

NEWSLINE Text

published September-October 2015

Special World Tournament Supplement to Newsline

Complete coverage of the 2015 tourney from Topeka, Kansas

In the interest of bringing you all the World Tournament details you've been provided in *Newsline* when it was a printed publication, we're pleased to present a separate, special supplement to this issue of Newsline. Click here (link to: [____](#)) to link to the PDF file ... both viewable and printable!

President's Message

Recapping the World Tournament

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

The 2015 World Horseshoe Tournament was held indoors at the Expocentre in Topeka, Kansas from July 13-26. A total of 1,404 pitchers competed for cash and prizes worth over \$160,000.

Congratulations to all the World Champions! And the NHPA Council recognizes and congratulates Alan Francis for winning his 20th Men's Title.

For those of you who could not attend, you missed a great tournament. I hope some of you were able to watch the tournament on the drop cam cameras. This year we were able to provide coverage of all the courts.

The NHPA Council and Staff thanks the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas Horseshoe Pitching Association, Topeka Horseshoe Association, Visit Topeka, and the Expocentre for bringing this event to their community.

The NHPA Council would also like to recognize this year's World Tournament Director, our NHPA Secretary/Treasurer David Sidles for an outstanding job of directing this year's world tournament. A job well done!

Sending another round of thanks from the NHPA Council to Bill Marvin, NHPA 5th Vice President, who took time from his busy schedule to come out early to assist the Topeka Horseshoe Association in the court setup.

For those of you who were not able to attend this year's tournament, ESPN SportsCenter broadcast live on Saturday, July 18, with the Junior Cadets pitching in the background. Coverage of our sport was fantastic. They even had a clip of George Bush pitching at the White House. My highlight of the show was the airing of the Sports Science segment that featured Illinois pitcher Austin Bailey. The NHPA would like to thank Austin for taking his time to do this for the sport of horseshoes. I could not be more proud of him!

In closing, I also want to thank the NHPA Council, Directors, and NHPA staff for their many, long hours of working this World Tournament over the two and a half weeks. Not many people know what goes on behind the scenes, but I want to make sure their work does not go unnoticed. For the size of the tournament, I would have to say this is one of the smoothest tournaments I have been involved in. Thank you.

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Delegates Send 2017 World Tournament Back to Utah

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

At the 2015 Delegate meeting, held on Sunday, July 19, the delegates had two cities to choose from to host the 2017 World Horseshoe Tournament – Monroe/West Monroe, Louisiana, and St. George, Utah. Both of these cities have previously hosted successful World Tournaments. The NHPA Council would like thank these two cities for coming to Topeka, setting up a booth and presenting their cities to us.

The results of the vote were very close and by a majority vote, the winner was St. George. Congratulations to Kevin Lewis and his team! The NHPA is looking forward to working with you again!

I would also like to thank Alana Cooper, Scott Bruscato and Charles Thomas for their work during the bidding contest and hope they will consider bidding again.

Hall of Fame Banquet Sees Three Inducted to the Hall

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

At the Hall of Fame Banquet on Sunday, July 19, Lorraine Sternberg, Jim Walters and Harold Anthony (deceased) were inducted into the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame. Lorraine and Jim were able to be present to accept their plaque and Harold's family was also there to accept Harold's plaque on his behalf.

NHPA on ESPN

by [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

The ESPN live broadcast of SportsCenter from the 2015 World Horseshoe Tournament in Topeka was a big success! Calls were received that same day from people asking how to join the association!

The three-hour show was interjected with many prepared segments about horseshoe pitching, Topeka, and the history of both. One highlight was the Sport Science study (link to: <http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=13277705>) with Illinois pitcher Austin Bailey. This was an excellent segment on the mechanics of our sport. Austin was an exemplary representative for the NHPA!

This video will also be available for viewing at the NHPA Hall of Fame Museum in the Earl and Vicki Winston Theater.

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Officers Re-elected

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

This year, the NHPA had two positions up for election: President and 5th Vice President. By rule of acclamation, per Robert's Rules of Order, Stuart Sipma and Bill Marvin will retain their respective positions for another three-year term.

World Tournament Comments and Suggestions Being Reviewed

by [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director

Your opinion matters to the NHPA World Tournament staff. Therefore, the box is set out onsite, ready for your ideas. Once again, the box was stuffed with good ones!

