



January/February 2007



HORSESHOE PITCHERS'

Ringer Digest

Charter Member

www.MinnesotaHorseshoes.com

Affiliated with the NHPA

Member Profile: Mark Smith

Mark Smith was introduced to horseshoes as a youngster by his dad. They used to pitch together in the Litchfield city park. He didn't throw any organized competition until 1999 when he started as a sub in the Litchfield league, where he's pitched ever since. He had always thrown a flip shoe, but in 2003 Jerry Hokkala started teaching him the 1-1/4 turn, and worked on his basic form. It took a few years to come around, but Mark has made dramatic increases in his ringer percentage the past few years. He's pitched in the last three state tournaments, and finished 3rd in the Men's A class this past summer in Genola, averaging 61.32%. Mark also pitched in his first team World competition in Beloit this year, and did very well, averaging in the mid 50's %. Mark is a perfect gentleman on the courts and displays extraordinary "horseshoe etiquette".

Mark practices nearly every evening in the summer, usually 150-200 shoes, and also pitches in the Greenfield league during the winter months. When asked what advice he would give to beginning horseshoe pitchers, he simply said "look up Jerry Hokkala".

He and his wife Jenny reside in Darwin, MN and have 3 daughters, Sarah, Kim, and Emily, and a grand daughter Trinity. Mark is co-owner of Precast Systems Inc., a manufacturer of concrete products. Other interests include hunting, golfing, and 4-wheeler riding.

Watch for Mark to take his textbook pitching form to much higher levels in the future, and we wish him the best of luck in his quest for a Men's state title.



Mark Smith, a rising horseshoe star

FROM THE PREZ by Rick Wright



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays and recovered from the New Year's celebrations. And I know all of you pitchers out there made your New Year's resolution to play more tournaments this year. Attendance for tournaments were down last year so this would be a good time to relax, check out the 2007 tournament schedule and plan ahead for the upcoming season. Jerry LaBrosse, Ward Lutz and myself, have tournaments coming up in February and March, so enter early. I understand that everyday life can be very busy but with a full tournament schedule, I am sure there is a tournament or two that would fit your busy schedule. Remember, life is too short, we need to slow down, relax and take time to unwind, hit the courts and enjoy our sport of pitching shoes with friends and family.

See you on the courts
Rick

REGIONAL DIRECTOR by Jerry LaBrosse

Hello to all

I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season.

I want to thank all tournament directors for helping complete the 2007 tournament schedule. It is now displayed on our state website. I ask you all to check the listings for accuracy, and notify me right away if any changes are needed.

Some of you newer members may not realize that there are winter tournaments held each year in the beautiful Upsala arena. There are four tournaments held each winter, winding up with the Upsala spring tourney in April. It's a great way to stay tuned up for next year's season, and Upsala is only an hour or two from the twin cities. It's also a great way to gather qualifying events for the state and world tournaments. If you haven't signed up for the Superbowl tourney, you better hurry, the entries are limited to 32.

Speaking of the world tournament, I would like to challenge some of you to make it a priority to go to Ardmore ,OK this summer. For those of you who have never attended a world tournament, I have only this to say: your horseshoe experience will never be complete until you've pitched in the world. For those of you who have pitched in one or more world tournaments, you know what I mean. No matter what your class level is, you play against 15 other pitchers from around the country who are the same exact skill level as you are. It is just as difficult and meaningful for someone to win class M as it is class B. The competition and pressure are all the same. And the friends you make will last a lifetime. I strongly encourage you to give it a try. Remember, to qualify for the world tournament you must have 4 natstat events between May of 2006 and May of 2007.

One last thing I'd like to mention is that our association has been invited back to the Minnesota Horse Expo next spring. This "Pitch and Win" event is a golden opportunity to showcase our sport to a very "horseshoe friendly" crowd of people. The dates of this event will be April 27-28-29. Once again Rick will be coordinating the volunteer help. Extra hands will be needed during the set-up and take down of the display and the courts. We should be able to do our set-up on Thursday the 26th.

