

## 2015 3 Wall Results

The 2015 Annual 3 Wall State Tournament was held this past weekend (July 31-August 2) and the weather was spectacular. Due to a much smaller turnout every year in our 3 wall tournaments, we decided to combine both the singles and the doubles into one 3 day weekend. This is the same format as the US Nationals in Toledo and many other major tournaments in other states.

One great aspect of this format was it kept people around for most of the tournament. In comparison, a singles only tournament can eliminate half the field on the first day and by the end there are barely any people left to watch the finals. This change paid off as we had great crowds the whole weekend and most players preferred this format (and of course some did not).

Here are the results by Division:

### OPEN

The open singles had 8 players and a Friday night start. All players faced tough match ups in their first round. Kyle Casey made a nice debut in the open division facing defending champ Jim Karner. He made Jim work scoring 15, 17.

The best first round match in this bracket was Pete Dembeck vs. Matt Osburn. This was a rematch from the State 3 Wall finals two years ago. Matt got revenge for that loss with a tie breaker win (11-5). In other first round matches, Pat Oliver beat Craig Sickmiller and Rick Leonard beat Pat Myers.

In the second round, Pat Oliver beat Osburn in two games. While Matt has 9 national titles, including a 4 wall doubles title in Chicago this winter, Pat's combination of speed and power were too much for Matt who was giving up about 15 years in age.

In the other semi-final, Jim Karner beat me (Rick Leonard), 18, 18. Both games were tied at 18 and I told Jim we should just play games to 3 to save us a lot of work. My serve that got me a nice lead in game 2 disappeared (going long mostly) and that was all Jim needed to get back in and get the win. The good news is I played Monday and figured out something that caused that and I look forward to a potential rematch in the 45+ 3 Wall Nationals.

The finals went to a tie break as Pat Oliver finally got over the hump beating Jim 11 to 2. Game one was back and forth but Pat pulled away winning at 16 using kill shots and fists to the ceiling to keep Jim off balance. In game 2, Jim jumped to a big lead and it looked like Pat decided to conserve energy for the tie break as he only got 4.

Pat came out strong in the tie break taking and took an early lead. Jim had some set ups that he uncharacteristically missed that would have got him back in the game. Pat seized on those mistakes going back to the kill/ceiling mix and won 11 to 2.

### Open Doubles

Pat Myers and Pat Oliver secured the open doubles title beating Jim Karner and Matt Osburn. Both games were very close 19, 16 but Oliver/Myers had nice runs to close out each game.

### 65 Singles

We had 5 participants in the 65+ singles. In Friday night action, Kenny Luchkovitz beat Charlie Doyle.

Kenny moved on to play Jim Lowe in the semis. While I missed this one, I heard Kenny played great 3 wall getting a game one win 21-11. In game 2, Jim got it going winning 21-4. In the tie breaker, Kenny returned to his strong play winning 11 to 4.

Rick Graham defeated Norm Young in two games to set up the finals with Kenny. Rick won the title beating Kenny in two games 9, 7.

### 60 Doubles

In the first round the one seed of Graham/Valentino were pushed to a tie break by Luchkovitz and McGivern. They pulled it out 11 to 4.

Young/Lowe moved into the finals beating Charlie Doyle and Dave Vanacek in two games.

Young/Lowe beat Valentino/Graham in two games – 18, 12.

### 50 Singles

We have 6 participants in the 50 singles. One the best matches Friday night was between Dale Chimenti and Stewart Shevin. Dale took the first game 21-15. Stewart came back to win game 2 – 21-12. The tie breaker was back and forth. Stewart finally squeaked it out winning 11-9.

That match was a great example of the fun that can be had in playing a tournament. Realistically – both players knew they were not likely to win the division. Nevertheless they both entered and participated in a great match they will both remember. They learned about parts of the game they can work on and it will probably add a little extra to their pickup games over the next few months. Thanks to both of you for playing.

Carl Valentino chose to turn back the clock and play in the 50s bracket. The clock was not friendly as he lost in 2 games to Paul Straetmans. Paul advanced and was defeated by Steve Fase in two games. Stewart advanced to play Chris Monsour who won in two games.

Steve made the long trip in from Grand Rapids to play singles and doubles. Unfortunately the doubleheader wore him out. Steve withdrew from the 50s final due to injury giving Chris Monsour the title.

### 50 Doubles

In the 50s doubles, we had only two teams. Steve Fase and Bob Balch faced off against Craig Sickmiller and Chris Monsour. Sickmiller and Monsour were pushed in game one but pulled away to win in two – 16, 8.

### B Singles

The B singles had a nice turnout with 7 players. In the first round Friday night, Nick Lowe – up from Toledo – beat John Fitzgerald in two games. Nick advanced to play the number one seed Logan Siegel. Siegel held the seed winning in two games (9, 10) to make the finals.

On the other side of the bracket, new player Dion Kimbraugh faced the 2 seed Ryan Inman. Dion told me he learned a lot and will be back next year. Dion has the athleticism and should make some big jumps as he puts time in on the court.

Tyler Sickmiller beat Mitchell Oliver in two games. Tyler advanced on to face Inman.

Tyler and Ryan play regular pickup games and I know they each won games off each other. However, Ryan has a little more tournament experience and turned it on to win in two games - 16, 8.

The final was a battle with Ryan and Logan playing some great 3 wall – especially for the B Division. Logan was steady with great power using his fists. Ryan has some championship nerves and lost game one getting 6. Ryan settled down in game 2 and it was back and forth. Logan prevailed in tight game winning 21-16.

Logan and Ryan both plan to play in the 3 Wall Nationals in Toledo, OH Labor Day weekend. Logan lost in the B finals and will be the number one seed. Good luck to both of you.

### A Doubles

The final division and what ended up as the final match of the tournament was the A doubles. All players besides the number one seed of Siegel/Inman were paired up by me and playing together for the first time. It was great as it allowed all these newer players to play Friday night and comeback for the full food spread and the matches on Saturday.

This last match of the day Sunday was fittingly decided in a tie breaker. Siegel and Inman defeated Kyle Casey and Mitchell Oliver – (12), 13, 3.

A big thanks to Chuck Ferro and Ben Hall (Russel Street Deli) for their financial support and great food service – it is really appreciated by all of the players and MHA members.