

1974

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TOM BROWNELL
Amsterdam, New York
(Now living in California)

While not much information has been offered about Tom, he will be remembered by many of the 'old timers', as one of the most formidable competitors in the sport of horseshoes.

Consistently able to average 75% to 80%, Tom was the New York State champion six times and always a "thorn in the side" of his closest rivals.

An excellent sportsman, and a great credit to the game, Tom's high $1\frac{1}{4}$ turn produced an uncanny accuracy that kept him always in the championship bracket, and helped him to compile the following statistics:

<u>Year champion</u>	<u>percentage</u>	<u>running percentage</u>
1941:	71.5%	71.5%
1942 to 1947	(no tournaments due to WW-2)	
1948:	61.1%	64.4%
1953:	75.0%	69.2%
1954:	79.1%	71.7%
1955:	78.3%	73.0%
1956:	76.1%	73.5%



THOMAS R. BROWNELL
2244 BELLO AVENUE
SAN JOSE, CAL. 
95125

OCCUPATION
MGR-DRAFTING &
DOCUMENTATION
GE Co.
FAST BREEDER
REACTOR DEPT

THOMAS R. BROWNELL

PERSONAL DATA -

April 22, 1923 - Date of birth, Olean, N.Y.
1937 - Started pitching horseshoes; Gloversville, N.Y.
1941 - Employed by General Electric Co., Schenectady, N.Y.
1943-1946 - U.S. Army; European Theatre
January 1, 1948 - Married Shirley M. Palmieri; Amsterdam, N.Y.
December 13, 1948 - Son born, Thomas Van Ness; Amsterdam, N.Y.
1956 - Transferred by G.E. Co. to San Jose, California

TOURNAMENT RECORD - N.Y. STATE RESIDENT

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOURNAMENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PLACED</u>	<u>%</u>
1937	Fulton County	Gloversville, N.Y.	1	54.9
1938	Fulton County	Gloversville, N.Y.	2	58.2
1939	Fulton County	Gloversville, N.Y.	1	75.8
1939	New York State	Rye Beach, N.Y.	8	61.4
1940	New York State Fair	Syracuse, N.Y.	1	55.4
1941	New York State	Rochester, N.Y.	1	61.9
1942-1946	NO PARTICIPATION			
1946	Worlds	Des Moines, Iowa	11	66.5
1947	Worlds	Salt Lake City, Utah	9	74.1
1948	Worlds	Milwaukee, Wisc.	5	80.9
1948	New York State	New York City, N.Y.	1	72.7
1949	New York State	New York City, N.Y.	2	77.3
1949	Worlds	Salt Lake City, Utah	7	--
1952	New York State	Hoosick Falls, N.Y.	-	--
1953	New York State	Hoosick Falls, N.Y.	1	74.1
1953	Eastern National	Clearfield, Pa.	2	77.9
1954	Eastern National	Columbus, Ohio	4	75.6
1954	Empire State Open	New York City, N.Y.	1	75.5
1954	New York State	Hoosick Falls, N.Y.	1	79.3
1955	New York State	Hoosick Falls, N.Y.	1	79.2
1955	Worlds	Salt Lake City, Utah	3	78.2
1956	New York State	Rochester, N.Y.	1	74.2

RECORDS

PERSONAL HIGHS: 49R/50SP; 96R/100SP; 44 Consecutive
NEW YORK STATE:

1948 - Qualification with 270 points for 100 shoes pitched
1954 - Most shoes, one game - 146 shoes with Carl Steinfeldt
" - Most 4 dead, one game - 38 with Carl Steinfeldt
1955 - High game - 31R/32SP for 96.9%

WORLDS CHAMPIONSHIP:

1955 - 50 Four Deads in one game with Ted Allen (158 shoes)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Right Handed, 1 1/4 turn, Ohio Shoe
Started at 40 ft. distance
1954 - Sect./Treas. - N.Y. State Association

TR Brownell
Aug. 30, 1974

Amsterdam Recorder

RINGER RELAXATION A GUIDE TO HEALTH AND SPORTSMANSHIP ENJOYED BY TOSSERS NATIONWIDE

OHIO EASTER FOR 195

ONSOR THE TOURNAMENT COLUMBUS.

