

WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Issue 4

Aug - Sept 2006

AN AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION



Jim Haupt – Editor
Jane Smith - Features
Ken Kosky – Publisher

2006 WORLD CHAMPIONS



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The Gillette World Tournament

Aleena Cook of the Marshfield club might say, If you want to be come a World Champion Horseshoe, Girl's division, maybe you ought to move to Wisconsin.

She came from 9th in the preliminary class B surpassing sister **Kiri** who was in second place to Win in the championship class at the World!

Alan Francis might say, "I tried to make this one extra special as he sets records for number of world titles and the highest ever percentage for the prestigious event.

(Casey Jones did it with 87.5% in 1948. Elmer Hohl topped it with 88.2 twenty years later.)

Joan Elmore, probably the best thing to come out of Joelton, TN, wins her first World title after Wisconsin's, Gert Wilcziek beat Moisan and Snyder in back-to-back games. This caused a playoff between Elmore and Moisan, which Elmore won.



(Continued on page 4)

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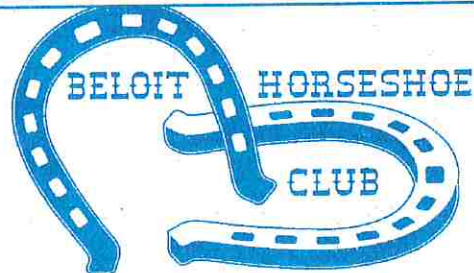


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Horseshoe Sales for Southern Wisconsin

Coming Events

Aug. 12-13 Green Bay Open \$16
Steve Wiegert 1505 Ellis St. Green Bay, WI 54302
920-435-6310 28-06-032 D/L 7-29-06

Aug. 19-20 Platteville Open \$16
Norm Mauthe 865 Eastman St. Platteville, WI 53818
608-348-9697 28-06-033 D/L 8-5-06

Aug. 26 La Crosse Open \$15
Ted Rohde 2034 S. 32nd St. La Crosse, WI 54601
608-788-0318 28-06-038 D/L 8-5-06

Kenosha Open No Date Set

Sept. 2-3-4 State Tournament @ Eau Claire \$25
John Secord W6868 Brown Rd. Fond du lac, WI 54937
920-922-0080 28-06-040 28-06-041 D/L 7-31-06

Sept. 9-10 "Wet'n Wild" \$10
Jane Smith 1481 180th St. Balsam Lake, WI 54810
715-485-3057 28-06-042 D/L 8-26-06

Sept. 8-9-10 VFW Doubles Comb. Locks per t. \$25
Don Navarrette 534 Woodlawn Ct. Comb. Locks 54113
920-788-1633 Unsanctioned D/L 9-1-06

Sept. 16 Beloit Doubles per. T. \$20
Earl Paulson 7105 S. Cty. Hwy. H. Beloit, WI 53511
608-879-2304 Unsanctioned D/L 9-10-06

Oct. 14 Fall Meeting

Oct 14 Rockford October Open \$15
Dahlquist Park Jim Huckabee 1018 Wissmach Ln
Machesney Park, IL 61115 815-633-2739 d/l 10/10

Oct. 21-22 Deansville Open \$15
Rudy VanFleet 202B Parkview, Columbus, WI 53925
920-623-4924 28-06-046 D/L 10-14-06

Oct. 13-14 Beloit Fall Singles \$18
Earl Paulson 7105 S. Cty. Hwy. H. Beloit, WI 53511
608-788-2304 28-06-047 D/L 10-5-06

Nov. 25-26 Autumn Harvest @ Beloit \$18
Earl Paulson 7105 S. Cty. Hwy. H. Beloit, WI 53511
608-788-2304 28-06-048 D/L 11-15-06

Dec. 2-3 Deansville Singles \$15
Rudy VanFleet 202B Parkview, Columbus, WI 53925
920-623-4924 28-06-049 D/L 11-24-06

Dec. 16-17 Snowflake @ Beloit \$18
Earl Paulson 7105 S. Cty. Hwy. H. Beloit, WI 53511
608-788-2304 28-06-050 D/L 12-0-06

This Schedule is prepared by NHPA Regional Director Ken Jaeger Sr. Any additions or corrections should be brought to his attention.



And The President Says

I hope everyone is having a nice summer. I'm sure you're staying warm. The horseshoe leagues are coming to an end and the State horseshoe tournament in Eau Claire is close. If you didn't get signed up for State, you will be missing a fun weekend. Eau Claire has one of the best pitching facilities and always does a great job hosting tournaments.

I do have one question: Why do you think the number of participants in horseshoe tournaments is down? If you think you know why, tell me or one of the WHPA board members. Could it be gas prices? Can't take time from the computer or TV? Vacations, I'm sure is one reason... Lack of money? No friends to ride with? Too hot? Too cold? Getting boring? Always losing? I'm sure there are plenty of others. There are a lot of good reasons why people are not pitching as much, but if you are on the fence for deciding, please come to the tournaments! The more that enter, the better the classes. Even if you can't pitch, come and visit. It will bring back good memories for you, me, and everyone else.

Good pitching,

Tom



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(Continued from page 1)

Ed Arionus, TX once a visitor to the Goldendale courts wins the Elders class in a playoff with DW Story from TN. Ed was 11/1 pitching 75.59%. Arionus is known for multiple world championships, Senior and Elders.

We know her as a Team-World pitcher. **Lucille Leis**, Ont, became the Senior Ladies World Champion winning all five games with a 63.84 average.

Tommy Westbrook, SC has graduated to the Senior class and won it handily at 11/0 pitching 66.9. Pitched with him in practice. A truly nice fellow.

Thomas Lee, SD is the Junior Boys champ winning all nine of his games pitching 73.61%

Outstanding in Class:

Walter Ray Williams places second but beat up on a couple of our guys on the way. Over 70%

Mark Mauthe claims a # 4 finish losing only 5 games in the championship class, probably the best WHPA finish since days of Casey Jones.

Gert Wilcziek, 5th in the World. Pitched 74.86% and actually shaped the pecking order for the Womens division by winning over Sue Snyder and Sylvianne Moisan in her final games. Outstanding performance!

Nathan Heinritz, finishes #3 in the Junior Boys division after doing the same in the preliminary rounds. He pitched 4% better than his entering average, a smashing 70.51

Ken Heinritz, Nate's uncle was a move-up finishing 5th in class A2 on the way to the championship class. Francis held him to one point as he finished 16th

Jerry LaBrosse former president of the Minnesota Association may have finished the championship class one place behind Heinritz but he was elected as the newest member of the NHPA executive board.