Although last year's Horse Expo was pretty much a washout, we still had 1000 folks pitch shoes. I hope you will consider spending a day at the state fairgrounds and be a part of this fun event.

State News

FOSS and SAUCE

by Denny

"2007" Can it be possible that we have to write this on our letters, checks and other correspondence? Just when I got used to writing "06". I wonder how many times I'll be crossing out or re-writing the new date. Most likely it will take until early summer. I'm lucky Dee does most of the check writing, other wise we would (no doubt) be ordering more.

For you that missed the state tournament and banquet you missed a great meal, awards, entertainment by Elvis, dancing, singing, karaoke, and prizes. A great night. Could it happen again? Not only it could, but it did. The Dakota Magic tournament in Oct. was the place. Ronn Negaard brought his karaoke machine , speakers, microphones, book of songs, then set it up in the golf pro shop and bar area. I was going to surprise Dee for her birthday. We invited the horseshoe players to join us. What a blast! 40 plus people joined together and had some good old fashioned fun. There were people from North and South Dakota, and MN. (Some places questionable), laughing, singing, and talking. The later it got, the better everyone sounded. Patty Oakes, Joe Mueller, Mike and Kay Littell, Rick Karasch, Christy Weyer, Lou Cave, Kayla Larson, Kurt Whaley and wife, the Fintons, Judy Selden, Kathy Kopetka, Ronn, and others to name a few, kept the crowd clapping. Yes, even Elvis was in the bulding, of course he brought Willie with him. Before long the lights blinked and it was time to call it a night. Someone said "we just got here" (It was either Paul Anderson or Ron Mead) but to no avail. The next morning I over heard Roland Kleinschmidt tell of "The Great Get Together". Ronn is planning on another at the winter tournament Jan25-28th. The pro shop will be closed but everyone knows Ronn will finagle something.

A few weeks ago I read a medical study that found that drinking coffee would make a person more agreeable. Well then, get your self another cup and keep on reading.

Back in the early 80's there was a singing group named the Kingston Trio. One of verses of a song they sang went like this "where have all the flowers gone? long time passing, long time ago". Maybe we should ask the question "where have all the horseshoe players gone? long time ago". Some of us remember, or heard of, having 400-500 people at a state tournament. It did happen. We barely make 200 now. Our membership is about at the 1000 mark. What's the reason? Why not start planning your 2007 summer tournament selections, topping them off with the state tournament, Labor Day weekend (the banquet also). Its going to be at the Genola site again. There's on site camping, pitching conditions that are second to none, close to any shopping, and golfing, close to lakes. Rick Wright has offered prizes to enter. This year there will cash given to the 1st place class winners. This is the start of getting cash prizes back due to Jerry's idea of the perpetual trophy. How about making 2007 state tournament bigger and better than ever before.

See what that extra cup of coffee did?



2006 Awards & Pot Luck Night for Rockford Ringers by Marlys Timm

The Rockford Ringers Horseshoe Club held their Annual Awards and Pot Luck night Sept 19 at Rockford Lions Park Building. Following a delicious Pot Luck meal, awards were presented by the officers. The top four places in league play were presented plaques and first year pitcher Len Anderson of Greenfield brought home first place by a half game over long time pitcher Ron Fadden of Waverly. Closely behind them for third and fourth were Nicole Lilly of Rogers and Glen Berglund of Buffalo.

Percentage patches were awarded to pitchers who achieved 50% games during this season which included Len Anderson and Nicole Lilly. First year pitcher, Debi Pool of Maple Plain, was presented a 20% patch. Rookie of the Year honors went to Debi Pool and Len Anderson. Most Improved pitchers were Ron Fadden and

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Nicole Lilly. High Game patches were presented to Len Anderson who pitched a 58% game and Marlys Timm of Loretto who pitched a 72% game. They both also received the High Average patches as well. Ron Fadden and Marlys Timm also had High Games over their average of +20.45% and +28.75% respectively. The club members in attendance voted on the Sportsmanship Awards with Steve Lilly of Rogers and Dolly Secora of Loretto claiming this highly coveted award.

