

Topeka Welcomes You

*New website provides travel and tournament information for planning
by Roger Vogel and Terry Cuthbertson, World Tournament Hosts*

On behalf of the 2015 World Tournament Steering Committee, I invite you to Topeka for this year's World Tournament! We're excited to have you in the heartland of the United States for an event that promises to be fabulous, happening July 13-25 at the Kansas Expocentre.

In prep for the tournament, we've set up a [website](#) that contains all kinds of information -- from qualifying to getting to Topeka to hotels and camping. We're planning some great "extras" too, including nearby practice courts, great clay, a warm-up tourney, and "Ringers Across the Border" and "Sunflower Games" events. Find all the info online. We've got you covered, so you can start planning!

First, make sure you are qualified and look for the entry form on the [NHPA site](#) in February.

Back to the website ... our friends at [VisitTopeka](#) have also set us up with all kinds of area attractions including family activities, spas, arts, free things, shopping and more. Check it all out and get excited to not just pitch, but to explore too!

Feel free to download and distribute [the flyer](#) to your charter and/or club members. And, of course, don't hesitate to link your own website to ours. Also, find us on [Facebook](#).

If you're interested, the site also contains [sponsorship opportunities](#). Benefits include program ads, website ads, Hall of Fame Banquet tickets and more.

We'll see you in Kansas in July! "There's no place like home!"

President's Message

Welcome to Newslines; Growth of Membership

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

Happy Holidays to all and I hope 2015 will be a great year for everyone!

As we move into the electronic era with *Newslines*, I know some of you are wondering why? As your President the last six years, I can tell you, the cost of publishing and editing *Newslines* has gone up significantly. With the number of members subscribing decreasing, the NHPA had no choice but to go this direction.

The NHPA Council looks at this as a positive in that using email to send you the *Newslines*, you will be able to share it with your friends and relatives from distant places, and we are hopeful this may draw interest for people wanting to become members. Wouldn't that be great to grow our membership through *Newslines*? I hope all of you can take a stand and try to do your best to share our *Newslines* and encourage people of all ages to join in on the fun.

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For the members who do not have email, the NHPA Council is asking the Charter Officers and even the club Officers to make copies to distribute.

Another topic that is very important to our Council and one of our 2015 goals is membership and what we need to do to increase interest and participation. As we all know, this is a great family sport, but how do we get more individuals involved? As you have heard me say in the past, it is up to all of us to do our part to spread the word, talk it up and get new individuals signed up. Tina Hawkins our Publicity and Promotions Director will be glad to send information and handouts upon request. Jerry LaBrosse, Director of Charter Communications, has been doing an excellent job in providing information to the charters which can also be utilized in your promotion efforts. Charters, please utilize these Vice Presidents in any way you can to assist you in promoting our sport.

The 2015 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 13- 25, 2015 at the Kansas Expo Centre located in Topeka, KS. The NHPA trailer has already arrived from Buffalo and plans are being finalized for the preparation for this event. People looking at attending, should begin making your plans and getting your reservations made. Information regarding the World Tournament can also be found on our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all your efforts in making horseshoes what it is today; either being involved at a local level, state level, or as a pitcher just enjoying the game.

Welcome to New NHPA Officers

The NHPA welcomes Jerry Smith (starting January 1) as our new NHPA 3rd Vice President, replacing Dave Sidles who will be taking over the Secretary/Treasurer position. Jerry will be taking over the duties of Sanction League Director and Junior Scholarships. We look forward to working with Jerry and Dave in their new positions.

NHPA Council Winter Meeting and World Tourney Site Meeting on the Horizon

The annual winter meeting of the NHPA Council is scheduled for February 6-7 in Topeka, Kansas. This year we will be reviewing many topics and exploring new ideas for promotions and membership growth. Other topics of discussion include the 2015 financial budget; World Tournament topics such as schedule and entry fee, number of Divisions, Championship payouts; national sponsorship; and software updates and changes.

Each year, two Council members travel to the World Tournament site to meet with World Tournament team members and assist them with the planning and preparations necessary for hosting this event. This next year, 4th Vice President Jerry LaBrosse and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sidles will travel to Topeka for the site visit one day before our winter meeting. A report of the site visit will be provided in the next *Newsline*.

Hall of Fame Nominations Due January 31

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The NHPA is looking for candidates for the NHPA Hall of Fame Award. Qualifications for this prestigious award include being an NHPA member for at least 10 years, and either distinguished outstanding performances in World Tournament Championship play or as a person who has made significant and beneficial contributions to the NHPA.

Any current NHPA member or sanctioned club can make a nomination. You are not allowed to nominate yourself. All nominations are submitted to the HOF screening committee for approval before a name is placed on the ballot. If a nomination is rejected, it will be returned to the sender.

Nominations for this award should be submitted to our [NHPA Hall of Fame Director Vicki Winston](#). Read more and find the form on the [Hall of Fame tab on the website](#).