Other Wisconsin pitchers who cached at the World were;

Clayton Gage, 6th Elders A.

Wayne Totten, 7th, Elders B

Ivan Ruzic, 7th, Elders F

Cliff Troullier placed 5th in Elders G.

Guy Fleming was 7th in Mens J1.

Geo. Eckstrom was 3rd in Mens J!.

Mike Zahn was 3rd in Mens K2.

Bernie Human ranked 2nd in Elders I.

Willis David same class, 6th

Mark Stevens made 6th in Mens B2

Ken Frame was 7th in Mens C1

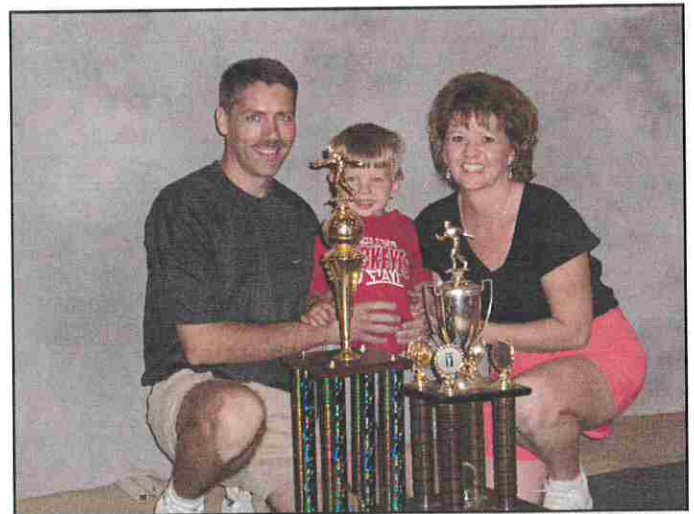
Galen Kozel liked 3rd in Mens G1

Don Wozniak pitched much the same as his partner Mark Nord but Wozniak was good for 4th in Mens J2.

Jay Ganther notched a 3rd in Mens F2.

Ray Mallo took 7th in Mens G2.

By our count 40 some pitchers from Wisconsin made the Gillette trip. Cash awards were close to \$300 for 1st. \$200, 2nd, \$150 for 3rd, \$120 for 4th, \$110 for 5th, \$100 for 6th and if the class was 16 pitchers, a seventh place award of \$100 was made.



Alan, Alex, Amy Francis

What It's Like to Work the World Tournament

By Terry Sternberg

Lorraine and I rolled into Gillette, Wyoming on Saturday afternoon after stopping in Hudson to see our newest grandson, Carter Poppe.

We and several of the NHPA officers, lended the Complex people, a hand with setting up the barricades between each set of courts. On Sunday, the Officers had their meeting to set up their Shift Director's schedule, etc.

On Monday, the start of the World tournament, Lorraine pulled the first of three shifts that day, starting at 6:30 AM, with Shoe Check (Regional Directors job). Elaine and Cliff Troullier and I helped Lorraine hand out the pitchers name cards and round robin slips. Once everyone had their group pictures taken, the Opening

Ceremony was next, which included the National Themes of Canada, Norway and the United States, thus ending with a welcome speech from the Mayor. A little after 8 AM, the first games were started. As a Helper (Runner), my job was to help Lorraine get scorekeeper chairs filled and collect the score sheets after each round of games were played and turn them in to the Natstats office where Glen Jamison keeps track of the tournament on his computer. Most classes pitching consisted of 16 players, playing 15 games over a three day period, with Awards on the third day, following the final game.

By Thursday, it was my turn to pitch for the next three days, so Elaine was Lorraine's runner. I volunteered to judge in the mornings, since I didn't pitch until 2 PM.

On Sunday, was the Delegate Convention, followed by a well attended church service, conducted by NHPA Chaplin, Jerry Holt of Kansas and NHPA Assistant, WHPA Chaplin, Ken Heinritz

On Monday and Tuesday, of the second week, I helped Lorraine with the 11 AM shift, running the score sheets to the office. On Wednesday, Cliff helped Lorraine, while I was one of three judges for the 8 PM shift, which ended about 1 AM. Then on the last three days, worked as a judge on various shifts, with one that also ended around 1 AM.

All in all, it was fun, getting to see friends you made in past World tournaments and the making of new ones this year, makes it all worth while. Looking forward to next year in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Hopefully it's a little cooler.

Hope to see you all at the State tournament in Eau Claire.

The World Report

By Jim Haupt

Certainly all the early results were garnered from the NHPA World Website as were some other notes reported here. We are totally indebted to those reporters. But then, other news items, and we mean news with a capitol N was not reported and made obvious because of its absence.

Clay used for the World ten years ago in Gillette was dearly obtained and later buried after the event perhaps in preparation for this year.

The word on the street is that the Complex people used prisoners as laborers to prepare the 2006 courts. No horseshoe people. They mixed the clay the easy way, lots of water, and as one pitcher called it, they produced gray yogurt. After the first day and with no dry clay available the pit material was spread out alongside the pit to dry overnight.

Bad enough that pitchers had to endure those conditions, worse that it was ignored in the website news.

Special Announcement

You don't want to miss the Fall Meeting on October 14th. A special interview with World Champion Alan Francis will be aired. This is an interview conducted by Ken Heinritz.

