

# ❖ WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER ❖

AN AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION

CIRR. 402

MAY 1997

## TEAM-WORLD

Horseshoe's big team event will be looking for some better weather this year. Often plagued with the miserable cold weather of April, Team World has opted for a later date. Friday, May 16th Team-World will begin the annual event in the Beloit hockey arena called Edwards Sport Center.

Twenty-four teams have entered. Defending Champions Minnesota is returning with two teams. Missouri and Illinois entered four teams each. Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa will be represented three times. Kentucky, Colorado, Ontario and Michigan are all repeat entries. Ohio is the new entry this year boasting the exciting duo of Alan and Amy Francis. Alan is current World Champion and Amy is of world caliber class in the women's division.

Wisconsin's top five pitchers selected for the Team-World and sponsored by the WHPA are Clayton Gage, 80.48; Lorraine Sternberg, 79.86; Don Kangas, 71.33; John Udelhofen, 69.93; and John Barden, 63.47. (State champion, Randy Rein has committed to a hunting trip.)

Although Wisconsin was in the thick of it last year, there are some great hurdles to overcome. Ontario with Sandy Jassens at 89.3% has the high team average over 79%. Kentucky along with Sue Snyder and Lois Webster average near 78%. Defending champions, Minnesota with ladies World Champion, Bev Nathe, and Dale Lipovsky show 76% as a team. Wisconsin is also at 76%. Missouri is near 73%. Indiana and Illinois are over 71%. Ohio, last of the top eight seeds at 70%, is also after a spot on the finals ladder.

While World Champions, Francis and Nathe, are sure to attract their share of attention. Real horseshoe fans are aware of the many former World Champions returning to this tournament. Only three teams of the top eight will be pitching without the benefit of an ex World Champion.

Two additional teams will pitch for Wisconsin. Edie McKinney, 71.62, Jane Smith, 67.02, Gus Schram, 62.07, and Larry Barber, 58.90 were entered as the #2 team. The third team of five players includes; Carolyn Stittleburg 61.04, Marv Huffman, 59.17, John Koepp, 56.71, Jim Larson, 55.45, and John Crook, 48.74.

Team-World rules limit a team entry to two thirty foot players. That limitation has patterned the top Wisconsin teams the past few years, perhaps more than other state teams. The short distance limit is the reason we see high average pitchers playing for the #2 state team.

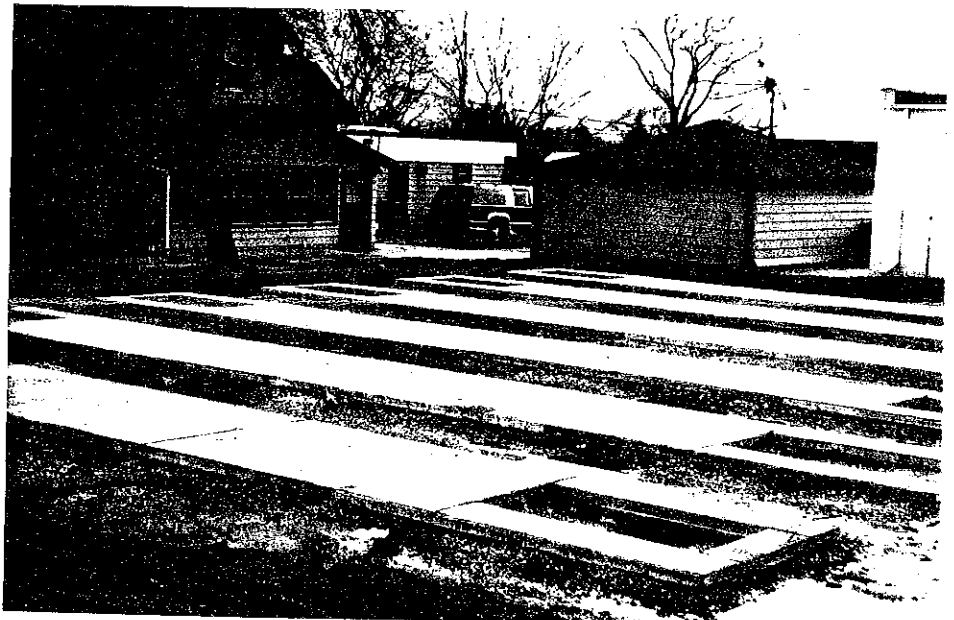
In the case of five player teams, only four can pitch a given match so the fifth member is really on standby offering mostly moral support. The team on the courts may change their line-up but the particular four must be declared before the coin flip