Charter Contributors Sought for Achievement Awards

Each year the NHPA recognizes members for their contributions to the NHPA, their charter and/or their local club. The Council is asking all the charters to provide a list of individuals they believe would be good candidates to receive an NHPA Achievement Award. The selections are made by the Executive Council and the awards will be presented at the World Tournament in Topeka. To see past awardees and obtain a nomination form, visit the [Achievement Awards page of the website](#).

Calling for NHPA Officer Candidates

Elections are open for the positions of President and 5th Vice President. According to [NHPA bylaws](#), candidates for NHPA office must announce their candidacy in writing to be received by the President and the *Newsline* editor no later than April 1. Incumbents however, must announce their candidacy in the same manner, by February 1.

"I encourage competition," says NHPA President Stu Sipma, "therefore, those of you who are interested in one of these positions, please let me know."

NHPA Offering Refund for Extended Newsline Subscriptions

Action required by April 1

As the NHPA is no longer printing *Newsline*, we are offering a refund for any unfulfilled portion of your print-version subscription. But it requires action from you prior to April 1. Requests must be made in writing, either by mail or email, to the NHPA office. No phone calls.

The amount refunded will be determined by NHPA records and the NHPA Secretary/ Treasurer, minus a \$1 per household postage and processing fee. After the refund deadline, the NHPA will make a donation to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) using unclaimed refunds.

Send your refund requests, along with a valid mailing address, to: NHPA, 17259 Jefferson Street, Omaha, NE 68135 or [email NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dave Sidles](#).

Proposed Rules Changes in Process

by *Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director*

By the time you receive this, the deadline for submitting Proposed Rules Changes (PRC) to the RGS Book (December 31) will have passed. Our Rules Committee is now processing the received PRCs and will be discussing/voting on which ones should be decided by the voting charter delegates, at this next NHPA World Tournament Convention in Topeka, Kansas. The PRCs that have been selected, and also approved by the NHPA Council for delegate voting, will be published in *Newsline* and on our NHPA [website](#), several months in advance of the convention. Thus, all members will have an opportunity to discuss the proposals and express their opinions to their state/charter officers and delegates who will be voting at the WT Convention. I would recommend that all charters publish these PRCs in their newsletters so that their members will have the opportunity to know about these proposed changes.

Publicity/Sponsorship Committee Launches, Looking for Input

by *Tina Hawkins, 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director*

A brand new Publicity/Sponsorship Committee is now in place with contributing members from all age and gender groups, representing all areas of the country – from Vermont to Arizona.

Committee members are: Chairperson Tina Hawkins, NHPA 2nd Vice President; Steve Summerlin, Michigan; Mike Brown, Vermont; Dalton Rakestraw, Illinois; Debra Odum, Texas; Amy Miller, Ohio; and Barb Carson, Arizona.

A lot of groundwork must be completed before approaching a company for support. The NHPA has to have viable offerings – in other words, sponsors want a return on their investment – to make supporting our organization worthwhile. Contrary to popular belief, the money is NOT just “out there for the asking!” Corporations expect to reap benefits for their dollars. Sponsorship is not simply a “donation.” In the business world, it is ADVERTISING.

Exposure is a key element for enticing the advertising dollars. The more people that can be reached by the NHPA’s branding, the greater our value is to a potential sponsor.

The introduction of the World Tournament web cams will greatly increase the likelihood of landing national sponsorships. This *Newsline* publication – delivered to all members - should also enhance the possibilities.

Of course, a sponsorship should be tailored specifically for the individual company being targeted. For instance – a nationwide carpet chain could be targeted to sponsor the Hall of Fame banquet with the return being worldwide brand exposure through a “red carpet cam” during the event.

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The committee is designing area-specific sponsorship proposals for this, and many other areas of our association, as well as for several levels (dollar values) of commitment. They are determining what the NHPA can offer a corporate sponsor as a return on its investment; which corporations (or types of corporations) should be on the target list; what specific sponsorships can be offered; and what the reasonable levels of sponsorships are.

It is a daunting task to land a national sponsor, but YOU can help make it happen! Tell us what you do and where you shop when you go on a horseshoe-pitching trip. This will help the committee narrow down the list of corporations to target, by singling out the ones who would benefit the most from a partnership with the NHPA.

It will take less than five minutes for you to answer this [five-question survey](#)!

A progress report will be made to the Executive Council during its winter meeting in February, as well as to the membership in a future issue of this publication.

Welcome to the First Edition of Newsline Online

Get connected and spread the word, connecting others

by [Jerry LaBrosse](#), 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director

Welcome to the first edition of *Newsline* online! Thank all of the charters that have supplied us with their email lists. You are doing your members a great service by connecting them to the best horseshoe publication on the planet, free of charge!

If your charter hasn't yet supplied their membership list, it's not too late to get them connected. As NHPA members, they have a vested interest in association happenings. Recipients always have the option to opt out and unsubscribe. And, as you likely know, the NHPA will not share, otherwise distribute or share any members' email addresses. So, I encourage you to send all email addresses, without explicit permission from each member. Email lists can be sent directly to our *Newsline* editor [Sara Otto](#). Individual subscriptions are also welcome via the [online form](#).

