

2020 Winter Carnival Handball Doubles

Sponsored by St Paul River Rats Handball Club

This year we had 35 teams compete in 5 divisions. There were a total of 56 players with 14 of them going ironman and playing in 2 divisions.

The **Open Division** saw prior champs Andy and Tom Nett return to claim their crown. It wasn't an easy win over last year's defending champs Ryan Pesch and Brian Burke, with a 21-20 first game win and 11-7 tiebreaker. Donovan and Quinn Foley squeaked out another thriller for third place over Mat Langhorst and Henry Arneson with almost identical scores as the championship match.

The **Youngster A/B Division** also saw prior champs Jim Grota and Kent Jones return to defeat last year's champions Joe Lacey-Gotz and Steve Taminga. This time the champs had to go to a tiebreaker to get the victory. Josiah Hakala filled in for an ailing Erling (Sting) Holdahl to team up with Henry Arneson to win a close 11-9 tiebreaker over George Langhorst and Al Baumgarten Leveille. Isaac Alberg teamed up with Ben Kleineschay to defeat Dean Held and Dale Campbell for the consolation championship.

John Miller and Brett Broxey returned to claim their 2nd title in a row in the **Sven & Dorothy (120) Division**. Brian (The Smurf) Coonce and Mike (Big Dummy) Kloos built a 17-5 lead in the first game before the defending champs stormed back to win the first game without surrendering another point. The second game was competitive but not enough to keep the ageless wonders from the title. Phil (Flipper) Kleineschay and Sergio (The Latin Cannon) Gonzalez defeated Mark Brissett and Glenn Solin (from the great north – Duluth) for third place. Tim (M.A.S.H.) Zigmund and Adalberto Cordero gave Dean Held and Dale Campbell their second consolation finals defeat.

Don (Lazarus) Reiter and Curt Schlenner appeared to be cruising to the **Henry & Lena (130) Division** championship over perennial partners Mike Black and Mike Burke. That is until the second game where they had to hang on to win a 21-20 thriller. Tim (M.A.S.H.) Zigmund brought home the hardware in his second division with partner Tom (Captain) Bordenave. This was a closely fought match with nearly identical scores in the first two games, ending with an 11-5 tiebreaker. Pete (You Never Know) Kaehler and Andy (Weasel Wax) Staab defeated Dennis (No Pocket) Flanagan and John Newman for the consolation championship.

The finals of the **Lars & Gertrude (140) Division** was also a nail biter as Tom (Captain) Bordenave and Pete (You Never Know) Kaehler dethroned Gary Rohrer and new partner Greg Taylor in a tight 11-8 tiebreaker. This was a double hardware win for the champs. Bill (Crabby Pants) DeVahl and (Special) Ed Simonet defeated Darrell (The Chick Magnet) Saari (oldest player in the tournament) and John Kunesh for third place.

The **Father/Mother & Son/Daughter Division** had a good turnout with 6 teams competing. Bruce and son, Ryan Pesch, defeated John Nett and daughter-in-law, Bailey Nett, in a close final. This was a double hardware win for Ryan. The flu bug hit this division hard this year with Steve Laliberte going down with the flu early Friday. Son John Laliberte teamed up with his surrogate father Ed (Half-ton) Miller in the first round. John then came down with the flu Friday night and Josiah Hakala stepped in to do double duty with Ed on Saturday. The new dream team defeated Jack and Alan Leveille for third place. Isaac Alberg won his second division consolation championship, this one with his mother, Nichole, in a tight match against Phil (Flipper) and Ben Kleineschay.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who help make this tournament the area's best. And thank you to all of the participants for playing, and their guests for cheering them on.