## DISCOVERED! - SIX NEW COURTS

Another watering -hole has gone the popular route of "Sports Bar." This place is the KRanch in Cudahy a Southeastern suburb of Milwaukee. Six new horseshoe courts have been added; two volleyball courts are in the making

Located near the Northeast corner of the Milwaukee County Airport the KRanch is already a people place. A V.F.W. sign and another for the Suckers Fishing Club hang near the street entrance. The establishment in and out looks the role of an up to date sports bar complete with many oversize TV screens

Last Fall the contractor said for only a few dollars more in material he could pour a continuous concrete slab six feet wide from pit to pit - 48 ft long. He did it six times.



There were still a few snowflakes in the air when we checked out the new work this Spring. Stakes are now in. Backboards have yet to be installed. Choice of pit material, sand or clay, will be influenced by the type of horseshoe pitchers attracted. Landscaping has begun. Grass will come with the season. A protective fence is planned and of course lighting.

The owner, Jerry Kotarak, would like some horseshoe pitchers to come in and actually take over the management of a league or leagues. Kotarak foresees his own role as simply promoter - similar to a bowling proprietor.

K-Ranch is located at 4840 S Whitnall Av., just a block or so South of Layton. The big sign says, "Horseshoe Leagues Now

Prior to each match, team captains come to the head table to call heads or tails for the option of making the pairings in that round. It's a communal coin flip. Heads on one line; tails on the other. Captains have to be wary. Some have been seen standing alongside their opposing captain sharing the same line.

The coin flip: it's fun but can make or break the match.

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Franksville, WI 53126

When you are up to your neck in trouble, try using the part that is not submerged.

If you want to stay out of debt, act your wage. R.D.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
AND DATES**

**APR 26 CLUB TEAM** at Beloit \$80/team early entry or \$85 at cts  
Jim Haupt 5075 N Elkhart Av Milwaukee, WI 53217

414-964-2735 **NHPA #28-97-006** D/L 4-12

**APR 27 STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT** at Beloit \$20  
John Secord W6868 Brown Sr Fond du Lac WI 54937

414-922-0080 **NHPA# 28-96-007** D/L 3-31

**MAY 1 deadline for WORLD TOURNAMENT entry**

**MAY 3-4 THE BELOIT ENCORE** \$17

Earl Paulson 7105 So Co Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511

608-879-2304 **28-97-008** D/L 4-26

**MAY 10 EAU CLAIRE EARLYBIRD** \$5

Dennis Kieser 1628 5th W #1 Menomonie, WI 54751

715-235-6535 **28-97-011** D/L3/26

**MAY 10 MUSKEGO DOUBLES** \$20/team

Tom Steinke 155 S Charles St Waukesha, WI 53186

414-542-0252 **unsanctioned** D/L3/26

**MAY 16-17-18 TEAM-WORLD** \$200/team

Earl Paulson 7105 S Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511

608-879-2304 **28-97-009** D/L 4-12

**MAY 24-25 PLATTEVILLE** \$15

Norm Mauthe 865 Eastman St Platteville, WI 53818

608-348-9697 **28-97-013** D/L 5-9

**MAY 31 last day for NHPA card at regular price**

**MAY 31 JUN 1 BROTHERTOWN CLASSIC** \$14

Jim Haupt 5075 N Elkhart Av Milwaukee, WI 53217

414-964-2735 Limited **28-97-014** D/L 5-17

**JUN 7 -8 WOLF RIVER OPEN**; New London \$13

Ken Jaeger N3539 Knight Rd New London, WI 54961

414-982-6287 **28-97-015** D/L 5-24

**JUN 8 ST. JOHN'S BAZAR; Waunakee** \$?

Tip Wipperfurth Hy K 6010 Waunakee, WI 53597

**608-849-4655 unsanctioned doubles 16 cts on grass**

**JUN 14-15 EAU CLAIRE OPEN** \$15

Dennis Kieser 1628 5th St W#1 Menomonie, WI 54751

715-235-6535 **28-97-016** D/L 5-31

**JUN 14-15 BELOIT SPRING SINGLES**

Earl Paulson 7105 S Co Hy H Beloit, WI 53511

608-879-2304 **28-97-017** D/L 5-31

\*\*Sanctioned Tournaments indicated by number

**WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER**

W204 N11912 Goldendale Rd

Germantown, WI 53022

**414-628-1484**

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## THE SANDBAR SPORTS ARENA IN ARENA, WISCONSIN

The Sandbar is located in the Wisconsin River valley about 28 miles west of the University of Wisconsin town of Madison. Called the Sandbar Sports Arena because of Dave Forseth's canoe rental business headquartered there (about 50 boats). But this place is more than that.

