

WISCONSIN HORSESHOES



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July/August 2025

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The Patriot Tournament

Celebrated 15 years

July 4th, 2010 - 2025



Old Racetrack Park: 2010-2019
Beloit Horseshoe Club: 2021-2025

Results on page 17

2025 WHPA Schedule

Date	Tournament	Location	Max	Entry	Deadline	Contact
July 26	Pioneer Days	Butternut	28	20	July 19	Jer Wegner
July 31	Whpa Singles Entry Deadline					
Aug 2	Open*					
Aug 9	Rozellville Lions Tourney	Rozellville		20	Aug 2	Mike Berdan
Aug 9	Whiskey Ranch Classic	Delevan	40	20	Aug 2	Gena Quaid
Aug 12	Dave and John Memorial (Doubles)	Eau Claire		22	Aug 5	Paul Wiese
Aug 16	FDL Team	Fond du Lac	10	54	Aug 1	Jeff Secord
Aug 23-24	Pitch Out Cancer	Mosinee		20	Aug 16	Kent Frailing
Aug 23-24	Warm Up	Beloit	72	20	Aug 13	Dan Newkirk
Aug 30-31	WHPA State Singles	Fond du Lac			July 31	John Secord
Sept 6	Wet N Wild	Centuria		20	Aug 30	Toni Sloper
Sept 13	Earl Paulson Classic	Beloit	54	20	Sept 4	Dan Newkirk
Sept 14	Don Goldsmith Doubles	Beloit		22	Sept 4	Dan Newkirk
Sept 20	Arkdale Doubles	Arkdale		22	Sept 13	Jill Peterson
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

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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 Johnsborg Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937 920-476-9042 jeffsecord@outlook.com
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WHPA President — Dobie Gutweiler



As I write this I am also packing for the World Horseshoe Tournament in Sandy, Utah. I am looking forward to spending time with my horseshoe family pitching, cheering and going on adventures. The only thing missing will be all of you that aren't coming with us.

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 your adventures. Show them the incredible amount of fun that can be had when you are a member of this family.

In Utah I am looking forward to many different things, first of course is pitching my best. But I am also looking forward to adventures with the other 25 Wisconsin pitchers that will be in Utah. Cheering on those pitchers is a highlight of my trips. We also have plans to see the Mormon Tabernacle, the Harry Potter Exhibit, the Homestead Crater, Arches National Park and on and on and on. There will be laughing, there will be games, there will be an unbelievable camaraderie.

The only thing that is going to beat this year's World Tournament, is next year's World Tournament. What a time we will have. Commit today. Commit that you will be pitching in World at Wausau, commit that you will be bringing new people into the family so that they can experience this magic as well.

See you soon, with much Love,
Dobie

Behind the Mask ... With NHPA Chaplain Ken Heinritz

Preparing for the World Tournament can be a real trip. I mean filled with all the ups and downs that go along with getting ready. Don't get me wrong, there is some confidence heading into this tournament, hoping that the upside of my game will show up. But to be honest, I've had more downsides in practicing than I care to admit. You see, the way I used to pitch doesn't work anymore. The shoe simply doesn't get to the stake.

Though I really don't want to go down this road, getting old has caused me to scrap how I used to throw the shoe. I've had to develop a new technique. Something to give me just a little more oomph. Along with a new technique comes several slight tweaks, including the grip, the step, height of arm swing, bending of the knees, etc.

Will the changes I made in my new technique work? No guarantees. I may take last, or I may take first. Only One really knows. He knows what He is doing. He is doing a work in my life that is ultimately for my good and His glory. However this turns out, I can honestly say it's okay, "He is worth it all".

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28



What's New? — Jane Smith



We have 23 new WHPA pitchers joining us at this point from all around the state. This might be the most at one time. This is a positive move in our association. Welcome to Emilio Castro, Brandon Crouser, Scott Dennee, Bruce Duerst, Dan Elpert, Luke Fochs, Jim Fochs, Casey Grossel, Fred Heidmann II, Scott Jones, Justin Kasper, Brandon Kinjerski, Michael Maly, Don McKain, Dave Muehlius, Jake Nahorniak, Dennis Schreck, Bruce Weiler, Danielle Spurling, Brenda Weiler, Rich Alt, Greg Kinjerski, Gary Zarda. Wishing them good luck on the courts this summer in both league and tournaments.

We do have an option for shorter distance pitching for ladies over 65. This option has been a long time in coming, so we need to take advantage if we qualify. We need at least 4 entries to have a State Tournament division. Horseshoes is a fun people game. Let's make this work.

We have lost another younger WHPA member in Todd Sheehan from the Chetek Area. Todd pitched with the Eau Claire Club, pitched in the Wet N Wild tournaments and helped fill in with the Close Doesn't Count team entries for Club Team events as a 40-foot pitcher. He lost his wife several years ago to cancer. He always had a great warm smile and wonderful hug. His son, Chad is hosting a Celebration of Life in Eau Claire VFW Post 305, Friday August 22, 2PM – 6PM. Address for the VFW Post is 1300 Starr Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

This has been a tough week for me as Aussie, my shadow and travel girl crossed the Rainbow Bridge to be with Kirby and our other 8 pups. This was very unexpected, the house is way too quiet and car trips uneventful. I am looking for a senior four-legged girl who likes to walk, ride, snuggle and is house-trained. It would be nice if loud noises – like thunder, trucks backfiring, gun shots, doors slamming, kids running the hall, rain, wind - didn't startle but I might be asking for too much.