THE SCIENCE OF PITCHING RINGERS RANKS AS ONE OF THE FOREMOST PARTICIPATION SPORTS TODAY, AS EVIDENCED BY THE ORGANIZED PLAY IN ALL STATES THROUGH THE "NATIONAL HORSE-SHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION" OF AMERICA.

STATE STEV BRO HOO WAST TO A RECORD UNSUR BY T

BENEDICT OFFICERS N.H.P.A. ITE P.

SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE OPEN SHOE IN 1909 BY DR. F.M. ROBINSON OF FOUGH-KEEPSIE, NEW YORK, THE ART HAS PROGRESSED TO THE W- W

ON THE ALITY IGING THE WORLDS TOURNAMENT FROM SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TO EASTERN STATES. CHANGE OF SITE SEEN NECESSARY FOR GAMES PROMOTION TO MEET WITH MORE SPECTATOR APPROVAL

EXTENT WHERE THE NATIONAL CHAMPION MUST AVERAGE ABOUT 85 RINGERS OUT OF EVERY 100 SHOES PITCHED

FOR THE ENTIRE TOURNEY OF 36 GAMES EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 2500 SHOES WERE SCORED

125 LESS WHICH ALMOST FOUR. 36 FOUR DEADS IN 73 PITCHES WERE SCORED

INTEREST THE CHA SE T

Brownell

Horseshoe Pitching

Origin and History:

Olympic games - included horseshoe pitching

1909 - Open shoe discovered; first world tournament - stakes 2" high, $38\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart.

1912 - 6" high stakes - Ringer-5; Leaner-2 ; Close shoe-I; Top ringer counted all - 21 point game.

1925 - National Pitchers Assn was formed and at present is the governing body of this sport which includes more than 3,000,000 organized players alone; 200,000 of whom are women.

Playing Requisites:

To attain a high degree of skill one must possess fairly good health, eyesight, a considerable amount of natural talent, patience, and self control.

Pitching Grips and Turns:

$1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ are the most common and accurate. (See enclosed sketch) Grip should be firm yet flexible; not too tight or too loose. If tight it will cause wrist strain and tired arm. If loose, the shoe will slip out of hand before the proper release point is attained.

$1\frac{3}{4}$ turn: a good turn for wet and windy weather because it is a full hand grip which can be pitched low and hard with excellent flight wobble of shoe.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ turn: though this turn necessitates more careful attention, it requires less arm effort. Fingers should be widely spread for this turn to insure proper wobble in flight.

$3/4$ turn: this is a bad pitch for the slight turn it takes requires a low fast shoe which will develop a stiff arm delivery and at the same time is very hard to align correctly due to the fact that it passes the leg broadside. Ringers are lost easily due to the speed and slight turn of the shoe.

Delivery

It is the delivery that involves the six basic fundamentals of the game of horseshoes; They are stance, footwork, swing, follow-through, release, coordination or rhythm, the last being the dominating fundamental.

- A. Stance: 1. Body should be naturally erect and the muscles free from tension.

2. Arm of delivery should always be nearest peg.
3. Stand with shoulders square with the court facing the objective stake.
4. Your weight should be on the right foot at all times until the start of the forward swing, then the weight of your body is shifted to the left foot and placed behind the swing.
5. The most common stance is to place the left foot 5-6 inches back of the right, this allows for better balance, but whether the left foot is behind, or even, your weight is always balanced on your right foot (a left handed pitcher would always have his weight on high left foot).

