

# NPA

( INDOOR / FOUR-WALL )

**National Paddleball Association**

WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NPA, 7642 Kingston, Portage, Mich. 49002

NEWSLETTER / FALL 2006-2007



## Ya gotta buy paddleballs; no kidding

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

**It goes without saying that paddleballs are the glue of the NPA.**

**Without them, there would be no NPA and no fun and games.**

**That's why players should do their part and BUY BALLS!!**

**I spent a recent evening bouncing old paddleballs off my base-**



**ment floor – checking to see if they would bounce up 3 1/2 feet when dropped from about 6 feet.**

**Generally, that's the test.**

**My wife, Sue, had pointed out that there was a large box of old paddleballs in a secluded part of the basement.**

**Please See PADDLEBALLS – Page 2**

## Remember this guy?

*He was quite a force in paddleball circles for a long time. Check inside to see what Joe Emaar is doing without PB.*

## A PB faux pas

Because of a screw-up by our usually dependable NPA newsletter crew, there was a screw-up on Page 3 of the 2005-2006 Summer newsletter.

On the Web page product, three photos of the 2006 National Singles champions were missing, one was sort of doubled up showing an overlapping face and new open champion Chris Crowther was out in left field abutting an article.

Not good, folks.

Fortunately, the printed newsletter did not have the same problem.

But as a public service to all the paddleballers out there, and especially for the 2006 champions who deserve it, we are publishing the champions' photos again.

Hopefully, we'll get it right this time. Check inside and see if we do.



Steve Galetti, an outstanding PBaller from the University of Michigan, dies at 76. Details inside.

## NPA schedule

**FALL DOUBLES: Dec. 8, 9, 10, 2006, Michigan Athletic Club, E. Lansing, Mich.**

**MIDWEST SINGLES: Jan. 12, 13, 14, 2007, Jackson, Mich., YMCA.**

**MIDWEST DOUBLES: Feb. 16, 17, 18, 2007, Midland (Mich.) Community Center.**

**NATIONAL SINGLES: March 16, 17, 18, 2007, Michigan Athletic Club, E. Lansing, Mich.**

**NATIONAL DOUBLES: Dates and site to be announced.**

# Paddleball Potpourri

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

Until I had lymphatic cancer in 1972, I rarely took any pills or any medication of any kind. That changed, of course, and I probably had more pills and more shots in a year and a half than I did for the previous 70 years.

But it reminded me of a paddleball match about 20 years earlier.

I was playing with Scott Lawrence, a fine player, in the Men's B division of the State of Michigan Doubles Tournament.

I've always had some lower-back pain; well, not pain but at least lower-back discomfort.

The late R. P. Valenciano told me about Momentum, an over-the-counter tablet that basically is a muscle relaxant and aspirin.

I would use a couple just before playing paddleball and they seemed to do the job. Not too much discomfort afterward.

Scott and I reached the final in that tourney against Ron Malecki and Dick Chapin.

As a matter of fact, we had to play the semifinal

and final on Sunday. That's how many entries there were.

We won the semifinal in two games and then went to the final.

We split the first two games with Malecki-Chapin and had to go into a tiebreaker.

Back then, I had speed, agility and could score some points. (Stop laughing, Scott!)

At any rate, Scott did most of the work -- and scoring -- but I helped out.

However, along around the middle of the tiebreaker, I slowed down noticeably ... and ... almost ... came ... to ... a ... complete ... halt. I could hardly move.

Scott called a timeout, came over to me and asked: "How many of those things did you take? For crying out loud, you have foam coming out of your mouth!"

I looked at him in a daze and slowly said: "I took two this morning before the semifinal, two this afternoon before this match and two before the tiebreaker."

Scott couldn't believe it.

Needless to say, we lost the tiebreaker and the match.

To this day, I use only one Momentum when I play paddleball -- whether it's one game or 10.

## PADDLEBALLS

Continued from Page 1

(I have a lot of paddleball stuff in that secluded part of the basement.)