At the bottom of every issue of *Newsline*, there is a link to forward, subscribe, and unsubscribe, so please forward this *Newsline* to others who do not receive it, and encourage to them to get connected.

Court Sanctioning and Patches "In the Mail"

by [Bill Marvin](#), 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director

All courts must be re-sanctioned in 2015. Regional Directors will be contacting every site to validate and ensure that all they are up to specifications. Please reach out to your Regional Director to help make this task as seamless as possible. [Regional Directors](#) are a valuable asset to each charter and perform many jobs behind the scenes. If you have a specific question, they are your first point of contact.

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I am in the process of mailing the 2015 tournament patches. It is awesome just how many sanctioned events are held throughout the country. Be sure and thank your local tournament directors. These folks are hard-working people who are dedicated to horseshoe pitching. Get your tournaments in early to qualify for the World Tournament.

TEAMS Conference Results in Bids by Potential World Tourney Host Sites

On November 10-13, NHPA President Stu Simpa attended the 2014 TEAMS (Travel, Events, and Management in Sports) Conference in Las Vegas. Stu has attended such before, looking forward to them and believing they benefit the sport. Not only do these events draw interest in sites bidding, but also raise awareness amongst the various sports marketing groups from all over the United States that horseshoes are played at a competitive level.

Many sites are still showing interest in hosting the World Tournament, even sites who have hosted the event in the past want to pursue the event again. These sites include Charleston, West Virginia; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Reno, Nevada. March 15 is the deadline for sites to submit bids for hosting the 2017 tournament.

Junior Profile: Christina Heinritz

Horseshoes: it's in her blood

by Aleena Lepak, Junior Promotion Director

Along with her grandpa, dad, two uncles, two older brothers, older sister, and cousins, Christina Heinritz from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, is an avid pitcher. Pitching horseshoes is tradition for the Heinritz family. Growing up seeing only her grandpa, dad and uncles pitch, she thought horseshoes was just a sport for men. Christina tried it with her dad and siblings in their backyard, had fun, and realized this was something she wanted to pursue. Christina pitched in her first tournament, which happened to be the Wisconsin State Tournament, when she was seven years old.

Winning her first title, 2010 Wisconsin Cadet State Champion, Christina started with a double flip using Imperials but has moved to a single flip with Snyder EZ Flips. She has placed second at State for Junior Girls, won Juniors Class D at the World tournament in Louisiana, and has placed in various other tournaments. Living in Wisconsin, you can't really practice in winter, so she will occasionally pitch in the spring and fall, but will throw about 100 shoes every day during the summer to increase her percentage.

Christina loves that this is such a great sport that allows her to meet new people, grow in her friendships, and with her family. "It's fun, and a great opportunity for scholarships," she says. "It's one big, happy family and you can still have fun even if you don't have a good game because you know you can improve."

She contends that pitching against other juniors at State and World is a more intense experience than pitching against adults. As most juniors can attest, junior classes create a different atmosphere,

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but it's still a competition. For Christina this is a challenge, but so is competing against her sister. When Christina faced Bethany, she said it felt like being back home. It had Christina knowing this was competition, but she could feel a little more laid back. Her parents probably didn't feel laid back watching, as they wanted both girls to succeed.

When asked who her hero is, she replied, "My dad because he's such a really hard worker and tries to help me in horseshoes and with other sports." Both of her parents have encouraged her to be the best she can be and that has helped make her into the young lady she is today.

Being 15 years old now, Christina has completed taking drivers education and will go for her temporary license on March 1. She also plays tennis, runs track, and enjoys reading, playing volleyball, and school. Her favorite subjects are math and English. After high school, she'd like to pursue a career in business or a health occupation. As she loves the atmosphere of horseshoes, she plans to continue with it into college and will be at State for sure. Be sure to keep your eye out for this young lady at many tournaments, with her family by her side.

Judging Clinics Opportunities Abound

Materials and instruction available in various charters, more planned

by Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

Ever wanted to be an official tournament judge? Or ever wanted to just see some rulings on some scoring scenarios? Well, pitchers are being offered exactly those things at Playing Rules and Judging Clinics.

As you may recall from an earlier *Newsline* article, Judging Clinics were offered at the 2014 World Tournament (WT) at Buffalo, New York, and were well attended and deemed to be very successful! Since the WT, several of these clinics have been held by several of our charter 'teachers/instructors' (some during state tournaments) and others will be offered during 2015 and before our next WT in Topeka, Kansas.

It's likely easier to offer these clinics during club meetings or at promotional events, such as fairs, rather than at a tournament where most people are either pitching or needed for scorekeeping, judging, keeping stats, etc.

The following states/charters now have the teaching materials (20 selected True/False - Yes/No questions as a basis of discussion in a 'classroom' setting; PowerPoint presentation; several table-top pit models are available and used for demonstrating and discussing the correct use of several specialized measuring tools) and at least one instructor who is qualified and willing to conduct these clinics. They are: Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas, Kansas, and most recently Iowa. For these charters/states who are currently on board, please contact your charter officers about making arrangements for a clinic in your area.

