



December 15, 1999

**NEW YORK STATE HORSESHOE PITCHING HALL OF FAME RECOMMENDATION:
Promotion Category**

The Falconer Horseshoe Club, Inc. of Falconer, N.Y. takes great pride in recommending Kenyon "Hoppy" Hopkins, Jr. for your consideration to be inducted into the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers' Half Of Fame.

Hoppy became interested in pitching horseshoes through his father, who is a member of the Hall of Fame. Like his father, who served as our club's president from 1979 until 1995, Hoppy had leadership in his blood and not long after he caught the horseshoe fever, he became the club's secretary and treasurer. That was in 1979 and he still holds that post.

Hoppy has contributed greatly in both areas of the sport: Pitching as well as organizing. His overall contribution to our club certainly goes far above and beyond the call of duty. He not only keeps track of all of the club's pitching statistics and records, which takes about five hours per week to compile all of the individual and team scores, handicaps and ringer percentages, but he schedules all the league matches and our other local club tournaments. Our club actually runs two men's leagues on Monday and

Wednesday nights, from the first week in May through the third week in August. Each night's competition is made up of 16 four-man teams in two divisions. That is 128 regular pitchers with about 30 substitutes also participating between the two nights. Hoppy also sets up about four club tournaments during the season, which include a singles and doubles, pick-your-partner, hi-low and "don't know your partner" tournaments.

Hoppy, each year, schedules and takes his vacation time to do club business, including time during August to make sure that our Open tournament is set up and run properly and efficiently.

Hoppy pitches in most of the regional tournaments each year, such as the Eastern National in Erie, PA, the Kinzu Classic at the Warren County Fairgrounds and the Mike DiMartino Tournament in LeRoy, NY, as well as our own Falconer Open, and he has pitched in nearly every state tournament since 1979. He has also pitched in three of the World Tournaments: 1994, 1997 and 1999. Of course, he has been a member of the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers' Association since the club's beginning.

In mid-August of 1998, Hoppy accidentally severely burned his right hand, which is his pitching hand. Despite this injury, he continued to set up each leagues' weekly competition, compile the stats and participate, as usual, in that year's state tournament.

Not enough can be said with regard to what he has meant to the growth and continued success of the Falconer Horseshoe Club. His continued hard work each year maintains the leagues at capacity. He writes newspaper articles each Spring to attract new pitchers and submits weekly articles reporting the latest competition. A few years ago, he also initiated the organization of a junior's league. Hoppy also keeps all of the financial records and secretarial reports of the club.

The season is not over until he has made all of the arrangements for our end-of-the year banquet and purchased all of the trophies (approximately \$1200 worth) for all four divisions, and compiled the final statistics printed for all who attend the banquet. Even then he is not finished. Our club holds one final "Pick-your-partner" tournament on the Sunday following the banquet in September, with usually about 50 of the members participating. As usual, Hoppy sets up the classes and determines the necessary handicaps. In addition, for the past two years, he had also set up an extra tournament to help raise money for a local charity called the Hugo Fund. Fifty club members usually participate in the tournament as well.

In 1998, Hoppy became one of the NHPA Assistant Regional Directors.

Hoppy has two children, daughters Christine and Trish, and one granddaughter, Stephanie. His youngest daughter Trish is also involved as a Junior and pitches in tournaments.

Respectfully Submitted

Ralph Whitney
President, Falconer
Horseshoe Club

Whitney

~~Carolyn W. Hewitt~~
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Robert Hayes
ROBERT HAYES

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