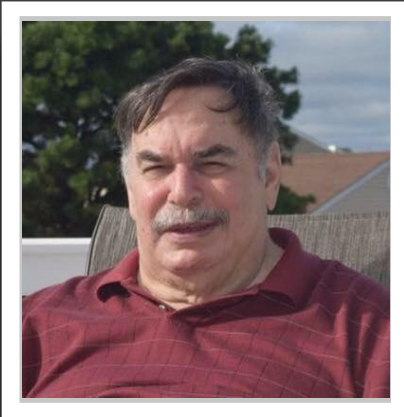


Ken Smolack



As a boy Ken Smolack was surrounded by handball at Castle Hill Beach Club.

There he observed some of the greatest hand ball stars ever including the Obert brothers, Marty Decatur, Marty Katzen, and he played with Fred Lewis, Lou Russo, and a host of others. He gravitated to 4-wall, although he enjoyed and played 1-wall as well. He grew to be a highly successful New York 4-wall doubles player, winning an impressive number of state tournaments, usually partnered with Fred Munsch. But his New Jersey residence at the time of his championship run precluded his induction to the NYHHOF as a player.

But his knowledge of all handball games, especially 4-wall, was vast, and he contributed it in a number of ways. For at least ten years he wrote a column for Ace Magazine (eventually becoming Handball Magazine), entitled "The Meatball Corner," where his serious observations were often couched in gentle humor. During those years he lived in NY. He contributed his knowledge of the 4-wall game, its players, venues, and tournaments to the establishment of the NYHHOF.

Ken at all times carried a gold plated lifetime USHA Membership card, which read "Ken Smolack – New York. Smolack was proud of his Bronx heritage.