For other charters who are interested in offering these clinics to their members but still need the teaching materials, please contact me (link to: dsanderling@yahoo.com). The content of these clinics is truly educational and all members will benefit from this information and discussions, whether or not they are currently judges or may be interested in becoming tournament judges.

Someone even said, "Every pitcher should be required to attend this clinic, whether they plan to become a judge or not! If they did, there would be a lot fewer problems out there on the courts."

Hall of Fame Committee Says Goodbye to Reno, Welcomes Elmore

Standard Operating Procedures Changed

by *Vicki Winston, Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson*

Not too long after the World Tournament, I received a letter from Ottie Reno stating that due to health reasons, he was resigning his position as a member of the NHPA Hall of Fame Committee. Ottie has served on the committee for many years and was a source of much information and knowledge, even writing several books about our sport. He will be missed, and I thank him for his many years of service to the NHPA as a member of this important committee.

I am pleased to announce that Joan Elmore, member of the Hall of Fame and repeat Women's World Champion, has accepted NHPA President Stu Sipma's appointment to the HOF committee. Our committee is now back to its full complement of 15 voting members.

As the chairman of the HOF committee, I have been discussing some changes to our standard operating procedures with committee members via email. We've had several more nominations to the Player category, and the list of nominees was getting too long. So, we divided Player nominations into two groups on the ballot. The Historic Era Players list will contain the names of nominees who were active in World Tournament play 35 or more years ago. That window of 35 years will slide every year, and as nominees reach that window, they will be moved to the Historic Era list.

Interest has been shown in having a list of current nominees placed on the NHPA website. Unable to do this until the committee finalized our operating procedures and adopted the new category, I will now try to get a list of all current nominees to the NHPA webmaster. In the meantime, [contact me](#) if you would like to inquire about whether or not someone is currently on the ballot.

NHPF promotes and advances the game of horseshoes

by *Casey Sluys, President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) Board of Directors would like to welcome all the NHPA members who have not had the opportunity to read the printed version *Newsline*. For those not familiar with the NHPF, it was established in 1996 as a vehicle to raise funds to build the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame and Museum. [This YouTube video](#) provides a history of the Hall of Fame and Museum.

Now that it is built and operational, we also thank the [Quailridge Horseshoe Club](#) of Wentzville, Missouri, for "living" there and maintaining the facility. Without the fine people in that club, it would be a difficult task to maintain. Please take a few minutes to glance at [our website](#) and

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familiarize yourselves with the Foundation and its goals.

Our latest grant went to the city of Bronson, Kansas, the site of the very first World Tournament (WT). The city and Dave Mathewson will build a six-court facility close to the original site of the 1909 World Tournament. With the upcoming WT in Kansas, it will be a great opportunity for you to visit Bronson and become familiar with some horseshoe pitching history.

As you travel to this year's WT, be sure to stop by the NHPA Hall of Fame. It's just off Interstate 70 and 64 in Wentzville, Missouri.

We hope that all of you have had, or will have in the near future, a chance to read our new brochure. Each charter president was sent at least 100 of them. If you don't have one, please ask your president, or simply request one from the Hall of Fame.

It takes volunteers such as you to keep a facility such as this operational. We ask that you support the Hall of Fame with either a brick purchase or simply a monetary donation. What we would love to see is the majority of our readers make a regular tax-deductible contribution to the NHPF. We thank you in advance for anything that you are able to contribute.

We hope that as many of you as possible can make it to Topeka this year. When you do, stop by our booth to pick up a few NHPF items and a brochure.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

We express our sincere thanks to the following most recent donors:

Donating \$10-95

- Bill Backer, CA
- Charles Bunner, WV
- Patrick Murtha, CA
- Northern California HPA
- Mel L. Yockstick, CO

Donating \$100-200

- Virginia HPA, VA

Donating \$250-350

- New England HPA
- Missouri HPA

Bricks Purchased By

- William L. Wellsand Jr., IN
- Bill Backer, CA (2 bricks)
- Roy Evans, MO
- Becky Sullivan, MI
- Capital City HC, MO
- Donald & Mary, Ebey, WA
- Jim Ellison, AL
- Bennie Underwood, TX (2 bricks)

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Other Income;

\$700.00 Rent NHPA GRS
\$500.00 Rent NHPA League/Team Tournament
\$3,000.00 Rent QRHC
\$2,653.58 World Tournament Raffle

From the Statman:

State Championship Updates

by *Mel Yockstick, NHPA Statistician*

The NHPA State Championship Tournaments are now concluded for 2014. With all stats in, the [Recognitions Page on the NHPA website](#) has been updated. The page lists men with 10 or more state tourney wins; women with at least five wins; elders, boys, and girls with three or more wins; and cadets with two or more.

