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Horseshoe Pitching: The ultimate family sport. Get out and pitch. Get involved.

FOUR DEAD

*Official Newsletter of the*

IDAHO HORSESHOE PITCHER'S ASSOC.

Jerry D. Smith, Editor 208-467-2524

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# FOUR DEAD

*Official Newsletter of the Idaho Horseshoe Pitcher's Association*

Volume XVII, # 3

Fall 2006

## *President's Message*

The season is nearly over as I write my final Presidents message. First off I would like to mention I will not be inserting a joke in this message. As I part office as your outgoing President I would like to say thank you to all who have supported me and allowed me to stay in office as your President for the last nine (9) years. I made a personal decision not to run for office as I felt it was time for a new leader and my passion for the game was slipping somewhat; however I have gained a wealth of knowledge about horseshoe pitching and have made many friends since joining horseshoes back in 1992. This sport has allowed me to travel to places I probably would never have gone before; I have also met people from all over the United States and in Canada as well. As I bid farewell to my office I would like to recap the years since I was voted in as your President back in 1997. I would like to recognize two people that held office with me in the early years; Jesse Lyda and Bonnie Stutzman and the outgoing President at the time Henry Reid. Jesse was the Vice President and Bonnie was the Secretary/Treasurer, these two people helped me early on with different aspects of the game and of holding office, I called Henry Reid many times early on asking questions on several topics. Thank you to you 3 people for the encouragement you gave me back in those days. Other people that held office during my term were Jim Price, Mike Zahn, Bobby Faulkner, Bob Zausch, Marge Chapin, Gary Kollmann, and Jerry Smith. Thank you all for your time and efforts you put into the game of Horseshoes.

Some of the things that have impacted our game since I took office have been the implementation of a State Fund for the State Singles tournament, the ballot form which has allowed every pitcher across the state to vote on different issues since the year 2000 I believe. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents position and changing the voting of officers from every year to each officer holding a two year term and having the voting on odd and even years for the different positions. The re-assigning of how the state was split up in 3 sections and naming the cities or towns in each section. The implementation of holding the State Singles Tournament on Labor Day weekend and having the State Officers run the State Singles Tournament. The implementation of having guidelines for running the State Singles Tournament. Also the implementation of increasing the scorekeeping fees from

25 cents up to 50 cents to help encourage people to keep score.

Now it is time to move on, as many of you know I have recently moved to Mountain Home where we have a park that used to have tournaments back in the early 90's when I started but has been inactive for several years. It is my intent to get a club started here in town and upgrade the courts to meet regulations and also add CLAY, yes Clay. I remember years ago when there was much opposition to having clay in any of the courts but times have changed and with the help of Gary Opper years ago, Boise was the first site in the State to get clay, we have had no regrets since its implementation. I would personally like to see other sites implement clay in their facilities and as many of us have already experienced it will make you a better pitcher and make you get the shoes to the peg rather than sliding them in.

The State Tournament was completed this year in Pocatello. This was a very well ran tournament from what I experienced. It was good to have us officers run the tournament as a whole for the very first time since I have been in the game and thus allowed the hosting site to focus on the courts, food, etc. I congratulate Pocatello this year for a very well ran tournament; I applaud you for your efforts. Things that happened at this year's tournament were the implementation of having everyone wear a shirt that included their name on the back at a minimum. I was very pleased with all of you that did and recall only one pitcher that forgot. We had a total of 39 Adult pitchers and one junior pitcher. Our State Champions this year include: juniors, James Price III, Women's: Nanette Spangler, Elders: Weston Sims and Mens: Gary Kollmann.

Several items were discussed at the annual meeting. A bylaw committee was formed and the bylaws were gone over several times to try and eliminate needless items such as rules that are already in the National rules and inserting items that have been voted on and passed over the years. A ballot form will come out in the first newsletter of 2007 detailing everything for you to vote on so we can make the needed changes.

The State Doubles Tournament for 2007 will again be help in Pocatello; probably the best suited site for this event. The State Singles Tournament site selection was discussed and since we had no representation from the North and just a letter of intent to hold it in Coeur d' Alene, we reverted to the bylaws and how it was written

which allowed the members to pass on the North as a site. Boise again was the site selection for the 2007 State Single tournament. I strongly suggest that if your section of the state comes up for the bid of the State Singles Tournament, you send a representative to the State Annual Meeting. Your chances of getting selected for the state will increase 100%. I'm sure there will be controversy over this but as the members voiced themselves at the annual meeting it was unanimous that a representative be present. It is not a given that when the tournament is slated to go to one section of the state that they will get the tournament automatically.

