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NEWSLETTER / SUMMER 2011-2012



Cesar Carrillo ... the 2012 NPA singles champ.

Carrillo grabs third NPA national singles crown

(Editor's Note: This article was written by Mike Wisniewski, nine-time NPA national singles champion and a participant in the 2012 national singles tournament in San Diego.)

1st seed, Cesar Carrillo; 2nd seed, Todd Entrikin; 3rd seed, Kevin McLaughlin; 4th seed, Mike Wisniewski.

Whoever set the draw up picked the seeds perfect; they all finished just as they were seeded, as if predetermined.

Cesar Carrillo, the 2011 NPA open singles champion, pulled off a rare back-to-back win by cruising to a 1st-place finish at the 2012 National Singles Paddleball Tournament held March 16, 17, 18 at the Sorrento Valley Racquet Club in San Diego. He topped Todd Entrikin, 21-4, 21-8.

Said Entrikin of Perris, CA: "Cesar played lights out. I don't think anyone was going to beat him. Congrats to him. It's back to playing more and working out more for me so I will be ready next year."

Please see CARRILLO, Page 2

West Coast 'kids' are national doubles champions

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

A couple of West Coast "kids" beat the older guys in the NPA National Doubles Championships final April 15 at the Michigan Athletic Club in E. Lansing, Mich.

The kids -- Emmett Coe and Brian Pineda -- topped the defending champions, Mike Wisniewski and Todd Entrikin, 11-21, 21-19, 21-11.

It was a show of strength as Coe and Pineda hit laser shot after laser shot in the second game and tiebreaker.

It was amazing how much power each generated. They're not very big, especially Coe who looks like an eighth-grader with a beard.

It was the first major open paddleball championship for Coe, 20, of San Diego, and Pineda, 25, of Fountain Valley, CA.

Wisniewski, of Bay City, MI, who will be 55 in August, and Entrikin, 31, of Perris, CA, each has won

Please see DOUBLES, Page 4



Emmett Coe (left) and Brian Pineda.

CARRILLO

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The weather in San Diego for this tournament was unseasonably cold this trip.

It was just the opposite for the open champion who was really hot and proved once again he is the "singles king."

He did it with a display of shots, mental toughness and the ability to ignore pain to get the job done, and done in a very gracious way that is both respectful of his opponents and the sport.

Even though he had a painful elbow injury, Cesar was able to generate the heat when necessary and make pin-point power pass shots and uncanny flat roll-outs from both sides of the court.

It was really nice to see paddleball played at this high of a level.

Cesar looked like he was on cruise control and missed very few opportunities and generated offensive shots from seemingly defensive positions.

So Carrillo, 32, of Memphis, TN, who won his first championship in 2009, has won three of the last four NPA open singles titles. He did not play in the 2010 tourney.

Watching the final, one would note how quickly it was over. For some unknown reason, the real Todd Entrikin was not in the house.

Todd had trouble right from the get-go, with Cesar's perfect court control and ability to not miss when shooting.

With Entrikin being one of the game's best getters and counter-killers, it was thought this would be a final match-up of the decade.

As it turned out, Cesar was in complete control of the court and was able to keep his opponent off balance and guessing as to where the next shot would rattle in for a winner.

Cesar rolled through the two games in barely 30 minutes. One viewer claimed that Todd gave up the last six points without much fight.

Carrillo defeated Brian Pineda of San Diego, 21-15, 21-11, in a quarterfinal and Wisniewski, 21-8, 21-5, in a semifinal.

Entrikin topped Jacob Varela of San Diego in a quarterfinal match, 21-8, 21-5, and Kevin McLaughlin of Bloomington, IND, 21-20, 18-21, 21-4, in a semifinal.

McLaughlin defeated Wisniewski, 21-13, 16-21, 21-16, for third place.

This year's tourney might have had the youngest open field ever, with 6 out of 8 players in their early to mid-20s.

This is a good sign and a tribute to none other than Charlie Brumfield who has mentored and kept the fire burning in many players.

He is simply the best promoter of our sport ever!

Champ played hurt

Cesar Carrillo, the 2012 national singles champion, said he almost didn't enter the tournament because of an injury.

"I did not feel at 100% going into the tournament due to an arm injury," he said. "I did not hit the ball for three weeks in order to be able to compete.

"As the games progressed, I began to feel more comfortable and my level of confidence increased.

"I believe at this level of competition, there is not an easy match, even if the score does not reflect that. I respected all my opponents."