Lastly, we have the Pitch Out Cancer Tourney in August at Mosinee. This is a great cause and Susie Erickson has dedicated many hours and miles in promoting this event. Cancer affects many families, so think about pitching in this event, August 23/24; or making a trip to Mosinee to check out this event. We have lost many WHPA members and family to cancer. This event has been on the schedule since last fall so ALL need to show support- officers, members, families.... It is the first of its kind in our horseshoe world. There are raffle tickets for sale, baskets, swag bags for participants, door prize raffle tickets and many opportunities to win prizes and donate to a great cause. This tournament is in honor of Kari David, a WHPA member who battled cancer for several years before passing away last fall. We have WHPA members battling cancer so let's support them. If we would like this event to continue, we need support and participation.

Good luck to all World Tournament pitchers.

Leslie "Todd" Sheehan — January 10, 1963 - June 25, 2025



Leslie "Todd" Sheehan, 62 years old, of Chetek, Wisconsin, passed away on June 25, 2025, at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. He was the youngest child of 3, born on January 10, 1963, in Lambert, Montana, to Lloyd and Marjorie Sheehan. He graduated from Lambert High School, where he was reportedly quite the basketball and track star. Following high school, he attended Montana State University on a basketball scholarship, but he decided after a short time that college was not for him. He moved to Glasgow, Montana, and met his soon-to-be wife, Kim, who lived next door. Following a move to Palmetto, Florida, he found success as a construction worker but soon transitioned to a postal worker, which turned into a lifelong career where he made countless friends with coworkers and dogs along his mail route. He wore many hats over the years: friend, coach, mentor, mailman, father, and grandfather. He was always a jovial person to be around and was always the life of the party by cracking jokes, telling stories, or pranking friends. He will always be remembered for his larger-than-life personality and kind demeanor.

He is survived by his significant other, Deb Mason, two children, a granddaughter, and many relatives, friends, and coworkers. He is preceded in death by his wife Kim, father, Lloyd, and mother, Marjorie.

A celebration of life will be Friday, August 22 (see Jane Smith's article above for details).

For the full obituary see: [Leslie "Todd" Sheehan Obituary June 25, 2025 - Burnham-Ours-Kolstad Funeral Home](#)

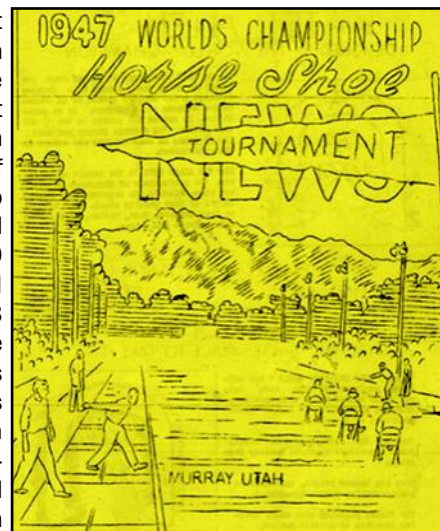
Blast from the Past – 1947 World Tournament

Submitted by Jeff Secord

This “Blast from the Past” is dedicated to the WHPA members that are pitching in Sandy, Utah this year. Here is a look back at the first time the World Tournament was pitched in the Salt Lake City area. In 1945, NHPA 1st VP, Arch Stokes, along with a local committee, persuaded the NHPA to hold the 1947 World Tournament in Salt Lake City and make the event part of the City’s Centennial Celebration. The press announced just weeks before the tournament that the courts were in Murray, Utah. Murray is a suburb just south of Salt Lake City. Pop Woodfield, editor of Horseshoe News magazine noted that there was talk for nearly 2 years that the WT was going to be in Salt Lake City. When did Murray, Utah become a part of this? Some people may have been similarly confused when the 2025 WT was advertised as being in Salt Lake City but the schedule came out announcing the arena is in Sandy. Anyway, the County Fairgrounds are in Murray and Arch Stokes’ Centennial Tournament Commission chose to build 18 of the finest courts ever built in the Fairgrounds. They went far beyond the requirements for approved courts. Asphalt covered the ground between the two pitching ends and cement walkways went from end to end. The courts were surrounded by a 4-foot-high fence and outside of the fence were twelve 25-foot poles with two 1600-watt flood lights on each pole. It was noted prior to the tournament that a demonstration of the lighting on a moonless night confirmed that the lights were adequate to fill the area with light and there wasn’t a shadow anywhere. The clay in these 6x3 landing zones did not just have regular clay, they were filled with “Utah Gumbo.” This clay proved to hold shoes tight to its surface to prevent them from bouncing around. Arch published round trip train fares to Salt Lake City from various cities. Milwaukee was on the list at \$68.94. Car owners were encouraged to register with Horseshoe News so riders could contact a car owner to grab a seat in their car.

The entry fee to qualify was \$2.50. There was no additional entry fee to play in the Finals. Each entrant pitched a qualifying round of 200 shoes continuously. The 35 highest scores moved into the Finals. The defending champion was not required to qualify as he is automatically seeded in the Finals. Qualification started on Monday, August 25, at 9 AM and continued until 10:30 PM. There was a recess at noon and one for dinnertime. The trial rounds extended until noon Tuesday, August 26. All 36 finalists will receive prize money, starting with \$300 for first place, \$250 for 2nd, \$170 for 3rd, \$100 for 4th, down to \$16 for 36th place. A total payout of \$1,995 was awarded to the men. There was no mention of what the 9 women received in prize money. The ringer percentages for the women ranged from 50% down to 5%. To put this in perspective, the NHPA published that there will be \$111,575 total paid out in 2025. Prize money for Men’s, Women’s, and Elder Men’s 16-player championship classes is \$11,600 for each division and each champion will receive \$4,500.

