



May/June 2007



# HORSESHOE PITCHERS' Ringer Digest

Charter Member

[www.MinnesotaHorseshoes.com](http://www.MinnesotaHorseshoes.com)

Affiliated with the NHPA

## Member Profile Ron Fadden

### Rockford Ringers Horseshoe Club

Here is the story of how I got into horseshoe pitching at the age of 30. The winter of 1976 I had broke my ankle playing in a men's independent basketball league. The summer of 1977 my uncle signed me up as a sub on their horseshoe travel team because I could not play fast pitch softball that summer and needed some sport to play. I pitched 3 nights in 3 different towns that year with averages of 3% up to 9% ringers with a flip shoe. The next year I was back playing softball but did have Wednesday night open so I subbed again on the traveling team and got to play 6 nights and also started to practice on the weekends because seem I just couldn't win even with handicap. By end of that year my average increased 14%. In 1979 I became a regular pitcher on the team and improved to 22%, and by the end of that year I was hooked. Seems like there was never enough games. In the 1980 season one of the players from the league started to work with me on changing my throw from a flip to a turn and a quarter. I didn't trust throwing it in league play, but at the start of the 1981 season my average dipped down to 12%, but by end of that year my average was over 30%. In 1982 I went to my first tournament at Wayzata Park and won class C with 5 wins and 2 losses. Then each year after that I entered more and more tournaments, like the Savage/Dan Patch Days celebration, Carver's Steamboat Days, Victoria Doubles, and the New Ulm County Fair Tournament. By 1987, the year the Rockford Ringers Horseshoe Club became state sanctioned, I started to get into sanction tournaments. 1988 was my first state tournament, and sorry to say didn't do

*(Fadden—Continued on page 15)*



#### Editor's Note:

Ron is a full blooded Irishman, and goes all out during the week of St Patrick's Day. If you really want to see this picture for what it is, go to our website, [www.minnesotahorseshoes.com](http://www.minnesotahorseshoes.com), and look in the photo gallery in the "Ron Fadden" album. There you will see this picture in all of it's COLOR !

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Rick Wright



Hey Everyone,

By the time you receive your digest, some of you will have already had your Spring Meeting to start this summer's leagues. I wish everyone good luck this year and hope you all can bring in at least one new pitcher to join in the fun of summer leagues. If you have not had your Spring Meeting yet, I would encourage you to invite your vice president to help in answering any questions you may have.

Way to go Minnesota!! We, the board, would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the Dakota Magic Tournaments this year. Bill Trader, the director of these tournaments, sent us a check for \$100.00 for winning the Dakota Magic Charter Challenge. Good Job People.

I know that everyone is trying to do all they can to make their club bigger and better. As an incentive, your association will send your club \$100.00 for a 20% increase in membership. The club that has the highest percentage of growth will then receive an additional \$400.00 to be awarded at our State Banquet. So use your imagination and recruit some new members today. Remember, the stronger your club, the stronger is your association!

I'm sure you all have noticed that in every issue of the Digest, I really push the participation in our State Tournament by using creative ways to entice people to participate. We have an executive board that is working very hard to provide good competition and all the fun we can muster. For the last couple of years, I think we as a board have accomplished this. Only thing that is missing is you. I'm speaking to the pitchers that say maybe next year, or I'm not good enough or it's too far to drive. It's only once a year, so make some time and try out our Minnesota State Tournament. You just might have a good time. Just ask others who have participated and supported this tournament in the past, you will not be disappointed. As I challenged you all last year, if we hit the 300 entry mark, we will draw one name and that person will have the pleasure of shaving my head, anywhere, anytime during the State Tournament weekend. If it works for Vince McMann and Donald Trump, it should work for horseshoes!!

Everyone enjoy your summer, whether it be league or summer tournaments, just remember life is yours to enjoy, so have some fun.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual

### N. Mankato Fun Days Tournament

July 7-8 Wheeler Park

"Great Concessions"

Beer Garden Fri-Sat-Sun p.m.

Carnival rides Fri-Sat-Sun p.m.

Parade Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Scorekeepers paid \$1 per game

6 person mixed classes

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$cash awards\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Entry fee: \$20 Entry deadline: June 24

Make checks payable to:

North Mankato Horseshoe Club

Mail to Erwin Tischer

55903 174<sup>th</sup> LN, Good Thunder, Mn 56037

Information: 507-278-3424

Sanction # 23-07-014

**Don't miss this one!!!**

## Membership Drive Details Announced

The 2007 membership drive sponsored by the state association seems to be taking hold across the state. Many clubs have reported that they are offering free club dues to their members who recruit at least one new member for their club. New members must be new to the organization, not just transferred from another location from last year. Also, the new members must pitch a minimum of 700 shoes, the same qualification required for use in our state tournament. Remember, any club that shows an increase of at least 20% over last year's totals will receive a \$100.00 bonus from the state. In addition to that, \$400.00 will be awarded to the club that shows the highest percentage increase. The executive board of the MGSHPA will decide the winner of the grand prize based on this explained criteria. The bonus will be awarded at the state banquet on Labor Day weekend in Genola.

# REGIONAL DIRECTOR

by Jerry LaBrosse

## Good Bye My Friend by #247 "Big Kahuna"

I wish to say farewell to a man who was a great friend to many in our organization, Eugene Burlingham, AKA "Burly".

He put forth a lot of his time and effort in creating the "Paul Stewart Fan Club", which ended up with 828 members, known as "Stewlies". We all received buttons and hand made Stewlie dolls with our number and silly stewlie name on them. Burly was always a tireless worker at the world tournament, but always found time to socialize with his many friends.

He took this Stewlie thing to a new level when he developed a nationwide list of emails. Whenever someone was sick or needed cheering up for whatever reason, a message was sent out to all Stewlies and they would send greetings in large numbers.

What a great man, and a great friend. You will be missed Burly. All of your Mn Stewlies love ya....."it's a Stewlie thing!"



