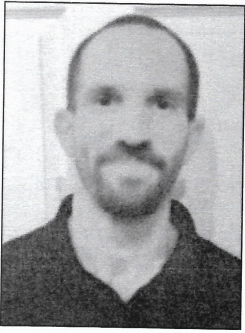


## 2017 Hall of Fame Inductee - Mark Mauthe



Mark Mauthe was born in 1975, in Platteville, WI, and is the youngest son of Norm and Joyce Mauthe. Together with his parents and his brother, Jeff, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins, Mark and the entire family have been a horseshoe pitching family. Mark and Jeff got involved with organized pitching at a very early age as Norm had been involved in playing tournaments before they were even born. Mark's first league experience was pitching on the

Monday night mixed league with his mom. His first tournament was the inaugural 1984 Platteville Open when he was only eight years old.

Mark's performance broke through in 1990 when he won his first junior state title. He turned that into 3 consecutive titles as he won again in 1991 & 1992. Mark also competed in the Boy's Championship division at the World Tournament in 1990-92 improving his position every year. His highlight year as a junior was 1992, in Columbus, OH, where he qualified third (77.14%) and shot a 90% game (45/50) against Michael Newton (SD). Mark was able to play in the finals with his friend Jason Goldsmith (WI) and finished in a 3-way tie for third, but finished fifth despite pitching 76.8%. All nine of his games in the finals were above 70% and four were above 80%. Mark is proud to this day to have been a part of that group as 9/10 boys finished with an average above 70% and John Walters (OH) got last place even with 75%.

In 1993, Mark transitioned from thirty feet to forty feet. With many hours of practice he was able to work his way up to a 68% tournament before state and made the Men's Championship class and won his first ever game against defending champion Don Kangas. Mark would continue to throw in the upper 50% to upper 60% range for many years until breaking through and shooting his first 70% tournament at forty feet in 1999. Mark also won his first of three men's state titles that year. A major change from standing back by the backboard and taking a long stride with a pronounced follow through to a short stride from the peg and a lofted show saw Mark's performance sky rocket in 2001. Mark shot more 80% games (34) than he did in all of his junior years combined. He also shot thirteen 70% events that year, placed second at the Danville Open (IL) shooting 75.51% in his first ever appearance there, and added his second men's state title. Along the way he qualified (71.67%) for his first ever championship class at the World Tournament in Hibbing, MN, and shot 86.1% in his first ever final game against John Kapnis (MA). Mark finished 13th with 67.87%. Mark shot his first 90% game (36/40) from 40 feet in qualifying at that tournament against Paul Stewart (NC) and came back from that event to shoot 78.57% (280 shoes) in a league tournament which included two 90% games and a personal best 92.5% (37/40) against Bob Bennett.

From 2005-2007, Mark added his third state title (2005), placed 6th, 4th, and 2nd respectively in the men's championship at the World Tournament, and earned national Top Ten honors averag-

ing over 70% in sanctioned league play all three years to earn the second best 40 foot percent in the country. His best performance, in 2006 (74.85%), also earned him number two in the country (any distance) for average with 122.27 ppg. Mark also won the Men's Class A qualifying at the World Tournament in Bakersfield, CA (2005), with 67.3%. 2007 was a highlight year for Mark with the aforementioned second place finish at the World Tournament in Ardmore, OK (68.9%). He had his best showing at the Six Pac Invitational in Wentzville, MO (5th - 67.9%), shot a personal best (82%) at the Platteville Spring singles, placed second in his first appearance at the Greenville Ringer Classic (OH) with 71.47%, and placed second at the Danville Open with 72.66%.

### Other notable achievements include:

- 2001 - 50 shoe doubles league with cousin, Curt Novinski 82%, 82%, 84% series, Mark's choice for best overall performance,
- 2001 - Danville Open vs. Bob Schaver (IL) 42-29 79/94 (84.04%), with no open pits,
- 2002 - Personal best league game of 88% against his uncle, Bob Novinski,
- 2002 & 2006 - Pitcher of the Year honors,
- 2005 - 28 ringers in a row (80% game) in sanctioned league game vs. Curt Novinski,
- 2005 - State title-clinching game vs. Randy Rein, 36/42 (85.71%),
- 2006 - Sanctioned league 50 shoe games 86%, 82%, 82% series,
- 2014 - President's Award recipient from Glenn Bogenschneider,
- Overall World Tournament in Men's Championship 49-27, 66.65%,
- Played in Men's Championship class at Wisconsin State Tournament 22/24 years through 2016,
- Only Wisconsin Junior Boy's Champion to also win the Men's title,
- Over 120 games in adult division competition play of 80% or higher including six 90% or higher games,
- More than forty 70% or higher events in competition play in the adult division,
- Wisconsin #1 Team member at Team World from late 1990's - 2008, and
- Regular competitor in Six Pac Invitational

Mark has also been a great promoter of horseshoe pitching and has done his share of administrative work along the way. Mark has been a tournament director for many tournaments over the years at Platteville and the Arena indoor facility and has assisted Norm with all the Platteville tournaments. Mark inherited Norm's duties as "keeper of the courts" at Platteville and he's always been a believer that a tournament is judged a success largely on the condition of the pitching surface. Mark works tirelessly to keep the Platteville clay in top condition, and coordinate with the city parks department to make sure the club has all the resources needed. He's always made himself available to teach the game to anyone willing to learn.