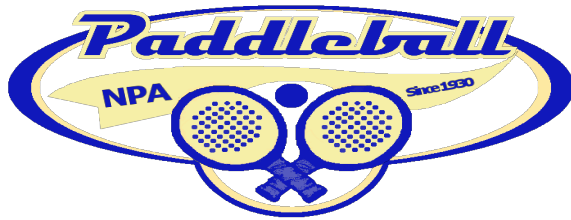


WINTER 2015



WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION

MARK YOUR CALANDAR WITH THESE DATES

NPA 2015 NATIONAL SINGLES

Site: Davison Athletic Club, Davison MI

Date: March 20th to 22nd

Divisions: Paddleball – Open, A / B / C / 35+ / 45+ / 55+ also Grab-bag Doubles Open & Grab-bag Doubles B. Racquetball – Open & B

For the first time we are offering both paddleball and racquetball at the same tourney. As an added incentive to play both racquetball & paddleball – play in one and the other division is only \$10.

NPA 2015 NATIONAL DOUBLES

Site: Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness Center, San Diego CA

Date: April 24th to 26th

Division: Open / A / B / C / 70+ Combined (the two players combined age must be at least 70) / 45+ // 55+ / Mixed Doubles

We will also be offering a Pro-Am event on Friday evening. For a \$20 minimum donation to our selected charity a player will be paired with a Open/Pro player in a blind draw. This is an exhibition event and will last 1 to 1-1/2 hours. We will announce the Open/Pro players soon.



3 WALLBALL

Site: Las Vegas, NV – across the street from the Stratosphere Hotel & Casino

Dates: Sept 23rd to 27th

3 Wall Divisions: Pro (\$1500 total prize money) / Open (rolldown to A) / B (rolldown to C) / Age Division (ages TBD) / Novice (this is geared to players who are entering this event for the first time)

One Wall Divisions: Two Divisions, to be determined

We have been lucky enough to be invited back to this exciting event for 2015. You will also have the opportunity to play racquetball, handball & one wall paddleball. This year there is also a Pro Handball/Paddleball combined division. This event will be played on the one wall courts and has a prize of \$500. 3 Wallball is also generously offering to anyone who has played in the paddleball events for all 4 years their 2nd division for FREE...and this offer applies if it is your first time at this event as well!

**ALL OF THESE EVENTS WILL HAVE SIGN-UPS THRU R2 SPORTS.COM
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG**

The WRT's San Diego Open was a coming out for Gearbox in the paddleball community, showcasing their sleek new 300 and 325 gram paddles in a \$2000 pro division. The paddleball final put first seeds Emmett Coe and Danny Lavelly (a regular on the World Racquetball Tour whom Alvaro Beltran has called his "new sparring partner") against third seeds Chris ("The Crippler") Crowther and Seung Jun Jeon, one of the top racquetball players from South Korea. The prize money seemed to have awakened The Giant (Crowther) who has been absent from paddleball tournaments for several years now.