State Singles and Doubles Tournaments were both held at Genola in September and top trophy winners were recognized as well. Nicole Lilly captured the Class A Girls (18 & under) title in dramatic fashion. After being tied after round robin play with a 3-3 record it set up a playoff game with Crystal Sheehan of Plainview, who was the defending champ. Nicole was not to be denied the championship as she went on to win the game and captured her first ever Championship crown in her sixth and final year in the Junior Girls division. Nicole started pitching league horseshoe with her Dad, Steve, when she was 13 yrs old and they pitch together as a Doubles team as well where this year they captured Class E.

Also in Singles competition, Lowell Johnson of Buffalo took home third place honors in Men’s Class L and Marlys Timm of Loretto received second place in Women’s Class B. Her 60.80% average in round robin play moved her into the Women’s Championship round.

A short meeting was held with secretary and treasurer reports read and approved. Discussion was held on adding additional clay to the courts in the spring and possible purchasing of additional mats. Door prizes were awarded. There were no officer elections this fall and a spring meeting will be held in April 2007 and date will be announced in the Ringer Digest.

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer,
Marlys Timm



Memories of Gene Anderson by Dan Gourde

Many members of the Fridley Horseshoe Club were saddened to hear that a former member of their club, Gene Anderson, passed away on November 29. Gene was 79 and had battled cancer for several years.

Gene found his way to Fridley from his hometown of Roseville to join our club in 1979. He was a member for over ten years and left many memories behind. He helped with our annual tournament, was a league secretary, was on the State Nominations Committee, and was elected to the MGSHPA Hall of Fame in 1996 as a Promoter. Even after he retired from horseshoes, he would show up at the Fridley Open Tournament and the fall league tournament to keep score and to check up on how everyone was doing.

Fridley Horseshoe Club current and past members had only positive comments to make about Gene. John Stanford remembered how he would say “up dummy” when his shoe was short of the stake. Chris Christiansen said he was a true gentleman. Ron Seekamp said he was a good instructor and loved horseshoes. Jim Holland remembers the good times with Gene running the many tournaments at Priemesberger Arena. Bonnie Holland said she remembers that whenever one of Gene’s perfect ringers came off, he would say “that wasn’t even close”. Dan Gourde will never forget the look on Bob Schorer’s face when Gene made up a fake scorecard showing that George Nick had won the \$1,000.00 that Bob’s Produce said they would pay for a perfect game. Gene was grinning from ear to ear and Bob knew he had been fooled.

As Bob Hope used to say “Thanks for the Memories”.



Quote from Alan Francis, world champion submitted by George Nick

“An expert pitcher has a pretty fair idea of what a horseshoe will do the moment he releases it. Such skill is acquired only by long periods of correct physical and mental training. Along with this, a player must possess a considerable amount of natural talent, good eyesight, nerve control, patience, and a deep love of the game. To master the *science* of pitching, one must also learn to master his emotions. Bad temperament or lack of self-discipline ruins many otherwise promising players. “

2006 World Tourney Memories by Marlys Timm

We left for Gillette Wyoming on Saturday July 16 at 7 AM meeting up with friends, Hustads and Berglunds, for breakfast at Worthington. As we continued west the temperature kept rising. We would stop at rest stops every couple hours to stretch and decided to stop at Kadoka SD to spend the night. When we were walking to our rooms we ran into Bill and Arlis Larson! Small world we both said. We talked about the temperature which was 117 degrees. We left early the following day as we had planned on stopping in Deadwood for a couple hours and trying our luck. Needless to say when we left there we were hoping our luck at horse-shoe would be a lot better!

