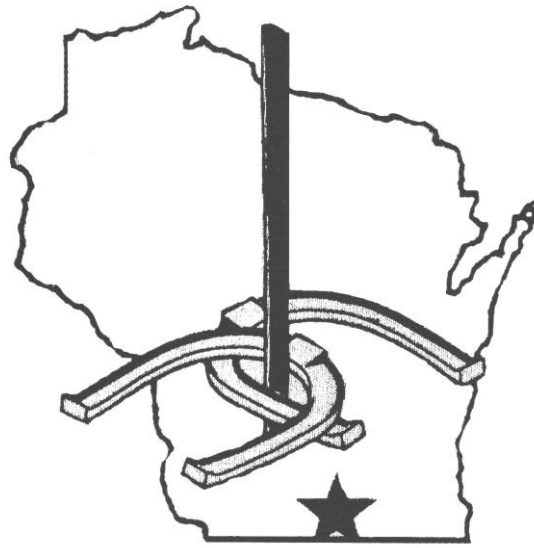


104th Wisconsin State Horseshoe Tournament



2026

Hosted by:

The Beloit Horseshoe Club

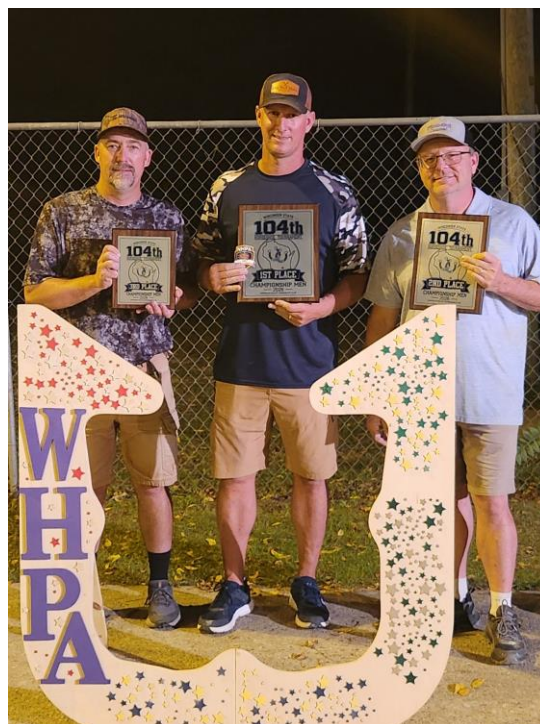


2026 Mens State Champion



John Nawrot

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
John Nawrot	276	190	68.84%	297	CM	1	7.0	0.0	75.0%
Jim Larson	332	191	57.53%	270	CM	2	6.0	1.0	64.71%
Rich Peterson	334	170	50.9%	254	CM	3	5.0	2.0	70.0%
Zak Schwartz	346	160	46.24%	208	CM	4	4.0	3.0	56.67%
Dean Groshek	334	149	44.61%	205	CM	5	3.0	4.0	56.25%
Tom Hansen	348	140	40.23%	159	CM	6	1.0	6.0	50.0%
Justin Schultz	326	126	38.65%	169	CM	7	1.0	6.0	47.83%
Alvin Schultz	288	99	34.38%	133	CM	8	1.0	6.0	45.24%



Rich Peterson, John Nawrot, Jim Larson

2026 Womens State Champion



Aleena Lepak

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Aleena Lepak	330	258	78.18%	294	CW	1	7.0	0.0	89.58%
Penny Steinke	342	255	74.56%	280	CW	2	6.0	1.0	81.58%
Linda Aarstad	320	183	57.19%	228	CW	3	4.0	3.0	64.29%
Pam Aiken	402	251	62.44%	240	CW	4	3.0	4.0	70.83%
Mona Lane	356	212	59.55%	234	CW	5	3.0	4.0	73.08%
Tammy Newkirk	362	200	55.25%	197	CW	6	2.0	5.0	68.52%
Jill Peterson	284	115	40.49%	146	CW	7	2.0	5.0	50.0%
Brenda Weiler	352	187	53.13%	189	CW	8	1.0	6.0	62.5%



Penny Steinke, Aleena Lepak, Linda Aarstad

2026 Elder Mens State Champion



Rich Bonner

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Rich Bonner	422	280	66.35%	292	CEM	1	7.0	0.0	75.0%
Cliff Shave	362	266	73.48%	286	CEM	2	6.0	1.0	82.14%
Jim Bilderback	358	216	60.34%	246	CEM	3	4.0	3.0	70.0%
Rick Weller	378	234	61.9%	207	CEM	4	3.0	4.0	73.21%
John Meyer	368	206	55.98%	214	CEM	5	2.0	5.0	64.29%
Jeff Gustafson	380	209	55.0%	215	CEM	6	2.0	5.0	62.9%
Cliff Erickson	354	188	53.11%	213	CEM	7	2.0	5.0	61.11%
Rich Callaway	378	199	52.65%	221	CEM	8	2.0	5.0	67.86%



Cliff Shave, Rich Bonner, Jim Bilderback

2026 Elder Womens State Champion



Kathy Fleege

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Kathy Fleege	196	87	44.39%	210	CEW	1	5.0	0.0	56.25%
Susie Erickson	192	81	42.19%	185	CEW	2	4.0	1.0	66.67%
Mary Thompson	228	65	28.51%	135	CEW	3	3.0	2.0	43.48%
Sonia Cook	242	59	24.38%	153	CEW	4	2.0	3.0	28.0%
Sandy Anderson	218	51	23.39%	96	CEW	5	1.0	4.0	32.0%
Mary Ann Kouba	228	47	20.61%	92	CEW	6	0.0	5.0	24.0%



