



Aleena Lepak

2022 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

Aleena Lepak has been around horseshoes since she was an infant. Her grandparents, Dan & Sylvia David, and parents, Mel & Sonia Cook, had taken up horseshoes long before Aleena was even born. Aleena started pitching in competition in the Marshfield Horseshoe league the first summer she was strong enough to pitch from 30 feet. The 9-year-old had a 6% average. In 2001, Aleena competed in her first World Tournament at 10 years old. She won the Junior Girls State title four years later. Aleena became the 2006 Junior Girls World Champion the following year. Aleena also claimed the Junior Girls state title in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Those same years, the 4-time State Champion qualified for the championship class at World tournaments, earned multiple scholar pitcher awards, and placed in many tournaments and league.

Aleena started pitching in the Women's Division in 2010. She claimed her first Wisconsin Women's state title two years later. She went on to keep the Women's State crown for 6 straight years, losing only 2 games over those 6 state tournaments. Her best state championship performance came with her last title in 2017, as she averaged 73.87%. Aleena is the second female to win 10 state titles, and trails only Gert Wilczek, who has won 11 titles. Aleena was also part of Wisconsin's Team World Champion teams in 2018, 2019, and 2022. She has averaged 66.23% across those three Team World titles. Aleena finished in 6th place in the women's championship class at the 2021 World Tournament in Winnemucca, Nevada, with a 73.32% average. Aleena continues to work on improving as she now often averages 70%+ and has recorded high games into the 80% range and even 90%+.

Aleena is a past board member for the Marshfield club and continues to stay involved as the current club's treasurer. In 2012, Aleena was asked, and accepted, the position of NHPA Junior Promotions Director. During that time, she was the main contact for all juniors, cadets, and their parents, along with writing articles for the NHPA Newsline, highlighting various young pitchers across the country. She created the 'Just 4 Juniors' Facebook page. Aleena gave ideas to directors on how to include juniors and increase junior membership. She also donated horseshoes to upcoming juniors and cadets. She tried in various ways to contact high schools about including horseshoes in their curriculum. Aleena also helped coordinate and plan the Junior's parties at the World Tournament, along with being their shift director. Aleena enthusiastically carried out these duties for 7 consecutive World Tournaments.

In 2021, Aleena was honored to receive the NHPA Arch Stokes award for her promotional work as Junior Promotions Director. She is only the 3rd person from Wisconsin to receive this prestigious award. Dick Hansen and Lorraine Sternberg were the other two from Wisconsin to receive the Arch Stokes award. Aleena also received the WHPA President's award in 2021, for all of her work at the state and national levels. She has also had the honor of being a Wisconsin delegate at the World Tournament multiple times.

Aleena is now a 3rd generation WHPA Hall of Fame inductee following her grandparents and her mother. The Wing-Pritzlaff family is the only other family that can boast 3 generations of WHPA Hall of Fame members. Aleena is also the youngest person to be inducted into the WHPA Hall of Fame. With all she has accomplished, she looks forward to adding to her horseshoe legacy in the years to come.

The WHPA Hall of Fame Committee congratulates Aleena Lepak for her induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame.

