

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

## June 2026



**NEXT STOP!**

**WAUSAU  
WISCONSIN**  
WORLD HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT



# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

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## Wausau is the next stop for the NHPA!



**NHPA PRESIDENT  
BEN WEBB**

It's hard to believe it's already June! The cold of Kentucky seems to be far behind us and those long warm and oftentimes hot days are upon us. It's a great time of year for family BBQ's, golfing and getting back out onto the courts to practice every day. At least that's what I imagine almost 900 pitchers are doing in preparation for this years world championships in Wausau!

We are hot on the trails of the upcoming World Tournament and the two regionals, two tour events, team world, and a slew of other events are in the rear view. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone up north soon!

One thing to keep in mind as you read the admin digest every month is the type of content we put out. While I understand some people weren't thrilled with some of the reporting in the last edition of the digest, the tournament results are always just what they are, if you want to change the story, change the outcome. Sure, from time-to-time we do some opinion based reporting (what's a good story to engage the reader without it), but we always try to keep our content engaging, exciting, informative and have truth in reporting when we recount the events of any given tournament that we include.

Speaking of that, our next edition of the digest will hit before we know it and we'll be publishing a very special World Tournament preview soon. We'll include the rule proposals, everything you need to know for the tournament, the World Tournament predictions again this year and much more! Keep an eye on your emails for the upcoming publications.

I want us all to be careful though as we come up on the world this year, to not lose sight of our primary objective, increasing membership. Anything we can consider to increase participation/membership is something we should all think heavily on. I believe we're on a good trajectory this season, but we have to keep that promotional momentum.

One thing I've seen more of lately online is positive commentary, this is good for the sport. While we still get the occasional criticism or two on public forums, the positive is certainly outweighing the negative in a good trajectory for our organization.

My focus is heavily on the website that should be releasing this month, after that I'll be shifting my focus to two other important topic. The World Doubles this October in Wentzville and the renovation of the Hall of Fame Meuseum coming this Fall/Winter as well. The NHPA and NHPF boards have both agreed independently to aid in the project in various ways and our hope is that by spring we can bring you a brand new, exciting experience to our building in Wentzville.

Safe travels to everyone this summer as you go to tournaments around the country and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon in Wausau!

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



## Early Tournaments and Economic Impact



1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
AUSTIN BAILEY

Horseshoe pitching is in full swing I have played 3 straight weekends of Tournaments and it has been really nice to be back on the courts and pitching. As I write this article I have just got back from the 40th Team World and it was a fantastic tournament as always. I love that tournament because the format is fun and you play people sometimes that you have never played before. I'm proud to say that my team had our best finish since 2018. Now we push forward to the World Tournament and I am looking forward to that as well. It will be here before we know it. I very pleased to see that we have gotten 900 entries it will be a fantastic tournament for sure. I am still looking for sponsorships of any kind. We are hitting a rough stretch this year with our efforts the economy is definitely putting a hurt on the sponsorships that we thought we would be getting. But we can still have sponsors who would like to sponsor a court at the World Tournament we will need to get those asap so we can get the name plates made for the tournament. These are open to anyone charters, individuals, memorials anything you would like to do. Illinois CVB will have a booth up to at the World Tournament to promote Springfield for 2028. I look forward to seeing you all in Wausau if not maybe before.

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## WT Schedule Now Out



SECRETARY/TREASURER  
BRIAN POOLE

The schedule is now out for the 2026 World Tournament in Wausau and available online. Just for information any tournament in the 12 months preceeding the WT deadline is counted toward your 4 for WT qualification. If you have questions please contact me.

I also hope everyone has double checked their WT Entry in eshoe and that they are in the correct Division.

The HOF Banquet tickets are on sale and are \$40 until July 1 then they go up to \$50. Please use the link below to buy your tickets. You can buy up to 4 tickets in the link. If you need more just fill it out again. We are limiting the number of tickets to 175. So get your tickets early and save and come support those getting an award. We are also wanting you to bring an item for the Fundraiser Auction at the end either for the HOF or the NHPA. A gift basket, homemade item, quilt, pair of signed horseshoes, etc. HOF Tickets Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kCCEDPi8FyBe08lwUf009orulO8WFOPsOmAomfBdMPQ/edit?usp=drivesdk&oid=116572266164971455254&chromeless=1>

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Wausau, WI and pitching some shoes!

