

NPA

(INDOOR / FOUR-WALL)

National Paddleball Association

WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NPA, 7642 Kingston, Portage, Mich. 49002

NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2010-2011

Carrillo grabs 2nd national singles crown

Cesar Carrillo is batting 1.000 in his two appearances in National Paddleball Association national singles championships.

Carrillo, 32, of Memphis, TN, captured his second such title on March 20, 2011, at the Forest View Racquet Club in Arlington Heights, IL, near Chicago.

He topped Dennis Negrete, 43, of Schaumburg, IL, 21-6, 21-5, in the final.

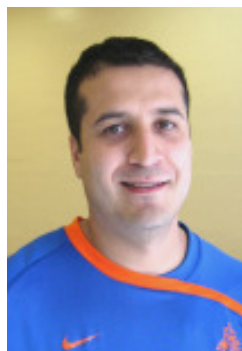
Carrillo, a sales representative for a paper and chemical supply company, also won the NPA national singles championship in 2009.

Carrillo defeated Joe Baldori, 21-11, 21-5, in the quarterfinals and Chad Krager in the semifinals.

The champion had his hands full with Krager, who lost, 21-18, 21-14.

"I feel that I should mention Chad Krager for his incredible performance in the

semifinals," said Carrillo. "His height and mobility forced me to shoot with more precision to put the ball away.



Carrillo

"I was also impressed with his touch of the ball."

Although he handled Negrete comfortably, Carrillo said "I respect (his) ability to shoot the ball. I knew going in that I was going to have to use my legs in order to keep up with his strong backhand and forehand."

Negrete topped Don Kirkconnell, 20-21, 21-15, 11-8, in the quarterfinals and nine-time national champion Mike Wisniewski, 21-17, 15-21, 21-11 in the semifinals.

Please see CARRILLO, Page 2



Al Storey (right), one of paddleball's class acts, will observe his 90th birthday on June 15. The many-time champion has been a mentor to many players over the years. Check Page 5 for more details.



The ball problem

By CHAD KRAGER

Ladies and Gentlemen of the paddleball community:

As the lead on the quest to find a manufacturer for our paddleball, we can assure you that great progress has been made since the last issue of the newsletter.

There are many rumors out there and many are fairly accurate and others are, well, rumors.

The official stance of the NPA on our ball manufacturer search is that we have a few irons in the fire.

One company, which we are not at liberty to reveal at this juncture, has stepped up in the last month and produced the first round of demo balls.

These balls were then tested by some 15 people. Upon completion of the ball testing, there was a brief survey that the testers had to complete.

Please see BALL PROBLEM, Page 2

The champ was on his game – again!

(Editor's Note: This article was written by Jim Owens, a longtime player and a member of the NPA Board of Managers.)

Cesar Carrillo put on another impressive display at the 2011 National Singles Championships.

This marks Cesar's second National Open Singles championship, also winning in 2009.

These are the only two NPA tournaments he has entered and has yet to lose a game.

His opponent in the 2011 final, Dennis Negrete, managed to score 6 points in the first game and 5 in the second.

In the two tournaments Carrillo has played, most of his opponents have scored fewer than 10 points a game.

Chad Krager from Bay City, Mich., is the only player to have provided a truly competitive match. Chad lost in this year's semifinals, 21-18, 21-14, to Cesar.

The match featured numerous strings of textbook positioning, great shots, incredible gets and counter kills.

In this year's open final, time and time again Negrete would make an apparent backhand kill with his characteristic explosive backhand swing, only to have Cesar dive onto his abdomen and flick in an unreturnable counter kill.

On the court, this year's champion displayed an uncanny ability to view and anticipate both his opponent and the ball. He consistently demonstrated remarkable catlike agility as he flew around the court.

Cesar Carrillo was truly impressive once again.

BALL PROBLEM

Continued from Page 1

We are pleased to report that the majority of the surveys graded this first run of balls as acceptable.

Granted there are some minor tweaks to make in efforts to get the ball similar to the Penn P-100, but this is GREAT NEWS!!!



Krager

The fear of having to use racquetballs or racquetballs w/nail holes or skinned tennis balls is officially over.

Now, the time-line.

We have extreme confidence that we can get through the remaining demo cycles and come to terms to begin distribution by late summer/early fall.

This is well in time for the 2011-2012 Paddleball Season.

Certainly, we wish to under-promise and over-deliver on this "release to market" time-line.

We thank you for all the concern and input that we have received from several folks in the community, as without your commitment to the game, then none of this is possible.

