

2015 State 4 Wall Doubles Results

February 21

Detroit Athletic Club

We had a great turnout for 2015 Michigan 4 Wall State Doubles Championship this past weekend with 55 players and 30 teams (with some tired double division players).

70s Division

In the 70s, we had 4 teams and a great final that went to a tie breaker. In the semis, Harvey Braun and Tony Stachurski beat a first time 70s team of Lowell Boileau and Jim Ladd. In the other bracket, Bob Hilsinger and Joe Bozin beat Larry Reuben and Steve Milles.

In the finals, Braun/Stachurski prevailed over Hilsinger/Bozin by the scores of (17-21), 21-15, and 11-5.

(The finalists from left to right – Harvey, Tony, Joe, Bob)



60s Division

The 60s was the largest division with 8 teams. The 1 seed (Joe Ivy/Jim Smith) and the 2 seed (Jim Lowe/Rick Graham) each rolled into the finals.

In round one Ivy/Smith defeated Frank Wiechert and Charlie Thornton. Charlie was inspiring to all of us competing very well at 82 years old.

Carl Harlow and Bob Kozak, the lefty/lefty, combo was no match for Graham/Lowe who won in two games.

Tom O'Brien and Eddie Green played very well in round one defeating Glenn Paraskevin and Fred Ahlborn in two games.

The final first round match up was hard fought close match with Dave Vanacek and Kevin McGivern beating Angus McIntyre and Kenny Luchkovitz in two games - 13, 16.

In the semis, Ivy/Smith had a tough battle with Vanacek/McGivern winning in two games 15, 16.

Graham/ Lowe played very well in the other semi beating Green/O'Brien in two games.

In the finals, Ivy/Smith were as steady as ever and beat Graham/Lowe in two games to earn back to back titles.

(Left to right – Smith/Ivy – sorry I missed Graham/Lowe before they headed to the locker room)



50s Division

We had 4 teams in the 50s and double division players Craig Sickmiller and Chris Monsour prevailed by beating Paul Straetmans and Mark Miller in the finals. Sickmiller/Monsour defeated another double division team of Duane Costanzo and Ken Mayer in round one.

Straetmans/Miller beat Mike Stock and Norm Young in their first round match. Game 1 was not close but Stock/Young made a switch and almost pulled out game 2 losing 21 to 17.

(Left to right – Miller, Straetmans, Monsour, Sickmiller)



A Division

The A division was another large group with 7 teams. The title was secured by newer up and coming players John Nix and Scott Jonna. They beat a solid team of Dale Chimenti and Joe Green in two games.

In round one:

Mike MacDonald and Bob Mitchell beat Dan Costello and Stuart Shevin in close match. Game two was 21 to 20.

Jonna/Nix beat our youngest player Ethan Myers (son of Pat Myers) who paired with Ken Mayer.

Chimenti/Green beat Jim LaFluer and Mike Howe in two games.

Side note: Mike and Jim (from Saginaw) were playing together the first time as they were both looking for partners. It is always tough for first time teams to have success but we really appreciate their making the effort to play in this event. If you ever want to play in an MHA tournament and need a partner, please contact us as we can usually find you one.

In the semis, Chimenti/Green bested the number one seed of Tommy Fabbri Jr. and Dan Taylor. Fabbri/Taylor won the B Division last year but could not find the magic this year.

Mitchell/MacDonald lost to Jonna/Nix in the other semi-final.

(Left to right – Jonna, Nix, Chimenti, Green)



Open Division

There were seven teams in the open division and the title was secured by Pat Myers and Pat Oliver. They defeated Billy Sidebottom Jr. and Pete Dembeck in the finals in two games.

Round One:

Alex Bieri and I (Rick Leonard) were defeated by Dembeck/Sidebottom. They just jumped on us game one with Billy serving tough on the left to me and Pete serving Alex tough on the right. In game 2, we adjusted to the pace and hung with them until 13 and they pulled away. We just did not have enough offense to handle with them as Pete gets everything in the back and Billy covers the front so well.

Pete Brown has been mentoring his partner Scott Jonna (who won the A division) and has taught him to play a very rough front court. That a tough position for all players and Scott looked more like a veteran than a new player. Brown/Jonna defeated 50s Champs Sickmiller/Monsour. Pete's serving and Scotty's coverage up front allowed them to win comfortably in two games.

Duane Costanzo and Bob Balch teamed up in the open. This allowed Duane to get two divisions in and Bob to find a partner for open. Per my side not earlier, it is great to see the participation. \$30 for two meals and a shirt is a good deal and we need the player participation. Duane and Bob ran into the champs – Myers/Oliver - in round one and lost in two games.

In the first semi- Myers/Oliver cruised through Brown and Jonna. While Brown/Jonna made them work, Myers/Oliver were just too strong in all phases.

In the second semi, Dembeck/Sidebottom Jr. jumped on the number one seed and defending champs Pete Hanover and Mike Fagan. Each game ended close at 17 and 18 but Dembeck/Sidebottom jumped out to early leads. Fagan/Hanover had late spurts in each game where they finally figure out how to score on the tough defensive team. However, the steady play up front and the back wall kills by Dembeck provided a steady scoring pace that could not be matched.

The finals saw some very high level play from Myers/Oliver. The lefty/rightly combination demonstrated offensive power and court balance and were too much for Dembeck/Sidebottom Jr.

Game 1 was all Myers/Oliver. Game two was much closer with it tied at 13 before Myers/Oliver went on a run to close it out. While Dembeck continued with some nice kills and Sidebottom was strong up front, Oliver/Myers generated a rare combination of offensive shots from each player in all 4 corners of the court. Whether it was left handed kill from Myers (the right court player) from the back right corner or a front left fly kill from Oliver, the constant pressure was fun to watch.

Congratulations to all this year's winners!

(Left to right – Sidebottom, Dembeck, Oliver, Myers)



Myers and Oliver will be representing the MHA in the National Masters Doubles Tournament in Chicago at the end of March (35 and over division). They will face some tough competition but hopefully continue their high level play and do well.

Thanks to all who participated. A special thanks for Scotty Jonna for sponsoring the shirts.