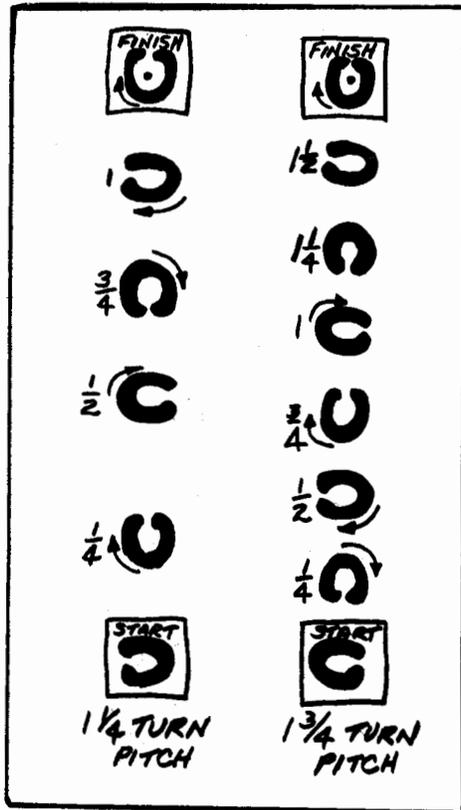
- B. Footwork:
1. Technically speaking the horseshoe is never pitched, tossed or thrown, it is swung and the step is to assist the player to keep perfect balance and make it easier to swing the shoe.
 2. A natural step as in walking is sufficient to swing the shoe the full distance.
 3. A right handed player should step forward with his left foot for perfect balance and of course a southpaw would step with his right.

- C. Swing:
1. The swing is the governor of the pitching distance and the hardest one of the fundamentals to master.
 2. Sight thru or over the shoe-then let the shoe swing backward in an easy manner at full arm length-then when the backward swing has reached its peak, throw the shoulders forward and step to the foul line, allowing the weight of the shoe to swing your arm forward and when it again comes in line with the stake and on a level with your eyes, the fingers will automatically relax and release the shoe. Do not stop your swing here but continue on upward above your head.
 3. There should be no jerk or snap of the arm or wrist and you must not propel the shoe with the arm for your body takes care of this.
 4. The arm should not be bent but should swing straight like a pendulum of a clock.

- D. Follow through:
- As in the majority of other sports the follow thru is important for it tends to coordinate the swing of the body and arm and gives a more accurate alignment on the opposite stake.

- E. Release:
- If the finger positions are incorrect or the grip to tight or too loose the shoe may hang to the fingers, flop over, slip or travel erratically in flight. It must be made to flow smoothly from the hand and this requires perfect coordination of the muscles and mental facilities.

PITCHING GRIPS & TURNS



The $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ turns depicted on the left are the most common and accurate.

The grip on the shoe should be firm, yet flexible, not too tight or too loose. If tight it will cause wrist strain and tired arm, if loose the shoe will slip out of the hand before the proper release point is attained.



The $1\frac{3}{4}$ turn is a good turn for wet and windy weather because it is a full hand grip which can be pitched low and hard with excellent flight wobble of shoe.



Though the $1\frac{1}{4}$ turn requires more careful attention, it requires less arm effort. Fingers should be widely spread for this turn to insure proper wobble in flight.

The Horseshoe Court

- Fig. A: Elevation view showing the proper 40 ft. distance between stakes and their respective incline towards each other. Foul line to be raised 1" above level of pitcher's box.
- Fig. B: Plan view showing location of markers for pitching distance for women and boys under 16 yrs. of age. Please note that courts should be facing north-south.
- Fig. C: This shows one method for court construction with removable stakes (driveway, playground, etc.)
- Figs. D & E: Block sizes and stake lengths for anchoring stake in either wood or cement for simple permanent court construction.
- Fig. G: Pitcher's box showing minimum clay width area and general box construction. The clay should be kept in a putty-like condition around stake area.

