

WISCONSIN HORSESHOES



VOLUME 39, ISSUE 5

Sept/Oct 2025

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103rd WISCONSIN STATE HORSESHOE CHAMPIONS

August 30-31, 2025



John Nawrot
Men's Champion (5)



Aleena Lepak
Women's Champion (7)



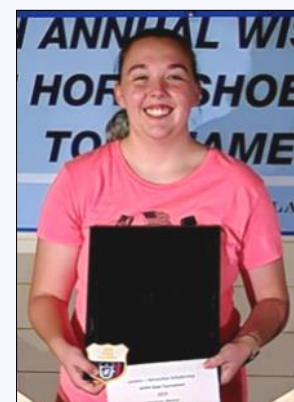
Rich Bonner
Elder Men's Champion (1)



Susie Erickson
Elder Women's Champion (1)



Blake Benzing
Junior Boys' Champion (3)



Lillyan Cook
Junior Girls' Champion (4)



Hunter Kinjerski
Cadet Boys' Champion (1)



Jazmyn Kildahl
Cadet Girls' Champion (3)

Results for the State Tournament begin on page 6.

The number in parentheses in the captions, represents the number of times they have won this title.

2025 WHPA Schedule

Date	Tournament	Location	Max	Entry	Deadline	Contact
Oct 4-5	Deansville Singles	Deansville	40	20	Sept 27	Dobie Gutweiler
Oct 11-12	October Fall Singles	Beloit	72	20	Oct 1	Dan Newkirk
Oct 18	Whpa Fall Meeting (1 pm)	See below for info				
Oct 25-26	Summit Ridge Spooktacular	Wonewoc	42	20	Oct 11	Dave Volz
Nov 1-2	Deansville Doubles	Deansville	16	22	Oct 25	Dobie Gutweiler
Nov 8-9	Autumn Harvest	Beloit	72	20	Oct 29	Dan Newkirk
Nov 29-30	Deansville Open	Deansville	40	20	Nov 22	Dobie Gutweiler
Dec 6-7	Snowflake	Beloit	72	20	Nov 26	Dan Newkirk
Dec 13-14	Ho Ho Horseshoe Tournament	Wonewoc	30	20	Nov 29	Dave Volz

Tournament Contacts

Duane Kinjerski E3489 Krok Rd Kewaunee, WI 54216 920-255-3477 troutman6969@yahoo.com	Cliff Erickson 1178 Westown Dr Eagle River, WI 54521 715-617-0685 clifferickson47@gmail.com	Dan Newkirk Beloit, WI 35311 Dan - 608-921-2834 Tammy - 608-921-3051 dnewkirk05@gmail.com	Dave Volz W7133 Geier Rd Wonewoc, WI 53968 608-547-2769 davevolz@hotmail.com
Dobie Gutweiler 10206 N Trescher Rd Milton, WI 53563 608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com	Fred Lane 541 2nd St North Stevens Point, WI 54481 715-347-2507 fred-lane@live.com	Gena Quaid 1477 Creek Rd Burlington, WI 53005 262-210-7180 gena.quaid@gmail.com	Jeff Secord W2805 Johnsburg Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937 920-476-9042 jeffsecord@outlook.com
Jer Wegner P O Box 94 Butternut, WI 54514 715-661-4330 jerwegner@hotmail.com	John Meyer 500 Martin St Fond du Lac, WI 54935 920-921-2936 cell 920-204-5173 jhmey64@hotmail.com	John Secord W6868 Brown Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937 920-922-0080 whpajs@charter.net	Ken Jaeger N3539 Knight Rd New London, WI 54961 920-982-6287 ken.jaeger1951@gmail.com
Kent Frailing 1432 Old Hwy 51 Mosinee, WI 54455 715-574-1459 horseshoeskent@outlook.com	Jill Peterson 502 E Chestnut, Box 783 Pardeeville, WI 53954 608-235-9600 jpeterson5342@frontier.com	Les Karpel 2965 9 5/8 Ave Chetek, WI 54728 715-642-2485 moreringers4me@gmail.com	Mark Mauthe 865 Eastman Rd Platteville, WI 53818 563-495-7025 imperialplus@hotmail.com
Mel Cook 128135 N Bayside Dr Auburndale, WI 54412 715-650-0639 trackgp2@yahoo.com	Mike Berdan Stratford, WI 54484 Call, Text or Email 715-323-2779 michaelj.berdan@outlook.com	Paul Wiese 419 Oak St Augusta, WI 54722 715-456-0293 ozzyfan79@yahoo.com	Ray Groskinsky 1851 Hwy 13 Friendship, WI 53934 608-339-2466 groskinsky@gmail.com
Russ Brockway 211 W Main St Seneca, WI 54654 608-412-2633 russ.brockway@yahoo.com	Tom Steinke W343 S10062 Hwy E Eagle, WI 53119 262-349-1421 tomsteinke2004@gmail.com	Toni Sloper Box 433 Milltown, WI 54858 715-220-2284 tonisloper@hotmail.com	Whpa State Meetings Delton Sportsmen's Club E9602 Berry Rd Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 Meetings start at 1 pm

Whpa State Fall Meeting at Delton Sportsmen's Club
E9602 Berry Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
Saturday, October 18, 2025 **Meeting starts at 1 pm**

WHPA President — Dobie Gutweiler



WHEW...what a summer we had everyone! Between the World Tournament in July, Pitch Out Cancer in August and our State Tournament over Labor Day weekend, we certainly kept busy didn't we. Shows you how much we can accomplish when we work together as a family.