The building began life as a modern day hen house or chicken coop. It's a big place. Eight clay horseshoe courts occupy only a third of the space which has turned into a "family" recreation center. Folks of all sorts can play horseshoe, volleyball, basketball, video games, and pool; attend dances, wedding receptions, and banquets; come for Hawaiian night, Halloween, New Year's eve, or Super Bowl Sunday. Sometimes they even feature wrist wrestling! When the sun goes down and the younger "family" members begin

to prowl, the amplifiers come out.

Those new-age bands that carry a semi load of equipment that can blast your socks off are often on the weekend billing - all girl bands, all guy bands, and some bands that play real music. It may be accurately concluded, refreshments are a main order of business.

Owner and entrepreneur, Dave Forseth, is a sometimes horseshoe pitcher. Sometimes, when he has a spare moment, he steps in to complete a team or fill a class. Most other times he busy working the bar, the kitchen, the farm, or some other venture.

There's vacant property surrounding the Sandbar. Forseth's latest project is turning that property into a subdivision - sewer, water, and roads to accommodate maybe fifty lots. Last seen he was actively engaged running a de-watering system for the sewer

crew.

The Wisconsin River Valley horseshoe pitchers are blessed with this indoor horseshoe house rent free. That's right. There is no charge to pitch these courts, never has been. Although Forseth has been offered the option of a court fee, he has chosen to make access freely available.

The eight courts are set up four wide, back to back, four courts being just about the width of the building. They are cut into the floor, filled with blue shale clay, and feature a sleeved removable stake. Additionally, each court opening can be covered when not in use to accommodate activities that require a smooth floor.

As with most indoor horseshoe operations, the main drawback is clay dust. The floor is gray painted concrete with the traditional poultry building, garden rake finish. Signs throughout say, "Don't step in the pits," but dusty footprints show up literally seconds after the last mop job.

Sanctioned tournaments are scheduled once a month or seven

times over the indoor season. Meanwhile most other winter weekends the place is full (32 -36 pitchers) with doubles teams either Saturday or Sunday depending on and subject to the Green Bay Packer game days. These mini-tournaments, all unsanctioned, run like a show-up tournament by reservation. The organizers, Tip Wipperfurth or Carl Gilbertson, will hold a spot for your team. Usually the games are 40-48 shoes (20-



24/man). Total points are recorded to determine placement order when win/loss records coincide. No scoresheets means no ringer percentage. It's too tough to keep count. The large group is divided into A and B by percentage. Most pitchers have a card and a published NHPA average. To their credit, Arena pitchers have refrained from 'loaded teams.' Entry fee is a modest \$6-\$7 with a portion going to the keeper of the result board. Cash awards include the top half - four places. On those doubles days the pitching format includes a scheduled lunch break so that everyone gets a chance for a famous Sandbar cheezeburger or other choice menu item.

For six years Wisconsin Horseshoe pitchers have enjoyed the facilities of the Sandbar and the overly liberal welcome of Dave Forseth but the fifty houses due to flank the establishment may someday threaten its future existence.

When asked the sale price for a lot with a guarantee the courts would remain, Forseth countered with, "For \$300,000 you can have a lot and we'll throw in the 'place.'"



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**WPHA JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
REPORT**

**1997 LAS VEGAS OPEN**

1994 Spring Meeting

Balance as of October 19, 1996.....\$10,049.27

RECEIPTS:

Tournaments...\$169.25  
Clubs.....00.00  
Personal.....00.00  
Interest..... 94.32  
TOTAL..... \$263.57

LIABILITIES

1 Scholarship @ \$25  
2 Scholarships @ \$50  
2 Scholarships @ \$100  
6 scholarships @ \$150  
1 Scholarship @ \$200  
7 Scholarships @ \$300  
TOTAL.....\$3525

Disbursements:

Penny Steinke.....\$1200

Balance as of March 15, 1997.....\$9,112.84

The Vegas Open of 1997 was in a new location - the Hotel San Remo. The same Vegas style portable courts were setup in a big tent on the parking lot. A problem, it was reported, arose with the synthetic clay. Colder than the former indoor temperatures where these courts worked so well, caused the material to stiffen to the point where the surface would sometimes refuse the shoe. Ringer percentages attained were appreciably down across the board. Only fifteen of the 303 players entered managed to pitch over 50%.