The new President starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 will be Bob Zausch and taking over the 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. position will be Brian Poole, I'm confident both these individuals will do an outstanding job for Idaho horseshoes.

As I close, stay active, bring in new people and get others involved in running tournaments.

Good Pitchin,  
Dave Spears

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NHPA WEBSITE

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

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## Idaho State Horseshoe Pitching Championships

September 2-3, 2006  
Pocatello, Idaho

### Mens A:

Gary Kollmann	9	1	53.60%
Jim Price	7	3	47.91%
Nick Piva	7	3	47.40%
Gary Opper	4	6	43.04%
Mike Cothorn	3	7	46.03%
Rodney Pickering	0	10	30.04%
High Game	Gary Kollmann		77.3%

### Mens B

David Spears	9	1	43.05%
Clyde Marquez	7	3	40.52%
Brent Wood	5	5	36.86%
Bobby Faulkner	4	6	37.16%
Darold Johnson	3	7	34.00%
Doug Palmer	2	8	30.20%
High Game	Clyde Marquez		59.1%

### Mens C

Danny Bosquez	13	1	35.14%
Bob Zausch	12	2	29.46%
Eddy Nappo Jr.	10	4	25.35%
Carlos Marquez	8	6	23.21%
Tony Marquez	5	9	23.21%
Alan Thomas	3	11	12.14%
Gale Cole	3	11	9.82%
Jason Hall	2	12	10.53%
High Game	Danny Bosquez		52.5%

### Mens D

Brian Poole	10	0	18.8%
Jim Robinson	8	2	13.2%
John Fronske	5	5	11.2%
Steve Gertinson	4	6	12.8%
Roger Bartlett	3	7	8.0%
C. J. Mumme	0	10	5.8%
High Game	Brian Poole		26%

### Elders A

Wes Sims	10	0	53.5%
Don Titcomb	8	2	53.1%
Bill McAughey	5	5	39.4%
Robert Batts	3	7	34.7%
Keith Lewis	2	8	35.6%
Don Manwill	2	8	24.5%
High Game	Don Titcomb		69.7%

### Elders B

Glen Price	8	1	34.22%
John Warren	7	2	27.33%
Glen Warwick	3	6	18.67%
Vern Teiszen	0	9	9.6%
High Game	Glen Price		44%

### Womans A

Nanette Spangler	4	2	20.24%
Virginia Manwill	3	3	17.81%
Maralee Anderson	2	4	22.54%
High Game	Nanette Spangler		39.5%

### Junior Boys

James Price III	2	7	13.47%
High Game	James Price III		20%

\* \* \*

## Secretary Sez

The final Idaho membership count for 2006 is 138. Any new members joining now will be good thru the 2007 pitching season. I will also accept any 2007 dues now

Jerry D. Smith  
2850 S. Benecia Way  
Nampa, ID 83686

Feel free to call me at 208-467-2524 or email me at:  
[horseshoepitcherjds@msn.com](mailto:horseshoepitcherjds@msn.com)

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## Gem State Shootout

Here are the results for the Gem State Shootout including all tournaments in 2006.

Normal tournaments wins were worth 2 points each. State tournament (Singles and doubles) wins were worth 8 points each.

Total points Sectional:

Northern	Western	Eastern
96 points	422 points	408 points

The Western Section has won the first annual Gem State Shootout with 422 points. Congratulations. Next year the competition should grow and this will happen by having more and more participation.

Total points Individual:

Northern	Western	Eastern
Nick Piva 58	David Spears 94	Doug Palmer 90
D. Johnson 38	C. Marquez 84	Jim Price 68
	Don Titcomb 72	Art Ross 62
	Gary Kollman 52	Wes Sims 36

David Spears had a great State Tournament and snuck off with the individual Gem State Shootout honors. Doug Palmer was a close second with Carlos Marquez third. Congratulations to David, Doug and Carlos. Plan your 2007 schedule to include as many tournaments as possible, that's how you win.