All comments and suggestions have been categorized and the NHPA Executive Council will review each and every one of them during the annual winter meeting and will address those that have merit. In past years, many changes have been implemented because of your input through the box.

There were over 50 comments submitted at the 2015 World Tournament – some pertaining to the tournament and others to the NHPA in general. A wide range of topics was covered including trophies and awards, scheduling, equipment issues and concession prices. All comments are considered important, however, some cannot truly be addressed due to their vagueness. When submitting a suggestion, it is vital that you specifically state what the issue is for it to receive the attention that it deserves.

Look for a follow up after the winter meeting to see results of some of your ideas!

Reporting Delegate Voting Results on Proposed Rules Changes

by [Dan Sanders](#), 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

The voting results for the 12 Proposed Rules Changes (PRCs) that were brought before our convention delegates this year are presented below. As there were 113 possible delegate votes, and a two-thirds vote is required for passage, a total of 76 'yes' votes was required for the approval of each proposed change.

Voting results are below. A more complete and detailed wording of the PRCs can be found on the NHPA website (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/rules/proposals.html>). The PRCs that were passed will be included in the next revision of the RGS Book to be published after January 1.

2015 NHPA Proposed Rules Changes – Condensed

PRC #1 - This proposal requires all new court construction to have a five-foot-high protective barrier, and includes any rebuilt fences after January 1. **FAILED 63/50**

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PRC #2 - Describes additional requirements for a conditional court sanction. It will require that a minimum of three courts have short distance platforms. This proposal would take effect in 2019. **PASSED 102/11**

PRC #3 - This proposal clarifies where a contestant should stand during the game while not pitching. **PASSED 106/7**

PRC #4 - Defines what the term "modified shoe" includes. Does not allow anything but paint to be applied to the shoe. **PASSED 111/2**

PRC #5 - Adds a complete set of guidelines for handling unsportsmanlike conduct at sanctioned events. **PASSED 105/6**

PRC #6 - Lowers the age of the Elders Division from 70 to 65 years of age. **FAILED 34/79**

PRC #7 - Lowers the age of the Cadets Division from 12 to 10 years of age. **FAILED 16/97**

PRC #8 - Removes the alternate pitch format requirement from handicapped classes. **PASSED 93/20**

PRC #9 - Allows a player in a pacer game to choose the format of who pitches first. **FAILED 68/45**

PRC #10 - Decides how class playoff game ties are to be broken, using the extra inning method. **PASSED 110/3**

PRC#11 - Allows state tournament directors to mix any championship class if there is a lack of entries into a division. **FAILED 46/67**

PRC #12 - Abolishes the Senior Men's Division. (The Elders' age vote results were known before this vote was taken.) **FAILED 27/86**

There were also three decisions made by the NHPA Council that required delegate approval:

1. Allows Juniors to receive their award money upon reaching age 18. **PASSED 104-9**
2. Requires all United States and Canadian world tournament entries to have four sanctioned events. **PASSED 112- 1**
3. Allows all minor changes (too numerous to be listed) needed in reference to converting *Newsline* to an online publication. **PASSED 110-3**

A Few Numbers on this Year's World Tournament Pitching

by [Mel Yockstick](#), NHPA Statistician

The states winning the most first, second and third place trophies this year:

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1. Kansas → 210 Pitchers → 45 trophies
2. Missouri → 184 pitchers → 34 trophies
3. Colorado → 72 pitchers → 20 trophies
4. Minnesota → 78 pitchers → 15 trophies
5. Ohio → 62 pitchers → 13 trophies

This year the World Tournament Championships produced eight 90-percent games. See below for more information on those games:

Name	State	DIV.	Score	Rgrs.	Shoes	90% +	Opponent	Rgrs.	Shoes	%
Alan Francis	OH	M	42-3	39	40	97.50%	Michael Bowman (MO)	26	40	65.00%
Alan Francis	OH	M	40-3	40	42	95.24%	Tom Williams (MI)	28	42	66.67%
Alan Francis	OH	M	43-3	34	36	94.44%	Tony Hankins (KY)	21	36	58.33%
Alan Francis	OH	M	44-0	37	40	92.50%	Dan Watson (AL)	23	40	57.50%
Alan Francis	OH	M	42-4	46	50	92.00%	Gale Green (VT)	33	50	66.00%
Alan Francis	OH	M	42-6	38	42	90.48%	Marcus Thomsen (NE)	25	42	59.52%
Joan Elmore	TN	W	41-3	33	36	91.67%	Terry Bagle (MI)	21	36	58.33%
Shalee Cason	FL	W	40-3	29	32	90.63%	Karen Graham (NY)	17	32	53.13%

There are no perfect games pitched from World at 2014 in Buffalo or 2015 in Topeka.

