NY HANDBALL HALL OF FAME
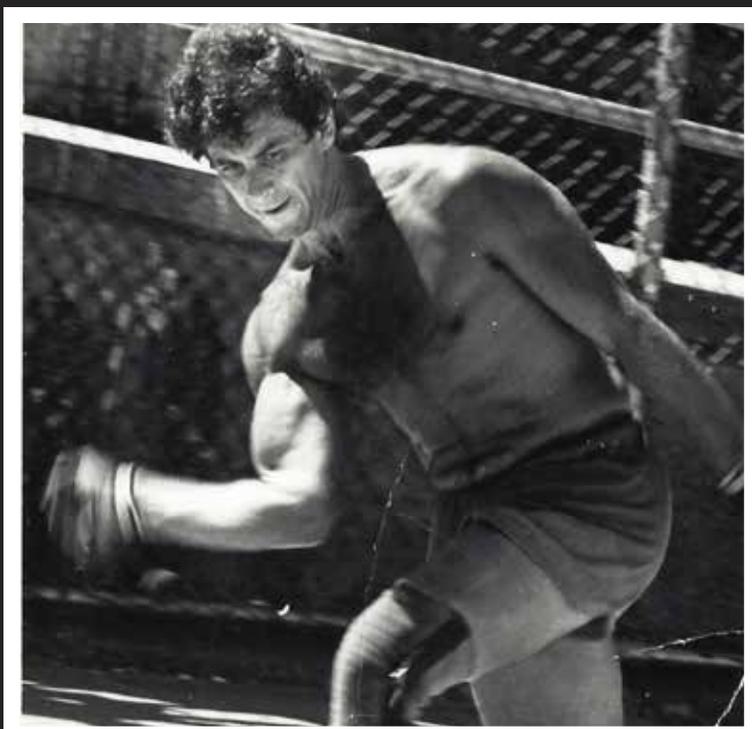
Dan Flickstein

First singles title: Author Dan Flick-

Dan began playing handball in junior high school in the Sunset Park district of Brooklyn. His family moved to East Flatbush, a block and a half from Avenue P and East 4th Street in Brooklyn.

Dan went from winning nearly every game he played in his old neighborhood to losing nearly every one at Avenue P, where at least a dozen boys were clearly better than he. In 1961, at 16, much improved from the tough local competition, he was elevated to the first singles position on Lafayette High School's handball team. For two years his record there was untarnished. In 1961 he was also runner-up in the city's Mirror Parks Department tournament. In 1962, after captaining his high school team to the city championship, he was runner-up in the USHA National Juniors, losing by two points to Lou Russo in the third game of the final match.

For the next twenty years, until 1983, Dan was among the top eight, even the top four players in one-wall singles and doubles. Three times he reached the AAU Singles semi-finals (twice winning the bronze medal for coming in third – when players had to contend for that berth). He also finished in the semi-finals three times in National Doubles tournaments, and, in 1981, lost in the third game of the doubles championship match by only five points. His partner and best friend was always Marc Goldberg.

Flickstein, once past 19, also played in nearly every exhibition and invitational around the city. In 1976 he won a Manhattan singles invitational, and, in 1977, he won the first Shore Haven Singles Invitational in the Bronx. He and Marc Goldberg won the State Doubles Championship held in Nyack, New York in 1977 and '78.

Beginning master's play in 1984, Flickstein at this writing, has won eight National titles in singles and doubles, and finished in the runner-up position a dozen times, also in singles and doubles.