Oddly the tournament champion and runner-up were the same pair in the same order as the previous year. Loree Meier of Missouri won the final game over Pintor of Colorado to become the 1997 Vegas Champion. Pintor was the only player to average in the sixty percentile bracket - 62.11%.

The conditions apparently were equal for all but in deference to those concerned resulting percentages will not be published here. Wisconsin pitchers surviving and their placements in class were: Class A, 22nd, Gus Schram of Ringle; Class D 8th, Tresea Donar, Cuba City; Class D 20th Dick Hansen of Franksville; Class I 24th Dean Baxter, Briggsville; Class J 17th Barbara Baxter, also Briggsville; Class K 18th Leroy Meyer of Appleton; and Class L 13th Bob Anderson of Eau Claire.

( Communiqué containing results received from "Mrs. Moose.")

**JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

I would like to thank Lorraine Sternberg for doing a great job of raising money for the Junior Scholarship Fund through her March benefit tournament at Arena also; Elaine Troullier for helping with the raffles, Paulette Hansen for donating the hand-crafted animal, and Tony Scrima for donating the hoeseshoe box.

I will need all the help I can get from tournament directors and whomever else if I'm going to be successful in raising money for the Junior Scholarship Fund.

The Fund requires a minimum of \$900 annually.

\$300...for Girl's State Champ      \$300...for Boy's State Champ  
\$150...for Girl's runnerup      \$150...for Boy's runnerup

I would appreciate any help, donations, or ideas.

Thank you,

Tom Steinke, Jr. Scholarsip Coord.

**THANK YOU EAU CLAIRE CLUB**

*I would like to thank the Eau Claire Horseshoe Club for inviting me to the Oakwood Mall to demonstrate and promote horseshoes along with Dale Lipovsky.*

*Marge and I had a great time visiting and pitching shoes. I think this was a great opportunity to take horseshoes where the people are for more exposure.*

*At least this year the Badger prevailed over the Gopher.*

*Thanks again,*

*-Randy Rein*

Make use of your brains as often as possible; after all, it's the little things that count.  
R. Dykes

**OAKWOOD MALL**

contributed by Elly Mccarn

The Eau Claire Club sponsored an NHPA sanctioned exhibition tournament within the Oakwood shopping mall featuring some of Wisconsin's state champions past and present along with three time World Champion, Dale Lipovsky of Minnesota.

The weekend in March started with a 5-player round robin. The two high ringer games of the event occurred in the same game. Edie McKinney and Randy Rein both pitched 80% with McKinney losing to Rein by the unusual score of 12 to 16. After the ten game event they put four on the one court in a walking exhibition.

Sat RR results

Randy Rein	4/0	73.12
Dale Lipovsky	3/1	73.12
Edie McKinney	2/2	66.25
Clayton Gage	1/3	61.87
Jane Smith	0/4	40.60

Sat Exhibition

McKinney over Rein	62.5% to 55.5%
Gage over Smith	75% to 32.5%

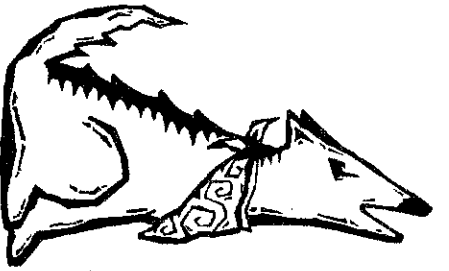
The following day Rein and Lipovsky began with a seven game match. It was all Rein over Lipovsky four in a row then Lipovsky came back winning the final three pitching a pair of high ringer games at 82.5%.

Two 40 point games followed. The first lasted 54 shoes - Lipovsky over Rein 70% to 54%. Lipovsky also won the final 82 shoe game pitching 75.6% to Rein's 71.9%.

Pudge Dahl, junior pitcher from Trenpleau was at the Mall both days. Sunday Dale played Pudge showing him how it's done scoring a 90% game.

Vinve Jakel was one of the hundreds of spectators to view the Oakwood Mall event over the weekend.

