

Willie Polanco

One of the finest 1-wall doubles player of the first decade (and beyond) of the 21st century, Willie was a brilliant defensive lefty, and a steadying influence on any partner fortunate enough to have paired with him, which was usually Pee Wee Castro.

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Polanco won the National USHA Open Doubles Championship in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2012, all with Castro. In 2014 he won it again, but this time Mike Schneider was his partner. Willie was magnificent in steadying Schneider and helping him to his best outing ever, as they defeated the favored Bastidas brothers in the final.

Teamed with Castro, Willie also took second place in USHA National Doubles in 2007 and 2011. In 2010 he was runner-up in USHA National Singles, having eliminated the fabulous Satish Jagnandan in the semis.

But doubles was Willie's specialty. In addition to his USHA titles, he also won three National YMCA Doubles Championships: 2004, '05, and '13. In Ireland in 2003, teamed with Herman Mendez, Willie won the World's Bib Blue Doubles title. In 2006 he slammed in the World's held in Edmonton, Canada, winning the singles and the doubles, paired with Tony Roberts. In 2009, in Portland, Oregon, he slammed again, winning the small ball doubles with Castro and the big ball doubles with Roberts.

It was rare to find a finer gentleman on or off the court than Willie Polanco.