Carrillo said Brian Pineda gave him a tough, first-round game.

"The kid can really move, and he is a good shooter, too. It is exciting to see new players like him competing in the sport.

"The Whiz -- it was an honor to be in the court with such a legend. I admire his long-time competitive spirit."

Carrillo said Todd Entrikin "really has great strokes, and can shoot from any angle. I had to focus extra hard for this match, knowing that he is capable of executing great shots."

Carrillo said he "tried to play as much as I could prior to the tournament, Maybe I overdid it since I got tendonitis along the way.

"In fact, I made the decision to cancel the trip due to the fact that I could not grip my paddle.

"If it was not for the encouragement of my good friend, Roberto Vasquez, I would not have attended this year."

2012 National Singles Results

(March 16, 17, 18 -- Sorrento Valley, San Diego)

OPEN: Cesar Carrillo, Memphis, TN, def. Todd Entrikin, Perris, CA, 21-4, 21-8. Kevin

McLaughlin, Bloomington, IND, def. Mike Wisniewski, Bay City, MI, 21-13, 16-21, 21-16, for third. Consolation: Brian Pineda, San Diego.

MEN'S A: Brian Pineda, San Diego, def. Joe Baldori, Arlington, VA; Steve Price, San Diego, was third. Consolation: Sam Menache, Irvine, CA.

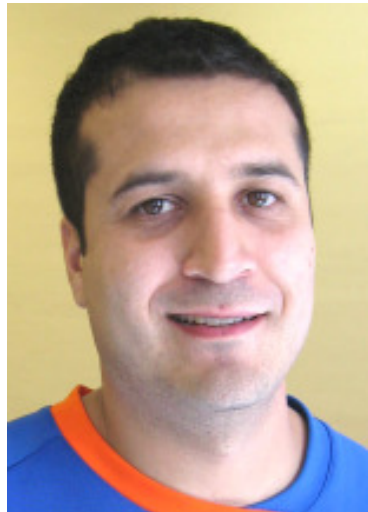
MEN'S B: Brannon Allison, San Diego, def. Roberto Vasquez, Memphis; third, Pete Callstrom, San Diego. Consolation: Geoffrey Janovitz, Pleasonton, CA.

MEN'S C: Roberto Vasquez, Memphis, def. Joe Pomathy, Ann Arbor, MI. Mike Alcorn, San Diego, was third.

MASTERS (Combined with Seniors): Andy Mitchell, Kalamazoo, MI, def. Pete Callstrom, San Diego. Rigo Marin, San Diego, was third.

GOLDEN MASTERS: Charlie Brumfield, San Diego, def. Andy Mitchell. Jim Owens, Ann Arbor, MI, was third.

2012 NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPS



CESAR CARRILLO
Open



BRIAN PINEDA
Men's A



BRANNON ALLISON
Men's B



ROBERTO VASQUEZ
Men's C



ANDY MITCHELL
Masters



CHARLIE BRUMFIELD
Golden Masters

2012 National Doubles (April 13-15, Michigan Athletic Club, E. Lansing, MI)

OPEN: Emmett Coe, San Diego, and Brian Pineda, Fountain Valley, CA, def. Todd Entrikin, Perris, CA, and Mike Wisniewski, Bay City, MI.

Consolation: Jimmy Coggburn, San Diego, and Chad Schwall, Bay City.

MEN'S A: Jimmy Coggburn, San Diego, and Kevin McLaughlin, Indianapolis, IN def. Brandon Creamer, Lansing, MI, and Ron Malecki, Midland, MI, 21-19, 12-21, 21-11. 3rd, Emmett Coe, San Diego, and Ryan Hase, Carlsbad, CA. **Conso-**

lation: Dennis Negrete, Schaumburg, IL, and John Lowman, Lansing, MI. **MEN'S B:** Jared Arnold and Ted Ruble, both of Kalamazoo, MI, def. Ron Harris and Preston Martin, both of Ann Arbor, MI, 21-13, 21-4. 3rd, Ryan Hase, Carlsbad, and Mike Christansen, Palm Desert, CA. **Conso-**

lation: Matt Kollig and Scott Schrum, both of Kalamazoo. **MEN'S C:** Don Traxler, Midland, MI, and Al Harris, Saginaw, MI, def. Alex Bruemmer, Kalamazoo, and James Reid, Ann Arbor, 21-17, 21-5. 3rd, Bob Hannah and Randy Russell, both of Ann Arbor. **Consolation:** Steve Weir, Kalamazoo, and Randy Allar, Muskegon, MI.