Close loss for Baker

Casey Baker, of Ann Arbor, Mich., a former NPA junior champion, took all-time national singles champ Mike Wisniewski to the limit in the 2011 National Singles tourney.

In a quarterfinal match, Baker won the first game, 21-20, but then lost the next two, 21-7, and 11-10 in the tiebreaker.

CARRILLO

Continued from Page 1

Carrillo said he decided to sit out last season's Singles Tournament "due to the birth of my son (Sebastian Edward) and having pneumonia."

Regarding Carrillo, Negrete said: "You just can't pass a person or kill the ball that won't allow it to happen. Man, he was tough.



Negrete

"I hit everything I could. Of course, I missed a lot but his shots were so consistent. I tried to kill, he would rekill. I tried to pass and the ball came back just as fast.

"I stuck it to the wall, he returned a splat.

"When we got done, I told him that there was another level of open and he was it.

"He tried to convince me that there wasn't but that's just how nice Cesar is.

"It's good to see what you have to improve on in order to get to that next level of the game and I sure got a first-hand look this weekend.

Negrete, who is an assistant manager at the Elk Grove Park District golf course, had to be exhausted because he also played in the final of the Seniors division against Krager, of Bay City, Mich., which he lost.

"Don't know what happened to Wiz," said Negrete. "He didn't seem to have that command I usually see.

"You go against a player of his caliber and you just hope to do well. So, was I happy to win that match? Heck yeah.

"I can always say I beat the Legend in the Nationals even if I didn't win it all."

-- LOU GIAMPETRONI

2010-2011 NPA Schedule
National Doubles: April 15-17,
2011, Sorrento Valley Fitness
Center, San Diego

2011 NPA NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONS



CESAR CARRILLO
OPEN



DON KIRKCONNELL
MEN'S A



MARTIN GONZALES
MEN'S B



JAMES CAMASTO
MEN'S C



LEVI BAER
NOVICE

National Singles Results

March 18, 19, 20, 2011
Forest View Racquet Club
Arlington Hgts., IL

OPEN: Cesar Carrillo, Memphis, TN def. Dennis Negrete, Schaumburg, IL, 21-5, 21-6; 3rd, Chad Krager, Bay City, MI. Consolation: Joe Baldori, Arlington, VA

MEN'S A: Don Kirkconnell, Kalamazoo, MI def. Joe Baldori, Arlington, VA; 3rd, Russ Tater, St. Charles, IL. Consolation: Tony Mogle, Jackson, MI

MEN'S B: Martin Gonzales, Tinley Park, IL def. Dino Hamiti, Oswego, IL; 3rd, Jack Tamplin, Batavia, IL. Consolation: Paul Nicotra, Hanover Park, IL.

MEN'S C: James Camasto, Naperville, IL def. Adrian Montes de Oca, Mexico City; 3rd, Roberto Ferie, Germantown, TN. Consolation: Nick Tomczak, Glen Ellyn, IL.

NOVICE: Levi Baer, Chicago, def. Keith Brown, Bloomingdale, IL.

SENIORS: Chad Krager, Bay City, MI def. Dennis Negrete, Schaumburg, IL.

MASTERS: Andy Mitchell, Kalamazoo, MI def. Jamie Lawson, San Diego.

GOLDEN MASTERS: Charlie Brumfield, San Diego, def. Andy Mitchell, Kalamazoo, MI.



ANDY MITCHELL
MASTERS



CHAD KRAGER
SENIORS



CHARLIE BRUMFIELD
GOLDEN MASTERS



GIFTS LIKE GOLD -- There's been a tradition that is much welcomed by paddleballers in the Ann Arbor, Mich., area. It's in the One-On-One Club that Jim Sterken (in hat) doles out precious balls to players. He dons that Santa cap and during the holiday season distributes a sleeve to players. He doesn't really make them "beg" for the balls. This was merely for photographic purposes. Sterken said: "This is not a big deal. About five years ago, I started giving the Ann Arbor paddleball players (plus honorary Ann Arborites ... who come to play here a lot) a 3-pack of paddleballs for Christmas. I usually give out about 20 3-packs."

-- PHOTO BY SCOTT LAWRENCE



Do you know who this guy is? No, not Craig Melvin of Kalamazoo, MI, who was playing in the 2011 Midwest Doubles at the Michigan Athletic Club in E. Lansing, MI, in February -- his first tourney in a couple of years. The guy on his shirt. Is he a paddleballer?

MIDWEST DOUBLES RESULTS

(Michigan Athletic Club, E. Lansing, MI, Feb. 12, 13, 2011)

OPEN: 1st, Chad Krager-Dennis Negrete; 2nd, Andy Mitchell-Mike Czabala.

