

2017 Brigham Classic

This season's Brigham Classic returned to the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA in Bay City, Michigan, January 21. Tournament Director Chad Krager made sure all participants played lots of paddleball.

The newly NPA adopted round-robin format debuted, in which all teams played each of the other teams in the division a 21-point game and were ranked according to the sum of the points scored. The first and second ranked teams according to the new format were to play a match for the championship, and the third and fourth ranked teams were to play for third. Instead, Chad constructed a seeded bracket, involving all teams based on the rankings, insuring that each team played at least eight games. There were some exhausted players at the end of the day.

The Open Division champs, who were the youngest team by far in the division, still looked pretty fresh after the final: "the kids", Joe Baldori of East Lansing, Michigan and Adam Koehler of Bay City, Michigan. They defeated Dennis Negrete of Schaumburg, Illinois and Chad Krager of Bay City, Michigan in the final, 21-8, 21-12.

The B Division final was an endurance contest. Bill Jamrog and Pat O'Shea of Bay City, Michigan prevailed over Jim Price of Freeland, Michigan and Rick Kogelman of Linwood, Michigan, 21-19, 19-21, 15-11.

Don Kitson and Kerry Snow of Clarkston, Michigan defeated Dominic Muzzupappa of Bloomington, Illinois and Todd Stockmeyer of Reese, Michigan, 21-14 21-12, in the C Division Final.

This tournament was a clear success: well-run, with good food, lively conversations, a nice facility, and lots of exciting competitive paddleball.

Jim Owens