



## 2015 State Champions Crowned

### Platteville, Wisconsin

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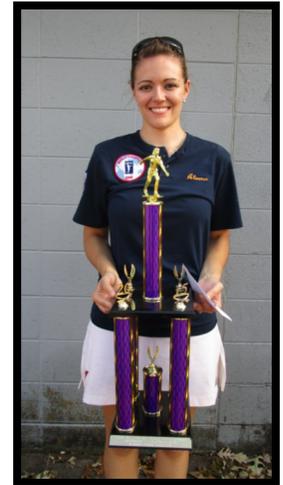
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Mens Champion  
Randy Rein  
# 19



Junior Boys Champion  
Gunnar David  
# 5



Womens Champion  
Aleena Lepak  
# 4



Elders Champion  
Larry Grabowski  
# 1



Girls Cadet  
Champion  
Sarah Chaffee  
# 1



Boys Cadet  
Champion  
Nicholas  
Prasalowicz  
# 1



Junior Girls  
Champion  
Emily Lazaris  
# 1

**Congratulations! Champions!**

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**November 15**

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## Upcoming Events

Oct 17	State Meeting	15 POY Points	Free	Sportsmen's	Lake Delton
Oct 17/18	Fall Singles	\$20	28-15-035	Oct 7	Earl Paulson 608-879-2304
Oct 24/25	Deansville Singles	\$18	28-15-036	Oct 17	Rudy Van Fleet 920-210-7579
Nov 14/15	Autumn Harvest	\$20	28-15-037	Nov 4	Earl Paulson 608-879-2304
Dec 5/6	Snowflake	\$20	28-15-038	Nov 25	Earl Paulson 608-879-2304
Dec 12/13	Deansville Open	\$20	28-15-039	Dec 5	Rudy Van Fleet 920-210-7579

**Save the Date**  
**October 17, State WHPA Fall Meeting**  
**Sportsmen's Club**  
**Wisconsin Dells,**  
**1:00**

**WHNL Staff / Information meeting Oct 17, 10:45 AM, McDonalds, Exit 89 (Kohl's)**

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Our sincere apologies to Rich Brockway for misspelling his name in our last issue AND on the front page too! We try very hard to be accurate but sometimes little mistakes sneak past.....

### Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter Subscription

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The WHNL staff welcomes Gary Volz to our staff. He has graciously offered his expertise in helping with our publications.

### 2016 NHPA / WHPA Membership Available in October

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please circle your division:

\$25: Men Women Elders(+70)  
 \$5: Jr Boy Jr Girl Cadets (<12)

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 W6868 Brown Road  
 Fond du Lac, WI 54937



By, Mark Mauthe

Another state tournament is in the books as it was held over Labor Day weekend in Platteville this year. The third time the Platteville club has hosted the event, but this year with a different co-host. Previously in 2004 and 2009 it was the Arena club while this year the Beloit club answered the call and the two clubs worked quite well together. We were thankful to have mostly dry conditions and no weather delays however the extreme heat (near 90°) took its toll on some of the pitchers and perhaps on the ringer percents as well. The abundant shade provided by the Platteville trees was a most welcome relief this year and we can only hope that we don't lose our beautiful trees to the impending migration and of the emerald ash borer insect.

The Beloit crew arrived on Friday and Dan Lessman orchestrated the layout for the food stand while grill master Ken Beebe scoped out his cooking home on the shaded south side of the Art Hall. Thank you to Sheiran Austin for being the Platteville liaison for the food stand. Sheiran opted to postpone a much needed hip replacement surgery until after this tournament and struggled through the weekend. We all hope and pray for a successful surgery and recovery for Sheiran.

Kevin Brekke helped me dig out a peg in the sweltering heat and Bob Bennett came along to rescue me with a railroad tie pry bar that enabled us to finish the job and get the peg reset. Kevin also helped me get the clay finalized for play. Kevin and Steve Mengelt later mapped out the layout for the scoring stations and the laptops for computerized scoring. Jeff Mauthe along with Bun and Shirley Carley got some canopies set up as well. Mel Flogel and I set up the roped off area for the beer zone and we were good to go. We had a few visitors from time to time Friday night and Jane Smith was kind enough to lend us a canopy as well. There were a few practice shoes thrown, but most people retired early for that looming wakeup call in the morning.