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



## 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Updates - The World Tournament is almost here!



2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
**DALTON RAKESTRAW**

As the 2026, season continues to move forward, excitement across the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association continues to grow as players, officials, and supporters prepare for one of the premier events in our sport—the NHPA World Tournament in Wausau, Wisconsin! This year’s championship promises to deliver a world-class experience both on and off the courts. Hosted at the impressive Greenheck Turner Community Center, the facility continues to prepare for the arrival of competitors from across the United States, Canada, and beyond. The venue offers a modern championship

atmosphere that reflects the continued evolution and professionalism of NHPA events while still preserving the traditions and camaraderie that make horseshoe pitching so unique. Preparations remain ongoing as NHPA leadership, local organizers, Visit Wausau, and community partners continue working together to ensure players and families have a memorable experience throughout tournament week. From facility enhancements and player accommodations to hospitality efforts and event operations, significant coordination is taking place behind the scenes to create a smooth and welcoming championship environment for all attendees.

The NHPA would like to extend appreciation to Visit Wausau and the local organizing partners for their continued collaboration and support leading into the event. Their commitment to helping host the World Tournament demonstrates the growing recognition of horseshoe pitching as a meaningful contributor to sports tourism and community engagement. In addition to the competition itself, the World Tournament remains one of the most important annual gatherings within the NHPA family. It provides an opportunity for lifelong friendships to reconnect, new memories to be created, and players of all skill levels to share their passion for the sport. From juniors competing on the world stage to veteran champions continuing remarkable careers, the tournament represents the very best of what the NHPA has to offer. The excitement surrounding Wausau continues to build as players finalize travel plans, state delegations prepare for competition, and clubs across the country rally behind their members. The atmosphere surrounding the World Tournament is always special, but there is a growing sense that this year’s event will stand out as one of the organization’s most memorable championship in history.

Beyond Wausau, the 2026 season has already showcased the strength and dedication of NHPA members nationwide. Regional events in Albuquerque and Hutchinson continue to demonstrate the success of partnerships with Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Sports Commissions, Parks & Recreation Departments, and local clubs. These collaborations help expand awareness of horseshoe pitching while elevating the quality and visibility of NHPA events across the country. The NHPA would

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



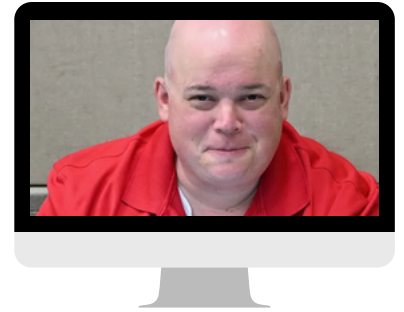
also like to recognize the volunteers, tournament directors, scorekeepers, officers, and local clubs whose dedication keeps the sport thriving year after year. Their countless hours of work behind the scenes are what allow our events and organization to continue moving forward successfully. As we move closer to the World Tournament, we encourage all members to continue promoting the sport, supporting one another, and representing the NHPA with professionalism, sportsmanship, and pride.

The road to Wausau is nearly here, and the entire horseshoe pitching community looks forward to welcoming the world to Wisconsin!

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## 16th Year in a Row!

Horseshoe weather has finally arrived here in Minnesota! As I am sitting down in the nice and cool basement the temp reached 90 degrees today on this Memorial Day Monday. Thank you to all the men and women who served. The deadline for the 2026 World Tournament has passed, and the numbers are in.



NHPA 5TH VICE PRESIDENT  
**JOSH OLSON**

We hit over 900 and that is great! Should be a fantastic tournament, I can't wait to get to Wausau.

Minnesota has a great contingency coming across the border to give it a go and try their hand at becoming a World Class Champion. This is my 19<sup>th</sup> year playing sanctioned horseshoes and this is my 16<sup>th</sup> World Tournament. I haven't missed one since Cedar Rapids Iowa in 2010. I am lucky enough to have had some very supportive parents since the very first World Tournament we attended in 2010. Each World Tournament is special. I say this because it's like a family reunion and it's the one time of year we see each other and that is what makes it special.

Good luck to everyone going to world, safe travels, and many ringers to you, except if you are playing against me!

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## Portable Courts! Get your portable courts!

I regularly get inquiries about where folks can buy portable horseshoe courts. The quick simple answer to those inquiries is that nobody makes and sells these pits. So that means you need to find someone to make them. As with anything else, when you make a very low quantity, the cost is very high.

With that said, the design of our NHPA portable courts allows quick assembly and disassembly without many tools. If somebody wants to build portable horseshoe pits for their home use, the design can be easily modified to make them way less expensive and simpler to make. If there is anyone out there that is interested to know more about this topic, feel free to reach out to me.



