

## JANE SMITH

Jane Smith, an excellent horseshoe pitcher and five-time Wisconsin Women's Champion, started pitching in a ladies' league in 1979 as an alternative to playing softball. Although weekends, until 1982, were still spent on the diamond, she found horseshoe tournaments less physically harmful.

She pitched in her first state tournament in 1981. Winning first in a playoff with Pat Eaton and Shary Klopp, she averaged 67.4% ringers. In consecutive years 1987 through 1990 she added four additional state titles. She consistently averages in the very high 60s and 70s with a 75.71% in 1990 State. Jane placed first in Ladies' Class A in the World Tournament at Spearfish in 1989.

Jane credits Pat Eaton with encouraging her in the Wisconsin tournaments and says, "She was an excellent mentor."

Jane is First Vice President of the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers' Association and Co-Regional Director with Jim Haupt. She has been President of the Polk County Horseshoe League and, at every opportunity, urges members to enter the State Tournament. Because of her promotion of the sport north of Highway 8, the league has grown from 100 to 300 members.

In 1984 she started a 50-shoe league known as the CLOSE DOESN'T COUNT CLUB. The annual NHPA-sanctioned Wet and Wild Tournament, held at Centuria Park in September, was begun by Jane as a convenience for those who require sanctioned tournaments for World. The past three summers she has taught horseshoes in the Summer School Program. She publicizes results of all tournaments entered by area pitchers and lists all coming tournaments in the local paper.

Jane has taught Home Economics in the Unity School District for 21 years. She looks forward to each new school year because she finds working with high school students very rewarding. For the past three years she has received an Outstanding Teacher Award, chosen for the honor by her peers.

Jane and her husband Kirby have been married for 17 "interesting and challenging years." Her parents, who live in Minnesota and five sisters and four brothers – all younger and scattered throughout the United States – follow the tournaments with interest, as does Kirby's mother from Tony, Wisconsin.

The Smith's home is in the middle of 50 wooded acres bordering a golf course. Their address is R.R. #1, Box 17, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

Jane would like to have more free time to golf but lists, as other recreational activities, walking (15-20 miles weekly), cross country skiing, reading, bowling, and watching professional sports – football, baseball, basketball, ice skating and bowling.

We congratulate Jane Smith for the impressive record she has compiled and consider it an honor to present this 1992 WHPA Hall of Fame award to someone who has done so much to promote the sport of horseshoe pitching.

