

# Sheila Maroshick



**As a pre-teen Sheila Maroshick became attracted to handball after her family moved to a neighborhood near Lincoln Terrace Park, the hub of 1-wall handball in Brooklyn. By her mid-teens Sheila played doubles regularly with the men. One of the park's "game arrangers," a strong player in his own right, Morris "Red" Kravitz was most responsible for involving Sheila in games with strong male 1-wallers.**

In 1949 Sheila won her first Mirror Parks Department Singles Tournament, and she did it again in '50, '51, '52, and '53 – five consecutive years. The only reason she didn't win any others is that a New York official felt that someone else should get a crack at the title. He declared that anyone winning five times in a row would no longer be allowed to enter the tournament. In 1960 Sheila won her first USHA National Women's Singles Tournament. She repeated in '62, '63, and '64. In '61 she was runner-up in a close match with a woman whom she defeated in '64. Again Sheila likely would have won many more tournaments, but the



USHA stopped running women's events until 1980. In addition there were no women's doubles events, and the AAU ran no handball events at all for women. Basically Sheila Maroshick won just about every sanctioned handball event during her era of competition.

Sheila, by 1960, in addition to being a National Handball Champion, became a tennis pro, and entered several professional tennis tournaments. On graduating from college, she worked as a physical education teacher at George Gershwin Junior High School in Brooklyn. There she earned the respect of the biggest, toughest boys by beating them on the handball court, and also by beating the school's assistant-principal, who had laid claims to being a good handball player.

Sheila was promoted to the position of District Health and Physical Education Coordinator. In addition to her handball and tennis accolades, she also became a certified basketball official. Although involved in a variety of sports, Sheila always claimed her first love was handball. She won her matches with speed, power, coordination, and intelligence. She was, without question, the dominant female 1-waller of her era. At this writing she has been nominated by two separate 1-Wall Committees to the USHA National Hall of Fame.