NHPA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT  
**JERRY LABROSSE**

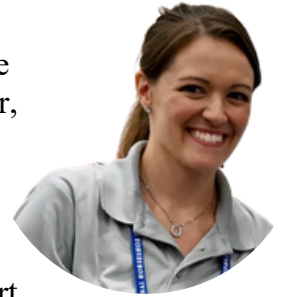
# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



## Youth Activities in Wausau

The countdown is on for the 2026 NHPA World Tournament in Wausau, Wisconsin, and the excitement surrounding this year's youth competition continues to build! As Youth Director, I could not be more excited to welcome competitors and families from across the country for what promises to be an unforgettable week of horseshoe pitching, friendships, and fun.



YOUTH DIRECTOR  
ALEENA LEPAK

This year's tournament schedule is packed with activities that celebrate not only the competition itself, but also the incredible young athletes who represent the future of our sport.

The fun begins on Wednesday before competition officially starts when we host a small carnival at the Greenheck facility. This will give youth pitchers an opportunity to relax, connect with fellow competitors, and enjoy some games and entertainment before the intensity of tournament play begins. Events like these help create friendships and memories that last far beyond the tournament itself. Then comes the competition. Thursday and Friday will feature intense pitching action as youth competitors battle their way through qualifying play. Every class will showcase tremendous talent, determination, and sportsmanship as pitchers compete for the opportunity to advance to Championship Saturday. The energy during championship play is always incredible, and we are expecting some outstanding competition this year.

The celebration continues Sunday evening during the Hall of Fame Banquet, where we will recognize and celebrate all of our competitors and the accomplishments of the week. While the banquet is taking place, the youth pitchers will head out for an evening of fun and adventure. They will be bused to Sawmill Adventure Park for food and games. Afterward, they will return to Dale's Weston Lanes for a little bowling fun as the banquet wraps up.

This year's World Tournament truly has something for everyone — fun, excitement, friendship, and intense competition. Most importantly, it is another opportunity to showcase the incredible youth involved in the NHPA. Their passion, sportsmanship, and dedication continue to inspire all of us and strengthen the future of horseshoe pitching. We cannot wait to welcome everyone to Wausau for an amazing week at the 2026 NHPA World Tournament!

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## Youth Activities in Wausau



PUBLICITY DIRECTOR  
MICHELLE FOARD

Well it's been just over a week that I have been back from Team World in Beloit, WI. This by far is the most unique and fun tournament. MN had 4 teams and we had 3 new pitchers this year. They were impressed with how smoothly everything is run and on time. They are definitely down for going back next year. I played more than I ever have. I love playing, but that leaves less time for videos and pictures. I still have lots for videos. If you wanna watch games please check out the National Horseshoe Facebook page. Facebook will delete the videos after 30 days so if you wanna watch check them out soon.

I plan to do a World Tournament live on Facebook to answer your questions and give you a rundown of how the tournament runs. I know we will have many new players. So I will try to do that a week or 2 after the schedule is out. Patti Borghi (Lopez-Cepero) post many events to go and see during your time in Wausau. To find this go to the National page click on the search bar and type in Patti Borghi. It will show all her posts.

Looking a bit ahead to 2027 VOS. It will be held earlier than in years past. February 2nd thru February 7th 2027. The good news for you rock hounds is the Tucson Gem and Mineral show will be going on Jan 27 thru Feb 14th. So it will be a great time to catch the Mineral show in your down time from the tournament. So plan ahead for VOS.

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



## Updates from the 4<sup>th</sup> VP!

I can't believe that we are almost halfway through 2026. That means that we are about 6 weeks away from the World Tournament in Wausau, WI. Thank you to everyone who have entered and I am really looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Please remember that we are looking for volunteers to help with Check-in, Shift Directors and Scorekeepers. Scorekeeping is a great way to earn extra cash and get to watch the games up close and personal.



NHPA 4TH VICE PRESIDENT  
BARBARA CARSON

Each month I would like to feature different tournaments, If you would like to have your tournaments featured in the monthly digest, please send me a brief email with the information about the tournament you would like to have featured.

This month I am featuring the Kansas Horseshoe Pitchers Association. This tournament was held in April. Congratulations to all of the winners. The tournament director Sue Campbell reported " We had beautiful weather for our tournament in Bonner Springs. We had 31 pitchers including 3 Juniors. We also had 3 new KHPA/NHPA members thanks to the recruiting efforts of Terry Johnston". Those 31 entries made this event the largest Kansas event to date this year. Fourteen of those entries pitched over average which is amazing. The highest over average was Michael Trinkle who claimed the Class E Class Champion patch after finishing the day with a 29% ringer average that was 15.43 percentage points over his entry average. Julie Bergkamp also had a block buster of a day claiming the Class Champion patch in class D with a 34.58% ringer average that was 13.31 percentage points over her entry average. Joseph Cisneros Claimed the tournament champion patch with tournament high ringer average of 66.23%.