Jimmy Paulson (the computer maestro) arrived Saturday morning having just gotten back from vacation. Founding Platteville club president Bob Bennett sang the national anthem, all the scorekeepers were in place, Norm Mauthe was on the microphone for the announcements and we were ready to go. Thank you to Bob.

Although no rain had been predicted we had some sprinkles Saturday morning. It ended up working out though because it was mostly overcast for this shift. On this shift we saw Dean Chaffee defeat Mark Mauthe in the final game to end the class A men one game ahead of the rest of the field, but the always dreaded four way tie at 5-2 was narrowly avoided. Had Chaffee lost to Mauthe that would have been the scenario. John Meyer could have gotten to 6-1 also with a win in his last game, but he was stifled by Les Karpel's class high 65% game. Chaffee and Mauthe got the move up spots to the finals. Sonia Cook outclassed the competition in the A women to win by two games. Cindy Castellano earned the other move up spot to the finals. In the elder's class A David Ninenann streaked out to a 5-0 start, but lost his last two games and fell off the podium. Leo Richter and Galen Kozel met in the final game with Richter winning to take the class. Kozel earned the second move up spot. David Stakson took the elder's class B title, but narrowly avoided a playoff with a squeaker victory 26/25 over Tony Scrima in the final game.

For the mid day shift in men's class E Randy White had been beaten by Eddie Wisniewski in game two, but they met again in a playoff with White prevailing. White ended the day nearly 12% above his entering average and had a high game of 52.5%. Men's class C saw three players all win their final game to get to 5-2, but Joe McCrossen was also able to close the deal in his final game to take the class by one game. Sarah Chaffee won the cadet's class A in a monumental landslide. It was told by her dad she had been practicing at least three times a week leading up to the event and it showed. Her entering average was 6.54% and she shot 48% to win which included two games of 60% or better. Sarah earned a move up spot to the cadet championships with a previous drop out. Thank you to Gloria Sheff for pacing in this class. Gunnar David helped out and paced in the junior class A. Cole and Cailyn Trangsrud each bested their entering averages by about 15% with Cole prevailing having edged his sister in their match by nine points.

The late afternoon shift brought more sunshine and a lot of heat to deal with. Russ Brockway brought the heat in men's class F besting his entering average by nearly 6%. He had a 25/23 victory over Stan Fredrickson in game four and that was enough to

By, Jimmy Paulson / Mark Mauthe

**Boys Cadet Championship**

Nicholas Prasalowicz	6	0	30.11
Brandon Benzing	3	3	14.29
Blake Benzing	3	3	7.56

**Girls Cadet Championship**

Sarah Chaffee	6	1	41.30
Brooke Lazaris	5	2	39.56
Krystal Lazaris	2	4	5.41

**Junior Boys Championship**

Gunnar David	6	0	46.48
Blake Lazaris	4	2	36.07
Mason Bisch	1	5	25.75
Steven Lazaris	1	5	24.31

**Junior Girls Championship**

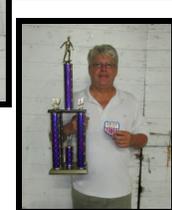
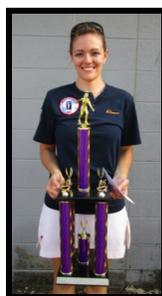
Emily Lazaris	3	0	26.32
Christina Heinritz	0	3	18.42

**Elders Championship**

Larry Grabowski	7	1	62.86
Ron Button	6	2	55.17
Jim Bilderback	5	2	66.95
Leo Richter	4	3	50.88
Norm Gage	3	4	47.59
Glenn Bogenschneider	2	5	51.32
Galen Kozel	2	5	48.68
John Brophy	0	7	50

**Mens Championship**

Randy Rein	6	2	51.07
Ken Heinritz	6	3	47.40
Mark Mauthe	5	3	45.22
Lonny Trangsrud	4	3	46.63
Nick Muller	3	4	41.16
Dean Chaffee	3	4	38.02
Jeff Gustafson	2	5	35.48
Tory Jeske	1	6	37.97