Kathy Fleege, Susie Erickson

2026 Junior Boys State Champion



Blake Benzing

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Blake Benzing	226	94	41.59%	231	CJB	1	6.0	0.0	56.67%
Bradley Benzing	232	89	38.36%	227	CJB	2	4.0	2.0	61.54%
Aiden Weller	214	54	25.23%	136	CJB	3	2.0	4.0	41.67%
Conner Kildahl	220	20	9.09%	63	CJB	4	0.0	6.0	12.5%



Aiden Weller, Blake Benzing, Bradley Benzing, Conner Kildahl

2026 Junior Girls State Champion



Sequoia Wiese

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Sequoia Wiese	150	32	21.33%	104	CJG	1	3.0	0.0	24.0%
Josie Boehm	150	16	10.67%	46	CJG	2	0.0	3.0	14.0%



Sequoia Wiese, Josie Boehm

2026 Cadet Girls State Champion



Jazmyn Kildahl

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Jazmyn Kildahl	256	49	19.14%	165	CCG	1	6.0	1.0	30.56%
Zoey McHugh	252	35	13.89%	147	CCG	2	5.0	2.0	18.42%
Savannah Rummells	218	19	8.72%	82	CCG	3	2.0	4.0	16.67%



Zoey McHugh, Jazmyn Kildahl, Savannah Rummells

2026 Cadet Boys State Champion



Andrew James

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Andrew James	218	67	30.73%	162	CCB	1	6.0	0.0	46.43%
Owen Prasalowicz	212	79	37.26%	166	CCB	2	4.0	2.0	50.0%
Logan Lepak	200	39	19.5%	78	CCB	3	2.0	4.0	22.5%



Owen Prasalowicz, Andrew James, Logan Lepak

2026 Cadet Boys Class A State Champion



Thurston Boehm

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Thurston Boehm	180	16	8.89%	77	CBA	1	5.0	1.0	13.33%
Matt Wiese	180	6	3.33%	36	CBA	2	4.0	2.0	10.0%
Oliver Lepak	180	4	2.22%	35	CBA	3	3.0	3.0	6.67%



Matt Wiese, Thurston Boehm, Oliver Lepak

2026 Mens Class A State Champion



Tom Hansen

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Tom Hansen	320	161	50.31%	310	MA	1	7.0	1.0	67.5%
Dave Quaid	320	111	34.69%	210	MA	2	6.0	2.0	47.5%
Rich Peterson	280	116	41.43%	201	MA	3	4.0	3.0	55.0%
Ken Heinritz	280	100	35.71%	212	MA	4	4.0	3.0	50.0%
Alvin Schultz	280	112	40.0%	201	MA	5	3.0	4.0	50.0%
Russ Brockway	280	92	32.86%	154	MA	6	2.0	5.0	45.0%
Duane Kinjerski	280	88	31.43%	158	MA	7	2.0	5.0	47.5%
Michael Benzing Jr	280	89	31.79%	146	MA	8	1.0	6.0	40.0%



Rich Peterson, Tom Hansen, Dave Quaid

2026 Mens Class B State Champion



Dominic Saxby

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Dominic Saxby	280	119	42.5%	219	MB	1	7.0	0.0	50.0%
Fred Howard	280	102	36.43%	230	MB	2	5.0	2.0	60.0%
Hank Schoenbeck	280	101	36.07%	198	MB	3	4.0	3.0	45.0%
Gary Volz	280	91	32.5%	212	MB	4	4.0	3.0	45.0%
Dustin Duerr	280	86	30.71%	163	MB	5	4.0	3.0	45.0%
Rich Brockway	280	72	25.71%	144	MB	6	2.0	5.0	42.5%
Ed Pulsfus	280	70	25.0%	148	MB	7	1.0	6.0	37.5%
Ken Kukla	280	67	23.93%	142	MB	8	1.0	6.0	35.0%



Fred Howard, Dominic Saxby, Hank Schoenbeck

2026 Mens Class C State Champion



Kim Hinze

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Kim Hinze	250	64	25.6%	175	MC	1	5.0	0.0	34.0%
Emilio Castro	250	58	23.2%	163	MC	2	4.0	1.0	32.0%
Paul Wiese	250	52	20.8%	130	MC	3	2.0	3.0	24.0%
Thaddeus Monthie	250	41	16.4%	135	MC	4	2.0	3.0	24.0%
Dan Newkirk	250	46	18.4%	130	MC	5	1.0	4.0	26.0%
Guy Fleming Jr	250	37	14.8%	110	MC	6	1.0	4.0	24.0%



Paul Wiese, Kim Hinze, Emilio Castro

2026 Mens Class D State Champion



Mitchell Uttech

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Mitchell Uttech	280	50	17.86%	176	MD	1	7.0	0.0	22.5%
Brian Engleson	280	38	13.57%	180	MD	2	5.0	2.0	17.5%
Barry Haff	280	33	11.79%	158	MD	3	5.0	2.0	17.5%
Fred Lane	280	21	7.5%	129	MD	4	4.0	3.0	12.5%
Bruce Weiler	280	35	12.5%	143	MD	5	3.0	4.0	22.5%
Kevin Aarstad	280	33	11.79%	136	MD	6	3.0	4.0	27.5%
Will Fillback	280	5	1.79%	57	MD	7	1.0	6.0	7.5%
Damien Werlein	280	21	7.5%	92	MD	8	0.0	7.0	12.5%



