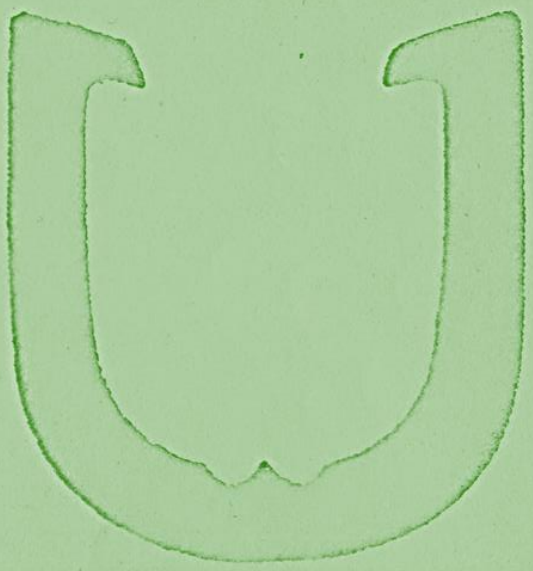
THE HORSESHOE PITCHER



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EDITORIAL

Since taking on the job of being an Editor, I found out it is not all milk and honey. I have already learned that you cannot please everybody; also if you try to, you're crazy. However, it has its compensations. Up to the time when this magazine made its first appearance, I, like most folks, sent Christmas and New Year's greetings by mail to all of my friends. Naturally, this took lots of time and energy as well as the price paid for cards and postage. Now that I am an Editor, this is all behind me! All I need do now is to publish my greetings in my own publication, so here goes . . . To all my friends in the Horseshoe game, my subscribers and all the officers of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America, I extend my best wishes for

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Editor,
BYRON JASKULEK (Jake)

This also comes from the First Vice Pres. of the N.H.P.A. (same guy).

* * *

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (N.H.P.A.)

We, in Indiana, are planning on a meeting of the Executive Council and Advisory Board in Indianapolis. February 1st, which is a tentative date, to complete revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Horeshoe Pitchers' Association.

The State Association is planning to pay the expenses of every member on these Councils to this City for this purpose and any other business pertaining to the N. H. P. A. Also, have every member of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board notify their President if they will be able to attend this important meeting.

As your President, I have asked our Secretary, Harvey Clear not to send out 1949 membership cards to State Secretaries until complete accounting of 1948 and also have each State Secretary use temporary receipts for 1949 and send the N. H. P. A. the money before they receive their new National cards. Also, I would like Leland Mortenson and Pop Woodfield to act as a committee of two to assume the responsibility of handling the Canadian, German and Australian data as I personally believe these two men can and will do the basic work for the possibility of formulating an International Association. Received a letter from

Harvey Clear stating that St. Paul, Minnesota, is interested in a bid for our National Tournament for 1949. As soon as I receive complete information from St. Paul, I will fly there and see what they have to offer and meet with the men who intend to sponsor this tournament. I'll then return with a report for our Association and our newspapers. When making application for membership for 1949, let's all agree to observe the rules and regulations of the N. H. P. A. both in letter and spirit. The high favor that horseshoe pitching enjoys in the Nation's homes and industries will be due in great measure to the wise guidance of the N. H. P. A. in our new year.

Through the unified action of every member in our organization it will be possible to seek out additional means of improvement and to witness the culmination of hopes and plans which will provide a source of inspiration for many years, and horseshoe pitchers to come.

In the October issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER I asked for ideas and comments. Among the many replies, I read with great interest the reply of our good friend, Leland Mortenson. In reference to our appointment of an Advisory Board, to which Mr. Mortenson refers, this committee was appointed by your President to advise him on the grievances that arose at the Milwaukee tournament. Frequently, the term, Board, is erroneously used, referring to a committee. However, this committee still stands, as their decision has not been handed down yet.

To eliminate re-occurrences of such grievances as did arise at Milwaukee, I have appointed a Constitution and By-Laws Committee which will meet here in Indianapolis early in the new year.

I heartily agree with Mr. Mortenson and I am fully aware that any recommendations handed down by this committee must be brought before the Convention for ratification. Also I am fully aware that the Executive Council has full power over the affairs of the organization.

I am of the opinion that the management of this Association should not be confined to so small a group as the Executive Council. That is why I have advocated the necessity of an Advisory Board.

It is a foregone conclusion that our organization, in the past, from a promotional standpoint, must be improved upon by putting horseshoes on a higher plane.