Eugene Neal "Burly" Burlingame

Passed away on 2/19/07

Hello Everyone

First I want to welcome all of the new members to our organization. If you have any questions or concerns about horseshoe pitching, I want you to know about all of the resources available to you. First of all, most of your concerns should be settled by the officers in your local club. You can always contact your district Vice President, who are all listed on the back page of this Digest. If you're still not sure who to contact, Rick Wright is our president and can either solve your problem, or put you in contact with someone who can.

There is also a wealth of horseshoe information available online at our state website [www.MinnesotaHorseshoes.com](http://www.MinnesotaHorseshoes.com) or at the NHPA website [www.Horseshoepitching.com](http://www.Horseshoepitching.com) Please check these sites out.

### World Tournament

This year the world tournament will be held July 23<sup>rd</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup> in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The deadline for entering this event is May 17<sup>th</sup>, and you need 4 sanctioned events at your pitching dis-

tance within the last 12 months. I certainly hope that a lot of you MN pitchers are planning to enter. Mn is the largest charter in the NHPA, and we should be well represented at this tournament. For those of you planning to attend the world this year, I say congratulations and thank you for representing our state charter. Information about Ardmore OK can be found on the front page of the NHPA website. If you cannot access this website and need more information, contact me during the day at 763-428-7737

### State Tournament

This year the Mn State Tournament will once again be held in the beautiful Genola Arena. Remember you need 3 tournaments (at least one in MN), OR one MN tournament and one current league (min 700 shoes by July 27<sup>th</sup>) to qualify to enter.

I strongly encourage all members, especially you new members, to enter this event and see how much fun it is. And won't it be fun to watch some lucky member get to shave our president's head at the banquet?

# State News

## North Mankato News by Russ Rigdon

The North Mankato Horseshoe Club's 25th year is officially underway! The spring meeting was held with approximately 50 members present. This year we will once again field 19 teams among three divisions. We are excited to announce the "Junior Ringers" team, consisting of seven juniors pitchers along with two adult women to help as needed. Thank you to Interior Craftsman Flooring and Steve Zuehlke for sponsorship and the organization of this team. We hope this strategy will open the door to more junior interest in our area. We would also like to recognize Northern Bank as a new team sponsor for 2007. Welcome and thank you! Work night is scheduled for April 24, with league play starting May 2 for division one, and May 8th and 10th for divisions three and two, respectively.

Kim Briard was awarded an NHPA top ten award for high game over average for 2006. This is a prestigious award and we are proud to recognize Kim and her achievement. The club is working on some promotional items to highlight our 25th year, and a parade committee was formed to organize and build a float for the North Mankato Fun Days parade. A big thanks to Darby Rasmussen and Carl Peterson for their continued involvement in spearheading the parade effort. Also, with the impending court sanctioning, steps were outlined to move toward compliance. Erwin Tischer and Tom Engelen will be engineering the necessary steps toward full sanctioning. The State tournament traveling trophy was on display at the meeting. The goal for the club is to

*(Mankato—Continued on page 6)*

## Attention League Secretaries

By Bonnie Holland

League play is now about to start and I would encourage you to send in your completed roster as soon as possible once your league starts. To make it easier for you and me, consider "marking up" the final list I sent back to you last year. Just cross off members that did not come back and add new members to the bottom of the list. Also----- very important----- check for mistakes! Is their address or telephone # correct? Is their name spelled correctly? Are there any blanks that need to be filled in?

Another thing.....if a member moves up from 40 feet to 30 feet, make sure you tell me.

And one last thing.....a lot of members get their cards earlier in the year, so make sure you check everyone. Every year the National informs me that he has pitching records for members that do not have a sanctioned card and then in December I have to hunt some Secretaries down to find out what's up. Overall you all do a very good job and if you have any questions just give me an e-mail or a call.

Have a great year and have fun!

## Welcome New Members

Walter Mitchell	Cambridge
Charles Roeser	Vadnais Heights
Carol Kough	Roseville
Matt Johnson	Marshall
Delrose Fuchs	Winsted
Edward Fuchs	Winsted
Mark Nieman	Stillwater

## Higher Level? By Jerry LaBrosse (re-printed from a previous issue)

I was at the gym the other day and jumped on one of those elliptical step machines. I started out with my usual pace but soon realized the guy next to me was going substantially faster. Within about 4 minutes I had matched his pace and possibly was going a tad faster. I thought to myself "am I that competitive?"

I think the truth is **we all have a competitive streak inside of us, it's human nature**. That's why we love horseshoe pitching. Our sport has a long history of competition. How many bets, arguments, and conflicts have been settled over a game of horseshoes?

There are many aspects of horseshoes that we all enjoy. Although friendships, exercise, and being involved with an organized group are all reasons to love horseshoes, competition is one of the biggest for most pitchers, though they may not realize it. There's nothing wrong with being a competitive person as long as you remember to keep it balanced with the other aspects of the sport. I believe its competitiveness that creates the desire to improve.

## So how do you improve your game to a higher level?

For starters I believe that **playing against pitch-**

*(Higher Level—Continued on page 9)*

## Understand Natstats by Marlys Timm

All pitchers' averages are based on the three highest NHPA sanctioned events pitched in the preceding 12 months OR the last ten sanctioned events during the same period, whichever occurs first. An average is figured by dividing the total number of ringers by the total number of shoes pitched for those three events.

Any member without a current average at their pitching distance shall pitch a minimum of 100 consecutive shoes to establish their tournament seeding percentage. This qualifying must be scored in writing and witnessed by TWO NHPA members no more than 30 days prior to entering a tournament. Alternately, an NHPA sanctioned club or league average may be used if it covers 400 or more shoes.

Members with less than three sanctioned events shall use the combined average of the one or two sanctioned events they have pitched.

I sure hope this helps you in understanding NATSTATS .

[www.Horseshoepitching.com](http://www.Horseshoepitching.com)  
Check out your Natstats !