Milestone Awards Presented at 2015 NHPA Hall of Fame Banquet

by [Mel Yockstick](#), NHPA Statistician

This year for the first time World Participation patches were awarded to those pitchers who have pitched in 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 World Tournaments.

At this year's Hall of Fame banquet, we honored pitchers reaching the milestone of 40 and 50 or more World Tournaments, so patches were awarded to: Vicki Winston, 40 Worlds; Merlin Potts, 42; Ottie Reno, 55; Earl Winston, (deceased) 54; and Mark Seibold, 52.

2015 World results will be added within a few months. In the meantime, you can review all World Tournament records on the NHPA website (link to:

<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/participation.html>) At the bottom of the page, you can opt to "download file" to review state pitchers with 10 or more World events, pitchers with 20 or more Worlds in a row and an alphabetical listing.

Other Awards

At the 2014 World Tournament in Buffalo, New York, we had three players who pitched their first 90-percent games. They are: Lawrence Hinton, Michigan, Elders', 27 ringers out of 28 shoes for 96.43 percent; Gregg Craven, Missouri, Elders', 31 ringers, 34 shoes, 91.17 percent; Cindy Hoffman,

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Pennsylvania, Women's, 27 ringers, 30 shoes, 90 percent. They were awarded the World Championship NHPA 90 percent patch.

Officers, Regional Directors and Leagues Meeting Addresses Dues and Insurance Concerns

by [Jerry Smith](#), 3rd Vice President and Sanction League Director, Junior Scholarships

During the World Tournament, I helped chair the annual meeting of charter officers, regional directors and sanctioned leagues. One topic of conversation was the need to have charter secretaries get dues and membership information to NHPA Secretary/Treasurer David Sidles at least quarterly.

This is required by bylaws and helps the NHPA both financially and in the area of information. David has a need to know about our membership, and clearly the NHPA needs operational funding throughout the entire year.

It was also suggested that maybe our insurance coverage is not in effect for members until their dues are received. I had David check on our coverage and our agent stated what now seems obvious – the NHPA itself, not individual members, is covered by our insurance. That simply means that any sanctioned event is covered, and that includes about any aspect of the event on a case-by-case basis.

In the area of sanctioned leagues, I discussed my plan to rewrite the *Red Book*. First draft is already complete. There have been many changes implemented that are not covered in the 15-year-old publication.

I also explained the need to include a dues structure for leagues as we move forward. The sanctioned league program has a very large budget to cover, including awards, scholarships, patches and the annual tournament. A small fee per league would help lower the NHPA's costs and be absorbed by the players that are eligible for the various rewards and benefits. The fee I am contemplating is in the range of a dollar per player per league with certain upper and lower limits. I am suggesting a 50 cent per player fee for leagues under 10 pitchers, a \$10 fee for leagues with 10 to 25 pitchers and a \$15 fee for leagues over 25 pitchers. Junior leagues will not have any fees. The council is considering the fee structure, and if you have feeling about this subject, [contact me](#).

Judging Clinics See Good Participation

by [Dan Sanders](#), 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

World Tournament Judging Clinics were once again very popular and well attended in Topeka, with over 40 participants from eight different charters. Many thanks to Rich Altis (Missouri) who helped with these presentations and also provided valuable assistance to our judges who were on duty during this tournament.

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Our ultimate goal is to provide you with World Tournament judges who are all NHPA Certified. And to help in reaching this goal, clinic participants from several charters expressed an interest in making these clinics available to members of their charters. Please ask your charter officers about the possibility of attending one of these clinics, and if anyone else has an interest in learning more about this valuable learning experience, please contact [me](#) by email, so that I can forward the information and materials to you. All members should become familiar with this important playing rules information whether or not you ever intend to become a judge.

Observations from the NHPF Booth

by **Casey Sluys**, *President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*

At the 2015 World Tournament, the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) once again had a premier spot to inform the pitchers about us. Thank you, Kansas Horseshoe Pitchers Association, and Roger Vogel!

Sitting in this nice location, what I noticed most was that people walked in and came out, asking questions about who's winning, how do they score, where do people stand, and sharing thoughts that they thought the games were to 21 points. It seems we could use something as a guide to assist with these types of questions from the general public.