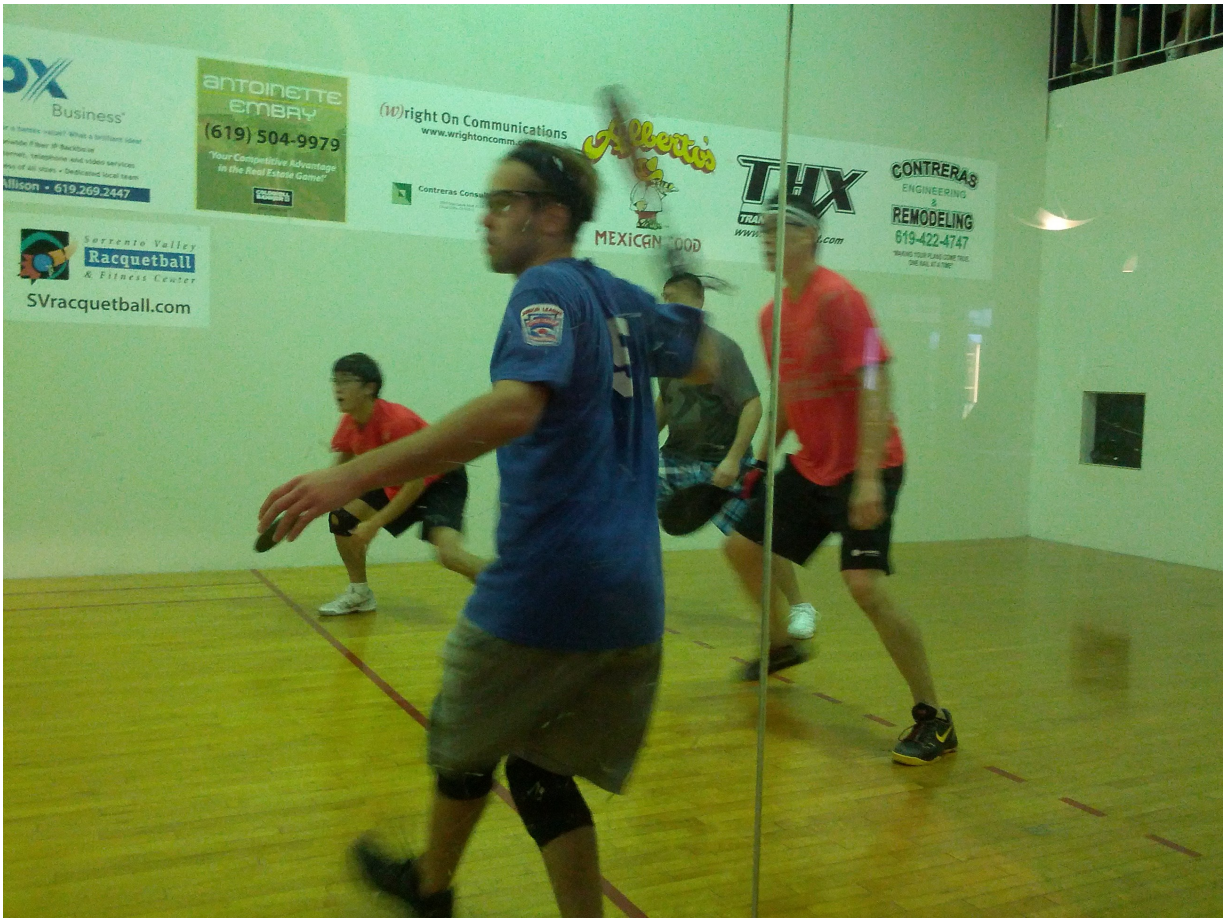
All of these players are incredible athletes in superb states of fitness. Jun holds a university degree in kinesiology from South Korea and has been working as a trainer in Southern California. He has one of the most perfect swings in racketsports and has been playing paddleball at Sorrento Valley Racquetball and Fitness Center for most of the past year, getting regular guidance from Emmett Coe and Charlie Brumfield. Lavelly is new to paddleball but is an extremely talented racquetball player with deceptive speed and a very big swing. For the most part, it was Coe and Crowther on the left with Jun and Lavelly on the right, but Chris and Jun started switching back and forth in the middle of the second game. Ironically, there was only one Gearbox paddle in the final match. That was Lavelly's. Crowther and Jun both played with Pratts and Emmett Coe played with a Sting.

The final, with all of the prize money on the line, began with a surprisingly long offensive rally lasting at least 30 shots. There were diving gets, offensive cutoffs, and great covers. The rally ended with Coe skipping a very difficult kill. The remainder of the match was filled with similar, grueling rallies. At one point in the first game, Coe sensed Crowther leaning back and hit a sharp reverse pinch to victimize him. Jun came all the way over from the right to the extreme front left with a horizontal diving get to pick up the dying quail and keep the rally alive, which eventually went to Jun and the Giant. The first game remained dead even until 10-9, then Jun and Chris broke out, winning the first 15-10.

The second game was all Coe and Lavelly. Lavelly's deep lob serve proved difficult for Jun, and eventually Jun and Crowther switched sides. Coe and Lavelly went up 10-0 before Chris and Jun could score. At 13-2, they played another 30 shot rally in which every player had to dive for a get at least once. Coe had come up and Crowther blasted a pass to the back left which Lavelly had to move at least 25 feet get. He hit a diving smash into the back wall that lofted to the front. Coe cutoff Jun's return and Coe and Lavelly went on to win the rally and take it to game point. They closed the second game 15-2.