## Forest Lake Spring Meeting

It's been a long time coming and we are happy to announce that on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 10:00 am we are having a spring meeting at the VFW in Forest Lake. We have worked long and hard to find a place to revive the club in our area and we are very close. The VFW members are excited about supporting a horseshoe pitching league once again. With a lot of work and donations from local contractors in the area, we are hoping to be up and running by the end May. Anyone that is interested in playing organized horseshoes should attend this meeting or call Rick Wright at 651- 491-2404 or Bud Nelson at 651-257-8090.



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## Good Luck Team World Pitchers

by Rob Hagman

Just want to wish good luck to the people going to Team World. Team World is May 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Beloit WI. The defending champs are Colorado. Minnesota has 3 teams going this year. Team #1 is Dale Lipovsky, Bev Nathe, Harold Schrader and Bert Logsdon. Team #2 is Dick Dvorak, Edi Holland, Rosie Leyk and Al Larson. Team #3 is Jerry LaBrosse, Jerry Hokkala, Mark Smith and Dave Hughes. So if you see anyone of these people before May 18<sup>th</sup> please make sure and wish them good luck in Team World.



## NHPF Brick Program by Jerry LaBrosse

As you may already know, the NHPA Hall of Fame is being constructed this summer in Quail Ridge Park, Missouri. There will be a beautiful plaza there full of commemorative bricks. The bricks will be 4" X 8" and will sell for \$100.00 ea, 3 bricks for \$250.00. The engraving is limited to 3 lines, 13 characters per line. Larger bricks are available, and will be 8" X 8", and will allow 6 lines of engraving, 13 characters per line. The cost of the larger size is \$200.00. I would like to encourage all clubs in the MGSHPA to purchase a large brick to commemorate your club, or a noteworthy individual.

**Note To all Stewlies**, Paul Stewart (#0 the original) has challenged all Stewlies to purchase a small brick in the memory of Burly. See the Stewlie website (<http://www.stewlies.homestead.com/index.html>) for complete details, or contact me. Let's do it .... "it's a Stewlie thing!!!"

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**N. Mankato Fun Days Tournament**  
**July 7-8 Wheeler Park**  
**"Great Concessions"**  
Beer Garden Fri-Sat-Sun p.m.  
Carnival rides Fri-Sat-Sun p.m.  
Parade Saturday 11:00 a.m.  
Scorekeepers paid \$1 per game  
6 person mixed classes  
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$cash awards\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$  
Entry fee: \$20 Entry deadline: June 24  
Make checks payable to:  
North Mankato Horseshoe Club  
Mail to Erwin Tischer  
55903 174<sup>th</sup> LN, Good Thunder, Mn 56037  
Information: 507-278-3424  
Sanction # 23-07-014  
**Don't miss this one!!!**

# Spotlight On Juniors

By Tim Ahles

## West St. Paul Junior League:

- 1) Letters have been sent out to the Junior Sponsors, requesting funds to support our Junior league with equipment, t-shirts, soda-pop on game day, and end-of-the-year awards picnic.
- 2) An ad has been placed on the Homeschoolers Alliance web site.
- 3) An ad has been placed in the summer activities catalog of the West St. Paul Park 'n Rec. I have already received telephone calls from two mothers who are ready to sign-up five boys. When I speak to them, I encourage those parents and children to spread the word and invite other junior friends or relatives.
- 4) An ad has been sent to the local school district to have it placed in all elementary principal's newsletters that are sent to each home.

## MN Junior Promotion Director:

- 1) George Nick and I have contacted the School District 833 (Woodbury, Cottage Grove area) and are proceeding with plans for them to establish an 8-week Junior Horseshoe Camp at one of the local elementary schools. An ad has been placed in their summer sports catalog which is to be released this month. The 8-week camp will be scheduled from mid-June to mid-August.

- 2) The Junior Only Tournament will be held in conjunction with the Northwest Open Tournament held at the St. Paul Ramsey courts in August. Details will be announced for exact date and time during that weekend, after all junior players have pre-registered.
- 3) A Junior division will once again be established in the MN State Horseshoe Pitching Tournament that is held on Labor Day weekend.
- 4) All junior players, regardless of their ringer average, are encouraged to join the above two tournaments or any other club tournament. The more participants that join will create a better tournament as all players will be assigned to their skill level class.

## Old Horseshoe Trophies:

Jessica Dunn, of the Brooklyn Park Junior Club, re-uses old horseshoe trophies and has them re-conditioned, by a local trophy dealer, for distribution to her junior players. Contact her, if you have trophies to donate. Jessica will be at the Brooklyn Park Tournament on June 2nd to accept any donated trophies.

Jessica Dunn | Senior Tax Accountant  
[jessica.l.dunn@ampf.com](mailto:jessica.l.dunn@ampf.com)

(Mankato—Continued from page 4)

keep this trophy in North Mankato again this year. As a step in promoting both the State tournament and junior pitchers, volunteers drivers are being sought to "chaperone" as many juniors as possible to and from the tournament, so that they may enjoy the experience as a group. Finally, there was discussion regarding the end of the year awards banquet and how to improve this already great event. Officers for 2007 are: President-Erwin Tischer, Vice President-Tom Engelen Sr., Secretary-Linda Due now, Treasurer-Ivan Baumgartner, Membership-Rosie Tischer, and Statistician, Publicity, NHPA

contact, Russ Rigdon

Now is the time to get registered for the 17th Annual N. Mankato Fun Days tournament, scheduled for July 7-8. Don't forget, there is much more than just flying horseshoes to experience here. Food, entertainment, shopping, parade watching, hotels, camping....the list is endless. Come and visit our town and our tournament. You won't be disappointed. Look for our ad in this issue or call Irwin Tischer at 507-278-3424 to reserve your spot before the deadline of June 23. We look forward to seeing you!

# More MGSHPA Juniors Receive NHPA Awards



Lacey Wabshaw proudly displays her NHPA Scholarship Awards



## Two BP Juniors Honored as NHPA Scholar Pitchers

The NHPA honored two members of the Brooklyn Park Junior League through the Scholar Pitcher Program. **Lacey Wabshaw** had the third highest GPA across the United States. She received a \$175 scholarship and a plaque recognizing her impressive achievement. Last year was Lacey's first season with the junior league.