# WOLF RIVER



NEW LONDON, WOLF RIVER OPEN SINGLES TOURNAMENT  
JUNE 7-8, 1997 NHPA SANCTIONED 28-97-015

HATTEN PARK, NEW LONDON

Entry deadline 5-24 Limited to 97 entries 40-Shoe games  
CLASSES: Men and Women 30 & 40ft. players may be mixed

Entry fee \$13 - no extra fee at courts

Junior class if interest shown. Jrs; free entry, trophy only

PAYOUT: 100% less expenses each class-award to 1/2 class.

### ADDITIONAL DONATED MONEY:

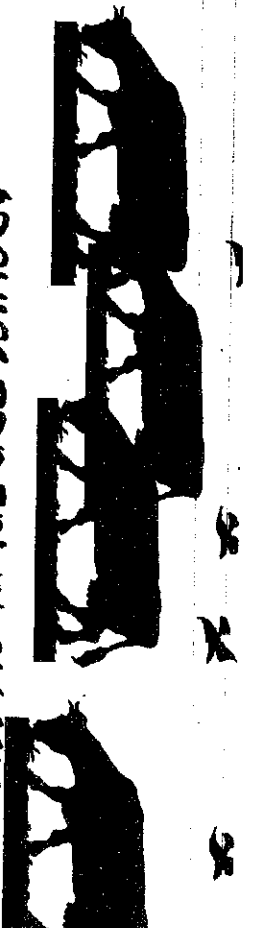
\$75 - 1st cl A Men; \$50 - 1st cl A women; \$50 - 1st cl B

Name..... NHPA card #.....

Address.....

City, State, Zip.....  
Mail Entries to:.....

Ken Jaeger  
N3539 Knight Rd  
New London, WI 54961  
414-982-6287



### ARCHIE'S BRO-TOWN CLASSIC

MAY 31- JUNE 1, 1997

Archie's Place is in downtown Brothertown, located on the East side of Lake Winnebago across from Oshkosh

Out back, next to the shed and the pasture, we will entertain forty-eight horseshoe pitchers. The aim is to offer 30 & 40 foot divisions but entries (before May 17th) will tell how the mix will go. Fee is \$14 of which maybe 80% will be left for awards. Expect some type of self-scorekeeping. Food and refreshments by Mary. Please enter early. fee at the courts is an additional \$2. NHPA Sanctioned #28-97-014

Name.....

Add.....

City, state, zip.....

send check to & in favor of Jim Haugi

5075 N Elkhart Av  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
414-964-2735

... ..

Spring Singles? Isn't March the month with the lion-lamb thing? This was the middle of April and we had 7" of snow! Bad Driving! Randy Rein complained it was the first tournament he traveled to requiring the use of 4-wheel drive.

Some wheeled in the night before like Ray and Leona Hill from Wakefield, Michigan and the Jaegers, Ken and Kathy of New London. "Crazy," Larry Barber called himself after the drive down from Rhinelander but, all the crazies were there.

Driving Hwy 14 to Arena can be scenic. Usually the passenger seat is on wildlife watch for deer and turkeys. Should have been easy with the white backdrop. Alas, this day we found all the turkeys were inside - inside the Sandbar.

John Crook volunteered to join the ranks of the Arena Tournament Directors Society and do this April Singles event. He came prepared. Crook donated two outdoor prints, by the artist Denault, for raffle prizes to augment the Junior Scholarship Fund. Each print featured a well antlered buck deer. Jaeger thought he recognized one as a casual visitor to his hunting acreage so he bought 14 tickets.

Counting ringers-only has become the scoring method of choice at the Sandbar for obvious reasons. The method comes with a down side. Unfortunately it eliminates one dedicated spectator per court. Also taking single points out of the game gives the whole affair all the romance and excitement of a qualifying round. Few, just a few, other pitchers cared to watch a talented class A perform.

Owner, Dave Forseth has the answer - in house television. From the barroom one can watch the action on the courts. Of course with a fixed camera location it's difficult to actually follow the game and impossible to view all courts. The system is really designed to focus on the main stage. Another concert was set to move in that night.

