



NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION

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2014 Tourney Schedule

- * Brigham Classic—Bay City Dow YMCA—November 22 to 24, 2013
- * Midwest Singes Championships—U of M, Ann Arbor MI—January 11 & 12
- * Western Singles Championships—Sorrento Valley Racquetball & Fitness Center, San Diego CA—February 2, 2014
- * Midwest Doubles Championships—Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard IL—February 7 to 9
- * National Singles—Tournament House, Riverside CA—Feb 28, March 1 & 2
- * National Doubles—MAC, E. Lansing MI—April 11 to 13

Charlie Brumfield Honored at Racquetball U.S. Open

By Pete Callstrom

What an amazing racquetball U.S. Open this year. Kane won his 9th. Incredible on its own, but even more notable was the celebration of Charlie Brumfield. The 'People's Champion', the Holder, the man who none other

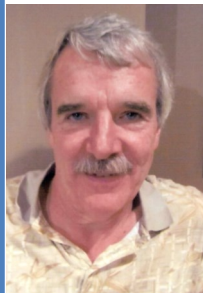
than Marty Hogan asserts is the greatest racquetball champion of all time. Before Kane's semi-final victory, the overflow crowd at the Target Center in downtown Minneapolis was treated to a video that touched on some of the many highlights of his decorated career. Charlie then reclaimed center court (was there any doubt) and presented with the first lifetime achievement award. Momentarily at a loss for words, the millisecond passed and then Charlie graciously accepted the honor before the adoring fans.

That evening, more gathered to hear from some of Holder's long-time friends. As a racquetball fan, looking around the room at who was there was testament to the love and respect all have for Charlie. I can't list them all, but here's just a few you might know... Dr. Bud, Kane, Rocky, Alvaro, Marty, Sudsy, Cliff, Hilecher, Bledsoe, Wagner, Fleetwood, Strandemo, Garfinkle Rajsich, Longoria, Wright and Pillar of Salt (okay, that's me - thanks to Charlie's inimitable gift of nicknames.) The accolades were many, the jokes and respect were worthy of the hall of famers in attendance. A bonus for all of us - the U.S. Open semis and finals will be televised on the Tennis Channel on thanksgiving - with the Holder joining Sudsy and Royster for commentary. Fortunately, the editors will have several weeks to bleep out Holder's F-bombs.

I met Charlie a few years ago at our home club, Sorrento Valley Racquetball. He invited me to play paddleball. As a former open level rballer, I figured paddleball would be easy. Two games and three points later, I understood what it meant to get a tour of court six. For some reason, I was hooked. Maybe it was because I had so much room to improve, or because I enjoyed merciless beat downs and insults with a smile. Tours by Charlie were the best education I could hope for. Steadily improving, I passed up other guys who routinely b-slapped me earlier. I'll never forget the times, the games, the laughs, and the friendships gained as a result of meeting and becoming friends with Charlie. There are few people in life who leave an indelible impact. I am happy to call Charlie my good friend (move your fat a&\$, Salt!)

Photo: Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Pete Callstrom (the author) & Charlie Brumfield





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jim Owens

Our "Godfather" has retired as editor of the "National Paddleball Association Newsletter". Certainly, there is no replacing Lou Giampetroni, but we will do our best to produce a quality newsletter.

At the summer Board of Managers meeting, we decided to publish three editions this coming year.

The thought is to make it a group effort at this point. Lorri and I are to oversee the process.

Several board members have stepped up: Mike Wisniewski has promised several training related articles, "The Wizdom Zone." Jamie Lawson has committed to at least four profiles of legends of the game. Jim Price will report on collaborations with the Racquetball Association of Michigan and other endeavors. Todd EntriKin, Lorri Brigham, and I will continue to report on paddleball issues and write articles.

If you are interested in being part of the process or wish to submit an article or two, please tell a Board of Managers member.

Lou is not completely out of the picture. He will continue to serve as a mentor and will submit articles from time to time.

I asked Lou to provide some newsletter history and to comment on his involvement. He responded:

In the early years, the Rev. C. Gene McElroy put together a large, one-page newsletter -- printed on both sides. I contributed photos and articles for it. This was in the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. From that time until 1990, O.J. Cunningham -- a paddleballer and publisher of a weekly sports magazine in Bay City, Michigan ("Sports Page") -- published an "NPA Official Magazine." I wrote articles and provided photos for that also. Began producing the current newsletter in the early 1990s, Lorri Brigham helped immensely over the years. So I've been involved in the newsletter operation almost from the beginning.

