THE LAS VEGAS OPEN

BY JIM HAUPT

Blow some whistles, toot some horns, The Las Vegas Open rang in this horseshoe year with a splash.

438 pitchers, a new big number, made all events at the Showboat resemble mob scenes. Most all of the entrants and their guests, conservatively 600, freely attended the welcoming cocktail party gratis loading up on hors d'oeuvres and drinks while the classes were being formed behind the scene.

Donnie Roberts said, "Relax", things are moving along. Meanwhile he explained a few ground rules. The portable courts were a compact 2 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of "Klean Klay" (synthetic) about 2 inches deep. Shoes contacting the rubber front or back would int. Only the shoes off the concrete would be ruled foul. Upset your opponent, he suggested, bounce a ringer off the backstop. As Roberts entertained the troops, twenty-some handicapers were feverishly setting-up the seed for 18 mixed classes of 24 to 25 pitchers each. From "A" thru "R", we were told, all classes would be paid the same through 12 places.

When the classes were posted and we finally could get close enough to the board, we discovered the handicap throughout the middle classes was almost non-existant, ranging from a zero at the top to a two, sometimes a three at the bottom of each twelve player section. The top and bottom classes were a different story. There the handicap varied to as much as twelve points per section. Is that why class "A" is hard to crack?

Monday morning the clinks, clanks, and sometimes the clucks began for real. Score-keepers were no problem. At two dollars per forty shoe game many were willing to share the chore offsetting their own scoring pense or returning to the casino with alging pockets. For three -full-days, 7:00AM to plus or minus midnight, pitchers worked their way through all 36 sections playing sets of five, six, or seven games.

Walking past half-a-hundred bingo freaks and the quarter pumpers at 6:00AM is a confusing experience. Who's crazy here? Certainly anyone tossing a curved piece of iron at another straight piece of iron from a distance of 30 or 40 feet and then then expecting them to engage more often than not is a gambler of the first order. There are 'players' and there are pitchers and oft the twain are the same.

Wins and losses determined advancement. Total points earned settled the many ties. From the multi-colored result board we found who was in the top six: They would go into a ladder play-off. The next six cashed for \$50 each but no further play.

The Thursday finals was an easy day. Some dropped their only game: Some went all the way. It was pitching under new pressure. Those fortunate enough to get near the top rungs were pitching for big money - \$75 or \$100 a game; the same money as class "A". Handicaps were readjusted based on the pre-lims and further proved the deciding factor for the ladder finals.

The "A" ladder: Sixth seeded, Dave Loucks outpointed Bonnie Seibold in the first match. But Billie Sue Pennington took Loucks on the next rung. Pennington continued, winning her next two matches over Diane Lopez and then Vicki Winston. Number one seed. Nate Williams stopped Pennington in the final Game. The award checks would read: Seibold, \$100; Loucks, \$110; Lopez, \$125; Winston, \$175; Pennington, \$250; and Williams, \$350. Consider "A" only as an example. This day each of these six top finishers had a counterpart in seventeen other classes.

Donnie Roberts, co-director of this tournament and everlasting NHPA emcee, also conducted at the awards banquet introducing Don Weaver, the workhorse and other co-director who received much of the credit and most of the accolades. Don Gregson, Califoria president, warmed up the banquet laying a little rap-beat on us confirming

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ROYAL WOOD #1

Brian Repinski dispelled the axiom that a tournament director will perform better in someone else's tournament. After losing his first 35 point game to the state champ, Don Kangas, Repinski went on to pitch all wins and become the first Class "A" champ in his own house, Royal Wood.

Forty-one pitchers, half from the Plover - Point area, enjoyed the really neat facilities of the Royal Wood Sports Center. Six large courts with that dustless synthetic clay spread across a volley ball court provided the cleanest indoor layout these pitchers have ever seen. The long balcony above the near bank of pits was a near perfect viewing area...a somewhat new and unique way to watch the game of horseshoes.

"POINT BOCK IS BACK" said the banner on the volley ball net. The trophies were adorned with a "Point" beer can. Evidently there was some partial sponsorship here. How about another "Point" T-shirt proclaiming, "Horseshoes is a POINT game"?

Thanks to Doug Berry, an owner, who took an active part along with Gene and Pat Budelier, Michelle Repinski, and others - we expierienced another good tournament.

Next up at Royal Wood on February 10-11 will be a sanctioned event. Fifteen have allready signed up. See you there.



DICK HANSEN WHPA PRESIDENT

Winter can be very long for the horseshoe pitcher but not for me this year. A number of things have come across my desk that are worth passing on to all WHPA members and all with horseshoe interest. I just got back from a tournament at the new indoor courts at the Royal Wood Sports Center in Plover. It was, to say the least, a very enjoyable experience. The six courts in this multi sports complex were a real pleasure to pitch on. A well run tournament, a pleasant and accommodating host and good competition. What more could a pitcher want in the middle of January. The place deserves our support. Let's fill the tournaments in the months to come.