Barry Haff, Mitchell Uttech, Brian Engleson

2026 Womens Class A State Champion



Brenda Weiler

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Brenda Weiler	280	132	47.14%	219	WA	1	7.0	0.0	62.5%
Jill Peterson	280	125	44.64%	224	WA	2	6.0	1.0	52.5%
Tonya Kaulum	292	100	34.25%	184	WA	3	4.0	3.0	40.0%
Kalena Quaid	280	97	34.64%	176	WA	4	3.0	4.0	40.0%
Toni Sloper	280	95	33.93%	169	WA	5	3.0	4.0	40.0%
Dawn Twing	280	91	32.5%	173	WA	6	2.0	5.0	42.5%
Cindy Castellano	284	71	25.0%	142	WA	7	2.0	5.0	30.0%
Emily Lazaris	288	87	30.21%	137	WA	8	1.0	6.0	37.5%



Jill Peterson, Brenda Weiler, Tonya Kaulum

2026 Womens Class B State Champion



Nancy Murleau

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Nancy Murleau	280	97	34.64%	265	WB	1	7.0	0.0	57.5%
Lillyan Cook	280	94	33.57%	249	WB	2	6.0	1.0	52.5%
Rondi Mengelt	280	59	21.07%	196	WB	3	5.0	2.0	35.0%
Brenda Price	280	64	22.86%	187	WB	4	4.0	3.0	40.0%
Marna Galvan	280	44	15.71%	129	WB	5	3.0	4.0	25.0%
Terri White	280	41	14.64%	115	WB	6	2.0	5.0	22.5%
Valerie Monthie	280	17	6.07%	83	WB	7	1.0	6.0	12.5%
Kim Briggs	200	19	9.5%	56	WB	8	0.0	5.0	15.0%



Lillyan Cook, Nancy Murleau, Rondi Mengelt

2026 Elder Mens Class A State Champion



Rick Weller

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Rick Weller	280	178	63.57%	232	EMA	1	7.0	0.0	72.5%
George Moraza	280	160	57.14%	238	EMA	2	5.0	2.0	70.0%
Ray Groskinsky	284	162	57.04%	187	EMA	3	4.0	3.0	70.0%
Eugene Pribnow	280	152	54.29%	160	EMA	4	4.0	3.0	62.5%
Cliff Erickson	284	167	58.8%	193	EMA	5	3.0	4.0	67.5%
Ken Whitehouse	280	161	57.5%	198	EMA	6	3.0	4.0	65.0%
Les Karpiel	280	140	50.0%	151	EMA	7	1.0	6.0	60.0%
Dick Perkins	280	99	35.36%	106	EMA	8	1.0	6.0	42.5%



Ray Groskinsky, Rick Weller, George Moraza

2026 Elder Mens Class B State Champion



Bob Fleege

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Bob Fleege	320	162	50.63%	269	EMB	1	6.0	2.0	65.0%
Ray Cayer	320	150	46.88%	232	EMB	2	5.0	3.0	52.5%
Jeffery Madison	280	123	43.93%	211	EMB	3	4.0	3.0	55.0%
Dan Bloom	280	119	42.5%	188	EMB	4	4.0	3.0	50.0%
Glenn Schultz	280	111	39.64%	171	EMB	5	3.0	4.0	50.0%
Steve Kulow	280	107	38.21%	202	EMB	6	3.0	4.0	45.0%
Bernard Carley	280	103	36.79%	176	EMB	7	2.0	5.0	52.5%
Roger Poutanen	280	103	36.79%	127	EMB	8	2.0	5.0	52.5%



Ray Cayer, Bob Fleege, Jeff Madison

2026 Elder Mens Class C State Champion



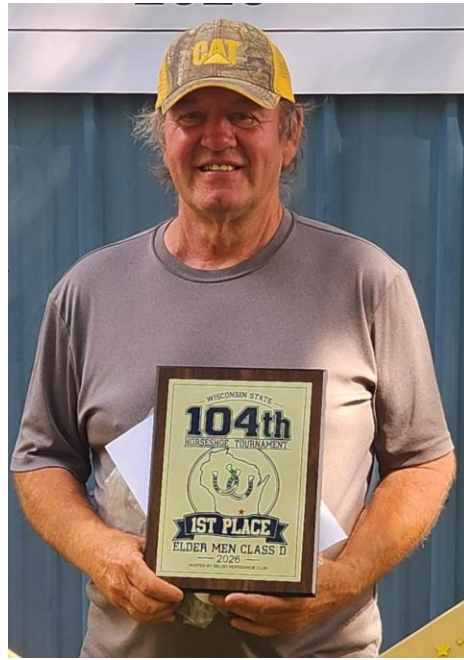
Paul Henning

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Paul Henning	250	119	47.6%	179	EMC	1	5.0	0.0	62.0%
Glen Brandemuehl	254	120	47.24%	171	EMC	2	3.0	2.0	58.0%
Steve Wiegert	250	93	37.2%	174	EMC	3	3.0	2.0	48.0%
Dave Volz	250	102	40.8%	141	EMC	4	2.0	3.0	48.0%
Mike Slowinski	250	100	40.0%	158	EMC	5	1.0	4.0	48.0%
Greg Kinjerski	254	100	39.37%	153	EMC	6	1.0	4.0	44.44%