On behalf of the National Paddleball Association, thank you Lou for the countless hours, numerous contributions, and dedication to the organization and the game. You are a pillar of the sport.

TOURNAMENT CHANGES FOR 2014

At the 2013 Board of Manager's meeting some changes were made for the upcoming tournament season.

- ◆ The entry fee has been changed from \$35 per player for the first event to \$40. The extra \$5 will go to "Craig's fund" to help promote paddleball. When the NPA started selling paddleballs we found that there are a lot of areas that paddleball is played. By helping to provide paddles and balls we can help the sport grow throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The entry fee for the 2nd division remains the same. The \$5 bump will also apply to late entries or entries by non-members of the NPA.
- ◆ We will be changing the requirements for age divisions in doubles events with a goal of growing the divisions. Both players can meet the minimum age requirement for each division—Seniors 35 / Masters 45 / Golden Masters 55 / Platinum Masters 65...or the players can have a combined age as follows: Seniors 80 / Masters 100 / Golden Masters 120.
- ◆ We are going to offer a grab-bag doubles event at the Midwest Singles Championships to be held at the U of M in Ann Arbor this year. We will offer 16 spots in each of an Open and B division (to make 8 teams in each). It is the Board's hope that this will encourage more play at the tournament. The grab-bag event will also be offered at the Brigham Classic in Bay City, as it was last year.

Bits & Pieces

- ⇒ **Keep the NPA informed of your tournaments or paddleball events. Contact local the webmaster at www.paddleball.org or lbrigham@yahoo.com**
- ⇒ **Like us on Facebook. Post pictures of local events or comments on paddleball**
- ⇒ **The new shipment of paddleballs has arrived!**

NPA and RAM

The 2013-14 season marks the first season in many that the National Paddleball Association and the Racquetball Association of Michigan will work together to cross-promote the two very similar sports. It is very fitting for this unique relationship to be developed in Michigan given the rich history both sports share in this state. Ask any paddleballer and they will be quick to explain how paddleball was invented by Earl Risky at the U of M in the 30's. Michigan Racquetball is proud to have great players such as Jack Huczek, Mike Yellen, Chris Cole, and Jimmy Floyd who excel at both a state and national level. More recently, Brad Schopieray from Davison has been ranked as high as #15 on the IRT tour and Cliff Swain (the greatest of all time) now calls Michigan home and can be seen at many of the RAM tournaments.

Both Twayne Howard (RAM President) and Jim Owens (NPA President) have endorsed an ongoing collaboration to help ensure the future of our respective sports and to utilize existing courts to their fullest potential. Twayne notes, *"From racquetball's earliest days in Michigan, its best players have always been paddleballers and that cross-play continues to today. With the shared goal of court usage and preservation, I look forward to our sports doing great things."* Jim Owens remarks, *"Several of RAM's Hall of Famers have played paddleball. Many of the best tournament paddleball players started off in racquetball. Many of the best early tour players in racquetball transitioned from paddleball, including Charlie Brumfield and Steve Keeley. Numerous court players play both sports in Michigan. Collaborations with RAM and the NPA just make sense. Thank you, Jim Price for starting this effort. Thank you, Jen O'Meara and Twayne Howard for embracing it."*

Both sports need an influx of young players and we hope to see efforts to encourage young players to pick up either a paddle or a racquet and spend some time learning these games. Don Schopieray (RAM Vice-President, Junior Committee Chair, USAR Board of Directors member, National Junior Committee Chair) has been very successful with a junior racquetball program in Michigan that has developed two great young players, Andrew Price and Brad Schopieray among others. Andrew has utilized his years of racquetball experience to help capture 2 regional paddleball titles and the RAM 2013 State Open title last season. Andrew adds, *"Playing paddleball and racquetball offer many benefits. Paddleball is great conditioning for racquetball and makes you a better all around player. Also, by playing both sports, you get to meet people from all walks of life which is one my favorite parts of being involved with these sports."* While Brad, the 2012 RAM State Champion, continues to enjoy success on the IRT tour. Don Schopieray promotes his junior program by saying *"Indoor racquet sports in general encourage young kids to un-plug and get into some healthy, fun activities. Paddleball and racquetball are games that at the start are very easy to learn, if you can hit the front wall you can play, tennis on the other hand can be too challenging for a very beginner or junior player, this I feel give us an advantage when it comes to keeping the kids interested and involved"*