- A Randy Rein 75.4; John Udelhofen 67.5; L Sternberg 72.5
  - B Arnie Walton 53.2; Harold Brockway 41.4; Dan Bloom 55.4
  - C Bun Carley 56.1; Elaine Troullier 49.3; Tip Wipperfurth 45.0
  - DFred Decorah 43.2; Jim Haupt 38.2; Ken Olson 42.9
  - E Sonny Cockroft 40.7; John Cox 40.0; Rich Pichler 33.9
  - F Harry Laws 32.5; John Aeschlimann 37.9; Don Burmeister 33.9
  - G Rowen Swick 36.4; Sal Okon 42.1; Orville Baker 34.6
  - H Jerry White 35.3; Tom Hanson 18.8; Dan Jaglowski 22.5
  - Jr Dustin Dahl 51.2; Wesley Rein 44.0; Barrent Dahl 49.2
- Print raffle GAIL SPURLEY and DAVE FORSETH  
 Outstanding performances were turned in by Bun Carley in "C" pitching 56.07% also Jerry White in "H" 9/0 with 35.31%.  
 High ringer game of tournament - Lorraine Sternberg 87.5%.

**NOTICE PITCHERS FOR THE FIELDHOUSE**

Dick Hansen is looking for pitchers to fill a Wednesday evening SANCTIONED league at the Fieldhouse in Racine County. Call 835-9108 for complete information

**RIVER VALLEY RUMBLE**

This the way they do it in the Wisconsin River valley - team up with another doubles team, that makes four pitchers, and take on all comers.

Tournament director and originator, Ron Berg set the entry cap at 180 percentage points based on the year end averages. Each pair played all other teams except their own. The six team format with four men each meant ten games for each pair in what amounted to a double round robin. Games were limited to 20 shoes per man.

Every team would lose a few. Winners lost the least - 6 losses in 20 games. The key was to limit the stumbles and try to steal a



Carl Gilbertson

Carolyn Stittleburg

few games from some pairs with paper averages better than yours.

Berg himself could not pitch this day being hobbled by some minor surgery. Another Blue Ridge member, Tony Scrima, was also unavailable. It led to reorganization of the Blue Ridge team. Arnie Walton tried to enter a team after the limit had been reached. Berg took the man not the team. Gerry Weikert later subbed for Berg. Luckily the percentage cap was not stretched by the other pair, Rich Conrad and Jim Haupt. Blue Ridge, thus altered, went on to immortality winning the 2nd River Valley Rumble.

Second place was actually a tie with the nod going to the Sandbar team of John Udelhofen, Jerry White, John Aeschlimann and John Crook. The Platteville Team of Norm Mauthe, Orville Baker, Ken Olson, and Lavern Edge were edged out for third.

The sign on the wall gave an accounting of the expenses and prize money. "1st place...\$160; 2nd place...\$90 3rd thru 6th...Thanks for the donation."

To create a lasting tribute befitting the importance of the title, Berg inscribed a broken piece of a concrete block declaring it the traveling trophy of the River Valley Rumble to forever be on public display over the entrance to the Sandbar ladies room

Message from Ron Berg: "I am glad to report that they got all the cancer on my leg I have been pitching (actually quite well). I guess the winter is a time for me to be tournament director hopefully summer is my time to be tournament pitcher. A thanks to all who helped me out at the winter season of shoes."



Ray Hill, 78 yr. young, lives in snow country - not always conducive for pitching horseshoes. Fortunately this last season he found a place to pitch indoors - after the driveway is cleared.

## 1997 WORLD TOURNAMENT

Kitchner, Ontario, its not so far from Wisconsin, no more than a hard days drive. Wisconsin should be well represented at what the hosts beleive will be the largest World Tournament to date.

The traditional schedule that put all the open men under 40% on the courts for the first three days will likely be changed. More courts (58 ?) will accomodate more of the open mens class in those first three days. Expect the cut-off percentage to rise. Other divisions may also begin earlier. Women and Seniors may no longer be limited to the second week as they too may be able to start earlier.

We won't know until the schedule is out and as always pitching times determine reservations for accomodations. Some players intentionally over book the original reservation and then tune it up after seeing the schedule. When reserving, it's a good practice to know the options and ask about refund policies.

Anticipating the World Tournament schedule is as uncertain as forecasting the weather : We can only be certain of tomorrow's weather the day after.

*In America a man can choose his own form of government - a blonde, brunette, or a redhead.*

Garage Sale: Selling odds to meet ends.

Smile, it improves your face value

R Dykes

## RAY HILL - KING OF THE U. P.

Ray Hill is a Michigan, Upper Peninsula, horseshoe pitcher who has done most of his tournament playing in Wisconsin.