The breaker was played to 11. Chris and Jun were pulling out all the stops and switching sides to keep the pressure on the less experienced Lavelly. But Coe and Lavelly came back strong to bring it all but even. At 8-9 and with the serve, Lavelly had an opportunity to tie the score but mishit a ball for a side out. Coe hit a winner off Jun's next serve putting the match in Crowther's hands. After a long rally, Chris put the ball away to bring up match and tournament point, 10-8. Chris closed the match with a perfect crack ace drive serve that rolled out of the crease in front of Lavelly. Match to Jun and the Giant, in a tight 11-8 tie breaker.

By Jamie Lawson



2015 NPA Midwest Singles and Grab Bag Doubles

Bronson Athletic Club, Kalamazoo, Michigan

January 17th & 18th

By Jim Owens

Wiz Wins Again!

It wasn't easy, but "The Wiz" collects two more singles titles: defeating Brandon Creamer in the Open final and Robert Stone in the 45+ Division final.

It is common knowledge in the paddleball community that Hall of Famer Mike Wisniewski has more singles titles than anyone in the history of the game. Remarkably, he claimed his last previous open singles title in 2010 at age 53 at the National Championships in San Diego, California; certainly an age defying feat.

When I congratulated Wiz after the open final, he declared that it's been 5 years since he has played in a tournament and hasn't pulled, torn, or strained something. Well, it's simply amazing a player at age 58 can raise his game to the level Wiz did at this tournament. At times, he got into "a zone " where he executed one amazing kill after another in characteristic Wiz fashion.

He beat some very talented players. Mike's opponent in the 45+ Division, Robert Stone, is one such player. Robert covers the court extremely well and just does not understand how to quit. When you play against him, you can expect he will retrieve several of your shots that normally would be sure points.

A focused Brandon Creamer, Wiz's opponent in the open final, has clearly upped his game. He played extremely well in this tournament, particularly in the final. Brandon has been competing in racquetball tournaments the last few years with considerable success. So much so, that he was awarded a sponsorship from Gearbox. Brandon credits his training in racquetball for his improved paddleball game.

The A Division final was particularly hard fought, featuring two very fast players with considerable potential: Adam Koehler and Joe Baldori. Adam, who trains with Wiz in Bay City, prevailed. It was a significant achievement for this young player.

There were moans when players saw Mitchell and Swendris listed at the top of the grab bag doubles draw sheet; undoubtedly, two of the best doubles players in paddleball. Hall of Famer Andy Mitchell on the left and master Jim Swendris on the right, their preferred sides.

However, they've played together a time or 2 before and neither were pleased with their past outcomes. Their notably contrasting styles caused problems. These two veteran players were challenged at times in this tournament but managed to keep it together in the Open Division Grab Bag and claimed the title, defeating Ed Maher and Don Kirkconnell in the final.

The Kalamazoo area Bronson Athletic Club was a good host--a comfortable, modern, and well-utilized facility with a friendly and helpful staff.

Lorri Brigham ran another smooth tournament, which featured an abundance of entertaining and close matches. She noted there were more tie-breakers than normal. Complete results and photos on next page.



OPEN

- 1st Mike Wisniewski (Bay City, MI) 19-21, 21-11, 21-16
- 2nd Brandon Creamer (Lansing, MI)
- 3rd Don Kirkconnell (Kalamazoo, MI)



A

- 1st Adam Koehler (Bay City, MI) 21-12, 8-21, 21-11
- 1st Scott Schrum (Kalamazoo)



GRAB-BAG B—INDIVIDUALS

- 1ST—Scott Schrum
- 2nd—Jim Howland

NOT PICTURED

45+

- 1st Mike Wisniewski (Bay City, MI) 21-14, 14-21, 21-10 (pictured above upper left)
- 2nd Robert Stone (Jackson, MI)

45+B

- 1st Andy Mitchell (Kalamazoo, MI)
- 2nd Ed Maher (Kalamazoo, MI)
- 3rd Jim Owens (Ann Arbor, MI)