**Womens Championship**

Aleena Lepak	5	1	52.94
Penny Steinke	4	2	63.75
Linda Roeber	3	2	46.37
Cindy Castellano	2	3	37.63
Toni Sloper	2	3	36.76
Sonia Cook	0	5	21.26

**Womens A**

Sonia Cook	7	0	41.43
Tonya Kaulum	5	2	27.5
Cindy Castellano	4	3	34.29
Elaine Troullier	4	3	24.29
Tava Kildahl	3	4	30.71
Kari David	3	4	8.57
Joanna Hollenback	2	5	23.21
Gloria Smith	0	7	5.71

**Womens B**

Rondi Mengelt	5	1	26.9
Ann Murray	5	2	21.21
Gloria Scheff	4	2	18.71
Cecelia Trossen	2	3	21.26
Barb Ramquist	1	4	9.6
Dobie Gutweiller	0	5	12

**Elders A**

Leo Richter	6	1	57.86
Galen Kozel	5	2	53.93
Bun Carley	5	2	51.07
Dave Ninnemann	5	2	48.93
Cal Pitel	3	4	41.43
Dave Schorbahn	2	5	42.5
Tom Bird	2	5	41.43
John McNeill	0	7	39.29



State Tourney Candid

Takes a Team!!

**Elders B**

David Stakson	5	0	40.4
John Dolezel	4	1	33.2
John Brugger	2	3	34
John Olson	2	3	30.4
Jack Zane	1	4	29.6
Tony Scrima	1	4	25.6

**Elders C**

John Secord	5	2	31.79
Jerry Schroeder	4	3	31.79
Rudy Van Fleet	3	3	24.58
Rom Ramquist	1	5	26.25

**Mens A**

Dean Chaffee	6	1	46.43
John Meyer	5	2	46.13
Jim Harris	5	2	40.49
Mark Mauthe	4	3	46.79
Pete Harris	3	4	43.57
Les Karpel	3	4	41.07
Ray Groskinsky	2	5	36.79
Jarrold Bisch	0	7	37.86

**Mens B**

Kevin Peterson	6	1	40.71
Jason Villwock	5	2	41.79
Rich Brockway	4	3	32.86
Kerry Morris	4	3	31.43
Jeff Mauthe	3	4	30.71
Dave Torrey	3	4	30.71
Gary Volz	3	4	30.
Dave Volz	0	7	23.57

**Mens C**

Joe McCrossen	6	1	40
Rod Dailey	5	2	37.32
Rick Weller	5	2	36.07
Bob Kallstrom	5	2	33.21
Jim Tollefson	3	4	30.36
Russ Heinritz	2	5	31.69
Mark Rice	2	5	28.57
Joel Ramsdell	0	7	17.86



**Mens D**

Ralph Marthaler	6	2	25
Randy Mitchell	5	3	28.75
Bruce McLinn	4	3	25.36
Craig David	4	3	24.64
Dave Quaid	3	4	26.07
Bob Cole	3	4	20
John Drexler	2	5	27.14
Michael Benzing Jr	2	5	24.29

**Mens E**

Randy White	7	1	33.13
Eddie Wisniewski	6	2	24.38
Tom Steinke	4	3	18.37
Kevin Brekke	3	4	22.5
Greg Bergles	3	4	15.36
Ed Wheeler	3	4	13.93
Scott Dailey	2	5	20.71
Richard Conrad	1	6	19.01

**Mens F**

Russ Brockway	7	0	24.29
Stan Fredrickson	5	2	17.73
Mike Berdan	5	2	12.41
Rob Tilton	4	3	14.89
Kevin Aarstad	3	4	13.93
David Palmerschiem	3	4	10.64
Steve Mengelt	1	6	6.79

**Jr Class A**

Cole Trangsrud	5	0	25.2
Cailyn Trangsrud	4	1	22.8
Andrew Brockway	3	2	4.4
Gabe Burgin	2	3	5.2
Becca Bisch	1	4	.8

**Cadet A**

Sarah Chaffee	5	0	48
Lillyan Kildahl	3	2	8.67
Jader Kuchenbecker	3	2	6.67
Bradley Benzing	2	3	2
Eliza Volz	2	3	2



Horseshoes - Family Fun

By, Jane Smith



Tom Steinke



Rudy Van Fleet



Pam Aiken and Penny Steinke

“Roasting” their Dad!