Future Paddleball Newsletters and Racquetball Reporter publications along with Facebook and webpage content will include news and tournament schedules for each sport. If you look closely, I am sure you will find an event near you. Both paddleball and racquetball are great spectator sports, better yet, give it a try and sign up for a division- you might surprise yourself and enjoy the challenge of a new sport.

By Jim Price

To view the RAM schedule go to:

WWW.MICHIGANRACQUETBALL.NET

NPA WEB STORE

Browse through a great selection of logo wear and gear.

Go to www.paddleball.org and click on "store" on the top banner



NPA HALL OF FAME

By Jim Owens

At the 2013 National Doubles Championships in Riverside, California, the National Paddleball Association launched a Hall of Fame. Todd Entriakin, vice president, and Lorri Brigham, vice president/treasurer, had proposed the idea a few weeks earlier at the National Singles Championships in Lombard, Illinois.

The board promptly passed Entriakin and Brigham's proposal and concurrently put forth nominations for the 1st set of inductees. It was decided to select just two inductees this first year.

The choice for the first to be inducted was an easy one: Andy Kasalo and Andy Mitchell. It is hard to imagine any doubles team ever matching the record amassed by this dynamic team from Kalamazoo, Michigan, "the Andys". They dominated the open doubles division for 22 years.

They earned twenty National Open Doubles titles from 1981 to 2003. Fifteen of those titles were captured in consecutive years. Kasalo was hampered by several injuries, if not for that, "the Andys" could very well have claimed more doubles titles.

In addition to this impressive doubles record, Kasalo earned open singles national championships in 1988 and 1992.

Mitchell, still one of the best in the game, earned eighteen additional national titles: three open singles, one seniors singles, two seniors doubles, five masters singles, five masters doubles, one golden singles, and one golden doubles. Mitchell is certainly expected to add to his thirty-eight national titles.

Both of the Andys have served on the NPA Board of Managers. Both have been awarded NPA's highest award for contributions to the sport, The Earl Risky: Kasalo in 1981 and Mitchell in 1997.

Mitchell remains an active board member, one who provides a valuable perspective on NPA issues.

Quotes from Lorri Brigham and Lou Giampetroni follow.

For those players who were not around in the days of the "Andy's" it is impossible to describe watching them play together. It was not only their individual talent – of which they each had plenty – but the way they worked together as a team. I have never seen that level of communication in another doubles team. They were a pleasure to watch play. I swear sometimes it almost looked choreographed – it was that fluent. As an ardent member of the "Kalamazoo Touring Team" it was fun to see the spirit, the "ooh's and ah's", the wall slapping done by the fans that came with watching them play. They definitely earned the honor of being the first inductees into our Hall of Fame.

Lorri

Selection of the Andys is a no-brainer.

They dominated the doubles game in all of the 1980s and all of the 1990s. And then some. They did not just run away with all of their matches. It just seemed like it.

The Andys won 20 open national doubles titles. The closest to that total? Four -- by Dick Jury and R.P. Valenciano, who dominated the sport in the 1970s the way the Andys did in the next two decades.

Of their victories, 17 were in two games. That tells you something right there. Two of their losses were in three games. Jury and Valenciano defeated the Andys in two games, 10 and 20, in 1979. But it was the latter's first big-time match -- and the only time they faced each other.

The Andys was the best paddleball doubles team ever -- and it's unlikely that anyone will see anything like it again.

Lou Giampetroni

We would like to have your nominations for the 2014 Hall Of Fame inductees. Voting is open from now until December 31, 2013. Instructions and a site to vote will be on the website soon.

3WALLBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Todd Entrikin

Once again, over 500 racquetball, handball, and paddleball players invaded the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada this past September.

For the first time, paddleball offered a One-wall Big Ball Division (played with a racquetball) that brought out some of the greatest and best players in one-wall paddleball. The finals saw Robert Sostre and Andy Krosnick defeat Michael Dembin and Neil Pickett in a very exciting final. I would suggest to anyone who has never played this type of paddleball to do so. It is fast paced and fun, even though I got my butt handed to me.