We arrived in Gillette that evening driving to the Complex so we knew the route for the next morning. We saw antelope along the road near our hotel which didn't surprise us as somebody had told us there would be lots of "Wildlife" in Gillette!

Dale Hustad would be the first of our bunch to pitch at 8 AM the 18th. He started out hot, winning his first two games pitching 70% games. As a first time world tourney pitcher he was enjoying himself while meeting new friends and just enjoying the competition. Although he did not place in the money, he said it was a memorable time and looks forward to next year.

I was the next one to begin my shift at 11 AM. I ran into old friends I had pitched against over the previous 8 World Tourneys we've played in. The first day went well and up until the last day I was in the money however only winning 1 game that day put me in a tie for 7th but ringer % kept me out of the money so now my only hope was that my average would place me in the Senior Women's Championship the following morning. My 49.75% seeded me fifth which is exactly where I ended, but I had made more friends while winning some prize money and also began thinking about Oklahoma.

Marv and Glen were on the 5PM shift and I kept score for their class over the three days of play. Both were pitching well and they played their last game against each other. Marv was in first place and Glen was one game behind in second place. On our way out to World the two of them kept telling each other they were each going to come home with a trophy. Well to make it interesting Glen won that last game which put three of them in a tie creating a playoff. Now it was getting interesting! John Trollope of Kansas had come out of nowhere and he and Glen had the first game. Ringers were scarce as both were tight after waiting awhile to begin their game. John was out pointing Glen and when Glen started nailing ringers it was too late and he lost a close one. Then it was Marv's turn to take on the Kansan and try to bring the championship to Minnesota. There was quite a Minnesota group watching these playoff games by now and again the game started out tight. Marv eventually started pulling away and claimed the Championship in Senior Men Class G. He had placed in the money only one time in his eight previous world tourneys, in Ainsworth Nebraska, so he was extremely happy.

After my Senior round was finished on Thursday we headed down the road and once again stayed at Kadoka SD only this time the temperatures had dropped to a cool 57 degrees. Sixty degrees difference in five days. We left early Friday morning and as we traveled east on I-90 we passed a familiar looking Buick with MN license plates. Marv and I looked at each other and said "Wasn't that Bill Larson?" And sure enough it was, as after all South Dakota tourism does advertise "Familiar Places...Familiar Faces", doesn't it?



Horseshoes in Africa By Jackie Hughes,

A couple years ago, I met an inspiring lady named Jerolyn Oliver. She was a patient at a chiropractic clinic that I worked for. She works in the field of pharmaceutical medicine and travels to Uganda, Africa to help orphaned children whose parents have died to AIDS. It is her mission to help these children go to school and make sure they are taken care of. There are over 1 million orphaned children in Africa due to AIDS. Through our MGSHPA, I work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation helping children here in Minnesota. I thought there was a connection here—helping children—what a wonderful gift we could give to these kids afar—the sport of horseshoe pitching. I started by calling our NHPA President Paul Stewart. He thought this was a great idea. Paul said to talk with a couple of our distributors and see if we can get anything sent to Af-

(Africa—Continued on page 6)

Spotlight On Juniors

By Tim Ahles

In this issue of the Junior Corner, I am going to speak about membership and about the need to promote our sport in both the junior and adult leagues. The number of players in our leagues has declined, somewhat, over the past few years in both categories of youth and adults. Our weekly tournaments that are held throughout the state during the summer show a decrease in the number of participants. Our annual MN State Tournament also shows a decline in the number of players that choose to play in this four-day Labor Day weekend tournament.

What is causing this decline in our sport? No doubt, our style of living has changed much in the past years. Both children and adults now seem to have many other hobbies, sports, and leisure activities to occupy their time that were not available years ago. People are more mobile now and are enjoying their spare time by traveling in their RV's, SUV's, by airplane or vacationing at their cabins, lake resorts, or other distant places.

