

Lou Kramberg

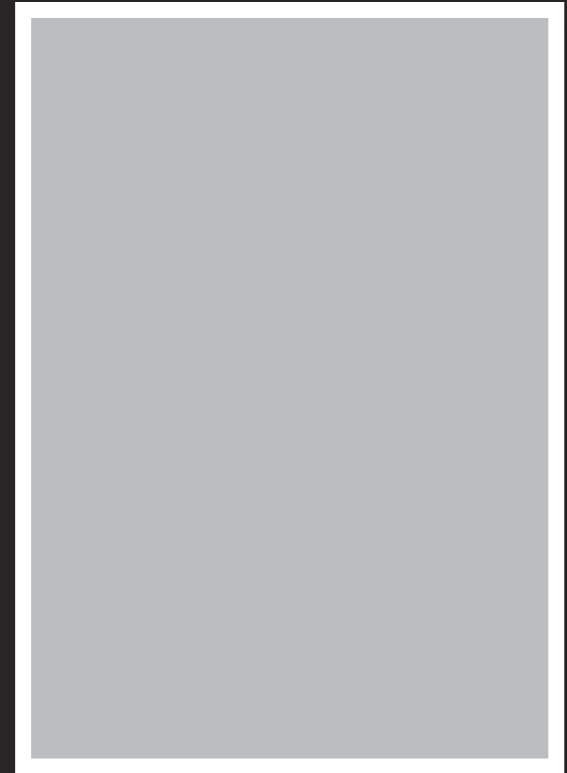
Lou Kramberg, a former professional baseball player and manager and semi-pro basketball and football player did not play handball until the age of 26, in 1955.

Lou's strong arm and considerable athletic ability combined with a propensity to perceive, analyze and incorporate the most effective techniques into his play facilitated his quick rise to become one of the top 4-wall players in the East. By 1957, Mr. Kramberg was the Mid-Atlantic 4-wall open doubles champion.

Assuming the position of Assistant Athletic Director of the 92'nd Street YMHA, a post he held for 50 years, Lou further developed his game and went on to win the Virginia State and USHA Eastern Regional Open 4-wall Singles championships. He attained the highest level of play when all-time great, Jim Jacobs joined the 92'nd Street Y becoming Lou's mentor.

Adopting the Jacobs philosophy of play and becoming Jim's prime disciple, Kramberg went on to become one of the best Open 4-wall players in the country. Lou topped off semi-final doubles finishes in the national 3-wall with Steve Sandler and the national 1-wall doubles with Marty Katzen, to win the national USHA 4-Wall Doubles championship with Lou Russo in 1969. Arguably hitting the ball harder off the back wall than anyone who ever played, Lou Kramberg was the formidable right side complement that pushed opponents, forcing them into setups for his left side partner. Kramberg was also a national JWB Open doubles champion with Max Laskow.

In 4-wall age group competition Kramberg was dominant from both sides of the court as well as in singles. Together with Max Laskow, Lou formed a winning team that ran through most opponents.



...Lou Kramberg

Beyond his playing, as the assistant athletic director at the 92'nd St. Y, Lou created an environment that allowed most of the greatest players of their time to play, learn and flourish. It was not unusual to see a doubles game consisting of Jacobs, Decatur, Russo and Singer testing their abilities against each other in the handball shrine known as the 92'nd St. YMHA.

A partial record of Lou's accomplishments follows

1962 National JWB 4-Wall Open Doubles Champion with Max Laskow

1969 National USHA 4-Wall Open Doubles Champion with Lou Russo

1968 National USHA 4-Wall Open Doubles Semi-finalist with Pat Kirby

1967 National USHA 4-Wall Open Doubles Semi-finalist with Buzz Shumate

1957 Mid-Atlantic 4-Wall Open Doubles Champion

Virginia State 4-Wall Open Singles Champion

USHA Eastern Regional 4-Wall Open Singles Champion

1967 USHA Eastern Regional 4-Wall Open Doubles Champion with Jim Jacobs

1973 NYAC 4-Wall Masters Doubles Champion with Max Laskow

1968 National USHA 3-Wall Open Doubles Semi-finalist with Steve Sandler

National USHA 1-Wall Open Doubles Semi-finalist with Marty Katzen