**Michael Thell** repeated as an Honorable Mention Scholar Pitcher. He earned his second certificate for having a GPA over 3.0. Mike has been playing horseshoes since 2004. Congratulations to both pitchers on their outstanding achievement and continued scholastic success!



## Junior Only Open Horseshoe Tournament

Ramsey Courts, White Bear Ave., St. Paul  
August 18 or 19th

Pre—registration by August 4th  
No Entry Fee

This tournament to be held in conjunction with the Northwest Open. Scheduling will depend on the number of total entries for both tournaments. Contact the Junior Only Tournament

Director for more information  
Tim Ahles

344 Blue Herron Lane  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
651-738-1595

tahles@comcast.net  
NHPA Sanction # 23-07-021



Nicole Lilly was awarded an NHPA Scholarship, plus 3 top ten sanction league awards.



Nicole Lilly is a member of the Rockford Ringers Horseshoe Club. She began pitching at age 13 with the help of her father Steve Lilly. She had a pretty impressive junior career, capturing several class titles and also many NHPA top ten league awards. She put the final touch on her junior career by winning the 2006 Junior Girls State Title in Genola last year.

We wish Nicole the best of luck as she continues to compete in the Open Women's division.



Nicole received all these awards from Lorraine Sternberg, NHPA 3rd Vice president, and Sanctioned League Director

## FOSS and SAUCE

by Denny

Isn't it supposed to be spring? As I write this, there's snow a lot of places around our yard. I just put out our portable pits only to be covered with snow again. I had an idea of cleaning the snow off them. Our bird feeders were invaded with all species of birds, after the snow came, it reminded us of the movie "The Birds." They had cleaned a big space around the feeders to get all of the spilled seeds. I was going to move the feeders to the pits, the birds could clean the snow there too, I decided that would be a bad move, I'd have more of a mess than it would be worth. (non mention able things).

In the last two issues of the "Ringer" I have written about things that have taken place at the Dakota Magic tournaments. Well I'm continuing in this issue. It was Saint Patrick's Day weekend, green hats and necklaces were given as door prizes. Then on Sat. evening Ronn N. brought his karaoke equipment again. This is very popular with pitchers and friends. Young and old, singing, watching, clapping, laughing, and marveling at what people can do other than pitch horseshoes. A guest singer and machine operator came from St. Joe. and gave Ronn some help with the equipment. Each time more people sing solo's, duets, and group sing alongs. One of the new performers this time was a singer from Pine River.

Each year when the three tournaments are completed there is an award given to the person that accumulates the most points for placing in their class, it's called "The Magic Ringer." (It's like our Pitcher of the Year award). This award has the value of about \$500.00. This year there were three pitching for the title. One each from SD., ND., and MN. Each one could win with the right combination of wins or losses.

When the day was completed and the points added up a couple of times, our MN. Pitcher won the title. Jerry Zastrow from Alex. won the "Magic Ringer" by 1 point. No pressure for Jerry. Not only did Jerry win, our MN. chapter won a cash prize also in a contest called "Pitch a Ringer".

Here's a profile of Jerry:

Jerry was born and raised in Alex., not more than 4-miles from where he now lives. His 1<sup>st</sup>. job after high school was with a silo company, then a boat company and finally a machine shop where he had worked until he retired on March 14 of this year. Married 45 years with 2 girls, that live in the area, and 1 boy, who is in the Air Force. He is a avid deer

hunter, out west (with rifle) and locally (bow). Now that he has time on his hands he told me he wants to do more fishing and do some wood-working which he also enjoys. His horseshoe pitching started on 4<sup>th</sup> of July's, when his dad would pound stakes along the lake shore. Some time after a friend asked if he would be his partner in a fun doubles league. He now pitches in two leagues. A sanctioned league (Al Nicholson as partner) and the fun league ( his partner is his sister). Jerry has pitched in 8 State and 8 world tournaments beside many local MN .ones. The last few years he, his son-in-law Al Bettermann, and grandson Todd B., have pitched at Upsala in winter Monday night league.

A reminder to everyone, flip through your calendar and mark off Sept.1-3. These are the dates of the Minnesota State tournament. You should also include Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> that's the "Leprechaun" tournament at Rice.

## Greenfield has another successful season

Members of the Greenfield Horseshoe Club recently wrapped up their 2006-2007 winter season with a club tournament. . Dave Hughes nudged out Jerry Hokkala and Jerry LaBrosse on ringer percentage to win the club tourney championship.

The club runs two leagues on three courts during the winter months. Monday nights are regular handicapped format, and Thursday night league is straightaway action. Anybody interested in winter pitching should contact league director Jerry LaBrosse. Space is limited and members are accepted on a seniority basis.



### Greenfield Horseshoe Club

**Top Row:** Mike Littell, Joe Mueller, Rob Hagman, Dave Hughes  
**Bottom:** Jerry LaBrosse, Steve Lilly, Jerry Hokkala, Mark Smith  
**Not pictured:** Ron Fadden, Jim Wagner, Ron Mead

