

WINTER 2014

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NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION



Entrikin's Streak

Todd Entrikin of Riverside, California captured his second consecutive National Open Singles title at his home club, The Tournament House, March 2, 2014. Todd was sharp! He easily defeated the 2008 National Open Singles Champion, Aaron Embry of San Diego, in the open final, 21-6, 21-14.

The talented Emmett Coe of San Diego tested the reigning champion in the first game of their semi-final match; Todd prevailed 21-20. As for the second game, Todd won 21-10.

The Western Doubles Championships were run concurrently with the National Singles, so Entrikin teamed with Riverside's Dale Valentine to claim an additional Open Division title.

Todd has not lost a paddleball tournament match since September of 2012, impressively claiming seven titles: National Open Singles—2013 & 2014, National Open Doubles—2013 with Kelly Gelhaus, Western Open Doubles—2013 with Mike Orr and 2014 with Dale Valentine, Western Open Singles—2014 (there was no Western Singles Tournament in 2013), 3-Wall Ball World Championship Professional Division—2013 with Dale Valentine.

The next test is the 2014 National Doubles Tournament in Lansing, Michigan, April 11th-13th. Can Todd earn his sixth National Open Doubles title and continue the streak?

2014 NATIONAL DOUBLES – AT ONE OF THE BEST CLUBS IN AMERICA

By Lorri Brigham

Don't miss your chance to play in the 2014 National Doubles at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, MI. For those players living in Michigan, you will not find a geographically easier facility to get to. For those of you outside of Michigan, it is worth the drive, flight, boat ride – whatever it takes to get you there. The courts are in great shape with both full back glass walls for viewing and a catwalk above for those of you who enjoy being interactive with the players. The locker rooms are top notch with the best amenities of any club I have ever been to. There is a great restaurant on the first floor of the club. Heck, if it is nice out, there are even two outdoor courts to keep you entertained. Let's make this year's National Doubles one of the best turn out in years. You won't regret the trip.

Playing at the IM Again - The Midwest Singles

By Jim Owens

The NPA Midwest Singles Championships and Grab Bag Doubles were held January 11th and 12th, at the University of Michigan's Intramural Sports Building (the old IM). Earl Risky started our version of paddleball with a wooden paddle and a tennis ball minus the fur at this very facility in 1930.

Numerous veteran players told me it was nice to be back at this unique and historic facility. Several players noted the special feeling the place possessed.

To get a taste: At the IM, you have to walk down a spiral staircase to get onto a court, and the walls and ceiling are made of hardwood, just like the floor. At this tournament, several players spent considerable time viewing the display case that documents paddleball history with an abundance of Lou Giampetroni pictures and displays. The IM is a special place.

Andrew Price of Saginaw, MI, an Ektelon team member, captured a second consecutive NPA Midwest Open Singles title. His opponent in the final, as was the case last year, was the talented Kevin McLaughlin of Kalamazoo, MI.

McLaughlin put the defending champ to the test, winning the first game 21-19. But, the skillful Price responded, claiming games two and three, 21-15 and 21-5.

Price had little trouble enroute to the final, defeating Joe Baldori of Lansing, MI 21-5, 21-10 and Don Kirkconnell of Kalamazoo, MI 21-1, 21-11.

Andrew was impressive once again.

Bay City's Adam Koehler certainly had the most unusual pair of outcomes: captured the B crown and finished 3rd in C. He defeated Ann Arbor's Ron Harris in the B final, 14-21, 21-12, 21-11. The C champ beat Adam in the C semis.

That C Champ was Ann Arbor's James Reid. After defeating Adam in the semifinal, James beat Joe Pomathy, also of Ann Arbor, in the final 21-10, 21-15.

In the Golden Division final, Ann Arbor's doubles master, Jim Swendris, out played me (Jim Owens) 21-10, 21-11.

When I saw the results of the random draw of teams for the Grab Bag, I made a prediction: Don Kirkconnell of Kalamazoo, MI and Jim Swendris of Ann Arbor, MI would win. They did, defeating the team of Brandon Creamer of Lansing, MI and Sonny Salazar of Adrian, MI 21-19, 21-14.

It was certainly nice to be back at the "Old IM."

SEE PHOTOS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE OF THE TOURNEY WINNERS



ANDREW PRICE
OPEN CHAMPION



ADAM KOEHLER
MEN'S "B" CHAMPION



JAMES REID III
MEN'S "C" CHAMPION



JIM SWENDRIS
GOLDEN MASTERS CHAMPION



JIM SWENDRIS & DON KIRKCONNELL
GRAB – BAG DOUBLES CHAMMPIONS

WHERE HAVE ALL THE TOURNEY PLAYERS GONE?