Sunday afternoon of the State tournament is traditionally dedicated to the Hall of Fame Induction and announcement of WHPA awards. This years was a bit special as we had two HOF inductees—Tom Steinke and Rudy Van Fleet. Congratulations to these two fine gentlemen. Dobie Gutweiler shared with the well attended ceremony Rudy’s pitching and promotional history. He is a very deserving inductee with some of his family attending the ceremony.

Pam Aiken and Penny Steinke were very creative and humorous in sharing their Dad’s horseshoe history. They handed the microphone back and forth while sharing world tournament stories, pitching experiences and leadership roles with the WHPA. Tom’s family was seated with huge smiles as Tom was “roasted.” A very wonderful display was also created showing Tom’s history. Tom is a great WHPA spokesperson so deserving of this honor.



Dobie Gutweiler sharing a bit of “Rudy” history

### WHPA Awards

The President’s Award, Pitcher of the Year Awards and Most Improved are disclosed and awarded at the beginning of the Hall of Fame Ceremony. The Most Improved award is given to a Junior and Adult pitcher who has improved their average the most from State tournament last year to this year. This years winners are Dick Hanold, improving 11.58% for the adults and junior, Isaac Wegner, improving 11.62%. The POY winners are pictures below. Congratulations to ALL State Tournament Winners!



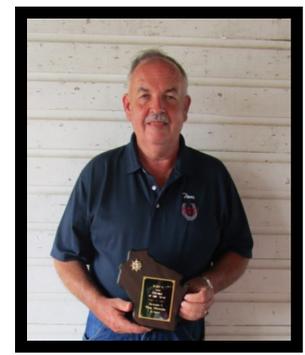
President’s Award  
Ray Groskinsky



Pitcher of the Year  
Division A  
Glenn Bogenschneider



Pitcher of the Year  
Division B  
Susie Erickson



Pitcher of the Year  
Division C  
Tom Steinke

## Thanks so very much Scorekeepers!

By, Kevin Brekke

I just want to applaud the scorekeepers that kept score for state this year in Platteville. Many kept score for more than one shift. I did not hear a discouraging word all weekend, and did not need to find anyone to fill in as all the scorekeepers that signed up for a shift, filled it. Special thanks to the Heinritz and Lazaris families, for their help.

THANK you 2015 state scorekeepers! I apologize if I missed someone.

Kevin Brekke, Cindy Castellano, Mel Fogel, Christina Heinritz, Ken Heinritz, Russ Heinritz, Blake Lazaris, Emily Lazaris, Steven Lazaris, Matt Lee, Edie McKinney, Nick Muller, Linda Rober Toni Sloper, Jane Smith.

## Where Have ALL the Ladies Gone

By, Gloria Smith

I pitch with a small club, Close Doesn't Count, in Centuries. Some people call it the club North Of Highway 8 so that makes us one of the farthest away from most of the State Tournaments. We still had three ladies and three men participating this year. I have participated many years in the State Tournament and enjoyed meeting all of the wonderful people.

I can't believe there were only eighteen ladies entered this year and that makes each class far apart in the percentages. That is not good. There are forty nine ladies listed in the NATSTATS; it seems they are not interested in entering the State Tournament, I wonder why, Is it they can't get enough tournaments in? Too far away? The expense?

There are twenty four Clubs listed and it would be good if they could encourage more of their ladies to get involved.



## Arkdale Doubles

By, Ray Groskinsky / Loren Lecy

Randy Rein	9	0	43
Gunnar David			55.5
Cliff Erickson	8	1	39.3
Jerry Neimuth			46.7
Martin Papesh	7	2	53.7
Art Collien			17.5

### Class B

Duane Hendriksen	6	3	37.9
Dave Wietrzak			38.8
Joe McCrossen	5	4	41.6
Jerry Schroeder			33.7
Susie Erickson	2	7	28.2
Jim Verstoppen			25.9



**Left : Class A**

Gunnar David  
Randy Rein

**Right: Class B**

Jerry Neimuth  
Cliff Erickson



The Arkdale Horseshoe Club held its Fall Walking Tournament on September 19 at the Roche-A-Crilions park. We had 10 teams in two classes and played a round robin tournament. After the shoes were put away, the results were posted.