Look for these new names on the website listing, as they entered the list with their 2014 State Championships:

Women

Cindy Hoffman, Pennsylvania
Trisha Hoshaw, Arizona

Girls

Denise Daly, Illinois

Elders

Ted Sprinkle, Indiana
Sig Armitage, Minnesota
Paul Jennings, South Carolina
Ron Button, Wisconsin

Cadets

Kevin Kyle, California
Matthew Medina, Colorado
Ryan Schepers, Missouri

Boys

Brian Nussbaum, Wyoming
Austin Byram, Alabama
Brandon Pearl, New Hampshire
Gavin Barteau, New York
Jeffery Haufschild, South Dakota
Kyler Magnus, Washington

Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore: Who is the Greatest?

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by *Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian*

A common discussion when and where horseshoe pitchers gather, especially at World Tournaments, is “Who is the best horseshoe pitcher to have played the game?” That conversation is fueled by the presence of today’s Alan Francis and his incredible record.

As NHPA Historian, I am authorized to write about the subject, however I may not be qualified or capable to make the final decision. The difficulty in all this is to evaluate various pitchers who never competed against each other, and that we never personally witnessed all the pitchers in competitive play.

In order to do this right, we need to go back to the beginning in order to list all the great ones. There have been several great ones and just maybe the greatest player pitched back in the 1920s or 1930s or 1950s.

The first star of the sport was, of course, Frank Jackson (Kansas, Iowa). He is credited as being the first world champion of horseshoe pitching and earned seven titles. Jackson began pitching in an era when competition was very limited. In fact, he is credited with four world championships prior to when a true national tournament was held in 1919.

Frank Jackson did win three world titles after national tournaments were held, and against national competition, and should be remembered for making a tremendous contribution to our sport in its infancy, with his titles and largely attended pitching exhibitions. He truly was the “Grand Old Man” of horseshoe pitching, the champion of his day, and he continued to be competitive and a top contender even past his 65th birthday.

Jackson was born in 1870, just five years after the Civil War, and in 1934 he pitched a 72.3 percent world tournament to place fourth. He repeated that feat in 1935, at age 65 and placed fifth. Why this seems so outstanding is that in winning his first world title in 1909, he wasn’t pitching shoes off the horse, but blacksmith bent rasps (files), while using a stride-less pitching motion and a 2¾ turn where his forefinger was placed around the point of the blade to get the 2¾ turn. He later, converting to a 1¾ turn while still pitching hookless shoes, developed the one step stride around 1926 and switched to the hooked shoes when they were developed in 1932. And at the end of his career, at age 65, could still take on all comers. He was a great one, but he never won a title in a world tournament in which C.C. Davis participated. Here are the records for Frank Jackson’s title years:

| Year | | Event Site | W | L | R | SP | % |
|-------|----|--------------------|----|---|------|----------|------|
| 1909 | WC | Bronson, KS | | | | | |
| 1912 | WC | Kansas City, KS | | | | | |
| 1914 | WC | Kansas City, KS | | | | | |
| 1915 | WC | Kansas City, KS | 24 | 1 | 97 | 584 pts | |
| 1920s | WC | St. Petersburg, FL | 35 | 1 | 850 | 1790 pts | |
| 1921s | WC | St. Paul, MN | 15 | 0 | | | |
| 1926 | WC | St. Petersburg, FL | 24 | 6 | 1093 | 1780 | 61.4 |

This article cannot move on without the mention of one other pitcher of that time, Putt Mossman (Iowa). Mossman was not the greatest pitcher ever, or even the decade, but he was a great pitcher in his day and was one of the all-time characters of the sport. The sport was young when Mossman

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pitched and he set many records at the time, although those records were erased as pitchers got more skilled. He was a two-time world champion, 1924S and 1925, was known to be a menacing competitor to Frank Jackson, and he was also a great exhibition pitcher, a professional boxer, a world champion high kicker, a professional baseball player, a world-renowned motorcycle stunt driver, and had bit parts in a few movies. In fact, RKO Studios did a five-minute film on his motorcycle stunts. That film is available to view at the Winston Theatre in the NHPA Hall of Fame Museum

The best pitcher of the 1920s was Charles Clyde Davis (Ohio, Kansas), winning five world championships. Davis was the first to break the 70 percent ringer barrier (in 1928) and did so with hookless shoes. There is no way possible to compare performance pitching hook shoes against the record of a player pitching tournament shoes with full sized hooks. Here is C.C. Davis's World Tournament career statistics:

| Year | Event Site | W | L | SP | R | % |
|----------|--------------------|----|---|------|------|-------------|
| 1922w WC | St. Petersburg, FL | 21 | 0 | | 448 | |
| 1924w WC | Lake Worth, FL | 22 | 0 | 1012 | 586 | 57.9 |
| 1927w WC | St. Petersburg, FL | 29 | 4 | 1998 | 1383 | 69.2 |
| 1927s WC | Duluth, MN | 30 | 3 | 2010 | 1302 | 64.8 |
| 1928 WC | St. Petersburg, FL | 31 | 2 | 2138 | 1500 | 70.2 |

Ted Allen (California, Colorado) emerged as the bright new star of the sport and of the 1930s. Allen won his first title at age 25, in 1933, in a best two-out-three-game playoff against C.C. Davis. He repeated in 1934 and had his third championship in 1935. Allen has to be viewed as the best pitcher up to and including the 1930s, although there were just the three events held in the 1930s, but he played against and beat both Frank Jackson and C.C. Davis, while setting all-time record ringers percentages.