The NHPF will devise a "Spectator Hints" sheet we will begin handing out to everyone that is not already an NHPA member. This should enhance spectators' interest in the game and perhaps cause them to do a little more research into our organization. Something like this is available, once created by Billie Sue Pennington, and we hope to use most of what she developed.

The NHPA Hall of Fame Banquet was one of the best attended in recent years. Thank you, everyone, for your participation. In particular, we thank the Merlin Potts family, as their table won 50/50 table raffle and donated their half right back to the NHPF. Your generosity is much appreciated, Mr. Potts!

To all those of you that stopped by the Hall of Fame on your way back to points east, we thank you very much. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed the facility and now understand the reason the NHPF needs your support. This is without a doubt a first-class facility.

If you walked among the bricks on the patio, you realize that those bricks designate not only memorials, but can be bought for birthday or Christmas gifts, even a wedding gift if you like. Think about the most influential person in your horseshoe pitching career ... was it your dad, mom, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, a school friend? Whoever it was, wouldn't it be nice to honor them with an engraved brick (link to: <http://www.nhpf.info/pdf/bricksnew.pdf>)?

As a quick reminder when you purchase items online through Amazon, please use our Amazon Smile page (link to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1671910>). We have received a check from Amazon, so know that it's working. The more people you encourage to use this, the more the NHPF will receive!

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Special Thanks to Our Donors

We express our sincere thanks to the following most recent donors:

Donating \$10-95

Darrel Koistinen, Washington
Steve Summerlin, Michigan
Joshua Olson, Minnesota
Joann Stanford, Tennessee

Donating \$100-200

Dave & Cathie Loucks, California
Ron Deckard, Florida
Sonoma County Horseshoe Club, California
Vermont Horseshoe Pitchers Association
Arthur and Jan Anderson, California

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Minnesota Gopher State Horseshoe Pitchers Association
Alex and Barbara Carson, Arizona
Kevin M. Smith and Gregory A. Smith, Michigan

Bricks Purchased By

Darrel and Lorraine J. Koistinen, Washington
Thomas S. Williams, Michigan
Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, Missouri
Don (Fuzzy) and Bev Hittle, Ohio
Stuart Sipma, North Dakota
Pete Pintor, Colorado
Lorraine Sternberg, Wisconsin
John Barney, California
Roger Higgins, Michigan
Charlie and Gina Baker, Missouri
Inge Byrkjeland, Norway (3)
Ray Yoder, Pennsylvania
Rich Altis, Missouri

Other Income

\$1,050	NHPA Game Related Sales
\$510	WT NHPF Benefit 100 Tournament (Thanks, Dalton Rakestraw, Illinois!)
\$1,000	Gold Country Horseshoe Club, California (partial grant repayment)
\$500	Little Elm Horseshoe Club, Texas (2008 grant repayment)
\$2,500	Rent, Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, Missouri
\$220	2015 World Tournament Banquet Auction
\$981	2015 World Tournament 50/50
\$1,000	2015 World Tournament Sales
\$713	2015 World Tournament Silent Auction
\$199	Hall of Fame Donation Box

What's in the Truck?

An inside look at the history and current status of your NHPA Equipment

by [Jerry LaBrosse](#), 4th Vice President and Charter Communications Director

Back in 2007, the NHPA officers decided to build new courts for our World Tournament. I was entrusted to direct the project by then-president Paul Stewart. We brainstormed several ideas and came up with what we believe is the ultimate design for a portable horseshoe court, specifically designed to be assembled and disassembled quickly and easily.

The original design was from Hall of Famer Curt Bestal from the great state of Wisconsin. We made a few modifications to suit our needs, but the basic design was from Curt. However, we didn't stop there, as there were other issues to consider. Paul suggested that we explore finding some sort of rubber floor covering to use on our pitching platforms. After a lot of research and development, we arrived at what you see at the World Tournament today.

The NHPA inventory includes 60 complete portable courts and the rubber walkways under each of the 120 boxes, as well as fencing to create seven complete "banks" of eight courts, and four playoff courts. It also includes plenty of various rugs and other floor coverings to protect the floors of the venues we visit. Additionally, there are a lot of miscellaneous tools such as shovels, pails, shoe-check tools, judging tools, and more.