B

- 1st Ted Wray (Jackson, MI) Round Robin

Grab Bag Open

- 1st Jim Swendris (Ann Arbor, MI) & Andy Mitchell (Kalamazoo, MI) 21-17, 21-17
- 2nd Don Kirkconnell (Kalamazoo, MI) & Ed Maher (Kalamazoo, MI)
- 3rd Robert Stone (Jackson, MI) & Adam Koehler (Bay City, MI)



Grab Bag A

- 1st Joe Baldori (Lansing, MI) & Jim Owens (Ann Arbor, MI) 21-18, 21-18
- 2nd Alex Westervelt (Kalamazoo, MI) & Jim Holland (Westland, MI)

Paddleball

REPRINTED FROM THE BATH AND RACQUETBALL CLUB NEWSLETTER IN SARASOTA FL

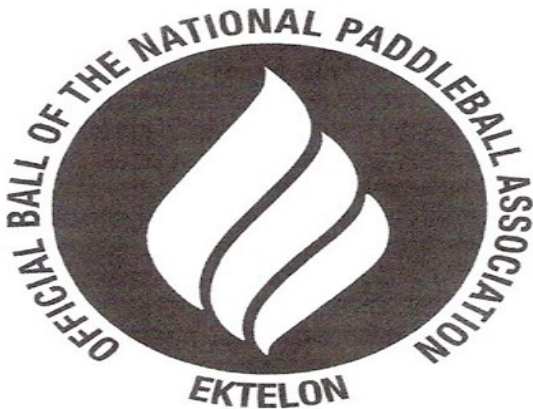
There has been a quiet revolution in the works at B&R and that's the introduction to paddleball at the club. Many of you have never seen it, but paddleball was actually invented in 1930 by Earl Risky, a Physical Education instructor and later director of Intramural Sports at the University of Michigan.

Paddleball is similar to racquetball and played on the same court. It can be played with two, three or four players. The main difference is that due to playing with a solid paddle in lieu of a strung racquet and a lower compression ball that is slightly larger, the game is much slower than racquetball. The result is longer points that use more of the court. A lot of people find it more physical and much easier to learn as well. Paddleball games are played to 21 instead of 15 as in racquetball.

Any tennis player would love to play paddleball and would make an excellent addition to your training or an alternate activity on a rainy day or with friends of different levels. The club even has paddles and balls for you to use if you want to try it out. Check with the front desk or ask John Schneider.



John Schneider is pictured on the right. He and Basil Baker brought paddleball to the club



A reprint from Madison WI newspaper from the early 1960's, submitted by Bo

Every Week 350 Men Bang a Ball Against a Brick Wall

Madison Becomes a 'Hotbed of Paddleball'; Y Is Headquarters

By JOAN KRAPPFEL

MORE THAN 350 MADISON businessmen, top professional people and University students jump into their sport clothes, grab a paddle and head for the YMCA to participate in a sport that is rapidly gaining popularity across the country. The game is paddleball—an exciting, challenging and excellent sport for physical conditioning.

Madison has played an active part in promoting the sport, which involves banging a ball against a brick wall.

Madison often is referred to as "paddleball headquarters" and a "hotbed of paddleball" and the country's two top players—Paul Nelson and Bill Schultz—are both from Madison.

Nelson, owner of the Arbor Motel, is currently national singles champion. William Schultz, General Secretary of the YMCA who is writing a book on paddleball, was the nation's strongest player in 1963 as well as the 1962 national champion.

Paddleball is played in a four-wall rectangular court. The official tournament size is the same size as the official handball court. The game is played by either two (singles), three (cut-throat) or four (doubles).

"Nobody is quite sure where the sport started," Schultz said. "Some people believe it started at the University of Michigan. Others say they saw the game of paddleball played on the streets of Chicago and New York in the 1920s where boys played off the walls of the big, old buildings. We in Madison have traced the game to Florida where it was played in the YMCAs in the 1920s.

