

NPA

(INDOOR / FOUR-WALL)

National Paddleball Association

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NPA, 7642 Kingston, Portage, Mich. 49002

NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2004-2005

PBallers heading for Old IM Building



Courts feature circular stairways that lead to two courts each.

By LOUGIAMPETRONI

The 2005 National Singles Tournament is set for March 11, 12, 13 in the Old IM Building at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Now if you haven't played in the courts there, you haven't played paddleball.

The late Earl Risky generally is credited with the development of indoor, four-wall PB in the cavernous courts there in the 1930s.

He had a lot of false starts before the sport blossomed. He was on the U. of M. phys ed staff and tore covers off tennis balls in an effort to get a ball that could be used for the game.

There is a lot of history in the hallowed halls and storied courts of the old structure.

Officials recognized the 75th birthday of the building in October, 2003.

2004-2005 NPA Schedule

National Singles Championships, March 11-13,

2005, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

National Doubles Championships, April 22-24,

2005, Riverside, Calif. (Tournament House Sports & Fitness Center)



The Old IM Building entrance at 606 E. Hoover St.

Four national championships have been held at the Old IM Building, and it co-hosted another. It also was the site of many other smaller tournaments.

Properly called the Intramural Sports Building (IMSB), it was the forerunner of ALL campus recreational centers in the country. It is at 606 E. Hoover St.

It was the dream of Dr. Elmer B. Mitchell, the building's principal planner, that it "would provide a place where a thousand students can enter daily to congregate and to mix their exercise with sociability."

Many thousands have done just that over the years.

Work began in late 2003 for much remodeling, including a weight room, a climbing wall, new locker facilities, a very modern front entry desk and other features.

Paddleballer pitches in to help Haiti's poor

It took nearly a year but paddleballer Randy Wackerle finally made it to Haiti with his volunteer church group to work on schools.

Wackerle, of Bay City, Mich., and others were supposed to go to the country in the West Indies in February 2004. But political unrest there forced postponement of the project.



Wackerle

The group -- sponsored by the Apostolic Christian Church of Bay City -- finally made it in January of 2005.

Wackerle kept a journal "with most of my memories from the Haiti trip," which for him lasted eight days.

He said the island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic is home to eight million people. Haiti has one-third of the real estate and two-thirds of the people.

"That's why every path, every road, and every pick-up had wall to wall people," Wackerle wrote.

"When we landed in Les Cayes, there were U.N. soldiers standing at attention with machine guns resting on their shoulders ... It was an eerie sight.

"On the 30-minute ride to the compound, I saw my first thatch roof, front yard cemetery, boy on a donkey, boy with machete, boy taking a leak, boy with a naked butt, oxen plowing, man using a rock as a hammer, open front doors, no front doors, and a man with an ox dragging his plow down the road with an old tire underneath.

"One could almost expect to see Jesus and his apostles around the next corner."

During his stay, Wackerle worked on sheeting roofs for buildings.

The people with whom he worked are a special breed, he said. Dedicated and warm.

It was no picnic, he said, and sometimes it was dangerous, with some locals extorting money for passage through an area. They saw people mistreating people but were told not to get involved because of more danger.

For each of his daily reports, Wackerle wrote a descriptive sentence:

"You know you're in Haiti when you brush your teeth with bottled water.

"You know you're in Haiti when you have a rag for a gas cap.

"You know you're in Haiti when you use a Diehard battery for house lights.

"You know you're in Haiti when you see a motorbike carrying five people.

"In Haiti, we say 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it. If it's broke, don't fix it either.'

"You know you're in Haiti when you see a small truck hauling 28 people."

"You know you're in Haiti when you eat goat meat for all three meals."

Wackerle said anytime there is danger ahead on the roads, drivers are warned by three branches lying on the road.

"There are no sawhorses or blinking yellow lights."

Summarizing his experience, Wackerle said:

"I felt like I accomplished more in eight days than I did in 32 years of teaching eighth-graders.

"At least, my labor was more appreciated. I respect more for what (workers Dean Pashak and his wife, Connie) are doing down there. It's not about money. It's about spreading the word."

Wackerle admits he was affected greatly by his time in Haiti.

"On one of the flights back home, I was reflecting on my week in Haiti and out of the clear blue, I started crying," he said. "That's a first.

"I know these words above don't do justice to this mission of love and work. You have to breathe, eat, smell and hear the countryside to let it all soak in.

