

Phil Casey

**Known as
the first great
handball player
in the United
States.**

Phil Casey was believed to hold the title of “World’s Best Handball Player” for a period of 25 years, beginning in 1869, when he won the title from Bernard MacQuade. Casey is best known as the most important person to popularize the sport of handball in the United States. Together with partner James Dunne, they toured Europe defeating all the best teams on that continent. In 1886 he matched up against John Lawlor of Ireland in a series of handball games to determine the world’s best handball player. The final games concluded at Casey’s home court at 297 DeGraw Street in Brooklyn, New York. There Casey soundly defeated Lawlor.

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