

Moey Orenstein

Moey was a 5'6", 165 pound package of muscle. From the early 1940's to the mid-1950's he was regarded as the untitled king of 1-wall handball. He had legs that resembled tree trunks and arms which were as powerful as his legs. Vic Hershkowitz, generally considered the best all-around handball player of all time, acknowledged that Moey was the most formidable 1-waller he ever faced.

Moey won the 1942 AAU Doubles Championship while partnered with aforementioned Vic, and in 1949 he slammed, winning both the National AAU 1-Wall Singles and Doubles. Additionally, in 1939 and '40 he reached the semi-

finals of the AAU doubles and singles respectively. World War II stole some of Moey's prime years, and then, in 1950, the AAU barred him from entering further tournament competition because he had joined a professional handball group, which was being paid for exhibiting their skills at a Broadway arena. That ban also robbed Moey of many of his prime years, when he might have won several more National titles.

Orenstein was also the best money player of his time. He thoroughly dominated Lincoln Terrace Park, the hub of top flight 1-wall handball in Brooklyn. He was respected everywhere in the city where there was handball turf. He was always a presence to be reckoned with on a handball court.

A fabulous retriever, Moey combined sheer speed with tremendous anticipation and reflexes. It was almost impossible to drive a ball through him. He had tremendous court sense, and was able to change the direction of a volley to throw his opponents off balance. His ability to block his opponents was second to none. One of his classic shots was a left-handed sweep of the ball for a kill in the right corner.

The AAU's banishing Moey Orenstein (and several other great players) from tournaments was a huge loss to the New York handball community.