Jim Demetral brought the game to the Madison YMCA from Florida in 1927. The Madison players considered the sponge ball used in the sport too slow and removed the covers from tennis balls to speed up the game. The ball was still not right for a good skill game, so Dr. Frederick Joachim began the practice of punc-

ture the balls with a fine needle, removing enough air from the balls to give them the correct bounce and proper pressure for the game.

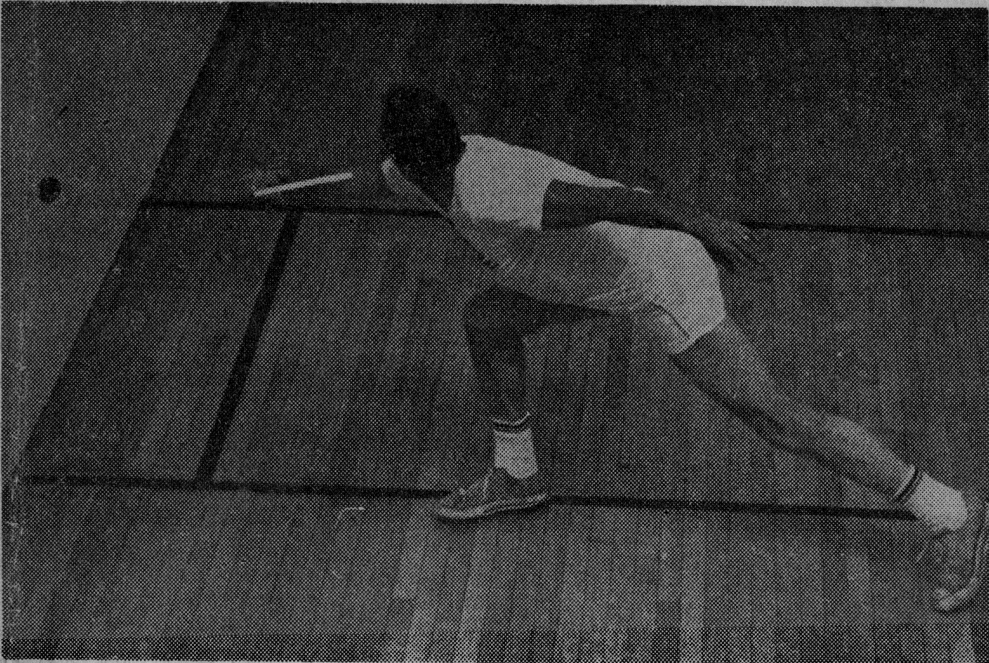
"It was then that paddleball started to become a game of skill; new techniques developed in stroking the ball, shots and serves," Schultz said.

By the late 1940s, the game was being played in most of the cities in Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. Madison players who moved to other communities carried their paddleball equipment and skill with them and introduced the game to other sports-minded people.

Today paddleball is being played in over 200 athletic centers, including YMCAs, athletic clubs, schools and colleges. The first two national paddleball championships were held in 1961 and 1962 at the Madison YMCA. Entries came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Delaware, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. The first National Paddleball Committee was organized and standard rules and regulations governing paddleball were established. Fred Zitzer, YMCA physical education director, is chairman of the National Paddleball Committee.

"One of the reasons paddleball is so popular is because it eliminates the danger of hand injuries which so frequently happens playing handball," he said. "This is particularly true for doctors and other professional people who use their hands a lot."

Some of Madison's more avid players are Fred Gage, Rupert Cornelius, Dr. Jack Kammer,



Paddleball champ Bill Schultz is writing a book about the sport that has attracted more than 350 Madison men to the paddleball courts

at the Madison YMCA. Paddleball players throughout the country refer to Madison as "Paddleball Headquarters."

Tony Stracka, Bernard Schomberg, Russell Briggs, Dr. William Bartlett, and Dr. Curtis Weatherhogg.

George Hall, chairman of Hyland Hall and Co., and candidate for mayor, plays about three times a week.

"Loren Cockrell and I used to call ourselves the grandfather team and we challenged any other two grandfathers with a sum of 23 grandchildren to play us," he said. "Paddleball is an ideal sport because you can slow it up or make it faster according to your age and stamina.

Hall plays with both hands.

