



Ruth (Allen) Hoelzle ~ 1974

1974

-6-

RUTH (ALLEN) HOELZLE
414 Pecan Street
Lindenhurst, Long Island, N.Y., 11757
Tel: (516)226-6716

In the days of few women pitchers in the sport of horseshoes, Ruth Allen was outstanding in that she pitched the full 40 feet and welcomed the male competition which, in many cases, she sent home "talking to themselves".

Pitching mainly in the Metropolitan area, Ruth changed from a 'flip-flop' shoe to a left turn and found amazing control of it in a short while. She belonged to the West Hempstead Club which played matches with the Elmhurst, Brooklyn, Queens, Jackson Heights and Croton Park clubs.

Her first 'big' year came in 1937 when she took second place in the Long Island Open Tournament with a sizzling 58% ringers. The following year she was third place in the tournament, and became the first woman pitcher in the official New York State Tournament. Since there was no woman's division in the tournament, Ruth pitched with the men at the full 40 feet. At this time she offered a challenge to all women of the Nation, and the challenge went un-heeded.

In 1938 she won her third Nassau County Championship, averaging 63.5% ringers at 40 feet, enabling her to be the first woman to pitch in the Syracuse State Fair Agricultural tournament, which she won the championship award.

Displaying her championship ability again, Ruth won an international pitching exhibition between New York City and Toronto at Canada averaging 58% ringers.

In 1940 and 1941 she took third place in the Long Island Open, and in 1942 she went on to win the title over the N. Y. Metropolitan area best pitchers with 64.7% ringers.

Her biggest win came in 1942 when she married Staff Sgt. John Hoelzle and when their three children discuss horseshoe history, Ruth's name becomes a big part of that history.

Ruth Allen Hoelzle
414 Pecan St.
Lindenhurst, L.I., N.Y.
Tel: 516-226-6716

Ruth Allen was one of the great women pitchers of the East, pitching mainly in the New York City metropolitan area. In a day of few women pitchers, and no state tournaments for women, Ruth pitched 40 feet with male competitors...and beat most of them.

Ruth began pitching in 1935, changing from a flip shoe to a 1¼ turn. She belonged to the West Hempstead Club which played matches with Elmhurst, Brooklyn, Queens, Jackson Heights, Croton Park, etc.

In 1937, her first year of big competition, she took 2nd place in the Long Island Open Tournament with 58% ringers, and in 1938 took 3rd place. Also in 1938 she became the first and only woman pitcher to compete in the official New York State Tournament with men at 40 feet. At this time she challenged all women of the nation at 40 feet, but the challenge went unaccepted.

1938 was a big year for Ruth. She won her 3rd Nassau County Championship with a ringer average of 63.5% (at 40 ft.), enabling her to ^{be the} first woman to ever pitch at ^{the} Syracuse State Fair agricultural tournament. That year she also received the N.Y. State championship award for women at the 40 foot distance.

In 1939 Ruth took part in an international pitching exhibition match between New York City and Toronto, held in Canada. She won her four games with a ringer average of 58%.

In 1940 and 1941 she took 3rd place in the Long Island Open, but in 1942 went on to cop this title over the best competition in the New York metropolitan area. She averaged 64.7% ringers.

In 1942 Ruth had another big win...Staff Sgt. John Hoelzle. This marriage produced three children, but also slowed up Ruth's tournament play. Yet, even today she can get out there and toss ringers. Ruth Allen is still a name mentioned wherever horseshoe history is discussed.