As a member of the St. Paul, Ramsey County Horseshoe Club, I have learned some history of the club. Fifty years ago, the club was divided into adult leagues designated as Class A, B, or C. To join and become a league member, it was necessary to "tryout" and to establish a ringer average. Beginners, with a lower average were placed in Class C and then were moved-up to a higher class depending on their average improvement.

(Juniors—Continued on page 7)

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(Africa—Continued from page 5)

rica. Our recently departed friend Ken Kosky from Wisconsin jumped right in to donate horseshoe supplies, and then Bobby White from Pennsylvania (our NHPA Junior Director) stepped up to plate and also donated horseshoe supplies. Ken and Bobby supplied horseshoe videos on how to pitch horseshoes, horseshoe stakes, horseshoes and measuring tools. This spring, I had talked with Ken at the Team World Horseshoe Tournament in Beloit, WI. Ken asked me if the kids ever received the horseshoes. At that time, the horseshoes were just arriving in Africa. It is amazing on how long it took these supplies to get to Africa—it took a year and a half! I know Ken would be proud that the horseshoes are being used and the kids truly love this sport! Jeri Oliver went to Africa this August after a little bit of instruction on horseshoe pitching from Jerry LaBrosse and myself at Jerry's horseshoe barn. From there, Jeri Oliver has taken horseshoe lessons to Uganda, Africa and her friend Monsignor Matthew Odong has helped her teach horseshoes to the orphaned children at a seminary in the town of Gulu. Life there in Gulu has been the epicenter of a 20-year war. Thousands of children have been adducted there and have been forced into becoming rebel soldiers. It is a dangerous and harsh way of living for these children. Jeri's friend Monsignor Matthew Odong runs this seminary and continues to teach the boys to play horseshoes. The kids love to play and don't want to stop—even when it's raining! The boys were in lines to play this game! See the pictures attached. These three pictures were taken in Gulu.

The gift of horseshoes in Uganda can be attributed to people like Ken—whose heart was as big as the world itself. Horseshoes brings out camaraderie and companionship qualities in people—something I pray will spread around in Uganda. Just seeing the kids with smiles on their faces and knowing that horseshoes is part of that is precious—I'm sure Ken is smilin' down on them. Who knows, maybe some day we will have some of these kids pitching at a World Horseshoe Tournament.

I want to thank Ken Kosky, Bobby White, Paul Stewart and Jerry LaBrosse—all from different States—for all stepping up to the plate in helping make this tribute from the NHPA to kids in need half way around the world.

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(Juniors—Continued from page 6)

And, at that time, the weekly horseshoe pitching results and standings were published in the St. Paul Daily newspaper, just like softball or bowling scores. Perhaps, days like that are gone forever, when, only a few activities were available for adults. Horseshoe pitching was a good and inexpensive way for the average man or woman to participate in a local sport that they could excel in without a lot of athletic skills required. In that regard, horseshoe pitching has not changed from the older days.

I have not meant to be overly negative in this article about the decrease in our membership. We still are a state with one of the largest memberships. And, recently, I received e-mail from some people in Florida that wanted to know our secret to success in attracting junior players. So, we must be doing some things right. But, we still need to understand that there is always room for improvement for developing new ways to attract more pitchers.

Recently, I visited with Harry Fillafer of Moorhead, MN about a program they have established with their local high schools. They conduct a one-week class with Junior and Senior High School students in conjunction with the school's physical education department. The program consists of one day of lecture and four days of hands-on training at their local courts. During these winter months, I hope to contact our local school districts and investigate the possibility of doing something similar, but I would also hope to include the elementary schools in the program.

In previous years, the West St. Paul Club has contacted the various local school districts and had them place an announcement about our summer junior league in their spring and summer brochures. We have not been very successful in attracting new junior members, in this way. We, therefore, need ways to get them involved directly through their school and their Phy. Ed. Teachers, such as, the Moorhead, MN club has done.

