mar 2025

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	330030	Maxine	Griffith	TN	Women	85.24	17
2	330031	Marlene	Ray	TN	Women	84.27	18
3	280216	Sarah	Chaffee	WI	Women	84.15	7
4	190875	Jennifer	Gegg	MO	Women	81.15	13
5	350626	Shalee	Cason	FL	Women	80.17	9
6	623905	Lindsay	HODGINS	AB	Women	79.33	8
7	280078	Penny	Steinke	WI	Women	79.21	23
8	490476	Skyla	Rioux	CT	Women	79.18	7
9	664710	Sylvianne	Moisan	QC	Women	77.32	11
10	800439	Pam	Meyer	MO	Women	77.16	12
11	220130	Doris	Hieden	TX	Women	75.70	11
12	360294	Amy	Francis	OH	Women	75.06	10
13	380221	Kelly	Glidewell	VA	Women	73.92	28
14	802026	Blanca	Hettinga	OR	Women	73.22	25
15	440520	Karen	Graham	NY	Women	71.67	22

(Continued on Page 37)

Mens Top 100 Stats *1 Mar 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	360940	Alan	Francis	OH	Men	85.36	10
2	320063	Ben	Webb	KY	Men	78.19	19
3	260084	Dan	Watson	AL	Men	76.51	15
4	290652	Austin	Bailey	IL	Men	74.72	11
5	300151	Andrew	Adams	MI	Men	74.43	12
6	390143	Randy	Zeiders	PA	Men	74.27	12
7	320292	Tyler	Howard	KY	Men	74.25	23
8	440124	Ken	Fraser	NY	Men	73.71	8
9	657381	Drew	BECKER	ON	Men	71.17	5
10	10058	Matt	Fuller	WA	Men	70.35	11
11	100290	Brandon	Tenijieth	AZ	Men	70.23	3
12	190693	Michael	Bowman	MO	Men	69.23	18
13	480259	Raymond	Bedard	MA	Men	68.53	26
14	420271	Jerry	Dean	MD	Men	67.85	6
15	290100	Dalton	Rakestraw	CA	Men	67.26	34

Elder Mens Top 100 Stats *1 mar 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	614016	Tom	MOFFAT	BC	Elder Men	79.00	27
2	191256	Virgle	McCown	MO	Elder Men	76.50	13
3	310517	Dale	Moles	IN	Elder Men	76.18	7
4	350350	Bob	Gray	FL	Elder Men	75.56	9
5	370298	Junior	Peters	WV	Elder Men	75.36	9
6	420337	Tom	Mills	MD	Elder Men	75.32	11
7	220577	Danny	Patterson	TX	Elder Men	73.67	16
8	220870	Tom	Routh	TX	Elder Men	73.30	15
9	290240	Steve	Denault	IL	Elder Men	73.14	7
10	662691	Simon	COTE	QC	Elder Men	73.09	6
11	660765	Jacques	HOULE	QC	Elder Men	72.98	4
12	280374	Cliff	Shave	WI	Elder Men	72.79	20
13	100192	Mike	Massari	AZ	Elder Men	72.75	25
14	280026	Jeff	Gustafson	WI	Elder Men	72.56	22
15	280082	Ken	Jaeger Sr	WI	Elder Men	71.77	14

(Continued on Page 38)

Girls Top 25 Stats *1 Mar 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	280115	Lillyan	Kildahl	WI	Junior Girls	43.21	7
2	191533	Sadie	Wolken	MO	Junior Girls	41.31	7
3	95096	Adilaide	Ohms	UT	Junior Girls	37.88	11
4	802674	Madeline	Workman	NV	Junior Girls	31.03	2
5	800889	Lindy	Anderson	UT	Junior Girls	29.83	8
6	800812	Lilli	Light	MT	Junior Girls	29.56	3
7	803569	Aislinn Raye	Klapik	CT	Junior Girls	29.48	11
8	802875	Natalie	Dilger	NV	Junior Girls	26.24	21
9	190880	Rhilynde	Myler	MO	Junior Girls	26.00	10
10	150396	Uria	Gabel	ND	Junior Girls	24.82	7
11	800480	Addison	Ashton	KY	Junior Girls	23.58	6
12	616571	Ericka	MCNAB	BC	Junior Girls	22.40	3
13	804138	Laila	Broken Rope	SD	Junior Girls	22.00	2
14	31141	Evelyn	Espinola	CA	Junior Girls	21.16	1
15	31233	Kaidence	Begaye	CA	Junior Girls	20.83	1

Boys Top 50 Stats *1 Mar 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	31151	Hastiin	Begaye	CA	Junior Boys	80.59	5
2	380630	Eli	Sullivan	VA	Junior Boys	78.47	5
3	802657	Tom	Grose	NV	Junior Boys	57.79	10
4	480516	Zack	Grzembski	MA	Junior Boys	57.55	13
5	803169	Ryder	Smith	MT	Junior Boys	57.34	9
6	803797	Kai-ba	Jeff	CA	Junior Boys	52.89	2
7	95078	Coulson	Ohms	UT	Junior Boys	48.73	10
8	490452	Riley	Malino	CT	Junior Boys	48.04	8
9	280127	Blake	Benzing	WI	Junior Boys	44.55	4
10	803828	Matt	Hulse	UT	Junior Boys	43.23	5
11	280226	Bradley	Benzing	WI	Junior Boys	41.03	5
12	803798	Tah-dsoka	Jeff	CA	Junior Boys	40.03	3
13	31223	Adakai	Begaye	CA	Junior Boys	39.56	4
14	802631	Ethan	Seright	UT	Junior Boys	39.14	4
15	231968	Tristan	Dehkes	MN	Junior Boys	38.53	2

(Continued on Page 39)

Cadets Top 25 Stats *1 Mar 2025*

Rank	Card #	First Name	Last Name	State	Division	Ringer Percent	Events Played
1	801315	Evan	Bedard	MA	Cadet Boys	60.54	16
2	802539	Zachary	Smith	IA	Cadet Boys	48.17	23
3	804087	Gavin	Begaye Jr.	CA	Cadet Boys	44.40	3
4	804088	Eben	Begaye	CA	Cadet Boys	43.02	3
5	804918	Kendell	Beck	GA	Cadet Boys	40.51	6
6	803456	Jeremiah	DeMello	WA	Cadet Boys	39.38	10
7	804890	Jensen	Martin	VA	Cadet Boys	32.80	3
8	802970	Alexzander	Schmidt	GA	Cadet Boys	28.92	6
9	804923	Brantley	Cook	GA	Cadet Boys	27.54	4
10	803471	Olivia	Bilodeau	CT	Cadet Girls	25.88	10
11	803792	Jacob	Barney	UT	Cadet Boys	25.00	11
12	804586	Olyvia	Cormier	CT	Cadet Girls	24.46	12
13	802184	Waylon	Basler	MO	Cadet Boys	23.00	1
14	803880	Dominic	McDonald	GA	Cadet Boys	22.79	2
15	804848	Kateri	Navarro	CA	Cadet Girls	21.72	5



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Horseshoe Pitching
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