Red Wilson, Madison Bank and Trust Co., who is an ex-baseball and football player, likes the sport because of the amount of exercise and fun the sport offers in a limited amount of time.

"Paddleball offers the participant to become engrossed in a competitive sport during a lunch

hour or short periods after work. It is a competitive game which makes you think about the game and not the fact that you are playing just to get exercise."

Arthur Benner, president of Marschall Dairy Laboratory, who is in his early 60s, says "The game is an excellent way to unwind after a busy day. It promotes physical conditioning and helps control weight." Banner often plays with Richard Kocher, executive vice president of the laboratory.

Dr. Joachim says, "The game does not require the sophisticated techniques of tennis or badminton, but it provides a vigorous and enjoyable workout in a short time.

Paul Nelson, who has been playing for 15 years and is the current national champion after competing with 60 top players across

the country last year calls the sport "a great conditioner for a man of any age."

Schultz is writing a book about the sport. Under the chapter heading, values of paddleball, he says, "for young people it has the value of being a sport that has a carryover value" into later life. Too many people in today's society, ages 18 through 25, quit exercising and working-out and quit playing good wholesome games for fun and recreation.

"Paddleball is a game that a person will enjoy from the first time he plays. It is not difficult to get the thrill of competition right away.

"But, above all, the person who has learned paddleball will have an appreciation for physical activity and the result will be a youthful life all his life."

In the next issue of the NPA newsletter we will have an article on Bill Schulz, a National Champion From the 1960's and a Madison WI area player.

2015 Midwest Doubles Championships

By Jim Owens

The Midwest Double Championships took place in East Lansing, Michigan at the Michigan Athletic Club, clearly one of the nicest clubs in the country, February 21st and 22nd.

Regrettably, it was the smallest Midwest Doubles tournament in recent history. It did run smoothly and the participants apparently had a very good time. The tournament featured a number of long, close, and exciting matches, several tiebreakers.

Results

Chad Krager (Bay City, MI) and Andrew Price (Saginaw, MI) claimed their third consecutive **Open** Midwest Doubles Championship. Mike Wisniewski and Andy Pappas finished second in the round robin.

Natalie Gilbert (Saginaw, MI) and Andy Mitchell (Kalamazoo, MI) won a highly contested **Mixed Doubles Division**.

Two veteran doubles players won **70+ Combined**: Andy Mitchell (Kalamazoo, MI) and Jim Swendris (Ann Arbor, MI), defeating Mike Wisniewski (Bay City, MI) and Adam Koehler (Bay City, MI) 21-13, 21-13 in the finals. Joe and Sam Baldori (Lansing, MI) finished third.

Sam Holtz (Ann Arbor, MI) and Bill Lott (Ann Arbor, MI) defeated Jim Howland (Livonia, MI) and Paul Toth (Dearborn, MI) in the **A Division** final, 21-12, 21-8.

Jim Howland (Livonia, MI) and Paul Toth (Dearborn, MI) won the **B Division** over Jim Price (Saginaw, MI) and Nathan Kauffman (Saginaw, MI) in an exciting final, 21-17, 21-17. Tim Stone (Jackson, MI) and Chris Burke (Jackson, MI) finished third.

Randy Allar (Grand Rapids, MI) and Dick Brouwer (Grand Rapids, MI) defeated Bill Jamrog (Bay City, MI) and Andrew Gallagher (Bay City, MI) for the **C Division** Crown in a very hard played and close final, 21-20, 21-17.



Andy Mitchell & Natalie Gilbert



Chad Krager & Andrew Price



Randy Allar & Dick Brouwer



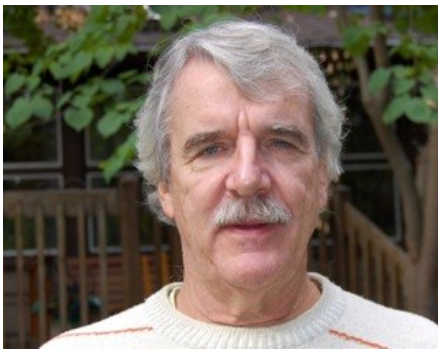
Andy Mitchell & Jim Swendris



Sam Holtz & Bill Lott



Paul Toth & Jim Howland



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hall of Fame

Judy Shirley, Carla Teare, and Caprice Behner were voted in, each having impressive tournament records. Judy and Carla plan on attending the induction at National Singles in Davison, March 21st. Caprice resides in Bonaire, an island in the Dutch Caribbean near Venezuela this time of year, so regrettably, will not be able to attend. Caprice will send an acceptance statement, which will be read at the induction ceremony.

