

# FOUR DEAD

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

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Spring 2011

## President's Message

Hello to all and I hope you wintered well in whatever winter activities you enjoy. I had a great time on the ski hill at Pebble Creek but I am ready to trade in my snow shoes (snowboard) for some horseshoes and some warm summer weather so we can start pitching some shoes.

I have not heard much about the transition to using HS Master but know that it is coming and it would be best if all Clubs made the move into this program for this summer's tournaments. (Welcome to the computer age.)

I would also encourage each club to promote Horseshoe Pitching and make a committee to handle promoting activities during the month of May. We need to develop Junior programs that will get our youth involved and keep our numbers growing. I have some information if you would like me to forward it to you on different activities that you could do.

I would also like to encourage all members to help the Association by being active in your clubs and accepting or volunteering for assignments so that the work can be done by many hands and not just a few.

I encourage all members to make a few personal goals to work on. Whether to improve your ringer percentage or becoming better at whatever you are doing.

Just a reminder of the dates for the state tournaments. Please put them on your calendars and plan on supporting them!

State Doubles July 9-10 in Pocatello at Ross Park

State Singles Aug 27-28 in Coeur d'Alene at Winton Park

I hope to see you on the courts this summer and good luck with your pitching!

Brian J Poole  
ISHPA President

## Secretary Sez

The final membership for ISHPA ended the year of 2010 with 122 members. Let's try and bring that number up this year. The 2011 cards are ready for purchase, so get your dues together and send them in. The cost remains @ \$25.00.

Send them to:

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

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## In memory of Joe Campbell

In late December, the Treasure Horseshoe Club, and of course, all of his friends and family lost one of its long time members in Joe Campbell of Caldwell. For years, Joe was the heart and soul of the horseshoe pitching world around Caldwell. He will be long remembered for his style and demeanor. He ran things his way and it worked. Joe will be missed.

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## Regional Director Message:

Well the 2011 season is upon us and hopefully some new faces will be out to join the existing pitchers. I will be traveling the state this year as it is time to re-sanction courts throughout the state to ensure all courts are in spec for the sanctioned tournaments that we put on. I will be contacting the respective tournament directors for a date and timeframe that will work best to get this done throughout the season. All tournament directors should have all their sanction certificates and patches by now, if more are needed I just need to be emailed with the amount and the type as well whether it be a class champion or tournament champion patch. Well it is time to get out and practice once again. I wish the best to everybody throughout the 2011 season.

Good pitchin  
David Spears  
RD

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# Idaho Stats 2010

The following lists concern Idaho pitchers and results just from Idaho, meaning out of state pitching is not counted.

## Most tournaments entered

Pretty sad participation!!

### Men

Gary Kollmann	12
Brent Wood	10
Gary Opper	8
Cade Lloyd	8
Bob Baer	8
Jim Price	6
Brian Poole	6
Glen Wessel	4
Dave Allinger	4
Louis B rock	4

### Women

Shari Saylor	5
Teresa Brown	5
Suzy Oberg	5
Nancy Bartee	4
Darla Wessel	3
Sherri Wilkes	3

### Elders

Ray Carpenter	10
Glen Warwick	10
Keith Lewis	10
Dale Oberg	9
Don Titcomb	8
Nick Piva	5
Bob Zausch	5

### Juniors

James Price	6
Jayce Pickering	1

## First Place finishes

Gary Opper	6
Ray Carpenter	4
Glen Warwick	3
John Warren	3
Bob Baer	3
Dave Allinger	3

## Second Place finishes

Gary Kollmann	6
Ray Carpenter	4
Glen Warwick	4
Dale Oberg	4
Brian Poole	3
Keith Lewis	3
Sherri Wilkes	3

## High Games

Gary Kollmann	76.32%
Art Ross	75.00%
Nick Piva	73.81%
Gary Opper	73.53%
Don Titcomb	73.08%
Kay Keskinen	72.00%
Jim Price	72.00%
Karen Wickham	70.00%
Bob Zausch	64.29%
Glen Warwick	60.00%
Brent Wood	60.00%

## High Tournament(one entry each)

Nick Piva	66.79%
Gary Opper	66.15%
Gary Kollmann	62.00%
Art Ross	61.43%
Kay Keskinen	61.33%
Don Titcomb	59.55%
Jim Price	50.80%

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## How to improve your horseshoe game

By

Danny Kuchcinski

3 time World Champion

Reprinted from 1970

Let's assume you are the average picnic pitcher. You don't really know how to hold or release the shoe, (although the tips can work for all levels of pitchers). If you make a ringer as a matter of luck rather than science, I can help.

