



information acquired from the WSHPA Hall of Fame Book, newsletters and other sources

**SUE WILLIAMS**

**Cement City, MI**

inducted 1990

Sue was a junior while she was pitching in the WSHPA. She pitched in many district and state tournaments.

Sue won the Junior Girls state tournament in 1979 at the age of 14

She pitched in her first world tournament in North Carolina in 1979 and came in last.

(She claimed it didn't matter how you played as long as you looked good)



In 1980 Sue won the Junior girls world title in Huntsville, Alabama in a playoff and said it was the most exciting horseshoe even in her dads life.

Sue repeated herself and won the Junior girls state title again in 1980.

She was in a car accident in January of 1981 and has never really found her place in horseshoes since.

Sue did pitch on the Michigan team at one of our Friendship tournaments at Kalamazoo. She was a real good sport and a willing score keeper at all tournaments.

**WORLD RECORDS HELD  
COMPLETE TOURNAMENT**

|                                   |      |                  |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Ringers / game - 50 points        | 41.8 | Sue Williams, MI | 1980 |
| Double Ringers / game - 50 points | 13.2 | Sue Williams, MI | 1980 |

**SINGLE GAME, BOTH PLAYERS**

|                                  |     |                  |                    |      |
|----------------------------------|-----|------------------|--------------------|------|
| Longest game - shoes - 50 points | 104 | Sue Williams, MI | vs Audrey Reno, OH | 1980 |
| Total Ringers - 50 points        | 135 | Sue Williams, MI | vs Audrey Reno, OH | 1980 |
| Double Ringers - 50 points       | 43  | Sue Williams, MI | vs Audrey Reno, OH | 1980 |
| Canceled Ringers - 50 points     | 106 | Sue Williams, MI | vs Audrey Reno, OH | 1980 |
| "Four Deads" - 50 points         | 13  | Sue Williams, MI | vs Audrey Reno, OH | 1980 |



### SINGLE GAME, INDIVIDUAL

Sue Williams, Jr. Girls' Champ

Ringers, winner - 50 points  
Double ringers, winner - 50 points

67 Sue Williams, MI 1980  
24 Sue Williams, MI 1980



*Larry Edsall, sports editor*

## Sue's shoes ring out world title

Sue Williams won't be the BGOC (that's big girl on campus) this fall at Columbia Central High School.

Classmates won't turn their heads in awe as they might when the star of the football team walks by them in the halls.

But that's fine with Williams.

**FOR ONE THING**, the petite 15-year-old from Cement City simply is not big enough to be the biggest anything on campus. For another, she usually won't even mention the fact that she's a sports star in her own right.

"I don't say very much about it," Williams said, adding that she really has two sets of friends - those at

The Williams name may be as common as Smith or Jones, but it has had uncommon success in horseshoes. Sue's father, Ozzie, has been pitching ever since the year Sue was born



SUE WILLIAMS wins world horseshoe pitching championship

and she's been pitching well enough to twice have been among the top 36 players in the world, averaging 65 percent ringers over the course of his career.

Sue often practices twice a day for an hour each time, and practice made perfect - or very close to it.

Sue has become so good that she has trouble finding competition even at the state level. She usually competes in the boys division of statewide tournaments.

**SUE HAD WATCHED** her parents pitch in tournaments for so many years that she finally decided she might as well join them on the pitching platform.

"I went (with them) all my life," she said.

"Why not play?"

And Sue plays very well.

After beating Pateneau to force the championship showdown, she opened that playoff with an easy 52-15

school and those at the court.

"The friends at school don't know what it is," Williams said.

But the friends at the court certainly do. The court is a horseshoe court, and heads certainly turn when Williams walks onto the court.

And so they should. After all, this past weekend Sue Williams won the world girls championship in Huntsville, Ala., and to do it she had to beat two-time defending champion Linda Pateneau, and not once but twice.

Not a bad achievement for someone in only her third season of competitive pitching.

**AND WILLIAMS NOT** only beat the 17 year-old veteran, but she set a long list of world records doing it. She led qualifying with a record score of 221 (out of a perfect 300), she threw a record 18 consecutive ringers, she won one of her preliminary matches in the longest game (104) shoes compared to 50 for a usual game) in the history of the girls tournament.

But Ozzie isn't playing as well as he once did. In fact, he can't even beat his daughter. He doesn't mind, because he's coached his wife Peggy, daughter Sue and 12-year-old son Tommy to state championships of their own.

"I'm more interested in the things they're doing than in my own game," Ozzie said, much to the relief of the more than 100 players in the Jackson County Horseshoe Association leagues.

One of those players, Dick Pelton, was fifth in men's Class C at the world finals.

"It's quite a thrill to see them get that much better that quick," He added. Sue's improvement has been particularly remarkable. She played Pateneau, of Oxford, Me., last summer and lost 50-1. Last week, she beat the two-time world champion 51-46 to force a best-of-three play-off, which Williams won 50-15, 41-52, 55-20 with an incredible 72 percent ringers.

The reason for the improvement, both Sue and Ozzie agree, is practice.

Perhaps too easy. Overconfident, she fell 25 points behind in the second game and had to rally to lose by 11.

"I thought I was done for," she admitted.

But rather than give up, Sue matched Pateneau's shoe for shoe on the first throws of the third and decisive game. Then, when Pateneau couldn't "cover" Sue's double ringer, Williams seized the momentum and rang 22 of her first 24 pitches for an overwhelming 15-1 lead.

**ALTHOUGH SHE PITCHES** a 2 1/2-pound horseshoe to a target 30 feet away for seemingly hours on end, Sue doesn't get tired, she said, . at least not when she's winning.

But what she likes most about horseshoes is "the people," and "just being able to play in competition, to show what you can do."

Sue certainly has done that.

Why, even her friends at school have to realize that now.