The record for most points scored in a qualifying game was 540 points set by Ted Allen in 1946. The goal of most pitchers who enter the trial round is to score 500 points. In 1941 and 1946 there were 3 each year. There were 13 pitchers that entered this exclusive class in 1947. Ray “Half-Pint” Gatewood tied that record early on Monday, August 25.



Casey Jones then raised the record with a score of 543. Fernando Isais upped the record to 544 a few hours later. Ted Allen felt compelled to pitch an exhibition 200-shoe-pitch after seeing his record being tied and then broken by 3 competitors. He ended at 551 points, a new record; or was it? The Tournament Committee ruled that the constitution states that the champion is not required to qualify so Allen’s score was not eligible for the prize for high qualifying score, and that Isais’s score of 544 was the new world record. This decision stirred up quite a controversy. A deeper investigation a month after the tournament finished revealed that the rule to give the DC a pass from qualifying was created in 1939 and then changed in 1940 to mandate that the DC must qualify. Allen did not qualify as DC in 1941, even though the new rule was in effect. The committee failed to recognize this and many of them assumed the action taken to allow Allen to not qualify in 1941 was an official change and not an oversight. Defending champions continued to not qualify after 1947.

The Finals started at 2 PM on Tuesday, August 26. Games were played to 50 points cancellation. They pitched 4 games and then stopped for dinner. Pitching resumed at 7:30 PM and 3 more games were played before stopping for the night.

This schedule repeated 4 more days to complete the 36-player round robin. The longest game in 1947 was the 2nd last game on Friday night between Ted Allen and Sid Harris, Nebraska, and lasted 144 shoes. Allen led 37-26 at 100 shoes.

Harris pitched 41 ringers in the next 44 shoes to win 50-41. Harris finished the game with 123 ringers (85.4%) to Allen’s 117 ringers (81.9%). Ted Allen’s toughest win was against Wayne Nelson for the first game on Saturday morning. Allen won at the 136-shoe mark, 50-49 with both pitching 116 ringers for 85.2%. Allen lost to Guy

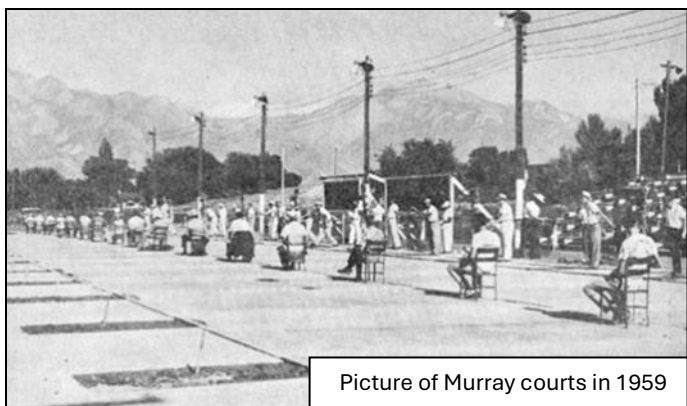
(Continued on page 6)

Zimmerman the last game of the afternoon shift on Saturday. Casey Jones gave Ted Allen his third loss in the 34th round Saturday night. Jones won 50-25 in 142 shoes, just 2 less shoes than the longest game in the tournament. The game was tight until Jones found his rhythm with laying on 40 ringers in the last 42 shoes. He finished with 128 ringers (90.1%) to Allen's 119 ringers (83.0%). The following game was the last of the tournament and Ted Allen faced Fernando Isais. This was expected to be a game that may have decided who would be the world champion. Isais was undefeated and 1 game up on the nearest contender, Casey Jones. Ted was not ready to concede anything to Fernando and a win could force Isais to face Jones for a playoff. Allen gave Isais his only loss with a 50-30 win in 122 shoes. Allen had 109 ringers (89.3%) to Isais's 101 ringers (82.7%). Wayne Nelson, Indiana, was a rookie in the 1947 World Tournament but he was not intimidated by anyone. He almost beat Ted Allen on Saturday morning and he beat Zimmerman, 50-45 in the 33rd round on Saturday night. Zimmerman was leading 45-35 at 100 shoes. Guy missed only 5 times in the next 32 shoes but Wayne pitched 16 doubles in a row and won the game. Nelson finished with 114 ringers (86.3%) to Zimmerman's 112 ringers (84.6%). Nelson's next game was against Casey Jones. Casey had only lost to Fernando Isais up to that point and had a chance for a rematch in a playoff if he beat Nelson and if

Allen beat Isais. Nelson ended up winning that game 50-35 at 118 shoes. Nelson had 98 ringers (83%) and Jones had 92 ringers (80%). Casey's chance had slipped by with the loss to the rookie. Three new world records were set during those five days of pitching. Ted Allen pitched 20 doubles in a row to surpass Guy Zimmerman's 1940 record of 18. Fernando Isais later pitched 21 only to have Wayne Nelson pitch 22 doubles in a row for the new world record. The world record for highest ringer percent pitched in a single game was 95.5%. Casey Jones made 31 ringers in 32 shoes for 96.8% to break that record. Later, Isais had 33 ringers in 34 shoes for 97% to earn his second world record of the tournament. Ted Allen shared the record of the longest game in WT history with Guy Zimmerman in their marathon 164-shoe game in 1940. They also set the world record of nine consecutive 4-deads in that same game. Ted Allen and Stan DeLeary, Arizona, broke that record in Murray with twelve 4-deads in a row. This game went 100 shoes before Allen finished the game with 17 doubles in a row. DeLeary pitched 81% but only scored 9 points as Allen only had 5 misses for 95%. There were 5 pitchers that averaged 80% or higher over those 35 games.