The NHPA equipment is very valuable, and we try to handle it with care. At the end of the WT in Topeka, this equipment was meticulously packed into the NHPA semitrailer, directed by NHPA Vice President Bill Marvin, who has been involved with that task ever since the 2009 World Tournament in Springfield, Illinois. The trailer has already been hauled to the next World Tournament site in Montgomery, Alabama.

We are planning a maintenance day before next year's World Tournament setup where the lines on the rubber mats will be repainted and some of the pit components will be replaced. Those components will be made during the winter and shipped to Montgomery, along with the electronic scoring equipment. We need to build some boxes each year to replace the oldest ones that are beginning to deteriorate and warp. The stakes are all holding up wonderfully with not one stake being broken yet! We have played eight World Tournaments on these courts, and I think the design and quality of this equipment speaks for itself.

The NHPA also owns electronic equipment to support the scoring activity and the stats room. Each scoring station consists of two monitors mounted on a tripod stand, a small table, a laptop, and some supporting outlets and cords. We have 30 complete scoring stations. Additional inventory includes office equipment and supplies for the stats room, as well as a few large monitors, video cameras, printers, radios, server laptops, routers, and miles of cable, cords and components. These electronics are carefully packed into five wooden crates for easy shipping.

Currently, these crates of equipment are stored in a climate-controlled environment at my business in Minnesota. The World Tournament stats room director Rob Hagman lives 30 minutes from where it is stored, so is very convenient for him to access this equipment for updating and maintenance.

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We have assembled the largest collection of state-of-the-art horseshoe equipment ever. You, the membership of the NHPA, own this equipment. With regular planning and maintenance, we will support this equipment for decades to come, and run fantastic World Tournament events for our members.

The NHPA has made huge advancements in the equipment area. Electronic scoring has grown from a demonstration on a playoff court in 2009 in Springfield, Illinois, to a full inventory and stats room operation like you see today. The portable courts, along with the rubber walkways, have created what we feel are the best conditions possible.

Many world records have been broken since the introduction of these new courts in 2008 in York, Pennsylvania. I had a conversation with Andre Leclerc, Canadian statistician, and he was convinced that the new equipment was partly responsible for these broken world records.

The newest feature of our world tournament involves live-streaming video. The number of cameras has increased to 15, with more growth being planned. This video streaming has been a big hit with our members, and we are hopeful it will help us secure sponsorships as well.

HSMaster Update Available for Download

by [Rob Hagman](#), NATSTATS Director

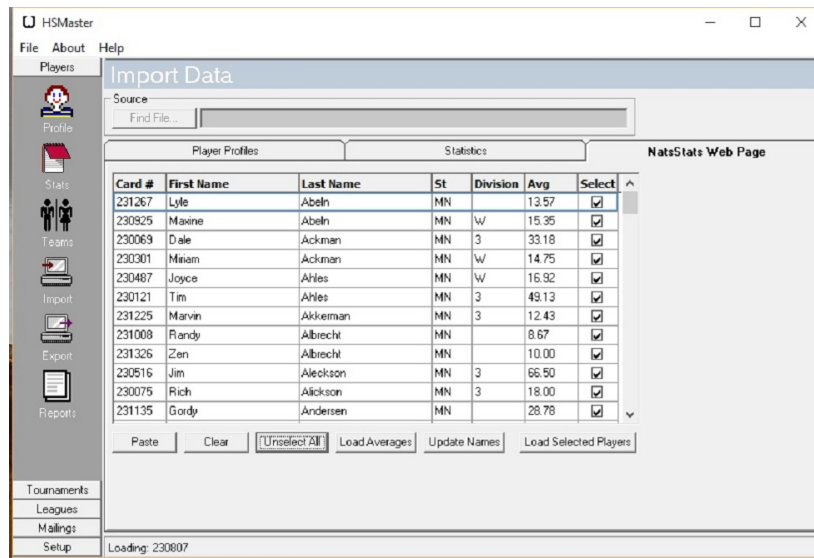
Version 1.1.196 of HSMaster has been released and is now available for download. Every user needs to download the new version.

To check your version, just click "About" at the top. Installing the new version will not change anything you have in your HSMaster database. The changes we made are only to how things import to HSMaster.

When you import from NATSTATS to HSMaster, here is what it looks like:

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First, you need to “select all,” then load selected players, then update names, then load averages. “Update Names” will make sure the names and categories in your profile match that of NATSTATS.

Also, if you are using Windows 10 and are importing from NATSTATS, Google Chrome will not work; you’ll need to use Firefox or InternetExplorer.