As your President, it is my objective, with the help of the Executive Council and every member of the organization to put horseshoes way on top, similar to other well known sports.

Wishing you all a very Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your President,
ARLO E. HARRIS

CALIFORNIA

1949 Greetings and Good Cheer from Your National Secretary

As we are coming to the close of another year, one that has been a grand year for the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, a year that has seen our membership grow to almost three times the number of members that we had in 1947, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that have helped to make this possible. I feel sure that with the combined State and National membership card which we have adopted, we will easily double the membership of the National Association in 1949. Let's all get behind this great organization and make it one of the greatest sports activity in the country. You can do your part by joining, and supporting the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association.

If you are not a member of your State association, by sending me $1.00 I will mail you a membership card, good for all of the courtesies and privileges extended by the National for the year 1949. In case you would like to be affiliated with your State association I will send your membership, together with 50 cents to your State association. The National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association is the only governing body for horseshoe pitching in the country. The National needs you, and you need the National. There is no time like the present. Join now.

There are other ways in which you can do a great deal for this game, by supporting the two horseshoe papers which we now have. In order that we may know what is going on throughout the country in the horseshoe game. Not only should you send in your subscription fee to these papers, but send in Horseshoe news items, anything of interest to the game. Mr. Byron (Jake) Jaskulek has recently started publishing a Magazine called: THE HORSESHOE PITCHER. Send $1.25 today to 5 Terrace View Avenue, New York 63, N. Y. for one year, published monthly.

Then, we also have the HORSESHOE NEWS, Published by Harry T. (Pop) Woodfield, at 4002 Oliver Street, Hyattsville, Maryland. This magazine is $1.00 a year. You simply can't afford to be without either of these fine magazines, so send in that subscription today for you not only are helping these two fine horseshoe enthusiasts, but you will be helping this great organization as well.

I have quite a number of "Tournament Schedule" books which I have published and as I want to get these books out where they will benefit the game, I am going to offer them at a reduced price while they last. I will send them post paid anywhere in the U. S. at 15 cents a copy, or $1.25 per dozen copies. They are for: 6-8-10-12-14-16 man Round Robin play, and 4-6-8 man two man teams. Get your order in, first come first served. I still have a number of ringer percentage books at 25 cents each. I have score sheets also. Write for price on quantities.

I want to remind all of the Secretaries of the various State Associations that it is important that they send me their membership list, if they have not already done so, as at the end of the year the Horseshoe stamp fund will be divided among the clubs, according to the number of members. Copies of the World's Tournament results can be had by contacting me. Another thing—when buying horseshoes be sure the five cent stamp is on the carton. Only those horseshoes with the stamp on the cartons are official!

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All.

Your National Secretary-Treasurer,
HARVEY W. CLEAR,
912 Melrose Avenue
Santa Cruz, Calif.

* * *

PRESSURE PLAGUES ALL PLAYERS!

By ROY W. SMITH

Author of "Science At The Stake"

Public enemy number one for all horseshoe pitchers is that old mental devil "Nervous Tension" more commonly known as Pressure. He takes delight in seizing his victims at the most inopportune times. All players feel his cold, clammy grasp upon their muscles and mental faculties at times. Those who deny that they are ever bothered by tension or pressure when the chips are down are not being honest about it. They are only kidding themselves.

Quite often I have seen many of these pitchers go out to qualify or meet some good pitcher in a tournament with their hands trembling and literally sweating blood from every pore. Their hands are nerveless and they seem to be on the verge of a mental breakdown. They are beaten before they even attempt to toss a shoe. A prize fighter who enters the ring in this pitiful state of mind is usually butchered in the first exchange of blows. What causes a person to "get butterflies in his belly" and defeat himself in this manner?

The answer is LACK OF TRAINING. Mental training that is. One may be in fine physical shape and able to play a fine game until the pressure is put on, then this lack of mental conditioning instantly manifests itself. Websters dictionary defines tension as "the act of stretching or straining to the point of stiffness; mental strain or strong and severe intellectual effort. Strong excitement, eagerness, fear; great activity or strain of the emotions or the will. Lack of confidence." These various definitions all mean about the same thing, so its easier for us to call it "Pressure."

This writer has often been the victim of pressure and has been studying and discussing it with other pitchers for several months. Believing that all things are governed by Cause and Effect and that "the truth shall make us free" the only logical solution to the pressure problem is to study it and devise ways and means to conquer it.

