

# Steve Kraft (NGM)

**Steve Kraft started playing handball as an 11 year old with the old Spaulding. As a teenager he played black ball with his father, Norman Kraft. He played for the Martin Van Buren High School Handball Team.**

Beginning 1961 he was working full time and attending college. There was little time for handball until 1977 when he resumed playing in Plainview, Long Island on weekends. He was a single parent in the '70's and '80's, and so rarely entered tournaments.

In 1996 he left New York to teach at the University of North Dakota where he learned to play 4-wall. He won two North Dakota State Handball Championships, one in singles and one in doubles. He also won some 4-wall events in Canada.

During summers he returned to New York and continued to play 1-wall. He won his first USHA National Tournament in the Golden (50+) category with partner Mike Krell. In the Super Division (60+) and Super-veteran Division (65+) he won nine USHA National Doubles titles with five different partners: Joe Jacaruso, Ron Eaton, Al Tomba, Dan Flickstein, and Sal Cataudella. He also won one USHA National Super Singles Championship, beating longtime friend, Dennis Uffer, in the finals. This elevated him to National Grandmaster status.

Kraft also won the Irish National 50+ 1-wall title in singles in 2000, and the Eastern Regional 3-wall 50+ Championship twice, once in singles and once in doubles with Dennis Uffer. Steve also won three World Championships, one singles title in Portland, Oregon, and a singles and doubles title (with Dennis Uffer) in Edmonton, Canada.

When teaching at in North Dakota, Steve formed and coached a handball team at the University, which competed in the National Collegiates twice. He was inducted into the North Dakota Handball Hall of Fame in 2008.



Road to Grand Master status