That compares with 4 in 1940 and only 2 in 1941&1946. It was noted that the competition in those 5 evening sessions attracted large crowds from the Centennial Celebration and there was little, to no wind. These factors, along with excellent clay, were noted as reasons for so many records broken and high ringer percentages pitched in 1947.

The 2025 version of the World Tournament is back in the Salt Lake area, but it will be incredibly different than the 1947 edition. Pitching will be indoors, and large crowds are not expected to come inside and watch the competition. However, the Women's division is among the deepest and strongest field ever and as intriguing as the anticipation for where the "Big Four" of 1947 would finish. I hope you enjoyed reading about a World Tournament from long ago. Good luck to all WHPA members that are pitching in Sandy, Utah this year!



Picture of Murray courts in 1959

Top 16 Finishers in 1947 World Tournament

Place	Pitcher	State	Won	Lost	Ringers	Shoes	Pct	Qual Pts	Qual R%
1	Fernanado Isais	CA	34	1	1,973	2,372	83.2%	544	87.0%
2	Casey Jones	WI	33	2	2,086	2,512	83.0%	543	88.0%
3	Ted Allen	CO	32	3	2,126	2,508	84.8%	Def Champ	
4	Wayne Nelson	IN	32	3	2,080	2,576	80.7%	521	83.0%
5	James O'Shea	MA	29	6	1,993	2,542	78.4%	520	80.5%
6	Guy Zimmerman	CA	28	7	2,125	2,658	79.9%	535	84.5%
7	Louis Dean	CA	27	8	1,699	2,354	72.2%	497	76.5%
8	Eddie Packham	CA	26	9	2,034	2,630	77.3%	529	83.5%
9	Tommy Brownell	NY	25	10	1,834	2,472	74.2%	507	78.0%
10	Ray Gatewood	CA	24	11	2,030	2,674	75.9%	540	87.0%
11	Sid Harris	NE	24	11	1,983	2,626	75.5%	509	79.0%
12	Ervin Hosier	CA	24	11	1,873	2,598	72.1%	447	68.5%
13	Bito Fileccia	NY	21	14	1,759	2,510	70.1%	467	70.5%
14	Stan DeLeary	AZ	19	16	1,938	2,666	72.7%	523	82.0%
15	Henry Harper	CA	19	16	1,712	2,562	66.8%	481	74.5%
16	Dean Brown	CA	18	17	1,833	2,582	71.0%	473	72.0%

Information in this article was originally published in Horseshoe News magazine in 1947



Pitch-Out Cancer

August 23 & 24, 2025

Crystal Pines Matthiae Fields, 201360 St. John's Rd, Mosinee, WI



There is just over a month to go, and we hope that you will help support our efforts with this fundraiser. Monies raised will go to the Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation's CANCER CARE FUND. There are Cancer patients everywhere who need our support, no matter where they live. Pitch-Out Cancer is a way for **all of us to come together** to help eradicate this disease and support cancer patients in coping with the expenses not covered by insurance, financially, such as gas cards and family hotel stays. Please sign up.

We now have something new - we will have T-shirts for sale **online**, there will be one color only – Amethyst. However, part of the price will include a donation to Pitch-Out Cancer. A E Designs have started an online store where products can be sold in advance. We will have a few at the event too. You can order t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, hats, and towels.

The link to purchase items on our online store is - <https://pitchoutcancer.itemorder.com>

We also have some other exciting news – Donna, DJ & Karaoke entertainment may be there.

Plans include a sanctioned and non-sanctioned tournament and a corn-hole tournament; Kent is responsible for this.

Plans for the fundraiser include a Plinko raffle, a Liquor Lottery, a Scratch-off Lottery ticket raffle, and

Money Tree Raffle Tickets are available for sale right now:

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and are available now.

Winners will get \$500 - 1st place, \$100 – 2nd Place, \$50 – 3rd Place

We will only sell 1,000 tickets.

There are tickets out already – Jill Peterson, Sandy Anderson, Eugene Pribnow, Dobie, Jane Smith, Susie Erickson and Ray Cayer have them for sale.

Essential items to know:

We are encouraging all pitchers to get \$50 or more in pledges. Ask your family, neighbors, friends, and coworkers for those pledges.

- The top five people who get the most pledges will be rewarded with money and a plaque. These include monetary donations only.
- The top three people who get the most donated raffle items will be rewarded with money and a plaque.

We are still looking for the following to be donated:

- **Large Baskets** - for basket raffles.
- **Scratch-off Lottery tickets**
- **Liquor, Wine, or beer for Liquor Lottery (we have 37 items and need more)**
- **Handcrafted items**

Bring them whenever you see me on the courts, or send them to me at:

Susie Erickson
1178 Westown Dr
Eagle River, WI 54521
715-891-9593

I'm leaving you with this quote:

“Alone we can do so little, but together we can make a difference.”

Thank you in advance for your efforts,
Susie

Marshfield Clinic Health System Foundation, CANCER CARE FUND is supplying publicity and promotional items.

There were 24 teams that competed in Team World in 2025. This was only the eighth time in our 34-year history in Beloit that we reached the 24-team capacity of our event. The field of 24 teams were comprised of the following: Missouri (5), Wisconsin (4), Michigan (4), Minnesota (3), Illinois (2), Canada (2), Iowa, Ohio, California, and Florida. We received 27 entries for Team World this year. This was the second year in a row, and 3rd time in Team World history, that we could not provide every team that entered a roster spot in the tournament. The 3 teams that missed “the cut” were Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri. This field included 22 pitchers that had never competed in Team World. We had 28 first-time pitchers in 2024. That’s 50 people in the past two years that played in Team World for the first time. We also had a new state compete this year as our old friend, Rick Pritzlaff, formerly from Wisconsin, assembled a Florida team. Florida became the 17th state that has been represented in Team World.



