



**AL DODSON**

Born and raised in New Orleans, Al was first exposed to horseshoes by his grandparents at family picnics and at Company Tournaments played at Audobon Park. He attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, where he met his wife to be, Linda, and where he and a fraternity brother claimed the Campus Doubles Horseshoe Title in 1966. He and Linda located in Morgan City in 1968, where Al began his career as a Marine Engineer at a local shipyard, raising two daughters, and where they continue to reside today.

An avid bowler throughout his life, Al continued to play horseshoes only at family gatherings and Company picnics, until 1994, when he was approached to attend a horseshoe meeting and join a new horseshoe club in the area, the LA 70 Ringers. Al was immediately hooked, became sanctioned and competed in his first sanctioned Tournament in Harahan the very next week. That same year, Al won the Class “D” State Doubles Title with partner Charlie Bergeron, and finished third in Class “F” in the State Singles Tournament.

Al instantly became a very involved member of the LA 70 Ringers, as that 12 man group began construction of the first ten courts at Kemper Williams Park in Patterson, which became a regular venue for sanction Tournaments, and hosted their first State Tournament in 1995.

In 1996, Al was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the LSHPA, a position he held until 2004. As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Al was tasked to form and inaugurate a Hall of Fame program for the LSHPA. The first members of that prestigious group were inducted the very next year. In 2004, Al was elected President of the LSHPA, and held that position until 2010. He was elected Secretary/Treasurer of LSHPA in 2011.

Al was instrumental in the formation of the Bayou Horseshoe Pitchers Association in 1997, which combined the LA 70 Ringers and the Atchafalaya Horseshoe Club into one organization. Al was elected President of the new Association, a position he held until 2006.

He was elected Secretary/Treasurer of that Club in 2008, a position he still holds today.

In 2024, Al, along with Jimmy Percle and Tim Gilmore were recognized by the St. Mary Parish Council for their efforts in promoting not only horseshoes, but the Parish over the years and they were presented a resolution and keys to the Parish for their accomplishments.

Al and Jimmy were the first BHPA players to become 30 year members of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association in 2023.

His accomplishments on the Courts include:

1994	State Doubles Champion Class "D"	Third Place Class "F" Singles
1996	State Singles Champion Class "E"	
1997	Second Place Class "B" Doubles	
1998	Third Place Class "B" Doubles	
1999	State Singles Champion Class "C"	State Doubles Champion Class "C"
2000	State Singles Champion Class "D"	
2001	State Singles Champion Class "C"	
2002	Second Place Class "B" Singles	
2003	Third Place Class "B" Doubles	
2005	State Doubles Champion Class "B"	State Mixed Doubles Champion Class "A"
2006	Second Place Class "B" Doubles	
2007	State Champion in Singles Class "C", Doubles Class "B", and Mixed Doubles Class "B"	
2008	State Champion in Mixed Doubles Class "B"	Third Place Class "B" Doubles
2009	State Doubles Champion Class "B"	State Singles Class "D" Champion
2010	State Singles Champion Class "C"	Third Place Class "B" Mixed Doubles
2011	State Doubles Champion Class "C"	State Mixed Doubles Champion Class "B"
2016	State Champion in Mixed Doubles Class "A" and Doubles Class "A"; Third in Singles, Class "A" Elders	
2017	Second Place Doubles Class "A"	Second Place Class "A" Elders Singles
2018	State Doubles Champion Class "A"	
2019	Second Place in Class "A" Elders Singles, Class "A" Elders Doubles, and La. Open, Class "B"	
2020	State Doubles Champion Class "A",	Second Place State Singles Class "A"
2021	Third Place Mixed Doubles Class "A"	
2023	State Doubles Champion Class "A"	
2025	State Champion: Singles Class B Elders; Doubles Class "A"; Mixed Doubles Class "C"	

All total, Al has twenty-five State Titles in three different classes; eight singles, eleven doubles, and six Mixed Doubles

Three time "LA 70 Ringer Tournament" Champion

Five time "Doubles for Dollars" Champion

BHPA 40' Player of the Year – 2005, 2006, 2011

BHPA 30' Player of the Year – 2016

BHPA Most Improved Player – 2016, 2020

BHPA City Singles Champion – 2005, 2019

BHPA City Doubles Champion – 2006, 2007, 2018

Claimed World Championship in 40' Men's "H" Senior Class in 2012 in Knoxville, Tennessee

Placed third at World Tournament in Men's Elders in both 2014 and 2015 and sixth in 2016.