Don't miss it! 1:00 PM

**Sportsman's Club
Lake Delton, WI**

MARSHFIELD HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006

Director: Dan David

CLASS A

6 wins	Gert Wilcziek	78.7
4	Randy Rein	62.5
3	Vince Jakel	62.0
3	Clayton Gage	53.8
3	Mark Stevens	45.4
3	John Molling	42.0
1	Gene Mason	40.9
1	Tava Cook	34.0

CLASS B

6-1/2	Ivan Ruzic	47.8
5-1/2	Norm Gage	36.4
5	Sonia Cook	30.3
4	Ken Schumann	36.0
3	Bob Gregorich	28.2
2	Harvey Bilz	38.2
2	Dan David	23.9
0	Merrill Semingson	17.8

CLASS C

5	Ralph Marthaler	33.5
4-1/2	Gary Wegner	35.0
4	Bob Kallstrom	33.9
4	Cliff Erickson	31.0
3-1/2	Willis David	30.7
3	Ray Allman	33.2
2	Ed Hack	28.0
2	Ray Mallo	23.2

CLASS D

5	Dean Hove	35.5
3	Dennis Wegner	23.0
3	Ted Rohde	21.0
2	Harry Zdroik	28.5
2	Jim Jakel	26.0
0	Jayne Fehr	16.0

CLASS E

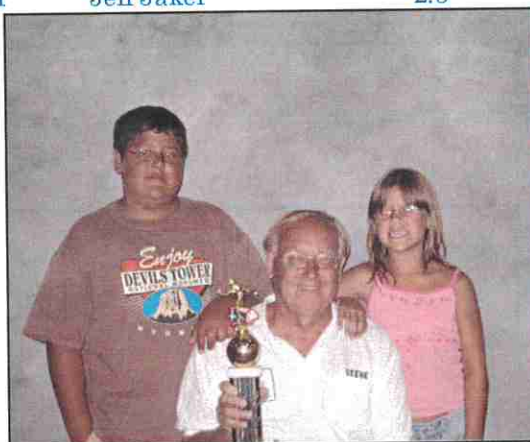
7	Mel Cook	21.2
6	Dave Semingson	22.0
5	Bryan Hove	14.5
4	Beth Strohman	10.4
3	Dan Craft	6.6
2	Tom Lind	5.0
1	Jeff Jakel	2.5

CLASS - JUNIORS

6	Kiri Cook	37.9
4	Aleena Cook	28.3
1	Malachi David	10.0
1	Gunnar David	7.5

The day produced beautiful sunshine with a gentle breeze--until the last few shoes of the last game for Class B. Mother Nature sprinkled a few large drops of rain and then a deluge!! Everyone was soaked! Pits became ponds! Class A ended right where they were boasting two state title holders: Elders-Clayton and Ladies-Gert.

Junior pitchers were a treat to watch: Kiri went undefeated. Junior Girls State Champ Aleena lost only to her sister. Brothers Malachi and newcomer Gunnar battled for third. Watch out for these four as they increase their ringer percentages!



Behind the Mask

with Ken Heinritz



Three times Delilah implored Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. But her inquisitive ways were marred with evil intent. Unlike Delilah many well-meaning individuals would like to know the secret to successful horseshoe pitching. Read on.

When Norway's Inge Byrkjeland took the top spot on the podium at yet another World Tournament, I couldn't help but ask him how many times he took 1st place in his class at this tournament. Out of the 10 WT's he has played in, Inge finished in 1st place six times and took 2nd once. In response to his success, he quipped 'I would like to boast that Norwegians have more inner drive to win than Americans but I don't think that that is true. I believe the sacrifice I make to come all the way from Norway causes me to concentrate on winning more than those who come from shorter distances.' Though he won the Mens Class I with a 29% average, he says he is something like the Alan Francis of Norway. And no longer does he throw the miniature shoe that horses wear. Inge now is sporting 1 lb, 5 oz Tournament Diamond shoes. Why the change? He wants to move up in class.

Another guy who made the long trek to compete was Duncan McKenzie, whose 32 hour train ride took him from his home in Nova Scotia to Santa's house in Ontario. No kidding, Earl Vanderhart's full-time career is playing Santa Claus and yes he sure looks the part. His Website is www.hollywoodsanta.com. Then from Ontario they drove another 19 hours to Gillette. 55 years pitching horseshoes and this year is his first World Tournament. His toilsome journey landed him in the Men's Championship Class. He was the only guy other than Alan Francis to beat Walter Ray Williams Jr. His low liner can be deadly.

Speaking of Walter Ray, immediately after he took a 40-3 drubbing at the hands of Alan Francis, a bee-line was made to the outside door where he promptly took his frustration out on his 'Dead Eyes', leaving them wounded & abandoned in the trash barrel. A 2nd Place finish once again was not good enough. (That certainly would have been OK by me.) Walter Ray's intensity causes him to be content only when

he is on top.

Does practicing mean success? If so then 72 yr old Paul Quam of Washington State wins that prize! When his wife died four years ago of cancer he decided to play horseshoes. For the passed two years this man says he has pitched '800 to 1000 shoes per day'. On the third day of competition, he pitched 4 hours at the practice courts, and then paced the 5 games of another class before our class was to pitch. Whew, I still get tired when I recall the daily work-out of this man's schedule.

Canadian National Champion Colin Finnie (past four years) told me rhythm is the key. In fact, he pitches faster to get back in the groove when he misses a few.

At the NSCA Horse Competition going on next door, Jerry Comstock of Colorado and I spent several hours together watching the participants decked out in their favorite cowboy attire compete in the Indian Games. Then on the courts, he went from a 7-8 record in Class A-2 to posting a 12-7 record in the Championship Class. In the eight WT he has played in, he advanced to the Championship Class SEVEN times. His secret to success is to lay railroad ties across his courts 8" in front of the stake. This forces him to lift his shoe high in the air, hitting the stake and going on for a ringer and not taking satisfaction for a ringer that slid on.

The Junior Boys Championship did not prove that one style of pitching was better than another. My nephew Nathan's $\frac{3}{4}$ turn should have ousted Canada native Drew Becker's $1\frac{1}{4}$ as he had him down 39-35 (in a 40 pt. game) in the Finals. Finally after the championship games were over, alone on top of the heap stood a young, Native American Indian named Tommy Lee. The double flip he carried from his stomping grounds in South Dakota put him on top of the totem pole.

If the shoe delivery is not secret it must be the type of shoe, Eh? Ken Kosky will tell you that the hottest selling shoe is the Alan Francis shoe. But how many of them actually throw the $\frac{3}{4}$ reverse like Alan. I may add that the Ringle Single gained some recognition. Not exactly how I hoped as fellow class pitchers called me 'Cyclops' or 'One Peg'. They do laugh, but let me tell you nobody likes to get beat by a guy with only one hook.

So what is the secret? If it's not the type of shoe or style you pitch or the pace you play or amount of time you practice or intensity you come with, what is the

(Continued on page 8)

Eau Claire Open

By John Dolezel

Is there a tougher tournament than the Eau Claire Open anywhere in the state? This year, Class "A" featured six pitchers with 60% or higher averages including State Champions Gert Wilcziek & Clayton Gage. That left the bottom two in the 8-person class, including Yours Truly, feeling like cannon fodder.