I was disheartened to see that Susie Erickson stepped down from assisting with Pitch Out Cancer going forward. All of the work that she did to bring this dream to fruition was incredible. Susie outdid herself in raising funds, getting donations, and promoting this event. As part of her committee, I can tell you from experience that nobody worked harder, or communicated better, than she did. While I hope that someone steps up to take on this task, nobody will be able to fill her shoes. Thanks

also goes out to the Little Bull Falls Horseshoe Club for running the actual horseshoe tournament.

I was very pleased with how the State Tournament went this year. Thanks to John Meyer and the Fond du Lac Horseshoe Club for stepping up and keeping things running smoothly. I had a blast and hope all of you did as well.

Next year, with the World Tournament coming to Wausau, we have such an opportunity. First, we can show the rest of the States, and other countries, what Wisconsin has to offer, and we all know that Wisconsin has so much to offer people of all ages.

This is also an amazing opportunity to increase our membership. Think of all those bar league pitchers that would do so well in a World Tournament. Talk to them, share how being a part of this family can bring so much joy to their lives.

See you soon,
With much Love,
Dobie

Behind the Mask ... With NHPA Chaplain Ken Heinritz

A 'tradition' whenever this grandpa & grandma visit the grandkids is a simple running race. OK, yes it may be that this old guy still relishes winning ... albeit my grandkids are 6, 4, & 2 years old. Does that matter? Maybe, I should have kept that tidbit to myself. But the 4-year-old caught on that 'Papa Ken' usually wins. So recently, as we line up to start the race, I feel something down at my hand. It's a little hand wiggling its way into my big hand and it holds on tightly. Then I secure that little hand by clamping down, curling my fingers around little Ruthanna's hand. You see, though she is only 4 years old, she knows that with my help, she has a fighting chance to win the race. With me pulling her along, she is faster, taking bigger strides, far exceeding what she would do without my help.



What a lesson for each of us! Let's do this and allow God to do great things through our lives. If only we would humble ourselves before Him and willingly reach out to the giant hand of almighty God and allow Him to take us further along than we could ever accomplish on our own. You have nothing to lose. Why not make this your cry today?

*"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
That He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:6-7

What's New? — Jane Smith



Congratulations to everyone who entered the 2025 State Horseshoe Tournament held in Fond Du Lac Aug 30/31. Sunday was a very warm, sunny day and some of the shoes pitched were also HOT!! This is a very fun and rewarding weekend as many horseshoe friends make the trip to see friends and horseshoe family. We had several repeat champions as well as NEW champions and NEW first time pitchers. A very sincere THANK YOU to the WHPA, Fond Du Lac Club and many who worked to make this event very successful.

No new members at this point but thinking our WHPA membership will increase in 2026 with the World Tournament taking place in Wausau. Four NHPA events must be pitched by May 15 to enter this exciting tournament.

A big thank you to Donna Berquam for the AWESOME music at Pitch Out Cancer and at State.

Congratulations to Susie Erickson for a successful Pitch Out Cancer weekend in Mosinee along with her committee and the Little Bull Falls Horseshoe Club. Unfortunately, Susie is stepping down. She dedicated much of her summer to this event. She is an amazing leader and organizer. She also won the first ever Women's Elders State title. It was a long battle getting NHPA acceptance for this group of ladies. This Class like the Elders Men can only grow.

We still need prayers and positive vibes for our WHPA family as personal, health, mental, social and financial battles are being fought. Some are frustrated with their pitching average. We need to remember the reason we play is because of the PEOPLE. Pitching well is a deserved perk! Usually only one person in a class is happy – the champion.

Please mark your calendar Oct 18 for the WHPA Fall Meeting at Lake Delton Sportsman's Club.

2026 WHPA Membership & Renewal Form

Name: _____ Card # _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth _____

Circle your Division:

Men-\$35 Women-\$35 Elder Women-\$35 (65+)
Elder Men-\$35 (65+) Jr. Boys-free Jr. Girls-free
Cadet Boys-free Cadet Girls-free Med/Exempt-\$35
Provisional - \$10 New Adult Member - \$25 (mail in only)

Send to: WHPA W6868 Brown Rd. Fond du Lac, WI 54937

(Note: If you want a printed membership card you
can go to www.eShoe.com to print one.

2025 Recap of 103rd Wisconsin State Horseshoe Tournament

By Kevin Brekke

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who came to the State Tournament in Fond du Lac Labor Day weekend. The seventeen courts served the 128 contestants well. Lots of workers pitched in for a successful set up and take down. Special thanks to:

- Those that prayed for great weather – your prayers were answered
- John Meyer for his countless hours and contributions before and during State
- TD's State Officers
- The Fond du Lac Club members
- Deansville Club members
- Welcome bags were awesome
- Chaplin Ken Heinritz and Kevin Brekke for the church service
- Dan and Tammy Newkirk and Beloit club members for set-up and take down and computers and screens
- Kevin Brekke for managing the Scorekeepers. There were:
Robert Fleege, Jill Peterson, Kevin Brekke, John Meyer, Dave Quaid, Gena Quaid, Jeff Secord, Zach Secord, Mary Ann Kouba, Ivan Mitchell, Leslie Mitchell, Randy Mitchell, Ashley Mitchell, Sandy Anderson, Donna Berquam, Ken Heinritz, Sequoia Wiese, Paul Wiese, Brenda Price and Gerald Harris
- Judges Jeff Secord/Paul Wiese/Dustin Duerr/Fred Lane
- Nice variety of raffle items for both Junior Scholarship fund and the Cook families for running this. Also, those involved with the 50/50 raffle. Both were very successful.
- Dobie Gutweiler and Sandy Anderson especially for their efforts to fill in and make sure everything was taken care of.
- Dave Volz for helping where needed and a great job taking pictures of the winners and posting results on the whpahorseshoes.com website.
- Aleena Lepak for winning the State Women's Championship her seventh with a 81.68 average. When was the last time someone averaged over 80 percent in our state tournament?
- Rich Bonner for winning the State Elder Men's Championship being in the class for the first time and dealing with dialysis three times a week
- All those who moved up to the championship class and all those first time state class winners