For years, I have had this fear that the balls would dry up and they no longer would be produced.

So I've saved just about every ball I could find -- and apparently threw them into the large box.

This was done in the event that the ball did dry up and at least we could salvage some of them.

I bounced a few hundred balls that night in August. Some of them, I'm sure, were put in the box in the late 1970s and 1980s.

I saved what I thought were O.K. and tossed the others into a large trash bag, which eventually was about

half-filled.

I still had -- from the old days -- boxes by Penn Athletic Products, each of which hold a dozen balls.

So I put the "good" balls in the boxes and came up with 16 dozen.

The balls I saved were bounceable and could be put into service.

The only drawback: they're a little slick and not as attractive to look at.

I realize this would be only a stop-gap measure. But desperate times call for desperate measures.

I think back to the early 1970s when the Arab oil embargo, among other things, threatened to halt production of the paddleball.

We tried a lot of things, including using a racquetball, but none worked.

It was a rather foreboding outlook for our game

for the entire 1973-74 season.

But fortunately, a player came up with a couple dozen balls and a State Doubles tournament was held in Flint, Mich., in early 1974.

The embargo ended and the ball was back and we dodged that bullet.

To help avoid a similar crisis, players should BUY BALLS!

That's the only way they will be produced. It's a product and must be used so more can be manufactured.

Go ahead -- do it. After all, it's the American way.

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

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# Ex-PB champion Galetti dies at 76

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

Steve Galetti, one-half of one of the most successful doubles teams in paddleball history, is dead at 76.

Galetti, a professor emeritus at the University of Michigan, died on July 20, 2006. He had been ill a number of years.

He teamed with Rod Grambeau to dominate the masters division in the 1970s.

Grambeau and Galetti won six national masters doubles championships and took a second in a 10-year period ending in 1980. They usually won lesser events also.

Occasionally, they would enter open competition and hold their own against the young shooters.

Galetti, who won the NPA's Sportsmanship Trophy in 1973, quite often was called upon to make presentations at paddleball meetings. He was an articulate spokesman for the NPA.

He was born and raised in New York City and attended Bowling Green State University on a basketball scholarship, graduating in 1953.

After two years in the military in Special Services, he earned a master of science degree from the U. of M.



**Rod Grambeau (left) and Steve Galetti**

He was the first chairman of the Department of Sports Management and Communication of the Division of Kinesiology.

"He had such a thumbprint on physical education in Michigan," said Pat VanVolkinburg, chair of the Physical Education Department in Kinesiology.

VanVolkinburg recalled Galetti as "one of the most enthusiastic people you'd ever meet."

His retirement in 1988 capped more than 30 years of service to youth as a teacher, coach, administrator and a leader of statewide efforts to promote physical fitness and health.

At that time, the division established an award in his name that annually honors an undergraduate student.



## High-flying PBaller

Walter "Jack" Hancock (left) plays paddleball once a week in the summer and twice a week in the winter. Hancock, 81, of Grand Blanc, Mich., plays with a group at the University of Michigan-Flint. He also gives flying lessons at Flint's Bishop International Airport. He got into flying in 1943 when he was in the Navy. For a guy 81, he gets around the court quite well and does his fair share of scoring.



Nancy Martin of La Jolla, CA, got to play in the Old IM Building at the University of Michigan in July. She was visiting her son, Nathan, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

# NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION

## 2006 FALL DOUBLES DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> ~ 10<sup>TH</sup>

**SITE:** MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB / 2900 HANNAH BLVD /  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN. (517) 364-8888

