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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.
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FOUR DEAD

Official Newsletter of the Idaho Horseshoe Pitcher's Association

Volume XVII, # 2

Summer 2006

President's Message

Hello everybody. Are we tired of the hot weather yet? The appropriate answer would be yes, for me anyway. Whoops almost forgot, it is Joke time. I think you will find this one rather funny, at least I did, enjoy.

The following is a college entrance exam for athletes.

Time Limit: 3 Days.

Write _____ Your _____ Name: _____

(20 point bonus if spelled correctly).

1. What language is spoken in Germany?

2. Give a dissertation on the ancient Babylonian Empire with particular reference to architecture, literature, law and social conditions - OR - Give the FIRST name of Michael Jordan.

3. Would you ask William Shakespeare to

- _____ (a) build a bridge
- _____ (b) lead an army or
- _____ (c) WRITE A PLAY

4. What religion is the Pope? (check only one)

- _____ (a) Jewish
- _____ (b) Catholic
- _____ (c) Hindu
- _____ (d) Polish

5. Advanced Math: How many feet is 0.0 meters?

6. What time is it when the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 12?

7. How many commandments was Moses given? (approximately)

8. What are people in America's far NORTH called?

- _____ (a) Westerners
- _____ (b) Southerners
- _____ (c) NORTHERners

9. Spell the name of the current President of the US. (George Bush)

10. Six kings of England have been called George, the last one being George the Sixth.

Name the previous five.

11. Where does rain come from?

- _____ (a) Wall Mart
- _____ (b) Kmart
- _____ (c) Canada
- _____ (d) the sky

12. Can you explain Einstein's Theory of Relativity?

- _____ (a) yes
- _____ (b) no

13. What are coat hangers used for?

14. The Star Spangled Banner is the National Anthem for which country?

15. Explain Le Chateliers Principle of Dynamic Equilibrium -OR- spell your name in Capital Letters.

16. Where is the basement in a four story building located?

17. Which part of America produces the most oranges?

- _____ (a) Minnesota
- _____ (b) Florida
- _____ (c) Canada
- _____ (d) Wisconsin

18. More advanced math. If you have three pears, how many pears do you have?

19. What does NBC (National Broadcasting Corp.) stand for?

20. The Cornell University tradition for efficiency began when (approximately)?

- _____ (a) B.C
- _____ (b) A.D.

Yes it was a little lengthy but I hope you found it rather humorous, I did. Now onto to some horseshoe pitching news. From what I have seen in the Treasure Valley area this season, tournament turnout has been very, very poor, in fact it just down right stinks (honest opinion). It is very disappointing, considering the Treasure Valley club membership grew from about 22 up to over 60. It doesn't make any sense. What can we do to encourage more to participation? Anybody have an answer?

This year, as we all know, the World Tournament was in Gillette, Wyoming. Idaho was represented rather well at 36 which is up from my first year in 1996. I believe we had a total of 19 that year. Several Idaho pitchers did rather well this year. People who took cash and trophies are as follows:

1st place finishes;

Don Titcomb 1st in Elders C
Gary Kollmann 1st in Men's A2
Jim Price 1st in Men's E2

Others that placed and got trophies:

Art Ross 2nd in Elder's E
Alma Clark 2nd in Elder's H
Al Stipe 5th in Elder's J
Bobby Faulkner 2nd in men's E2
Brent Wood 6th in men's F1
Dan Murray 7th in men's H2
Dan Rollins 2nd in men's J1
Gale Cole 2nd in men's K2
And Women that placed are:
Karen Wickham 5th in women's E
Darla Wessel 2nd in women's H

Of the 36 entries 13 Idaho pitcher's placed in the money which is 36% of the entrants. Congratulations to all. Next year's World Tournament is in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Are you planning on attending?

The pitch and win program that Don Titcomb did at the Western Idaho Fair last year in Boise unfortunately will not take place this year. The reason is because the fair evidently had the opportunity to showcase another venue which was probably beneficial to them profitability wise.

I would like to remind everyone that the State Singles tournament is in Pocatello on Labor Day weekend. Pitching will only be on Saturday and Sunday of the weekend. The potluck and the annual meeting will be held after play on Saturday during the evening hours. It will be held at the covered shelter near the courts. This year as you probably noticed we did not have a voting

ballot form in the first newsletter. This does not mean however that we do not have anything to vote on. As suggested last year at the state annual meeting, a committee was formed to go over the State By-laws. I formed a committee and the bylaws have been revised to some of our likings. These will be discussed and voted on for approval.

Also I would like to mention that two officer positions are up for election/re-election this year, namely the President, currently held by myself and the 2nd Vice President currently held by Bob Zausch. I made it known in the last newsletter that I would like to pursue the President's position one more term. Well I have had a change of heart and feel that it is time for someone else to step into this position. The passion I once had for the sport has decreased some and my full effort, that I once had, has decreased as some have noticed. I ask that you nominate and elect a person that has the passion for the sport and that you feel will bring energy to this position. I have been the president for the past 9 years and have enjoyed the many years being your president. I would like to thank the many that have supported me over this timeframe, but now it is time to move forward as there is more to be done.

During the State Singles Tournament last year the following rules were voted on and passed: 1.) all participants in the State Tournament must wear shirts that have a minimum of their last name professionally printed on the back, just as in the World Tournament 2.) No drinking or smoking will be permitted in the confines of the courts. This means that if you enjoy smoking and/or drinking, it must be done outside the confines of the courts while you are pitching in a game. We ask that you be considerate of others during the games. 3.) In classes where a bye occurs, we will try and utilize pacers so that the bye person will not have to sit out. This game will count for percentage if a pacer is available.

Carolyn Fergusson of Washington State passed away recently. For all of us who knew Carolyn we will miss her, she was a driving force in the Washington association and is now back together with her late husband Ron who passed away a couple of years ago. I have also just learned of a situation that happened to Dan Rollins on his return from Wyoming, Dan was evidently burned during a car fire. I wish and pray for a fast and complete recovery for Dan, as I'm sure we all do.

Good Pitchin,
Dave Spears

* * *

Gate City Horseshoe Pitchers

The Gate City Horseshoe Pitchers Association (GCHPA) in Pocatello, Idaho wants you to join our club. Yes that is right, we want to enhance our tournaments with your participation. We are looking to add new members within a 300 mile radius, (Northern Utah, Western Wyoming, South/Central Montana, Northern Nevada, Eastern Oregon, and Anywhere Idaho), and make our club a REGIONAL GROUP.

I just pitched in the World 2006 – Gillette tournament and I met horseshoe pitchers who were willing to travel for good quality competition. Our local Ross Park boasts 21 clay pits all with 30’ walkways. We also have 5 sand pits, 3 with wheel chair platforms. The park has grass, some shade, and a soon to be erected horseshoe pavilion. We serve a lunch with our tournaments and can usually count on 25 to 35 pitchers on Saturday, less on Sunday. We hold a tournament weekend every month from April to September, and class by percentage, though we have separated 30’ and 40’ at times. Adults are \$15 to \$20 and Junior’s are free. We also offer special rates at the local, Red Lion.

Our CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP weekend will be August 26 and 27. The cost to join GCHPA is \$10 per adult and Junior’s are free. The cost of the Championship will be \$20 per day. If you have an interest in joining or have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at 208-232-4566 or email me at jimprice@ida.net

Jim Price - President - Gate City Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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NHPA WEBSITE

www.horseshoepitching.com

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State Officers Wanted

State officer jobs are up for grabs this year and will be filled at the annual State Meeting to be held at the new pavilion at Ross Park on Saturday September 2nd. Now is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

Get involved, make difference, do something, help the sport you love.

Gem State Shootout

Here are the results for the Gem State Shootout including all tournaments until August 7th.

Normal tournaments worth 2 points for each win:

Section 1: Northern 7 wins worth 14 points.
Section 2: Western 62 wins worth 124 points.
Section 3: Eastern 42 wins worth 84 points.

State tournaments worth 8 points for each win:

Section 1: Northern 0 wins worth 0 points.
Section 2: Western 0 wins worth 0 points.
Section 3: Eastern 6 wins worth 48 points.

Total points:

Section 1: Northern 7 wins worth 14 points.
Section 2: Western 62 wins worth 124 points.
Section 3: Eastern 48 wins worth 132 points.

Individual Point Leaders:

Section 1: Northern Darold Johnson 14 points.
Section 2: Western Gary Kollman 24 points.
David Spears 22 points.
Don Titcomb 20 points.
Section 3: Eastern Doug Palmer 46 points.
Art Ross 36 points.
Evan Pickett 12 points.

The State singles tournament will decide who wins the 1st Gem State Shootout. Be there to represent your section of the state.

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

Rodney Pickering, Idaho RD

* * *

TVHPC Caldwell

The Caldwell club held two successful tournaments this year, the Thompson Brothers and the Ralph Warthen. The Thompson Brothers drew 13 pitchers and Ralph’s tournament drew 21 pitchers from several states. The Club hopes for better turnout next year. See you there.

* * *

TVHPC Boise

Boise held 4 tournaments this year. The overall turnout was disappointing but pitchers from Texas, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Washington came and pitched. Champions were crowned and everybody had fun.

* * *

TVHPC Nampa

The Nampa Club started the year with a small tournament and then due to poor planning, had to cancel its next two tournaments which were scheduled for Sundays. Next year we will not schedule Sunday tournaments and give it another try.

* * *

Idaho State Doubles

The State doubles tournament was held at Nampa on Saturday, August 5th. Only seven teams signed up so they all pitched in one group. The team of Art Ross and Doug Palmer finished the day undefeated at 6-0 and walked away with first place. Rodney Pickering and Paula King took second, Don Titcomb and Bob Riley took third, and Gary Kollmann and Dave Schutte took fourth. It was a very nice day and everyone seemed to have fun.

* * *

Regional Director Message:

There have been a couple of instances this year where players have asked for clarification on how a tournament is being ran or sanctioned by the tournament director (TD).

The instances were:

Can a Tournament Director run a double elimination tournament?

The NHPA says this is at the discretion of the TD. According to Dan Sanders, 1st VP of the NHPA, the TD should however setup the tournament in such a way that all pitchers pitch at least 160 shoes.

Can a tournament be sanctioned after it has been pitched?

All tournaments must be sanctioned before they are pitched.

Can a club host a tournament only open to members of its club?

A club can have a special tournament. Generally, the NHPA will allow only one sanctioned "club" tournament per club, per year. I ask that all TD's who would like to run a club tournament or a special tournament remember that the tournament must be scheduled as such in writing in advance. If the tournament is not scheduled as a club or special tournament, then it is assumed that it is an open tournament, open to all NHPA members.

Rodney Pickering, Idaho RD

* * *

Secretary Sez

The current membership stands at 137. Any new members after Sept. 1st, 2006 will be held over to the 2007 pitching season. I will also accept 2007 dues after Sept. 1st.

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

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Idaho State Tournament

The Idaho State Singles Tournament will be held on the 2nd and 3rd of September (Labor Day Weekend) in Pocatello. To be eligible to pitch the State, one has to have pitched in 3 tournaments since the last State and register with a State Officer by August 23, 2006.

The State Officers are;

David Spears @ 695-8362
Gary Kollmann @ 466-8093
Bob Zausch @ 233-2358 or
Jerry D. Smith @ 467-2524

Be sure and call right away.

* * *

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

* * *

Pitching Clinic

The game of horseshoes can be broken down into three basic steps:

- (1) Throwing an open shoe
- (2) Acquiring alignment and distance
- (3) Developing a rhythm pitch

Opening the shoe: Whether your turn is as little as ¼ turn or as much as 2 ½ turns, it will be regulated by the position of the hand on the shoe and the angle at which the shoe leaves your hand. For example, the turn and a quarter can be held fairly flat during the release and will angle during the swing. Attempting to hold the shoe flat throughout the swing will destroy the alignment.

Use the shoe weight as much as possible in making the shoe turn. This will make your pitch easier and help in the development of a natural turn. Success in using the shoe weight in your turn depends on how much you use the weight in your swing. Just as in bowling, getting the shoe out away from the body and letting it drop will cause an increase in momentum, which in turn develops a natural release and turn.

Acquiring alignment and distance. Releasing the shoe to get it open is also part of the gaining proper alignment and distance. No one knows exactly when the shoe leaves the hand. The shoe will leave when it is ready. Don't force the issue, let it happen.

A pitcher should let their body help in the delivery of the shoe by bending slightly during the down swing, enough to help but not enough to force the pitch.

Alignment throughout the swing can be controlled by keeping the aim point down and up the stake with the eyes on a spot six inches from the bottom of the stake. Try to control the direction of the step by making sure the feet are turned in the direction of the stake. Right handers stepping out with their left foot should control

that step by having the right foot pointed toward the stake before taking a step.

Developing a Rhythm Pitch. The third step is the most important step, and it is at the same time the easiest one. A good athlete in any sport must be consistent. Horseshoes are no exception. One must develop and keep the same rhythm while they are pitching to maintain a steady game. When you find, keep, and control this rhythm, you will be able to pitch your game through rainouts or other interruptions.

Search for a natural rhythm that will permit you to combine your step, your swing, and your release into one continuous fluid motion.

* * *

Stay informed. NHPA “Horseshoe Pitching Newslines” Subscription price for one, two, or three years is \$12.00, \$22.00, or \$30.00. Make checks payable and mail to:

NHPA Sec./Treas.
3085 76th St.
Franksville, WI 53126

* * *

Pacific Northwest Championships

The Pacific Northwest Championships will be held in the Elks Memorial Park in Yakima Washington on September 16th and 17th. The registration deadline is one week in advance on Sunday, September 10th by 9:00 PM and can be made by calling Barry Chapelle at 503-775-7876. The entry fee is only \$10.00. The plan is to have 12 in the Mens “A” and “B” and 12 persons in the 30’ “A” and “B”. These groups should play both days while all other groups will just play on Saturday. It is unlikely that you'll get to play if you miss the deadline.

The Clarion Hotel is hosting the tournament and has set a special rate of \$59.00 plus tax for all pitchers who ask for the special horseshoe rate when they call. They are accepting registrations now. The annual banquet will also be held there and will cost about \$13.00. The Clarion supports the tournament and makes it real convenient for pitchers.

Clarion Hotel
1507 N. 1st Ave.
Yakima, WA 98901
800-896-7966