Several members of the Arkdale club participated in the State Tournament in Platteville and is proud to have 2 new State Class champions- Jerry McCrossen and Nick Prasalowicz. Jerry Schroeder finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class.

## WHPA Fall Meeting

October 17

1:00

Lake Delton Sportsmen Club

Election of President and 2nd Vice President. Nominations will be taken from the floor as no one has notified the Executive board by July 31.

### Wet N Wild Results

By, Jane Smith

The weekend began with the temps in the upper 40's on Saturday morning. Once the sun was out, temps rose to mid to upper 60's. Perfect for the four classes of pitchers for the day. We missed some of the "regulars" like the Ganther Clan from Eau Claire and Hudson. We had some first timers like the Smith's (Spooner,) David's and Steinke's. Our two Illinois pitchers had a good fishing trip last year, pitched well so decided to come back this year. Our participation was down BUT a good time was had by all AND the food was a good as ever. People were very generous with their donations to the food and beverage stand. Thanks to all for their generosity. We also were able to help Lisa and Rick Wright celebrate their 28 anniversary. Rick surprised Lisa with a beautiful cake they shared with everyone. Three of the seven classes had undefeated winners. Even those not placing in the "money" had opportunity to win a back pack or step stool donated by Cindy Castellano's husband Joe who also makes out set up much easier on Friday night. He has bricks, ladders and tools to help hang the tarps in the shelter. THANKS to Joe and all of the members who helped with set up and take down for the tourney. Out mini border battle with Minnesota pitchers was won by Wisconsin pitchers with an average of 3.7; MN was very close - 3.9 - only one place better finish and the results would have been different.!

#### Class A

Penny Steinke	7	0	66.79
Larry Grabowski	5	2	60
Gunnar David	5	2	56.43

#### Class B

Leo Richter	5	2	53.47
Jerry Niemuth	5	2	47.14
Susie Helene	5	2	44.64

#### Class C

Cindy Castellano	5	0	42
Ben LaCoursiere	3	2	44
Josh Smith	3	2	39.60

#### Class D

Bob Kallstrom	5	0	44.8
John Dolezel	4	1	28.8
Tom Prokop	3	2	29.2

#### Class E

Rick Wright	4	1	32
Guy Modde	3	2	30
Mark Anderson	3	2	28.4

#### Class F

Mary Denzin	4.5	.5	36
Gloria Smith	4	1	22.4
Ed Smith	3	2	22

#### Class G

Stan Bialek	6.5	.5	30.36
Tom Steinke	5.5	1.5	20.71
Dave Anderson	5	2	23.93

### Thanks to Everyone!!

By, Mark Mauthe

Thanks to Jimmy Paulson for the computer work. Thanks to the Beloit crew. Thanks to the Platteville crew. Thanks to the canopy donators and score keepers. Thanks again to the pacers. Thanks to the Ad and booklet committee. Thank you to all the booklet sponsors for purchasing ads and once again to Country Kitchen and Dairy Queen I would like to thank John Secord for fielding all of my phone calls and emails to get the tournament set up and the appropriate awards ordered. Also thanks to Glenn Bogenschneider, Jane Smith, Eddie Wheeler, and Sonia Cook for all that you do for Wisconsin horseshoe.

I just want to say a special thanks to Norm Mauthe (my dad). He helped out with selling booklet ads, court preparation, shirt design and sales, organizing name cards, cleaning out the Art Hall, announcements, and pretty much anything else that needed done. The tournament would not have been possible without him.

Thank you once again to all those for attending and for helping us all out whenever needed and for all the positive comments about the clay and the tournament.

Mark Mauthe: Everyone please check out the WHPA website where Terry Sternberg has posted the complete results sent to him by Jimmy Paulson. This has every class in game by game breakdown. If you missed a print out you can print your complete results from that PDF. Just make sure you don't accidentally print all twenty-four pages if you only wanted one. ;-)



**Mens Championship Class**



**Mens Class D**



**Mens Class A**



**Mens Class E**



**Mens Class B**



**Mens Class F**



**Mens Class C**



**Junior Boys  
Championship  
Class**





**Cadet Class A**



**Elders Championship Class**



**Women's Championship Class**



**Elders Class A**



**Women's Class A**



**Elders Class B**



**Women's B**



**Juniors Class A**



**Elders Class C**

propel him to a 7-0 two game lead. Gloria Sheff arrived at her final game in women's class B with a 4-0 record, but lost to Rondi Mengelt which put them in a three way tie with Ann Murray. Mengelt would defeat Murray in the final playoff game for the title.