**FEE:** NPA MEMBERS -\$70.00 PER TEAM / NON-MEMBERS \$90 PER TEAM.  
NOVICE & FULL-TIME STUDENTS \$10.00 PER PLAYER (NOVICE: ANY PLAYER WHO HAS  
NOT PLAYED IN AN NPA TOURNAMENT – YOU MAY PLAY IN NOVICE FOR ONE YEAR). JUNIORS  
DIVISIONS PLAY FREE. NOVICE/STUDENT/ JUNIOR DIVISIONS DO NOT INCLUDE AN ENTRY  
GIFT ~ A GIFT MAY BE PURCHASED FOR \$20.00 FOR GUARANTEE OF GIFT SEND \$ & SIZE WITH ENTRY  
BLANK. 2<sup>ND</sup> DIV: MEMBER \$22 /NON-MEMBER \$27 PER PLAYER. **CHECKS TO: N.P.A.**  
**MEMBERSHIP:** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$25. YOU MAY JOIN ON-LINE,  
AT TOURNAMENT SITE OR MAIL A CHECK TO ADDRESS UNDER "DEADLINE"

**DEADLINE:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>. MAIL ENTRY TO:  
N.P.A. ~ 7642 KINGSTON ~ PORTAGE MI 49002 / FAX TO (269) 279-6275  
ENTER THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AT: [WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG](http://WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG)

**RULES:** NPA RULES APPLY. INDICATE ALTERNATE DIVISION ON ENTRY BLANK OR 1  
MAY BE ASSIGNED TO YOU IF YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE DOES NOT FILL. PLAY IN 2 DIVISIONS  
ALLOWED IF # OF ENTRANTS PERMITS YOU MUST FILL OUT A SEPARATE ENTRY  
BLANK FOR EACH DIVISION AND INDICATE YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CHOICE OF DIV. ENTRY IS  
SUBJECT TO TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS DISCRETION.

**GIFT:** T-SHIRTS TO ALL ON TIME ENTRANTS.

**TIMES:** CALL (269) 323-0121 AFTER 6:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>.  
OR CHECK THE WEBSITE AT PADDLEBALL.ORG FOR TIMES & PLAYERS

**MISC:** BRING YOUR OWN LOCK. NO ALCOHOL.

**HOTELS:** HAMPTON INN (517) 349-6100 / FAIRFIELD INN (517) 347-1000 /  
MARRIOTT (517) 337-4440

**DIVISION:** MENS \_\_\_ WOMENS \_\_\_ MIXED \_\_\_ / OPEN \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_  
NOVICE \_\_\_ SENIORS (35+) \_\_\_ MASTERS (45+) \_\_\_ GOLD MASTERS (55+) \_\_\_  
PLATINUM MASTERS (65+) JRS A (TO 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ) \_\_\_ JRS B (8<sup>TH</sup> – SNR) \_\_\_

NAME:	NAME:
ADDRESS:	ADDRESS:
DAY PHONE: ( )	DAY PHONE: ( )
EVENING PHONE: ( )	EVENING PHONE: ( )
CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A 2 <sup>ND</sup> DIV	CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A 2 <sup>ND</sup> DIV
IF PLAY CUT TO 1 DIV IS THIS 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE?	IF PLAY CUT TO 1 DIV IS THIS 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE?
T-SHIRT (M/LG/XL/XXL)	T-SHIRT (M/LG/XL/XXL)
NOTES:	

# Joe Emaar: He left PB on his own terms

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

He's a big man with an infectious laugh and a broad smile.

He's been missed at paddleball tournaments in recent years. But for a long time when he did play in them, you knew he was there.

Joe Emaar was a big part of paddleball for about 20 years and he was a fixture in the marvelous Kalamazoo, Mich., group. He quit playing about six years ago after banging into a wall and injuring his left shoulder. (Oh, yes, he hustled all over the place despite his size.)

He's left-handed so it took away the power. He also enjoys another sport and didn't want to risk further injury.

"I like golf a lot and didn't want any nagging injuries where I had to give it up," Emaar said. "I think about paddleball a lot and all the good times I shared with paddleball friends.

"I think the real reason I quit was that my ability was slowing down. I think Jack Nicklaus put things in his own perspective when he was asked why he hated to lose so much. He replied 'I don't like to be embarrassed in public!'

"You know me, I always liked to let it all hang out and when skills start to diminish, I didn't enjoy it as much. But I still miss the game



**Joe Emaar at a Pig Roast**

a whole bunch!"