2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80				
00	00	0	0	00	00	0	0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	0	0	00	0	00	0	00	00	00	00	00	0	0	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	00	00	0	0	00	00	0	0
6	4	4	6	6	4	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	3	3	6	4	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	3	4	3	6	6	6	6	6	3	6	6	4	4					
2	16	20	26	32	36	39	45	51	57	63	69	75	81	85	88	91	97	101	107	111	117	123	129	135	141	144	148	151	157	163	169	175	181	184	190	196	200	204					

A) COUNT-ALL SYSTEM - 80 SHOES

0	00	00	0	-	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	0	00	00	0	0	0	00	0	0	00	00	00	00	00	00	0	0	00	0	00	00	0	0	00	00	0	0	00	00	0	0	00	00
3	6	6	3	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	6	6	4	6	6	4	3	4	6	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	6	4	6	6	4	3	6	6					
3	9	15	18	20	26	32	38	44	50	56	60	64	70	76	80	86	92	96	99	103	109	113	117	123	129	135	141	147	153	157	161	167	171	177	183	187	190	196	202					

B) ANALYSIS - METHOD OF SCORING

X0	XX	X	X	00	XX	X	X	XX	XX	XX	X0	X0	XX	XX	X	X	X0	X	X0	X	X0	X0	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X0	X0	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X0	X0	XX	XX	X	X0	X0	X	X	
3			1	6							3	3					3	1	3		3	3							3	3		3					3	3		3	3				
3			4	10							13	16					19	20	23		26	29							32	35		38					4	14							

CANCELLATION SYSTEM - ? SHOES

X	XX	X0	X	-	XX	X0	X0	XX	XX	XX	X	X	XX	XX	X	X0	X0	X	X	X	X0	X	X	XX	XX	XX	X0	X0	X0	X	X	XX	X	XX	X0	X	X	X0	X0						
		3				3	3								1	3	3				3							3	3	3						3				3	3				
		3				6	9								10	13	16				19							22	25	28						31						34	37		

Horseshoe pitchers since the late 1940's have been somewhat divided as to the method of scoring to promote the encouragement required for the beginners and lower class pitchers when they meet class "A" calibre, this being the case for league play. Due to the classification of pitchers for tournament play the above feeling does not apply.

The new "Count-All" system states that each game shall consist of a specified number of shoes thrown (example above is for 80 shoes) and that each contestant get credit for all the points he scores, the winner being the pitcher with the most points at the end of the limited time.

The original "Cancellation" system states that the game shall continue until one of the players scores the required 50 points with all shoes cancelling out (example above shows "A" man with 2 ringers against 1 ringer by "B" man - thus scoring 3 points for the second ringer)

The same game is shown above as scored under each system. This clearly shows that "B" man lost by 2 points using the "Count-All" system whereas under the "Cancellation" system he would be 7 points behind at the 80 shoe mark, however he has not lost and can still win his game coming from behind - evidence of "pressure" pitching, determination, and competitive enthusiasm.

O - RINGER X - DEAD
OO - DOUBLE RINGER -- NO COUNT
OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET

Date AUG. 25, 1954 Court No. 5 Game No. 7
HARRISON VS BUTLER

SHOES	RINGERS	POINTS	SCORE	RINGERS	POINTS	SCORE
2	O	3	3	-		
4	X			X	1	1
6	X			XO	3	4
8	OO	6	9	-		
10	XX			XX		
12	XX			XX		
14	-			O	4	8
16	-	2	11	-		
18	X			XO	3	11
20	OO	6	17	-		
22	X			XO	3	14
24	X			X		
26	XX			XX		
28	X			XO	3	17
30	-			OO	6	23
32	XX			XX		
34	O	4	21	-		
36	X	1	22	X		
38	X			X	1	24
40	XO	3	25	X		
42	XO	3	28	X		
44	XO	3	31	X		
46	OO	6	37	-		
48	XX			XX		
50	X			XO	3	27
52	X			X	1	28
54	-			O	4	32
56	O	3	40	-		
58	XX			XX		
60	XX			XX		
62	X			XO	3	35
64	XX			XX		
66	XX			XX		
68	X			X		
70	XO	3	43	X		
72	OO	6	49	-		
74	-			O	4	39
76	X			XO	3	42
78	X			XO	3	45
80	XX			XX		
82	X			X	1	46
84	XX			XX		
86	XO	3	52	X		
88						
90						
92						
94						
96						
98						
100						

The typical scoresheet at the left is a game using the "Cancellation System" of scoring. The left hand column is a record of the number of shoes thrown for the game (in this case 86)

The method of scoring ringers is shown at the top of the sheet and is entered under the "ringer" column. The "points" column records the points scored with every 2 shoes pitched and the "score" column is for the total points scored in the entire game.

