

JOHN SECORD

John Secord started pitching horseshoes at a very early age with his father, older brother and sister. He recalls pitching at half court because he was so young. Playing partners, they would sometimes pitch until they could no longer see the stakes. His father enjoyed the game but never became involved in leagues or tournaments.

In 1972 John joined the Fond du Lac Horseshoe Club, won the league championship, and entered the Winnebagoland Open. His interest aroused, he entered State and several other tournaments that year. In his first State Tournament, he finished second in Class L in a playoff with Steve Wiegert – his record six and one, 28.9% ringers. John has pitched in every state tournament since 1972 with averages ranging from 22% to 59.4%.

The entire family became interested in tournaments and entered many. J.D., Kim and Jeff pitched in the championship class in several state tournaments; Jeff is still active in tournament competition. John, J.D. and Jeff are featured in Ottie Reno's book, "THE AMERICAN DIRECTORY OF HORSESHOE PITCHING."

John has attended many World Tournaments with Sandy and their children. J.D. and Jeff made their mark in the Juniors, pitching in the top divisions. Jeff was youngest competitor in 1977 World. John, while at World, attended all the NHPA conventions as a delegate.

John, who is very active in the Fond du Lac club, was elected First Vice President in 1973 and Club President in 1974, an office he held several years. He helped to organize and conduct the 1974 and 1980 State Tournaments and many of the open tourneys hosted by the club.

As time went on, John became more interested in the State Association, attending meetings and suggesting rule changes and State Tournament guidelines. There was a rule to use tournament averages for ranking contestants in State but no one was compiling them, so John assumed the responsibility.

John was elected First Vice President of the WHPA in 1978 and in 1979 he became Secretary-Treasurer, the office he currently holds. He has been on the Team-World Tournament Committee for the past three years.

John, a native of Fond du Lac, was born February 7, 1941. He works as Shop Foreman at Broadway Chevrolet Dealers. He and Sandy have two grandchildren. They live at W6868 Brown Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

John thanks Sandy and his family for their support of the sport he so loves and the many close friends they have made in the years associated with "pitchin' shoes."

With the aid of his WHPA computer, John has developed a comprehensive program to keep records of all tournament pitchers in the state. Because of the increase in both number of tournaments and pitchers involved, this is not an insignificant task.

Congratulations to John Secord for his years of dedication to the sport of horseshoe pitching, and our commendations for the excellent job he has done, and continues to do, as Secretary-Treasurer of the WHPA. We are happy to honor him with membership in the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers' Association Hall of Fame.