The best line of the tournament came when Brian Pinada and Emmett Coe played Robert and Andy; Andy was rolling everything out and the only thing Brian could say is that Andy is "boring." I guess that happens when you play the "GOAT" of one-wall.

I would like to thank all the one-wall players for coming out and showcasing this great sport. I hope to see you and more one-wall players next year.

In the Pro-paddleball Division, we saw a rematch of last year's finals: defending champs Emmett Coe and Brian Pinada vs. Dale Valentine and Todd Entrikin. This year we saw a different outcome though, with Valentine and Entrikin winning in the tiebreaker.

Brian and Emmett took a controlling first game lead of 13-2 before Dale and Todd started to figure things out; coming all the way back to win the game 15-13. The second game once again started out 10-0 in favor of Brian and Emmett; only this time there was no answer—they beat Dale and Todd 15-5. The tiebreaker saw a flip-flop with Dale making a sliding get (he left some of his knee on the court) in the right corner and rolling the ball out. Due to Dale's play, he and Todd were able to win the third game and championship 11-3.

In the Open, we had 3 Riverside players playing in the finals as Vince Carlone and Albert Gutierrez (Riverside, CA) defeated Mike Myers (Riverside, CA) and Eugene Rush (Ann Arbor, MI) in two games, 15-9 15-13.

In the "A" Division final, we had Rigo Marin (San Diego, CA) and Nate Taylor (San Diego, CA) defeating Scott Winters (New Nope, PA) and Mike Augustin (Bensalem, PA), 15-13 & 15-8.

I would like to thank the paddleball sponsors for all their help: Vince Carlone from Liquid Nitro "real energy no bull", Albert Gutierrez from ABG Construction, Mike Augustin from 40by20.com, Son from OneShot, and EKTELON. Without their help, this tournament for paddleball would not have been such a success.

We owe a huge thanks to the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino for letting us take over their parking lot and casino for the week, also Hank Marcus and WOR (World Outdoor Racquetball), Steve Lerner, the tournament director and all his staff, David Vincent from WPH (World Players of Handball), Ektelon and all the other sponsors that made this event happen. The most important person I would like to thank is Mike Couler owner of 3wallball; the person who makes all of what you see possible, without him we would not have this great event to go to. Lastly, thank you to all the players and fans for coming out. Hope to see you all next year.



Todd Entrikin, Dale Valentine, Champions, Center Vince Carlone with championship cup donated by Liquid Nitro

The WIZdom Zone

Training tips, practice drills and game strategies from Mike Wisniewski and friends, discussed and illustrated for all to learn and improve at the sport of paddleball.

Having played the sport of paddleball for over 40 years, I have been mentored by some of the greatest players and motivators the sport has ever seen both on and off the court.

Achieving 23 national titles, nine of which were in Open Singles is a testament to the training tips, practice drills and game strategies I have learned and used over the years. Now I wish to share them in this column.

A section of the NPA web site will be dedicated to the discussion of many topics for those who love the sport and want to improve their skills and game strategies.

Find the "Wizdom Zone" on the NPA website, www.paddleball.org.

Salute to Bay City Area Paddleball

Like last year, the NPA will launch the 2013-2014-paddleball tournament season at the beautiful Bay City Dow Y. The Board of Managers was very pleased with last year's Brigham Classic; the Y and the Bay City players were eager to do it again. So, arrangements have been made. Sign-up early at www.paddleball.org and join us for doubles in Bay City November 22nd -24th.

Mid-Michigan paddleball players have captured numerous championships over the years. The 2012-2013 season was another good one for the area, capturing at least a share of 10 championships in NPA sanctioned tournaments. Individuals from the area also contributed a great deal to the running of the NPA.

Andrew Price was on a tear this past year. He defeated Kalamazoo's Kevin McLaughlin to claim the Midwest Open Singles title. At Midwest Doubles, he picked up two more championships: open and mixed open. In open doubles, Andrew teamed with Bay City's Chad Krager to defeat the Kalamazoo team of Andy Mitchell and Kevin McLaughlin in the final. In the mixed open division, Andrew and Natalie Gilbert of Saginaw captured the title over the second place Ann Arbor team of Judy Shirley and me (Jim Owens).

