



Leo Bukowski

Promoter

Leo was born in Buffalo, NY in 1918. He served in the United States Navy during World War II aboard the USS Topeka.

In 1946, Leo and his navy buddy started a restaurant supply business. His buddy left after ten years to start his own business. Leo kept the business going for forty-four years retiring in 1990.

Leo married his wife, Edelle in 1947. They reside in Orchard Park, NY and have four children. The couple enjoys dining out, casinos, and traveling the countryside to enjoy the beauty.

Leo became interested in horseshoe pitching in his teens. At that time, a lot of the city parks had horseshoe courts. At the age of seventeen he became Houghton Paik horseshoe pitching champion averaging 63%. He finished second in the Buffalo, NY championships. He did not join the organized club until 1988, pitching at the Getzville Crowns Nest Horseshoe Club. He then pitched winters indoor at Wallenweins Hotel in East Aurora, NY. Wallenweins took out their indoor courts in the early 1990's.

Because of his love of the game, Leo decided to open an indoor horseshoe pitching facility. He had visited indoor courts in Binghamton NY, Erie PA, and Hamilton Ontario. He then found the right location in Hamburg, NY. It was a former ballroom and banquet hall with 8,000 square feet of space. He designed an eight-court complex using the official Kleen Klay, so in 1993 the indoor horseshoe Palace was born and is still going today.

Leo has promoted at least one hundred sanctioned tournaments as well as sanctioning numerous players. He asks all to join the NHPA.

Leo runs a tournament once a month, so to keep the interest he calls all the horseshoes pitchers he knows from Western NY, Western PA, and Southern Ontario. To notify them of each tournament. This year he mailed every pitcher a letter and tournament schedule.

Leo called all our local television stations and newspapers to promote our sport. Channel 4 news filmed a live exhibition when Walter Ray William's pitched, channel 7 event news filmed it.

Top players that play and played at the horseshoe palace include world champions Bob Hayes, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Shalee Sebastian from western, PA four time world junior women champion. New York State champions Mike DiMartino, Bob Hayes, Bob Jones and Art Tyson. Tensesia Mayer, Ellen Perry and John Perry.

To promote horseshoes Leo goes to senior centers, church groups, schools and Jr. bowlers. Leo and his wife Edelle eat out often, and wherever they go Leo leaves information about horseshoes.

The Erie County Fair which I think this is the largest county fair in the country did not have horseshoe pitching for forty or fifty years. Leo convinced them to try it, it was not easy. They gave him a very small area enough for four courts. Leo built portable boxes like those that they use at the world tournament and ran tournaments for two weekends. The first was for non sanctioned juniors to get the young folks interested in horseshoes. The second was for sanctioned adults. During the weekdays, the public was encouraged to use the courts. Thousands of people were exposed to horseshoes. Each year Leo sanctioned numerous players that never knew about the NHPA. Leo was there every day for eleven days promoting horseshoes.

I have been a member of the NHPA for over twenty years and I have never seen one person do so much to promote our sport. Leo's promotion of horseshoe pitching in New York State and possibly the country can not be equaled. Leo has exposed our sport to thousands of people. If anybody deserves to be inducted to the NYSHA Hall of Fame as a promoter, it is Leo.

PS Attached are Two Newspaper articles one from the NHPA newslines.

The Horseshoe Palace: Pitching Indoors

By Tony Pilon
Staff Writer

In July 1993, Leo Bukowski saw his retirement dream come to fruition. It was then that he opened the Horseshoe Palace, an 8,000 square foot facility that houses eight 40 foot indoor horseshoe courts, and features synthetic "Kleen Klay" pits.

The idea originally was to provide "pitchers" with a place to play during the long winter months. But by providing open pit time, Leo hopes to attract not only just the avid league pitchers, he hopes that the growing popularity of horseshoes brings in the next generation of enthusiasts. His plan is starting to pay off, "We're starting to bring in the high school kids" Leo beams; "Its just a great place to come and spend a couple hours."

Geographically the Horseshoe Palace draws in pitchers from all over. People come from all over the region, the state, Pennsylvania and Canada to throw at Leo's. The Horseshoe Palace has truly been seasoned with international flavor.