First place in Class A was decided in the last game between the state champions with Clayton (73.9%) beating out Gert (80.7%). Roger Comero, Eau Claire Club member, claimed third with 63.6%. & Minnesota's Bert Logsdon, taking fourth at 57.5%.

In Class B, Vince Jakel at 6-1, 56% claimed 1st, followed by John Molling 5-2, 52.1%, & Minnesota's Del Karsjens 5-2, 38.6%.

Bob Kallstrom swept through Class C at 7-0, 40%; David Paul, Merrill Semington & Shirley Brumbough all with 4-3 records took 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively.

Class D produced a real scramble with four pitchers finishing with 5-2 records. John Bauer, pitching his first tournament in Eau Claire, took 1st at 36.7% followed by our Treasurer Rob Rehm with 33.9% & our Secretary Elly McCarn with 33.2% & Dean Hove with 30.7%.

George Eckstrom blew into town from Gilman to easily win Class E at 7-0 & 30%; & Lyle Halliday, Al Johnson & Larry Danielson, all at 4-3, claimed 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively.

Finally, B.J. Johnson from River Falls posted a 6-1 record & 21.6%, taking 1st in Class F. Eau Claire Club members Dave Semington (16.6%), Frank Espinoza (14.51%) & Tom Lind (8.75%) claimed 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively.

Mother Nature was very kind to us. We had temps in the mid 70's, some clouds, & no rain!

(Continued from page 7) *Behind the Mask*

answer?

The one person who I believe is in the best position to answer that question is none other than now 12 time World Champion Alan Francis.

So Mr. Francis how does one become successful in this sport? 'Don't be afraid to try different things. Try different turns, different shoes, different stances, different deliveries, you have to find your own nitch. Everyone has their own individual style. But then tweak it a little. Make little changes here and there. Watch the good pitchers. Watch the A Class pitchers. You will learn a lot because there are certain things in their delivery that you will want to do as well. Watch for those key things. You can pick up a lot of knowledge just by watching. For me it's a matter of confidence. I'm confident in my ability. If I get down early in a game, I have every bit of confidence I can come back and throw a string of ringers to beat the guy. So for me it's confidence.'

For more incite from Alan and finding out what makes him tick, come see the rest of this enlightening interview I had with him (on DVD) at the WHPA Fall Meeting. You will definitely benefit from it!

Heart Wrenching News

From Terry & Lorraine Sternberg.

Since we returned home our life has been pretty much turned up-side down.

Last Thursday our oldest grand daughter, who is four was not feeling well. After some blood test, they sent her up to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. By the afternoon we were told that she has Leukemia. Need less to say its been a real shock to our family as Alyssa has always been a very healthy little girl. On Sat. she had her first treatment and at this time is doing very well. Hopefully she will be able to come home today but we know that it is going to be a long two years and we have a very long road ahead of us.

I need for everyone to please say a prayer for our little Alyssa.

Her address is : Alyssa Simonz

W201 N16250 Ash Drive

Jackson, WI. 53037

Thank you everyone!

Lorraine

Down and Back

with Jim Haupt

Advertising in the Newsletter is at best sparse and that's OK. Right now we print a business card for Ken Kosky, for the horseshoe business and one for his distributor, the Beloit Horseshoe Club. Chet Hermansen advertises his car-care business but I hardly think that he sees any increase in business because of it. Formerly we printed a card for Francis Shalk's son who is a Great Lakes charter captain.

Ken Heinritz is a big supporter of the Newsletter. He not only contributes with his "Behind the Mask" column, he is a financial contributor also. This comes to us in a round-a-bout way but is very much appreciated.

We accept \$50/yr for these card sized ads and say thanks to all because we know that is mostly in way of a contribution. Thanks again.

Your editor mixed it up with an automobile while riding his bike early in June. The fracture list included the collar bone, three ribs and the long leg bone. While repairing the leg they inserted half a new hip joint at a bargain rate. So far the bargain rate is \$78,000.

That's the funny part.

As most everyone knows, the Stewlies Prez, Burly lets everyone know who's down and needs some cheer. I sure got a ton of cards. Some from folks I hardly know! And those cards sure do make a hurting guy feel better.

Thank you, thank you and thanks. Its July 20 now and I'm healing fast. May even pitch the State. Regardless, I'll be there.

Thanks.

Dave Schorbahn is reported to have had a mechanical breakdown on the trip to Gillette. Had to rent a car for the remainder of the way. Sidekick was Pudge Dahl. Ken Heinritz who made the championship finals was naturally going to be in Gillette a few more days and was trying to make arrangements with Schorbahn for a ride home. That didn't work out as Schorbahn and Pudge left early. Last word is Heinritz was going with the Maute's.

Nobody reported the sound an explosion but two guys, one from Wisconsin the other thought to be of Nevada were sleeping in a tent. Should have heard the commotion. It is unknown if the extreme heat caused it but after the explosion the two were left sleeping on the bare ground with just a deflated air mattress beneath them.

If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance.- George Bernard Shaw

"I'd rather be a could-be if I cannot be an are; because a could-be is a maybe who is reaching for a star.

I'd rather be a has-been than a might-have-been, by far; for a might have-been has never been, but a has was once an are."
- Milton Berle

To my Horseshoe Pitching Friends:

This is my formal announcement that I will be a candidate for re-election to the WHPA 3rd Vice President - Junior Scholarships this fall.

I enjoy sharing my enthusiasm for pitching horseshoe with the membership - especially the juniors.

Thank you

Sonia Cook

*PS Remember to purchase raffle tickets before 11:00am on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006, benefiting the Junior Scholarship Fund.

Secord Declares

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for re-election to the office of WHPA

Secretary/Treasurer. I believe we have a dedicated executive board and it would be my privilege to continue working with them and the membership. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

John Secord

Special Announcement

You don't want to miss the Fall Meeting on October 14th. A special interview with World Champion Alan Francis will be aired. This is an interview conducted by Ken Heinritz.

