

# Walter Plekan\* – 1991

**A resident of Buffalo, and a handball legend in those parts, Plekan won several National AAU and National YMCA 4-Wall Championships. In 1951 he wrested the title away from the ever-brilliant Vic Hershkowitz. Walter Plekan was widely regarded as one of the greatest handball players ever.**

From his beginnings on the 1-wall courts at Wende playground, the ambidextrous Plekan parlayed his dynamite, hooking serve and unpredictable trick shots to become the number one player in Western New York history. Known for his intensity on the court, Walter captured two New York State titles by the time he turned 21. He added the YMCA National Championship and the National Junior AAU titles in 1939. He hit his personal pinnacle in 1951, when he captured the first USHA 4-Wall National Championship.

While remaining unbeatable at the local level, he became regarded as one of the top four players in the country over a twelve year period. He dominated Western NY handball in both singles and doubles competition for more than thirty years, and he retired from competition in 1953. He was inducted into the USHA National Hall of Fame in 1991.

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