This year's first state champions were crowned with the conclusion of the 3 p.m. junior finals. The cadet boy's and cadet girl's championship classes as well as the junior boy's and junior girl's championship classes were originally scheduled to be played as mixed classes with separate champions, but the consensus from the WHPA board members present was to separate all the genders. Jimmy worked his magic on the computers and came up with new schedules. Sarah Chaffee capitalized on her opportunity to move up to the finals and won her first cadet girl's state title. She split her games with four time defending champion Brooke Lazaris so they met in a playoff game with Chaffee winning 26/10 and shooting a class high 63.33%. Nicholas Prasalowicz won his second cadet boy's title by a healthy margin. Emily Lazaris matched up with her cousin Christina Heinritz for the junior girl's title in a first to three victories competition. Both girls struggled mightily to find their game with Emily finding just a little bit more to win her first title. Thanks to Bun Carley for having the knowledge to improvise a quick fix for the broken backboard after their first game. A crowbar pounded in to anchor the board and they were able to proceed without having to change courts. Gunnar David recaptured his boy's championship title going away at 6-0. This gives Gunnar five state titles which is one away from tying Bret Pritzlaff's record.

That concluded the end of the first of two very long days of pitching. Most players retired to check out the Platteville restaurants and night life. It was noted that longtime supporter of the Platteville tournaments, Country Kitchen restaurant, had donated \$5 gift certificates to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place in all adult classes as well as Dairy Queen ice cream treats to all junior participants. Thank you to Country Kitchen and Dairy Queen for doing that. Thank you as well to all participants that patronized the sponsors of the state tournament booklet.

We saw some Sunday pitchers doing some practicing Saturday night for a bit and Kevin Peterson and Jason Villwock helped me dig out the broken backboard stakes on court twelve. Thanks to Kevin and Jason for that. I took it apart at home and was fortun-

nate that dad was able to find enough supplies on hand to pound in some new stakes and re-mount the backboard. Having mounted it Sunday morning the courts were ready for play.

Ken Heinritz held is chapel service under the shelter house which I hoped worked well and was most likely cooler than having it inside the Art Hall. I was not able to attend due to setting up the courts, but club member John Brugger could be heard strumming the guitar and others were heard singing the Lord's praise.

Sisters and cousins Emily, Brooke, and Krystal Lazaris along with Christina Heinritz sang the national anthem on Sunday morning and we were ready to roll. Thank you girls for that.

There were two drop outs before the tournament in the elder's class C so we changed things to a four player double round robin. John Secord lost to Jerry Schroeder twice in the class play, but Jerry Schroeder lost to Rudy Van Fleet twice. Secord and Van Fleet played the final game with the winner to earn a playoff spot with Schroeder. Secord edged out Van Fleet 25/24 and then finally beat Schroeder 35/8 in the playoff. Third time really is a charm right John? In the men's class C Craig David defeated Ralph Marthaler in the final game to force Marthaler into a playoff with Randy Mitchell. Marthaler easily prevailed 31/7. The only real scare for keeping things on schedule was in the men's class B. Kevin Peterson lost his first game to Gary Volz and had won out until his last match. Jason Villwock had won his last game to get to 5-2. Rich Brockway lost his last game otherwise he would have been 5-2 and had Kerry Morris defeated Peterson in that final game there could have been a four way tie. Peterson edged Morris by the score of 36/34 and I think the WHPA board members breathed a sigh of relief.

With no playoff in the men's class B that led us to the Hall of Fame and awards presentation which actually started earlier than the scheduled 12:30 p.m. I'm going to leave that coverage to Jim Haupt, but just want to say congrats to Tom Steinke and Rudy Van Fleet for being our newest hall of fame members.