First of all we must go directly to the source of the trouble. That is the mind or the intellect which was placed by the Creator on the topmost pinnacle of our persons for the purpose of governing our physical actions. The Bible hit the nail on the head many centuries ago with the phrase, "As a man thinketh so is he." The mind must be trained and put in order before our physical bodies will respond. When the two work together, we secure a perfect coordination or rhythm which is the dominating fundamental in all sports and other daily activities.

There is no other sport on earth that builds up more nervous tension or pressure than a horseshoe pitching tournament. A golfer has plenty of time to relax between strokes; a baseball pitcher can miss the plate any number of times and still pitch a good game. But a horseshoe pitcher must toss 7 to 9 ringers out of each 10 shoes pitched to get anywhere and the chances are that over 80% of these will be cancelled by his opponent. Then they walk 40 feet and throw back to the other peg. Thus, the pressure is always on, hour after hour for 5 or 6 days when a major tournament is being held. In order to win the world's title at Milwaukee last summer, Fernando Isais had to walk well over 10 miles—40 feet at a time—and toss about 3 tons of horseshoes! And he was under a gruelling and never ending pressure all the time.

I have discussed the problem of pressure with Isais and Zimmerman and watched them battle it out for a first prize of $100. They are two of the greatest pitching machines the world has ever seen. Both are master pitchers and experienced veterans. But with no disloyalty to Guy Zimmerman, I honestly believe that Isais has a slight edge over him when it comes to mental coolness or the ability to stay relaxed under pressure. At least this seemed to be the case at the So. Calif. Open Championship Tournament at Pomono, October 2nd and 3rd of this year. At one time, "Zim" led Fernando 35 to 23, yet Fernando overcame this lead and stuck Zim in the 49 hole. The courts were bad with a tricky wind blowing across one end of them. Both men lost several ringers and the large audience was so tense one could hear a pin drop. "The Champ" and "The Old Master" showed us what real champions are made of as they battled it out in the hot California sun. Their great physical and mental efforts were reflected by the deep lines of concentration shown on their faces.

Fernando displayed an icy coolness and his movements were slow and deliberate. Whatever his emotions were, they did not show on his

deadpan face. It was anybody's game right up to the end when Zim missed his last two shoes and Fernado went out with a double. When the two men shook hands, the crowd really let off its suppressed steam with a roar of applause.

Both of these great pitchers expressed similar views relative to the subject of pressure. Isais says, "You have to know what you can do in the pinches." Like the ancient Greeks whose slogan was "know thyself" he has trained himself mentally and physically to stay relaxed under pressure. He readily admits that he is often bothered by nervous tension but tries to keep his opponent from knowing it. Whether he realizes it or not, his mental psychology is the chief factor that has enabled him to become a world's champion. He has the precision and grace of motion that distinguishes a fine athlete. He pitches with his head as well as his arm. Instead of playing for a high ringer percentage, he plays to win the game and says that a high ringer percentage does not mean too much. The fact that Jones and Zimmerman both pitch the highest percentages in the world and have yet to win the title seems to prove Fernando's argument.

Guy Zimmerman says, "The reason that the majority of players cannot stay relaxed under pressure is because they do not try as hard during practice as they do in competition. Many just toss the shoes back and forth with no objective in mind. Naturally they will play as they practice, rather half heartedly with little or no confidence in themselves. Like poorly tempered swords, they break under the pressure of competition."

The least bit of tension will instantly affect one's coordination or rhythm. When this begins to happen, the player should slow down and not work too fast in delivering. Walk from stake to stake with slow strides, letting the arms hang loosely at the sides. Breathe deeply from the diaphragm. It's impossible to remain tense when one breathes in this manner. Relax in every possible way. Your opponent, if he is an experienced pitcher, will study you for signs of nervousness, and when he detects it, he will be quick to seize the psychological advantage to start piling on his ringers. The proper mental attitude is essential in horseshoe pitching for, in the case of a seasoned player, about 75% of the game is mental.

It is no disgrace to be bothered with nervous tension. All are afflicted by it at times. Even race horses go to pieces waiting at their posts for the starting gun. The secret is to keep from building up too much nervous energy while waiting to go into action. Then learn to direct this energy into the proper channels by will power. If this can be done—and it can be with proper training—one will not only become a better pitcher, but will find that this power of "mind over matter" will enable him to meet the problems of everyday living in a more successful and satisfactory manner.