Steve Wiegert, Paul Henning, Glen Brandemuehl

2026 Elder Mens Class D State Champion



Marvin Mengel

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Marvin Mengel	280	132	47.14%	255	EMD	1	6.0	1.0	67.5%
Bob Kallstrom	280	105	37.5%	230	EMD	2	5.0	2.0	42.5%
Steve Basso	280	94	33.57%	201	EMD	3	5.0	2.0	40.0%
Joel Ramsdell	280	96	34.29%	199	EMD	4	4.0	3.0	42.5%
Roger Anderson	284	100	35.21%	207	EMD	5	3.0	4.0	52.5%
Ralph Marthaler	284	71	25.0%	138	EMD	6	2.0	5.0	40.0%
Kevin Brekke	280	64	22.86%	135	EMD	7	2.0	5.0	32.5%
George Dorn	280	70	25.0%	127	EMD	8	1.0	6.0	30.0%



Steve Basso, Marvin Mengel, Bob Kallstrom

2026 Elder Mens Class E State Champion



Gerald Harris

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Gerald Harris	320	108	33.75%	235	EME	1	7.0	1.0	45.0%
Ray Dowling	360	119	33.06%	262	EME	2	7.0	2.0	42.5%
Dave Leckwee	320	91	28.44%	203	EME	3	6.0	2.0	37.5%
Robert Starck	280	93	33.21%	224	EME	4	4.0	3.0	40.0%
Bob Klingaman	280	51	18.21%	116	EME	5	3.0	4.0	27.5%
Reese Geier	280	59	21.07%	118	EME	6	2.0	5.0	32.5%
Glen Spies	240	39	16.25%	74	EME	7	1.0	5.0	27.5%



Ray Dowling, Gerald Harris, Dave Leckwee

2026 Elder Mens Class F State Champion



Derek Wenger

Player	Shoes	Ringers	Ringer %	Points	Class	Finish	Wins	Losses	Hi Gm %
Derek Wenger	250	45	18.0%	164	EMF	1	5.0	0.0	22.0%
Richard Conrad	250	44	17.6%	148	EMF	2	3.0	2.0	26.0%
Al Holloway	250	23	9.2%	102	EMF	3	3.0	2.0	18.0%
Gene Friede	250	41	16.4%	130	EMF	4	2.0	3.0	22.0%
Tom Steinke	250	18	7.2%	109	EMF	5	2.0	3.0	12.0%
Don Hoyt	150	15	10.0%	56	EMF	6	0.0	4.0	14.0%



Derek Wenger, Richard Conrad

2026 WHPA Awards

President's Award



Dan and Tammy Newkirk

Pitcher of the Year “A”



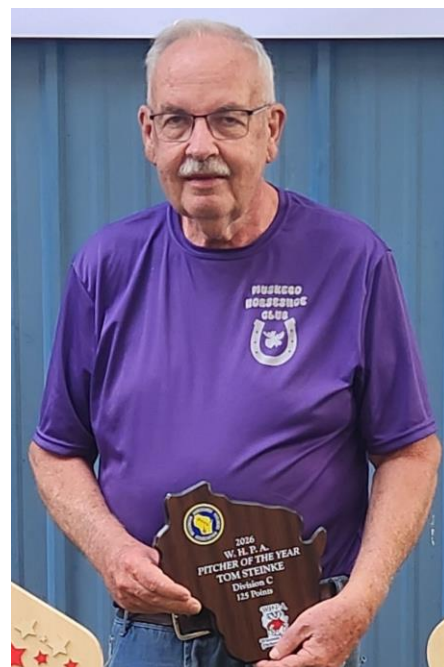
Penny Steinke

Pitcher of the Year “B”



Jeff Madison

Pitcher of the Year “C”



Tom Steinke

2026 WHPA Awards

Most Improved Jr/Cadet



Andrew James

Most Improved Jr/Cadet



Sequoia Wiese

Most Improved Adult



Sheila Volz

Most Improved Adult



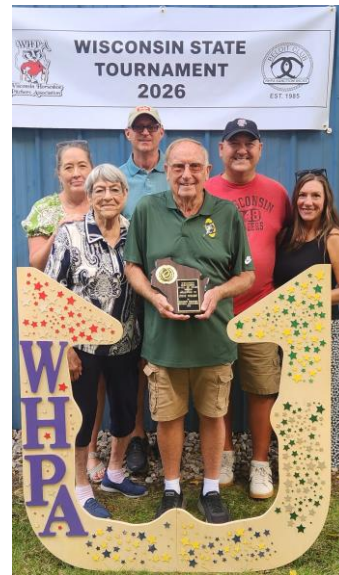
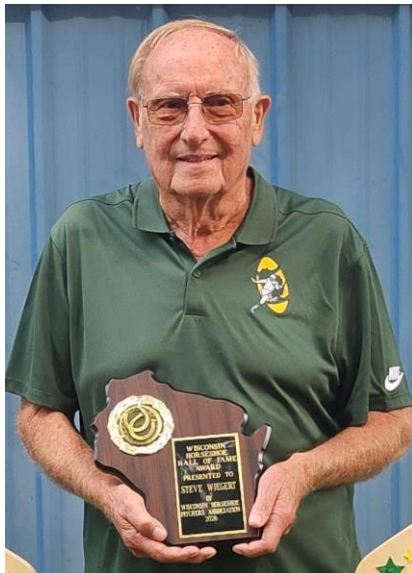
Kathy Fleege

