

1974

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VITO FELICCIA
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One of the truly great horseshoe pitchers of New York State was Vito Feliccia of the New York City area. Starting to pitch in 1928 Vito's hey-day was mostly in the '30's and '40's. Winning between 100 and 125 tournaments, his fame spread throught the East when his long swing, looping 1-3/4 turn pitch became a familiar sight on the tournament circuit.

In 1936 Vit8 became the rightful claimant to the State title when he he pitched the highest ringer percentage to date with a sizzling 75.2%. Although he consistantly threw between 70 % and 75 %, this feat was unheard of in this era. He again became the State champion in 1949 with a 73.8 %

Participating in all of the "big" open tournaments throughout the Conneticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey areas, Vito was almost seeded a first or second spot, and his ready smile or encouraging word denoted him as a true sportsman.

In his early days Vito played with the Fort George Club of New York City; the DeKalb Club of Brooklyn, and the Knickerbocker League of New York, presided over by the legendary Tom O'Gara. He remained an active player until 1968 when he pitched in the Westchester Master's Invitational.

He was married some 25 years ago, and is now retired from the Pfizer Chemical Company.

At the opening of the Corning, New York courts, Vito amazed a very sizeable crowd with an exhibition of trick shots and capped his performance with a "crowd-pleasing" exhibition game with Carl Steinfeldt. A task of very trying effort since he had just arrived from the airport in Elmira-Corning airport, and had practically no time for warm-up pitches.

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Vito Filiccia was one of the truly great horseshoe pitchers of New York State. Starting to pitch in 1928, Vito's heyday was largely during the 30's and 40's. His fame spread all over the East as he won between 100 and 125 tournaments. His long swing, with a looping 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ turn pitch, was a familiar sight everywhere.

In 1936 Vito became official state champion with the highest ringer percentage ever thrown for this title...75.2 Vito consistently threw between 70 and 75% ringers. In 1949 he again won the state title (73.8%).

Vito entered all the big open tournaments...the Jersey, Penna., Conn., and Eastern Open, nearly always taking first or second place. At all times he was a real sportsman, with a ready smile and an encouraging word.

In his early days Vito played with the Ft. George Club of New York City and the De Kalb Club of Brooklyn. He also played in the Knickerbocker League of New York presided over by the legendary Tom O'Gara. Vito remained an active pitcher up to 1968, when he pitched in the Westchester Master's Invitational.

Vito has been married 25 years and is now retired from the Pfizer Chemical Company.