MEN'S A: 1st, Brandon Creamer-Ron Malecki; 2nd, Mike Czabala-Jeremy Wheaton; 3rd, Ted Wray-Robert Stone.

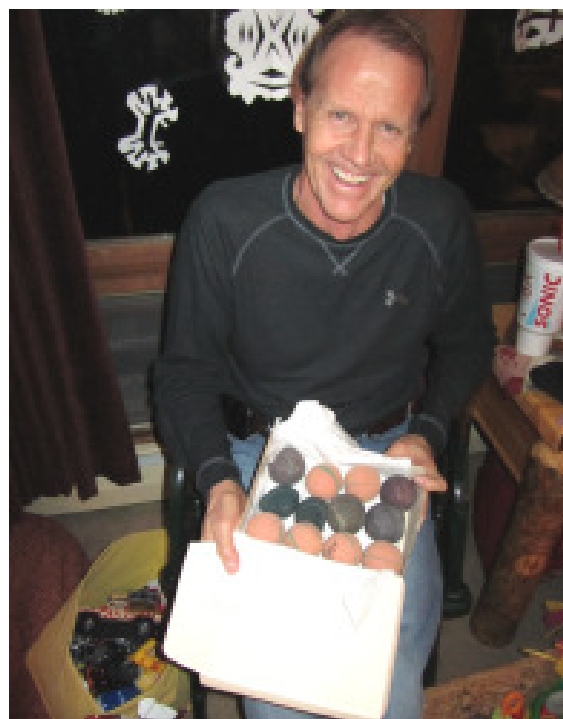
MEN'S B: 1st, Sonny Salazar-Paul Sylvester; 2nd, Rick Clewis-Ron Harris (Eugene Rush subbed in final for Harris); 3rd, Eugene Rush-Scott Lawrence.

MEN'S C: 1st, Andy Pappas-Jim Howland; 2nd, Sonny Salazar-Natalie Gilbert.

SENIORS: 1st, Chad Krager-Dennis Negrete; 2nd, Don Kirkconnell-Jeremy Wheaton.

MASTERS: 1st, Jim Richter-Jim Swendris; 2nd, Ted Wray-Robert Stone.

GOLDEN MASTERS: 1st, Jim Sterken-Jim Swendris; 2nd, Andy Mitchell-Bob Berg; 3rd, Jim Owens-Randy Wackerle.



In these tragic times when paddleballs no longer are being manufactured, players might be forced to try anything to continue the great game. A friend of Scott Lawrence (above) gave him an old Penn Athletics box containing a dozen balls from the mid-1970s. Each when dropped from a height of 6 feet (they're supposed to bounce up to 3 1/2 feet) probably got up to about three inches.

Storey nears 90th birthday

PB's Elder Statesman

Al Storey, who has been playing paddleball competitively since the late 1970s, will be 90 on June 15.

Storey, of Ann Arbor, Mich., is the former director of the University of Michigan extension service.

He had played paddleball in the late 1940s but not in earnest until 1978 and now has become a fixture in the sport.

Storey won the first national golden masters singles title and won six of the first eight such championships. He also won two golden masters doubles titles.

His philosophy includes a strong love for sports and has played most of them over the years.

In an interview 10 years ago, I asked Storey if he would be playing paddleball at age 90.

"I guess I hope to be playing at 90 but I don't think about it," he said.

"I'm reminded once in a while that I'm a bit older," Storey has said. "But I don't feel that way around paddleball people. I find the young people exceptionally interesting and I always feel welcome among this whole group."

Al still is playing the great game.

-- LOU GIAMPETRONI



The all-business, all-everything Storey in action.



Storey was honored in October, 2009, at a luncheon hosted by the Ann Arbor, Mich., players and friends.



When he was a kid.



With the NPA's Sportsmanship Trophy he received in 1983.



2011 WESTERN DOUBLES
SORRENTO VALLEY RACQUET CLUB
SAN DIEGO CA
FEBRUARY 5TH

The tournament was a round robin format, with the teams accumulating points for each point scored in each match.

The 2nd place winners in Mens "C" are 17 and part of the Sorrento Valley after school program – playing for only 6 weeks! Nowland who took 3rd is also 17 and in the after school program.