2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductees

Ken Heinritz



Steve Wiegert



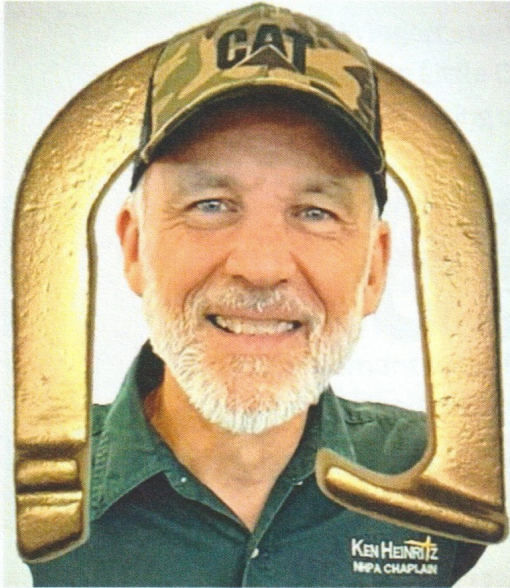
Dave Volz



2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee –

Ken Heinritz

Ken Heinritz grew up as the 7th of 10 kids with 5 brothers and 4 sisters in his family. Playing horseshoes with his dad and brothers was always a



good time. You might say that those 6 boys wanted to be just like their dad. He was their hero & was the best at everything he did. Beating him in horseshoes was rare but extremely rewarding for the boys.

Spending time with Ken's dad took a back seat in his life after he met a young lady and got married at the young age of 21. Pitching horseshoes was completely set aside & forgotten as well. That was until Ken took his family to the Milwaukee Sentinel Sport Show in 1995. To his amazement, horseshoe pitching was on display on a raised fenced-in platform. It immediately caught his eye & he met guys like Jim Haupt, Tony Scrima, Tom Steinke & Terry Sternberg. Ken discovered that a horseshoe club was only 15 minutes from his house, the Goldendale Club in Germantown. Ken was hooked & his dad was thrilled that Ken was coming back to the sport that they both loved. Ken and his dad joined the Goldendale Club & soon his brother Russ joined as well.

Handicapping in club play is a good thing, but Ken didn't want to be spotted points from anybody. Having the lowest handicap was a tall task because several Hall of Famers such as Terry & Lorraine Sternberg, Ralph Maylahn, Jim Haupt, and Tony Scrima were among his opponents. Tom Costa also pitched there and was a good friend of Ken's. Ken accepted the challenge and these pitchers helped him improve his game.

Along with pitching in the Goldendale League, Ken also started & ran the Menomonee Falls Horseshoe Pitching Club for 8 years. He then started and ran the Heinritz Homestead Horseshoe Pitching Club for 7 more years. Over 150 different people pitched in these leagues.

Ken's ringer percentage peaked around the mid-40% range, but late in 2004, something unusual happened that pushed his game to a higher level. He caught a 28"

northern pike with a special lure in a fishing tournament and was awarded a prize for catching the biggest fish. That lure was a Ringle Single lure & the prize, of course, was a pair of Ringle Singles, awarded by another Hall of Famer, Gus Schram. Ken's horseshoe fortunes changed when he started using those shoes. He won his class and was only 3 spots away from the move-up into the Championship class at the 2005 World Tournament. Ken also won Class A & moved up to play in the Championship Men's class at the State Tournament in 2005, while pitching with those Ringle Singles.

Terry, Lorraine & Jim were instrumental in getting Ken interested in pitching in World Tournaments. In 1998, he was off to Ainsworth, Nebraska to pitch in his first World Tournament. Ken pitched against 2 great Wisconsinites, Harry Nelson & another Hall of Famer ... Bernard Carley. He finished in the middle of the pack but that didn't matter because he enjoyed the experience. The World Tournament journey became a yearly event for him. Ken's family went along with him for the first 4 World Tournaments. The weather was blistering hot each of those years & they roughed it in a little tent. His family stopped going along with Ken, but he kept making that annual trip on his own as he loved reuniting with pitchers and pitching against new people each year. Ken has participated in a total of 25 World Tournaments.

While Ken has many World Tournament highlights, one stands out above them all and is still talked about to this day. In 2010, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Ken found himself in a zone while pitching against 6-time World Champion, Walter Ray Williams Jr. The game was over before he knew it as he rolled to a 42-0 victory, with a ringer % of 91.67. It was the only time Walter Ray had ever been skunked in a Championship game. That game has taken on wings as people still bring it up every year at the World Tournament.

Ken won his class at World Tournaments in 2005, 2007, 2015 & in Wausau in 2026. The first year that Ken qualified to pitch in the Open Men's Championship was in 2006. That year started a streak of 7 straight years of making the Men's Championship class, and 10 times in all. Ken's highest finish in Championship play was in 2019, ending in a 4-way tie for 7th place. Ken has also made the Championship Senior Men's Class for all three years of eligibility to play in that Division.

Ken also has enjoyed success in State Tournaments as well. Ken has competed in the Championship Men's class every year since 2005, a streak of 20 years and counting. Ken has finished in the top three places 12 times. He won the Men's State Title in 2009, where he went undefeated with a 7-0 record and averaged 64.81%. Ken won the Men's State Title again in 2016 after defeating Jeff

Gustafson in a playoff game. Ken will be pitching in his 30th State Tournament in 2026, right after his induction into the Hall of Fame.

