

Michigan Team Paddleball

The third season of Michigan Team Paddleball concluded April 19th at the Michigan Athlete Club (MAC) in East Lansing, Michigan. Team Ann Arbor finished in first place, earning 31 out of 36 possible points. Kalamazoo finished second with 27 points followed by Bay City with 26, Adrian with 13, and Jackson, Flint/Waterford/Schoolcraft and Midland/Lansing with 8 points each.

The season consisted of three round robin styled tournaments in which each area team designated a team for an A and B division. Teams earned a point for every game victory. The final standings were determined by the points accumulated from the three tournaments.

Team Paddleball has evolved into its current three-tournament format. In previous seasons, there were a series of dual meets followed by a season concluding tournament. The participants clearly prefer this year's model. Randy Wackerle from Bay City noted: "It seems to be fine tuned, just right. Not too many dates and a good place to play." The good place to play is the centrally located MAC in East Lansing, which hosted each of the three tournaments.

Speaking of Randy Wackerle, he made a beautifully designed and crafted traveling trophy this year, which will go to the season's winner for a year. The distinctive walnut-constructed trophy artfully depicts that state of Michigan and displays each season's championship area team.

Bay City is listed as the 2007 champion, having had the best dual meet record and winning the end of year tournament. Bay City and Ann Arbor share the title as the 2008 champions. Ann Arbor had the best dual meet record and Bay City won the year-end tournament. The Team Paddleball Trophy is now on display at One-on-One Athletic Club in Ann Arbor.

Current and past scores and the standings are posted, compliments of Ed Maher, on a link at www.paddleball.org.

The primary original intent of team paddleball was to provide players with an avenue to compete with teams from other geographic areas. It has clearly achieved this intent. Michigan Team Paddleball certainly has provided participants with some great paddleball opportunities and fun.