MENS OPEN

CHAMPIONS: AARON EMBRY & STEVE TRENT (84 POINTS)
SECOND: MIKE CZABALA & JAMIE LAWSON (79 POINTS)
THIRD: DAVE "MOP" RAYTINSKI & JOE "SKI" SIEMENOWSKI (62 POINTS)
FOURTH: BOB RICHLAND / BOB "HILLBILLY" PFAU (52 POINTS)
FIFTH: WARD LEBER / EMMETT COE (45 POINTS – INJURY)

MENS A

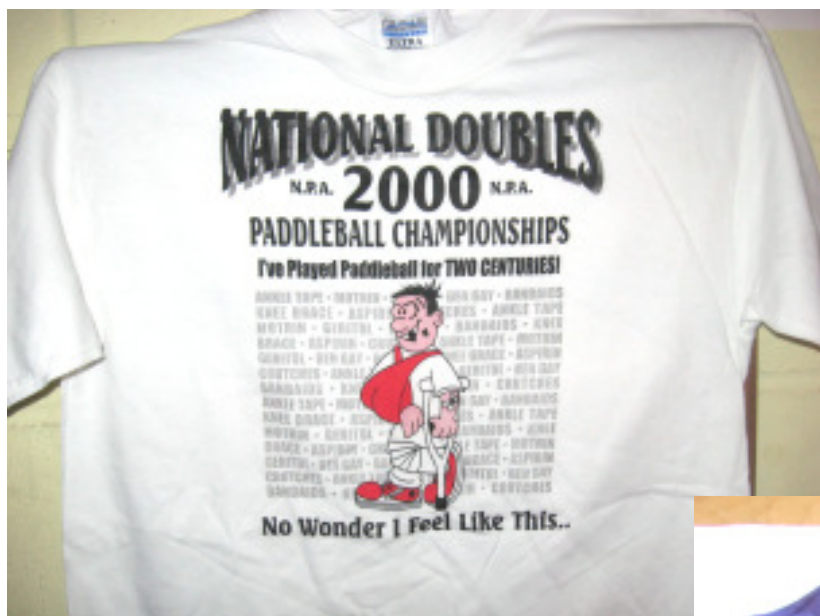
CHAMPIONS: CHARLIE BRUMFIELD/JOHN FACLONER (104 POINTS)
SECOND: ROXANNE DAVIS/ BOB RICHLAND (100 POINTS)
THIRD: GREG FIORI/ SAM CHOUKRI (91 POINTS)
FOURTH: EMMETT COE/ BRIAN HAMPTON (83 POINTS)
FIFTH: JOHN FLEISHER/ NATE TAYLOR (74 POINTS)
SIXTH: CAMILO SANTISTABAN/MICHAEL CHEEK (73 POINTS)

MENS B

CHAMPIONS: MIKE ALCORN/ DAVE JOHNSON (105 POINTS)
SECOND: RYAN HASE/ LARRY MURRAY (99 POINTS)
THIRD: COREY DONOHOE/ JEFF THON (83 POINTS)
FOURTH: RIGO MARIN/CECILE DONELLY (77 POINTS)
FIFTH: MICHAEL CHEEK/BEN BAKERINK (75 POINTS)
SIXTH: NATE TAYLOR/ GREG SWANSON (62 POINTS)

MENS C

CHAMPIONS: DAMON AFUALO/ STRYDER THOMPSON (126 POINTS)
SECOND: J. P. RIOS/ LUCAS MORALES (102 POINTS)
THIRD: JIM HORNE/LUKE NOWLAND (86 POINTS)
FOURTH: AARON "LEFT-HANDED" EMBRY/ ANDREW TABAR (84 POINTS)



Appealing apparel

I don't know about other paddleballers but I really like the wearing apparel players receive for entering NPA tournaments.

As a matter of fact, I often am a walking advertisement for the NPA because I probably wear PB sweat shirts and T-shirts almost on a regular basis with my street clothes. And they wear well.

They're colorful, warm and distinctive. I've played in a lot of tourneys over the years so I have accumulated a bundle of the shirts.

And guess who has the responsibility of ordering the wearing apparel? Why it's Lorri Brigham, the NPA secretary-treasurer, who does that in her "spare" time along with her many, many other duties.

The lady has very good taste.

-- LOU GIAMPETRONI

" You can observe a lot just by watching."

-- Yogi Berra

PADDLEBALL PROFILE



Keenan

Greg Keenan just started playing paddleball about five years ago but he apparently is going to stick around.

Keenan, 50, of Bay City, Mich., said: "It looked like fun and it's a great workout."

What does he enjoy about the game?

"Everything," he said. "Mostly the camaraderie of the guys."

Keenan, a hearing care specialist, said he has won "a couple of B titles."

He and Scott Wittbrodt won the open division championship in the 2010 Bean-Smith Tournament in Bay City, Mich.

Regarding the NPA tournaments, Keenan said:

"Lorri does an awesome job!"

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