

Sorrel Feldman

Sorrel Feldman began his 65 year career (at this writing) at the young age of ten, playing across the street from his apartment at Bronx Park East.

From that point on there was no stopping him. Known for his remarkable angle serves from left to right and straight down the left line, among the best in 1-wall singles play, Sorrel was a threat to any rival on the court. He competed in his high school, college, and throughout his adult life. His first memorable win came during PSAL competition when the Bronx High School of Science defeated Brooklyn's Abraham Lincoln High School, 3-2, for the City Championship. In 1957 he won the Brooklyn College Intramural Championship, defeating Howie Eisenberg in the final. In 1958 he won the NYC Mirror Parks Department tournament by defeating all comers including Steve Sandler in the final. That same year he won the Castle Hill 1-Wall Singles Tournament, defeating, first, Bob Lewis, then Ray Gershon.

In the 1970's he went on to the National Doubles Tournament with Marty Katzen, achieving third place. In 1972, once again, he defeated Howie Eisenberg in an early round of the National AAU event. During that same year, although he lost a three game match to Ruby Obert, he scored 18 consecutive points in the second game for the win. In '73, teamed with Steve Adler, he went on to the quarters after defeating the Hopkins brothers. He closed out the '70's and began the '80's as Sports Illustrated's Merit Winner in '78.

During the '79-'80 1-wall season Feldman defeated the following players in singles: Joe Durso, Al Apuzzi, Danny Maroney, Flip Wolfarth, and Steve Sandler. In 1981 he finished fourth in the USHA National Singles.

Afterwards he continued his career in masters tournaments, going on to win six singles titles and one doubles title with Al Tomba. He played in twelve National Tournaments with his son, Michael Feldman, up until the 2011 USHA event. He then took on the humbling task of passing on his skills to his granddaughters.

When asked what his favorite memory was of his 65 year handball odyssey, he responded, "Days at Castle Hill Beach Club, where I met Janet Jackowitz, and we're still here 50 years later, happily married."

Sorrel "Doc" Feldman was a highly successful physician of internal medicine, a ringside physician ('70's), and writer for Ring Magazine ('80's). He also fought in the Golden Gloves in the '60's.

PLAYERS OF DISTINCTION