The field was set for the championship afternoon with the men, women, and elders competing. Three-time defending champion Aleena Lepak was fresh off a stellar championship performance at the World Tournament in Topeka, KS, but Penny Steinke was poised to win her first title having recaptured her old

form and performed consistently in the 60% range all year. Lepak came out of the block very slow shooting under 25% her first game and losing to Cindy Castellano. She then righted the ship and was consistently in the 50's. Steinke on the other hand shot a class high 80% her first game and was averaging 70% after her first four games leading into her showdown with Lepak. I'll admit I was watching a bit of this game while I was playing my games in the men's championship and Lepak had a lead while Steinke came back and had a chance to win, but Lepak prevailed 41/39 to force a playoff. Both ladies were around 55% in this game while the playoff was a different story. Lepak found the same form she had in Topeka and defeated Steinke 44/14 shooting 76.32% in the final to win her fourth consecutive title.

In the elder's championship Larry Grabowski, Jim Bilderback, and Ron Button all won their first four games. Bilderback had tournament high games of 83.33% and 85% in two of those games. Bilderback lost to Grabowski in game five while Button lost to Glenn Bogenschneider. Button then beat Grabowski and 40/37 in 74 shoes while Bilderback beat Bogenschneider to set up the final round between Button and Bilderback. After Grabowski won his final game the winner of the Button / Bilderback match would play his way into a playoff. Button won that match 41/32 with Bilderback having his only game under 60%. Jim would finish the day with the high percent for the tournament of 66.95%. Grabowski defeated the three-time defending champion Button in the playoff 41/32 to capture his first state title

Now we get to the men's championship. Where to start? How about I state the obvious? This was the ugliest men's championship I have witnessed in my 23 years in the men's division. By that I mean these were far and away the lowest ringer percents thrown. It was evident from the first game when all could see everyone shooting well under their entering average that this year's state title was completely up for grabs to literally anyone in the class. It would be a safe bet that in any round of play the percentage of shoes missed far exceeded the percentage of ringers. Had anyone consistently shot just their average most likely that person would have taken the crown. It was bit windy to start, but I have played in much stronger wind and done better so I don't think that was a legitimate excuse for this day. Five-time defending champion Randy Rein shot under 30% his first game and lost to Mark Mauthe. Ken Heinritz won his first four games having given Mauthe

his first loss in game four. Heinritz then lost his next two games to Lonny Trangsrud and Nick Muller while Mauthe won his next two games. Meanwhile Rein had found some consistency and had won out going into his last game with Heinritz having shot four games in a row in the 50's. Heinritz arrived at that final game with a 4-2 record despite not having thrown a game of 50% or higher. Mauthe's last game was against Dean Chaffee. Mauthe could have won that game placing him alone at 6-1, but faltered shooting only 38% to Chaffee's solid game of 50%. Chaffee at one point in the game running off three straight innings of two ringers six to bury Mauthe. Heinritz needing a win against Rein to force a three way playoff prevailed 44/33 with his best game of the tournament. Rein had the high average so sat out the first game. Heinritz easily dispatched Mauthe 40/25. This set up the rematch playoff game from last year's three way playoff. Proving why he has eighteen state titles Randy built a lead then the lights went out. Literally the lights went out on the courts. The city had delivered on their promise to add some extra lights to the back courts, but it seems having both sets of lights on overloads the system now. The elder's final had wrapped up so we shut those lights down and fired the breaker back up and got the lights to come back on for the men's final. Rein won 40/24 and shot his best game of the tournament of 61.11%. Out of all the games played in the men's finals there were only two games of 60% or better. Number nineteen for Randy and extending his state record. As Randy pointed out earlier in the day when we were talking he did not believe he had lost a playoff game at state. He is far and away the most mentally disciplined pitcher in our state and that is the reason he has nineteen titles.

We had quite a few playoff games this year, but the tournament was always on schedule. That was thanks in large part to Jimmy Paulson and his wizardry with the computers. The computerized scoring was a saving grace because I don't feel there would have been enough help for manual scoring. My personal belief is to always allow four hours in between eight player classes and three hours in between six player classes. This helps keep things on schedule and allows for a playoff round on the courts that class just played on without having to move to different courts to make way for the next class. With the lower number of entries I think that worked well to leave a spacer court between thirty and forty foot players. All in all things went pretty smoothly.