

2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee – Steve Wiegert



Steve Wiegert started pitching horseshoes in the late 1950's in his parents' backyard in Little Chute. The teenager spent many Saturday afternoons and evenings pitching shoes with his family and neighbors up until he graduated from high school. He purchased a house that happened to have sand courts in Green Bay in 1965. He started pitching on those courts just for the exercise after not pitching at all since high school. That's when pitching horseshoes turned into a life-long endeavor. His dad, Earl Wiegert (a good pitcher himself at 53%), introduced him to organized horseshoes. His first tournament was the Green Bay Open tournament run by Swen Bowman. Steve joined the Green Bay Horseshoe Club to pitch in league play. Steve then started pitching in various singles and doubles leagues and numerous open tournaments around the State including Combined Locks, Mountain, Sheboygan, and Germantown, to name a few that are no longer around.

Steve entered his first State Tournament in 1972, which was hosted by the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. He tied for first place in Class L with John Secord as they both finished with a 6-1 record. Steve won the class and averaged a class-high 29.0% ringers. Steve threw a flip shoe back in the 1960's and early 1970's and worked his average up to about 42%. He eventually began pitching the 1¾ turn at the advice of Wally Srenaski and raised his average above 50%. In 1976, Steve ran away with the Men's Class F title at the State Tournament in Combined Locks as he went 7-0 and pitched 66.29% for the tournament. Charlie Christopolis took 2nd place averaging 41.14%, losing only to Steve. He was able to pitch in Class B and even Class A in some tournaments after that success he had in 1976. This includes 17 times in State Tournaments from 1985 to 2009. Steve averaged 50.05% with 3,143 ringers in 6,280 shoes over that span and finished as high as 5th place with a 61.4% average in the Men's Championship Class in 1998 in Eau Claire. Steve has won over 100 games and is pitching in his 25th State Tournament this year.

Pitching in 11 World Tournaments tops the list of Steve's most memorable experiences in horseshoes. Playing in his first World Tournament in Eau Claire in 1987, and winning Senior Men's Class B in Gillette, WY, in 2006, were both big thrills for him. Steve also pitched in 3 Team World Tournaments in Beloit. His game against Alan Francis in his first Team World also ranks high as a memorable experience. Alan threw a 90% game, but Steve managed to score four points somehow! He is proud of his personal achievements in league play and in tournaments over the years. He won 26 class championship patches (that he knows of), including a tournament championship in Germantown in 1997, and another in Brothertown in 2006. Steve was also part of Green Bay teams that won the Club Team tournament at the Pitchin' Palace in Sturtevant in 1987 & 1989. However, Steve also has great memories with the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. Steve was league secretary for the doubles'/couples' league for 39 years, and the Thursday night league for over 20 years. He was co-Tournament Director for the 63rd State Tournament in Green Bay in 1985 and directed many other GBHC tournaments. Steve values those experiences as much as he values his time pitching horseshoes. The Green Bay Horseshoe Club unfortunately dissolved in the early 2000's.

Steve has had the pleasure of pitching with and against 26 members of the WHPA Hall of Fame, including Green Bay selections Swen Bowman (1979), Carl Joppe (1986), and Wally & Cy Srenaski (1991). It's been a privilege and honor to have pitched against all of them. It has also been a real privilege to have pitched against so many state horseshoe pitchers. Steve feels honored and blessed to be selected for induction into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Hall of Fame, and he is most appreciative to all that have given him this recognition. Congratulations to Steve Wiegert for his induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame!