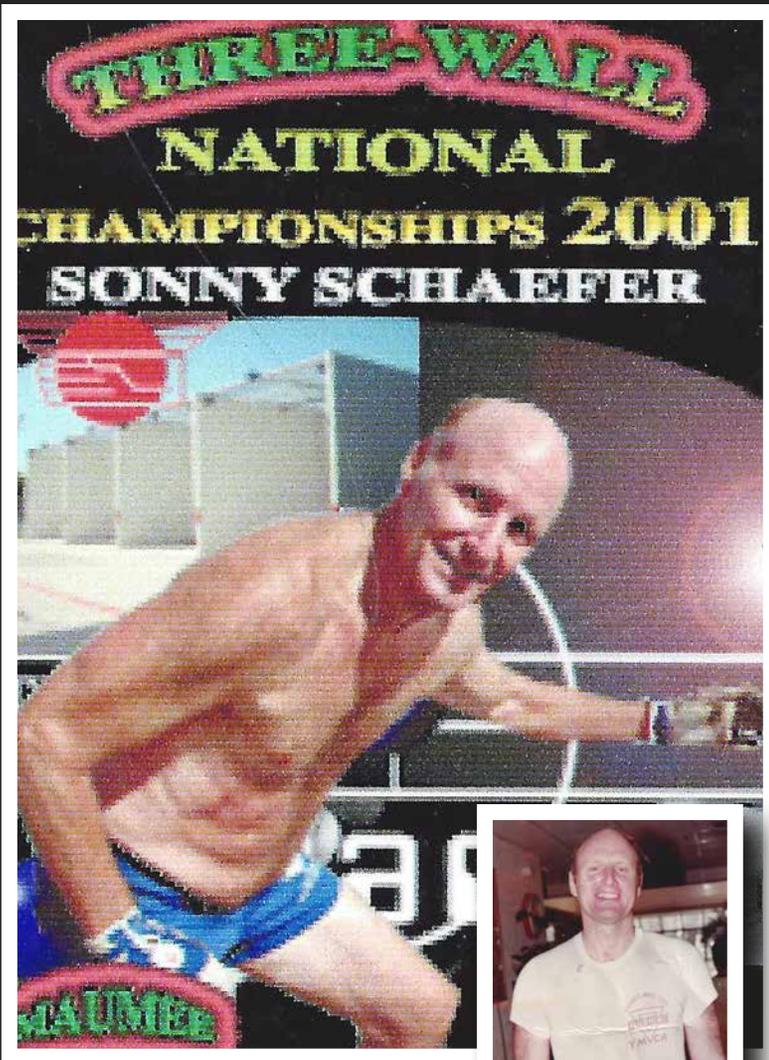


# Sonny Schaefer – NGM



Growing up in the Throbs Neck Section of the Bronx from 1948 to 1961, Sonny played basketball, baseball, and just about every other sport a kid could play. In 1957 he joined the Castle Hill Beach Club, where he played softball. But he became attracted to the three outdoor 4-wall handball courts, and began to play four or five days a week.

In June of 1959 he married his girlfriend, whom he called “classy,” and they proceeded to have seven children, four girls and three boys, all college graduates. From January, 1955 until July, 1977, Sonny was a member of the NYC Police Department, rising to the rank of lieutenant, and participating in the International Police Olympics, helping to bring home a “Gold” for handball.

After competing in numerous local, state, and regional tournaments in both 1- and 4-wall, someone suggested to him that he try 3-wall because it was an outdoor game, which required strength and conditioning. He entered the National 3-Wall Golden Singles event, and won his first masters championship at the age of 50. This motivated him to compete in the National 3-Wall each successive Labor Day weekend culminating in eight more championships in singles and doubles. He also won four National Masters titles in 4-wall. In 1-wall Sonny won a National Golden Doubles event and a National Super-veteran Singles. This enabled him to join a rare group for having won National Masters Championships in all three venues of handball, and elevated him to National Grandmaster status.

Adding to his laurels are eight National YMCA Championships in singles and doubles. In 2000, at the World Championships, held at Des Plaines, Illinois, and in 2006, at Alberta, Canada, Sonny won two more titles in 4-wall.

In summary, Sonny Schaeffer, an excellent master’s player, won:

1. 14 USHA titles
2. 8 YMCA titles
3. 2 world titles
4. 1 Canadian National title