



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

RICK GYORKOS

Taylor, MI

inducted 2008

It was in 1965, when Rick began pitching in WSHPA tournaments. The first tournament he pitched in was at Weston, where he and his family traveled to watch his father, Frank, compete in the tournament. One of the lower classes had an opening, Rick was talked into pitching and he became forever hooked to the great game of horseshoes. In 1971, Rick won the WSHPA Sportsmanship Award, and by the 1980's, he had developed into one of the top pitchers in Michigan.

During Rick's years of membership he was very involved with the well-being of the WSHPA. He served many years on the state tournament and Water Wonderland committees, and was an avid promoter of the Michigan - Ontario Friendship Tournament. Rick introduced the three tournament rule to qualify for the state championships tournament. He and Joe Holland worked to get better terms between the WSHPA and M-46.

Rick was a great promoter of family involvement in horseshoes. His wife, Gloria, pitched some but involved herself in score keeping and working the statistic table. His son, Dion, won the junior boy's state championship in 1974, and another son, Derrick, won most improved junior several times. Rick served many years on junior committees at both the state and national level.



In the early 1970's, Rick and Gloria became co-editors of the WSHPA newsletter, Ringer Report. The newsletter was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The highlight of the newsletter were their candid observations of what was happening around the courts, and their statements about many members brought laughs and smiles to the entire membership.

Rick pitched the Imperial horseshoe and threw a beautiful 1 and 3/4 turn, though at times he dabbled with the 1 and 1/4 turn. He was extremely active and played in as many tournament as anyone during his time of pitching. Rick competed in 17 world tournaments, many Greenville Ringer Classics, the 1983 Las Vegas tournament, and many prestigious tournaments around the country with his good friends, Jim Knisley and Doc Maison. The best game that Rick threw was in a league competition between Berkley and Romulus in which he threw perfect game; 50 ringers in 50 shoes. His best sanctioned tournament game was a 96% gem he threw at Dimondale. Rick greatest victory

came over Jim Knisley during a Water Wonderland tournament, and he defeated nearly all the state champions of his time.

In 1986, Rick was in a four-way tie in the state tournament, but lost in a playoff game to eventual state champion Ed Schultz. Rick won state championships in Class B, C, D, E, and F, perhaps a feat no other pitcher in Michigan has ever accomplished.

In the late 1980's, Rick and his family relocated to Florida. He remained active with horseshoes. Rick worked with Joe Holland in developing and designing various types of horseshoes. In the mid-1990's, Rick was in a serious automobile accident that badly damaged his knees, which brought to an end his illustrious horseshoe career.

The dedication of Rick Gyorkos to family and the game of horseshoes was inspirational to all who have had the privilege to have known him. Always a gentleman on and off the courts, Rick richly deserves his place in the Wolverine State Horseshoe Pitchers Association's Hall of Fame.