# Member Birthdays May/June

Abeln Sarah 5/10	Kapsner Lee 5/19	Osterhues Vern 5/10
Ackman Miriam 6/21	Karasch Sandy 5/15	Otterness Al 6/21
Allen Mary 5/11	Karsjens Judy 5/16	Owens Vernon 6/30
Allen Jerry 5/29	Kazemba Clinton 5/29	Owens David 5/19
Ammerman Destin 6/21	Keach Scott 5/22	Pasholk Kenneth 5/4
Anderson Virgil 6/29	Kelley Laurie 5/16	Pedersen Dave 6/8
Anderson Ben 6/12	Keltgen John 5/24	Pepper Bruce 6/25
Andrea Cheryle 6/25	Kinniry John 5/29	Peterson Carl 5/15
Atterbury Ren 5/12	Kohnen Butch 6/10	Pfeiffer Steve 5/6
Bair Clifford 5/29	Kolden Darrell 6/5	Pfeiffer Kevin 6/14
Bauer Donald 5/18	Korpela Matthew 5/22	Pittman Leon 5/18
Bayerl Tim 5/29	Kramer Delmar 6/8	Pomije Allan 5/3
Belcher Dick 5/5	Kupcho Chad 5/29	Raines Darrel 5/5
Biehn Steve 6/1	LaBrosse Jerry 5/4	Robinson Dan 6/4
Bonnema Kelvin 5/5	Lampton Richard 6/21	Rodi Sherlen 6/12
Booker Butch 6/5	Landsteiner John 5/19	Rowe Luke 6/16
Boser Donald 5/1	Langner Leroy 6/12	Sandberg Lenny 5/25
Briard Kim 5/19	Larson Dale 5/27	Sandquist Scott 6/6
Carlson Steve 6/13	LeForte Renee 6/4	Schaefer Mark 6/5
Champ Wayne 5/11	LeForte Marc 6/26	Schmidt Greg 6/20
Christensen Buddy 6/12	Lenway Tim 6/4	Schmidt Gerry 5/15
Christoffer Lucas 5/12	Lewis Joe 6/25	Schreifels Warren 6/8
Craigmile Ronald 5/11	Lilly Nicole 6/11	Schreiner Marilyn 6/17
Crossley Justin 5/18	Lilly Steve 6/29	Semler George 5/26
Dahlberg Jim 5/23	Linder Joe 6/16	Sherwood Karen 6/18
Daly Nick 5/1	Lindseth Harold 5/2	Shults Dutch 6/27
Damlo Gary 5/19	Loidolt Garry 5/11	Skelton Marlin 5/21
Danzl Randy 5/8	Loper Ron 6/21	Smith Mark 6/5
Dearing Anthony 6/17	Lozier Duane 6/8	Sowers Zach 6/9
Ditlefsen Jeff 5/29	Lundeen Charlie 6/9	Stanford John 5/10
Doyle Jake 6/14	Lundgren Dale 6/4	Strack Mel 6/18
Egging Patrick 6/6	Maine Dale 6/26	Struckman Jim 5/18
Erickson Bill 6/18	Maldon Mike 5/28	Stueve Kathy 5/29
Erickson Gene 6/8	Malm Doug 5/12	Stumpf Lisa 6/26
Fietek Leon 6/19	Mattson Dick 5/2	Swart Casey 5/7
Fisher Gary 6/22	McCormick Matt 6/18	Swirtz Zach 6/27
Fleming Jacob 5/1	McGuiggan John 5/29	Switajewski Tim 6/23
Foss Dennis 5/2	Mead Paula 6/21	Szabo Colleen 6/28
Froehlich Linda 5/23	Melin Mike 6/6	Theis Chris 5/13
Girtz Dale 5/16	Michaels Brett 5/13	Thell Michael 5/28
Goltz Donald 5/21	Michaels Randy 5/16	Thulin Richard 5/23
Graff Gary 5/14	Miller Dave 5/9	Tiegs Eli 5/27
Greenwaldt Norman 6/4	Mitchell David 5/28	Toribio Austin 6/16
Grose Bev 6/21	Moran Art 6/29	Traut Ken 5/9
Hall Jim 6/29	Morris Carl 5/20	Troldahl Alison 5/2
Hanson Kris 6/12	Naylon Scott 6/16	Virnig Jeff 6/16
Helback Deanna 5/29	Neidecker Ben 5/2	Volkers Jim 5/31
Hilger Mary Ann 5/8	Nelson Jody 6/8	Waataja Jeff 5/5
Hoppe Brian 6/7	Nelson Tom 5/13	Werner Robert 6/12
Hughes Crysta 6/5	Nelson David 5/14	Wild Tammy 5/1
Hunter Floyd 6/4	Nicholson Al 6/7	
Johnson Dwight 6/9	Nick June 6/12	
Johnson Richard 5/22	Nick George 6/21	
Kaduce Ervin 5/2	O'Brien Ginger 6/19	
	Olson Richard J 6/17	
	Olson Bob 6/2	

Send a birthday greeting to a horseshoe friend !!

(Higher Level—Continued from page 4)

ers that are slightly above you will tend to draw you upwards. In other words, it's far better for you to play in a class full of pitchers that are above you. If you win that class, it will mean much more to you than a win in a class that's beneath your level of play.

Another thing you can do to improve is to **make an effort to play a few times throughout the winter.** Even if you play once or twice a month you'll see a big difference in the time it takes to "get in the groove" at the

start of the season. Rumor has it there have been some winter tournaments going on in Upsala each month starting in January.

**Staying in shape** can greatly help your game too. You **know** what muscles you use when you pitch horseshoes. Take care of those muscle groups during the off season as well as during the summer. Incorporate a stretching program into your daily routine. My experience with hamstring stretching has been very positive for

(Higher Level—Continued on page 14)

# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## PITCHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

Pitcher of the Year awards shall be given to NHPA sanctioned pitchers that participate in NHPA sanctioned tournaments and accumulate points for entering and placing in the top 3 spots in 8-person classes and the top 2 spots in classes less than 8 players.

\* Points shall be accumulated between August 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

\* 1 Point is awarded to each tournament participant for entering.

\* Additional points are awarded for the following:

\* 7 points for a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish

\* 5 points for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish

\* 3 points for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish

\* League play and league tournaments are excluded

\* “ Club Only “, “Junior Only”, and any other “closed” tournaments are also excluded

The top point getter in the state will receive the “Frank Stinson Memorial Award”. The top ten point getters in the state will be eligible for a Pitcher of the Year Award. If a region of the state does not have a member in the top ten, then the top point getter in that region will also be eligible for an award. Awards will be presented at the MGSHPA annual awards banquet. The current top 25 standings will be printed regularly in the Ringer Digest.

This awards program is designed to promote participation in NHPA sanctioned tournaments. It provides fair recognition to pitchers of all skill levels.



