



1931-1934

Jim Sharkey attended St. Gabriels High School in New Rochelle, NY. He is a life long resident of New Rochelle and represented New Rochelle in every endeavor he undertook. While in high school he played basketball in the church league for Trinity Episcopal. Also played for the crusaders in the city league. Played in the Bronx, NY for the semi-pro St. Francis team which played preliminary games for the professional Kate Smith Celtics of the national pro league. Received \$10.50 per game. Good money in those days of the early 30's. St. Francis defeated the 138th st. High Hats for the championship of the Bronx in 1934. Jim was voted MVP for the game ..

Joined the C.C.C. 's in late 1934. Represented the Cornwall on the Hudson Camp in basketball and boxing. Boxed three times in Walkill Prison, receiving three dollars for every two minute round he'd complete. If KO'd in first round a boxer would get three dollars. Played for the New Rochelle Shamrocks in the New Rochelle Armory. Also played for the Gabriel Club, winning a sixteen team elimination tourney by

beating the great ;Ur Lady of Grace Teala, Bronx, NY and winning acclaim for his defensive efforts. While in high school being the youngest on the team was assigned the job of being the standing guard. In four years was not allowed to take a shot at the basket. Only shots he ever took in four years were foul shots. Therefore, he concentrated on defense. Played basketball for the Central Tavern in city league. Joined the River St. Redwood team and represented Holy Name in the New York State CYO championships, winning it all in final game played in the K. of C. gym on Center Ave .

He joined the Army in 1942, played on the U.S. 11th Corps basketball team in Manila against the University of Manila. He was high speed radio operator sending and receiving much of Gen MacArthur's messages. Was never very far from the General from Buna Buna to Yokahama, hornhe holds in the highest regard, noting his unorthodox life saving maneuvers.

After the war became a high bridge painter and did that type of work for the next forty years. Painted every major bridge in greater New York area. Was foreman on the Tappan Zee Bridge while it was being built, also the Throggs Neck Bridge. Painted the television tower on top of the Empire State Building while it was being built .

HORSESHOE PITCHING

He started pitching in 1927 in his backyard and shortly was recognized as having special talent. Competed in Westchester County championships and placed 2nd in class B while still very young. Represented New Rochelle every time he pitched. Won the New Rochelle title several times and was the Westchester County title holder in 1963, 1973 and 1975. Won second place in the Senior Division (over 65) in 1982 in the New York State tournament. Won the New York A.A.U.

championship in 1979. He is known as the best pitcher in New Rochelle for a period of forty years. Has promoted the sport in the park bearing his name, Sharkey Park, on Ft. Slocum Road by teaching young people and old alike the finer points of the game. He organized the New Rochelle Horseshoe Club in 1960. He captained and was the star pitcher for the New Rochelle team, in the Westchester-Connecticut league, which won the championship five out of the first six years, thereby making New Rochelle the Horseshoe Capital of the county. (mainly through his efforts) Teamed with Hugh Doyle and won the New Rochelle doubles championship. He gave exhibitions in several prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. The name Jim Sharkey has been one of the most recognizable names in New Rochelle for the past sixty years and I, along with a host of New Rochelle Irish, heartily recommend his election to the New Rochelle Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

James Sharkey was born July 17, 1916. He is married to Eleanor Sharkey. They have 6 children. Danny and James are deceased.

Jim attended St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School. He graduated from St. Gabriel's High School in 1934. Jim played basketball at St. Gabriel's and St. Francis' from 1930-1934 .

1933-1942 Jim helped his father build horseshoe courts in several towns in Westchester and Long Island. He organized many leagues and inter-club matches. He was a member and pitcher for the White Plains Horseshoe Club. Jim won the New York State Championship of the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) at the Cornwall on the Hudson Camp in 1935. Jim pitched exhibitions with the great Jimmy Risk (World Horseshoe trick shot champion) in White Plains and at St. Petersburg Horseshoe Club in Florida.

Jim joined the army in 1942. He played horseshoes and won the 11th. Corps Championship in Manila.

1946- After discharge from the army, Jim continued to play horseshoes

1946-1960 Jim was very active in promoting horseshoe pitching in in several areas in Westchester. He also organized many horseshoe pitching clubs in Westchester.

Jim organized the New Rochelle Horseshoe Club in 1960. He was the first president of the club. He served as president for 5 years. He helped Carl Von Der Lanckin organize the Westchester County Horseshoe League. He placed 4th. in the 1st. Westchester County Class A Tournament in 1962. He was the Class A Championp in 1973 and 1975.

1960-1991 Jim has been active in helping or running tournaments in New Rochelle. He placed 2nd. In the Senior New York State Championship in 1982. He has won several A.A.U Championships in Class B and C. He has pitched exhibitions in prisons, nursing homes and schools in the past 10 years.

During President Kennedy's term, Jim was a consultant for his Physical Fitness Program promoting horseshoes.

Jim is still active in the New Rochelle Horseshoe Pitching Club. He runs 2 novice tournaments each year. He maintains the New Rochelle Courts.

I feel that Jim Sharkey would be a good candidate for the New York Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame.

Sincerely
Louis J. Gonzalez

PROMOTER - PITCHER

94 Skelly Place
Minerva, New York
June 28, 1994

Dear Hall of Fame Committee:

It was more than thirty years ago that I first met Jim Sharkey of the New Rochelle Club. I learned that he had served as the club's first president. The eleven courts that he helped construct are still among the best in the state.

This is so because, since the club's inception, he has helped to maintain these fine courts which were named after his father. He also finds time to run two novice tournaments each year.

Throughout his career as a pitcher, Jim has always been very steady. Although

he never became a pitcher of the highest rank - few of us do - he was capable of upsetting almost any body if they went a little off their game. Any time I played Jim I knew I had to be on my toes; this was not always enough. In short, Jim was, and still is, a competitor.

Summing up, across the years Jim has done a great deal for horseshoe in Westchester County. He is always a gentler man, and is a fine competitor. Thus, I believe that he is a worthy candidate for NYSHPA's Hall of Fame as a Promoter - Pitcher.

Sincerely,
Bob Sutton