If you have questions about this you can contact me via email (link to: natstats@horseshoepithcing.com) or 612-600-3777.

Jukskei USA at World Tournament

by ***Casey Sluys***, *President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*

At the 2015 World Tournament, the Jukskei USA group held their annual championships. We only had enough room for one end of a jukskei (link to: <http://www.jukskei.co.za/van-jukskei-about-jukskei/>) court, or span, as they say in South Africa. We were able to field four solid teams of four players each:

Team Buckeye from Ohio: Gary Roberts, Brian Fisher, Delbert Fourman and Dave Rose

Team Minnesota: Jerry LaBrosse, April Lynch, Joe Mueller, and Josh Olson

Motley Crew: 13-year-old Andrew Marlin, California; Debby Michaud, Massachusetts; Kevin Lewis, Utah; and Ken Burkhard, Ohio

Team Ohio Two: Carl Slevin, Meredith Kahrig, Bob Molnar, and John Green

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Team Buckeye won with 17 points; second place was a tie between Motley Crew and Minnesota each with 15 points.

Over the course of the next few *Newsline* issues, look for much more information on the 2016 tour planned for South Africa. It will be a two-week venture – one week in Capetown and Kruger National Park and the next week will be spent playing jukskei in the championships in Kroonstad.

For more details, please contact Gary Roberts (link to: gbroberts5542@yahoo.com). Timeframe will be late March into April. It will be here before you know it. It is a trip of a lifetime and you will not regret it.

Comparing Worlds: HOF Chairperson Looks at the 2015 World Tournament

by [Vicki Winston](#), *Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson*

Another World Tournament has come and gone, and the tournament hosts and the NHPA staff did an excellent job. Of course, I can only speak from the viewpoint of a non-pitcher. It did bring back memories of the way things used to be when I first started out in my World Tournament pitching career back in the 1950s in Murray, Utah, and how different things are now.

Back then, we could watch the competition on 18 clay courts from bleachers just a few feet from the perimeter fence. Of course, we were subject to all the elements Mother Nature could throw at us. Since there were only a couple of men's classes at that time, pitchers drove long distances just to pitch 200 qualifying shoes. If they didn't make one of those two classes, they went back home. It was a struggle to find enough female pitchers to make up a women's class.

Games were 50-point cancellation games. No one ever used shoe-limit games. A scorekeeper was seated in the middle of the court recording the score on a paper scoresheet. The office was a tent set up near the courts, where Katie Gregson and her volunteers were checking scoresheets manually and recording the stats on handmade charts made out of poster board.

Fast forward to what occurs now at a World Tournament ... there are at least 48 portable courts in a huge, air-conditioned venue. Pre-entry is required and everyone that gets their entry in on time will have an opportunity to compete. Shoe-limit games are the norm, with only Championship finals being 40-point cancellation games. Scorekeeping is computerized, and depending on the venue, much of the time, spectators need binoculars in order to keep track of what is going on, or to see the score. Large screen monitors in a couple of locations in the building continually scroll the status of the classes and players that are on the courts. The whims of Mother Nature have been completely eliminated, unless there would be such a storm that a power failure occurred. That would certainly bring a sudden stop to everything that is currently in progress.

As a non-pitcher, I continue to attend the World Tournament because of my sustained involvement with our sport. I also enjoy the opportunity to see the people that I've met during the many years of

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my pitching career, as well as those I've met since I stopped pitching. It is a family reunion, but the family has grown considerably since the 1950s.

Sunday is my big day during the tournament. I attend the convention as a charter delegate. Then I attend the non-denominational church service that usually begins about 2 p.m. This year there was no time for lunch and the delegates barely cleared the room before it was time for church.

The NHPA has a wonderful chaplain in Ken Heinritz, and he does a great job with the service. It was a treat once again to take part in a quartet that we put together a few years ago. It consists of Amy Francis, Barry Chapelle, Ken Shaver and me. We didn't sing in 2014 because both Barry and Ken missed that tournament. Amy has named us the Heavenly Shoes. And, as Ken quipped, we don't yet have any CDs available.

The events of Sunday are completed with the annual NHPA Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet. This year was one of the best that I can remember. The food was good and there was plenty of room; we could actually walk between the tables.

