

2016 4 Walls State Doubles Results

The 4 Wall State Doubles was a great event at the Detroit Athletic Club on Friday February 19-20. The newly renovated court area was perfect for hosting nearly 60 players and a large number of handball fans. Thanks to the DAC and their members for hosting this event. The food and venue were top notch as always.

The results of each division are below:

Open Division

We had a great turnout in the open division with 10 teams.

Round 1:

- Pete Brown/Scott Jonna defeated Ryan Inman/Ben Hall in two games
- Craig Sickmiller/Chris Monsour defeated Kyle Casey/Logan Siegel in two games

In round 2

- Brown/Jonna made the number two seed Al Thomas/Pete Dembeck work a bit but the higher seed prevailed in two games – 14, 10.
- Sickmiller/Monsour ran into the #1 seed Pat Myers/Pat Oliver. The defending champs won in two.
- Jim Karner/Rick Leonard paired for the first time and faced the Toledo team of Tad Langenderfer and Matt Osburn. Karner and Leonard won in two games.
- Pete Hanover/Mike Fagan beat the new team of Phil Kirk/Billy Sidebottom Jr. The veteran East Lansing team of Hanover/Fagan used their experience to overcome the strong front court team to win in two games.

Semi-finals

- In first semi, Leonard/Karner battled Thomas/Dembeck. The first game was a back forth battle with Karner/Leonard serving for the match at 20-19. After a 20 plus shot rally, Pete Dembeck dove and re-killed a shot in the front court to give his team a chance to regain the serve for game one. The very next rally was another 20 plus shots rally and ended with Leonard diving in the front court and re-killing a shot with his left hand in the right corner. Karner/Leonard got back the serve and closed out game one. A nice run with strong back court play and kills by Karner in game two helped them pull away and win to secure a spot in the finals.
- The second semi was a great match that went to a tie breaker. The defending champs Myers/Oliver lost a close game one 21-18 vs veteran and previous multi State Champs Hagan/Hanover. The defending champs bounced back to take game 2 21-15. The tie break was a battle with Myers/Oliver taking an early lead. Hanover/Fagan made a comeback and survived a 10-9 match point to regain the serve. Both teams were playing at a high level with no hand

errors. Fagan/Hanover battled with great defensive shots to keep the ball tucked in the back corners away from the kill shot potential of Myers/Oliver. After getting Oliver/Myers out at 9-10, they tied the match and got the game winner on a side wall crotch shot that both Myers/Oliver had a chance at digging but hesitated for a split second to see if the other was going to take it. It was a great match played in front of large crowd.

Finals:

- The finals also went to a tie break. Game one was all Hanover/Fagan as they rolled to a 21-10 game won win. In game two Karner stepped up his play driving the ball in the back corners with three all wrap around and ceiling shots and earning set ups. He put the ball away with kills with both hands to get his team a large lead early and then win game two 21-15. In the tie breaker, Leonard was able to get his serve going on the right getting 3 or 4 crack aces - Leonard/Karner secured their first title together winning 11 to 3 in the tie breaker.



(From left to right – Karner, Leonard, Fagan, Hanover)

A Division:

There were 4 teams in the A Division:

Round 1:

- Siegel/Casey playing two divisions, played their second match of the night vs Jack DiGiovanni/Eddie Green. Green/DiGiovanni were also playing two divisions and won a prior match in the 60s. The younger guys were too tough and Siegel/Casey won in two games.
- The other side of the bracket saw two teams playing two divisions. Duane Costanzo/Ken Mayer, also playing the 50s lost in two games to Inman/Hall.

Finals:

- Inman/Hall vs. Siegel/Hall was classic A final where all players covered the court and were steady handed. Rallies were long and points were hard earned. Inman got everything up front and let the right shots go to his partner. Hall was able to get his left hand going with some back walls kills. Each game Hall/Inman executed a few more kills and pulled away in each game to win in two close games, 16,17.



(Left to right – Siegel, Casey, Inman, Hall)

B Division:

The B division had four teams.

Round one:

- Nick Stachurski/Mike Youngerman faced the father son team of Andrew Palazzo/John Palazzo. These were two close games but Starchurski/Youngerman pulled away to win in two games 14, 14.
- The DAC team of Rob Barr/Dan Taylor faced two division playing Sam Gachupin/Jim LaFluer. Taylor/Barr used their experience advantage to beat the newly formed team in two games – 6, 11.

Finals:

- Barr's right corner kill shot and Taylor's right court retrieving game were a great combo. Barr/Taylor used these skills to win the B title in two games.

(No picture – if anyone has one please submit and we will add it)

65s Division:

The 65s had 4 teams.

Round 1:

- The one seed in the 65s bracket were the previous 70s National Champions Rick Graham and Carl Valentino. Graham/Valentino prevailed in two games over Harvey Braun/Joe Kloka 9, 5.
- Angus McIntyre and Kenny Luchkovitz faced Jim Lowe and James Smith in the other bracket. Smith/Lowe were strong winning in two games 10,9.

Finals

- In the finals, Smith/Lowe continued their strong play beating Valentino/Graham in two games

(No picture – if anyone has one please submit and we will add it)

60s Division

The 60s division had 6 teams

Round 1:

- Bob Balch teamed up with Bobby Straetmans and they faced Stewart Shevin and Barry Doan in round 1. This was a close match as Bob/Bobby were hot and cold figuring out who would take shots and play what side. Doan/Shevin battled them shot for shot but some nice runs at the end of each game by Bob/Bobby closed out each game and secured the match 17,15.
- The other first round match Jack DiGiovanni/Eddie Green played Tom O'Brien and Kevin McGivern. This was a great one settled in a tie breaker. . Green/Giovanni pulled out the tight match (13), 17, 6.

Round 2:

- Defending champ Joe Ivy/ Jim Smith faced DiGiovanni/Green and it was a battle and one of the longest two game matches of the tournament. Eventually Ivy/Smith closed them out winning 17, 15.
- In the other semi, the veteran team of Jim Lowe/Larry Price beat Straetmans/Balch in two games 11,11

Finals:

- The finals featured Ivy/Smith vs. Lowe/Price. Lowe and Smith were playing double divisions and were teammates winning the 65s so only one could slam two divisions. Joe Ivy made sure he was getting a title and covered the court with dives to help lead Ivy/Smith to a repeat win.

(No picture – if anyone has one please submit and we will add it)

50s Division

The 50s division had 5 teams.

Round 1:

- Duane Costanzon/Ken Mayer defeated Jim LaFluer/Sam Gachupin in two games – 8, 16

Round 2:

- Mike MacDonald and Tim Thompson defeated Mark Miller and Paul Straetmans in two games.
- Chris Monsour and Craig Sickmiller defeated Costanzo/Mayer in two games.

Finals:

- Sickmiller/Monsour defended their title and defeated MacDonald/Thompson in two games – 7, 11.



(Left to right Tim Thompson, Mike MacDonald, Craig Sickmiller, Chris Monsour)

Thanks to all who played. Below is a picture of the bracket board