Hill, always lived in Wakefield, pitched a few shoes as a youngster but only got into organized horseshoes in the late 1960's when they put a league together in Gifa Center. Hill was by then in his late forties working as a 'drill doctor' for the copper miners..

A few years later, 1973, he won the Upper Peninsula Championship as noted in Pitching Championship Horseshoes by Ottie Reno. Hill won that title one more time before turning his attention entirely to the South.

First tournament in Wisconsin was at Mountain when the courts were next to the bar on the highway. We can't put a number on it but it was the year prior to the present court location of the Mountain courts alongside the Armstrong Recreation Center.

Many are impressed with the Hill style - smooth. Leona, his wife and constant companion sees it another way. Ray, she says,

*Ray Hill has been nominated to the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame. The credentials of a man of another state have been submitted for Wisconsin's highest award.*

*Essentially the honor has already been bestowed: Hill has been nominated - period.*

*That's as far as the Hall of Fame committee can take it. Their own guidelines firmly require ten years of WHPA membership.*

*In all likelihood for Hill to make the WHPA HOF the congress of the United States may have to re-assign the "territory" of the U.P. to the state of Wisconsin. Until then Ray Hill will go down as the only man refused based upon residency.*

*Wisconsin friends of Ray Hill would be justified to make this special award. "To Ray Hill, Horseshoe champion' and charter member of the U.P. Hall of Fame. - Presented by the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association."*

stands so erect because he has such a bad back.

Of tournaments, Hill had this to say in a 1989 interview. "...I pitched in U. P. tournaments. That was all dirt you know, and not much organization to it. I finally came down to Swen Bowman's tournament and saw how well organized it was. You started pitching when said you would. Since then I haven't pitched the U.P. tournaments at all. I hardly have time if I keep up with the Wisconsin schedule. And it's so much nicer to pitch on clay."

His proudest achievement in Wisconsin, Hill said, was winning the Eau Claire Open three consecutive years, 86, 87, and 88. Since then he also won it in 91 and 92.

They were good years. At the 1987 Eau Claire World, Hill came away with the Senior Men's World Championship. He is equally proud of the percentage he pitched to earn that title - 76.6% Hill did it again at the first Spearfish World tourney of 1989.

In 1993 Hill finally entered his first Michigan state tournament always conducted in the Lower Peninsula. Sure he took the state title, winning 11 games pitching the highest game of record in the State of Michigan. Hill is quick to admit the near perfect game happened in a blowout lasting only 28 shoes - Hill had 27 ringers. He may be the only man in Michigan who entered the State Horseshoe Tournament just one time and won it. He also may be the only U.P. man ever nominated to the Wisconsin Hall of Fame.



**DOWN AND BACK**

with Jim Haupt

Through the magic of E-Mail we have been in touch with those who are 'street-wise' in Ontario, Canada. Karen McLaughlin, wife of Kevin the originator of the M&M horseshoe lives in Sarina, Ontario just two hours from Kitchner, the site of the 1997 World Tournament.

The exchange rate of US dollars to Canadian funds is important, Karen says. She advises those using the Port Huron - Sarina crossing to Canada to exchange their money at the Blue Water Bridge. The exchange rate at the bridge is better than the banks on either side. The Ontario Tourism office after the crossing has the same rate as the bridge.

"It is better to exchange all the money you will use at the bridge exchange in Sarina or the Ontario Tourism building before you go to Kitchner - most places will not give you a fair exchange for your money eg. restaurants, hotels, stores, etc. I hope this information helps you a little." - Karen McLaughlin

down and back

The World Tournament of 1998 was slated for Morgantown, West Virginia. It's been rumored the Morgantown people want their deposit back. That sure makes it sound like past tense -was - is no longer - not interested; whatever you prefer.

To add credence, it has been reported that the NHPA has made inquiries of a site near Oconomoc, Wisconsin. The Holiday Inn of Oconomoc, near the new ski hill, was contacted by a person reportedly representing the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association late March of this year regarding availability and room for 48 horseshoe courts.

Forty-eight courts means World Tournament.

LaCrosse is another Wisconsin city approached and interested in the prospect of hosting a World horseshoe tournament.

It's the new way to obtain a World Tournament bid - working through the host, often a convention and tourism arm of municipal government. A host horseshoe club is no longer in the forefront.

down and back

**HURRAY! HURRAY!  
IT'S THE FIRST OF MAY,  
OUTDOOR PITCHING STARTS TODAY.**

—Author unknown

Don't bother sending verse. That's the last one!