We had sixteen first-time state pitchers. They are: Emilio Castro, Kim Hinze, Brandon Kinjerski, Bruce Weller, Jacob James, Zoey Jame, Mark Kubisiak, Kathy Fleege, Mary Ann Kouba, Marna Galvan, Kim Peterson, Thurston Boehm, Jeffrey Madison, Greg Kinjerski, Dan Jury and Michael Benzing Sr.

Next year's State will be at the Beloit Horseshoe Club September 5-6, 2026. The next year's World will be in Wausau July 13 to 26. You can get your sanction card October 1 for remainder of 2025 and all of 2026. Form is on Page 4. Ringers to all.

103rd Wisconsin State Results

August 30-31, 2025

Men's Championship

John Nawrot	7	0	62.59
Jim Larson	6	1	57.31
Dean Groshek	4	3	47.97
Zak Schwartz	3	4	46.24
Ken Heinritz	3	4	35.57
Rich Peterson	2	5	44.61
Justin Schultz	2	5	37.25
Russ Brockway	1	6	37.93



Men's Championship
Jim Larson, John Nawrot,
Dean Groshek



Men's Class A
Jarrod Bisch, Dean Groshek,
Alvin Schultz

Men's Class A

Dean Groshek	7	0	50.71
Alvin Schultz	5	2	37.14
Jarrod Bisch	5	2	32.86
Russ Brockway	4	3	40.00
Dave Quaid	4	3	27.86
Dominic Saxby	1	6	29.64
Dustin Duerr	1	6	26.79
Duane Kinjerski	1	6	24.64



Men's Class B
Gary Volz, Hank Schoenbeck,
Michael Benzing Jr



Men's Class C
Ed Pulsfus, Dennis Marquardt

Men's Class B

Hank Schoenbeck	7	0	32.86
Michael Benzing Jr	5	2	33.21
Gary Volz	5	2	25.35
Kim Hinze	4	3	28.17
Kent Frailing	4	3	21.48
Brandon Kinjerski	2	5	21.07
Rich Brockway	1	6	17.96
Mark Labarge	0	7	19.64

Men's Class D

Fred Lane	5	1	18.33
Sam Woolsey	5	2	16.86
Ivan Mitchell	4	2	16.45
Brian Kasun	2	3	13.20
Bruce Weiler	1	4	11.02
Jeremy Studinski	0	5	9.20



Men's Class D
Fred Lane, Sam Woolsey

Men's Class C

Edwin Pulsfus	5	0	20.87
Dennis Marquardt	4	1	21.60
Paul Wiese	2	3	20.40
Guy Fleming Jr	2	3	14.57
Dan Newkirk	1	4	13.60
Mike Berdan	1	4	12.80

Men's Class E

Emilio Castro	5	0	22.00
Barry Haff	4	1	14.80
Justin Mabry	3	2	12.80
Zach Secord	2	3	5.20
Alec Marquardt	1	4	5.20



Men's Class E
Emilio Castro, Barry Haff

103rd Wisconsin State Results

August 30-31, 2025

Women's Championship

Aleena Lepak	7	0	81.68
Penny Steinke	6	1	74.06
Mona Lane	5	2	63.36
Donna Berquam	4	3	51.30
Kalena Quaid	2	5	37.33
Jill Peterson	2	5	35.98
Kim Peterson	1	6	37.50
Cindy Castellano	1	6	31.92

Women's Class A

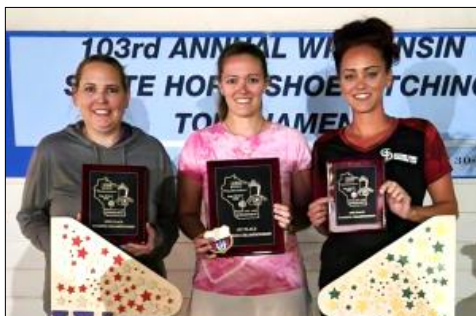
Donna Berquam	7	0	58.93
Kalena Quaid	6	1	42.14
Kim Peterson	4	3	36.79
Tonya Kaulum	4	3	32.86
Paula Kobelman	3	4	30.36
Nancy Murleau	2	5	28.21
Kailee Grob	2	5	23.57

Women's Class B

Sonia Cook	7	0	31.07
Brenda Price	5	2	31.79
Amy Mabry	4	3	25.71
Marna Galvan	4	3	22.14
Leslie Mitchell	4	3	21.79
Tava Cook	3	4	25.00
Sandy Anderson	0	6	18.33

