

# PADDLE TENNIS NEWS

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## Strong Competition Marks National Singles Championships But...

# Freedman's Reign Continues



SCOTT FREEDMAN (second from left) won his fifth National Singles championship in six years when he defeated Mark Rifenbark (far right) for the coveted title. At left is Nels Van Patten who took third in the finals. Tournament director Bobby Hockless was on hand to congratulate the trio who played May 16-17 in Venice, California.

## Newcomer Stages Upset For Women's Open Title

Once a year, in the beginning of summer, there's a tradition that's known as the National Singles Championships. This year's championships was no different, as talk of past, present and future champions was aplenty at the Venice courts in the week preceding the tournament. Who would win this year's title in the Mens Open? Would it be the feisty challenger Mark Rifenbark, who never says die and who has won five National Singles titles and has appeared in every final since 1981, or would Scott Freedman, the perennial favorite, the National champion five out of the last six years, continue to dominate the field?

The competition was strong in the Mens Open as a field of 26 competed in the event. Among the players who took to the courts early Saturday morning to challenge the likes of Rifenbark and Freedman were 1980 champion Nels Van Patten, the Spaniard Fernando Sartorius, always dangerous Daryl Lemon and the legendary doubles player Sol Hauptman.

An early match between Hauptman and Rifenbark almost turned the field upside down. No one gave Hauptman a chance to even stay close to Rifenbark, let alone win, but Hauptman shocked Rifenbark and took a 6-2 lead and then had two match points in his favor at 7-5 before Rifenbark fought his way back with an array of dazzling shots and great speed to defeat the exhausted Hauptman 9-7.

Meanwhile, Freedman, who makes a religion of Paddle Tennis, swept through his first three matches losing only a total of four games including an 8-3 victory in the semi-finals over Van Patten.

Rifenbark, whose last National victory came in 1986, hoped that his improved physical conditioning would enable him to break Freedman's hold on the title, but Freedman seemed to be in a class by himself as he soundly defeated Rifenbark 8-3 in the finals of the winners bracket and then 8-2 in the finals. Nels Van Patten, at the age of 37, had his best showing in five years as he finished third.

In the Womens Open competition, newcomer Nicole Marois, a college tennis star from UCLA; caused quite a stir as she defeated 1981 champion Anna Castaneda in the finals of the winners bracket by the score of 8-5. Castaneda then defeated Heidi Allison in the finals of the losers bracket to gain an opportunity to recapture her title, but Marois' shot marking ability proved overwhelming as she again defeated Castaneda to capture her first Womens title.

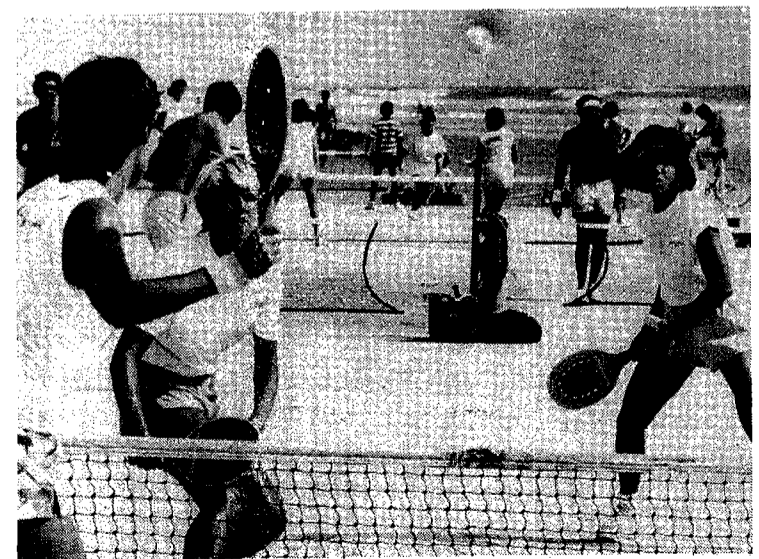
**For A Complete History of National Singles Champions dating back to 1978 - see page 2 -**

## 1992 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

(Dates and Tournaments May Be Subject To Change)

June 6, 7	<b>Culver City Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Culver City, Ca
June 13, 14	<b>Culver City Championships Mixed Doubles</b>	Culver City, CA
June 20, 21	<b>So. Carolina State Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Charleston, SC
June 27, 28	<b>Eastern Championships Men's Doubles</b>	New York, NY
July 11, 12	<b>Southeastern Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	St. Augustine, FL
July 11, 12	<b>Los Angeles City Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Venice, CA
July 18, 19	<b>Los Angeles City Championships Mixed Doubles</b>	Venice, CA
August 1, 2	<b>California State Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Torrance, CA
August 8, 9	<b>California State Championship Mixed Doubles</b>	Torrance, CA
August 22, 23	<b>Southern Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Charleston, SC
September 5, 6, 7	<b>National Beach Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	St. Augustine, FL
September 12, 13	<b>Northern California Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Santa Clara, CA
September 19, 20	<b>Pacific Coast Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Venice, CA
September 26, 27	<b>Pacific Coast Championships Mixed Doubles</b>	Venice, CA
October 17, 18	<b>National Championships Men's and Women's Doubles</b>	Marina del Rey, CA
October 24, 25	<b>National Championships Mixed Doubles</b>	Marina del Rey, CA
November 7, 8	<b>Pam Driskell Memorial Men's and Women's Singles</b>	St. Augustine, FL

For additional information contact the United States Paddle Tennis Association at (310) 856-6367 or write P.O. Box 30, Culver City, CA 90232.



## NATIONAL BEACH CHAMPIONSHIPS MARK 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The National Beach Championships, one of the most popular tournaments of the year, will celebrate its 20th Anniversary this year. The tournament is scheduled for Labor Day weekend on September 5, 6 and 7. Defending Mens champions Sol Hauptman and Scott Freedman and defending Womens champions Leslie Magre and Debbie Burkhardt will be among those vying for \$8,000 in prize money. For information contact the Florida Paddle Tennis Association at (904) 829-8807 or (904) 471-2546.

