

Raul Fantauzzi

Raul did not become a serious handball player until he was 28 years old. But only two years later he captured the number 8 spot on the top-10 Pro-Pyramid Chart.

The Pyramid was a ranking system for pink ball singles players, developed by Dave Andre, a teacher and handball enthusiast during the 1970's and '80's. The chart included the names of the best ten pink ball players in all five boroughs. It was extremely difficult to get on that chart, and even more difficult to stay on. Yet for a period of at least five years Raul's name was consistently on the Pyramid tabbing him as one of the finest pink ball singles players during that time.

Fantauzzi had fierce determination and elite conditioning by the age of 31. His most famous win came that year against the fabulous Buddy Gantt. Down, 4-16, Raul made one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the pink ball game, and against one of the game's all-time best players. It moved Raul, with that 21-16 triumph, to the very top of the Pyramid. Holding that title was one of the greatest thrills of his life.

Raul played in as many tournaments as he could in small parks and large parks, in popular parks and unknown parks. When his wins kept piling up, his reputation as a top player skyrocketed. It seemed wherever he traveled to play handball people knew of him through word of mouth. The internet had yet to be invented!

Raul gives tribute to his brother Rocky for introducing him to handball and to his wife Hazel for encouraging him to practice on every sunny day. Simply put, handball was a way of life for Raul Fantauzzi.

PLAYERS OF DISTINCTION

