

Neal Bocian

Neal Bocian was a top contender for the 1-wall championship in both singles and doubles for nearly fifteen years.



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In 1975 he made it all the way to the National AAU 1-Wall Singles final, having defeated National Hall of Famer Mark Levine in the semis. But he bowed to Ruby Obert in the championship match. The very next year he reached the semis of the National AAU 1-Wall Singles.

Although a strong singles player, Neal exhibited his best play in doubles. On four occasions, 1971, '72, '73 and '80 he was National Doubles Runner-up. During the '70's he partnered with National Hall of Famer Howie Eisenberg. He was a National Doubles Semi-finalist four other times. In 1982 he reached his pinnacle, winning the USHA National 1-Wall Doubles Championship, while partnered with Mark Levine. Three years later he championed in the National Senior 1-Wall Doubles with Eisenberg, once again, his partner.

Bocian had a powerful left arm which whipped his serve low, with lightning speed, and he may have had the best fly kill of his era. During his championship doubles match in 1980, while playing with 50+ year old Morty Katz, against the National Hall of Fame team of Howie Eisenberg and Joel Wisotsky, one spectator observed that Bocian struck at least 60 fly kills, despite losing in two.