Elder Women's Championship

Susie Erickson	6	0	43.90
Kathy Fleege	4	2	27.33
Mary Ann Kouba	2	4	14.61



Women's Championship
Penny Steinke, Aleena Lepak,
Mona Lane



Women's Class A
Kalena Quaid, Donna Berquam,
Kim Peterson



Women's Class B
Brenda Price, Sonia Cook,
Amy Mabry



Elder Women's Championship
Kathy Fleege, Susie Erickson,
Mary Ann Kouba

Junior Boys' Championship

Blake Benzing	6	1	50.00
Bradley Benzing	5	2	48.46
Conner Kildahl	2	4	17.60
Aiden Weller	0	6	16.80



Junior Boys' Championship
Connor Kildahl, Blake Benzing, Bradley Benzing,
Aiden Weller

Junior Girls' Championship

Lillyan Cook	6	0	25.17
Sequoia Wiese	3	3	8.18
Josie Boehm	3	3	6.40
Zoey James	0	6	1.82



Junior Girls' Championship
Sequoia Wiese, Lillyan Cook, Josie Boehm, Zoey James

103rd Wisconsin State Results

August 30-31, 2025

Elder Men's Championship

Rich Bonner	6	1	69.51
Ken Jaeger Sr	5	2	58.44
Jim Bilderback	4	3	70.10
Cliff Shave	4	3	65.78
John Meyer	4	3	60.82
Jeff Gustafson	4	3	60.21
Ray Groskinsky	1	6	48.68
Rich Callaway	0	7	48.86

Elder Men's Class A

Ray Groskinsky	6	1	51.07
Cliff Erickson	5	2	49.29
Bernard Carley	5	2	45.36
Rich Callaway	4	3	50.00
Eugene Pribnow	2	5	48.21
Kerry Morris	2	5	42.86
Ken Whitehouse	2	5	40.36
Steve Wiegert	2	5	37.50

Elder Men's Class B

Les Karpel	7	0	51.79
Roger Poutanen	5	2	53.21
Robert Fleege	4	3	47.50
Robert Conachen	4	3	44.01
Steven Grob	3	4	44.37
Randy Mitchell	3	4	42.50
Mark Rice	1	5	36.25

Elder Men's Class C

Rick Weller	7	0	56.07
Ben Kinjerski	6	1	52.50
John Drexler	5	2	43.21
Kevin Hellenbrand	4	3	44.29
Glenn Schultz	2	5	36.07
Steve Kulow	2	5	30.36
David Volz	2	5	28.21
Jim Tollefson	0	7	12.50

Elder Men's Class D

Paul Henning	6	1	40.14
Mike Slowinski	5	2	34.64
Dan Jury	4	3	37.50
Jeffery Madison	4	3	37.50
Marvin Mengel	3	4	34.15
Ralph Marthaler	3	4	29.64
Ron Studinski	2	5	36.43
Greg Kinjerski	1	6	27.50

Elder Men's Class E

Joel Ramsdell	6	1	41.43
Michael Benzing Sr	5	2	40.00
George Dorn	5	2	27.86
Reese Geier	4	3	26.79
Greg Smith	4	3	24.64
Bob Klingaman	3	4	21.43



Elder Men's Championships
Ken Jaeger Sr, Rich Bonner,
Jim Bilderback



Elder Men's Class A
Cliff Erickson, Ray Groskinsky,
Bun Carley



Elder Men's Class B
Roger Poutanen, Les Karpel,
Robert Fleege



Elder Men's Class C
John Drexler, Rick Weller,
Ben Kinjerski



Elder Men's Class D
Mike Slowinski,
Paul Henning, Dan Jury



Elder Men's Class E
Michael Benzing Sr, Joel Ramsdell,
George Dorn

Elder Men's Class F

Mark Kubisiak	5	0	27.60
Gary Colton	4	1	25.20
Richard Conrad	3	2	26.80
Kevin Brekke	2	3	19.69
Tom Steinke	1	4	14.17
Jim Berdan	0	5	9.60



Elder Men's Class F
Mark Kubisiak, Gary Colton

103rd Wisconsin State Results

August 30-31, 2025

Cadet Boys' Championship

Hunter Kinjerski	7	0	31.25
Andrew James	6	1	34.18
Owen Prasalowicz	5	2	23.79
Logan Lepak	4	3	6.93
Thurston Boehm	3	4	5.29
Jacob James	2	5	5.34
Mattias Wiese	1	6	1.03

Cadet Girls' Championship

Jazmyn Kildahl	7	0	15.71
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Cadet Boys' Championship

Mattias Wiese, Thurston Boehm, Owen Prasalowicz,
Hunter Kinjerski, Andrew James,



Cadet Girls' Championship

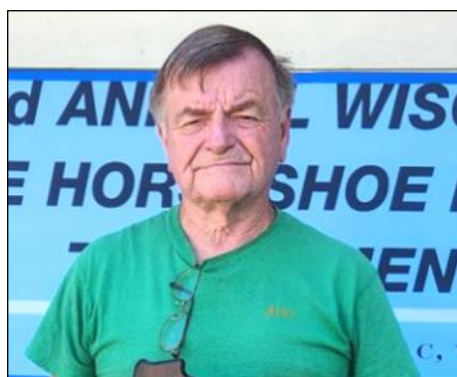
Jazmyn Kildahl

2025 WHPA Awards



President's Award

Paul Wiese



Pitcher of the Year "A"

John Meyer



Pitcher of the Year "B"

Dave Quaid



Pitcher of the Year "C"

George Dorn



Most Improved Jr/Cadet

Owen Prasalowicz



Most Improved Adult

Steve Wiegert

2025 Hall of Fame Inductee

Jeff Secord



Jeff Secord, 2025 Hall of Fame Inductee



(Left to Right) : Zach (youngest son); Ann (wife) & Jeff Secord; Tony (middle son); Alex (oldest son) & Leah.