- Some examples are as follows:
- 2 shoes - Harrison gets 1 ringer, Butler misses both shoes, Harrison scoring 1 ringer - 3 pts.
- 4 shoes - each man tosses one ringer, Butler scoring 1 pt. with his second shoe within 6" of stake and closer than Harrison's other shoe.
- 6 shoes - Butler scores 2 ringers vs Harrison's 1, thus picking up 3 pts. for the uncancelled second ringer and giving him 4 pts. total score.
- 8 shoes - Harrison garners 2 ringers and 6 pts., Butler missing both shoes.
- 10 shoes - Both men throw 2 ringers which is called "four dead" and no point score.
- 14 shoes - Butler scores 1 ringer and 1 pt. (his non-ringer being closer to the stake than either of Harrison's 2 shoes) for a total of 4 pts for that frame.

Although the actual points scored by Harrison were 52 the summary credits the winner with 50 pts., this being the score necessary to end the game using the "Cancellation System".

The number of ringers includes all ringers made in the game whether they cancelled out (indicated by x) or scored 3 points (indicated by o). The doubles are the number of times 2 ringers were thrown in any one frame as shown by one of the three possibilities (ie. oo,xo,xx).

The number of shoes pitched is taken from the "shoe" column as described above.

The ringer percentage is determined by dividing the ringers by shoes pitched (in Harrison's case 86/58). The resultant 67.4% indicates that he averaged just better than 2 ringers out of every 3 shoes.

For all games played in any one tournament the final results are listed as follows:

POINTS	50	POINTS	46
RINGERS	58	RINGERS	55
DOUBLES	20	DOUBLES	20
SHOES PITCHED	86	SHOES PITCHED	86
RINGER PCT.	67.4	RINGER PCT.	64.0

HOOSICK FALLS OPEN-CLASS A

PLAYER	W	L	PTS.	OPP. PTS.	R	DR	SP	R.Pct.
H. HARRISON - HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y.	13	2	720	521	688	212	1024	67.2
F. BUTLER - BENNINGTON, VERMONT	12	3	689	535	613	170	980	62.5
J. TRIMBLE - ALBANY, N. Y.	10	5	631	602	542	109	952	56.9



Horseshoes & Health

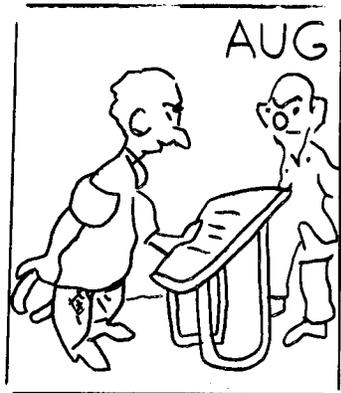
Anyone who desires a participation sport that is not too strenuous will find no better game in the world. Walking is recognized by experts to be one of the most effective exercises for keeping fit. This, together with the excellent bending and turning exercises used in picking up the shoes, will strengthen and condition the abdominal muscles. Men and women who are overweight will find the game to be of great help in reducing. Frank Jackson, many times world champion has stated "Throughout the many years I have played the game, I have never known of a horseshoe pitcher to suffer from appendicitis."



