

# Anthony “Butch” D’Auria

**Born in 1939 in Coney Island, New York, “Butch” D’Auria attended PS 100, where he played baseball.**

His biggest thrill in those days was playing at Ebbets Field for the City Championship in 1956, which Lincoln won. It was the year Butch graduated. Butch's stay at college was short-lived. Illness in his family demanded that he run the family butcher/grocery business, which was located at West 5th Street and Neptune Avenue. Eminent domain forced the family to move to Bensonhurst, where Butch continued to play baseball. It was not until his late twenties that he was introduced to handball by his best friend, Joe Salpietro.

Butch and Joe used to meet after work in Marine Park where they jogged the oval. There were handball courts close by, and that's where Joey taught Butch how to play the game. It was an instant love affair for Butch. He continued to play in Coney Island, at the 28th Street gym, and at the old HES.

D’Auria met his lovely wife at about the same time he began playing handball. At this writing they have been married 45 years and have a 27 year old son, Anthony, who teaches at MacArthur High School in Levittown, NY, where the D’Aurias reside. In Long Island Butch played in Plainview, Merrick, but mostly at Cedar Creek in Wantagh, N. Y. It was at Cedar Creek where Butch met and partnered with Camine Belissimo. The two won the USHA 70+ National Doubles three years running, from 2010 – 2012.

The D’Aurias, at this writing, winter in Naples, Florida, where the only game in town is 4-wall. There are plenty of players, and most are from the mid-west. Butch found the game very challenging, but he learned enough through practice to remain competitive.

## PLAYERS OF DISTINCTION