The Horseshoe Palace is located in the former ballroom at Camp Road Enterprises (the old Leisureland) and is open six days a week. Although leagues run three to four nights a week, there is plenty of time for open pits. The complex itself is unique in that there are also forty-eight bowling alleys, movie theaters, a restaurant, and a Days Inn motel. So if your looking for something to do, come on down and see Leo. The Horseshoe Palace a great place to keep your skills sharp, but more than that, its a place to have a lot of affordable fun.



Indoor Horseshoe Palace

by Donnie Roberts

The Indoor Horseshoe Palace, located at 5220 Camp Road in Hamburg, New York just outside Buffalo, New York, opened its doors in July 1993. There are eight courts fully carpeted occupying eight thousand square feet. The area was formerly a ballroom with more than a twelve foot ceiling. Leagues were formed for evening play and afternoons are for open pitching. A number of sanctioned tournaments have been held with more to come.

If you are traveling in the area, call Leo Bukowski at 716-646-0020. He is President of the Indoor Horseshoe Palace and will be happy to show you the facility and throw some shoes with you.

The Horseshoe Palace is Leo's retirement project, after being in the restaurant equipment and supply business for 46 years. Leo loves the sport and loves promoting horseshoe pitching every way he can. Leo is a

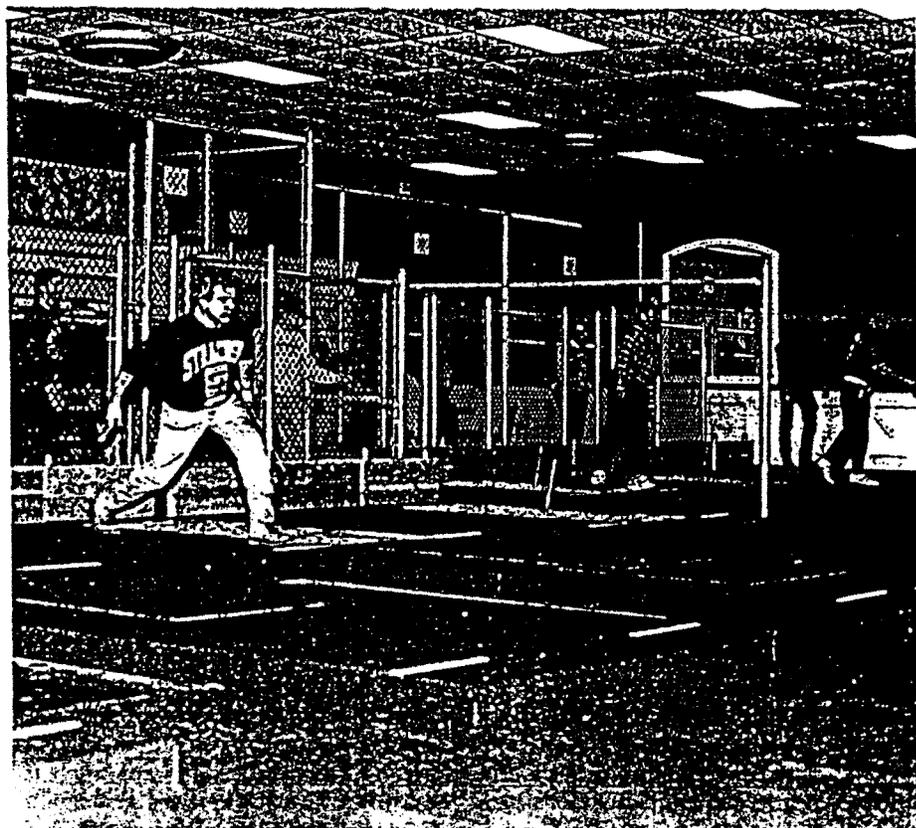
constant "sub" for any team short of players. Leagues run from September to April.

The Palace is ninety feet by ninety feet. The eight courts are filled with synthetic "Klean Klay" which provides a totally dust free environment for pitching. The Palace is heated and air-conditioned. The lounge area has seating for forty with tables and chairs for families and non-pitchers. Soft drinks, coffee, and snacks can be purchased.

In the same building there are forty-eight bowling alleys, a twenty-four hour restaurant, and a Days Inn motel.

Leo is currently trying to create interest for the juniors and seniors in the afternoons. He is working with the schools and senior centers in that effort.

Everyone is invited to stop by to see Leo, visit his fine facility, and pitch some horseshoes.



The Indoor Horseshoe Palau in Hamburg, New York.