### Blizzard Tournament (True to its name)

By Rick Wright

The Blizzard was cancelled due to a Blizzard, but thanks to all of you die hard pitchers, the next weekend was open at the Upsala Arena so we rescheduled and the tournament went off without a hitch. Check out the results on this page. I just want to thank everyone for supporting Make A Wish by purchasing tickets for the drawings of over 100 door prizes. Every year this tournament is getting bigger and bigger, thanks to all of you.

## *Top 25 High Points*

*As of the NHPF tourney*

<i>Name</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Total</i>
Casey Swart	C	33
Rob Hagman	EM	32
Leslie Marquardt	NC	32
Jim Aleckson	NC	31
Bill Larson	WM	31
Patti Oakes	EM	29
Dennis Foss	C	29
Ben LaCoursiere	WM	27
Edi Holland	NC	27
Joe Mueller	EM	25
Nicole Lilly	WM	24
Melvin Stoa	NC	23
Bob Knudtson	EM	23
Joe Rolfes	WM	22
Dick Dvorak	EM	22
Billy Lashinski	NC	22
Ron Mead	WM	22
Bert Logsdon	EM	21
Wayne Davis	SW	20
Roger Harp	NE	20
Lloyd Wolf	C	18
Joey Mueller	EM	18
Mark Smith	C	17
Shawn Warnemunde	EM	17
Daniel Schardin	EM	17

## The Blizzard (handicapped) #23-07-002

### Class A

Bert Logsdon	Maplewood	MN	6	1	62.86%
Lloyd Wolf	St.Cloud	MN	5.5	1.5	50.71%
Melvin Larson	Upsala	MN	4.5	2.5	50.00%
Dave Hughes	Cambridge	MN	4.5	2.5	57.85%
Alan Larson	Evansville	MN	3	4	50.71%
Janet Larson	Evansville	MN	2.5	4.5	43.57%
Mark Smith	Darwin	MN	2	5	51.43%
Jerry Hokkala	South Haven	MN	0	7	49.28%

### Class B

Dean Chaffee	Frederick	WI	4.5	0.5	38.00%
Rob Hagman	Anoka	MN	4	1	45.20%
Richard Giese	Holloway	MN	3	2	29.20%
Joe Mueller	Ham Lake	MN	2.5	2.5	29.60%
Joey Mueller	Ham Lake	MN	1	4	24.00%
Brian Wipper	St.Cloud	MN	0	5	28.00%

### Class C

Bob Klein	Kasota	MN	4	1	26.80%
Patti Oakes	Roseville	MN	3.5	1.5	24.80%
Jerry Zastrow	Alexandria	MN	3.5	1.5	29.60%
Larry Murphy	Lexington	MN	2	3	27.20%
Rick Wright	Stacy	MN	2	3	24.80%
Lu Cave	Sartell	MN	0	5	16.40%

### Class D

Ben LaCoursiere	Brooklyn Park	MN	5	2	21.78%
Bob Honsey	Mankato	MN	5	2	23.57%
Wayne Davis	Kasota	MN	5	2	21.07%
Jim Klein	Kasota	MN	5	2	12.50%
Randy Albrecht	Mankato	MN	4	3	11.43%
Tom Engelen	Mankato	MN	2	5	14.64%
Daniel Schardin	Minneapolis	MN	2	5	4.58%
Pacer					

## NHPF Benefit Tournament

By Ward Lutz

It was a rainy day; a good day to pitch horse-shoes on the excellent indoor Upsala courts. It was damp and cool outside but the competition was warm and friendly inside.

The morning session saw junior pitcher Casey Swart the grandson of long time Minnesota pitcher Dale Ackman win class C. It's always heartening to see junior pitchers do well. Class D was won by Tom Dillon who pitched well above his average. John Foster finished second pitching well above his average. Class D included two new comers Sara Otto and Brenda Zachman. Sara and Brenda pitch in the Brooklyn Park League.

The afternoon session was highlighted by Lloyd Wolf taking Class A. It was good to see Lloyd back in the groove. Mel Larson had a good tournament including a 75% game. Dick Dvorak started his 2007 tournament season by filling in for Mark Smith. Dick finished second in Class A. Joe Mueller, East Metro Vice-President, pitched well winning Class B. Paula Mead filled in for Jerry Larson on short notice.

A number of pitchers showed up at the start of the morning session to keep score. Some morning pitchers reciprocated by keeping score for the afternoon classes. This was great! Joyce and Mel Larson were gracious hosts as always.

## NHPF Benefit (handicapped) #23-07-003

### Class A

Lloyd	Wolf	St.Cloud	MN	6	1	62.50%
Dick	Dvorak	St.Paul	MN	5	2	54.28%
Melvin	Larson	Upsala	MN	4	3	58.57%
Edi	Holland	McGregor	MN	3.5	3.5	62.14%
Alan	Larson	Evansville	MN	3	4	62.57%
Rosie	Leyk	Hillman	MN	2.5	4.5	55.71%
Bert	Logsdon	Maplewood	MN	2	5	58.57%
Janet	Larson	Evansville	MN	2	5	41.42%

### Class B

Joe	Mueller	Ham Lake	MN	5	2	34.28%
Gerald	Piehl	Dassel	MN	5	2	40.35%
Rob	Hagman	Anoka	MN	4.5	2.5	34.28%
Norm	Wunderlich	Royalton	MN	4	3	35.35%
Wallace	Runia	Balaton	MN	3	4	40.71%
Paula	Mead	Rogers	MN	3	4	28.92%
Jim	Aleckson	Princeton	MN	3	4	42.85%
Henning	Awsumb	Donnelly	MN	0.5	6.5	31.42%

### Class C

Casey	Swart	Litchfield	MN	5	2	30.71%
Melvin	Stoa	LaPorte	MN	5	2	32.92%
Les	Holland	McGregor	MN	4.5	2.5	27.85%
Michael	Littell	Spring Park	MN	4	3	26.42%
Ben	LaCoursiere	Brooklyn Park	MN	3.5	3.5	18.57%
Patti	Oakes	Roseville	MN	3	4	28.57%
Joe	Rolfes	Coon Rapids	MN	3	4	27.50%
Lu	Cave	Sartell	MN	0	7	7.50%

