

Millstadt Horseshoe League

keeps pitchers busy

By Kevin Carbery
Staff writer

1990
MILLSTADT — The horseshoe pits at Millstadt Village Park buzz with activity every Tuesday evening over the summer months.

That is when the Millstadt Horseshoe League, with eight teams and around 75 pitchers, draws players from far and wide to toss iron and enjoy themselves.

"We're up here for the fun of it," said Dave Shreve, who is president of the league, as well as of the Illinois State Horseshoe Pitchers Association. "We get people from Millstadt, Fairview Heights, Cahokia, Freeburg and Columbia."

Each team, with about nine players per squad, plays 20 games a night. Shreve, who captains the Gary's Body Shop team, said team leaders try to evenly match pairs of players in each game.

"I try to get everybody on my team a minimum of four games," he said. "That's what most captains do. There are a lot of good throwers here. Even if you're not so good, there are people here who you can match their level. The teams try to match the level of players in each game."

Shreve, a Cahokia resident, said each team carries players who range in skill level from mediocre to outstanding.

"We've got all different lev-

els," he said. "There are 10 percenters (who hit that percentage of ringers) on up to guys who throw 55 percent."

The league started its season May 1 and will finish up Sept. 25. The team with the most wins at the end of that night's pitching will be the league champion.

Teams are formed each year in April, Shreve said. The league annually holds a "draft night," in which the league captains pick their players in a series of rounds.

"You need to join before the season starts," Shreve said. "To join, you need to contact someone in the league, or come to the pre-season draft meeting. It's better to come to the draft meeting."

Pitchers are shuffled around from team to team each year, said Shreve.

This season, the PPG and Schubert's teams have been battling it out for first. Trophy Case and Handy Feed & Grain have been in the three and four positions, while Gas N Grab, Reamer Glass, Borg Warner and Gary's Body Shop have been jockeying for position.

Records are not important, however, said Shreve. What is important is having fun. "We really have a good time," he said. "It's a fun league. There is competition, but you come to have a good time."



1990
FOLLOWING THROUGH: Elmer Sandheinrich of Millstadt (on left) and Red Fesser of Columbia watch the results of their tosses at a recent Millstadt Horseshoe League

match. More than 70 pitchers from around the region meet at Millstadt for matches every Tuesday over the summer.

(Staff photo by Kevin Carbery)