



Penny Steinke

2022 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

Penny Steinke grew up in Waukesha with her parents, Tom and Sharon, and her older siblings, Mike, and Pam. Penny is a National Board-Certified Teacher and teaches kindergarten at Wauwatosa Catholic School. She is a cat mom to her kitties, Nala & Ducky. Penny's favorite sport is playing horseshoes, but she also loves reading, writing, painting, crafting, vacationing, going for walks, spending time with family and friends, and watching movies and sporting events, especially the Bucks, Brewers, and Packers.

Tom Steinke started pitching in league at the Muskego Moose Lodge in 1982. Horseshoe pitching became a family affair for the Steinke's with Penny, Pam, and sometimes Mike, all pitching horseshoes. Penny and Pam accompanied Tom to several tournaments and both girls started competing in tournaments. It didn't take long for this trio of Steinke's to become a common sight at many tournaments. Penny has continued to be active with the Muskego Moose Lodge since she started pitching horseshoes there. She started the Muskego Horseshoe Club Sanctioned League in 2008. Penny has earned many National Top 10 Awards over the years including high ringer game three times -86%, 86%, and 88%. She also helps her dad run the annual Muskego Tournament each June and keeps the stats for the Tuesday night recreational league.

Penny is a 3-time WI State Junior Girls Champion, winning in 1994, 1995, and 1996. She is also a 2-time NHPA Junior Girls World Champion, winning in 1995 and 1996. Her Junior Girls' World Tournament career ended on a high note finishing the championship round-robin with a 70.2% average.

Penny has been a successful pitcher since her transition to the Women's Division in 1997 by winning the following honors: WI State Pitcher of the Year (2007, 2016, 2019, & 2020); WI State Doubles Champion (2006, 2018, 2020, & 2021); WI State Women's Champion (2018, 2019, & 2020); & Team World Champion (2018, 2019, & 2022). Penny is very proud to have won two of her State Doubles titles with her dad as her partner!

Penny has pitched in 10 Team World Tournaments and counting. She has built a Team World career ringer percentage of 66.34% (5,387 ringers/8,120 shoes). This average is likely to get higher as she

had an average of 74.27% and 75.60% in her two most recent Team World events (2019 & 2022). This includes a 97.5% (39 out of 40) game in 2019, her best game in any tournament to date.

Penny has pitched in 22 World Tournaments, the first 8 as a Junior Girl and 14 more in the Women's Division, with more to add in the future. She has accumulated a career ringer percentage of 67.27% (7,486 ringers/ 11,128 shoes) through her first 13 events as an adult. During the 2019 World Tournament in Wichita Falls, Texas, she started the championship round with a 95.83% game (23 out of 24) earning her a 90% patch! Her best finish so far was the 6th place finish in 2022, in Monroe, Louisiana, where she also had her highest WT finals ringer percentage of 74.89%.

Penny is also a great promoter of horseshoes and enjoys sharing her interest in horseshoes with her students. In 2007, she expanded on this by writing and publishing a book called The ABC's of Horseshoes. Penny now has authored and published over 20 books, most of which are children's books that incorporate kindergarten concepts along with the sport of horseshoes sprinkled throughout each of them. The illustrations often include horseshoes. Each school year she teaches her students all about the game and they even play horseshoes during recess.

To help preserve the history of horseshoes in Wisconsin, Penny scanned old WHPA newsletters and state tournament books and they are now archived on the state website. She compiled a list of state champions to also include the win/loss record and their ringer percentage. Penny worked many hours and is very excited to share the 100th Anniversary 2022 Wisconsin State Tournament book this Labor Day Weekend!

Penny loves going to tournaments and seeing her friends who are more like family! Competition continues to drive Penny to keep improving her game. The Beloit Horseshoe Club added a March singles tournament to their schedule because Penny was always requesting an extra opportunity to pitch in March. The first "March with Penny" tournament was held in 2021. She finished second that first year and won the tournament in 2022.

Penny thanks everyone for this honor of being inducted into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame! The WHPA Hall of Fame Committee congratulates Penny Steinke for her well-deserved induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame.