This young Ektelon sponsored player also won the 2013 Racquetball Association of Michigan's Open Singles Championship. The talented Price had additionally won the RAM open crown in 2011 and finished 2nd in 2010 and 2012.

Andrew's older brother had a very good year in paddleball as well. Jim Price claimed both the Midwest and National Singles titles in the C division and was appointed to the NPA Board of Managers.

Jim has served as the point man for NPA's involvement in WOR's, World Outdoor Racquetball, 19th and 20th Annual Belle Isle Fun Doubles Tournaments. This has provided paddleball players with another interesting variation of our great sport and has exposed several outdoor racquetball players to paddleball. I think paddleball is a good game outdoors.

In his first Board of Managers' meeting, Jim proposed that the NPA consider developing a ranking system for players. Jim and Todd Entrikin are currently exploring possibilities.

The Racquetball Association of Michigan's 2013-14 tournament schedule will be posted on www.paddleball.org, and NPA's schedule will be posted on RAM's webpage. There is also a conversation between the two organizations as to how to promote paddleball and racquetball in the state of Michigan. Jim Price is the driving force for this collaboration.

The NPA has a fresh and versatile new website. We owe thanks to Thomas Bodary for all the work he did for the organization and the quality product he developed. I have received numerous compliments from paddleball players and others on www.paddleball.org's new look. I particularly like having access to videos to show non-paddleball players what an exciting game paddleball is.

Thomas is a big promoter of the game. Mike Wisniewski, Chad Krager, and Jim Price have all noted to me that Thomas is often seen encouraging others to pick up a paddle and try the game. At the Belle Isle tournament this summer, I saw him talk a young racquetball player into hitting the ball around with him between tournament games and selling the benefits of paddleball.

Thomas and Andrew Price were paired in the grab-bag paddleball doubles event in this year's Belle Isle Fun Doubles and finished in first place.

Yes, another good year for players from and around Bay City. The NPA is better because of all the contributions from people like Randy Wachlerle, Mike Wisniewski, Chad Krager, Jim and Andrew Price, Thomas Bodary, Natalie Gilbert and other area players.

[Join us for doubles in Bay City, November 22nd -24th.](#)

If you would like to help promote paddleball we can always use your help.

You can make a donation to "Craig's Fund" thru the website or by contacting Lorri at LBRIGHAM@YAHOO.COM, or by sending a check made out to the NPA to: 7642 Kingston Dr., Portage MI 49002 (please note that the donation is to "Craig's Fund")

Any amount is appreciated and all funds donated are used exclusively to promote the sport of paddleball. Even if you no longer play, we hope that paddleball has given you many pleasant memories and a few great stories to tell.

Player Profile: Carl Loveday--The Honest Thief

By Jamie Lawson

All paths to understanding West Coast paddleball run through Carl Loveday, even though Carl started in the midwest. His mother, a struggling, Depression era single parent with chronic financial problems, abandoned the boy at a St. Louis YMCA where he grew up and spent much of his youth. Badminton was a regularly scheduled activity at the Y, and Carl played almost every day. The sport was an expression of his impeccable hand-eye coordination. He developed an extremely efficient swing and became a great player, winning the 1946 national titles in both singles and doubles.



Murders Row—The Founding Fathers of The Pacific Paddeball Association: Carl Loveday, Dr. Chuck Hannah, Charlie Brumfield, Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Al Chamberlain

San Diego was a hotbed of badminton play, and home to national badminton champions like Dave Freeman and most of the Thomas Cup Team (which was like the Davis Cup Team, except for badminton instead of tennis). So San Diego was a natural draw, and when Loveday's first marriage broke up, he found his way from St. Louis to San Diego.

San Diego's Balboa Park was and remains the home of both the local badminton club and the table tennis club, both of which have produced multiple national champions. The old Municipal Gymnasium--and later the neighboring Federal Building--in Balboa Park was set up for basketball one day, badminton the next morning, table tennis in the afternoon, volleyball after that, etc. As a result, players received exposure to other people and other sports. In fact, Marten Mendez started in basketball, watched the badminton players, tried his hand and won several national titles. It was much the same for Loveday, who famously challenged one of the table tennis champs to a ping pong game, with Loveday using the sole of his shoe for a paddle. Loveday won the match, after which his opponent, in frustration, cast his paddle into the rafters where it reportedly remained until the building was converted into the San Diego Hall of Champions a few years ago. No doubt, Charlie Brumfield learned to use the sole of his shoe as a paddle from watching Carl Loveday.