(Left to Right) First Row: Mark & Kim (older sister) Feavel; Ann (wife) & Jeff Secord; Tony (middle son); Sandy & John (parents). Second Row: Sharon & J. D. (elder brother); Zach (youngest son); Alex (oldest son) & Leah.

Pitch-Out Cancer

Pitch-Out Cancer 2025 is in the books, but first, I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone on the Pitch-Out Cancer committee. I could not have done it without all of you. Everything you did to help out was beneficial and greatly appreciated, no matter how small.

I would also like to thank everyone who supported Pitch-Out Cancer in some way, shape, or form, whether by pitching in, helping out on the day of the event, buying Money Tree tickets, or providing anything else I needed along the way, such as a bit of conversation late at night. Thank you, Donna Berquam, for entertaining us with some awesome music. We want to thank the Little Bull Falls Horseshoe Club for hosting the tournament, all of our sponsors – Mosinee Area Action Club, The Good Feet Store, & Merrill Steel, Kwik Trip, Close Doesn't Count Horseshoe Club, Charlie's Hardware, Valley Communities Credit Union, Kafka Granite, and April Aire. But not only that, we want to thank Mark Matthiae for allowing us to utilize that brand-new sports complex. It all helped to make it a fantastic weekend.

However, I also want to THANK those of you who participated, as that means the most to this whole event. Those players who did not participate are unaware of what they missed. This fundraiser featured not just basket raffles but also a Plinko Raffle, a Money Tree Raffle, a Scratch-off Lottery Raffle, and a Liquor Lottery. We hope that next year, you will save the dates of August 22nd & 23rd, 2026, for this fundraiser to help support the cancer patients of the state of Wisconsin. Plans are underway to expand and improve it. We also need people to be on the committee to help us out. Ideally, it would be beneficial to have a member from each club. Let's make this happen, please. And if you have any suggestions for this event, let me know them as well.

I would like to recognize our **Top Fundraisers** – those who asked family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers to pledge to their pitching. **1st Place** was Kevin Brekke - \$750 in pledges, **2nd Place** was Eugene Pribnow – \$315, **3rd Place** was Doug Bakkum - \$191, **4th Place** was Jer Wegner - \$170, and **5th Place** was Sandy Anderson - \$131. They all received a plaque and a monetary award. **Money Tree Winners** were **3rd Place** - \$50 – Terri Schenck of Eagle River, **2nd Place** - \$100 – Travis Gray of Cambria, and the **1st Place** - \$500 winner was Ray Cayer of Stevens Point. **Scratch-Off Lottery Ticket Frame** – Michael Benzing Jr of Eagle River.

Most of all, I want to thank my husband, Cliff, for supporting me through this whole fundraiser. I know I was not the best person to deal with during this entire process. Thank you, honey. And I don't say that lightly.

**AND NOW FOR THE BIG REVEAL, THE TOTAL WE RAISED FOR THE
CANCER CARE FUND AT MARSHFIELD CLINIC
(THIS IS A PRELIMINARY FIGURE) As money is still coming in
It comes to as of this moment—\$12,778.25**

My quote has been all along –

**"Alone, we can do so little, but together we can make a difference."
Together, we will have made a difference.**

Unfortunately, since this article was submitted, Susie Erickson has made the decision to step down from Pitch Out Cancer going forward. Her reasoning is understandable. She did a fabulous job and will be missed greatly if this tournament continues. -Dobie Gutweiler, WHPA President

Pitch-Out Cancer

August 23-24, 2025

Kent Frailing

Class A

Aleena Lepak	4	1	67.00
John Meyer	4	1	64.00
Ken Jaeger Sr	4	1	61.00

Class B

Cliff Erickson	6	1	62.14
Eugene Pribnow	5	2	60.92
Ray Groskinsky	5	2	53.57

Class C

Glenn Schultz	6	1	43.93
Bradley Benzing	5	2	49.29
Justin Schultz	4	3	46.07

Class D

John Drexler	7	0	53.93
Randy Mitchell	5	2	44.64
Dustin Duerr	5	2	42.86

Class E

Melanie Kasun	6	1	40.36
Ron Studinski	5	2	40.00
Marvin Mengel	5	2	38.21

Class F

Donna Berquam	7	0	66.07
Kent Frailing	6	1	28.93
Michael Benzing Sr	4	3	42.50

Class G

Wally Schmitt	6	1	32.50
James Duerr	5	2	29.64
Rich Brockway	5	2	28.93

Class H

Jer Wegner	5	0	37.60
Alicia Gerlach	3	2	37.20
Mark Trepanier	3	2	28.80



Class A

Jeff Gustafson, Ken Jaeger,
Aleena Lepak, John Meyer



Class B

Rich Callaway, Eugene Pribnow,
Cliff Erickson, Ray Groskinsky



Class C

Kevin Hellenbrand, Justin Schultz,
Glenn Schultz, Bradley Benzing



Class D

Robert Conachen, Randy Mitchell,
John Drexler, Dustin Duerr



Class E

Paula Kobelman, Melanie Kason,
Marvin Mengel, Ron Studinski



Class F

Kent Frailing, Michael Benzing Sr,
Greg Smith, Donna Berquam



Class G

Carl Stuhr, James Duerr,
Wally Schmitt, Rich Brockway



Class H

Mark Trepanier, Jer Wegner,
Alicia Gerlach, Sean Shopinski

Pitch-Out Cancer

Class I			
Gary Zarda	7	0	22.14
Jim Fochs	5	2	18.93
Sam Woolsey	5	2	16.90
Class J			
Scot Jones	7	0	20.00
Dave Schillinger	5	2	15.00
Joe Zwifelhofer	4	3	16.79