I have in the past told just about everyone that I think the NHPA Newsline is the best. Well, I wish to correct myself. It's not. I found something that is better and it was right here in our state. The Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter, the local happenings, stats and some color (in the printed form) too. For the small price of \$5.00 you can't go wrong. It kind of sounds like a plug doesn't it. Well I guess it is, for without it, your HPA. With it WHPA is, well just another much stronger, informed and to-Only together can we make the gether. WHPA stronger. If you want to know what I'm doing as your president, you need to read the Newsletter, if you don't like what the WHPA is doing, write it in the Newsletter. Use the Newsletter, re-order today.

My hats off to a group of hard working horseshoe promoters. The World Team Tournament will go on. They saw that a tournament that was this much fun was worth the hard work to keep it going in this state. Find luck to all those involved and thanks.

VALENTINE WEEKEND FEB. 10-11 ROYAL WOOD PLOVER, WI

COME

TANCIA CL. TOTOCH TE INC

LAS VEGAS CONTINUED

that California craziness. He was accompand by some of the 102 fellow Californians who made the trip. We listened to Ed Quigley, from out East who remembers more funny horseshoe stories than he had time to tell. He's a witty and entertaining man.

Roberts then called up to the forefront 216 winners to collect their cash awards. About half of the entrants split up over \$25,000! Trophy plaques sponsored by St. Pierre, maker of American horseshoes, went to the top six in each class.

Some were not present to accept their awards. Three hundred party people were present following through and finishing this tournament in style. A \$25 ticket included the cocktail hour and banquet dinner served at the table. Maybe \$25 is heavy bread but someone had to pick up the tab for the "welcome" party held four days earlier.

Squelching all rumors, Weaver assured the audience that the Las Vegas Open tournament is a go for 1991 but the particular Glitter-town resort has not yet been chosen. Save up your nickles; This is a good one.

SUMEVEGAS RESULTS	
Class- place in 11ga. W/L PCT final pla	ice
Cl B 5 Len Lipovsky 9-2 59.5%	5th
Cl B 20 Kent Anderson 3-8 43.1%	
Cl D 15 Louie Gschwendtner 5-6 45.0%	
Cl E 1 Phyllis Morton 10-1 48.0% 393pt 1	lst
(1) 12 9 Time Harrish 10 1 16 00 00m 1	Brd
Cl F 10 Tony Scrima 7-4 38.1%	
Cl I 2 JoAnn Kilstrom 8-3 39.89	Brd
Cl I 18 Inez Johnson 4-7 30.2%	
Cl K 10 Bob Traber 6-5 35.2%	
Cl K 21 Tom Cutts 3-8 33.2%	
Cl 0 2 LaVern Richard 11-1 29.4% 3	ad
Cl O 20 Frank Look 4-8 23.0%	
Cl P 20 Bob Anderson 4-8 18.4%	
Cl R 10 Leo Propp 3-5 (?) 13.18%	
Cl A 1 Nate Williams 10-1 68.4%	st
Cl A 2 Vicki Winston 8-3 79.5% 394pt 3	rd
Cl A 3 Diane Lopez 8-3 71.6% 364pt 4	th
Cl A 4 B. Pennington 8-3 64.5% 364pt 2	nd
2017 M P 44 1 4 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	th
Cl A 6 Dave Loucks 7-4 67.2% 5	th
Cl A 7 G. Strangland 7-4 62.2%	-



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DOWN and Back

with Jim Haupt

Hey Bob, was that really your last dime?

We were waiting to board our plane out of Vegas but still trying to bring in a slots-winner near the gate. Bob Traber who always fills the machines to the limit, apparently had just run out of ammunition. Searching his pockets, he found a lonley dime. Spied a gum machine. Felt a inner urge to fill another coin slot. Did it. Pulled the lever...again. No gum! Walked away muttering — something like "nothing pays here".

* * * * * *

The word from Beloit is that indoor league has begun on three portables set—up in the Wagon Wheel Resort located in near—by Rockton, Illinois. Earl Paulson is looking forward to a visit from Creative Enterprises, the firm responsible for the Budweiser—ESPN connection last summer. Team—World sponsorship being the aim at this time.

* * * * *

My dad used to tell me if I didn't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all. And I was advised to write only good things about the January tournament at Royal Wood.

The 'Wood' is good!. That was easy. A mere 40 pitchers But where you was? turned out. What are you-all waiting for? One indoor pitchin' place into the dumper this last year is enough. Let's support the guys at Royal Wood. Enter! Pitch. Horseshoes is no longer a sport we play for nothing in the park in the summertime. Marshfield, you are just 39 miles down Wausau, 38 miles - that's next Green Bay is just 85 miles. F.D.L. Combined Locks must is only 88 miles. "Come on down". be closer. Manitowoc 109 Appleton 64

Appleton 64 Manitowoc 109
Ashland 193 Milwaukee 145
Beloit 150 Racine 175
Eau Claire 106 Sheboygan 122
Janesville 137 Germantwn 125

Goldendale Club will make the February 10-11 sanctioned tournament at Plover an official party weekend. See you there?

and again

Jaeger - hunter, the one from New London was entertaining his bowhunter client. They had been out in the woods since before daybreak but now were stoking one of Kathy's The talk shifted lumberjack breakfasts. Kenny Jr. to gear - hunting equipment. was showing-off his bow that had already Ken Sr., with an taken this year's buck. inborn disdain for city types, asked his client if he ever used a deer 'call'. Client allowed he did try some calls but only the ones that he knows. Jaeger interupted, "You mean like, Here Prancer. Dancer. Come on Donner and Blitzen'?"