Emaar said that when he got into golf and the fall weather came along "I looked for a pacifier that would take the place of golf. I played racquetball for 3 years but also watched our guys play a lot of paddleball.

"Once I got into paddleball, I was hooked! I think I started paddleball at 45 and always wished I had started earlier.

"I just turned 73 on Feb. 6 and have been retired from real estate about 10 years now. Some of my friends tell me it's a lot longer than 10 years!"

Each winter, Emaar and wife Shirley spend January and February in Florida "fishing, swimming and eating shrimp. I'm down to 225 from 247 so I feel good! You know -- push away and eat less at the table.

"We have three wonderful grandkids who require my attention at their sporting events. It's nice to have the time to watch them play."

Emaar also is remembered for donating his barn for the annual Pig Roast & Human Sacrifice -- the season-ending excuse for a little PB

and a lot of partying.

"Our annual pig roast lasted 16 years until I decided to sell the property," Emaar said. "The honoree of every roast having to eat an eye of the pig was a highlight of the night. The great times we had seemed to bring us all together and gave us fond memories that will last a long time.

"I still like to invest in real estate, so a good high school friend and I paint and do repair for older people who can't fix things up anymore.

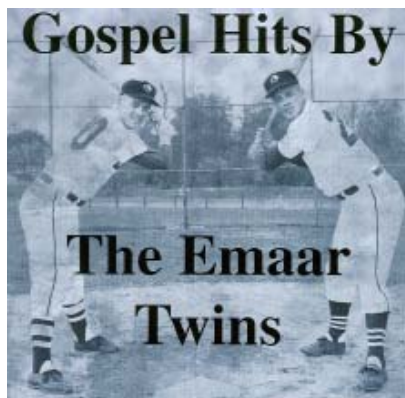
"My twin brother (Duane) plays keyboard for a lot of nursing homes and sometimes I help him out with sing-alongs. It keeps me young and occupied."

Emaar liked the sportsmanship involved in paddleball.

"When I reflect back on my paddleball career, I'm amazed how well we all got along with the honor system," he said.

"I know this stands tall in paddleball and gives us a chance to exhibit some class, especially in tight matches."

Emaar won the national masters doubles championship in 1983 with Doug Greene and in 1985 and 1988 with Jer Fennell.



**Joe (left) and Duane played minor league ball in the Pittsburgh Pirates system.**



**Joe dances (?) at a party after a PB tournament.**

# 2006 National Singles Champs



**Chris Crowther**  
*Open*



**Greg Badger**  
*Men's A*



**Bryan Oates**  
*Men's B*



**Sam Choukri**  
*Men's C*



**Bob Richland**  
*Men's Novice*



**Vince Carlone**  
*Seniors*



**Vince Carlone**  
*Masters*



**Eric Campbell**  
*Golden Masters*



**Brooke Schneider**  
*Women's*

## 2006 Pig Roast

It was a milestone event for the 2006 Pig Roast & Human Sacrifice that closed out the season. It was the 30th such event that has been hosted each year by the Kalamazoo, Mich., PBallers. This year's honoree was Jared Arnold, (far right) who downs the pig's eye -- a tradition. Those who attended were given T-shirts that recognized all the players accorded the honor.



1977 Mark "Pappy" Smith	1992 "Big" Joe Emaar
1978 Andy "Jr" Kasolo	1993 Brad Ex
1979 Andy "Meal" Mitchell	1994 "Wild" Bill Farmer
1980 Doug "Chopper" Averitt	1995 Steve "Hair Doc" Weir
1981 Doug "Chicken Legs" Green	1996 Lou "The Godfather" Giampetroni
1982 Bob Berg / Jeff Biggers "The Boo Brothers"	1997 "Fast" Eddie Mater
1983 Jeff "Hammer" Burkam	1998 Mark Camp
1984 "Clean" Dean Pennala	1999 Joel Kloosterman
1985 Steve "No Name" Haines	2000 Dave Westervelt
1986 Matt "Diddler" Kollig	2001 Dave "The Rev" McShane
1987 Kim "Grits" Poli	2002 Jim Owens
1988 Randy "Amazing" Nice	2003 Chuck Gladding
1989 Jeff "Demo" Bowne	2004 Mike Mair
1990 Steve "Otto" Dinges	2005 Bob Lopezas
1991 Craig "The Commissioner" Melvin	2006 Jared Arnold

# Kevin McCully: He was so close so many times

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

What do Kevin McCully, the Minnesota Vikings and the Buffalo Bills have in common?

