

From The Desk Of John Martin

What you might not know about 9 times, State Champion Mike DiMartino.

Since he stopped actively competing in horseshoe pitching, Mike regularly corresponds with many of his friends. I am proud that somehow I got on that list.

He sends out so much mail that several of us have decided he is just cleaning out his file cabinets of all his records, stats, and articles from many years of pitching. A few have threaten that they will save everything and some day send it all back in a big box. Here is his latest to me...

In 1978 he finished sixth in New Rochelle but shortly thereafter was in a very serious car accident. He had severe back and neck injuries and several operations to fuse the vertebrae in both neck and spine.

By spring of 1981 he had recovered enough to begin pitching again. He won tournaments in Pulaski, Camden, and Hornell, averaging 75 percent. That fall he won 10 of 11 games and captured the 51st annual New York State Championship in Floyd. he averaged 72.6 percent for the tournament. Art Tyson was the defending champion and lost 5 games to finish fifth.. Joe Shultz was second.

Mike went on to win in Falconer in 1983 with a 71.5 ... In 1984 in Camden - 75.3 in 1985 at Floyd with a 76.6 - 1989 in Canton with a 72.7 - 1990 again at Canton with a 78.1 - 1996 at Waddington a 74.3 then the lowest of his nine wins a lowly 66.4 at S. New Berlin. His last was a 72.9 at Waterloo..

I would say that was not too bad for a guy who's injuries took almost three years to heal, then comes back to win 9 times.. It's scary to think what he may have done if that car accident hadn't happened..... jm

P. / S. Maybe we should bombard him with mail for a change !!! His address is 87 Palmer Road, Churchville N.Y. 14428