



Mark Stevens

Hall of Fame Inductee

2011

Mark of a Champion

Mark Stevens grew up on his family farm two miles south of Marengo, WI; eighteen miles from the shores of Lake Superior. He has a brother and sister who are his local horseshoe support system. He works evening security at Columbia Forest Products in Mellen. He is a life long resident of the Marengo area. His brother Steve accompanies Mark to many of the tournament competitions.

He pitched his first horseshoe tournament at the Ashland County Fair in 1971; capturing 1st Place in 1975 continuing to dominate for nine straight years. He would win for over 20 years including some doubles titles.

Mark began pitching in the Ashland City Horseshoe League during the mid seventies at Beaser Park. After beginning with the "flip" shoe, he switched to the $\frac{3}{4}$ turn; his average soared to 60%. He entered his first indoor horseshoe tournament on blue clay in Bigfork, MN. He pitched against many of Minnesota states legends – Jack O'Conner, Dave Hughes, Dale Lipopsky – to mention a few. When pitching in the Duluth Open in the 1970's he met Curt Bestul from Eau Claire. The rest is history as Mark entered Wisconsin tournaments including Marshfield, Eau Claire, and the State Tournament sites. He also pitched in the Michigan UP defeating their reigning State Champion. Upon entering the WI State tournaments, Mark began in Class B but after a few years was Wisconsin State Champion for three consecutive years. A memorable state playoff game was a victory over Carl Joppe! Mark continues to pitch shoes in Wisconsin tournaments and the Range Horseshoe League in Michigan.

Mark has also pitched in World tournaments, beginning in Eau Claire in 1987. He narrowly missed the top 32 percentages with a 68% average. He had opportunity to meet Ted Allen who has designed the shoes Mark now pitches. Mark has had successful World Tournaments bringing home Class Champion trophies from Hibbing, Eau Claire, Springfield, and Cedar Rapids. He won these titles with a $1 \frac{1}{4}$ turn shoe.

The support of his family, friends and fellow pitchers he has met throughout the years shows what a great state we live in!

Congratulations to Mark as he is truly a worthy member of the Wisconsin Hall of Fame.