### Class D

Tom	Dillon	Faribault	MN	6	1	25.71%
John	Foster	Clarissa	MN	6	1	8.57%
Leslie	Marquardt	Foley	MN	4	3	12.50%
Dale	Ackman	Litchfield	MN	3.5	3.5	21.07%
Brenda	Zachman	Woodbury	MN	3	4	8.92%
Daniel	Schardin	Minneapolis	MN	2.5	4.5	10.71%
Sara	Otto	Minnetonka	MN	2	5	6.78%
Joyce	Bombarger	Anoka	MN	1	6	10.00%



**Class A**  
Edi Holland  
Mel Larson  
Dick Dvorak  
Lloyd Wolf



**Class B**  
Norm Wunderlich  
Rob Hagman  
Gerald Piehl  
Joe Mueller



**Class C**  
Mike Littell  
Les Holland  
Melvin Stoa  
Casey Swart



**Class D**  
Dale Ackman  
Leslie Marquardt  
John Foster  
Tom Dillon

## Pitchers Trade Horseshoes for Bowling Balls

Montgomery Horseshoe's Club held its annual Horseshoe Pitchers Bowling Tournament on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. 20 bowlers attended divided into 5 classes.

Class	W / L	Actual Pins	With handicap
<b>Class A</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Tim Reinke	3-0	497	587
2 <sup>nd</sup> Denny Keogh	2-1	634	643
<b>Class B</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Les Holland	2.5-.5	498	615
2 <sup>nd</sup> Edi Holland	2-1	480	588
<b>Class C</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Vern Osterhues	2-1	533	656
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jerry Roemhildt	2-1	506	626
<b>Class D</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Christy Weyer	3-0	469	619
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jim Holland	1.5-1.5	453	582
<b>Class E</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Zach Ruehling	3-0	429	638
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sandy Keogh	2-1	320	542

### Winners High Game with Handicap

Game 1	Actual	Handicap
1 Vern Osterhues	205	246
2 Don Ehrhardt	188	229

### Winners High Game with Handicap

Game 2	Actual	Handicap
1 Denny Keogh	264	267
2 Vern Osterhues	202	243

### Winners High Game with Handicap

Game 3	Actual	Handicap
1 Les Holland	192	231
2 Jerry Roemhildt	183	223

Thank you to all who attended. A special thanks to those who brought door prizes. Hope to see you next year in March.

Notes: Kolacky Tournament July 28-29, 2007

Walk on non-sanctioned Doubles Tournament, September 2007

### Mike's Horseshoes

ACCESSORIES  
GAME RELATED ITEMS  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mike Littell  
4363 Shoreline Drive  
Spring Park, MN 55384  
612-327-6350

mikeshorseshoes@yahoo.com

www.Mikeshorseshoes.com

### TIPS FOR ENTERING TOURNAMENTS

1. Always make the check out to the tournament director unless requested otherwise, it's easier to process.
2. Enter early, many tournaments are limiting entries to help with scheduling.
3. If you drop out after the schedule is made, don't expect a refund unless a replacement is found.
4. Be sure you show up on time and ready to pitch at least 1/2 hour before your scheduled starting time.
5. Wear a tournament shirt with your name and town on the back, we're trying to build a positive image.

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

## Genola Open

Sanction #23-07-005  
May 26-27, 2007 Genola Arena  
Entry Fee \$25.00 adults \$5.00 juniors  
Entry deadline is May 12th  
Send to: Dan Girtz  
12811 Hwy 25 Pierz, MN 56364  
320-468-6193 [Jgirtz@fallsnet.com](mailto:Jgirtz@fallsnet.com)

## Rochester Monday Night #1

Sanction # 23-07-008  
Monday June 11th, 2007  
Sign up on site at 6:30 pm, pitch at 7:00 pm  
You will play five 30 shoe games  
Entry Fee is \$6.00, with \$1.00 to Make a Wish  
Tournament Director:  
Ward Lutz  
1-507-288-5182  
[lutz.ward@charter.net](mailto:lutz.ward@charter.net)

## Brooklyn Park Open

Sanction # 23-07-006  
Saturday June 2nd, 2007  
Entry Fee \$20.00, Juniors free  
Entry deadline: May 27th.  
Limited to the first 72 PAID entries.  
Pitching format based on number of classes.  
Concessions will be available on site.  
Send Entries to:  
Jerry LaBrosse  
8170 Fern Lane  
Greenfield, MN 55357  
763-428-7737  
[jlbro6186@aol.com](mailto:jlbro6186@aol.com)  
"Come have some fun"

## Fridley 49'rs

Sanction # 23-07-009  
June 16th, 9:00am and 1:30pm  
Deadline: June 4th  
Fridley Horseshoe Courts  
Entry Fee: \$25.00, Juniors \$5.00  
Payouts: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$60.00 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> - \$40.00 4<sup>th</sup> - \$25.00  
40 shoe games for 8 man classes  
50 shoe games for 6 man classes  
Reserved to the first *paid* 64 entries  
State Membership Meeting will be held at Noon  
Door Prizes, Auction, Raffle, Food and Fun!!!  
Send entries to:  
Greg Stumpf  
6110 Rainbow Drive  
Fridley MN, 55432  
763-571-1759  
[gestumpf@gmail.com](mailto:gestumpf@gmail.com)

## West St. Paul Open

Sanction # 23-07-007  
June 9th, 2007  
Entry Fee is \$23.00, with \$1.00 each going to  
Make a Wish, NHPF, and the MGSHPA Juniors  
Entry deadline is May 26th, 2007  
Send entries to:  
Patti Oakes  
2138 William Street  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-489-5304  
[patti22@juno.com](mailto:patti22@juno.com)

The editor reserves the right  
to accept or reject any  
material submitted.