We want to see more of you a tournaments and hope you can tell us what we can do to make that happen? The number of local players has grown consistently for the past several years, while the number attending tournaments has dropped. Please let us know what we could do to make tournaments more appealing to you as a player. Any and all feedback is appreciated. Please send your comments to:

NPA.paddlball@gmail.com

2014 Midwest Doubles

by Jim Owens

The Bay City, Michigan area team of Chad Krager and Andrew Price claimed their second consecutive Midwest Open Doubles Championship and fourth NPA Open Division title at the Glass Court Swim and Fitness in Lombard, Illinois, February 9th. In addition to the two Midwest titles, they were victorious at the Brigham Classic this fall and in 2011.

The question now is: Can they earn number five when they meet the West Coast talent at the MAC in East Lansing, April 11th -13th?

Don Kirkconnell and Kevin McLaughlin of Kalamazoo Michigan placed 2nd at the Glass Court in the Open Division. Krager and Price defeated Kirkconnell and McLaughlin, 21-15, 21 -17.

It was a very good tournament for Bay City area players. In addition to the open division, they captured titles in the B and Seniors Divisions outright, and Greg Keenan teamed with Russ Tatar of Bloomingdale, Illinois to win the A Division. Keenan and Tatar defeated Eugene Rush of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Kevin McLaughlin of Kalamazoo, Michigan in the final: 21-17, 18-21, 21-17.

In the B Division, Adam Koehler and Scott Wittbrodt defeated Chicagoland's Tony Sindt and Bill Kuhlman in 2 games: 21-8, 21-9

Rick Lukens and Dom Muzzupappa of Glen Ellyn, Illinois beat the Memphis, Tennessee father-son team of Randall and Randy's Slager in the C Division: 21-16, 21-15. Randall and Randy captured the novice title.

In the Seniors Division, Open Champ Chad Krager and Scott Wittbrodt finished first. The Kalamazoo, Michigan area team of Don Kirkconnell and Paul Sylvester came in second.

Andy Mitchell of Kalamazoo, Michigan teamed with Ed Maher, also of Kalamazoo, to capture the Masters title and with Jim Swendris of Ann Arbor for the Golden Masters title.

Doug Hartung of Adrian, Michigan and Paul Sylvester of Paw Paw, Michigan finished second in Masters. Greg Keenan and Mike Wisniewski of Bay City were second in Golden Masters.

Lorri Brigham ran another fine tournament. Several players praised the Glass Court Swim and Fitness, which features eight well maintained courts and a nice bar to gather between and after games. Denny Negrete provided both a great lunch and dinner for all of the players.

Congratulation to winners! Better luck next time for the rest of us.

Thank you Chad Krager and Denny Negrete for all the work they did in making this tournament a success. It was fun!

[Photos of the Midwest Doubles champions are on the following page.](#)

MENS OPEN CHAMPIONS



**ANDREW PRICE (Freeland MI)
CHAD KRAGER (Bay City MI)**

MENS "A" CHAMPIONS



**RUSS TATAR (Bloomington IL)
GREG KEENAN (Bay City MI)**

MENS "B" CHAMPIONS



**SCOTT WITTBRODT (Bay City MI)
ADAM KOEHLER (Bay City MI)**

MENS "C" CHAMPIONS



**RICK LUKENS (Glen Ellyn IL)
DOM MUZZUPAPPA (Glen Ellyn IL)**

MENS NOVICE CHAMPIONS



**RANDAL & RANDY SLAGER
(Memphis TN)**

SENIORS CHAMPIONS



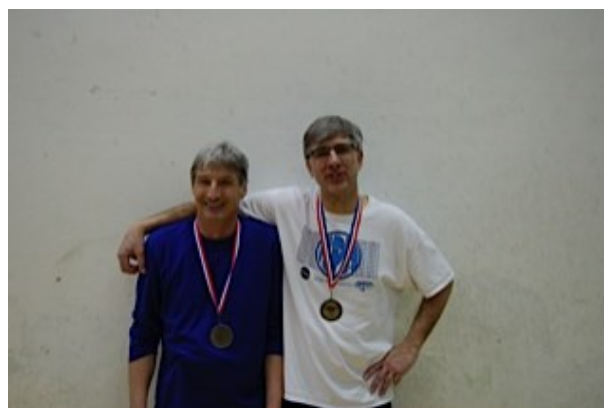
**SCOTT WITTBRODT & CHAD KRAGER
(Bay City MI)**