Ken earned the opportunity to be on the #1 Wisconsin Team in Team World seven times. He was a teammate on the first four Wisconsin teams that won Team World Titles in 2011, 2012, 2018 and 2019. Ken has also won one State Doubles Title with Jeff Gustafson in 2010 and was a teammate on teams that won 4 Club Team Titles. Ken is also proud to be the recipient of the Presidential Achievement Award in 2008.

Ken has also been blessed to be the WHPA Chaplain for the past 25 years & has been the NHPA Chaplain for the past 23 years. Over those years, he has officiated 96 Chapel Services at State Doubles, State Singles, Team World, & World Tournament for the pitchers. Ken has written 119 'Behind the Mask' articles for the Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter as the WHPA Chaplain.

Ken has been able to combine his own family with his horseshoe family as he has had 28 relatives (dad, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 22 nieces/nephews, 2 grandnephews) join the NHPA over the years. Of this group, 18 State Championships were recorded in the Cadet & Junior Divisions (6 Cadet Girls State Champions, 5 Cadet Boys State Champions, 4 Junior Boys State Champions, 3 Junior Girls State Champions). Three World Titles came from relatives (Bethany Heinritz – 2-time Junior Girls World Champion 2010, 2011 & Steven Lazaris – Cadet World Champion 2013). That equates to very successful recruiting results for the WHPA by having a booth at the Milwaukee Sentinel Sports Show back in 1995, thanks to Ken's influence on his family members to pitch.

Regrettably, most of the accomplishments that Ken has achieved in horseshoe pitching have happened after his dad's passing in May 2008. There have been times that he could envision his dad with him, beaming with joy!

Ken would like to thank his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, who has given him the ability to play this sport & has blessed him with countless friends across this nation.

Ken Heinritz Horseshoe Pitching Achievements

State Achievements

- 2 Men's State Titles – 2009 & 2016
- 1 Doubles State Title – 2010 (Jeff Gustafsen)
- 20 straight years (last 20) being in State Men's Championship Class (Top 3 twelve times)
- Participated in 30 State Tournaments
- 4 Club Team Titles –
 - 1998 – Goldendale (Tony Scrima, Jim Haupt & Tom Costa)

- 2010 – Heinritz Clan (Bethany & Russ Heinritz, Timmy Lazaris)
- 2018 – Muskego (Penny Steinke, Pam Aiken & Galen Kozel)
- 2022 – Muskego (Penny Steinke, Pam Aiken & Cliff Shave)

- Recipient of President's Award in 2008
- Started Menomonee Falls Horseshoe Pitching League (& Club President) – 8 years
- Started Heinritz Homestead Horseshoe Pitching League (& Club President) – 7 years

World Tournament Achievements

- 4 Team World Titles –
 - 2012 (Gert Wilcziek, Pam Steinke, and Martin Papesh)
 - 2013 (Gert, Ron Button, and Martin)
 - 2018 (Jim Bilderback, Penny, and Aleena Lepak)
 - 2019 (Penny, Jim, and Aleena)
- 4 World Class Championships –
 - (2005 B-1, 2007 A-2, 2015 A-2, 2026 E)
- Participated in 25 World tournaments
- Men's Championship Class - 10 times (including 7 straight)
- Senior Men Championship Class – All 3 years eligible
- In 2010 Championship Class – skunked 6-time World Champion Walter Ray Williams Jr. with a score of 42-0 and a 91.67% ringer percentage

Other Achievements

WHPA Chaplain – 25 years & NHPA Chaplain – 23 years

*Officiated 96 Chapel Services
For Horseshoe Pitchers*

- Contributor to Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter for the past 20 years writing 119 'Behind the Mask' articles
- 28 relatives joined the NHPA (dad, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 22 nieces/nephews, 2 grandnephews)
 - 3 World Championships came from relatives (Bethany Heinritz – 2-time Junior Girls World Champion 2010, 2011 & Steven Lazaris – Cadet World Champion 2013)
 - 18 State Championships came from relatives (6 Cadet Girls State Champions, 5 Cadet Boys State Champions, 4 Junior Boys State Champions, 3 Junior Girls State Champions)
 - Over 150 different individuals participated in Men Falls & Heinritz Homestead horseshoe leagues that were led by Ken Heinritz

2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee – Steve Wiegert



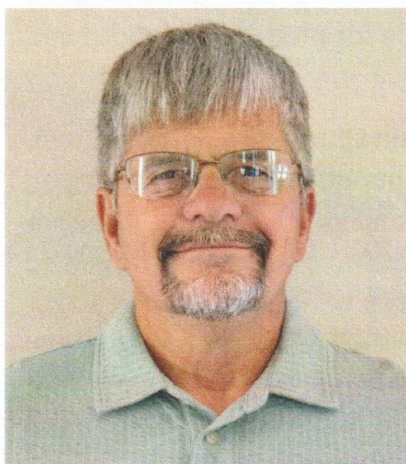
Steve Wiegert started pitching horseshoes in the late 1950's in his parents' backyard in Little Chute. The teenager spent many Saturday afternoons and evenings pitching shoes with his family and neighbors up until he graduated from high school. He purchased a house that happened to have sand courts in Green Bay in 1965. He started pitching on those courts just for the exercise after not pitching at all since high school. That's when pitching horseshoes turned into a life-long endeavor. His dad, Earl Wiegert (a good pitcher himself at 53%), introduced him to organized horseshoes. His first tournament was the Green Bay Open tournament run by Swen Bowman. Steve joined the Green Bay Horseshoe Club to pitch in league play. Steve then started pitching in various singles and doubles leagues and numerous open tournaments around the State including Combined Locks, Mountain, Sheboygan, and Germantown, to name a few that are no longer around.

