

Marcel Goldfarb

Marcel was born in 1952 in Paris, France. He arrived in New York City at the age of five.

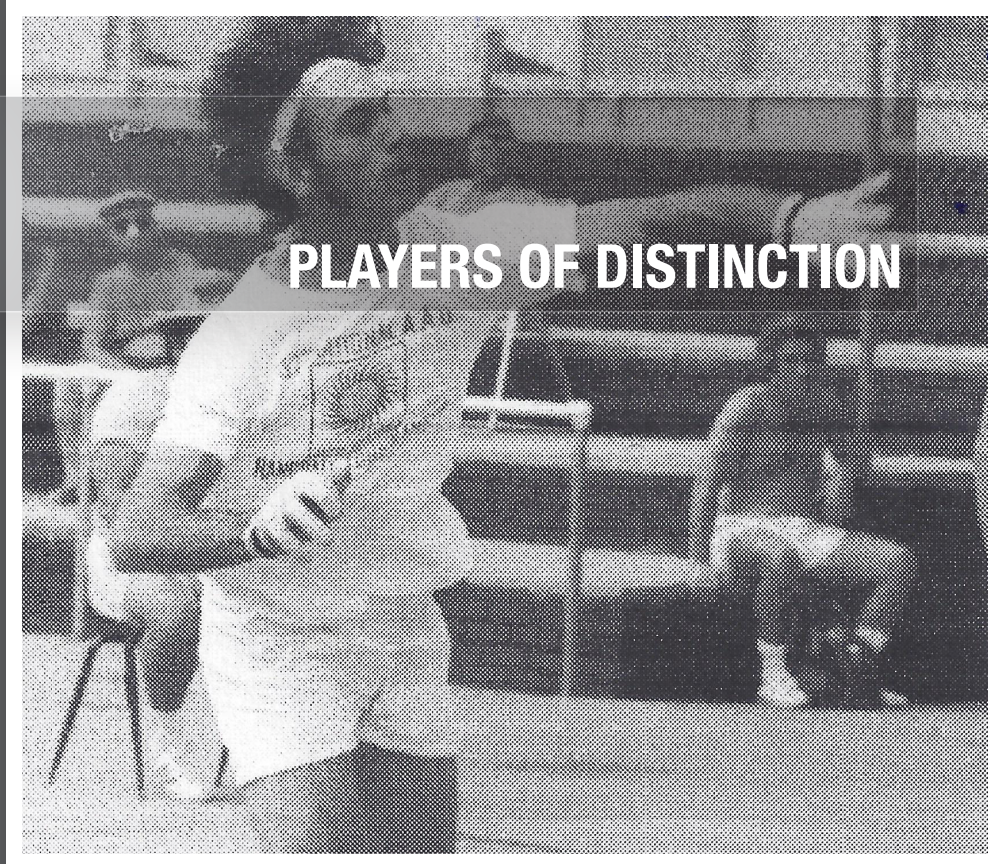
It was in Brooklyn, at the age of ten, where Marcel began to play handball, honing his skills by practicing on a lumberyard fence. While attending Samuel J. Tilden High School as a freshman, he was anointed team captain and first singles player.

In 1970 he won the USHA National 1-Wall Juniors, which garnered Marcel much recognition. He became the subject of articles in publications including *Ace Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, and the *New York Daily News*. On July 12, 1971, he was awarded the "Sports Illustrated Award of Merit."

Coached at Tilden by well-recognized Leo Hirsch, Goldfarb intimidated opponents with his lightning speed and ambidexterity. He led Tilden's handball squad to three consecutive city championships, while padding his personal accolades by also winning the PSAL Individual Singles Championships. In the process Marcel shattered each and every PSAL record along the way. On graduation from Tilden he was awarded the Weisman Memorial in Athletics, a great honor.

Marcel brought his skills beyond junior competition. Before retiring from the game at too young an age, he earned semi-final berths in both AAU and USHA National Singles and Doubles Tournaments. He was also asked to participate in various 1-wall exhibitions and invitational events around the city.

When asked about his most memorable handball experience, he replied, without hesitation, that it was defeating Steve Sandler on October 8, 1972, in the quarter-finals. This incredible feat was recorded in *Ace Magazine* as "the greatest upset in 1-wall history." Noting his



PLAYERS OF DISTINCTION

sadness about Sandler's recent passing (several months prior to this writing), Marcel recalled how he would run into Steve from time to time, and Sandler would say, "I always liked you, Marcel. You were a good kid." Marcel also paid tribute to his greatest doubles partners, Ken Ginty, and National Hall of Famer Mark Levine. He also paid great respect to National Hall of Famer Al Torres, calling the 1-wall community in general, "a great group of guys."

At this writing Marcel lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Nancy, who was his high school sweetheart. They have two sons, both outstanding athletes in their own right, excelling in sports such as tennis, baseball, and hockey. Much like their father, they have won countless awards and accolades, and have had some of the same publications which wrote about their father, write about them. Marcel is also grandfather to two granddaughters, and is hoping for a grandson so he can, perhaps, watch some sports between ballet recitals.

While he stopped playing handball earlier than he would have liked in order to support his family, he continued to pass by the courts at Coney Island from time to time to observe some of the great young talent play. He was grateful to the NYHHOF Committee for remembering his great moments and for bestowing on him the honor of inclusion in the NYHHOF.