The third-place pitcher in the 1933 and 1934 world tournaments was a young and graceful Fernando Isais (California). Just six events were held in the 1940s, and Ted Allen won two of them (1940 and 1946). Fernando Isais won the other four, winning his first world championship in 1941 at age 26, and then closing out the decade with three consecutive titles in 1947, 1948, 1949. They were the only pitchers to win a championship now over the previous two decades, and to that point in time, they clearly were the best ever. And very possibly, Isais may have had the upper hand. There is one thing for sure: Allen and Isais set the standard in the 1940s that it would take an 80 percent performance to win a world tournament.

During the 1950s, the sport began to grow and became more popular, had a larger following and seemed to be more competitive with the well-known world tournaments held in Murray, Utah. But the two heroes of horseshoe pitching continued their surge of championships with only one other pitcher able to take a world championship from Allen and Isais. Guy Zimmerman, a long time top contender won the title in 1954. Otherwise, Allen won five and Isais won four.

This brought Allen's total to a record 10 championships, a record that stood for 46 years, until 2005. Right behind him was Fernando Isais with eight titles and a record six consecutive championships (from 1947-1952), a record that stood for 57 years, until 2009.

Allen has been touted as the all-time greatest in newspaper coverage, magazine articles and quotes by many of the great players that played against both of these giants of the game. This is the record

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for Ted Allen's title years:

| Year | | Event Site | W | L | R | SP | % |
|------|----|-----------------|----|---|------|------|------|
| 1933 | WC | Chicago, IL | 20 | 3 | 1127 | 1532 | 73.6 |
| 1934 | WC | Los Angeles, CA | 23 | 0 | 1072 | 1450 | 73.9 |
| 1935 | WC | Moline, IL | 21 | 2 | 1222 | 1618 | 75.5 |
| 1940 | WC | Des Moines, IA | 29 | 2 | 2187 | 2642 | 82.8 |
| 1946 | WC | Des Moines, IA | 22 | 1 | 1173 | 1398 | 83.9 |
| 1953 | WC | Murray, UT | 34 | 1 | 2144 | 2574 | 83.3 |
| 1955 | WC | Murray, UT | 35 | 0 | 2261 | 2618 | 86.4 |
| 1956 | WC | Murray, UT | 34 | 4 | 2373 | 2834 | 83.7 |
| 1957 | WC | Murray, UT | 29 | 1 | 2215 | 2570 | 86.2 |
| 1959 | WC | Murray, UT | 25 | 0 | 1799 | 2132 | 84.4 |

We do have the records, and one other very important factor – results of head-to-head competition – and yet today that doesn't seem to be able to give a clear answer. Ted Allen was in each tournament field when Isais won his eight championships. Fernando Isais was in the field seven times when Allen won the title. That record six titles in a row for Isais just may be enough to give the edge to Isais. This is the record for Fernando Isais's title years:

| Year | | Event Site | W | L | R | SP | % |
|------|----|--------------------|----|---|------|------|------|
| 1941 | WC | Des Moines, IA | 23 | 0 | 1265 | 1526 | 82.9 |
| 1947 | WC | Salt Lake City, UT | 34 | 1 | 2086 | 2512 | 83.2 |
| 1948 | WC | Milwaukee, WI | 29 | 2 | 1917 | 2278 | 84.2 |
| 1949 | WC | Murray, UT | 34 | 1 | 1976 | 2358 | 83.8 |
| 1950 | WC | Murray, UT | 34 | 1 | 2142 | 2566 | 83.5 |
| 1951 | WC | Murray, UT | 35 | 0 | 2233 | 2604 | 85.8 |
| 1952 | WC | Murray, UT | 34 | 1 | 2205 | 2638 | 83.6 |
| 1958 | WC | Murray, UT | 27 | 3 | 1946 | 2360 | 82.5 |

