



WHO'S WHICH? -- Here are photos of Jim Sterken, the 2003 national seniors doubles champion from Ann Arbor, Mich., and Jim Boenheim, coach of the 2003 NCAA basketball champion Syracuse Orange. We think the one on the right is Sterken. No, he's the one on the left. Wait a minute ... Now we're not sure. They do look alike, don't they? Yeh, Sterken is at left.

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Mitchell, Jim Owens and Lou Giampetroni.

On a conference call from California were Charlie Brumfield, Kelly Gelhaus and Mike Czabala.

Action taken by the board included:

* Establishment of a new division called Platinum Masters, for players at least 65.

* Renaming open consolation as an "A" division and first-round losers will now go into that group.

(Brumfield, Gelhaus and Czabala feel strongly there is a need for a separate "A" division for tournaments. It was agreed that this would be discussed further.)

* Renaming the January and February tournaments from "state" to "Midwest" and "Western" to reflect participation of players from outside of Michigan.

* Adoption of new standards for the size of paddles to: maximum length, 17.5 inches; maximum width, 8.5 inches; maximum weight, 16 ounces.

The highlight of the paddleball "off season" is the annual Pig Roast & Human Sacrifice in June. It's a great excuse for a little playing, a lot of partying and the recognition of a player who has contributed quite a bit to the great game founded by Earl Risky and nurtured by tons of people. Well, not tons but at least more than 40 during the last 28 years. The honoree for 2004 was Mike Mair, of the Kalamazoo, Mich., area. Mair, a pretty fair open player, has been on the PB scene for many years and has done more than his share for the sport. That's Mike with the gang, holding a special T-shirt worn by the group.



Ex-PB champs score well in golf

Two former paddleball champions excelled in a different sport during the summer of 2004.

In late June, Casey Baker, of Ann Arbor, Mich., reached the semifinals of the 2004 Michigan Amateur Golf Tournament.

Baker, 26, lost in that match to Jeff Cuzzort who went on to win the championship. Cuzzort worked as a caddie for the last two years at Grosse Ile Country Club -- site of the tournament.

Baker won the 12-and-under NPA national juniors singles title in 1988.

Along with his brother Chris, he was the 1992 recipient of the Dmitri Remsberg Trophy. It goes to an outstanding young paddleballer who exhibits both skills and sportsmanship.

Baker, who still plays paddleball with friends, works for Miles of Golf, a supplier and teaching academy in Ann Arbor.

In July, Terry Smith Delcamp, of Grand Blanc, Mich., reached the final 16 of the Women's State Amateur Golf Championship at White Pine National Golf Resort at Hubbard Lake, Mich.

She lost, 4 and 2, to Jennifer Johnson of East Lansing in the round before the quarterfinals.

Delcamp was the NPA national women's open singles champion in 1993, 1994, 1999 and 2000.

She also was the recipient in 1994 of the Earl Risky Memorial Trophy, awarded in honor of the founder of paddleball, for her contributions to the sport.

NPA officials are putting together a "store" where players can order paddles, balls, logo wear and other items. It will be operated on the NPA web site and is expected to be up and running sometime this season.