In this present day world of insecurity, worry, rush and high tensioned living, those who have met and solved the problem of mental and physical relaxation possess that rare gift which all the money in the world cannot buy. PEACE OF MIND. Fernando Isais, the World Champion Horseshoe Pitcher, seems to have solved this problem. He never loses his temper even when a series of bad breaks makes him lose an important game. He just grins and shrugs it off, resolving to do better next time. Zim never beefs about anything, either. Both men are the best of sports.

No one can work or play well under pressure. The next time tension begins to bother you, stop and recognize it for what it is. A self-created enemy that you and only you can conquer. You can conquer it and remain poised and self confident; or, it can enslave you and make you a nervous wreck. It's your battle. Go out and win it! Personally, I'm finding it a tough battle, but I hope to overcome the curse of tension before many month's have passed. I'm making progress, and this article is my first step in that direction. Come on, fellows, let's have your ideas on how to beat our old arch enemy "Pressure."

* * *

COLORADO

By TED ALLEN

Pop Woodfield misinterpreted some of the rumors he heard at the Milwaukee Tournament. He was partly right, especially that I planned to get a job for the time being, but I never stated for certain that I was quitting and settling down, nor did I say it was Sheriff. Instead I said that I had a chance to get a Deputy Sheriff's job but was not quite sure yet and I was supposed to let them know by November 1 whether I would take the job or not. I also said that I might go out on the road again next year but had nothing booked as yet and I would have to wait and see. Anyone knows that Show Business is a changeable and uncertain business from one week to the next. A person must have it at heart and the determination to go ahead with the life of Show Business or else he will become discouraged within less than a year. I did say I was planning on getting married, which was true, and I am now a married man. A post announcement as to whom and when will be sent out just as soon as we can get to it this month.

But I did not say that I would not return to the next World's Tournament. Again, that was a misinterpretation of the meaning of my words. I told Pop I was not sure but that such a job as Deputy Sheriff might not let me off; that is if I accepted the job. And so, everything having been so uncertain at that time it should not have been interpreted that I, of my own free will, would not attend the next World Tournament and that I was quitting. I am absolutely NOT a quitter!

And I want to say right here and now that I have yet to see the job that would keep me away from the tournaments. If my superiors would not grant me time off to go, then I would figure it wasn't the job for me. I had, for many years in the past, a difference of opinion with my former employer, the J. E. Rodeo, whether I should attend the tournaments or not because of conflicting dates in my contract and the Tournaments; but I always won out in the arguments.

As long as I am capable of winning the Championship, or thinking I am, I will attend the Tournaments if at all possible. I came as close as any the last time. I figure that Isais had better breaks than I did and I or any of the others could have won the Championship. Considering the two games that Isais won by measuring the last point, I could have won had it gone the other way. I might have been tied but I have never lost a playoff yet and that is where I shine. Taking these "breaks" in consideration, I hereby challenge Fernando Isais publicly and formally to a match for One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) to be played next Summer, or sooner if possible, and at least before the next World's Tournament comes around!

There is no rule saying that a Champion, who is not required to qualify, is excused from paying his entry fee, just the same as any other participant in the Tournament. If all others pay the fee for the right to try for the championship, then the Champ should pay the fee for the right to defend his title. The fee is for the good of the tournament and he should be required to pay too. Every year, except one, I was required to pay as did the others, but I never felt it right for me to be excused that one year.

There is something else that should be brought up at the next Convention. To be absolutely fair to all World's Tournament participants and to those who would plan to attend, there should be a rule put into the Constitution or the By-Laws, that a World's Tournament should be advertised at least 60 days before the tournament and at least the largest share of the prizes be posted. There was such a rule put into effect at the Convention and Tournament of 1935 at Moline, Ill., because of the after effects of the 1934 Los Angeles World's Tournament; but where the minutes or rules went to, no one seems to know. Somewhere between the time that Mr. Tanner resigned as President of the National Association and the time when Mr. Tompkins went out as President the rule was lost or destroyed. Mr. Tanner certainly was one who would not have lost it as he was one of the men, with Mr. Claves and Mr. Howard, who advocated it at the Convention. Mr. Claves and Mr. Tanner have since passed away. There must be others who were there who would remember it. I can name several who were there, but only two or three would remember it I am sure. It is only with that much advance notice that we can expect a large entry from all over the United States. They must have time to ask for and get their vacation from their jobs. In nearly all years of the Tournaments, we can agree that

they were fairly in advance with notices and we were given ample time but we do not want another occurrence such as happened in 1941, when some of the men were given eight days notice by mail, others, none at all and myself, only two days notice to defend my title.