Right here is a good spot to stop and give recognition to the greatest pitcher to never win a world championship. That will be creating a new category, but Casey Jones was a great player, for several years, a top contender. If a couple of those runner-up or third place finishes had ended up as first place finishes, he would be in this article as a mention for the greatest of all time. And his career was right in the heart of the Allen-Isais campaign. In fact, for most of the pre-tournament newspaper and media hype, Casey Jones was mentioned as part of the big four – Allen, Isais, Jones and Zimmerman. Even without any world titles, he does deserve a mention. In 1948, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he set a new world record for high tournament ringer average (87.5 percent), and was runner-up! This is Casey's world tournament career:

| Year | Place | Event Site | W | L | R | SP | % |
|------|-------|----------------|----|---|------|------|------|
| 1935 | 6 | Moline, IL | 17 | 6 | 1258 | 1742 | 72.2 |
| 1940 | 4 | Des Moines, IA | 25 | 6 | 2043 | 2538 | 80.5 |
| 1941 | 3 | Des Moines, IA | 20 | 3 | 1215 | 1522 | 79.8 |
| 1946 | 2 | Des Moines, IA | 21 | 2 | 1304 | 1612 | 80.9 |
| 1947 | 2 | Salt Lake City | 33 | 2 | 2086 | 2512 | 83.0 |
| 1948 | 2 | Milwaukee, WI | 28 | 3 | 2158 | 2459 | 87.5 |
| 1949 | 3 | Murray, UT | 31 | 4 | 2090 | 2598 | 80.4 |
| 1950 | 2 | Murray, UT | 31 | 4 | 2108 | 2606 | 80.9 |

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|------|----|------------|-----------|----------|------|------|-------------|
| 1951 | 6 | Murray, UT | 23 | 12 | 2063 | 2656 | 77.7 |
| 1952 | 3 | Murray, UT | 32 | 3 | 2025 | 2446 | 82.8 |
| 1953 | 10 | Murray, UT | 22 | 13 | 2023 | 2716 | 74.5 |
| 1954 | 3 | Murray, UT | <u>14</u> | <u>3</u> | 1213 | 1466 | <u>82.7</u> |
| | | | 297 | 61 | | | 80.3 |

And here is a good place to take a break as this article is getting rather long and will be continued in the March-April issue of *Newsline*. Please tune in to the next issue and read about the last five decades to see who is the greatest player ever to pitch horseshoes!

For a Healthy Pitch

Stay in shape during the "off season" for a general (and horseshoe) health

by Debby Michaud, RN

Winter is here – great for all of those horseshoe pitchers in the southern states where the season is just ramping up, but NOT as good for those pitchers in the northern parts of the country where, to find the horseshoe courts, you need to plow or shovel and dress up in four layers. Maybe you are lucky enough to be able to pitch indoors in the winter but, often, that is just one day per week.

So how do we stay “in shape” during all of those months when we are more often IN the house and not OUTSIDE of the house? We need to stay active, not only to alleviate boredom, but to keep our bodies in shape, AND to keep our hearts and legs in shape.

You may have read of the huge health concern in our country – it is the rapid increase in the diagnoses of pre-diabetes, diabetes and obesity. If you have NOT read that, then read it here because it is a big problem. If they are not treated, pre-diabetes and obesity can lead to a multitude of health issues, shorten life, and decrease the quality of life. They are also very expensive for our health industry and for each of us personally.

Staying active is the first line of defense in treating both obesity and pre-diabetes or diabetes. Of all the things you can and must do, exercise is number one. And that starts with the first step. Increase your activity in small increments. There are opportunities every day to increase your level of activity. You may have heard some of them:

- Park your car at the far end of the parking lot and walk a distance into any store.
- Take the stairs whenever possible. Start by walking down the stairs after using the elevator to go up. You will soon be stronger and able to walk up the stairs as well.
- In the winter, walking outside even in parking lots may not be practical or safe. Instead, walk a good distance inside the store. Before you shop, walk the perimeter of the store, then up and down each aisle, then get your cart and start shopping. No one will even notice.
- Another place to walk safely is in a mall where there is a good distance and maybe some stairs. In many malls, there are walking clubs who meet for coffee after they walk. Some of these walking clubs are organized, some are not, but you can start your own group with friends as well. Walking in parks or in cemeteries is a nice change of pace, too.
- Join a YMCA or a fitness club, a place where you will be surrounded by others who share your desire to lose weight and/or improve your fitness level. These clubs offer many different types of exercise equipment that keep your “journey” interesting. I personally like

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to exercise in my own neighborhood or in my own home, but it is good to exercise where you feel most comfortable while doing what you like to do the most!

- Setting up a stationary bike or treadmill in front of a TV helps the time go by quickly while you watch the news, a comedy re-run, or a movie.

But ANYTHING you do that is more active than what you are doing now is going to help you. Gardening, biking on a bike path, dancing, helping out at a church supper, volunteering at the library. These are all good things that increase your fitness and help you stay young and healthy.

Active, busy people weigh less, are sick less often, recover from illness more quickly, tolerate cancer treatments better, age more slowly, and have less Alzheimer's disease. For me, that is a HUGE motivator.

The goal is to exercise most days of the week. If you plan to do that and then miss a day or two, you will still get several days of activity in. And the other suggestion is to be active for at least 30 minutes each time. Similar to the "Play 60" program that the NFL is promoting for children, we adults need a "Move 30" program for ourselves. That is a daily recommendation. When it becomes a habit, you will feel better and have more energy, you will sleep better and have a better digestive system, you will fall less because your balance improves with exercise, you will be stronger and better able to do all the normal things you want to do every day – so many possible improvements!