Any questions or comments contact Rodney Pickering at 208-830-9694 or rodneypickering@clearwire.net

Rodney Pickering, Idaho RD

\* \* \*

## Regional Director Message:

Please get all dates for 2007 tournaments to Jerry Smith as soon as possible. The State officers want to publish the schedule on the web page by the first of the year. I want to order all of the patches and certificates as well. Thanks

Rodney Pickering, Idaho RD

\* \* \*

## State Business Meeting

State Meeting Minutes 2006

Date: September 2, 2006

Place: Pocatello, Idaho

Recorded by Jerry D. Smith

President David Spears called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jerry Smith read the minutes from 2005. The minutes were accepted as read.

Jerry then gave the financial report and handed out a written copy. The ISHPA had \$3,105.00 in total income this year and spent \$3,307.23. The ending balance is \$2,788.60. The ISHPA's fiscal year will be from September 1 to August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The financial report was accepted as presented.

Under Officer's reports, David spoke about the new National Rules & Regs. that were passed this year at the World. They can be read on the National website, horseshoepitching.com. Printed versions won't be out for a while, maybe next Spring. Some discussion followed. No action. David then thanked everyone who has helped him during his tenure as ISHPA President. He has done it for nine years and stated that it was time to step down.

Bob Zausch and Gary Kollmann thanked everyone and had nothing special to report.

Jerry Smith explained that the ISHPA bought a \$100.00 brick for the new National Hall of Fame patio. He asked for discussion concerning sending in another \$100.00 to buy the larger 8" by 8" brick offered by the NHPA. Discussion followed. Jim Price made a motion to: "Have the ISHPA send in another \$100.00 and buy the larger 8" by 8" brick for the Hall of Fame". Gary Kollmann seconded. Motion carried.

David then brought up the ISHPA By-Law revision project that he asked the officers to produce this summer. He asked Jerry Smith to go over the main changes. Jerry passed out the current version and a copy of the revised one. He explained that most of the changes were simply removing the NHPA rules and regs. out of the old version as well as removing the term

constitution out of the document. The NHPA made similar moves several years ago. The revision also includes small stipends for the officer to cover their out of pocket expenses and added a \$1.00 per player per tournament fee to help build the general fund. Discussion was limited and centered around the proposed new \$1.00 per player per tournament fee. It was decided to drop the \$1.00 fee and with only minor changes send the revision out to the membership for approval. It will be sent out with the first Newsletter of 2007 as a ballot form.

Rodney reported that the current leader for the Gem State Shootout is the East and that the Individual leader is to close to call. There is still one tournament to go.

Jerry reported that the NHPA gives patches for each 10 years of NHPA membership. Idaho has two 10 year and two 20 year recipients this year. The patches have not been received at this time.

David led a discussion about the 2007 schedule stating that he hopes that everyone will submit their schedules by mid December so that we can get it finalized and published. Everyone agreed they would try. No action.

The State Doubles site was discussed. Bob Zausch made the motion to have the 2007 State Doubles held in Pocatello. Bobby Faulkner seconded. Motion carried.

Rodney Pickering started the discussion about the State Singles Tournament site by talking about a letter he received from Carlana Shove. In the letter, Carlana stated that the North wants to hold the 2007 State Singles event, but that no one would be coming to the meeting. During the discussion it was over helming that the pitchers present didn't want to go to the north next year considering they only have about 7 pitchers up there and they do not support the tournament when it is in the south. It was decided to put wording into the revised By-Laws stating that a representative from the area of the state that wants to host the State Tournament needs to be present at the meeting. Rodney made a motion to have the State Singles Tournament for 2007 be held in Boise. Gary Opper seconded. Motion carried.

The election of officers followed. Bob Zausch was nominated for President by Jim Price, which was seconded by Glen Price. Bob won the Presidency running unopposed.

Bobby Faulkner nominated Brian Poole for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Brent Wood seconded. Brian was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President running unopposed.

David thanked everyone again.

Darold Johnson moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

\* \* \*

## New State Officers January 1, 2007

President: Bob Zausch  
Pocatello  
208-233-2358

First VP: Gary Kollmann  
Nampa  
208-466-8096

Second VP: Brian Poole  
Pocatello  
208-237-3459

Sec./Treas: Jerry D. Smith  
Nampa  
208-467-2524

Statistician: Gary Opper  
Star  
208-286-9036

Reg. Director: Rodney Pickering  
Boise  
208-344-9642

\* \* \*

## NHPF

Support the NHPF. The only horseshoe related charity needs your tax deductible donation to support many worthy programs. Be sure and check out the "brick" sale for the new Hall of Fame Building in Missouri. Bricks are either \$100 or \$200 each.

Mail inquiries & contributions to:  
NHPF, P.O. Box 1628  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

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## Did You Know?

Expect a ballot form in the first 2007 Fourdead. It will include the revised edition of the ISHPA By-Laws. The revision was redone by the Officers and reviewed at the annual business meeting. The intent was to bring our By-Laws into compliance with the NHPA's and remove rules that should not have been in the old document. You will be asked approve the Document as is. Please vote.

\* \* \*

## Pitching Clinic

Ten time World Champion Ted Allen in his “Championship Pitching” talks about the fundamentals of pitching like a champion.

**Stance:** The position of the feet, left foot a few inches or more to the rear of the right gives one an easier start towards that coordinated step and swing forward. The right foot is always placed exactly even with the stake nearest you. Your foot may be a few inches to the rear of the stake if your step is longer. Be sure to maintain this exact position every time, for after reaching your optimum form as even a minor change will make the difference in a hit or miss.

**Aim:** Squarely face the opposite stake. Aligning the body with the opposite stake also enables the arm swing to be in line with the stake. Sight your eye to a target about 2 to 4 inches above the ground and at the stake to which you are pitching. This gives you some leeway in case of a slight error of too great or not enough distance to your throw and may allow you to still get the ringer. After releasing the shoe, always follow the shoe in flight with your eyes.

It doesn't matter whether or not you hold the shoe close to your face, just so the arm is straightened out into a full swing backward. A correct horseshoe pitch requires a longer swing and a more delicate touch with the arm remaining outstretched during the release. The swing is started from higher up and both the backward and forward swing should be as near in line with the stake as possible, like a pendulum. The peak of the back swing should be easy and natural, and not forced back so far as to throw one off balance, but neither should it be chopped off suddenly. The speed of all moves should be the same, the backward and forward movements should be so coordinated and smooth that they look like one motion. The peak of your back swing is determined by your own particular body build.

Your step should also be straight in line with the stake. This enables your swing to be correct also. “Cross stepping” (stepping out of line) is often done under pressure when a person is over anxious and cannot concentrate on his/her form.

**Grip:** You can have all of the fun you want in holding and pitching the shoe in odd manners, but for better pitching it is a must to hold and toss the shoe so that it makes 1 ¼ or 1 ¾ turns. To get the proper turn (normally clockwise) involves several factors besides the side on which you hold the shoe. Namely there are two

points to remember in gripping and throwing the shoe that each pitcher must work out on his/her own. First, the position of the fingers on the shoe and the ability to shift them along the side of the shoe until balance and control is achieved. Second, the amount of outward rolling (twisting) of the arm and wrist during the forward swing used to achieve the correct turn in the shoe. Most pitchers when they reach the top of the back swing will start turning the hand and bring it forward about half flat finishing off the swing and follow-through with a slight roll. Manny pitchers require more twist and must bring the shoe past their leg with the thumb entirely towards the leg. Practice will determine your need on this score.

**Point of Release:** Releasing of the shoe at about the height of the shoulder, neck or face is necessary to get the proper arch of the trajectory. Consistency in hitting your proper release point helps control your turn and the hardness at which the shoe lands at the stake. The easier the shoe lands, the fewer the ringers will jump off.

The follow-through should be lifted up and point directly at the stake. Never stop short or jerk back. Make it soft and slow.

Don Titcomb also talks about “Your Swing” in his book Horseshoes 101. According to Don you must visualize the arc or semicircle that your shoe and/or hand must execute during the swing. It starts with the push away, with a slight hesitation, you push the shoe forward and as your shoe changes direction, you allow the natural swing down and back to happen. To do this you must mentally see and feel the shoe during the whole swing. The arm is guided, but not pulled or pushed, you let it happen. If you can do this, you can eliminate stopping your back swing too soon, where 80 percent of the mistakes are made. **Reminder:** a short back swing is a short shoe. A short back swing is an incomplete turn or flip. If you allow the back swing to be completed naturally, you will then be able to follow through. This part of your swing is where your line, height, and your turn or flip all come together.

\* \* \*

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