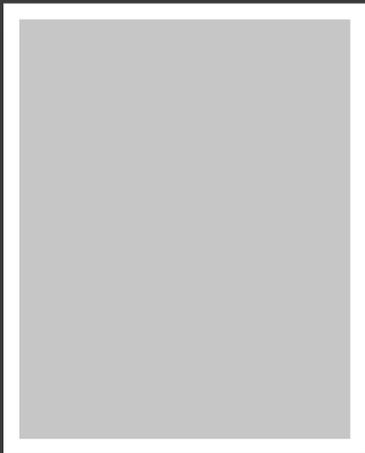


Irving Ehrlich



Irv Ehrlich began giving to handball at Lincoln Terrace Park during the early 1950's. Lincoln Terrace was among the biggest, if not the very biggest, hotbeds of 1-wall handball in New York City, with 14 courts actively used from morning to night.

Irving visited the Parks Department, where he suggested that he would donate prizes if the Department sponsored a tournament at Lincoln Terrace. Divisional singles events were held for black ball players and pink ball players. There were open events, junior events, and women's events. There was considerable prestige to be had for the winners, and Ehrlich donated to the tournament for several years.

In the summer of 1955 the Lincoln Terrace contingent sought a venue which provided outdoor night lighting. They discovered the Brownsville Boys Club, located on Linden Boulevard and Stone Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The facility had outdoor courts with flood lamps, and two indoor courts as well.

The Hebrew Educational Society, where many of the 1-wallers gravitated during cold winter weather, had become very crowded, and another indoor venue was needed. Ehrlich, a human dynamo, set the wheels in motion. He organized a group of players and petitioned the management of The Boys Club to provide indoor handball time in the winter months for community people. Thus the Brownsville Handball Club was founded.

In 1958 Ehrlich contacted Bob Kendler, founder and President of the USHA, and requested a sanction to hold the first USHA National 1-Wall Handball Championships, hosted by the Brownsville Handball Club. The event took place in the fall of 1959. Irving Ehrlich visited every major handball park in New York City, and recruited thousands of enthusiasts. The result was the largest tournament in the history of any form of handball, with 650 entrants in singles, doubles, and masters doubles. The USHA 1-Wall Championships was held at the Brownsville Boys Club until the early 1970's. If it had not been for Irving Ehrlich, the USHA might never have become involved with 1-wall handball because the organization was based on the interests of the 4-wall community. A great debt is owed by 1-wallers to this wonderful, unassuming man.