* * *

IOWA

By LELAND S. MORTENSON

Today, I received a letter from Arlo Harris addressed to Mr. Woodfield and myself. It was dated November 20, 1948, and reads as follows:

> "As a committee of two, I would like you gentlemen to assume the responsibility of handling the Canadian, Germany, and Australian data, as I am firmly convinced that the possibility of an international organization is in the making due to the information I have already received. I personally believe that you two men can and will do the basic work in forming this program. I am also convinced that I can get the sponsor of our 1950 world's tourney, which we hope to hold in our city in 1950, to pay expenses to our world's tourney, those men in foreign countries who wish to participate. Hoping that you will kindly accept.
>
> Your friend,
> ARLO HARRIS, Pres.
>
> P.S. I feel like this is the finest and best job I could give any member of our organization."

Now Harry, I am not going to accept the appointment, but since I don't, that will make you automatically the Chairman of the International Committee.

I suggest that you sound out the field all over the country and pick some strong members of your committee. I assume Mr. Harris would not object to your taking this action. You ought to be able to find a half dozen men who would be delighted to go to town with you in putting over this program.

You did a remarkable job as President of our Association from 1941 until 1948, and I have the confidence that you are going to make history in your new assignment of concentrating in a field in which you have already laid some groundwork. Good luck to you.

But, you officers. Please bear in mind that Harry is going to need a lot of support, morale and finacial help if possible. He should have his name and title on the official stationery in order to give him prestige. That in itself, would give the Association prestige.

I note that there may be a meeting soon to revise the Constitution of the Association.

I assume that all of those who will attend the meeting are perfectly aware of the fact that the constitution can not be changed in the least except by delegates in convention. The officers can not change the constitution. A plan to hold a meeting for this purpose is to be commended, but all that those present can do is to write up a plan to be voted upon by delegates in convention. The officers and the committees function and operate under the constitution; the constitution doesn't function beneath anyone.

* * *

MINNESOTA

Carl West, of St. Paul, has sent in a ten page mimeographed annual report for 1948, of the St. Paul Municipal Horseshoe Assn. compiled by their General Secretary, Harold Frey. It's a perfect job and calls for congratulations. There are twenty-six Clubs in the Assn. with about 150 active players. The three top men for the season were S. Sadowsky, who won 48 and lost 8 games, with a percentage of 64.92, R. C. Cherrier was second with 48 wins and 12 losses and a percentage of 64.06 and Carl West came out in third place with 47 won and 13 lost and his percentage was 64.00. Pretty good percentages for the amount of games played! Mr. Frey wound up his report with these remarks: "We take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to all our members, sponsors, the Department of Parks and Playgrounds, and the St. Paul Pioneer Press for the wonderful cooperation given us throughout the 1948 season."

We also wish to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for their assistance and cooperation they have given us at our meetings and at the courts this season. We believe that this is the only Ladies Horseshoe Pitchers Assn. Auxiliary in the United States. (We have three Ladies Aux. in N. Y. C.—Editor).

Now, as we look forward to 1949, the Minnesota Centennial Year, and interest in horseshoe pitching is constantly increasing, we solicit the continued cooperation of all members in an effort to make 1949 an outstanding year in Horseshoe Pitching in St. Paul and the State of Minnesota.

We would like to have all our present members and sponsors back next year and hope for many new horseshoe pitchers and sponsors to participate.

Good "Horseshoe" Luck in 1949 to all.

Sincerely,

GEORGE GIBIS, President
NED DEGIDEO, Vice-Pres.
FRANK DRASSAL, Executive Secy.
HAROLD FREY, General Secy.

NEW YORK STATE

By the time you receive this issue it will be close to the New Year, 1949. That is the time when payment of dues in the EMPIRE STATE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSN. are in order. I beg to call this matter to the attention of all Vice-Presidents throughout New York State to please contact all their members in their territory and other prospective members to collect their dues and forward same to me. Any other horseshoe player who would like to become a member can do so by forwarding me one dollar for a years dues. Byron Jaskulek, Treasurer, 5 Terrace View Ave., New York 63, N. Y.