MENS MASTERS CHAMPIONS



**ANDY MITCHELL & ED MAHER
(Kalamazoo MI)**

MENS GOLDEN MASTERS CHAMPIONS



**ANDY MITCHELL (Kalamazoo MI)
JIM SWENDRIS (Ann Arbor MI)**

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

One of the wonderful pluses of sports is that one can argue forever about the relative greatness of various stars from different eras. Where do you start? How do you start? In the sport of paddleball numbers help determine something,

The open singles championship generally is considered the premier event of the sport, although the national open double champs are no slouches

If you talk with a dozen knowledgeable paddleball aficionados, you just might get close to a dozen different assessments on "The best ever".

Keeley and Wilson played more matches in their quest for titles because there were more participants in open competition, as there was only one division many were unskilled or novice-type players because there was no place else for them. Some might argue that there were more good open players when they participated. Which was true.

With the establishment of B and C divisions, the less-skilled players no longer were forced to play in the open division. The open division has dwindled from the dozens of years ago to a handful now. But that is not the fault of the current players. You enter and you play what's there.

The early decade of tournament paddleball — from 1962 to 1971 — featured some of the best players ever but there was little fanfare for them. The tournaments were small and were made up of professional men - doctors and lawyers, and YMCA officials who could afford the time to travel throughout the country.

Many of the better players took advantage of the booming start of racquetball in the mid-1970s and headed for California. They became associated with Wilson, Spalding, Ektelon and other sports companies and made a few bucks. A pro racquetball tour was started and many ex-paddleballers became very successful. Thus, many of the best paddleballers were gone - to toil on the other court sport.

But the NPA continued to thrive. Ironically, through the establishment of the various lesser divisions, tournament participation increased tremendously.

The NPA tourney numbers have dipped in recent years, despite the rebirth of paddleball in California nearly ten years ago.

Now for more numbers:

Mike Wisniewski has played in 16 of the 52 national singles finals, winning nine and losing seven. That's a little over 30 percent worth of the finals. He deserves a nod for sheer staying power.

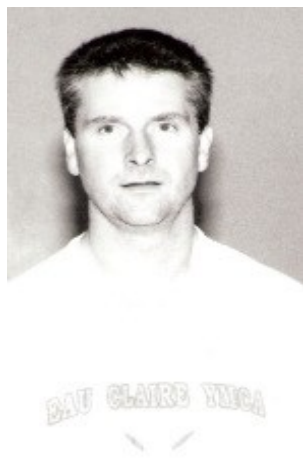
Andy Mitchell has played in ten singles finals, winning three in a row, and losing 7 (not in a row).

Cesar Carrillo has dominated in his three national singles victories, hold his opponents to scores of 3 and 9, 6 and 5, and 4 and 8. That was until he was defeated by Todd Entrikin for the singles crown in 2013 in three tough games.

Steve Keeley won 5 out of 6; Steve Wilson 4 out of 5; Kelly Gelhaus 3 out of 3; Dan McLaughlin won 2 out of 4; the late Mark Kozub also 2 out of 4; Marty Hogan 2 out of 2; Dr. Bud Muehleisen 2 out of 4; Charlie Brumfield 2 out of 3; Paul Nelson 2 out of 3.

So there you are. Great champions covering a period of just over a half-century and winning paddleballs premier event - the national open singles championship.

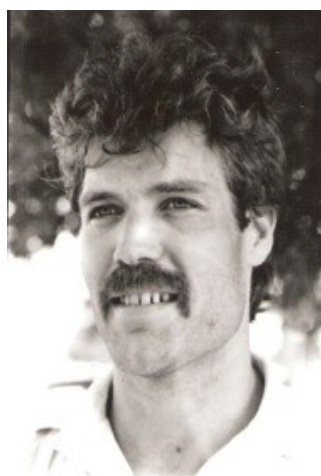
Who's your choice for best-ever?



MIKE WISNIEWSKI



STEVE KEELEY



STEVE WILSON

Some of Lou Giampetroni's choices for

Best players ever— what's your

Opinion? Let the NPA know at

Npa.paddleball@gmail.com



Intense vs Pleasure Workouts By Bo Keeley

With a background in physical fitness for fifty years, as a professional athlete and now amateur athletic nut, the bottom line of training always reaches for one question. Should my workout be for pain or pleasure?