We were trying to sell the Team-World tournament to a leading Colorado pitcher, Rich Pintor who was with his daughter, Lisa. "The four top pitchers.." Pintor mused, "Lisa can we get John"? Deftly the channing Lisa picked up on it saying, O.K.! How about Elway, PIntor, LaCrosse..." As if expecting some sort of reaction she asked me, "Do you know John Elway"? "Stumbling reply was a give-away. She flattened her palm and swept it an inch over my head, laughing all the way.

Hey, I'm not from Denver. And the Super Bowl was still two weeks away.

Would you like to play in the World Team Horseshoe Tournament? Don't wait to be asked, form your own team. We heard that Al Lonning is interested. It's just a matter of getting on the telephone, make a few calls or give me a call.

And don't forget your CLUB TEAM TOURNA-MENT. The ad is in this issue.

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POINTS AWARDED

3 points for each tournament entered 3 points for each third place 5 points for each second place

10 points for each first place all points double for State Tournament.

	-		
1.	Randy Rein	Mosinee	50
2.	Robert Jackson	Baraboo	48
3.	Laverne Edge	Platteville	47
4.	Ken Davison	Menomonee Falls	45
5.	Sid Anderson	Janesville	43
6.	Don Kangas	West Allis	42
7.	Sylvia Kaiser	Frederic	40
8.	Jerry Volz	Reedsburg	40
9.	Mike Struebing	Cambellsport	39
10.	Ralph Maylahn	Genesee Depot	
11.	Leo Zamzow		38
12.	Cliff Troullier	Manitowoc	37
	Dale Heineck		35
14.	Dave Heineck	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	35
	Jane Smith	<u>-</u>	34
)	Jim Haupt		32
	Ron Yttri		32
18.	Bob Kallstrom		32
19.	Lowell Kent		32
20.	Tom Leair	Genesee Depot	
	Jin King		31
	-		

PROPOSED 1990 - UNOFFICIAL

This list is meant only as a guide

mis i	ist is meant only as	a guide,
Jan 13-14	Royal Wood, Plover	,
Pe) 10-11	Poyal Mood, Plover	MHPA sanc.
Far 10-11	Royal Wood, Plover	
Mar 24	Club-Team, Water Hole	
Apr 21-22		
Apr 28	Close Doesn't Count	NIPA sanc.
*fay 12-13	Eau Claire Earlybird	MIPA sanc.
May 12-13		MHPA sanc.
Hay 19-20	Spring Singles Peloit	
June 2-3	Arch's Open, Bro-town	MIPA sanc.
June 9-10	Eau Claire Open	MIPA sanc.
June 9-10	Pat-Brew JrSchp, Kansa	sville
Jun 16–17	ituskego iioose	MHPA sanc.
Jun 23-24	Goldendale, Gratown	MHPA sanc.
Jul 14-15	Janesville U.A.W.	
Jul 21-22	Mid-East, Comb. Locks	
Aug 4-5	Kewaskun	
Aug 11-12	Mountain's Big One	
Aug 18-19	Platteville	
Aug 18-19		
Aug 25-26	Fillmore U.S.A.	
Sept 123		MEPA sanc.
Sept 8-9		
Sept 8-9	V.F.W. Doubles, Comb.	Locks

* All listings subject to change.



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LYONS DAYS

BY JIM HAUPT

A van full of the big hitters from the Racine County league little town the rolled into Lyons looking like the horseshoe mafia out to make a hit. A festive parade was in progress and the courts were on the parade route. things first. they First couple the parade between a Only fire engines. oversize waved kids few unsuspecting back. As they passed the horseshoe exited courts the van quietly the parade formation.

As they tested the sand courts with lots of warm-up shoes, they were also sizing up the opposition. It looked like easy pickin's. 52 pitchers would go on four courts pitching doubles in a double elimination contest. Games to be decided points. Mostly they had at 21 only each other to fear plus two good guys known to them from near-by Burlington, Rich and Bert.

Our guys were great in practice - very impressive and all to conscious of the attention it created.

The first few games were blowlater we suffered a outs but Bert and Rich knocked out loss. leading pair. Mike and OUL cleaned up another pair. Jim place Meri managed to \$50) before monev (\$25 to In thev also were beaten. end it was Mike and Sue losing to Rich and Bert.

This was a first name tournament I happen to know that Rich and Bert are also Brower and Phelps. The rest of those I know don't want their names mentioned.



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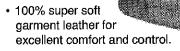
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