Just to keep everyone informed of what is happening in and around the NHPA, I would to share some great news with you. We are currently working on an enhancement to HS Master that will allow the League Directors who use HS Master for your League Results to automatically upload the results directly to eshoe the same way as tournaments are sent currently, You will no longer have to send the results to me to manually enter them into eshoe, Your Charter RD will set up your League Event and send you the Event Sanction Number and Token Number, More details and training materials will be sent to the League Directors and Regional Directors before the enhancement is ready to be released, Just remember that when it is released, you will have to download the update for HS Master in order for you to utilize the new functionality.

Gary Petersen would like to announce that the doubles tournament is called Smith Brothers Round-Up to be held on June 13th in Windsor CT. If interested in playing contact Tournament director Gary Petersen 860-324- 9029. Entrance fee is \$50.00 a team..

Thank You to all of you for everything you do to support our sport. See you at the Pits.

# 2026 TEAM WORLD

Submitted by Jeff Secord

The 40<sup>th</sup> Team World Tournament had a full complement of 24 four- or five-player teams entered from 9 different states (Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Washington, Florida, Iowa) and Canada.

The full-entry-preliminary-round-robin started at 8am on Friday, May 15. That's right, all teams play all 3 days at Team World. The Badger Chordhawks, an all-male acapella choir that includes Team World Committee member, Kevin Brekke, sang the National Anthems for Canada and the U.S. to kick the tournament off.

Missouri's #1 was the odds-on favorite to win Team World this year as they had three pitchers on their four-player team that had an entry average of over 80%. The second game of the day included a match between MO #1 and Illinois #1. These two teams had the highest

entering team ringer percentages. Jenny Gegg pitched 34/40 (85%) and Lachelle Cook pitched 33/40 (82.5%) to defeat Kevin James and Austin Bailey. However, Steve Denault and Paul Littlefield defeated Virgle McCown and Michael Bowman to tie the round with 2 wins for each team.

Defending Champion, Wisconsin #1, played their first game against Michigan in the 7<sup>th</sup> round of the prelims. Penny Steinke pitched 32/40 (80%) and Cliff Shave pitched 31/40 (77.5%) to defeat Andrew Adams and Brandy Morehead as part of winning 3.5 games in the round to show that they were not ready to give up the Team World traveling trophy very easily. Rich Bonner had tied Helga Hewlett for a 1/2 of a win for each.

Canada faced California in the 12<sup>th</sup> round and included a game between Tom Moffat and Hastiin Begaye (current Elder Men's and Jr Boys' World Champions). These 2 teams finished 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> last year and both were eager to get back to the Finals Bracket this year. The two champions had an epic battle as each pitched 29/40 (72.5%) and ended the game tied with a 17-17 score. Dalton Rakestraw and Sandra Johnson defeated Mike Marshall and Tracy Snell but Tracy Rose beat Bobby Bartel. CAL won the round 2.5 games to 1.5 games.

MO #1 took on WI #1 in the 12<sup>th</sup> round as well. Gegg pitched another 34/40 (85%) game and Cook were able to defeat Shave and Bonner. However, Steinke pitched

33/40 (82.5%) to defeat Bowman. Zak Schwartz and McCown played to a tie to give MO #1 a match win of 2.5 wins to 1.5 losses. Every team played 9 games on Friday. IL #1 finished the day on top of the leader board with 30.5 wins. MO #1 was just one win behind at 29.5 wins, and WI #1 had 29 wins. MI (25.5), MO #2 (25), MN #1 (24.5), and CAN (24) held the rest of the top seven spots on the leader board. CAL was #8 with 22.5 wins.

Prelim rounds resumed at 7:30am on Saturday as all teams were scheduled to pitch 10 games. WI #1 met IL #1 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> round. Both teams were trying to keep within range of MO #1 for the top spot in the prelims. Steinke and Bonner defeated Littlefield and James while Bailey and Denault defeated Schwartz and Shave to tie the match with 2 wins for each team.

MN #1 won 28 of their 40 games on Saturday with Harvey Burkman and Gary Boots both winning 9 of their 10 games. Burkman lost to McCown in the first game of the day and then won the final 9 while Boots only lost to Tom Moffat in his 7<sup>th</sup> game of the day. MO #1 made it to the top of the prelim standings at the end of Saturday with 67.5 wins as they won 38 of the 40 games they played.