Seeing new people is a sign of new interest and growth for Team World. There is no doubt that social media is helping more people discover Team World. Michelle Foard, NHPA Publicity/Social Media Director, from Minnesota, does a great job promoting Team World and sharing the experience live over social media during the tournament. This influx of new pitchers is great, but it also pushes others that have played before out of the tournament with the limited capacity of 24 teams that we have. There have been 8 teams “cut” in the past two years. There was only 1 team that was cut in the previous 32 years, and that team was cut to have an even number of teams, not because the tournament was full. The Team World committee is looking at potential options to raise the capacity to accept more than 24 teams, but we are cautious about changing a format that many people find to be just right as it is.

In 2022 & 2023, Sarah Chaffee and Alan Francis were the current women’s and men’s World Champions and played in Team World both years. The anticipation of seeing if the two would play head-to-head in the preliminaries and possibly again in the finals was incredible. We had four current World Champions that were members of teams this year. Penny Steinke (Women’s), Alan Francis (Men’s), Hastiin Begaye (Junior Boys) and Tom Moffat (Elder Men’s)

were the current champions on team rosters. This was the most current World Champions that have participated in a single Team World. There were 6 opportunities for current World Champions to pitch in head-to-head games in the preliminary rounds. However, a coin toss allows the winning captain to decide the pairings for that round. So, there is no way of knowing if the winning captain will match the World Champs against each other. We didn’t have to wait long for the first opportunity as WI #1 faced Ohio in the second game of prelims on Friday morning. We don’t track which team wins the coin toss to match up opponents, but Penny Steinke and Alan Francis did play against each other. Penny pitched 33 ringers against Alan to win with a 10-point margin.

Round 2	Score	Ringers	R%
Penny Steinke	22	33	82.50%
Alan Francis	12	29	72.50%

Canada and Ohio met at round 15 which was set to play at 6:30pm. Again, the pairings did end up with Tom Moffat pitching against Alan Francis. Alan gained his rhythm by this time and poured on 34 ringers to win by 16 points.

Round 15	Score	Ringers	R%
Tom Moffat	14	28	70.00%
Alan Francis	30	34	85.00%

Saturday morning started with round 19 of the prelims. The first game on Saturday started at 7:30am and WI #1 was scheduled to pitch against Canada. We were 3-for-3 with World Champions going head-to-head. Not sure if Penny and Tom are morning people or not but neither pitcher came out strong in this game. Penny ended up getting the win by 10 points pitching 29 ringers.

Round 19	Score	Ringers	R%
Penny Steinke	34	29	72.50%
Tom Moffat	24	25	62.50%

California and Ohio met at round 24 at 11:00am. We didn’t get the pairing we hoped for as the winning captain of the coin toss chose not to align Hastiin Begaye against Alan Francis. There were 2 more opportunities on Sunday morning as California still hadn’t played against Canada or WI #1. Neither Tom nor Penny were paired up against Hastiin for those matches. We also did not see any of these 4 teams get matched up against each other in the Finals so there were no current World champs against each other in the Finals Bracket. However, 3 games with current World champs going head-to-head were great to see.

Full results of Team World can be found on the WHPA Website at: www.whpahosreshoes.com/team-world.

Watch for more Team World talk in the next Newsletter.

Nawrot Brings Home State Championship Title

This article is reprinted with permission.

John Nawrot of Grand Marsh recently competed in the 39th Annual Team World Horseshoe Pitching Championships, held May 16-18 in Beloit, WI, and played a vital role in bringing home the championship title for Team Wisconsin.

This year's event featured teams from nine U.S. states — including California, Illinois, Iowa, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin — as well as two teams from Canada. This year's competition featured 24 teams in a round-robin preliminary, followed by a bracket-style finals on Sunday.

Team Wisconsin dominated the preliminary rounds and entered the finals as the top seed. After a bye in the first round, they narrowly defeated Missouri 2 in the semifinals. In the finals, Wisconsin faced a rematch from last year — but this time, they triumphed 3 games to 1 to secure the title of Team World Champions.

Over the three-day tournament, John pitched an incredible 1,000 horseshoes, landing 540 ringers for a 54% ringer percentage across 25 games.

In addition to this Team World title, John is the reigning Wisconsin State Men's Champion — a title he has successfully defended for the past four consecutive years. John, 48 years old, is married to Crystal who along with their children live in Grand Marsh. He is a Heavy Equipment Operator with the Operating Engineers Local 139. He said, "After high school, I worked for my dad, then for my Uncle at Dependable Concrete. In 1995, I started working as a Laborer with my Uncle Ken in the union for BOLDT. I spent 10 years as a cement mason before joining the Operating Engineers Local 139 in 2007. In 2019, I began working for Mashuda Contractors out of Princeton, where I'm currently employed." About hobbies he said, "I love watching the kids play sports and practicing with them at home. I enjoy going to Rhinelander with the family, fishing, shooting my bow, helping my son Zarek with his European/Skull mounts, shed hunting and spending time outdoors. Bow hunting deer is what I wait all year for. After the State horseshoe tournament is over on Labor Day weekend, I put the shoes away playing very little if at all until spring.

As my wife says—deer season never really ends. If I'm not hunting, I'm scouting, hanging stands, setting up trail cams, shed hunting or working on food plots for myself and a few others. Only 96 days 'til bow season opens—but who's counting?"