* * *

BROOKLYN—The Fort Greene H. C. has elected the following members as new officers for the coming year—Gilbert Othote, President; John Grossmann, Vice-President; Peter Zellen, Secretary and Anthony Cinco, Treasurer. Since their election the Horseshoe Club has added another interest to their activities. They have formed a bowling league consisting of Horseshoe players and they are sanctioned by the N. B. C. This league consists of thirty-five members and has been divided into six 5-man teams. They bowl every Monday evening. They have selected a five man team who average 165 and are looking for match games with any Horseshoe Club who can scratch up a team. If interested contact Gilbert Othote, Tel. CO 7-1671 between the hours of 9 and 5, or write to him at 53 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.

* * *

On New Year's Eve the Inwood Horseshoe Club, Inc., will hold a New Year's Eve Party in their Club Rooms at 500 West 215th Street. There will be plenty to eat and drink with music for dancing. On Saturday Eve., January 8, the following men will be installed as officers for the year of 1949—Thos. DiStefano, President; John McPartland, Vice-President; Bernard Rush, Secretary; Harry Hoehn, Treasurer and Dan O'Leary as Sgt. at Arms. The Inwood Club will hold their annual dance on Saturday night, January 15, 1949. You'll have a grand time if you attend. Get in touch with their new Secretary for details.

* * *

The Sunnyside H. C. of Woodside, Long Island, also held their annual dance on Saturday, December 11th. As usual, they drew a big crowd and every one had a fine time. Lots of the horseshoe fraternity attended this affair; they came from all parts of the Metropolitan area.

* * *

Every year, the Woodlawn H. C., holds a Show and Dance in the Bronx Winter Garden. This year it is going to be an old fashioned Minstrel Show. If it is going to be as good as it has been in previous years you won't want to miss it! Don't forget the date—Friday evening, January 21, 1949.

* * *

We'll soon be hearing from that new group of Horseshoe players that George Logan is getting together. So if any of you Bronxites are looking forward to joining a good horseshoe outfit this coming Summer you'd better get in touch with George. His address is 280 Reservoir Place, Bronx, N. Y.

* * *

ROCHESTER—Don't know where the following information was keeping itself but it just showed up and as the old saying goes, "It's better late, than never." The Monroe County Championship Tournament was sponsored by the Monroe County Fair on Sept. 4, at Fair Park, three miles South of Rochester. In an eight man round robin Carl Steinfeldt finished first with a clean slate of seven wins, 74.0%; Al Cope was second with six wins and one loss, 67.9% and Tony Natale came in third with five wins and two losses with 56.9%. These three men were all in the N. Y. State Championship games last July, in New York City, where Carl came in second winning 17 games and losing only two with a percentage of 70.6%.

* * *

WHO'S WHO IN HORSESHOES

In the Metropolitan area of New York City and the State of New York itself, there are thousands of horseshoe players. There are very few of them, indeed, who do not know Lou Ziegler. Not having heard from him in quite a while, I called him on the 'phone the other day and he informed me that he was just getting over a siege of illness which had hospitalized him for many weeks. There is no one in this part of the country who has done more for the promotion of the horseshoe game than Lou.

Many years ago he used to buy and sell horses for the well known horse dealing firm of Fiss, Doerr & Carroll of New York City. It's not much more than a hop, skip and a jump from horses to horseshoes and perhaps that is what started Lou Ziegler's interest in the horseshoe game.

He was the President of the Knickerbocker Horseshoe League from 1936 to 1941, President of the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Assn.

from 1937 to 1938, and Field Captain of the Woodlawn Horseshoe Club from 1932 to 1948 when he resigned this position due to ill health. During all the years he devoted to horseshoes he has received many gifts of appreciation from the fans with whom he came in contact. These gifts ran from watches and pins to a scroll containing many names of his well wishers. And now he was made a life member of the club that he was so long affiliated with, the Woodlawn Horseshoe Club.

This is quite a record for one man's efforts in any field of sport and we cannot pass up the opportunity to say that if we had more workers of the type of Lou Ziegler in the horseshoe game it would not be very long before our sport would be one of the outstanding pastimes in the U. S. A.

Well Lou, just take good care of yourself because we are all looking forward to seeing you on the courts again next Summer.

THE EDITOR.

* * *

OHIO

After digesting contents of the November 1948 issue of The Horseshoe Pitcher (3rd issue) one just cannot help coming up bubbling over with renewed enthusiasm, but first: Permit us in Ohio to join other States in extending our congratulations to the New President and his Executive Board on being elected, and the 1948 Convention for their wise choice, particularly in choosing a top-flight player with the added Executive ability of Mr. Arlo E. Harris for President. It's grand.