However, West St. Paul has had some degree of success in attracting students who are home-schooled by contacting their home-schooling associations. Apparently, many of these mothers, who are the teachers, are looking for a sport for their children since they do not participate through the local school departments.

As the Junior League Director of the West St. Paul Club, I need to find ways to increase the number of junior players in that club. This year, I plan to:

- 1) Continue to advertising our club's summer junior league in the local school spring and summer brochures and with the home-schooling associations.
- 2) Contact the local school Phy Ed departments to establish instructional classes or leagues as part of their curriculum.
- 3) To ask our adult players to encourage their young friends and relatives to join our junior league.

As the Minnesota Junior Program Director:

- 1) I hope to encourage and direct all the Minnesota clubs, in ways to increase their numbers.
- 2) *I am now asking each club to appoint a person as a junior director or coordinator of their club. (Junior players would be allowed to play in the adult leagues from the 30 foot distance, until enough juniors are recruited to form their own junior league.*

I am open to any suggestions that any member may have toward improving the junior membership and I encourage them to contact me with their ideas.

As an adult league player:

- 1) I wish to impress on other adult players that the task of maintaining a large junior or adult membership, rest on the shoulders of all of us. We should encourage other relatives and friends to join our junior and adult leagues. They, in turn, will invite other relatives and friends. Word-of-mouth is still a proven means of advertising.

I wish to thank Mel & Joyce Larson of the Upsala Horseshoe League for sending a check for \$82 to the MN Junior Program that was collected in their tournament this summer. That amount included \$20 from their silent auction, given by Ron & Paula Mead, for the purchase of a pumpkin and squash donated by Leo Brezinka.

“Wet N Wild” (Mini Border Battle) by Jane Smith

55 adult pitchers from Minnesota (28), Wisconsin (26), and Illinois (1) battled the COOL temperatures and windy environment in Centuria, Wisconsin, September 8,9,10. Sixteen juniors kicked off the tournament on Friday evening following a pot luck dinner and short awards program. This tournament is known for the excellent food prepared by Shari Davison and the great experiences and averages pitched on the BEST sand courts in northern Wisconsin. The past several years has challenged pitchers from MN and WI to pitch well for gloating rights as to the best pitchers. Because the REAL Border Battle has been non existent these past few years, this tourney takes its notorious place. Wisconsin pitchers were perfect hosts as they were out pitched by the Minnesota pitchers: Minnesota had 5 firsts, 5 seconds, and 4 thirds in the eight classes. Wisconsin had 3 firsts, 3 seconds, and 4 thirds. The lone Illinois pitcher took 4th place in his class. (Thank you Glenn for planning a visit with your family in Balsam Lake. Kirby and I were dining out at a local food establishment when we ran into ex horseshoe pitchers who told us about the “world class” tournament held in Centuria over the weekend!) The results:

<p>Class A</p> <p>Dave Hughes 5-2 62.1%</p> <p>Mary Matuke 5-2 53.2%</p> <p>Edi Holland 4-3 55%</p> <p>Class D</p> <p>Ida Hostrup 5.5-1.5 39.6%</p> <p>Dave Paul 5-2 37.5</p> <p>Dean Chaffee 5-2 35.7%</p> <p>Class G</p> <p>Jackie Hughes 5-0 43.2%</p> <p>Henry Brown 3.5-1.5 32%</p> <p>Randy Neumann 3-2 26%</p> <p>Jr. B</p> <p>Jenelle Larsen 4-1</p> <p>Amanda Kuske 4-1</p> <p>Jason Salmon 3-2</p>	<p>Class B</p> <p>Rosie Leyk 7-0 62.5%</p> <p>Edie McKinney 5.5-1.5 54.2%</p> <p>Gloria Smith 5-2 45%</p> <p>Class E</p> <p>Rick Wright 4-1 32.4%</p> <p>Dick Hall 4-1 29.6%</p> <p>Bill Bunting 2.5-2.5 28.4%</p> <p>Class H</p> <p>Bob Lindberg 5-0 26.8%</p> <p>Dutch Schults 3.5-1.5 20%</p> <p>Ev Larsen 3-2 12%</p> <p>Jr. C</p> <p>Eric Kuske 3-2</p> <p>Jena Alling 3-2</p> <p>Naomi Williamson 3-2</p>	<p>Class C</p> <p>April Lynch 6-1 40%</p> <p>Bob Kallstrom 5-2 43.92%</p> <p>John Bauer 5-2 38.3</p> <p>Class F</p> <p>Dave Ninneman 5-0 40.8</p> <p>Dan Hammer 4-1 28.8</p> <p>Joyce Ahles 2-3 22%</p> <p>Jr. A</p> <p>Beau Davison 4-1</p> <p>Cola Hickethier 3-2</p> <p>Julia Larsen 3-2</p>
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A very sincere thank you to all who pitched or supported our tournament. Keep the second weekend in September open in 2007 for a GREAT time in Northern Wisconsin!