Michael Bowman lost his first game to Gary Boots 25-24. He then lost his next game to Tracy Rose before winning the rest of his games on Saturday. Gegg kept on rolling. She pitched against Cindy Clausen (current Senior Women's World Champion) from Washington in round 34 Saturday night. Gegg started the game with 2 ringers in the first 4 shoes and then finished the game with 36 ringers in a row for 38/40 (95%). IL #1 dropped to second in the standings with 62 wins. WI #1 was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 59.5 wins. MN #1 was in 4<sup>th</sup> place (52.5) as they leapfrogged MI (51.5), who was tied with Canada (51.5) for 5<sup>th</sup> place. MO #2 (49) fell to 7<sup>th</sup> and MN #2 (48) jumped past CAL (42.5) for the #8 spot.

Play started at 8am on Sunday with all teams having just 4 more games to play in the prelim round robin. MI faced IL #1 in game 45, the second last game of prelims. MI was able to win 3 of 4 against IL #1 as Greg Burke lost to Bailey while Andrew Adams, Brandy Morehead, and Hewlett won their games against Kevin James, Paul Littlefield, and Steve Denault. This game may have been

Game	Score	Ringers	R%
Game 6			
Tom Moffat	17	29	72.50%
Hastiin Begaye	17	29	72.50%
Game 25			
Cindy Clausen	44	19	47.50%
Sadie Wolken	29	15	37.50%
Game 34			
Jenny Gegg	52	38	95.00%
Cindy Clausen	0	21	52.50%

a preview of an upcoming finals match as both teams had enough wins to get there. Jenny Gegg pitched her second 38/40 (95%) game in the last game of prelims. MO #1 won 15 of their 16 games to lock in the top spot of the finals and earn a first-round bye and 82.5 wins. IL #1 (75), WI #1 (72.5), MI (66), MN #1 (63), MO #2 (62), and Canada (61.5) completed the 7-team field for the finals. Minnesota #2 (58) and CAL (53.5) finished 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

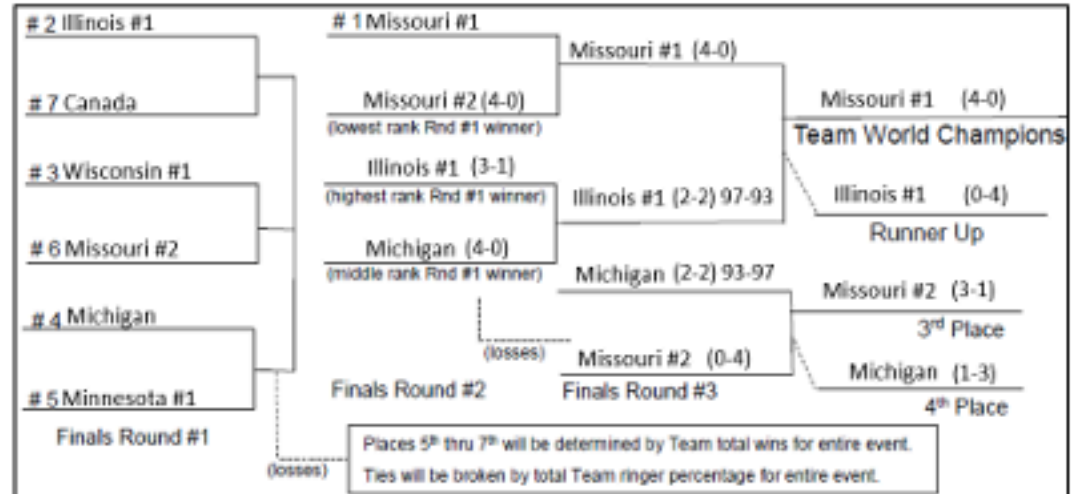
### Finals Bracket Play Begins

Courts 1-4 had the MI vs MN #1 match. Andrew Adams had a tight game against Harvey Burkman but held Burkman off by winning 21-18 and pitching 27/40 (67.5%) against Burkman's 26/40 (65%). The rest of the games had larger point spreads, all in Michigan's favor to give them a 4-0 victory. Courts 5-8 had the WI #1 vs MO #2 match. Pam and Emma Meyer each had great games 32/40 (80%) and 28/40 (70%) to defeat Penny Steinke and Cliff Shave. Don Gillette and James Driver defeated Rich Bonner and Zak Schwartz for a surprising 4-0 sweep over the defending champions. Courts 11-14 featured IL # vs CAN. Tom Moffat won a close match against Austin Bailey, 25-21 as he pitched 29/40 (72.5%) to Bailey's 27/40 (67.5%). IL #1 won the other 3 games as Steve Denault, Kevin James, and Paul Littlefield each defeated Tracy Rose, Tracy Snell, and Mike Marshall.