Steve entered his first State Tournament in 1972, which was hosted by the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. He tied for first place in Class L with John Secord as they both finished with a 6-1 record. Steve won the class and averaged a class-high 29.0% ringers. Steve threw a flip shoe back in the 1960's and early 1970's and worked his average up to about 42%. He eventually began pitching the 1¾ turn at the advice of Wally Srenaski and raised his average above 50%. In 1976, Steve ran away with the Men's Class F title at the State Tournament in Combined Locks as he went 7-0 and pitched 66.29% for the tournament. Charlie Christopolis took 2nd place averaging 41.14%, losing only to Steve. He was able to pitch in Class B and even Class A in some tournaments after that success he had in 1976. This includes 17 times in State Tournaments from 1985 to 2009. Steve averaged 50.05% with 3,143 ringers in 6,280 shoes over that span and finished as high as 5th place with a 61.4% average in the Men's Championship Class in 1998 in Eau Claire. Steve has won over 100 games and is pitching in his 25th State Tournament this year.

Pitching in 11 World Tournaments tops the list of Steve's most memorable experiences in horseshoes. Playing in his first World Tournament in Eau Claire in 1987, and winning Senior Men's Class B in Gillette, WY, in 2006, were both big thrills for him. Steve also pitched in 3 Team World Tournaments in Beloit. His game against Alan Francis in his first Team World also ranks high as a memorable experience. Alan threw a 90% game, but Steve managed to score four points somehow! He is proud of his personal achievements in league play and in tournaments over the years. He won 26 class championship patches (that he knows of), including a tournament championship in Germantown in 1997, and another in Brothertown in 2006. Steve was also part of Green Bay teams that won the Club Team tournament at the Pitchin' Palace in Sturtevant in 1987 & 1989. However, Steve also has great memories with the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. Steve was league secretary for the doubles'/couples' league for 39 years, and the Thursday night league for over 20 years. He was co-Tournament Director for the 63rd State Tournament in Green Bay in 1985 and directed many other GBHC tournaments. Steve values those experiences as much as he values his time pitching horseshoes. The Green Bay Horseshoe Club unfortunately dissolved in the early 2000's.

Steve has had the pleasure of pitching with and against 26 members of the WHPA Hall of Fame, including Green Bay selections Swen Bowman (1979), Carl Joppe (1986), and Wally & Cy Srenaski (1991). It's been a privilege and honor to have pitched against all of them. It has also been a real privilege to have pitched against so many state horseshoe pitchers. Steve feels honored and blessed to be selected for induction into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Hall of Fame, and he is most appreciative to all that have given him this recognition. Congratulations to Steve Wiegert for his induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame!

2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee – Dave Volz



Dave Volz started pitching horseshoes in the 1980's. Dave pitched in the Baraboo area in a local tavern league on a team with family and friends, which included his dad, Larry Volz, brother, Jerry Volz, brother-in-law, Jerry Cone, and uncle, Dennis Capener. A few years later Dave put together a new team in that league that included his nephews, Mike Cone and Gary Volz, as well as other family members and friends who were new to the game. Dave started a coed league at Zim's Inn near Baraboo, and one in later years at Bronco Billy's. Dave eventually started pitching in the Portage and Lyndon Station leagues while continuing to pitch and run leagues in Baraboo. He also pitched in several festival tournaments and ran a few local non-sanctioned tournaments.

Dave is currently a 32-year member of the NHPA and WHPA. His brother, Jerry, introduced him to the WHPA in 1986. Jerry's sons, Gary and Chad, along with other family members and friends started to pitch in sanctioned tournaments around that same time. Dave pitched in his first State Tournament in 1986 at the Pitchin' Palace in Sturtevant, Wisconsin. He finished in 5th place in Class N and averaged 30.57%. Dave's best ringer percentage in a State Tournament was in 2006, in Eau Claire, as he averaged 40.36% and finished in 3rd place in Class E. Dave also qualified once for Class A. That was in Beloit in 2020. This year marks his 26th State Tournament with 22 in a row.

Dave pitched in his first NHPA World Tournament in 1989, pitching outdoors at Spearfish, South Dakota. He took 7th place in Class R-1 and had the privilege to meet and pitch against NHPA Hall of Famer, Casey Sluys, from California. The 2026 World Tournament that was recently held in Wausau, Wisconsin, was Dave's 20th World Tournament. Dave's best finish in a World Tournament was in 2022, in West Monroe, Louisiana, where he finished in 2nd place in Seniors Class C with 11½ wins and 3½ losses. However, Dave's proudest moments include being able to see family members pitch well in tournaments. This includes watching his son, Dan, win his class in the men's division at the age of 15, at the 1994 State Tournament in Eau Claire, and winning a World Class Champion title at the 1996 World Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming. He also enjoyed seeing his wife, Sheila, and granddaughter, Josie, place in their first World Tournaments in the 2025 World Tournament at Sandy (Salt Lake City), Utah.

Dave, along with other family members such as Jerry's daughter Julie Cone, and Jerry's sons Gary and Chad, started the Jerry Volz Memorial Tournament at the Delton Sportsmen's Club, current site for WHPA Spring and Fall Meetings, after Jerry passed away in 2003. The tournament was moved to Dave and Sheila's residence in the hills of rural Wonewoc, Wisconsin, on 12 makeshift courts in their backyard. That Jerry Volz Memorial Tournament was the beginning of the Summit Ridge Horseshoe Club with a vision in mind.