Mike's Horseshoes
ACCESSORIES
GAME RELATED ITEMS
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mike Littell
 4363 Shoreline Drive
 Spring Park, MN 55384
 612-327-6350

mikeshorseshoes@yahoo.com

www.Mikeshorseshoes.com

Earlybird Sanctioned Tourney

Carson Park in Eau Claire, WI on May 5, 2007, Saturday. April 21 is deadline for entries.
 Cost: \$5. No impressive trophies are given...perhaps "patches" will be.
 Send entry fee (& your phone # & email address) to:
DAVE SCHORBAHN,
 N36494 State Rd 93, Independence, WI 54747
 phone: 715-985-3515.

We have 18 beautiful clay courts; lunch stand; restrooms, padded bleachers for use by the pitchers, cheerleaders, groupies or whatever. We would appreciate it if you passed on this information (mainly about the tournament date). Thanks!
 Eau Claire League Secretary

PITCHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

Pitcher of the Year awards shall be given to NHPA sanctioned pitchers that participate in NHPA sanctioned tournaments and accumulate points for entering and placing in the top 3 spots in 8-person classes and the top 2 spots in classes less than 8 players.

* Points shall be accumulated between August 1st and July 31st of each year.

* 1 Point is awarded to each tournament participant for entering.

* Additional points are awarded for the following:

* 7 points for a 1st place finish

* 5 points for a 2nd place finish

* 3 points for a 3rd place finish

* League play and league tournaments are excluded

* “ Club Only “, “Junior Only”, and any other “closed” tournaments are also excluded

The top point getter in the state will receive the “Frank Stinson Memorial Award”. The top ten point getters in the state will be eligible for a Pitcher of the Year Award. If a region of the state does not have a member in the top ten. Then the top point getter in that region will also be eligible for an award. Awards will be presented at the MGSHPA annual awards banquet. The current top 25 standings will be printed regularly in the Ringer Digest.

