

Bob Sutton--Pitcher-Promoter

Bob Sutton became interested in the sport of horseshoe pitching over 25 years ago, and soon thereafter entered tournament play in and around the New York City Metropolitan Area. As his game improved, he became involved in the promotion of organized pitching in the Greater Long Island, New York area--a function which has expanded since its inception. Soon after, he introduced and annually staged ~~the~~ popular Long Island Open. For many years this tournament drew many top pitchers in the Tri-State region. In addition, with the help of Joe Schultz and Lou Stines, many pitching clinics and exhibitions have been given on Long Island.

Bob has regularly participated in recognized tournament play at the Class A level in New York State, New Jersey, ~~and~~ Connecticut, and Ontario. He has also competed in several World Tournaments. His records clearly indicate him to be a formidable competitor.

On the administrative level, Bob has served with dedication and played a leadership role with numerous committees and promotions. In the early 1970s, he held the post of First Vice President of the NYSHPA. During the 1986-1988 period he served as president. He, also, was Chairman of the By-Laws Committee for several years; during this period he rescued ^{THEM} from almost complete disorder because they had not been revised for the six years prior to Bob becoming Chairman. He continues to serve on this committee under Leo Ouellette. In 1984, Bob introduced, developed, and currently serves as custodian-manager of the Junior Scholarship Fund for the NYSHPA.

While participating in the 1971, 1972, 1974, and 1987 World Tournaments, he served as a delegate with the NYS group.

In still another facet of Bob's interesting background, he has gained attention for his writings on horseshoe topics of interest, various pitching personalities, and important events of the past. Many of these articles have appeared in the Horseshoe Digest.

Bob is a resident of Mineola, New York. He also maintains a year-round vacation home near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This unusual situation has enabled him to take part in many Canadian horseshoe activities as well as giving him the opportunity to foster strong relationships between NYS and Canadian pitchers. For instance, in 1985 Bob helped Pat O'Toole construct ten lighted clay courts at Constance Bay, Ontario. Also, Bob and Pat have run the Constance Bay Open for the past 20 years.

As for pitching, Bob's best years occurred during the 1968-1981 period. Since that time he has been hampered by a recurring back problem and tennis elbow. Ever the optimist, Bob still hopes to get his

game back together again. Here are several highlights that marked those years:

- 1968 Hull Open (Quebec) First Averaged 65%
- 1968 Montrose Open First Defeated Earl (Dutch) Lockwood in the play-off game.
- 1969 Hull Open First Defeated John Paul Claude in the play-off game--averaged 66%
- 1971 Ottawa City Championship First To win this tournament he had to defeat Harvey Pilon who won this title 15 times.
- 1972 Constance Bay Open First Bob again defeated Harvey -averaging 84% in the deciding game. Bob is a ten time winner of this event.
- 1972 New Haven Classic Fourth Averaged 71.3%
- 1977 New York State Championships Fifth Averaged 72.3%
- 1977 New Haven Classic Second Averaged 70.9%
- 1978 Northern Open (Canton, N.Y.) Averaged 69.4% Shot 82% to defeat Gus Krauss in the deciding game.
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- 1981 Brooklyn Open Tied for first--lost the play-off game Averaged ~~71.4%~~
- 1981 New Rochelle Open Third Averaged 70.9%
- 1981 Connecticut Open Second Averaged 72.0%

In 1977, Bob was involved in several memorable games during the New York State Championships held that year at Pulaski. He gave Art Tyson his only loss 35-34 which created a tie between Art and Carl Steinfeldt. In his game against Carl, Bob shot 74% and did not score a point! Carl shot 98% !! An interesting sidelight to that remarkable game occurred in the play-off between Steinfeldt and Tyson. Art became State Champion by winning the play-off with Carl--shooting 72%.

In another game against Steve Fenechia, Bob was losing after 50 shoes. At that time it was necessary for the player who was ahead to score in order to win. At that point Bob got hot and Steve stayed right with him. Steve did not win the game until the 68th shoe. This probably is the longest 50 shoe game ever played.

Bob's best game occurred in a tournament held in New Rochelle. Playing against Bernie Mullady of New Jersey, Bob strung eighteen in a row and averaged 92.9%.

Bob Sutton, pitcher and promoter, has met all challenges and undertakings in an exemplary manner. His professionalism adds the distinctive light of recognition on all levels of his endeavors. These factors, given due consideration, fully and conclusively designate Bob Sutton to be a worthy candidate for induction into the NYSHPA Hall of Fame.