Now, getting back to The Horseshoe Pitcher, the overall articles by the Messrs, Jaskulek, Harris, Mortenson, Dale Dixon, Kovacs, Stolarik, and with references to Andy Moehn, on a New Constitution and By-Laws to be published three or four months in advance of the 1949 Convention for study, suggests that it be kept very brief and concise to avoid any hidden meanings and clear of any interlocking "Boards" or "Plans" which in effect would deprive the players from expressing their views and desires in the least way, along with personal ideas on promotional and playing methods coming from such grand fellows is simply "out of this world," wonderful.

Kindly permit me to join these Gentlemen with the views so often expressed by an overwhelming majority of Ohio players involving two factors that are of very first importance to the success of our sport because they are dependent upon each other and they are first, a combined dues to enable both the States and National to operate successfully for the very reason that nothing whatsoever can be accomplished without the funds to do it with, and second, a universal playing and scoring method for all activities, and this is absolutely essential, for the very reason that the States will not be able to support the combined dues

feature in their conventions beyond 1949 if the National Association is to continue with a method in World's title competition that is different (foreign) to the method used by States. With both these factors permanently secured all other factors will fall in line naturally. We feel that Ohio has solved the playing and scoring factor and other States are benefitting by it. The National, with 80 or even 100 shoes pitched per game would be benefitted most of all, besides, it would make the dues feature secure. Thanks to Jake Jaskulek and W. T. "Pop" Woodfield for making all this possible, through your publications; great things are in store in the near future for the greatest sport on earth.

~~ARLO HARRIS.~~
D.O.CHESS

* * *

First German Horseshoe Pitching Season

By Dr. Geo. Siebert, (14a) Giengen-Brenz, Germany

Since the spring of this year I have been practicing horseshoe pitching with the boys and girls of the High School at Giengen-Brenz. As the fine season is over now and the nasty one with its gales and rains and snows is at hand we have laid down the shoes to rest—well greased—for their winter sleep. So I think the time has come for me to give a short account of what we have done.

But let me first recall to the readers the not altogether common circumstances under which this typically American game got a foothold in Germany.

During the summer of 1945, Mr. Leland S. Mortenson, then director of the horseshoe pitching program for the army, when touring my country with Bill Conn and several other sportsmen, stopped for a week at Heilenheil (Wurttemberg), seven miles from Giengen. As they were assigned to my home for their stay I and my dear old wife were charged to leave it at an hour's notice. After we had mastered our alarm and removed some belongings to a kind-hearted, hospitable neighbor, I returned and asked permission to take some blankets.

Despite non-fraternization I had several talks with the gentlemen, especially with Bill Conn, whom I by this, send my heartiest greetings seeing no other way of doing it. In the course of these chats I learned that Mr. Mortenson was sponsoring horseshoe pitching, a sport which was entirely new to me. Being from my boyhood an advocate of sports of any kind I agreed with him that as soon as the waves of passion and dissention should have smoothed I should contact him with a view to starting the game in Germany.

About a year ago I wrote Mr. Mortenson that my students of Giengen High School were anxious to practice the game. This letter was forwarded to Mr. Harry T. Woodfield, president f the N.H.P.A., who was kind enough to send me some copies of the 'Science at the Stake'

and ordered two pairs of excellent 'Super Ringers' from the 'Diamond Calk Horseshoe Co., Duluth (Minn.). For want of the proper stakes a blacksmith's son supplied gas pipes which unfortunately got crooked when driven into the stony ground. As my students were aged about fifteen-sixteen I chose a distance of 30 feet.

I used the booklets as classreaders thus killing two birds with one stone: I initiated them in the 'science' of pitching and english as well. Then we went down into the school yard for practical training. I wish you could have heard the feverish enthusiasm of the boys and girls eager to do the first pitch. Each one patiently tried the correct stance, footwork, the one-and-one-quarter and one-and-three-quarter grips. Yet no one got a ringer. Some—youngsters are explorers and inventors —tried a different position, a grip at the middle calk. Still no ringers were achieved! Thus disappointment loomed up and enthusiasm dwindled away, so that when the next meeting was arranged there were 15, instead of 30. And so it came about that by the end of the season there were 4 who persisted.