Maybe the best outcome for a horseshoe pitcher is knowing that when you are more active, you may pitch better and you will handle those tight, competitive games better as well, and not feel as tired toward the end. And you may be losing weight and preventing diabetes at the same time!

I wish you the best. Remember, ANYTHING that you do MORE than what you have been doing is ALL GOOD! Just START, and then START again! Good for you!

About the author:

Debby Michaud lives in Massachusetts and is a 46-year member of the NHPA and a two-time Women's World Champion. Debby is a retired RN, but still works in cardiac rehab, holding a bachelor of science in exercise physiology. Look for more health-related and exercise submissions in future Newslines issues.

CHARTER CHATTER

News From Across the States

INDIANA: Lucky to Have Indoor Pitching at Four Locations

by John Wellsand

Even though winter is upon us in the Hoosier State, we don't just hang up our horseshoes, we take them inside! We are lucky to have four excellent indoor pitching facilities that host NHPA sanctioned tournaments. Visit Indiana this winter and pitch with us at these locations:

- Shelby Lions Club, Lake County
- Stroh Horseshoe Palace, Lagrange County
- Whitley County Horseshoe Club
- Kokomo Indoor Courts, Howard County

Regretfully, we all lost a great man and great pitcher, Doc Rice, on September 27. Doc was a Men's State Champion three times, and was always there to help at our tourneys. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

MARYLAND

Points Challenge Winners and New Courts

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by Diana Ratliff

Congrats to the MDHPA 2014 Points Challenge Winners: Vicki Kunde, first; John "Chief" Sequoyah, second; and Jim Reabe, third. They were awarded \$100, \$75 and \$50, respectively, for their participation in Maryland sanctioned events in 2014. Chief deserves special mention, as this is the fourth consecutive year that he has placed in the top three.

We are pleased to report that 12 new courts have been sanctioned at the Kent Island Elks Lodge (location of the 2014 MD Senior Olympics horseshoe pitching). Special thanks to Tommy Thombs and his Elks crew for their work on the courts. We also send out a big thank you to Dan Carter, Delaware Regional Director, for his time and efforts in getting them sanctioned.

MINNESOTA

Hall of Famers and First Female President

by Gene Gross

Over Labor Day weekend, at our annual banquet, three people were inducted to our state Hall of Fame. Honored were Sig Armitage for pitching accomplishments, Dick David as a promoter, and Glen Werk as a founder. Dale and Lenny Lipovsky were awarded lifetime memberships for their 50 years. Dale was just a kid when he first joined.

That same weekend, we held our annual meeting and here, Rick Wright completed his very successful nine-year term as our President. Our new President is Cathy Ziemann. She is the first woman to lead our great state organization.

From the Editor

by Sara Otto, Newsline Editor

Thanks for reading this first issue of *Newsline* in its new electronic version. Please know this is a work in progress and the publication will continue to evolve and grow, as members and officers see this idea become reality. Look for regular features, photos and more.

The next issue will be out the first week of March, so the submission and advertising deadline is February 10. Anyone is welcome to submit material.

I also invite your comments, ideas, input and feedback -- good or bad -- and I'll continue to make this YOUR publication, your connection to the NHPA. Thanks for your patience and support!

In the News

The *Topeka Capital-Journal* newspaper is already chronicling the approaching World Tournament. Check out their [feature story here](#).

Rules and Bylaws Q & A: State of Pitching

by Dan Sanders, **1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director**

Question:

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Does a state have the right to say that your (required) sanctioned tournaments have to be pitched in your respective state in order to play for the "state championship" of your respective state? A person may live just a few miles from the border of a state that has a lot of sanctioned tournaments but in your own state you may have to travel 200 miles or more to find a sanctioned event?

-Randy

Answer:

Most are aware that to be eligible to pitch in the *World Tournament*, you must have pitched in four NHPA sanctioned events (tournaments and/or leagues) before the entry deadline. Over the past several years, I have received questions from several of our members asking if this same rule also applies to their state tournament.

Some states do have this requirement in their charter bylaws, mostly in an effort to increase tournament participation. And if they do, two-thirds of their membership (at some time in the past) had voted in favor of this requirement for it to now be included in current bylaws. This requirement may also vary from charter to charter.

For example, here in Ohio, we don't require that our members pitch in any of our sanctioned tournaments to qualify for pitching in our state tournament. On the other hand, at one time Michigan required that their members pitch in five Michigan tournaments to qualify for their state tourney.

In these cases, the only recourse that a member has is to make an official proposal that the current bylaw about this be changed, which they can specify in a written proposal. Normally, these proposals must be submitted to the state officers by a deadline (check your bylaws), and then be published in the charter newsletter so that all members have an opportunity to read and attend the meeting and to vote on this proposed change.

I realize that this requirement is a *real problem* for members who may live along the border of their state/charter and may pitch many of their tournaments in the state/charter that is closer to them. If you should decide to submit a proposed change to your bylaws, this argument/reason for the change is something that your fellow members should certainly understand.