SENIORS: Norm Bruemmer, and Don Kirkconnell, both of Kalamazoo, def. Robert Stone and Ted Wray, both of Jackson, MI.

MASTERS: Ed Maher and Andy Mitchell, both of Kalamazoo, def. Bob Sterken, Holland, MI, and Jim Swendris, Ann Arbor; 3rd, Robert Stone and Ted Wray, both of Jackson.

Consolation: Ted Ruble and Scott Schrum, both of Kalamazoo.

GOLDEN MASTERS: Jim Sterken and Jim Swendris, both of Ann Arbor, def. Sandy DeGreif, Bay City, and Ron Malecki, Midland, 21-16, 21-2; 3rd, Randy Wackerle, Bay City, and Jim Owens, Ann Arbor.

MIXED DOUBLES: Judy Shirley and Jim Owens, both of Ann Arbor, def. Kim Morris, Waterford, MI, and Todd Entrikin, Perris, CA. 3rd, Natalie Gilbert, Saginaw, MI, and Sonny Salazar, Adrian, MI.

DOUBLES

Continued from Page 1

four national doubles championships.

Wisniewski also has won nine national singles titles, the most of any player.

After Wisniewski and Entrikin won the first game without too much trouble (they led 8-3, 12-6, 16-8 and 18-11), Coe and Pineda got into the swing of things and started scoring points.

The second game started with Whiz-Entrikin taking a 9-4 lead, but then Coe-Pineda tied the score at 9 and 12 before taking the lead for the first time, 13-12. It went back and forth until it was tied at 19.

Pineda got a point for the lead, 20-19, and then Wisniewski skipped a shot and the kids had new life.

During the break before the third game, Entrikin -- who was frustrated because he pretty much was kept out of the action -- said "I can't get a shot." There was quite a bit of conversation between Whiz and Entrikin throughout the match.

It was very obvious that the kids went to the left side-playing Wisniewski almost exclusively in the last two games, with Entrikin trying to cross over and take some shots.

But Coe-Pineda seemed to be on a mission. They set up for a powerful shot almost every opportunity. They rarely were on the defensive.

It was a pretty even start in the tiebreaker until Coe-Pineda took an 11-10 lead. From then on, nothing seemed to work for Whiz-Entrikin, who got only one more point.

The kids kept upping their margin -- with Coe finishing off a spectacular effort with an easy kill, 21-11.

Afterward someone said to Entrikin: "Tough loss." "Not for me," he said. "I didn't hit the ball."

Wisniewski was asked about the strategy of Coe and Pineda.

"Their teamwork and focus was what won the day against two talented but unconnected champions, in my humble opinion," he said. "I was really impressed with Brian. He didn't do anything real fancy but was always in a position to help his partner out.

"I was also blown away with Emmett's ability to connect with kill shots from just about everywhere on the court. The more I challenged him, the more he kept hurting us with his shots.

"Overall, I am happy for the two new young guns. They earned the win by being patient and playing tough as a team. I can feel my partner's pain when not seeing enough of the action. One can get really frustrated. I do not blame Todd for being upset. It's a horrible feeling."

Coe-Pineda defeated Andy Mitchell and Kevin McLaughlin, 21-15, 19-21, 21-16, in a semifinal.

Wisniewski-Entrikin topped Joe Baldori and Sam Baldori, 21-8, 21-8, in a semifinal.

Coe and Pineda won the 2011 Men's A national doubles title. Pineda also won the 2012 national Men's A singles championship.

HOW THEY DID IT

"My goal was play our game," said Brian Pineda, 5-feet-9, 160 pounds. "We have speed, power and control all going for us, and we just needed to use them all at the right time.

"After losing the first game, we had to start using our speed to get the extra ball, power to gain the front court, and from the front court the game is then controlled.

"In the third game, we continued consistent plays by getting Emmett the set-ups and I got to sit back and watch the roll-out kid from CA take control."

"It was a true pleasure to play with all three gentlemen that day. Will be a tournament I will never forget. It marked my one-year anniversary with paddleball."

Said Emmett Coe, 5-feet-9, 130 pounds, "After the first game, I had to concoct a whole new mind set going into the second game of just having a killer instinct.

"Yes, Brumfield taught me to pull the ball instead of hitting it, which I believe decreases the spin I put on the ball making it stay down after contacting the front wall."

Coe said the semifinal match they won against Andy Mitchell-Kevin McLaughlin "was the most epic and grueling match I have ever played in. Having to endure through cramping from the neck down rally after rally was very trying.

