

## HAROLD BESTUL

The Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association presents a 1984 Hall-of-Fame award to Harold Bestul.

Harold started pitching horseshoes when he was in the first grade, using shoes that "came off the horses' hoofs." Since his father, uncle and grandfather were horseshoe pitchers, he soon had access to regulation shoes.



He entered his first state meet when he was twenty and many in the following years until the age of 32.

Then after, a 26-year period of no competition, while raising a family and running a dairy farm, he again entered tournament competition.

He placed first in many tourneys throughout the state and, although he had second, third, and fourth place finishes, the state title eluded him. He says, "The family always kidded me. I was always a bridesmaid but never a bride." Then, in the 1983 State Tournament Championship class, the top competitors ended in a four-way tie. He had to compete in two playoff games, and at the end he was the state champion. He believes he's the oldest man—at 67—to hold the state title. Harold says horseshoe pitching takes concentration, practice, and one more thing: PERSISTENCE!

He says he has had the good fortune to have known all but the first two Wisconsin champions. He also remembers the all-day 16-man round robin competitions at State Fair Park.

Harold, who is now 68, and his wife, Martha, have been married 35 years. They have a family of ten children, six of whom are married, and nine grandchildren (plus one on the way). Their son, David, is in the seminary and will be ordained a priest in one-and-a-half years. Their address is 105 Wigwam Road, Rosholt, Wisconsin 54473.

We are happy to present this award to Harold Bestul for his many years of horseshoe pitching and congratulate him on his success in the many tournaments he has entered throughout the state.