Each got to the championship match four times -- and lost them all.

The Vikings and Bills have played in four Super Bowls each without a win.

**McCully**, a professor at the University of Georgia, made it to the National Paddleball Association national open singles final in 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1985.

He lost to Dick Jury in a tiebreaker in the first match and then fell three straight times in two games each to Steve Wilson.

McCully, who played out of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Wilson teamed up to win the 1982 national open doubles title, topping Andy Mitchell and Andy Kasalo in a tiebreaker.

McCully, 53, also played in the national open doubles final in 1981, 1984, 1985 and 1986 -- and lost them all, each time with a different partner.

So from his appearances in national championship matches, one has to figure that he was a pretty good top-level player. He was. His was a regular face at NPA tournaments.

**He was** quick, agile and a good shooter. But he had the misfortune to run into Wilson at Wilson's peak, when the latter probably was the most consistently hard-hitter in the game. Wilson hit the ball hard ALL the time and usually pounded his foes into submission.

McCully admits what he referred to as his "tally" in the national tournaments "was not very good. My rationale is two-fold; first, I ran into Wilson in singles and the Andys in doubles, and I must say that they usually got the better of me.

"My other rationale is that I was strictly an amateur player (serious but amateur). I never really peaked for the nationals as you would for most sports. I would start playing seriously in September, and played all the tournaments. I usually found that by the spring nationals that I was a little stale.

**"I never** treated the nationals as anything other than just another tournament. Again, the



**McCully at work at the University of Georgia** competition was quite good and in many years it might not have mattered."

What many forget, McCully said, is that he won several times in singles and doubles.

**"(When) Jury** beat me in the national singles, I think I won the three other singles tournaments without losing a game. So I think I won my share, especially in the early 1980s. For what it is worth, Randy Hice and I won a lot of doubles tournaments ... I also won a doubles tournament with eight different partners."

McCully left Michigan in 1985 and worked in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania until 1999. He played hardball squash and some tennis. He even became part of a water polo club and played in the Ivy League championships for Penn.

"I did go back for a few paddleball matches in 1986 or so, but otherwise I have been strictly recreational in sports," he said. "I am happy to say that I still have my original hips though!"

McCully worked at the former Allegheny University of the Health Sciences from 1991 to 1999 in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. But it went bankrupt and he lost his job.

**"I was** offered a job at the University of Georgia in the Exercise Science (now Kinesiology) department," he said. "After a couple of years of not doing much, I started playing squash about three years ago. We play twice a week. I ride my bike to work as much as I can, and I am slowly getting back into shape."

McCully said he teaches at the university "and conducts research on how exercise and inactivity influences the health of blood vessels in various populations (spinal cord injury being one)."

He said he enjoys reading about "the local paddleball news and I do want to try playing the next time I am in Michigan ... I might have to borrow a paddle as my old ones seem out of date."

## **Paddleballs**

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



**Siniff**

## **Paddleball Profile**

Unlike many paddleballers, Joe Siniff was not a racquetballer before he took up THE court sport.

He was a handballer.

“Chuck Micklewright was the physical director at the Bay Family Y and in 1962 he talked me into playing paddleball.

“I’ve been playing it ever since.”

Siniff, a retired electrician from Bay City, MI, enjoys “the people and the competition” in tournaments.

He has taken a “second in senior singles, a first in masters doubles with Don Traxler and a second in C with O.J. Cunningham.”

How to improve tournaments?

“We just need to get some young blood in the courts,” Siniff said.

## **NPA**

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