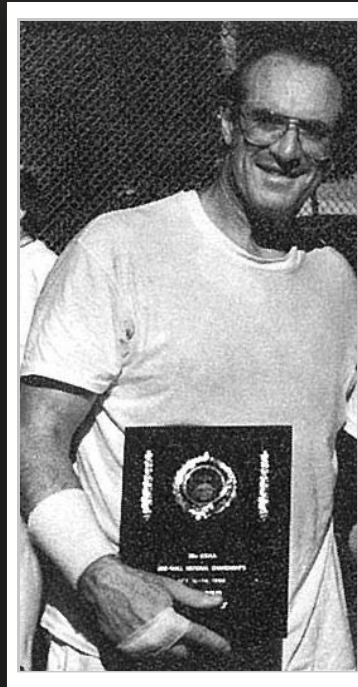


Mike Dikman - NGM

Tall and rangy in high school, where he learned to play handball, Mike Dikman, after losing his very first match as a sophomore, led Jamaica High School two straight years to the coveted City Championship. As first singles player for Jamaica in both 1952 and '53 his record was unblemished.



After a long hiatus from handball, Mike, after college and law school, returned to sanctioned tournament play. He was in his prime during an era (1960's – '70's) when some of the most talented one-wallers ever were competing, including the three Obert Brothers, the Danilczyk Brothers, Steve Sandler, Howie Eisenberg, Ken Davidoff, Marty Decatur, and at least thirty other men, who, on a given day, could have been competitive with any of the aforementioned. The first time Mike reached an exalted semi-final berth in a National Open event was in 1964, and the last time he attained the same level was in 1990. That is a remarkable 26 years, an incredible testament to longevity, as a top player attributed to no other one-waller. During that 26 year stretch, Mike was a high finisher, including four championships, in 24 National Open one-wall tournaments. Many of the game's stronger players fell victim to Dikman's power, strong defensive opposite right, and blistering fly-kills.

In addition, once past 35, Mike began competing in both masters as well as open events. As a masters player he won eleven National titles in singles and doubles, earning him the distinction of National Grandmaster. There was no one-waller who could ever take big Mike lightly. He was a power-house, or as one player described him, a "monster of a player."