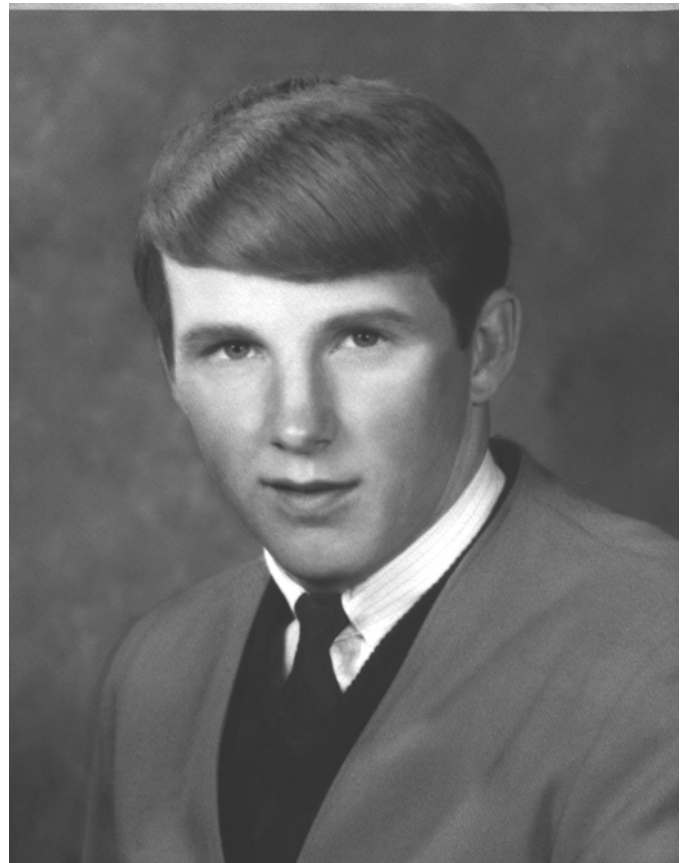
This awards program is designed to promote participation in NHPA sanctioned tournaments. It provides fair recognition to pitchers of all skill levels.

Top 25 High Points

Bill	Larson	WM	31
Dennis	Foss	C	29
Edi	Holland	NC	26
Nicole	Lilly	WM	24
Bob	Knudtson	EM	23
Billy	Lashinski	NC	22
Jim	Aleckson	NC	22
Leslie	Marquardt	NC	22
Joe	Rolfes	WM	21
Patti	Oakes	EM	21
Rob	Hagman	EM	21
Roger	Harp	NE	20
Casey	Swart	C	19
Shawn	Warnemunde	EM	17
Ben	LaCoursiere	WM	17
Melvin	Stoa	NC	17
Bev	Nathe	C	16
Ron	Mujwid	EM	16
Brian	Mruz	NC	16
Marv	Burggraff	NC	16
Pete	Rolfes	EM	16
Matt	Korpela	NC	16
Dick	Dvorak	EM	16
Mike	Creech	SW	16
Wayne	Davis	SW	16
Joey	Mueller	EM	16

Missed “Mystery Member”

In all the confusion surrounding the “mystery member” contest held last year, our staff overlooked one of the best submissions to the contest. We thought it wouldn’t be fair to not publish this photo of a handsome young man who has been a member for many years, and is still burning up the courts. Can you guess who it is? We’ll answer this question in the next issue. Hint: he’s a state champion in archery.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Superbowl Tournament

Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2007

To be held at the fabulous Upsala Horseshoe arena

Limited to the first 48 PAID entries

Entry Fee: \$25.00

Entry Deadline: January 27th

Concessions provided by our hosts:

Mel and Joyce Larson

Send entry payable to:

Jerry LaBrosse

8170 Fern Lane

Greenfield, MN 55357

763-498-7353

Jlabro6186@aol.com

Upsala Spring Tourney

April 28-29, 2007

8 person mixed classes playing forty shoes games.

Tie games receive ½ win and ½ loss.

Open to first 64 PAID entries.

Entry fee is \$25.00 payable to the

Upsala Horseshoe League.

Entry deadline is April 18th, 2007

Scorekeepers paid by the club

Concessions on site - Send entry to:

Mel and Joyce Larson

PO Box 245

Upsala, MN 56384320-573-2371

meljoyce@fallsnet.com

The Blizzard

Saturday, Feb. 24th, 2007

Upsala Horseshoe Arena

Limited to the first 48 PAID entries

Entry Fee: \$25.00

Entry Deadline: Feb 17th

Concessions provided by our hosts:

Mel and Joyce Larson

Send entry payable to:

Rick Wright

23526 Lyons Street

Stacy, MN 55079

651-462-5414

RW1523@peoplepc.com

Dakota Magic Tournament Dates

January 26-27-28, 2007

March 16-17-18, 2007

Tournament Director: Bill Trader

701-746-4495

ndshoes@gra.midco.net

Dakota Magic Casino

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