Loveday's ability to move between sports, and the diverse nature of activities at the old Federal Building, brought Loveday and Bud Muehleisen together. Muehleisen was a similar multi-court-sport savant; a tennis player in college who more than dabbled in badminton. The two met on a badminton court in about 1950 according to Muehleisen, and they faced each other in a citywide tournament in 1953, where Loveday defeated Muehleisen 15-10, 15-10. The two had become good friends by then.

Several years later, they discovered that each had also played a bit of paddleball though at different YMCAs, and they decided to team up for some doubles; a teaming that proved successful from their first casual match. They progressed in paddleball together for a number of years and then in 1966 decided to travel to Ann Arbor for their first NPA national competition, of which Muehleisen says: "At that tournament you were only allowed to enter one event so we entered the 35 & over Doubles which was a very popular division. I was 35, Carl was 46. We arrived a couple of days early and were housed in student housing. Snow was on the ground, a temperature of 3 degrees was prevalent and you had to walk to the Main Gym which was about 4 blocks. By the second day, Carl came down with a terrible "cold" and remained in bed for 5 days except for going to the courts to compete in our matches. We won that tournament and that was the beginning of many National tournaments traveling together in both Paddles and racquetball."

Together, Loveday and Muehleisen developed the so called "San Diego swing", which was closer to the badminton swing than was the midwestern paddleball swing. Their San Diego swing led to a different style of paddleball game, and because it began with a badminton racket in mind, was also more amenable to the racquetball rackets that began to arrive in the 1960s, causing many of the Southern California paddleball players, including Loveday and Muehleisen, to pick up rackets and define a new sport.

There is a piece of folklore--unverified but probably true--about Loveday that explains much. The story reads like a plot summary of *Kelly's Heroes*. Loveday was stationed in Europe in World War II, and in an abandoned town his platoon discovered a bank that had been destroyed by aerial bombing. The money was free for the taking and Carl "knew a guy who knew a guy" who could change the money into US dollars. He came back from the war a man of means. He built a large sporting goods store simply called "Loveday's" in downtown San Diego, and he ran that store for several decades.

The "knew a guy" part of the story reflects an essential aspect of Loveday's character, an aspect that made him so important to the development of paddleball. Perhaps because he was orphaned as a child, he actively cultivated a circle of friends and family around him and was the center of that circle. He was well liked by, and loyal to his friends. Former racquetball pro Dan Factor describes Loveday as "an honest thief. He would take a point from you and you'd love him for it!" Loveday's grandson Kirk Loveday (an open level paddleball player himself) agrees, saying "he did it with charm, and that charm was always on display." But Kirk adds that his grandfather was not much for words, saying it was more like "watch what I do and follow along." Through that style of leading by example, Loveday became coach and mentor to many Southern California paddleball players, and many of the founding generation of racquetball players including Charlie Brumfield, Marty Hogan, Steve Keeley, Dan Factor, and Rich Wagner. Loveday was also one of the charter members of the Pacific Paddleball Association, a famous San Diego institution and single court facility where up and coming players would go to get beat. As Steve Keeley describes the place, "They arrived at the PPA doorstep, got trimmed one by one by these gents, and went on to use the lessons to become national champs."

With the spectre of racquetball in Southern California, wooden paddles were mostly relegated to attics or trophy cases by the 1970s. Loveday competed in racquetball into the mid-1990s, and won his last national title in the 65+ doubles age group in 1986. Carl lived hard, and it eventually took its toll on him. He ate well and drank well, and his cigars were the stuff of legends. He was known to light up a thick stogie during timeouts or between games, or when any excuse entitled him to do so. In later years he also suffered from joint problems and was slow on his feet, limiting his ability to play at the highest level, even in age group competition. Kirk Loveday recalls that his grandfather coached him that footwork was the most crucial tool for good play; lots of small steps instead of a few big ones. It was this footwork that Carl lost in later years. At the end, Carl was overwhelmed by diabetes, which made him quite ill for his last few months and eventually took his life. He passed away in September, 2001, just a few hours before the 9/11 attacks.