"God Bless!"

Wisniewski, Wackerle win Bean-Smith

Bay City, Mich. -- Mike Wisniewski and Randy Wackerle teamed to win the open division of the Bean-Smith Paddleball Tournament here Jan. 29, 2005.

They topped Ron Malecki and Mike Schafer, 21-15, 21-20.

Jim Owens and Jim Richter were third and Andrew VanSumeren-Brandon Creamer were fourth.

John Tomczak and Joe Rizk won the B division with a 21-18, 21-18 victory over Rex Rolley and Fred Herner.

Ted Jevicks and Judy Pretzer took B consolation honors.



Some of the courts at the Bay Area Family Y have some very tough floors, with large gaps sometimes making it tough to score. Jim Richter had to dig this shot out after it got stuck in the front wall during a match. Needless to say, the shot was no good.

ALL-TIME TOP WOMEN'S OPEN NATIONAL SINGLES CHAMPIONS



CARLA TEARE

1983, 1984, 1985,
1986, 1988



CAPRICE BEHNER

1977, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1989,
1990, 1991, 1992, 1996



TERRY SMITH DELCAMP

1993, 1994, 1999, 2000

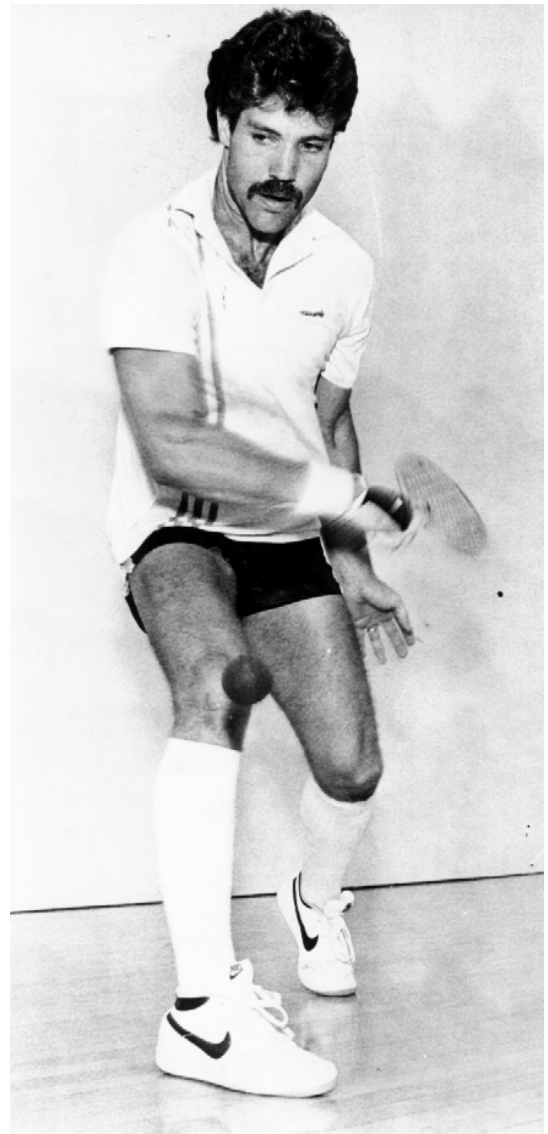


MIKE WISNIEWSKI
1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996,
1998,



STEVE KEELEY
1971, 1973, 1974, 1976,

**ALL-TIME
TOP OPEN
NATIONAL
SINGLES
CHAMPIONS**



STEVE WILSON
1981, 1983, 1984, 1985

Paddleballs

... can be ordered through Spectrum Sports, 2618 South St. Anthony, Jackson, Mich., 49203 or by calling Gordy Hatt at (517) 784-1861.



Marsh

Paddleball Profile

“I come back for the people, competition and exercise.”

That’s why Kevan B. Marsh, of Saginaw, Mich., plays paddleball.

Marsh, a financial consultant with Smith Barney, began playing in 1980 when “my friend Randy Hoyle dragged me to a tourney.”

Then Marsh got involved with the Midland (Mich.) Paddleball Association.

He won a Midland Ironman C title in 1985 “and was runnerup in B a few times.”

Any suggestions on improving tournaments?

“I have run many, including a couple of Nationals,” Marsh said. “I know the problem with scheduling matches but that is my usual complaint when I’m waiting. Then I get over it.”

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