

The State of Ohio 2015 4-Wall Tournament

(By Denis Hogan, President GCHA)

The State of Ohio 4-Wall Tournament was held at the Premier at Sawmill Athletic Club in Dublin, Ohio on March 20-22. This was an exciting and well attended event, showcasing a competitive field of 87 players from Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada.

The Columbus hosts really made a superb effort to increase the attendance. They also made a commitment to upgrade the food and drink service provided to the players and guests. They succeeded on both counts, as the attendance was significantly more than recent years and the meals provided included pizza and salads on Friday night, Saturday morning coffee, juice, fruit and donuts, with a lunch of deli trays for custom sandwiches, followed by a dinner of pasta, bread & salad, Sunday morning same, and pizza for lunch. Coffee, juice, soda drinks and bottled water were available all weekend. Additional meal tickets for the entire weekend for non-players were available for a very nominal cost. Congratulations to the Columbus crew for making this event a success.

Our Cincinnati contingent mustered 17 players, meaning we contributed one out of every five players at State. We had a total of 27 entries in 11 of the 14 events offered at the tournament. All players were guaranteed a minimum of two matches. Some went all out and played both ways, while others concentrated all their efforts on one event. No matter which choice was made, the competitive nature of the event made each match a battle. Our players came home with three first place wins, one second place, and thirteen semi-final places. This was an outstanding showing.

A presentation of awards for recognized service to the Handball community was held Saturday afternoon during a short break in play. Ray Mayo presented Steve Dykes the Distinguished Service Award for his years of work in support of the Ohio State Tournament. In a surprise presentation, Casey Mayo presented his father, Ray Mayo, the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Service to Ohio Handball, notably as a teacher and mentor to numerous developing players.

Over and above the official results, the camaraderie among the players, the families and the spectators was, as always, both warm and raucous, supportive and needling; in other words, the ever present mix of affirmation and challenge we all revel in. Old friendships and rivalries were renewed, and the beginnings of many future ones were created.

I urge all Cincinnati players to consider a short road trip next spring to Columbus. It is a perfect way to close out the winter season, an opportunity to play against new and interesting players, and, not least of all, the opportunity for us to take our hard earned skills and match them against the best our region offers.

It would be great to add to our total of players and increase our wins next year.

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Cincinnati Players at State of Ohio 4-Wall Tournament:

- Steve Kehoe placed 1st in 60 Singles
- Jack Prather/Jack Dean placed 1st in 60 Doubles
- Marion Kollstedt placed 1st in 70 Doubles
- Bob Lohmueller placed 2nd in Open Doubles
- Casey Mayo placed in semi's in Open/A Singles
- Justin Baker placed in semi's in Open/A Singles
- Chandler Straw placed in semi's in B Singles
- Aaron Wurdack placed in semi's in B Singles
- Denis Hogan placed in semi's in 60 Singles
- Jack Prather placed in semi's in Open Doubles
- Dan Connaughton/Aaron Wurdack placed in semi's in A Doubles
- Denis Hogan placed in semi's in A Doubles
- Chandler Straw/Spencer Straw placed in semi's in B Doubles
- Blake Cauldwell/Mary Parks placed in semi's in C Doubles
- Al Viets 60 Singles/B Doubles
- Amy Viets B/C Singles
- Johnny Walker 75 Singles