Don't miss it! 1:00 PM

Sportsman's Club
Lake Delton, WI

Platteville Spring Singles

<u>CLASS A</u>			<u>CLASS B</u>		
	<u>W-L</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>W-L</u>	<u>%</u>
Mark Mauthe, Platteville	5-0	72.80	Milt Larsen, West Allis	7½-1½	42.18
Paul Wilson, Janesville	3-2	51.20	Jan Warwick, Boone, IA	6½-1½	30.62
Dutch Rittweger, Rockford, IL	3-2	50.40	Teresa Donar, Cuba City	5-2	36.78
Jesse Garza, Rockford, IL	2-3	48.00	Dale Grover, Rockford, IL	3-4	30.00
Norm Mauthe, Platteville	1-4	46.00	Dave Miller, Waunakee	2-5	28.92
Jeff Mauthe, Platteville	1-4	40.40	Pat Smith, Jefferson	2-5	24.28
			Kevin Brekke, Edgerton	2-5	21.78
			Len Mauthe, Cuba City	1-6	24.28
<u>CLASS C</u>			<u>CLASS D</u>		
Ray Allman, Medford	6-1	29.28	Craig Novinski, Platteville	7-1	31.25
John Brugger, Platteville	5-2	28.92	Gene Satterstrom, Madison	6-2	19.37
John Bentz, Platteville	4½-2½	29.28	Mike Zahn, Lomira	4-3	25.00
George Moraza, Franklin	4½-2½	25.35	Cliff VanNatta, Platteville	4-3	17.14
Ted Rohde, LaCrosse	4-3	20.83	Vernon Rosenbery, Galena, IL	3-4	14.28
Bob Novinski, Platteville	3-4	15.71	Melvin Donar, Cuba City	3-4	11.42
Kevin Brekke, Edgerton	1-6	18.92	Curt Novinski, Platteville	2-5	14.64
Pacer			Nancy Braatz, Ixonia	0-7	1.07

An overcast day made for nice pitching weather. A group of Rockford and Janesville pitchers added in to class A and they took home 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place cash prizes. The top two pitchers in class B each won their first six games and tied each other in the seventh game. Milt Larsen won the playoff over Jan Warwick of Iowa. In class D Craig Novinski edged out Gene Satterstrom in a playoff.

High Ringer % Game Winners

Class A Mark Mauthe 80.00%
 Class B Milt Larsen 52.50%
 Class C Ray Allman 42.50%
 Class D Craig Novinski 42.50%

Thanks to all the contestants and helpers and to the Country Kitchen of Platteville for the gift certificates.

Platteville Horseshoe Association

The World Tournament Convention

Coming into this years meeting there were a few items on the agenda but none more important than the new "RGS Book", Rules, Guidelines, and Specifications. There was a fair amount of discussion on the reasons for changing the format of the old rules booklet. The vote was 124 - 4 in favor and the only dissenters were a couple of the old-timers that had worked on the first rule book. This was a big step forward for our game and our Association, and the author of this article, thinks it was a great move. It was very well presented by VP Stuart Sipma and his presentation went a long ways in selling the delegates on the idea.



Only two other Bylaw changes were of significance and one passed and the other failed. There was a move to eliminate the Senior Women's Class from the World Tournament and that failed.

The other involved your Natstats average and how it was skewed by a sanctioned league because of the large number of shoes pitched in a league. Now that league average will be converted to an average based on 400 shoes.

Ken Kosky

Rather Kick than Pitch,

By Pete Kumlien

"Kicking" is a term used to describe the original method of cross-country skiing invented in Norway About two thousand years ago. This classic form of skiing served the original "Birkebiners" very well for winter travel in and around the mountains of Norway.

The method was and still is a way to ski down a trail pushing first one ski straight ahead and then the other in succession, hopefully getting a glide on each ski to propel your self up and down mountain trails.

The modern way, now used by 85% of today's skiers is a form called skating which is just as it sounds, like skating on ice in a repeating "V" pattern. But let's take another look at the "kicking" form. If the snow conditions are right, the wax put on the middle third of your ski just right, it is possible to push off after each glide and push your way down the trail getting a wonderful ten yard glide, one after the other to continue for miles depending on your level of fitness.

Years ago, many, or 1984 to be exact, I was able to ski almost non-stop the full 90 kilometers, over 56 miles in a world Loppet Race in Sweden. (World Loppet is an international cross-country race series occurring on three continents and 14 counties.) Things worked quite well that day as after my 9 hours and 26 minutes on the trail, I was greeted by most of my Swedish Kumlien relatives at the finish line.

Now fast forward 21 years to a race in far off Estonia last year where things were a little different. This Estonian race done in the classic, or kick styles it is in 5 of the 14 races. After having some bad experiences with kick wax in several world Loppet races, I decided to do the race with some waxless skis, where the middle third of the ski is merely corrugated plastic, eliminating the need for the highly variable wax to allow for changing temperature conditions on the trail.

OK so far.

So there goes Pete charging off to Estonia to do the Tartu Marathon with waxless skis to really kick butt in age class. Yeah, right! Starting the the night before the race, the snow came and continued to pile up to about 8 inches by morning with an increasing blizzard grade wind.

Now you are thinking, what's he so all het up about? Eight inches of new snow> A skier couldn't ask for more perfect conditions for a race could he? Wrong! New snow is the worst thing you can have as a racer.

Its sticky and slows down even the best of the elite skiers becoming a nightmare for everyone

So the gun goes off and the first thing I noticed was that I was getting only about 13 INCHES to each glide on my new waxless skis. Comparing to the 8 or 10 yards usually experienced. Try that for 40 miles.

Needless to say after 8 hours and 29 minutes on the trail I was greeted by a whole busload of my group giving me sidelong lecherous glances of, "What the Hell took you so long, we're hungry!" I was the last one in. The greeters at the finish line had gone home. They were out of medals and it was dark! Total gloom and disgust. My worst performance ever!

By now you are all wondering what all this has to do with the World Horseshoe Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming.

When I was able to get a call through to the Newsletter editor and acknowledge his plight, he typically downplayed my sympathy and promptly replied, "I have an assignment for you." I said, "OK, what?" And he said, "I want you to compare any experiences on the World Loppet tour to what happens at the World Tournament." I said, "Yeah, I guess I could take some notes and take a stab at it."

This brings us to Sunday, July 9, 2006, the day before the tournament. My flight arrived at 4:00 PM after which I got my car rental, started my journey to the Clarion Inn to check in. Ten I got out my map and found my way to the Complex, site of the World Tournament. The first guy I met at registration was, you guessed it, Ken Kosky, who was setting up his booth with a knowing smile, with no intentions of shooting any horseshoes, just selling them.

After asking the boys at registration if I could possibly get on the empty courts to limber up, they inter-vened saying, " We're not allowing anyone on thses courts tonight but you can get in the walking doubles event at the Fireside Lounge out west of town."