The semi-final games matched up MO #1 vs MO #2 and IL #1 vs MI. The battle of Missouri included a Gegg vs Pam Meyer game that was one for the ages. Jenny started the game with 12 doubles but Pam answered with (7) 4-deads in that span and they had 13 for the game. The final score was 16-4 in favor of Gegg as she pitched 37/40 (92.5%). Meyer pitched 33/40 (82.5%). MO #1 swept the match as McCown, Cook, and Bowman defeated Emma Meyer, Gillette, and Driver. The other semi-final was the rematch of IL #1 and MI that was played earlier in the day. Morehead pitched 30/40 (75%) to defeat Denault 29-13, for a 16-point advantage in the match. James defeated Hewlett 34-20 to take 14 points away from that 16-point advantage. Bailey pitched 31/40 (77.5%) to defeat Adams 27-20. Adams pitched 28/40 (70%) to keep the game close but IL #1 now had a 5-point advantage. Burke squeezed out a victory over Littlefield as he won on the last shoes of sudden death, 24-23, and push the match into a 2-games-each tie. Tie matches in the Finals are decided by total points scored

for each team. Total points gave IL #1 the win over MI with a 4-point margin of 97-93.

The Finale matched up the two teams that were #1 and #2 over the entire weekend, MO #1 vs IL #1. The first to complete their game was Gegg and Bailey. This game was another nail-biter as Bailey and Gegg started cold but had 6 4-deads in a row before Gegg was able to win the game, 17-14, pitching 31/40 (77.5%) vs Bailey's 30/40 (75%). Cook defeated James 27-13 while pitching 29/40 (72.5%). Bowman didn't have a great game, 21/40 (52.5%) but held off Littlefield to tally MO #1's 3<sup>rd</sup> win of the match. McCown came from behind to seal the sweep



by defeating Denault 30-20 by pitching 29/40 (72.5%) in his comeback.



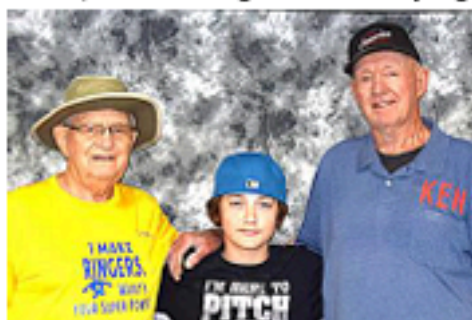
Missouri #1 won the 2026 Team World Title going 8-0 in the Finals and winning 90.5 of the 100 games that the team played. MO #1's total team ringer percentage was 71.63%. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> highest team ringer percentage pitched in a Team World. Jenny Gegg's performance was also one for the record books. Jenny won all 25 of her games and averaged 84.30%. She is the 10<sup>th</sup> person to average 80%+ in a single Team World and her average is the 5<sup>th</sup>-highest ever pitched. Alan Francis and Sue

Snyder are the only people that have pitched a higher ringer percentage than Jenny did this year.

Congratulations to Missouri #1 and Jenny Gegg. Please go to [www.whpahorseshoes.com/team-world](http://www.whpahorseshoes.com/team-world) to see a full listing of results of the tournament, as well as past champions, history, stats, and more.

### Team World is Fierce and Fun

There is a lot more to Team World than the competition among the top teams that enter the tournament. All teams in the tournament are in the same class and play in the same round-robin. This also means that there are plenty of "average Joe's" that get an opportunity to pitch games against pitchers that they would never face in a regular tournament. We had several individuals that were not on teams that were pushing to make the finals but had interesting individuals. There are 3 that come to mind at Team World this year. Jeremiah DeMello, of Washington, (current Cadet Boys' World Champion) age 12, moved into the Jr Boys division this year and moved back to 30-feet and became the youngest player to play in a Team World. Jeremiah faced Johnny Wilhelmsen of Florida, age 88, for the final game on Friday night. Jeremiah pitched



20/40 ringers for his first 50% game of the tournament and beat Johnny 34-22. Jeremiah then faced Ken Schaver, of IL #2, age 88, for game #35 on

Game	Score	Ringers	R%
Game 18			
Johnny Wilhelmsen	22	18	45.00%
Jeremiah DeMello	34	20	50.00%
Game 35			
Ken Schaver	32	24	60.00%
Jeremiah DeMello	10	17	42.50%
Game 41			
Ken Schaver	30	27	67.50%
Johnny Wilhelmsen	15	22	55.00%