R2

Will be used for tournament sign-up for National Singles, National Doubles, and the 3 Wall Ball World Championships. We will decide whether or not to use R2 next season at our summer Board of Managers meeting. The NPA has been encouraged to give R2 a try by several people both inside and outside our association. Racquetball and Handball associations use R2, so this has the potential of providing a common platform. Please let board members know if you think we should continue or not with R2. If you have difficulty signing up for a tournament, please contact Lorri Brigham or me.

3 Wall Ball World Championships

Scheduled for Sept. 23-27 in Las Vegas. Lorri will be the paddleball tournament director. Aaron Embry and I will assist. Refer to the article in this newsletter or visit paddleball.org for information.

WRT

The premiere of the Open/Pro Paddleball Division at the San Diego Open created a buzz. There is a Jamie Lawson article in this newsletter reporting on the exciting final. WRT is now promoting paddleball, marketing two new paddles and a ball. This is truly a growth opportunity, and we owe thanks to Gearbox and to Aaron Embry, in particular. In this time of diminished numbers, this is a breath of fresh air.

Ektelon

Scott Winters and his assistant Amy were terminated. I called Scott and expressed appreciation for his solid support of paddleball. He told me there is a chance he'll play in National Doubles.

Fortunately, Hank Marcus, the 2013 Earl Risky Award recipient, remains with Ektelon and will serve as our primary contact.

In a phone conference February 16, 2015, Hank introduced me to the new head of Ektelon, officially the Vice President in charge of Ektelon and Viking, Ben Porter. Ben apologized for the last shipment of bad balls and assured me Ektelon will produce a quality paddleball. The replacement shipment is in transit and is scheduled to arrive in Michigan in mid-March. Two new Ektelon paddles are due to be on the market in mid-April.

Matrix Paddles

Is the new name for Don Kirkconnell's paddle business, and he has two new models.

Paddles Then—Paddles Now

Pictures and information of all the new paddle options can be found on paddleball.org. Click on the Earl Risky signature paddle.

Jim Owens

NPA President

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

One of my many laments about paddleball over the years has been the disappearance of the ladies from competitive action.

Oh, every once in a while you might find a woman in a tournament but she is playing in a men's division. But in the old days there were dozens of women players in their own divisions. And there were some who carried a mean paddle. They were darn good. And they looked better and smelled better.

Where did they all go?

Well, for some, they started families and we all know how rushed and busy that can be. So in most cases, they stopped competing. There were more important needs on their agenda.

There was an outstanding trio of women who were tops in their field -- Caprice Behner, Carla Teare and Terry Smith.

Caprice won nine national singles titles, Carla five and Terry four. It was a joy to watch them with their great skills.

There were other women's champions -- Kathy Williams, Donna Valerie, Pat Krise, Judy Shirley, Grace Louwsma, Cindy Cook and Brooke Schneider.

And of course, several others made it difficult for the better players.

Maybe we should call in Charlie Chan and ask him to figure out the MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE MISSING WOMEN PADDLEBALLERS. O.K?



TERRY SMITH



CARLA TEARE & CAPRICE BEHNER

Over the holidays, Martha Fehrman spent the day at the Saginaw YMCA to play paddleball with her dad, Paul. Martha is a personal fitness trainer and blogger who now resides in Northern California's Bay area. While there, she had the opportunity to meet and play with many of the players that call the Saginaw Y their home. She was so enamored with the Saginaw Y's paddleball group that she decided to write a blog about paddleball and those that play the sport in her hometown. Even though this was written about those that play in Saginaw, the theme of the blog is universal among those that love the sport for what it is and how it brings those people together and how they inspire the best from each other.

Please click the link below and enjoy.

Jim Price

<https://weirdfitness.wordpress.com>