I was delighted that many people were able to see Bob Rogers from Missouri, who is the designer of the Hall of Fame Room and the displays that are in it at Wentzville. He continues to work, basically free of charge now, as the curator of the museum, because he loves the sport of horseshoe pitching so much. We owe a great deal to Bob, and I was pleased that some people came to me during the World Tournament and said they had stopped to visit the Hall of Fame on their way to Topeka. Their comments were all positive. Near the end of the program, because we save the best until the last, it was my honor and privilege to help with the induction of Harold Anthony, Lorraine Sternberg and Jim Walters into our NHPA Hall of Fame. All are very deserving of the honor.

The Hall of Fame Committee had a meeting on Tuesday evening, July 21. I was pleased to have so many members in attendance and it was the first meeting for our new committee members, Joan Elmore and Mark Seibold. Everything seems to be going pretty well with the committee and we didn't have a lot of business to conduct, so the meeting was short.

In closing I would remind everyone that any NHPA member or sanctioned club can submit a nomination for the Hall of Fame and a printable nomination form (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/HOFNominationForm.pdf>) is available on the Hall of Fame link of the NHPA website.

Video of 2015 World Tournament Available now on YouTube

Many of you took advantage of the live video feed from the World Tournament in Topeka and were able to watch your friends and loved ones in action!

Thanks to Rob Hagman, much of that video is now available for viewing on YouTube. (link to www.youtube.com/user/hsmaster101) for viewing and sharing!

Rob reports that due to an ownership change of the DropCam company, not all the features were usable. In the future, features should allow viewers to zoom in and see scoreboards.

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Thanks from the WT Director

by [Dave Sidles](#), Secretary-Treasurer

I'm speaking briefly, with a different hat on than I'm used to, that being as Tournament Director of the 2015 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships ... this was my first rodeo, at least at this scale, and I relied heavily on two people in particular: former NHPA Secretary/ Treasurer Dick Hansen and NATSTATS Director Rob Hagman. I cannot begin to thank them enough for all the help and support each of them gave me.

And, of course, there were countless others who poured their hearts and souls into making this event what it was. To the people out in 100-degree heat shoveling clay, to those who were on their knees for hours stretching tape across the floor, to the Kansas steering committee members, and all the ExpoCentre staff, and to the Capital Plaza Hotel staff, I thank you also.

All the different things that came up and all the unique situations that arose were way beyond anything I expected. I give all the credit to my wife, Carla, for getting me through it all. For me ... and for you also, I hope ... it was an event of a lifetime. While I look forward to a couple more, this first one is special to me.

By the end, my legs were shot, my voice was gone and all I could think about was how long my grass was at home, and whether my dog would remember who I was. To all the 1,400+ competitors, I hope it was everything you expected. We all tried our best.

Thanks from the World Tourney Stats Room

by [Rob Hagman](#), NATSTATS Director

It took some wonderful helpers to run the largest world tournament using electronic scoring. Al and Barb Carson, Josh and Cody Olson, Dalton Rakestraw, and my wife Ann Hagman all worked well with the NHPA Council and shift directors. With our combined efforts, we kept things running and hope you had a great experience.

The horseshoe people from Kansas were great in helping whatever was needed, and the Expocentre helped us at every turn.

TOLL OF TIME: Don Thornton

Remembering Our Horseshoe Friends

Don Thornton was born in Lemoyne, Ohio, on February 13, 1934. He married Maxine F. Willer on January 27, 1955 in Green Springs, Ohio. He was a member of the Toledo Area Horseshoe Club and the Bowling Green Club, as well as the Ohio Pitchers Association and pitched in the last six World Tournaments. He loved wood crafting and working in his shop at home, making scoring tables for both of his horseshoe clubs. Many of his horseshoe awards were shown at his wake and all of his

NEWSLINE Text

published September-October 2015

family wore horseshoe pins at his funeral. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters, 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. His presence on the courts will be missed by all his horseshoe pitching friends.

Horseshoes and Pitchers in the News

[Sodbusters roll out the ringers](#)

Burlington Free Press

Profile of this Vermont horseshoe club

[Diamond ringer: Former Ranger wins world horseshoe title](#)

White Bear Press

Minnesota pitcher Helen Hawkinson-Mike makes transition from softball to horseshoe

[Darin' Erin: Horseshoes](#)

myChamplainValley.com

Local Sports Director learns and challenges 2015 Women's World Champion Deb Brown

[Alan Francis captures 20th World Horseshoe Championship](#)

WIBW

Topeka station interviews 20-time Men's World Champion Alan Francis