"I was one dive away from throwing in the white towel. I just couldn't let my partner down; I knew how much he wanted it."

It's that time again!

At the tail end of a paddleball season, all roads lead to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the **ANNUAL PIG ROAST & HUMAN SACRIFICE!**

The 2012 event is set for Saturday, July 21, at the Bronson Athletic Club in Kalamazoo.

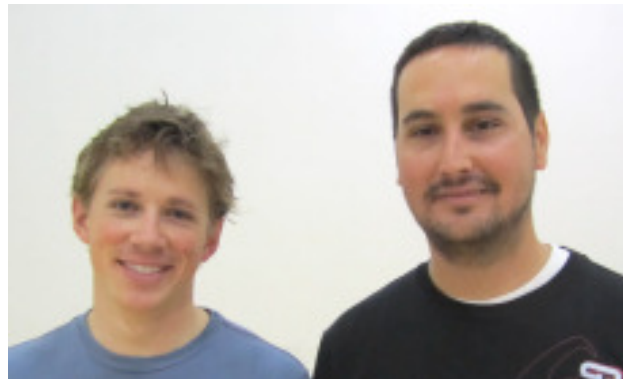
There will be paddleball during the day and a party set for later at the VFW Hall on Kilgore Road.

You can enter through the Web site at www.paddleball.org or call (269) 779-6615.

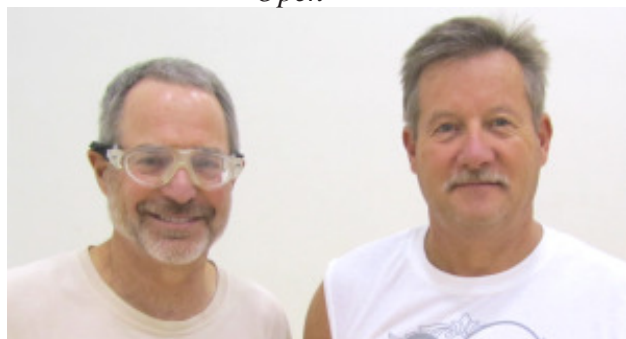
2012 National Doubles Champions



Emmett Coe (left) and Brian Pineda
Open



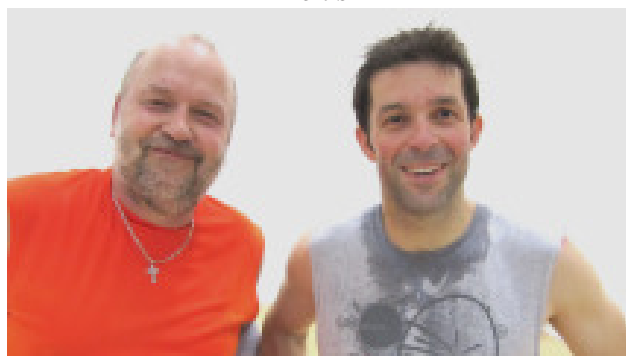
Kevin McLaughlin (left), Jimmy Cogburn
Men's A



Jared Arnold (left) and Ted Ruble
Men's B



Don Traxler (left) and Al Harris
Men's C



Norm Bruemmer (left) and Don Kirkconnell
Seniors



Andy Mitchell (left) and Ed Maher
Masters



Jim Sterken (left) and Jim Swendris
Golden Masters



Judy Shirley (left) and Jim Owens
Mixed Doubles



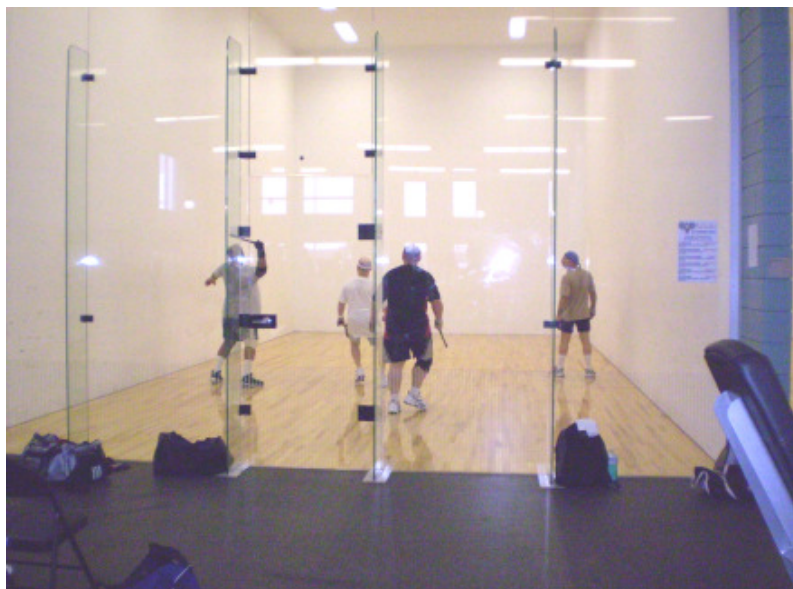
We're a little late, folks, so what we're gonna do is tell you that Todd Enrikin and the late Craig Melvin are the 2012 recipients of the NPA's major awards. Enrikin (left), of Perris, CA, got the Earl Risky Memorial Trophy for contributions to the sport and Melvin, of Kalamazoo, MI the Sportsmanship Trophy. We'll go into more detail in the first newsletter of the 2012-2013 season.