Whiting Horseshoe Club in the Indiana town of the same name, is still at it. The court material is clay again!

For a couple of years the Whiting Club had synthetic clay in the four courts. They found their place was cleaner ( no dust) and they could wash the floor without danger of flooding the pits. In spite of it, pitching shoes was just not the same. Hang the expense; they went back to real clay - the kind a guy can shovel.

And yes, the dust is back. The sign says wash floor only once/week, but for real unaduterated nature's clay, its worth it!

Did an April tournament there. Saw some familiar faces like: Dale Stephenson, Luke Thompson (won B class) Rich Wisnewski (not pitching) Tom Reid (beat me) Ron Hopman (beat me) Larry Ferris( still steering the boat)his daughter Christy is now, a doctor, Dennis Reid (beat me) Warren Woolsey( now at 30' beat me) and Dalton Simmons. Hallie Romanelli also beat me. I didn't want to show them any of the good stuff I've been learning in Wisconsin.

**THE WINDUP AT ARENA**

Tip Wipperfurth closed out his Arena doubled series the last Saturday in March. Nine teams played the back courts (with a bye) while the A group had the normal compliment of eight teams.

It's been happening throughout the indoor season. Wipperfurth and Carl Gilbertson have kept the Sandbar pitchers active with the unsanctioned doubles events usually announced about three weeks prior. If they would schedule sooner it could be published here.

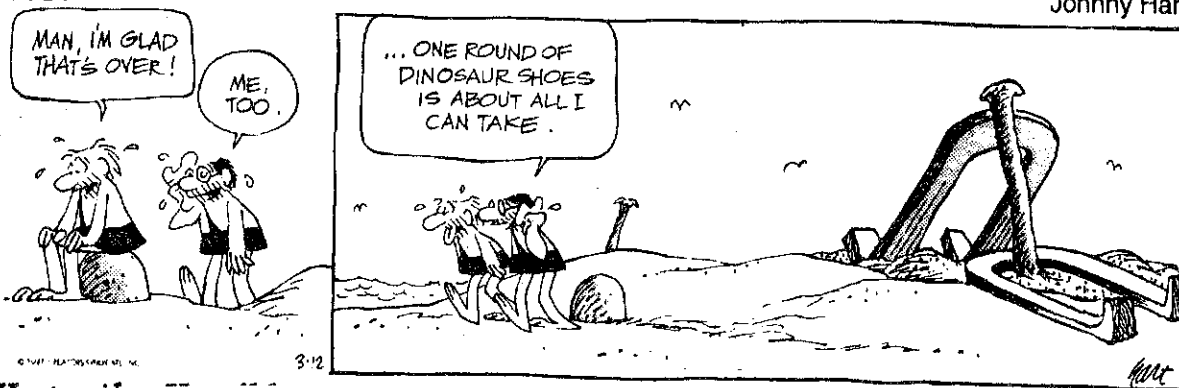
Although Wipperfurth is a fair flipper, he has a greater flair for picking partners - the right partner. He saw Carolyn Stittleburg pitch an eighty percent game a week earlier. They combined for this last doubles event to win first place. Arnie Walton, lately a regular on the cash list, roused out a rusty John Barden. They were manged the runner-up spot while Herman Adler and Bob C Anderson took third.

On the back courts, John Carlin and Bill Dahmen took the honors. Ken Olson and his neighbor Orville (Joe) Baker cashed for second, and another traditional team of Fred Decorah and Julian Tjerina were third.

The fine line between the A and B groups could only be determined using published averages. Fortunately most Arena pichers carry an NHPA card. Good tournaments depend upon the availability of a sanctioned average.

Last summer in Ear Falls, Ontario, I was waiting for a flight to a outpost camp for a week of fishing and found the base camp had one horseshoe court. So I guess I can say I've already pitched in Canada. Somebody remembered and sent this comic. -From Lac Seul Airways Ltd.

3.C.



Johnny Hart

# THE RINGLE-SINGLE



## DELIVERY

These days we hear a bunch of hype about delivery. UPS, Priority Mail, and Fed-Ex are the common types but up in RINGLE SINGLE country we are known to do things a little differently.

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Designed and developed by Gus Schram, R7239 Hy Q, Ringle, Wi 54471

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