## 38th Allard Open

Sanction # 23-07-010  
Saturday, June 23rd,2007  
Entry fee \$16.00, juniors free, \$1.00 going to  
Make a Wish  
Limited to the first 72 guaranteed paid entries  
Entry Deadline is June 15th  
Scorekeepers paid \$1.00 per game  
Format is 50 shoe games (may be handicapped)  
Make checks out to :Moorhead Horseshoe League  
Harry Fillafer  
8492 Broadway St. NW  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-233-4024  
fillafer@fargocity.com

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## Engebretson Open

“Just across the river from Moorhead”  
Sunday, June 24th,2007  
Send \$15.00 entry fee to:  
Paul Anderson  
3313 Meadow Way  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
701-282-2660

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## Hibbing Senior/Elder Only

Sanction # 23-07-011  
Friday, June 22nd,2007  
Tournament limited to Senior/Elder pitchers  
Entry Fee is \$20.00, with \$1.00 to Make a Wish  
Entry deadline is June 9th  
Format depends on entries  
Send entries to: Randy Lampton  
2515 2nd Ave. W.  
Hibbing, MN 55746  
218-262-6655  
rlampton@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us

## Hibbing Open

Saturday, June 23rd,2007  
Sanction # 23-07-012  
Entry Fee is \$20.00, with \$1.00 to Make a Wish  
Entry deadline is June 9th  
Format depends on entries  
Send entries to: Randy Lampton  
2515 2nd Ave. W.  
Hibbing, MN 55746  
218-262-6655  
rlampton@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us

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## Litchfield Make a Wish Benefit

Sanction # 23-07-013  
Saturday, July 7th,2007  
Entry Fee is \$25.00, with \$5.00 to Make a Wish  
Entry Deadline is June 23rd  
Send Entries to: Jeff Waataja  
218 S. Donnelly Ave  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
320-593-6845  
waataja@hutchtel.net

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## 16th North Mankato Fun Days

Sanction # 23-07-014  
Open tournament on July 7th and 8th  
Entry Fee is \$20.00 and Juniors are free  
Entry deadline is June 23rd  
Scorekeepers paid \$1.00 per game  
Format is 6 person mixed classes  
Please make checks payable to :  
North Mankato Horseshoe Club  
C/O Erwin Tischer  
55903 174th Lane  
Good Thunder, MN 56037  
507-278-3424

*(Higher Level—Continued from page 9)*

some lower back pain I had in my past.

There are many good **books and instructional tapes** available to help you develop a more effective style of pitching. Check the NHPA website for availability.

One key aspect of the game is the **mental aspect**. It is present at every level of the game, from 5% to 85%. The ratio of physical game to mental game

changes at different levels. How do you get focused and stay focused? I am doing more research on this and will have a more detailed report for you in the near future.

**Playing in as many tournaments as you can** is extremely helpful to your horseshoe pitching success. It not only **gives you a much more accurate Natstat average**, but you're gaining valuable tournament ex-

*(Higher Level—Continued on page 15)*

## Minneapolis Open

Sanction # 23-07-015  
Saturday, July 14th, 2007  
Entry Fee is \$11.00 with \$1.00 to Make a Wish  
Entry deadline is June 30th  
100% payback with bonus  
\$100.00 for highest game( regardless of class)  
Send entry with phone number to:  
Bill Orman  
3116 West 85th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
952-885-0135  
billorman2002@yahoo.com

## Rochester Monday Night #2

Sanction # 23-07-017  
Monday July 9th, 2007  
Sign up on site at 6:30 pm, pitch at 7:00 pm  
You will play five 30 shoe games  
Entry Fee is \$6.00, with \$1.00 to Make a Wish  
Tournament Director:  
Ward Lutz  
1-507-288-5182  
lutz.ward@charter.net

## Kolachy Days

July 28-29, 2007  
Montgomery, MN.  
8 person classes if possible  
Entry Fee is \$20.00 with \$1.00 to MAW  
Entry deadline is July 12th  
This event is limited to the first 64 Paid entries  
Send entries to :  
Denny Keogh  
203 Fischer ST NW  
Montgomery, MN 56069  
507-364-8842  
Keogh49@frontiernet.net  
Sanction # 23-07-016

(Fadden—Continued from page 1)

very well. State tournaments were always fun, but it took until 1992 to win my first trophy, placing 2nd place in my class in Rochester, and finally captured a state class title in 2004 in Genola. Carver's steamboat doubles, where we played 31 teams before getting classified to A class then played 4 more games to win. There are a lot of good players who played doubles but not the State tournaments over the years, and I never could understand why, because it was always fun for me. Of course all the years playing horseshoe I also played softball until I was 57 years old, winning state class B one year in modified softball, and couple years later won class A modified softball. As my teammates and I got older it was harder to win the big tournaments. Most of my friends that were close to my age retired (48-50) from ball playing, but not me. Then I got the opportunity to play with my youngest son for 7 great years, a couple of them he played centerfield and I played right field, but as I got older/slower then played infield. Then when I retired at 57, the team won the state class B modified softball tournament. Speaking of family I have two sons, Paul and Nick. Nick played as a junior in the Rockford Horseshoe League for couple years. We also managed to get both of them through high school, both graduating valedictorian (they both got the brains part from their mother) and both graduated from Macalester College. Paul, a surgeon in Urology at Abbott, and his family live in St Paul. Nick, a Wells Fargo investment banker, and his fiancé live in Hopkins, so I see them both as often as I can. Other enjoy bowling during the winter months, sometime 3 to 4 nights a week, but am a regular on 2 teams. Now as I get older, (but maybe not wiser), my goal is to stay healthy for another 40 + years, then I can make the United States President list for 100 year Olds.

See you all on the courts this year.

(Higher Level—Continued from page 14)

perience. Try to go to some tournaments this summer in towns that you've never played in before. It would be good for you to play in different surroundings and who knows, you might even make some more horseshoe friends.

The last thing I recommend, but can't stress

enough, is **practice**. It's really pretty simple when you think about it. **The more you practice and play, the better you're going to get.** Raising your level of play will only increase the enjoyment you get from pitching horseshoes. These are some things that may help you improve your horseshoe game this summer, good luck!

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612-327-6350

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Send to Bonnie Holland, State Membership Director.

Visit our state website at:  
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