Class I
Sam Woolsey, Jim Fochs,
Gary Zarda, Brian Kasun



Class J
Dave Schillinger, Joe Zwifelhofer,
Justin Mabry, Scott Jones

2026 World Tournament News -- Kent Frailing

The 2026 World Committee is in need of your assistance. We need help with setup at World. As of now, we will be unloading the NHPA trailer on Tuesday, July 7th, 2026. As the semi is unloaded, the items in the semi will be staged in working areas. We estimate that 10 volunteers will be needed to unload and stage. YES, some of the work is very physical, however there are many duties that need to be completed before the pit boxes are set in place that are not as strenuous. On Wednesday July 08th, 2026 we will begin court setup, and the goal is to have the setup completed by Friday, July 10th, 2026. During this process, we would like 20 volunteers. I do not have a schedule for tear down as it will depend on the number of participants. We will also need assistance to maintain the courts at the close of each day. Please email me at horseshoeskent@outlook.com to sign up, or call me with any questions or concerns, 715-574-1459.

Not everyone can commit to the entire time frame. Please let me know the days and times you will be available.

Kent

GETTING STARTED PITCHING HORSESHOES

Why Play?

- Horseshoes is fun, easy to learn, and affordable.
- It's a great way to stay active and meet people.
- All ages and skill levels are welcome.

TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

How to Start:

- Fill out the membership form.
- Pitch 100 shoes with a tournament director to set your ringer percentage.

In Wisconsin:

- Visit the WHPA website: www.whpahorseshoes.com
- Click on: *Tournament Schedule* to see all upcoming sanctioned events. *Membership Form* to learn how to join.

New Members:

- Must complete a 100-shoe count to establish ringer percentage.

Adults:

- (WI) Must have completed a minimum of (3) Wisconsin

NHPA sanctioned events between August 1 -- July 31 to be eligible.

- (World) Must complete 4 qualifying tournaments by mid May. (Check NHPA for exact dates.)

Juniors & Cadets:

- No tournament requirement for State, 1 for World.

Worried You're Not Good Enough?

- Wisconsin tournaments are split into small groups usually 6-8 players.
- You'll be matched with your age, gender, and skill level.
- In an 8-person group, you'll play (1) 40-shoe game against each person.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

Dustin Duerr: 715-965-8033 sweetabillie@gmail.com

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Dave Volz: 608-547-2769 davevolz@hotmail.com

CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Sonia Cook: 715-384-5540 cook_sonia@yahoo.com

Kent Frailing: 715-574-1459 horseshoeskent@outlook.com

Wisconsin Pitchers 2025 World Final Results

Preliminary Results

Name	Division	Class	Rank	Rgr %
Marvin Mengel	Elder Men	EMH	11th	30.83
Sandy Anderson	Senior Women	WG	9th	13.50
Dobie Gutweiler	Women	WG	7th	17.50
Sheila Volz	Women	WH	3rd	7.31
Tom Steinke	Elder Men	EMN	7th	17.88
Rich Brockway	Senior Men	MJ	8th	20.83
Fred Lane	Men	MN	3rd	18.83
Jeff Gustafson	Elder Men	EMA	8th	66.50
Jim Bilderback	Elder Men	EMA	1st	71.17
George Moraza	Elder Men	EMC	3rd	49.50
Dustin Duerr	Men	ME	13th	31.17
Sarah Chaffee	Women	WA	16th	54.33
Penny Steinke	Women	WA	4th	76.17
Aleena Lepak	Women	WA	6th	74.33
Mona Lane	Women	WB	1st	58.17
David Volz	Elder Men	EME	12th	34.00
Ralph Marthaler	Elder Men	EMF	14th	31.67
Dean Chaffee	Men	MB	12th	46.33
Ken Heinritz	Senior Men	MC	10th	42.00
Cindy Castellano	Women	WD	7th	34.50
Lillyan Cook	Junior Girls	JA	6th	29.50
Conner Kildahl	Junior Boys	JD	6th	13.75
Josie Boehm	Junior Girls	JF	3rd	3.89
Jazmyn Kildahl	Cadet Girls	CB	3rd	10.42
Logan Lepak	Cadet Boys	CE	1st	7.92

Championship Results

Jazmyn Kildahl	Cadet Girls	2nd	8.16
Lillyan Cook	Junior Girls	5th	31.90
Ken Heinritz	Senior Men	8th	34.69
Jeff Gustafson	Elder Men	2nd	66.82
Jim Bilderback	Elder Men	10th	61.07
Aleena Lepak	Women	4th	78.42
Penny Steinke	Women	5th	74.08
Mona Lane	Women	12th	63.18

A Trophy Reimagined: New and Improved Team World Championship Trophy Unveiled Submitted by Penny Steinke

The iconic Team World Championship trophy just got a major makeover—thanks to the dedication and craftsmanship of longtime horseshoe enthusiast Tom Steinke. Originally constructed in the 1980s, the trophy had seen better days. With outdated nameplates, broken parts, and no record of recent winners, it was time for a serious upgrade.