In an interview, John let us know more the sport of horse pitching:

How long have you been playing?

"I started pitching horseshoes when I was about 11 years old, originally using a double flip. A few years later, I switched to a 1¾ turn, which I still use today along with a 1¼ turn that I have been trying lately."

How did you get involved in the sport?

"My dad got me started. He played for the White Creek Tavern and his brothers, played for Hanley's Corral across the street. Eventually, my brothers, cousin and myself ended up playing."

"Years later, I met a guy named Kevin down in Edgerton at a doubles tournament. He encouraged me—more than once—to get sanctioned so I could compete in the state tournaments. At the time, I was working a lot and didn't have much free time to play."

"Currently, I'm a substitute on the Tuesday night league for WC Corral as I cannot make every game due to work. It wasn't until 2019 at the Roche-a-Cri Bow Club that Ray Groskinsky handed me a form to get officially sanctioned. That kicked off my participation in the sanctioned and state-level tournaments."

How did you get involved with the Wisconsin team?

"Each year, they select the top four players in the state. The team I joined consisted of: Penny Steinke (Waukesha) – 2024 Women's World Champion, Sarah Chaffee (Chippewa Falls) – Former Women's World Champion, Cliff Shave (Eagle) and myself (Grand Marsh) – State Champion the past four years.

Winning the title wouldn't have been possible without these incredible teammates."

What's your favorite part about horseshoes?

"When I was a kid, it was all about spending time with my dad, uncles, cousins, and brothers. That's where the love of the game really started. My dad still throws a few shoes with me now and then.

I enjoy going to tournaments around the state—even though I don't get to as many as I'd like. It's great meeting others who share the same passion, all of us out there just trying to get a darn ringer or two.

The sport is always challenging. Just when you think you've got it figured out, it lets you know otherwise!"

How can others get involved?

"A great place to start locally would be at the Arkdale Horseshoe Club. You would pitch 100 shoes and placed in a class according to your ringer percent. For the sanctioned league, cadets (12) and under would throw from 20', juniors (13-17) 30', Women 30', Elder men (65+) 30' and men (18+) 40'. Monday league is at 5:00. For more information you can contact Ray Groskinsky at 608 547 9840."



John Nawrot, Kevin Brekke 2008

Muskego Open 2025

Check Out the New Courts!

We're excited to share the incredible updates to our club! All the stakes have been replaced, and full cement walkways now surround the courts, giving the area a fresh, professional look. These improvements—completed in fall 2024 and spring 2025—along with our brand-new clubhouse for storing supplies and posting results, have truly transformed our space. It feels like a whole new club!

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our members and volunteers who put in countless hours redoing the concrete and helping with construction. We are also deeply grateful for the generous donations that made these upgrades a reality. Thanks to everyone who contributed time, effort, or resources—we're proud to call this our new home!

Special shout out to - Jeff, Kenny, Zak, Cliff, Mark, Jeff, Kenny! Thank you for your planning, time, donations, & hard work!



A Night to Remember at the Ballpark: Celebrating a Champion in Style

Milwaukee, May 5, 2025 — Under the bright lights of American Family Field, a truly unforgettable evening unfolded as 50 friends and family gathered to celebrate **2024 Women's World Horseshoe Champion, Penny Steinke**, in spectacular fashion. The group took over the **Toyota Territory**, an exclusive fan section outfitted with a full buffet, complimentary drinks, and a vibrant atmosphere perfect for making memories.

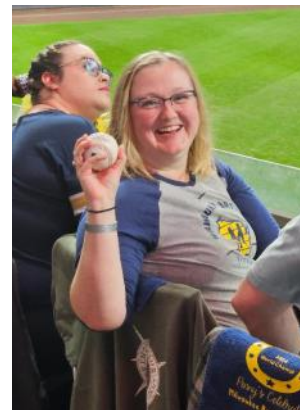
The night's highlight? Penny was honored on the field, taking the mound to throw out the **ceremonial first pitch** in recognition of her recent world championship victory. The crowd erupted in cheers as Penny delivered her pitch to kick off a game full of excitement.

Each guest was given **custom rally towels** to wave and **can koozies** to hold their beverages, which added a special touch to the celebration. Spirits were high, and the good vibes only grew stronger when **Christian Yelich** crushed a **two-run homer**—landing it directly into the Toyota Territory in his historic 1,500th game! In a stroke of luck, Penny's friend, **Stephanie**, even walked away with the ball.

And then came the **Sausage Race**—a beloved Brewers tradition. As the mascots rounded the final stretch, it was the **Polish Sausage** who crossed the finish line first. That victory held extra meaning for Penny. The Polish Sausage was Penny's mom's favorite, and she couldn't help but feel that their angel in heaven gave a little push from above to will the Polish Sausage for the win.

To top it all off, the **Brewers triumphed over the Houston Astros**, sealing the night with a decisive **5-1 victory**. The game flew by in a blur of laughter, cheers, and celebration, leaving everyone with **full hearts, full bellies, and unforgettable memories!**

It was more than just a ballgame. It was a celebration of achievement, friendship, and hometown pride—a perfect spring night in Milwaukee that won't soon be forgotten.



Stephanie with HR ball.