I promise you, if you'll follow these tips and practice a few times a week, you can raise your average by 25% in one year. Why, I've known beginners who got their average up to 50% in that time.

First, get the right horseshoes. Ask for professional shoes, not "picnic shoes." The professional shoe is flatter, has longer hooks at the ends, and most important of all, is better balanced. You can't become an outstanding pitcher with poorly balanced

shoes. Now your grip. Many beginners hold the shoe at the back and flip it end over end. You'll never get very far that way.

Instead, hold the shoe on the side, with the fingers underneath and the thumb on top. The three middle fingers grip the shoe at the first or second joint; the little finger is spread a little way from the others and is there for balance only. Remember that you are striving for balance and control. Your grip should feel natural-not too tight, not too slack.

You can hold the shoe on either side with the open end facing toward you or away from you. The "caulk" at the back of the shoe is always down. With the open end toward you, the shoe will rotate clockwise through  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turns from the moment of release, before it reaches the stake. With the open end away from you, it will go through either a  $\frac{3}{4}$   $1\frac{3}{4}$  turns.

You have to experiment and find which is best for you. The shoe gets its rotation from the movement of your wrist upward and to the right at the moment of release. To slow the down the rotation, grip it a little tighter. This is all stated for right-handers. Left-handers just reverse things and give the shoe a counterclockwise rotation.

The first thing you should practice is to get the shoe to "open up." You can worry about hitting the stake after you have mastered that.

To start your pitch, stand at the left of the stake if you are right handed. This narrows your angle at the far end stake and cuts a couple of feet off the distance you have to throw. Stand at a point where one natural stride will take you right up to the foul line.

Now sight through or over your shoe. Your goal is have the open end of your shoe meet the lower half of the stake. Pick a point on the stake and keep your eye on it throughout the pitch. You are standing erect but relaxed. Your feet are parallel, an inch or so apart. You crouch slightly and bring your arm down and back, how far back depends on what feels comfortable. Your arm is straight. No cocked elbows, please. As you bring the shoe forward, you step out with your left foot (for right handers). You release the shoe at about 30 degrees from the horizontal.

Remember that you are pitching straight ahead, with your whole body. The entire motion is much like bowling. Or think of how a baseball pitcher throws, with a fluid, coordinated movement of his whole body. If you've done it all right, the shoe will follow a gentle rainbow curve, rising to a height of 7 to 10 feet some 25 feet out. Five or ten feet from the far

stake it should have rotated to the open position. It will come down at about a 30 degree angle to meet the stake., you hope, near the ground level. You aren't trying to skip the shoe in, this won't work in clay.

Your keys to better pitching are balance, concentration, and practice. Balance means a balanced shoe, balanced grip, and a balanced body. Concentration? I know that if I've got anything else on my mind, my average falls off. When you're out there pitching, forget your job, your spouse, everything. Think horseshoes.

As for practice, an hour of pitching 3 or 4 times a week can turn you into the best player on your block and maybe your town. Besides its fun and great exercise, great relaxation and a great personal challenge.

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### Tips from some top players

Reprinted from 1970

Guy Zimmerman, 1954 World Champion: "The reason many top players tense up is because they don't try as hard during practice as they do in competition. While practicing, they merely toss their shoes back and forth without concentrating enough on what they are doing. The result is that they play like they practice, half heartedly with little confidence."

Don Titcomb, 1960 World Champion: "Mistakes made in practice through lack of concentration and determination will form bad habits and come back to haunt you in tournament play."

Paul Focht, 1962 World Champion: "Pitch every shoe in practice just as you would in a tournament, as if the title depended on your throwing a ringer."

Harold Reno, 1961 World Champion: "Blot out all interference. Concentrate on the stake, don't talk to people, listen to noises or watch something going on outside of your court during a game."

Carl Steinfeldt, (1976) World Champion: "Poor mental attitude and lack of confidence in your ability will defeat you in a close game every time."

Elmer Hohl, 1965, 68, 72, 73, and 77 World Champion: "The stake is the only thing I see when delivering a pitch. Anything could happen immediately behind the stake and I wouldn't see it."

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**Get out there and pitch this year. Why not?**