Tom took it upon himself to carefully dismantle the original trophy, preserving as many of its historic elements as possible. Broken components were replaced, and one of the standout new features is a built-in lazy Susan at the base—allowing the trophy to spin and proudly display every team's achievement with ease. It's now as functional as it is impressive.

Perhaps most notably, Tom added the names to honor the earliest Team World champions who had previously gone unrecognized. To top it all off, the updated design now includes a newly added world-themed topper and two golden horseshoes crafted by Penny Steinke, adding a handcrafted and heartfelt touch to the already meaningful display.

The trophy had not been updated since 2018, but it now proudly includes every winning team up through the 2025 Champions – Wisconsin Team #1 – Penny Steinke, Cliff Shave, Sarah Chaffee, and John Nawrot. With 2½ panels now filled with team names, there's still room to grow—1½ panels remain for future champions to stake their claim.

Mark your calendars: the next Team World Championship tournament is set for May 15–17, 2026 at Telfer Park in Beloit. One team will not only take home bragging rights but also earn a place on this beautifully revitalized piece of horseshoe history.



Wet Weather Impacts 2025 FDL Team Tournament

Submitted by Jeff Secord

The 5th annual FDL Team Tournament had a record 9 teams entered this year. This blew away the record set last year of 5 teams. However, the weather was what everyone was talking about going into this year's event. The city of Fond du Lac received 1.70" of rain on Saturday, August 9, 2025. This was hardly newsworthy compared to the 10-13 inches that fell in Milwaukee County. However, it was enough to raise concerns about how the courts at the FDL Fairgrounds would be if more rain fell before the tournament as we have received 24.41" of rain this summer (16.6% above average). Concerns grew even larger when the chance of rain kept increasing over the week leading up to the event of Saturday, Aug 16. The ground around the courts was already saturated. Sunrise came on Saturday with a partly cloudy sky, but we decided to shorten the games in the prelim rounds to 30 shoes to speed up the day in case of rain. We had an early lunch break with the shorter games and future radar images indicated that the storm path was tracking to pass around FDL to the North. The storm out-smarted those weather computers and the sky was turning dark as we started playing our final prelim round. Sirens sounded just as a huge mass of dark clouds were approaching us. The siren is sounded every Saturday at noon but we stopped the games, threw rugs on the courts, and carried scoreboards and clipboards into the clubhouse just as the rain started falling and the wind began to blow with authority. A full deluge of rain was upon us. Radar indicated that the rain would be temporary and a break in the precipitation was about two hours from reaching us. However, that break would be followed by more rain with about 90 minutes of dryness between the first and second rounds of rain. The prelim rounds were declared completed after the six rounds that were in the books. We also reduced the finals to just the top four teams, instead of six, to remove one of the three finals rounds to ensure we could finish in that 90-minute window.



The standings after the six preliminary rounds had John Meyer's Hit & Miss team on top of the standings with winning 12.5 of the 18 games played (69.4% win %). There were 3 teams tied for second place with 9 wins of their 15 games played (60% win %). The 5th place Deansville team was 1 win behind the tied teams. Each of the top 4 teams were asked to stay and wait out the 2-hour delay to play in the finals. Any team that dropped out would allow the next team in the standings the opportunity to be added to the finals until we get four

teams to agree to stay. All 4 top teams agreed to wait out the rain and play in the finals. The rain did stop but it left its mark on the courts. Water was standing in the courts AND on the walkways between the two ends of most courts. A sump pump and some brooms allowed us to get the standing water off from the concrete of six courts rather quickly. However, the water in the clay was quite extensive and the clay was saturated. We left rugs on all six courts to avoid getting the horseshoes covered with wet, sticky, slimy clay. Not ideal pitching conditions but the sky had cleared up and there were almost no puddles on the concrete.

The games in the finals were set for 40 shoes as radar indicated that there was plenty of time to get two games completed before the next wave of rainfall. #4 Little Bull Falls played #1 Hit & Miss in the first finals round. John Meyer has no issue with pitching on carpet as he threw 70% against Randy Mitchell. Kent Frailing beat Chris Judson to even the match at 1-game-each. John Drexler threw a 50% game to close out Gerald Harris and give Little Bull Falls the 2-1 victory to move on to the championship round.



This was the second year in a row that the #4 team eliminated the #1 team in the first round of the finals.

Last year's defending champions, #3 Summit Ridge took on #2 Trailblazers in the other first-round match. Jill Peterson pitched 19 ringers but was out-

pointed by Rich Callaway who threw 18 ringers and 4 more points than Jill. Kim Peterson returned the favor as she had one less ringer than Dean Groshek but was able to get extra points to make up the 3-point deficit to win the game. The match was tied 1-1 with 2 very close games. Rich Peterson and Dan Jury both pitched their worst game of the day to that point. Dan edged out Rich 13 ringers to 10 ringers to give the Trailblazers the 2-1 match win to move on to meet Little Bull Falls for the championship.

Randy Mitchell took advantage of another low game by Dan Jury in the finals to win 13 - 9 ringers. Dean Groshek pitched well against Kent Frailing for an easy win to even the match at 1 game each. John Drexler was 1 ringer short of pitching his second 50% game in a row but fell short to Rich Callaway who pitched his best game of the day to beat John 20 - 19 ringers and gave his Trailblazers a 2-1 match win to win the championship. I'm already looking forward to the 2026 FDL Team Tourney.