Saturday night. Ken beat Jeremiah 32-10, pitching 24/40 (60%) to Jeremiah's 17/40

(42.5%). Ken thought Jeremiah was going to become a good horseshoe pitcher and advised the boy to just slow down a bit after the game. Ken and Johnny found out that they both pitched against a person that was 76 years younger than them. The next question to answer was, which one was older. Johnny was born April 19, 1938. Ken was born April 18, 1938. These two faced off for a head-to-head battle in game 45 on Sunday, the second to last game of the prelims. They must have felt that they were playing for pride as both pitched a good game. Ken won 30-15. Johnny pitched 22/40 (55%) for his 2<sup>nd</sup> best game of the tournament. Ken pitched 27/40 (67.5%),

which tied his best game to that point. Ken still had enough in the tank to pitch 29/40 (72.5%) the next game, which was his 23<sup>rd</sup> game of the weekend. None of these three gentlemen said that there were too many games to play in Team World.

Team World is also the only tournament that the schedule does not tell any pitcher who they will pitch against in the tournament. That is because the matchups are decided right before each game starts by the teams. The schedule shows which teams play against each other and when that game is. Team captains need to report to the coin toss mat to choose between heads and tails to determine which team gets to choose matchups. Captains need to



show up early as the choice of heads or tails is given to the first captain of that match that shows up to the coin toss mat. The second captain gets what is left. The court groups are identified by color, so the opposing captains face each other on their designated color of the courts for the match and face each other as they await the coin toss. The team that loses the coin toss gets to choose their court. The captain of the team that won the toss gets to pair up the opponents for that match. It is at this point that we know who is playing whom for that game. Scorekeepers need advanced training to create the games in H.S. Master. Court assignments, player names, and team numbers are all important to create each game.

The players from the team that lost the coin toss gets to start the game. At this point the games seem like normal singles play but many are watching scores of other courts to see how their teammates are doing. Captains head back to the coin toss mat after their game and the process starts over for the next game. There are typically noisier reactions of cheering and high-fives on the outcome of the coin toss than there is at the end of a game. Having a good strategy for pairing opponents and getting the chance to use it is serious and fun!

### Earl Paulson Team World Award

Earl Paulson was the driving force to host the Team World tournament in Beloit, WI, with the entire Beloit Horseshoe Club. Team World was getting kicked out of its original home, the Pitchin' Palace, after the 1989 tournament, and needed a new home. Earl spearheaded the move and was the tournament director for the next 29 years. Earl passed away in 2021 at the age of 91. The Team World Committee decided to present an award to people that have achieved success at, or made significant contributions to, Team World in Earl's memory. The Earl Paulson Team World Award was first presented to Dale Lipovsky of Minnesota, in 2022. Dale was an easy choice as his teams have won the most titles and he had pitched in the most Team World tournaments than anyone else. Other Team World recipients are: Charlie Webb (IL), Alan Francis MO-OH), Sue Snyder (IN-KY), Paul LaCrosse (CO), Penny Steinke (WI), Bev Nathe (MN), and J.D. Drake (MI). The Team World award was



presented to Sandy McLachlin-Hohl (ON) and John Secord (TW Committee) this year. The award presentation was held at the midpoint of the prelims on Saturday. Sandy was not present to receive the award, but the Canada Team accepted the award on her behalf. John was in attendance. After all, he has worked at all 40 Team World tournaments and has been a Team World Committee member since 1990.

### Don't Forget the Cheese

Every team gets an opportunity to win a 1-lb block of cheese for each player. Players just need to pitch a 70% game or better to have their name entered in the drawing.

The whole team wins cheese when a player's name is drawn. There are enough drawings to give cheese to half of the teams that play in Team World. We can tell this is popular by the reaction that occurs when a winner is announced after a cheese drawing.

Team World is an experience like no other in horseshoe pitching. We encourage anyone to take the lead to form a team and enter Team World. It is truly a great experience.

