

2018 State 3 Wall Singles

August 4, 2018

We had a perfect weather day for the 2018 3 Wall State Singles Finals. Temperatures in the high 80s but a nice breeze kept players from overheating.

The new one day state tournament format seems to be drawing well and many players informed us that enjoy the new format.

The goal of this new format is to attract more players who enjoy the challenge of tournament but can't devote a weekend away from the family. The new format also tries to insure that more players get more games vs. just those who advance to the finals.

65s Division

In the 65s division we had 4 players enter: Bob Kozak, Rick Graham, Mike Howe and Ed Green.

Each player played one game to 15 against each opponent. Ed Green and Rich Graham both ended up 2-0 to set up the finals where the winner would need to win 2 out 3 games to 15 – win by 2. Rick won a close first game as both players went on runs. Ed battled back to get game 2 with strong serves. In game 3 Rick came out strong with great serves and nice kills on the set ups he earned to clinch the title. Good luck to Rick as he heads to Minneapolis where he will compete in the 70s singles and doubles.



(Ed left/Rick Right)

A Division

In the A division, we had 5 players – Tony Girgenti, Ted Grammatico, Josh Girth, and James Flynn. James is making a bit of a handball comeback and drove in from Akron, OH.

In pool play games to 15, Ted Grammatico was pool champion going 3-0. Tony Girgenti went 2-1 to finish second in the pool and move into the 4 man bracket vs the 60s Division.

In the 60s Division, we also had 4 players: Bob Balch, Steward Shevin, Chuck Ferro and Sam Anderson. Sam is the oldie but newbie having just picked up the game in the last year or so. While Sam did not make it out of pool play, he held up pretty well in the unforgiving game of 3 Wall.

The winner of 60s pool was Chuck Ferro who went 3-0. Bob Balch was able to secure second place in the pool going 2-1.

The final 4 was set with the experienced 60s guys playing the younger A division players. In semi-final one, Bob Balch was able to beat Ted Grammatico. The game went overtime in the win by 2 format and Bob was able to win 16-14.

In the other Semi-final, Tony Girgenti was able to give Chuck Ferro his first loss. By avoiding the short game, Tony used his youth to chase down balls and his power to drive the ball deep and get the win.

In the final, youth was victorious as Tony drove the ball from the start. The tired Balch did not have much left after the tough overtime win in the semis and Tony cruised to Bracket championship.



(Tony Girgenti)

Open Division

The open division drew a great mix of 13 players. Carlos Vasquez and Joe Frankenfield made the trip in from Cleveland. Phil Kirk and Matt Osburn came up from Toledo. Michigan players Pat Myers, Pat Oliver, Rick Leonard, Chris Monsour, Ryan Inman, Ben Hall, Craig Sickmiller, Mike Fagan and defending champion Pete Dembeck completed the field of 13 players.

The field was divided into 3 pools – two pools of 4 and one pool of 5. 8 players would advance to the bracket championship determined by pool standing and as follows:

- 2 of the 4 players from the 4 man pools.
- 3 of the 5 players from the pool with 5 players and
- 1 wild card spot from any pool – (Wins/Points comparison)

In pool A, Phil Kirk was the champion beating Pete Dembeck 15-8, Sickmiller 15-7 and Mike Fagan 15-8. Pete Dembeck secured second with wins over Sickmiller and Fagan.

In pool B, Rick Leonard, Carlos Vasquez, Chris Monsour and Matt Osburn all battled with numerous close games. Carlos beat Matt 15-13, Rick 15-13 and Chris 15-6 to win the pool. Rick Leonard finished second with wins over Osburn and Monsour.

In pool C, Pat Oliver, Pat Myers, and Joe Frankenfield all advanced going 3-1. Ryan Inman and Ben Hall battled tough in all games but were knocked out in pool play.

The bracket of 8 was set. In the quarters, Carlos Vasquez advanced to the final 4 with a win over Phil Kirk. Carlos got his crack serve going to win the game. Rick Leonard beat Pat Oliver to make the final 4. Pete Dembeck had a back and forth game with Pat Myers but pulled out the win after being tied at 9. The last spot in the final 4 was earned by Joe Frankenfield with a win over Craig Sickmiller.

In the first semi, Frankenfield vs Leonard, Joe jumped out to an early 10-2 lead with steady rally play. Leonard found some serves and flies to get back into the match and tie it at 13. Leonard appeared to have a chance for a 14-13 lead with a set up in the front court but instead just skipped the kill shot. Joe seized the opportunity to get the service back and close it out 15-13.

In the other semi, Carlos Vasquez was trying to set up the all Cleveland final facing the defending 3 wall and 4 wall champ – Dembeck. Fortunately for Dembeck, Carlos could not get his short serves going. Pete was able to use his variety of serves and shots to get the win.

in the final, the format proved one game too long for Joe Frankenfield as cramps ended the final after only a few points. Dembeck used great fitness and an ability to adapt his game to win another title and go 5-1 vs 6 open level opponents.



Congrats to Pete and thanks to all who played in the tournament.