Beloit Encore

May 10, 2025

Dan Newkirk

Class A

Penny Steinke	5	1	70.42
Jeff Gustafson	4	2	60.83
John Meyer	4	2	59.17

Class B

Ken Whitehouse	4	2	45.42
Kerry Morris	4	2	41.67
Eugene Pribnow	4	2	41.67

Class C

Rick Weller	5	0	44.00
Gerald Harris	3	2	38.50
David Volz	3	2	33.00

Class D

Sam Mataya	3	2	36.00
Joel Ramsdell	3	2	33.50
Paul Henning	3	2	31.50

Class E

Brian Schoonover	5	0	32.50
Loren Bamborough	3	2	32.00
Rondi Mengelt	3	2	28.00

Class F

Marna Galvan	4	1	21.00
Mike Gauthier	3	2	25.00
Chris Judson	3	2	24.50

Class G

Mike Loftus	3	2	25.00
Jeffrey Madison	3	2	24.00
Tom Steinke	3	2	15.00

Class H

Guy Fleming Jr.	4	1	18.5
Sharyl Mataya	4	1	18.00
Scott Linhart	3.5	1.5	15.00



Class A
John Meyer, Penny Steinke,
Rich Bonner, Jeff Gustafson



Class B
Rowen Swick, Ken Whitehouse, Kerry
Morris, Eugene Pribnow



Class C
Gerald Harris, Rick Weller, Dave Volz



Class D
Joel Ramsdell, Sam Mataya, Paul Henning



Class E
Rondi Mengelt, Brian Schoonover,
Loren Bamborough



Class F
Mike Gauthier, Marna Galvan,
Chris Judson



Class G
Jeffery Madison, Mike Loftus, Tom Steinke



Class H
Sharyl Mataya, Guy Fleming Jr, Scott Linhart

Butternut Open

May 17, 2025 — Jer Wagner

Class A

Cliff Erickson	6	0	54.17
Les Karpel	3	3	41.67

Class B

Dennis Wegner	3	3	34.17
Jane Smith	3	3	31.25



Class A
Les Karpel, Cliff Erickson



Class B
Jane Smith, Dennis Wegner

Stevens Point Open

May 24-25, 2025

Fred Lane

Class A

John Nawrot	7	0	56.43
Ken Jaeger Sr	5	2	61.43
Cliff Erickson	5	2	53.21

Class B

Randy Mitchell	6	1	42.50
Susie Erickson	6	1	37.86
Dean Groshek	5	2	29.64

Class C

Gerald Harris	6	1	37.86
Kevin Hellenbrand	5	2	48.93
Russ Brockway	4	3	33.21

Class D

Steve Weigert	6	1	38.38
Dominic Saxby	5	2	32.50
Tim Sheehan	5	2	30.99

Class E

Brandon Peckham	5	2	22.89
Milo Castro	5	2	15.36
Hunter Kinjerski	4	3	27.86

Class F

Jeremy Studinski	4	1	12.00
Michael Sheehan	3	2	19.61
Ivan Mitchell	3	2	16.50



Class A
Ken Jaeger Sr, John Nawrot, Cliff Erickson,
Rich Callaway



Class B
Susie Erickson, Randy Mitchell, Dean
Groshek, Mark Rice



Class C
Kevin Hellenbrand, Gerald Harris,
Russ Brockway, Greg Smith



Class D
Dominic Saxby, Steve Weigert, Tim Sheehan,
Dan Sheehan



Class E
Milo Castro, Brandon Peckham,
Hunter Kinjerski, Scott Peckham



Class F
Michael Sheehan, Jeremy Studinski,
Ivan Mitchell

Riverfront Rendezvous

July 5, 2025

Fred Lane

Class A

Mona Lane	4	1	58.67
Terry Brandenburg	4	1	54.67
Eugene Pribnow	4	1	54.67

Class B

Doug Bakkum	6	1	47.14
Bradley Benzing	6	1	45.71
Robert Conachen	5	2	44.72



Class A
Terry Brandenburg, Mona Lane,
Eugene Pribnow, Rick Callaway



Class B
Susie Erickson, Bradley Benzing,
Doug Bakkum, Robert Conachen

Algoma Open

May 31, 2025

Duane Kinjerski

Class A

Ken Jaeger Sr	7	0	68.21
Rich Callaway	6	1	53.93
Randy Mitchell	4	3	45.71

Class B

Steve Wiegert	7	0	52.86
Greg Kinjerski	5	2	45.71
Dominic Saxby	5	2	32.86

Class C

Kent Frailing	5	0	34.40
Michael Maly	3	2	22.44
Leslie Mitchell	3	2	19.69

Class D

Brandon Kinjerski	4	1	22.40
Fred Lane	4	1	20.80
Ivan Mitchell	4	1	19.20



Class A

Rich Callaway, Ken Jaeger,
Randy Mitchell



Class B

Dominic Saxby, Steve Wiegert,
Greg Kinjerski



Class C

Michael Maly, Kent Frailing,
Leslie Mitchell, Robert Reinhart



Class D

Fred Lane, Brandon Kinjerski,
Ivan Mitchell

Eau Claire Open

June 1, 2025

Paul Wiese

Class A

Jim Bilderback	6	1	69.64
Dean Chaffee	5	2	44.29
Steven Grob	4	3	47.86

Class B

Kailee Grob	5	0	48.00
Dan Sheehan	3	2	38.80
Bob Kallstrom	3	2	37.60

Class C

Larry Danielson	4	1	28.40
Dennis Marquardt	4	1	25.60
Paul Wiese	3	2	14.40

Class D

Alec Marquardt	4.5	0.5	7.20
Luke Lundquist	3	2	6.00
Damien Werlein	3	2	4.00



Class A

Don Lammers, Dean Chaffee,
Jim Bilderback, Steve Grob



Class B

Dan Sheehan, Kailee Grob, Bob Kallstrom



Class C

Dennis Marquardt,