The stock answer is that a workout should be accepted with suffering.

The exception is when there is stress at home, or job, or from the workout itself.

As a racquetball player who ran marathons and biked across America, my daily training for one decade without ever missing a day except for tournaments was:

Bicycle one hour into the wind
Run seven miles
Racquetball match for one hour
Weights for 30 minutes
Practice for one hour
Bicycle into the wind for one hour to hone
Wind down jog for 30 minutes

It is seen from this regimen that there was a combination of intense, painful exercises alternating with moderate ones. The menu was devised to keep the appetite up each morning on rising from and each evening on going to bed.

A purely intense routine is superior for any serious athlete or as a life experiment for the amateur, but in my case there were the stresses of writing articles and books, and a loud household. Also, I discovered over the years, training itself becomes a mental strain from which a break to fun workouts should be added.

Training for fun or profit begins with a choice in location. The advantage of being able to step out the door of home or office at any time of day or night to train cannot be overemphasized. A workout begins with the first step, and if it is directly into the workout there is the advantage of inertia. And there is less time lost from life; Otherwise, why live.

The first step can be onto a bicycle of the neighborhood, jog in the park, or hike along a mountain trail. Virtually every place I ever chose to live was with location for training in mind. If you are, or are planning to become, a pro at a sport, then take root near other pros or a mecca of the activity.

When physical fitness becomes a lifestyle rather than a hobby or job, the highest peaks are reached.

SAGINAW FUN DOUBLES

By Natalie Gilbert

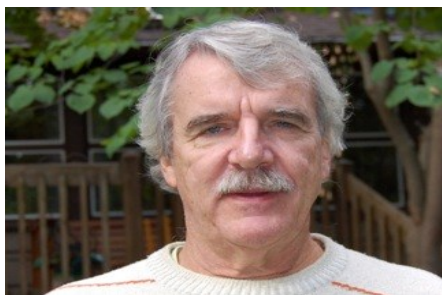
Through the snow, ice and bitter cold, 17 brave men and women made their way to play in the 5th annual Saginaw Fun Doubles tournament held on Saturday, 1/25/14, at the Saginaw YMCA. They were greeted by donuts and fruit. Sandwiches, chips, gatorade and cookies were served for lunch. There were four teams in the A division and five teams in the B Division. Each division played a round robin format.

Randy Wackerle and Sandy DeGrief defeated Eugene Rush and Jim Owens in the A Division 21-14 and 21-12.

Rick Kogelman and Jim Price defeated Jody Henning and Karl Briggs in the B Division 15-8 and 15-10.

All 1st place winners received a \$25 gift card. 2nd place winners received a bottle of champagne. It was a fun one-day tournament.





THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Do you follow the rules? Do you know the rules?

What is a screen?

Rule 4.6 f. Screen: A served ball that passes within a paddle's length of the server's body obstructing the view of the receiver.

Players often call "screen" to indicate a hinder for visual reasons, a visual hinder. No harm as far as I am concerned provided the players on the court realize the intent.

The result for an actual screen and a hinder are in fact different: a service fault for a screen, a replay for a hinder.

Can a visual hinder occur on a serve?

Rule 5.2 a. Dead Ball Hinder: A physical or visual interference that does not qualify as an avoidable hinder (rule 5.3) which prevents an opponent from hitting a retrievable ball.

The rule does not rule out a hinder on a serve, but the receiver should make adjustments to see the ball.

Judgment certainly comes into play. *In tournaments, what happens if you and an opponent disagree and cannot work it out?*

A tournament player may request a referee.

How must the server's partner stand while in the service box during the serve? When can she/he come out of the box?

Rule 4.2 c: During the serve, the server's partner is to stand within the service box (rule 4.6) with his/her back against the wall and both feet on the floor until the ball passes the service line (rule 2.1) with no part of either foot extending beyond the box.

Thus, the server's partner is to remain perpendicular to the front wall and in the service box until the ball crosses the service line
(the front line of the service zone).

Prior to the rule revisions adopted in September of 2012, the partner was to remain in the service box until the ball crosses the short line (the back line of the service zone). Few players complied then. How about now?

What happens when a team serves out of order?

Rule 4.4 b: The service order established at the beginning of each game must be followed throughout that game. Breach—a serve-out. Note--The team violating the service order must be assessed the penalty at the time of the serve or before the next serve. Once a point is scored or a serve-out occurs, it is final.

One player on the violating team should lose his/her service, not both.

The official rules of the NPA may be viewed at www.paddleball.org under the NPA tab.