They seemed like they were blocking me from taking a look at the pits. I would eventually realize why they were down playing any practice on the Complex courts.

So there goes Pete out to the Fireside to plunk down a ten and team up with Rick Macabe to battle 23 other contestants on the sand courts. It was an enjoyable night, after having a couple of cold ones and coming in 2nd.

By now it was dark enough tom drive home with the

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

car lights on and as I was pulling into the Clarion I was greeted with those dreaded flashing red lights in my rear view mirror only to discover that I had no tail lights. I was starting to think, "Hey maybe this tournament is going to be "one of those."

With a 2:00 PM start time on Monday I felt no rush to get to Complex so I gorged on the complementary breakfast and drove back out to the airport for another car. Then to the Fireside pits for a lillie limbering up and finally to Complex to check in.

The very first thing I heard when I checked in was there had been a power failure, the morning sections were an hour behind schedule. They were saying the 2 'clockers might be pushed up to 4:00 PM. This was an indicator that maybe today was not going too smooth. When things got going again for the first shifters, I noticed that after each toss every pair of pitchers was cultivating the entire pit with their shoe hooks looking for shoes. When they finally raised them up from the deep they were spending a very long time wiping off their shoes. One guy was using a putty knife. Ken Kosky was jubilant.. He had already sold out his entire stock of hand towels. Each pitcher was spending 3-4 minutes to wipe off shoes to the dismay of waiting pitchers. So I decided to go look at the pits. Just one look and you could see that the clay was the consistency of GRAY YOGURT.

Yes the pitchers were literally watching their shoes disappear into the clay with every pitch!

As a result of this debacle our 2:00 PM start time was pushed up to 6:00 PM. Really started at 7:00 PM. My opponent was Bill Brown. All four of our shoes disappeared on the first toss.

Somehow, the rules changed. Now we could take as much time as we wanted to clean off the shoes. We were even discussing how to get the judge to chase down Paul Stewart for a metal detector to locate shoes!

As a result of all the slowdowns we didn't finish until almost 11:00 PM. Needless to say all the delays throw off pitching momentum. Percentages were way down and I struggled through to a 2 win, 3 loss day with one win coming from a pacer game. Paul Stewart was walking around all night with a very grey face and not smiling.

So Monday night after day one, I was comparing my worst experience as a horseshoe pitcher to my worst performance as a ski racer. I decided that for the moment, I'd rather "Kick" than "Pitch. Slogging through 40 miles of sticky snow was better than wiping your way through 5 hrs of sticky clay..

But tomorrow is another day, things will get better and I'm not kickin'. After all none of us would be here competing against the best in the World if we hadn't already dealt with adversities and then moved on.



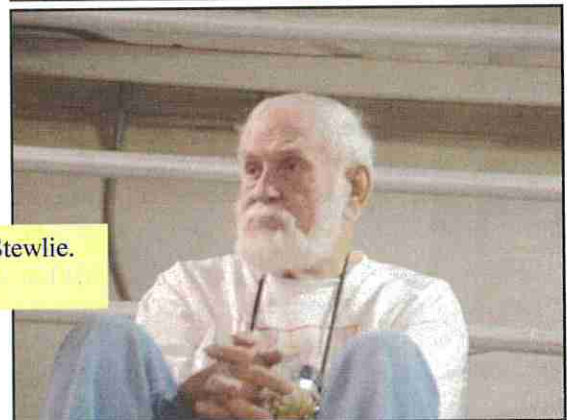
Wisconsin's elite Juniors Aleena, Nathan, Kiri

Dick & Paulette at the WT banquet



Lorraine announcing the opening shift at the WT

"Burly". The head Stewlie.



The Crossville Tournament

Kevin Brekke acting as a guest reporter is the author of the "Crossville Tournament" in this issue. The Tennessee tournament was the biggest money event that horseshoes has seen, \$70,000 with \$7,000 for the winners in the championship class.

320 entries over 3 days. Sue Snyder places first in the short distance division. Alan Francis wins again

Sure it was considered a smashing success especially by the leaders and cash award winners.

We are no wiser regarding the source of the money but Brekke colorfully illustrates the good parts, bad parts in telling of his adventure in Tennessee.

Kevin says

The trip to Tennessee had some ups, and had some downs the ups were many, including getting to know Tom Steinke and Russ Heintz better, and keeping score for them when they pitched... the pavilion has 16 courts, and was not finished completely, but good enough to pitch. there were two outdoor courts, one close, and one about 2 miles away by the fairgrounds. It was exciting to see the best pitchers pitch, as many of them do not come to team world.. because of our work schedules, could not stay past Sunday morning, would have loved to see the final, which was between Francis and Simmons 100 shoes, Francis 89, Simmons 84. We got there on Thursday, and on Friday, I practiced over 6 hours straight, I felt

like I was 20 again, practicing forever, but then the next day came, and my body reminded myself that I will be 50 in January. I was able to meet some very interesting pitchers, mainly from the east coast, and found many to be "good ambassadors" of the game. the downs I was put on the fairground courts, which were not in good shape. There were no bathrooms, and the class I was in had two byes.. I shot the worst I ever did in a tournament, and could not "buy a ringer". The hotel we were in was not good, from a "free" breakfast of coffee and some very small donuts, to public restrooms being out of order, to not having a cot for Russ the first night. next time If I am able to go again, I would go and talk to more horseshoe people and not practice so much, even though I love it so.. I kept score for those I knew, but would keep more score to get to know more pitchers.

I would not make winning the money as a focus, but enjoying myself, and having fun. I would also try to have enough vacation time, so I did not have to be back right away.

extra note: I entered the Milton fair tournament, pick your partner July 2. there were 18 teams, it was very windy (windy hill, eat your heart out), and very sunny. I did not bring sun block, because I never win these things. It was best of 3, up to 21 points, double elimination. my partner and I won the first two rounds, then lost in the third round went through the losers bracket, and faced the team that beat us in the semi's. We won the first game, they the second, but I closed with a double to win.

Next was the team that was undefeated, and we had to beat them twice to win. We won the first two games, meaning the championship game was on, best of three. We won the first, but lost the second. after a short break, the championship game would determine the winner. It was close, 11 to 11, then was 18 to 16. one ringer and we would win, which I put on with my second shoe. We started at 10 am, and finished at 6:45 PM. What a day, it was a humbling experience. It was in the Milton paper this week. I have been pitching for 33 years, and this is the first time I experienced something like this.