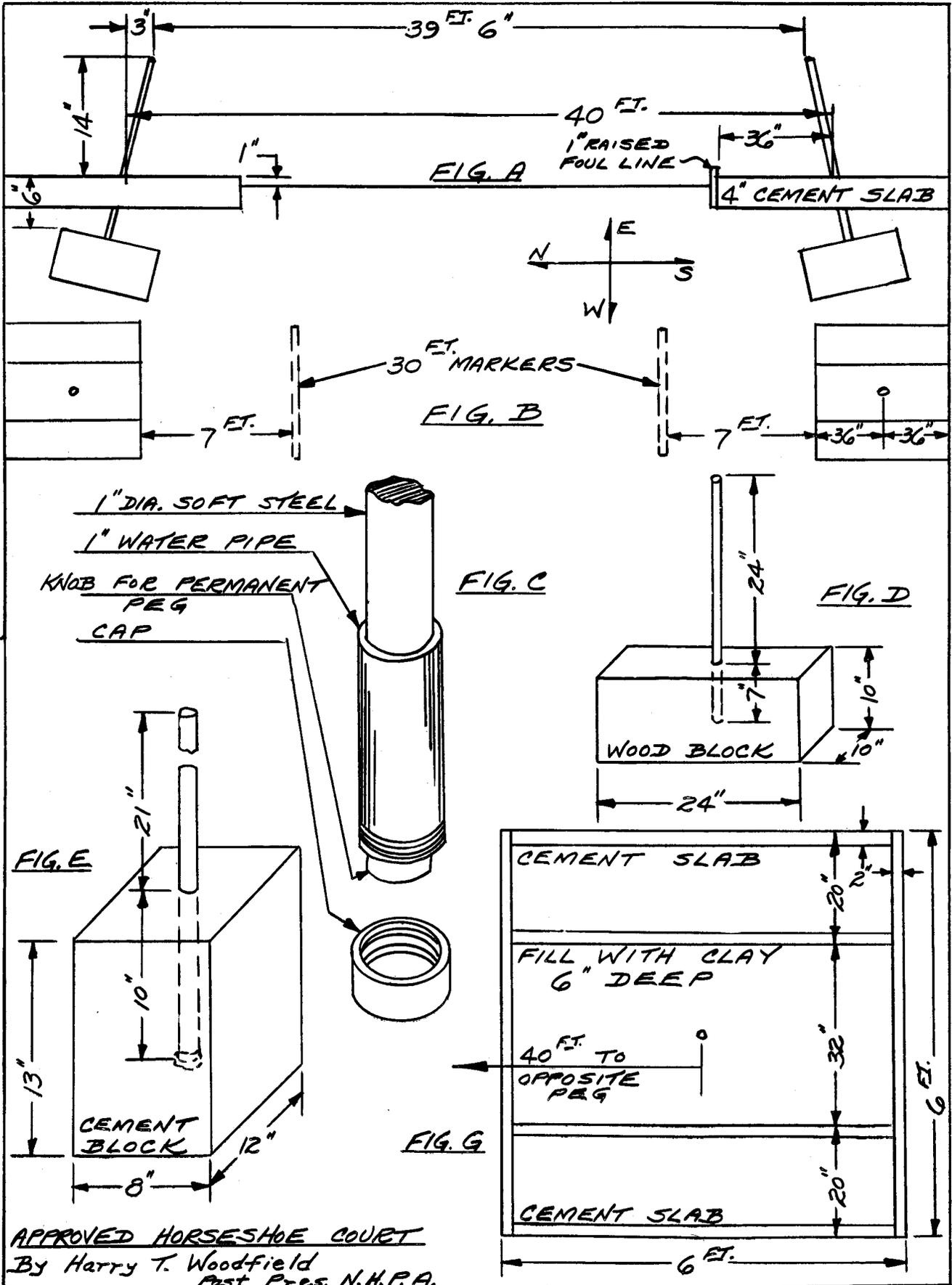
This grand game not only lends to a wonderful sense of sportsmanship and good health among pitchers but also provides the warm feeling that goes with the meeting of new friends and the renewal of acquaintances from year to year.



League play is conducive to the above program and is evidenced by the many "Industrial" leagues and teams throughout New York State - especially in Rochester, Syracuse, Johnson City and the newly formed General Electric Athletic Association League in Schenectady. Plans are already being made to provide the best courts available in 1955 with provisions for night play.



HORSESHOE COURT CONSTRUCTION



APPROVED HORSESHOE COURT
 By Harry T. Woodfield
 Past Pres. N.H.P.A.