Team World						
Jennifer Gegg			Name	Pam Meyer		
Rgrs	Points	Score	Shoe	Rgrs	Points	Score
X X	0	0	2	X X	0	0
X X	0	0	4	X X	0	0
O X	3	3	6	X	0	0
X X	0	3	8	X X	0	0
X X	0	3	10	X X	0	0
O X	3	6	12	X	0	0
X X	0	6	14	X X	0	0
X X	0	6	16	X X	0	0
X X	0	6	18	X X	0	0
O O	6	12	20	-	0	0
O X	3	15	22	X	0	0
X X	0	15	24	X X	0	0
X	0	15	26	X	1	1
X	0	15	28	O X	3	4
X X	0	15	30	X X	0	4
X	1	16	32	X	0	4
X X	0	16	34	X X	0	4
X X	0	16	36	X X	0	4
X X	0	16	38	X X	0	4
X X	0	16	40	X X	0	4
16			Points	4		
37			Rgrs	33		
17			Dbls	14		
32			Dead	32		
40			Shoe	40		
92.5			Pct	82.5		

Team World						
Jennifer Gegg			Name	Austin Bailey		
Rgrs	Points	Score	Shoe	Rgrs	Points	Score
X X	0	0	2	X X	0	0
X	0	0	4	O X	3	3
O	3	3	6	-	0	3
X	1	4	8	X	0	3
X	0	4	10	O X	3	6
X X	0	4	12	X X	0	6
O X	3	7	14	X	0	6
O X	3	10	16	X	0	6
X X	0	10	18	X X	0	6
X	0	10	20	X	1	7
X X	0	10	22	X X	0	7
X X	0	10	24	X X	0	7
X X	0	10	26	X X	0	7
X X	0	10	28	X X	0	7
X X	0	10	30	X X	0	7
X X	0	10	32	X X	0	7
-	0	10	34	O O	6	13
O	4	14	36	-	0	13
X	0	14	38	X	1	14
O X	3	17	40	X	0	14
17			Points	14		
31			Rgrs	30		
12			Dbls	12		
26			Dead	26		
40			Shoe	40		
77.5			Pct	75		

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



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

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

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition – Part V



It is now time for Part V of our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition which we are highlighting the 1976 World Tournament which was played in Levittown, Pennsylvania.

We must go back in time to explain the now discontinued *Intermediate Men's Division*. It was originally established for men aged 60 to 64 to bridge the gap between the Open Men's division and the Senior Men's division (which was historically reserved for ages 65 and older). After twenty-six years it was discontinued after the 1992 World Tournament as the Senior Men's age was lowered to 60 years old.

Paul Focht from Dayton, Ohio won a three-way playoff over Andy Paglarini and Harvey Kohlenberger to capture the 1976 Intermediate Championship. Paglarini moved into the championship game with a 80.2% game over Kohlenberger, only to be defeated by Focht.

In the title match Focht defeated Paglarini 52-38 in 90 shoes. Paglarini a 4-Time Minnesota State Champion, did start out by grabbing a 3-0 lead, but Focht took the lead after six shoes and just stayed ahead the whole way. Focht pitched a 75.6% game against Paglarini's 72.2% game.

It is interesting to note that just fourteen years earlier, Paul Focht won the Men's World Title in 1962 with a record of 32-3 and averaged 81.86% in Greenville, Ohio.

	<u>W-L</u>	<u>RIN</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>PCT.</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Paul Focht – Ohio	6-2	468	624	75.00%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Andy Paglarini – Minnesota	6-3	502	696	72.13%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place – Harvey Kohlenberger – Illinois	5-3	429	580	73.97%
4 <sup>th</sup> Place – Raymond Klump – Connecticut	4-3	335	496	67.54%
5 <sup>th</sup> Place – Glenn Portt – Georgia	3-4	379	566	66.96%
6 <sup>th</sup> Place – Lee Sharff – North Dakota	3-4	304	484	62.81%
7 <sup>th</sup> Place – Clayton Henson – Virginia	2-5	333	514	64.79%
8 <sup>th</sup> Place – Clayton Warner – Montana	1-6	280	476	58.82%

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



The NHPA Hall of Fame has lost two members since our last World Tournament, Vicki and Casey will be missed greatly. We as an association are better because of them.

## NHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

**Vicki Winston**  
Oregon & Missouri  
1970



Vicki was the first woman to be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame. She won her first World Championship in 1956 at the age of seventeen and would go on to win a total of ten world titles in four different decades. Her presence in our sport is also felt in the service that she provided as past NHPA Vice-President and Hall of Fame Chairperson. Vicki has the distinction of being a member of a family of Hall of Fame members: Her father (Cletus), her brother (Barry) and her husband (Earl).

**Casey Sluys**  
California  
2010



Casey was a member of the NHPA for 40 years, elected as Vice-President in 1994 and served as a NHPA Officer for 14 years. He headed the Rules Committee for several years, oversaw judges during the World Tournament and developed Judges Guidelines to assist the judging process at all tournaments. He also served as press and publicity capacities and served the last ten years as NHPA Promotion Director.

*"We must all rise or fall together."*

*John Hancock*  
*President of the Second Continental Congress*

# NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

June 2026



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