Girls and especially boys over here do not see how much skill and brain are required by the game. They find it too tame and quiet when compared with football, unrivalled in popularity here. Pitching, they say, is good for those who—as Mr. Woodfield puts it—watch with alarm a gradually increasing waist line. But football, besides skill and brains, requires bodily strength and efficiency; you can race and jostle your competitor, you chase the ball and you hear and see the roaring fans. Besides you need not play football with a ball; anything movable, a bundle of rags will do! So there is nothing like football!

I was advised to hold a tournament to give pitching an impetus. No doubt a tournament would further competition. But how can I act as umpire if I am not absolutely certain about ringers, close shoes, and the point of the shoe from which to measure the distance to the peg. Some native expert or coach chosen from among the GI's still in Germany would have been a great help. Besides a tournament requires prizes or some other kind of incentive or encouragement. The boys and girls could not expect to be taken on a tour of Germany or of the world, or be awarded a $1,000 prize. Yet a bit of candy would have worked miracles.

I had to overcome two more obstacles peculiar to our school.

Giengen, a small country town of 5,000, is the intellectual center of a vast rural district. Railways and buses being scarce and expensive many students living 6 to 8 miles away, have to walk or bike these distances twice a day. As they had no special gymnastic lessons—teachers being still retained in captivity—only spare hours or minutes in the early morning or at noon could be used for pitching, because it was impossible for them to plod the way to school more than once.

So there was more than one obstacle in my way in the first season. Considering this we did compartively well, and I trust that, if conditions will have improved, we will do much better next year.

A Game of Horseshoes

By Byron Jaskulek

Pat and Mike were members of the Hometown Horseshoe Club
They always got to scrapping, for Pat call Mike a "Dub"
Each time they pitched a game of "Shoes" 'twas Pat who'd always win
And that was just the reason that the scrapping would begin.
Pat would say, "Now Mike me boy, go on out in a lot
And practice throwing horseshoes until you get real hot
Then when you think you're ready to toss a decent game
Come back and play me once again, I'll beat you just the same."

Mike clenched his fists and ground his teeth, his face got rosy red
But when he got himself cooled off, he really used his head.
He thought perhaps that Pat was right, he's given me a cue
I'll practice by myself a while, I'll change my swing and shoe.
So all next week the members of the Hometown Horseshoe Club
Missed Michael from the horseshoe courts, the one Pat called a Dub
But if they looked behind Mike's house, in his own private yard
They'd see that he was practicing, and practicing real hard!

Next Sunday Pat went to the courts, came face to face with Mike
Said Mike to Pat, "Come on, me boy, I'll play you if you like."
Pat had a smile from ear to ear, he said "O.K. me lad
But don't forget 'twas me who said I'll beat you very bad."
Mike smiled in turn but said, "Now Pat, I'd like to make a bet,
Let's each put up a ten spot," "O.K.. said Pat, all set."
By this time all the members of the club walked to the court
Where Pat and Mike were warming up so they could see the sport.

The boys threw half a dozen shoes to get themselves real warm
And both of them showed up quite well, they seemed to be in form
And then they picked a referee to see that all was fair
Then when the game got started a good sized crowd was there.
At last the referee called "time," the boys picked up their shoes
And Mike resolved that this one game was one he wouldn't lose.
Pat won the toss and pitched his shoes, he got himself a ringer
He said to Mike, "You must admit that that's a real humdinger!"

Mike swung a shoe and let it go, it lay right by the peg
The second one slipped from his hand and almost ringed Pat's leg.
Pat got real peeved and said to Mike, "I se you're still a Dub,
I don't believe that you could throw a horseshoe in a tub."
Within the next few minutes though, poor Michael got control
And every shoe he threw flopped flat without a bit of roll,
He made good points and ringers too, he even made a double!
And by the time that Pat woke up, he found himself in trouble.

They played for half an hour and the score was just a tie
They both had forty-seven points when Pat came up to try.
He pitched a shoe that landed fair around the peg for three
And the last one landed just the same for all the crowd to see!
Of course this put poor Michael upon the anxious seat
Not only for his ten spot, but also the defeat.
He broke out in a sweat and he was shaking like a leaf
But he picked up both his horseshoes and he gave his belt a reef.

He got himself in hand again and let his first shoe go
It knocked Pats ringers off the peg 'twas a well aimed, lusty blow.
The crowd all yelled with sheer delight and Mike's face held a grin
As his last shoe went 'round the peg for the final count to win!