Larry Danielson, Paul Wiese



Class D

Luke Lundquist, Alec Marquardt,
Damien Werlein

Wolf River

June 7, 2025

Ken Jaeger Sr

Class A

Ken Jaeger Sr	7	0	65.36
John Meyer	6	1	67.14
Cliff Erickson	5	2	58.21

Class B

Randy Mitchell	6	1	50.00
Mark Rice	5	2	47.14
Susie Erickson	5	2	42.50

Class C

Steve Wiegert	7	0	53.21
Jane Smith	5	2	40.00
Hunter Kinjerski	4.5	2.5	38.21

Class D

Brandon Kinjerski	7	0	28.93
Brian Kasun	5	2	16.79
Gary Colton	5	2	13.21



Class A
John Meyer, Ken Jaeger,
Cliff Erickson, Roger Poutanen



Class B
Mark Rice, Randy Mitchell,
Susie Erickson



Class C
Steve Wiegert, Jane Smith,
Hunter Kinjerski, Kent Frailing



Class D
Fred Lane, Gary Colton,
Brandon Kinjerski, Brian Kasun

Spring Fling

June 7, 2025

Dan Newkirk

Class A

Penny Steinke	5	0	67.50
Cliff Shave	4	1	76.50
Dennis Reid	2	5	60.00

Class B

Robert Fleege	5	1	45.83
Dave Quaid	4.5	1.5	40.83
Paul Henning	4	2	45.83

Class C

Brian Schoonover	5	0	26.50
Robert Starck	3	2	31.50
Chris Judson	3	2	28.50

Class D

Jeffery Madison	5	0	37.00
Tom Steinke	4	1	26.00
Mike Loftus	3	2	24.50



Class A
Cliff Erickson, Dennis Reid,
Penny Steinke



Class B
Roger Ehlers, Paul Henning,
Bob Fleege, Dave Quaid



Class C
Robert Starck, Brian Schoonover,
Chris Judson



Class D
Tom Steinke, Jeffery Madison,
Mike Loftus

Muskego Open

June 14, 2025

Tom Steinke

Class A

Penny Steinke	6	0	70.83
Cliff Shave	4	2	69.17
Rich Bonner	4	2	67.08

Class B

George Moraza	5	1	56.67
Zak Schwartz	5	1	54.58
Robert Fleege	4	2	55.42

Class C

Bob Klingaman	6	0	41.67
Jeffery Madison	4	2	38.33
George Dorn	3	3	35.42

Class D

Christina Purnell	6	0	22.50
Mark Kubisiak	4	2	23.33
Dan Newkirk	4	2	18.33



Class A
Mona Lane, Rich Bonner,
Penny Steinke, Cliff Shave



Class B
Kenneth Whitehouse, Zak Schwartz,
George Moraza, Bob Fleege



Class C
George Dorn, Bob Klingaman,
David Palmersheim, Jeffery Madison



Class D
Guy Fleming Jr, Dan Newkirk,
Christina Purnell, Mark Kubisiak

Ken Lovaas Memorial

June 21, 2025

Dan Newkirk

Class A

Cliff Shave	5	0	70.00
Dennis Reid	3	2	63.00
Rich Bonner	3	2	57.50

Class B

Robert Fleege	5	0	49.00
Ken Whitehouse	4	1	53.00
Steve Kulow	3	2	33.00

Class C

Dave Quaid	4	1	36.50
Dave Leckwee	3	2	30.00
George Dorn	3	2	27.00

Class D

Tim Davenport	5	0	31.00
Mike Loftus	4	1	19.00
Richard Conrad	2	3	20.00



Class A
Rich Bonner, Dennis Reid,
Cliff Shave



Class B
Kenneth Whitehouse, Bob Fleege,
Steve Kulow



Class C
George Dorn, Dave Quaid,
Dave Leckwee



Class D
Mike Loftus, Jim Davenport,
Richard Conrad

The Patriot

July 4, 2025

Dan Newkirk

Class A

Cliff Shave	5	0	74.5
Rich Bonner	4	1	64.00
Penny Steinke	3	2	75.00

Class B

Dan Bloom	6	0	53.75
Robert Fleege	4	2	37.50
Kalena Quaid	4	2	36.67

Class C

Jeffrey Madison	5	0	39.00
Roger Anderson	3	2	36.00
Steven Miller	3	2	35.00

Class D

Jim Huckabee	4.5	0.5	33.00
Brenden Kane	5.5	4.5	22.50
Loren Bamborough	2	3	23.00

Class E

Chris Judson	5	0	27.00
Dave Leckwee	3	2	26.50
Mike Gauthier	3	2	24.00

Class F

Marna Galvan	4	1	23.00
Hank Schoenbeck	3	2	22.00
Tom Steinke	3	2	12.50

Class G

Mary Thompson	5	0	19.50
Georgia Beebe	4	1	15.00
Jack Zane II	3	2	10.00



Class A

Jeff Gustafson, Kerry Morris, Penny Steinke, Rich Bonner, Ken Whitehouse, Cliff Shave



Class B

Dave Volz, Rowen Swick, Paul Henning, Kalena Quaid, Jim Tollefson, Dan Bloom, Robert Fleege



Class C

Roger Anderson, Steven Miller, Dave Quaid, Gerald Harris, Bob Klingaman, Jeffery Madison



Class D

Dan Newkirk, George Dorn, Loren Bamborough, Brenden Kane, Brian Schoonover, Jim Huckabee



Class E

Mike Gauthier, Rondi Mengelt, Dave Leckwee, Chris Judson



Class F

Tom Steinke, Kevin Brekke, Kathy Fleege, Rich Brockway, Marna Galvan, Hank Schoenbeck



Class G

Brian Walsh, Jack Zane II, Georgia Beebe, Mary Thompson



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