-- Photo by MIKE WISNIEWSKI



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Things weren't so hot in San Diego for the 2012 NPA National Singles Tournament. As a matter of fact, it was downright chilly. So some of the players found some blankets or whatever and gathered together (above) and spent some time near the water. In the photo at left, Charlie Brumfield used a blanket to warm his pate.
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-- Photos by Randy Wackerle

Players (from left) Willie Reed, Joe Siniff, Steve Roe and Rich Rahall play a pick-up match in Court C in December.

Wackerle, Krager star in inaugural PB meet at new Dow Bay Area Y

By O.J. Cunningham

The first paddleball tournament at the new Dow Bay Area Family Y was the 35th Bean/Smith Tourney on March 31, 2012.

Forty players signed up to sweat it out in front of a large crowd at the new facility.

After the Gatorade was gone and the dry T-shirts used up, the Open Division saw Bay City's Randy Wackerle and Chad Krager defend their title in three hard-fought matches.

The teacher/student team defeated Ann Arbor's Jim Sterken and Jim Swendris, 21-15, 10-21, 21-10, in the final. Bay City's Mike Wisniewski and Greg Keenan finished third.

In the A Division, Jackson's Robert Stone teamed with Adrian's Sonny Salazar to defeat Ann Arbor's Jim Owens and Jim Richter, 21-15, 21-16.

The B Division saw Monroe's father/son team of Mark and Ben Gruber defeat Livonia's Andy Pappas and Jim Howland in a close tie-breaker, 21-9, 8-21, 21-16. Bay City's Randy Rodriguez and Adam Koehler finished third.

In the C Division, Ann Arbor's Eugene Rush and Ron Harris took three games to defeat Freeland's Jim Price and Nathan Kauffman, 21-19, 12-21, 21-7.

In the Masters Division, Midland's Don Traxler and Alan Harris won in the round-robin format but lost to the second-place team of Bay City's Joe Siniff and Flint's Lou Giampetroni. Bay City's Bill Wittbrodt and Earl Pratt finished third.

**Guess who is going to be 91 on June 15, 2012?
A little hint: his initials are Al Storey of Ann Arbor, Mich.**



PBaller Joe Todd takes a break.

Shortly after the new Dow YMCA was opened in December, 2011, Randy Wackerle was asked to comment on the new courts.

"The new courts are beautiful and the locals are trying to adjust to glass back walls," he said. "NPA players are used to digging shots off the glass. Gone are the toe-catching, ball-sticking cracks on the front and side walls (of the old Y).

"Gone are the controversial kill shots and goofy bounces that caused many arguments over the years. All four courts are paddleball-ready, and one court has a movable back wall to provide dimensions for a squash match.

"No complaints. The courts are located in an open area which has given us a ton of exposure. There are some nights and week-ends when it is tough to get on a court because of the heavy use!

"I have given some lessons to excited folks and the enthusiasm is very encouraging. There is even talk about starting the High School program again. Pretty cool stuff ..."



PADDLEBALL PROFILE



PRICE

Paddleballer Jim Price's answer to the question -- What do you enjoy about the game? -- could be the same for everyone:

"Easy game to learn, tough to master."

Price, 43, of Freeland, Mich., began playing PB "5-6 years ago" and viewed it as "competition, health and camaraderie."

Price, a facilities manager, has won a Midwest Singles Men's championship and was the winner in the Men's C division of the initial Brigham Classic in 2010.

Any suggestions on how tournaments can be improved?

"Just to have the players show up on time and be ready to play," he said.