



## **Ken Jaeger 2005 Hall of Fame Inductee**

Ken was born to a large family of seven brothers and three sisters, which were all born and raised on a dairy farm. In 1972 he married his devoted and supportive wife Kathy, who also came from a family of nine. In 1973 they had a son, and named him Ken

also known as Ken Jr., who in later years became three time WHPA State Jr. Champion.

Ken was employed at Allis Chalmers, in Appleton, WI. for 30 years, where he was a Journeyman, welder fitter. He fabricated heavy machinery, such as paper machinery, rock crushers, portable plants, asphalt plants, huge loop conveyors for unloading ships, and pumps that would pump 200,000 gallons of water a minute. He currently is employed at Waupaca County Highway as a Welder-Fabricator.

Ken and his brothers would pitch shoes for the fun of it when they were kids, when a leaner was 2 points. When his dad would go visit his brothers in Gillette, WI, he never got to pitch shoes, so often just watched them hoot and holler, and enjoying their big bottle of beer. Those were the days! Ken got started pitching in 1978 at his open house party, when he lost seven dollars, pitching games to 21 points.

In 1979 he joined the Wolf River Ringers Club, which was had members strong. He has been a true worker/leader in the horseshoe world as evidenced by his participation on many levels. He served two terms as Club President, four years as Club Treasurer, Tournament Director of the Wolf River Open since its start in 1991, and Sanction League Director for the past six years. Has hosted and co-hosted NHPA sanctioned tournaments in Plover and Eagle River. He has served as assistant regional director, and enjoyed being President of the WHPA for eight years. For the past two years, he has been the Wisconsin Charter 28 Regional Director. He worked with Chippewa Valley Visitors Bureau, Eau Claire Club, Jane Smith and Ken Kosky in 1999 to put in a bid to host the World Tournament in 2002. The bid for the World Tournament was secured for 2003. He enjoyed helping hosting the 2003 World Tournament, because

Ken, along with Ken Kosky, were the brains behind the tournament. Their leadership pulled many horseshoe people together for a common goal... a successful World tournament in Wisconsin.

Not only was Ken a promoter of one of life's best games but also a participant. He pitched his first WHPA Tournament in 1981 and first State Tournament in 1982 and has pitched in every one since... for decades! While pitching horseshoes his high tournament was 60.22 %. He has held around a 50 to 55 % average for the past few years, and has won five class A sanction tournaments. He has also pitched at World tournaments and served as a Wisconsin delegate at the National Convention.

In his spare time he designed, constructed and donated about 25 portable courts for fund raisers at a variety of horseshoe events.

Anyone who has spent time at horseshoe tournaments has had the pleasure of visiting and knowing a very fine man. Congratulations Ken Jaeger, you are a deserving inductee into the Wisconsin Hall of Fame.