My horseshoe court is done at home here, cement walkways the whole way, with clay from Beloit. I have Kentucky bluegrass around the edges. anyone that wants a game and you're in the area, do not hesitate to call.



Crossville, TN 30 foot Class



Crossville, TN 40 foot Class

Flavor of the Courts World Tournament, Gillette, WY

By Jane Smith

It seems to be the norm that whenever the WT is held, the temperatures rise (Even a few temperaments.) It would be great if the shoes were as HOT as the outdoor triple digit temps. There were a few exceptions as the world champions kept their COOL and pitched ringer after ringer to the tune of 80 plus and 90% ringers. Usually there is only ONE person per class satisfied with their performance – the champion. Everyone else can take solace in the abundance of new friends and renewed acquaintances they make. The experience of pitching in a World Tournament is a mind boggling and challenging opportunity. Classes are generally closer in percentages than the Open and State tournaments we usually pitch in, so the chance to win is greater. It would seem all one had to do was pitch his/her average. This is definitely easier said than done as the stats show very few pitching their entering average. Maybe we need to give thought to a different method of determining entering averages. Perhaps using all four of the required NHPA events rather than only the top three could be a solution.

Back to the tournament, for the first time ever, getting scorekeepers for the first week was a bit of a problem. The NHPA officers running the shifts were very patient as horseshoe pitchers and spectators left their seats in the stands to fill the scorekeeper chairs. Those helping out as scorekeeper or judge definitely did their duty to help the tournament run smoothly. It was a bit more difficult getting scorekeepers for the second week when the upper classes began pitching. It seems everyone wants to watch their friends pitch... or is it to perfect their own technique? One can learn a lot by watching the smooth delivery, release and follow through of the best of the best. Wouldn't it be a perfect world if everyone kept score or judged for at least one

shift before or after they pitched?

Back to the tournament, again! Attending the WT is like a huge family reunion. Horseshoe pitchers are friendly people who savor lasting relationships. It does not matter who wins or loses (well, sometimes) but the friendships that are developed. The smiles, hugs, handshakes, and stories shared are priceless. It is rewarding to have your state or home league pitch well on this world wide platform. Congratulations first to all Wisconsin pitchers who placed in their classes; and to those who pitched game after game trying to pitch their average! It is indeed frustrating to have pitched well all summer, only to find the ringers just will not come at this tournament. There is always next year.

Back to the tournament, AGAIN. The tournament is two weeks long. It is a lot of WORK to prepare the pitching arena for a world class event. There have been suggestions to limit the tourney to one week with only those pitching 50% or better; limiting the championship classes to fewer pitchers; eliminating the "prelim" play by using only the NATSTATS to place pitchers in their classes with limited move ups; and to establish a permanent site for this event. The WT format has undergone many changes over the years so progress and change are options for future events. One merely needs to express their ideas to their Charter and National officers.

In conclusion, the WT is a great time and every horseshoe pitcher should experience this tournament at least once in their careers. Once a pitcher has participated in this event, chances are they will return year after year. The conditions can be challenging because of the weather, facilities available, plus a few others, BUT this is one event that is rewarding in many areas. Next year, the tournament is hosted in Ardmore, Oklahoma, July 23 – August 4. See you there.

Special Announcement

You don't want to miss the Fall Meeting on October 14th. A special interview with World Champion Alan Francis will be aired. This is an interview conducted by Ken Heinritz.

Don't Miss This! 1:00 PM

**Sportsman's Club
Lake Delton, WI**

The brain is like a TV set; when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

Wolf River Open Tournament Results

Class A					
Randy Rein	Mosinee	63.75	5	1	
Ralph Maylahn	Genesee Depot	59.58	5	1	
Jack Algiers	New London	59.58	4.5	1.5	
Gene Mason	Appleton	50.00	2	4	
Class B					
Otis Wessley	Oneida	57.91	5	1	
Steve Wiegert	Green Bay	46.25	4	2	
John Meyer	Fond du lac	45.41	4	2	
Cal Pitel	Greenville	42.5	3	3	
Class C					
Jerry Niemuth	Rhineland	47.85	5	2	
Ray Groskinsky	Friendship	45.00	5	2	
Elaine Troullier	Whitelaw	36.42	4	3	
Wally Thorson	Neenah	41.78	3.5	3.5	
Class D					
Ken Schumann	Rhineland	45.35	7	0	
Ralph Marthaler	Medford	40.71	4	3	
Dick Hansen	Franksville	32.85	4	3	
Al Rude	Rhineland	37.5	3.5	3.5	
Class E					
Ray Allman	Medford	36.78	6	1	
Leroy Meyer	Appleton	35.00	6	1	
Harry Zdroik	Eagle River	40.71	5	2	
Jim Haupt	Milwaukee	31.78	3.5	3.5	
Class F					
Ken Davison	Wild Rose	26.78	7	0	
Wes Poodvin	Milwaukee	27.14	5	2	
Mike Zahn	Lomira	21.07	4.5	2.5	
Bill Beschta	Appleton	23.21	4	3	

Winner Portable Courts- John Koepp

Wolf River

Sometimes this Newsletter has to allow extra space in reporting an event.

The Wolf River results are edited down from a full page. Lots of deleting. But the important message from these results is that pitchers came from a wide variety of locations to pitch here. We would like to have published the full results just to show every little burg represented here.. Must have something good going in Hatten Park every year early in June. Might be the food, might be the place. Probably is the people, here and there. Whatever, they sure pack them in at New London

Weston Open Tournament Results

Class A

Randy Rein	65.74	5	0
Jack Algiers	55.47	5	1
Vince Jakel	56.12	3	2
John Molling	45.35	3	3

Class B

Bob Gregorich	47.50	6	1
Joe Doherty	35.42	5	2
Gloria Smith	36.67	4.5	2.5
Ken Schumann	32.08	4.5	2.5

Class C

Cliff Erickson	41.90	6	1
Gary Wegner	35.71	4.5	2.5
Ray Allman	32.36	4.5	2.5
Ralph Marthaler	39.52	4	3

Class D

Harold Zdroik	33.33	5	2
George Eckstrom	20.00	4.5	2.5
Keith Stanke	30.48	4	3
Jim Jakel	29.05	4	3

Class E

Michael Hruby	20.00	5	1
B.J. Johnson	18.75	5	1
Jason Maki	15.00	2	4
Tim Root	6.25	0	6

The Weston Open

By Ken Kosky

The inaugural "Weston Open" had a great beginning, a stormy middle, and a twilight ending.

The raised courts were set up on a blacktop surface with lines painted for foul lines. The pitchers seemed to like the concept and everything went great until mid-afternoon when the storms came. The first storm most everyone braved by staying under the tent but when the second one came right behind it everyone went into the building to wait it out.

After a couple of hours delay we resumed and finished out the tournament. The delay was good for food and beer sales, and socializing.

Thanks to all for coming.

Goldendale Open Tournament Results

28-06-027

June 24 & 25, 2006

Class A

1 Penny Steinke	5/1	71.00
2. Mark Mauthe	5/1	69.70
3. Ken Heinritz	2/4	55.00

Class B

1. Bun Carley	3/1	40.00
2. Norb Fuhrman	2/2	42.00
3. John Meyer	2/2	41.5
4. Glenn Bogenschneider	2/2	41.00

Class C

1. Jerry Kamps	4/1	50.40
2. Terry Sternberg	4/1	48.0
3. Cliff Troullier	3/2	43.20
4. Wally Thorson	2/3	42.80

Class D

1. Jason Goldsmith	4/1	28.8
2. Milt Larsen	3/2	32.8
3. Roger Heinritz	3/2	28.0
4. Dave Balsiger	2/3	31.2

Class E

1. Dick Hansen	4/1	38.8
2. John Secord	4/1	38.4
3. Dennis Ambuehl	4/1	34.8
4. Rich Conrad	2/3	22.4

Class F

1. Jim Poquette	4/0	26.0
2. Ken Davison	2/2	21.5
3. Ceil Trossen	2/2	18.5
4. Tom Steinke	1/3	20.0

Class G

1. Wes Podvin	5/0	29.20
2. Mike Zahn	4/1	20.8
3. Mark Nord	2/3	21.6
4. Brian Wheeler	2/3	21.6

Class H

1. Mike Keagle	3/1	16.0
2. Mike Franzen	2/2	11.5
3. Don Peroutka	2/2	11.0
4. Jerry Kochman	2/2	10.0

GOLDENDALE OPEN TOURNAMENT

It turned out to be a beautiful summer weekend for a horseshoe tournament, despite a little drizzle about half way through the Saturday afternoon shift. It was also a great weekend because Heidi and Rick were blest with an eight pound, eight ounce baby boy, Saturday morning around 3 AM. Can't wait to see him.

Ceil Trossen made it down from Mountain again this year, to only miss out in the money by percentage. Our Class A was unfortunately small this year, down to three players and a pacer (me), playing a double round robin. Penny Steinke and Mark Mauthe had two good games, with Penny pitching a 42 out of 50 in their final game and winning the tournament with High Average. Thanks to everyone that pitched in the tournament. Hope to see you all again next year.

Terry Sternberg



Combined Locks 2006 Mid-Eastern

Class A

Otis Wessley	4/2	51.2
Gene Mason	4/2	50.0
Norb Fuhrman	2/4	48.7
Jerry Kamps	2/4	47.9

Class B

Wally Thorson	2/2	34.3
Tom Rosenthal	2/2	31.8
Steve Mielke	2/2	27.5

Class C

Norm Carlson	3/1	26.8
Bill Beschta	3/1	23.1
Brett Bauer	2/2	23.1
Ken Eslinger	1/3	17.5

Frank Hanold	1/3	10.6
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2006 Lox Classic

Class A

Jack Algiers	5/2	56.7
Gene Mason	5/2	55.7
Otis Wessley	4.5/2.5	55
Ralph Maylahn	4/3	59.9

Class B

Cal Pitel	6/1	47.1
Wally Thorson	6/1	42.5
Jerry Kamps	4/3	43.2
Steve Wiegert	4/3	40.0

Class C

Karen Henkel	4/0	26.8
LeRoy Meyer	3/1	33.7
Mark Anderson	1/3	21.8
Ceil Trossen	1/3	16.2

Class D

Bill Beschta	5/1	18.3
Richard Henkel	4/2	16.6
Mike Franzen	2/3	7.5
Wayne Franzen	1/5	12.5

Although the numbers were down and the temperature was up we still managed to have stiff competition. The Class "A" was again decided by ringer percentage, and only three ringers, as no one was able to dominate. Likewise for Class "B" which was also decided by ringer percentage. Class "C" Karen Henkel showed the boys how it was done. Class "D" could have gone either way until the 6th game.

Gene Mason had the high percentage game as he pitched a 75% game against Ralph Maylahn's 72.5%.

From Bill Matey - Combined Locks

Patriot Pitcher

We are proud to say that we have among us a real patriot, someone who believes patriotism is not just a nice word. He has taken it upon himself to honor the fallen soldiers of our wars.

Glenn Bogenschneider visits cemeteries on Memorial day to decorate graves, plant flags and salute members of the services who gave their lives in defending this country.

It took the "Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel" to make us aware of his noble activity. He is pictured honoring one veterans grave with a flag, and stepping back to a salute to the brim of his legionaries cap.

Proud to say you represent the WHPA. We salute you, Glenn Bogenschneider.

MUSKEGO OPEN

CLASS

A

Penny Steinke	64.4%
Brian Connell	43.6%
Glenn Bogenschneider	38.8%
Harold Laws	36.0%
John Koeppe	36.8%
Bruce McLinn	38.8%

CLASS

B

Rowen Swick	33.7%
David Hansen	36.3%
Milt Larsen	33.7%
Norm Beckius	24.4%
Dick Hansen	30.0%
Galen Kozel	30.4%

CLASS

C

Annie Murray	36.8%
Karen Henkel	35.6%
Richard Conrad	34.8%
Pete Kumlien	32.4%
Dennis Ambuehl	34.4%
George Moraza	30.4%

CLASS

D

Chuck Radl	30.0%
Dan Schulz	32.4%
Steven Grisius	27.2%
Tom Steinke	22.0%
Guy Fleming	23.2%
Hank Zeisse	18.0%

CLASS

E

Gene Satterstrom	19.6%
Bob Lewis	13.6%
Wayne Franzen	16.4%
Dick Henkel	13.6%
Michael Franzen	9.6%
Jerry Kochman	11.6%



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