4th High Prelim Win %	Little Bull Falls .600	4th High Prelim Win %	Little Bull Falls (2-1)	
5th High Prelim Win %	Hit & Miss .694	Highest Prelim Win%		Trailblazers (2-1)
3rd High Prelim Win %	Summit Ridge .600	3rd High Prelim Win %	Trailblazers (2-1)	Champions
6th High Prelim Win %	Trailblazers .600	2nd High Prelim Win %		

Wins	Ring %	1st -		Ringers	Shoes
13	41.01%	Trailblazers			
3	44.35%	Rich Callaway		102	230
6	40.43%	Dan Jury		93	230
4	38.26%	Dean Groshek		88	230

Wins	Ring %	2nd - Little		Ringers	Shoes
12	31.74%	Bull Falls			
4	40.43%	John Drexler		93	230
5	36.52%	Randy Mitchell		84	230
3	18.26%	Kent Frailing		42	230

Wins	Ring %	3rd - Hit &		Ringers	Shoes
15.5	36.67%	Miss			
8	61.92%	John Meyer		161	260
3.5	27.69%	Gerald Harris		72	260
4	20.38%	Chris Judson		53	260

Wins	Ring %	4th - Summit		Ringers	Shoes
11	38.41%	Ridge			
4	41.30%	Rich Peterson		95	230
2	39.57%	Jill Peterson		91	230
5	34.35%	Kim Peterson		79	230

Wins	Ring %	6th - Three		Ringers	Shoes
8	41.01%	Amigos			
5	54.67%	Ray Groskinsky		82	150
3	34.00%	Kerry Morris		51	150
0	12.67%	Alex Secord		19	150

Wins	Ring %	8th - Feelin'		Ringers	Shoes
4.5	32.00%	Lucky			
3	47.33%	Eugene Pribnow		71	150
1.5	36.00%	Dan Bloom		54	150
0	12.67%	Kevin Brekke		19	150



Wins	Ring %	5th -		Ringers	Shoes
10	35.56%	Deansville			
5	49.44%	Jim Larson		89	180
2	30.56%	Dave Leckwee		55	180
3	26.67%	Steve Kilian		48	180

Wins	Ring %	7th - Ron's		Ringers	Shoes
5	23.78%	Ringers			
1	36.00%	Mark Rice		54	150
3	32.00%	Ron Studinski		48	150
1	3.33%	Evan Schoohs		5	150

Wins	Ring %	9th - Rooster's		Ringers	Shoes
5	21.67%	Ringers			
2	31.67%	Dominic Saxby		57	180
3	20.56%	Brandon Kinjerski		37	180
0	12.78%	Duane Kinjerski		23	180

WISCONSIN HORSESHOES NEWSLETTER (WHNL)

NEWSLETTER

Dobie Gutweiler, Editor

10206 N Trescher Rd, Milton, WI 53563

608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Dustin Duerr, Subscriptions / Publisher / Mail

N3254 Lemke Drive, Medford, WI 54451

715-965-8033 sweetabilie@gmail.com

Karla / Kevin Brekke, Layout / Proof

1802 W Lois Lane Edgerton, WI 53534

608-751-0345 karlabrekke@charter.net

608-669-1218 brekkekev3@aol.com

WHPA Officers

Dobie Gutweiler, President

10206 N Trescher Rd, Milton, WI 53563

608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Dave Volz, 1st Vice President

(See Regional Director for contact)

Dan Newkirk, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

2004 North St, Beloit, WI 53511

608-921-2834 dnewkirk05@gmail.com

Sonia Cook, 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

128135 N Bayside Dr. Auburndale, WI 54412

715-384-5540 cook_sonia@yahoo.com

John Secord, SECRETARY-TREASURER

W6868 Brown Rd, Fond du Lac WI 54937

920-922-0080 WHPAjs@charter.net

Jeff Secord, HALL OF FAME CHAIR

W2805 Johnsbury Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

920-476-9042 jeffsecord@outlook.com

Ken Heinritz, WHPA CHAPLAIN

N95 W22107 Cty Rd Q, Colgate WI 53017

262-255-7339 heinritzken@gmail.com

Fred Lane, Publicity / Promotion

541 2nd St. North, Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-347-2507 fred-lane@live.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dobie Gutweiler

Ken Heinritz

Jeff Secord

Kevin Brekke

Jane Smith

Dave Volz

Susie Erickson

Penny Steinke

Submissions deadline for our next issue is

November 15

dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Aleena Lepak, NHPA Youth Director

218 N 3rd Ave, Edgar, WI 54426

715-650-0637 aleenacook464@gmail.com

Dave Volz, NHPA Regional Director

W7133 Geier Rd, Wonewoc, WI 53968

608-547-2769 davevolz@hotmail.com

Russ Brockway, WHPA Historian

PO Box 322, Seneca, WI 54654

608-379-4948 russ.brockway@yahoo.com

Paul Weise, All Around Horseshoe GURU

419 Oak St, Augusta, WI 54722

715-456-0293 ozzyfan79@yahoo.com

On The Web

NHPA SITE: <http://horseshoepitching.com>

Email: info@horseshoepitching.com

WHPA SITE: <https://www.WHPAhorseshoes.com>

Webmaster: Dave Volz davevolz@hotmail.com

WHPA-Wisconsin
Horseshoe Pitchers
Association