Dave retired from UPS in 2015. His retirement opened the opportunity for him to become more involved with horseshoes and the WHPA. Dave volunteered to become the new Tournament Director for the Club Team tournament held at Telfer Park in Beloit after Jim Haupt passed away on October 31, 2015. Dave changed the name to the Jim Haupt Memorial Team Tournament and has been the TD for the last 10 years.

WHPA President, Gary Volz, updated the WHPA Website in the Summer of 2016. Terry Sternberg and Heidi Poppe started and maintained the Website until then. Gary appointed Dave as the new Webmaster. Dave has done an amazing job with updating, maintaining, and adding new content to the website. He has added several features, such as a Results page with tournament results and pictures going back to 2018, a Stats page with current member averages and year end averages going back to 1987, an Awards page, a State Tournaments page, a World Tournament page and a Team World page, a calendar with information

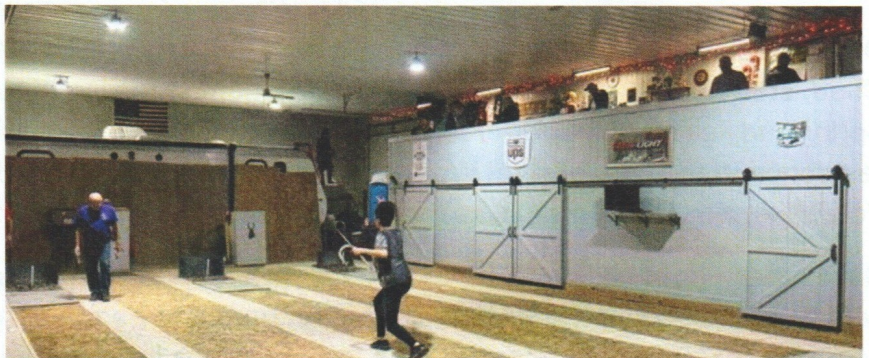
for each week's tournaments and a link with driving directions to the courts. The WHPA Website continues to grow and has become among the best and most informative websites dedicated to horseshoe pitching in the entire world. Dave also set up "Email Dodo," a new WHPA email service for members to send and receive horseshoe related information which currently has over 250 members.

Dave was also appointed as the new NHPA Regional Director for the Wisconsin Charter in October 2018. He continues to be the Regional Director for the WHPA. As RD, Dave is responsible for sanctioning all courts in Wisconsin for NHPA league and tournament play. He sets up the annual sanctioned tournament schedule, orders and distributes tournament patches to the tournament directors. He was also involved with the transition by the NHPA from the Natstats program to the newly created eShoe program in 2020. He worked with and encouraged Tournament Directors to use the HSMaster and eShoe programs to easily and more efficiently run their tournaments. He enters all the tournament information into the program, issues sanction and token numbers to the Tournament Directors, follows up to make sure all results are entered in a timely manner and addresses any issues they may have.

Dave was elected WHPA 1st Vice President in 2019, after Jane Smith stepped down after serving 30 years as 1st VP. Dave continues to serve as the WHPA 1st VP. In that role, he keeps track of points for the Pitcher of the Year Awards and comparing averages for the Most Improved pitcher awards. He runs the WHPA State Walking Doubles tournament and assists the 2nd Vice President in running the WHPA State Singles tournament. As a member of the Executive Board, he meets and works with the other officers, is on the Hall of Fame committee, and is one of the Wisconsin delegates representing you at the annual NHPA convention held each year at the World Tournament. Dave is also a staff member of the WHPA Newsletter and contributes with articles, pictures, results and forms and posts each issue on the WHPA website.

Dave and Sheila became snowbirds and head south for Gulf Shores, Alabama, for the winter months. They meet a couple days a week at Meyer Park with friends, mostly from the Midwest, and pitch some horseshoes. About 3 years ago Dave was asked to take over and run the events at the Gulf Shores Horseshoe Pitching Club. He started a sanctioned horseshoe league and is now the Tournament Director for 3 sanctioned tournaments there each year. Dave and Sheila did not lose sight of the vision they had after hosting that first Jerry Volz Memorial tournament on those 12 makeshift courts in their backyard in the township of Summit in rural Waukegan. Somehow, with the "spare" time Dave had leftover while tending to all the other duties he took on, Dave and Sheila were able to put up a 40 ft by 70 ft pole building

next to an old granary on the property. They put 3 sanctioned clay courts in the building with an upper-level overlooking the courts. The courts have electronic scorekeeping and a huge TV monitor on the wall displaying the scores of all three courts. They converted the granary into a clubhouse with a fireplace, a bar, an old jukebox, and a shuffleboard table. They



hosted their first sanctioned tournament when the building and courts were completed in 2019. They now host sanctioned leagues and three tournaments each year. They all fill up well in advance of the deadlines. The vision Dave and Sheila had for The Summit Ridge Horseshoe Club has turned out to be one of the most popular places to pitch horseshoes in Wisconsin. Dave and Sheila continue promoting horseshoe pitching and recruiting new pitchers, including their grandchildren.

Dave received the President's Award from President Dobie Gutweiler in 2018. Dave can now add membership to the WHPA Hall of Fame to his resume. Congratulations to Dave Volz for his induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame!