

FOUR DEAD

Official Newsletter of the Idaho Horseshoe Pitcher's Association

Volume XVIII, # 1

Spring 2007

President's Message

This is my first message to the pitchers of Idaho as your new president. I hope that I will be able to do as good a job as our past president, David Spears. He leaves very large shoes to fill, but I will do my best not to disappoint you. I would first like to thank David for all of his years of service to ISHPA. I have benefited from being able to watch him and also obtain advice from him on several occasions. I hope everybody has had a good winter and are now getting ready to start pitching again. Last year we were fortunate to have an indoor arena, RINGERS, to pitch in Pocatello all winter long. Unfortunately they lost their lease and are no longer in business. It was great to be able to pitch all winter long and I really missed it this year. Hopefully something will turn up and we can find a substitute. Did you know that Idaho has a web site that can easily be accessed? All you have to do is go to the NHPA web site "horseshoepitching.com" find the map of the United States and click on Idaho and follow directions. There you will find past newsletters (Four Dead), stats, tournament schedule and much more. It is a handy way to keep updated. The 2007 schedule will be posted as soon as the schedule is finalized. I have been reviewing the preliminary schedule and am pleased to see that there are several tournaments in Coeur d 'Alene this year as well as all of the other cities, Boise, Challis, Caldwell, Mountain Home, Nampa and Pocatello. The Pocatello tournaments will be held at two different locations, Ross Park and the Rim Rock. The Hermiston Oregon money tournament is included on the schedule as well as the Western Open in Mesquite, Nevada. The 2007 World will be held in Ardmore Oklahoma, and I understand there is a lake near by that has some good fishing. So be sure to take your rod and reel with you. The executive council has accepted the resignation of Rodney Pickering as Idaho's Regional Director and have replaced him with David Spears. We thank Rodney for his service.

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Secretary Sez

I am accepting 2007 dues now and in fact will be out of state for much of April and part of May. Send your dues in as soon as possible if you want your card before mid May. Thanks

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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Gem State Shootout

This marks the second year for the shootout. Plan to play in as many tournaments as possible and help your section of the state add up points. You earn points by beating players from the other sections of the state. The sections are: the East, the West, and the North. Get out there and pitch.

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Stay informed.

NHPA "Horseshoe Pitching Newsline" 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

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TVHPC Boise

The Boise club will hold two Saturday tournaments this year as well as the State Singles Tournament. The summer league this year will be held on Wednesday nights. If you're in the area, come out to the Julia Davis Park and throw some shoes with us.

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NHPA WEBSITE

www.horseshoepitching.com

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Regional Director Message:

COURT SANCTIONING

There are two levels of court sanctioning

1. Full Court Sanction: Courts that meet all of the specifications may host all types of sanctioned tournaments.

2. Conditional Sanction: Courts that DO NOT meet all the requirements, but do meet the four (4) minimum requirements which are: 1) Pitching distance. 2) Minimum pit dimensions. 3) Stake dimensions and placement. And 4) Legal pit substance. Conditional sanctioned courts may host sanctioned tournaments except for State, Regional or World Tournaments unless upgraded to Full Sanction courts.

If your courts DO NOT meet the 4 minimum requirements for a conditional court sanction, you will not be able to conduct sanction events on them, and a court upgrade will be necessary before I can issue the sanction.

These two levels of court sanctioning became effective on January 1st of 2007. If you have courts that are in question and would like them checked out prior to running tournaments, please contact David Spears @ 208-695-8362 or email me at davidspears@roadrunner.com

David Spears
Regional Director

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Gate City HPC

The Gate City Horseshoe Pitchers Association (GCHPA) will have a meeting on April 11, 2007 at 6pm at Ross Park. Items of discussion: tournament hospitality, membership, and bar-b-que grill construction. Everyone is invited to join GCHPA contact Jim Price 232-4566, cost \$10. The GCHPA will host "Warming Up For The World I", a singles tournament on April 21, 2007 at 10am at Ross Park. **AND** "Warming Up For The World II", a singles tournament on April 22, 2007 at 10am at Ross Park. These tournaments are Idaho State Sanctioned, and World 2007 qualifiers. To pre-register contact Brian Poole at 237-3459. Tournament cost is \$20 adults, and juniors are free. Lunch is included.

The GCHPA will run a 5 week, sanctioned singles league, beginning Monday, April 30, 2007, at 6pm at Ross Park, Pocatello. Cost is \$20. This will be a 30 shoe league, classed and handicapped if needed. To pre-register call Jim Price 232-4566 The GCHPA will also run a 5 week, sanctioned singles league, beginning Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 6pm at Ross Park, Pocatello. Cost is \$20. This will be a 40 shoe league, classed and handicapped if needed. To pre-register call Jim Price 232-4566

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TVHPA Caldwell

Its time to start our horseshoe pitching league. We will start league play on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Memorial Park in Caldwell. It will end on Monday, August 27, 2007, which is the last Monday of August. League Games start at 7:00pm until August 13th after which we will start at 6:30pm. Try and be at the courts 15 minutes early so that we can get started on time.

Caldwell will be hosting three tournaments in 2007, 2 are sanctioned, the Thompson Brothers Memorial on Saturday May 19, and the Ralph Warthen Classic on Saturday June 9th. The annual Independence Day tournament is non-sanctioned. The entry fee for each tournament is \$11.00 with no charge for juniors. Tournaments start at 9:00am. Signup by calling Joe at 454-3907 or Gary at 466-8090 or by showing up at the tournament site by 8:00am on the tournament date. For further information, please call Joe at 454-3907.

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TVHPC Mtn. Home

Things are progressing in Mountain Home. A sign-up sheet has been created and given to several individuals in hopes of building a large club here in town and the surrounding community. To date we have about 15 people signed up in the Mountain Home area which includes a couple of juniors. My hope is to form a junior program which should also help encourage parents and grandparents to get involved in the sport. I have currently worked over 6 of the 12 courts in town. I will also be going to Pocatello to pick up some clay left over from the 2004 world tournament to add to 4 of the existing courts. My hope is also to have 30ft extensions put in place on all courts by the end of the 2008 season. An ad will be put out in the local newspaper and in the Parks and Recs. circular that comes out monthly to every household in town to try and gather new membership. My intent in 2007 is to run two sanctioned tournaments, one of which to benefit the NHPF and one other. I am also going to try and get 3 charity events together this year (two for sure) to benefit the "Make a Wish Foundation" and "The Shriners". By doing benefits like this it should put a positive slant on horseshoe pitching in this area and hopefully valley wide. I have also found some help in running events over here and her name is Lily Hansen. She has stepped up and has volunteered to help out where she can. Lily worked in the bowling industry back in Illinois for 10 years at a 32 lane bowling center and was involved in sales, promotion and teaching the game. She picked up the game of horseshoes while there prior to her relocation to Mountain Home. I look forward to as much help as I can get, the time has come to share responsibilities. I hope to see many of you in Mountain Home throughout the season and at other tournament sites as well.

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The World tournament will be held in York Pennsylvania in 2008. This is a very interesting part of the country with much to see and do within 50 miles of the city. Make plans to vacation there in 2008.

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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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State Officers

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: David Spears
Mtn. Home
208-695-8362

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Idaho has two NHPA members with more than 50 years of NHPA membership. Ralph Wharthen and Don Titcomb have combined for 112 years of NHPA membership and are going strong. May they pitch for many more years.

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Did You Know?

That attached to this issue of the Four Dear is a copy of the 2007 Idaho schedule, a copy of the proposed new ISHPA By-Laws, and a mail-in ballot form. The revised edition of the ISHPA By-Laws were hammered out at last year's State meeting and approved by the officers and attending ISHPA members. 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. Please review the new By-Laws and vote to approve or not on the attached ballot form. The vote is by nature, a "all or nothing" vote since the By-Laws have already been reviewed and edited by the membership. The vote is either a "for" or an "against". Please send or hand your ballot form to Jerry Smith by August 1, 2007 so that the tally can be figured and announced at the annual meeting. Please show your support and vote.

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Pitching Clinic

Ottie Reno, horseshoe writer and pitcher, offers these suggestions for becoming a complete pitcher:

1. Control Emotions. Strive to be cool at all times, and if you don't feel cool, fake it. Threats to your cool are everywhere: Bad conditions, noisy spectators, unethical opponents, yesterday's traffic accident, the injustice of good throws bouncing off the stake, and so on. You will not master horseshoes until you master your temperament.
2. Find a rhythm. Sometimes called a zone, this is a mental space that allows you to perform at your very best. Some have described it as a form of self-hypnosis. However you describe it, things are flowing as they should be.
3. Develop and maintain a competitive edge. Practice is essential, but you must compete to get better. Nothing

hones skills like pitching on top of double ringers, knowing that each miss means points for your opponent.

4. Set goals and keep records. In the absence of specific goals, both practice and game time are wasted aimlessly. Have purpose with each throw, even if it's just to do your best. Keep records so you don't kid yourself. Ringer percentage makes it easy to set incrementally higher goals.
5. Make the most out of practice. Establish a regular practice schedule and try to adhere to it. Never practice aimlessly, without trying to do your best. Bad practice habits will carry over into games. If you aren't mentally prepared to concentrate, don't practice.
6. Build confidence. Success is relative. A 10 percent ringer average may be exhilarating progress to a novice. Use each plateau as a stepping stone.
7. Learn to handle pressure. Good pitchers thrive on pressure.
8. Correct mistakes. Great pitchers seldom make the same mistake twice in a row. They learn from their error and adjust accordingly.
9. Be courteous and ethical. Stand at the rear of the pitcher's box while your opponent pitches. Make no sound or motion that will disturb his or her concentration. Play by the rules and demand the same from your opponent.
10. Dress appropriately. The dress code for horseshoe pitchers is loose. Jeans and shorts are acceptable. Shoes should have a firm sole that prevents the foot from turning over. Don't lose sight of your two main clothing goals: comfort and lack of distraction. The advantage of having regular pitching clothes is that you won't be conscious of your appearance when you compete, eliminating one more possible distraction.