

The Wrightwood Tournament – June 10-12, 2011

Chris Miller, the National Open Singles winner and I are good friends. He was excited when he told me about playing in a tournament in Wrightwood, CA in June, 2010. He said that it was open to all ages and all skill levels. I was excited! I got several of the Big Boys from Seattle to come down there with me (about 10 nationally ranked players!). All I can say is WOW!!! What beautiful country! Every day was 75 and sunny! The players came from AZ, CA, WA and ??? To me, it was like “old home week.” I knew most of the players and loved talking to them all!

Friday was Men and Women Skill Level Singles and very tough! National champions all over and competing as if it were the Nationals. Friday started at 8:30am and ended about 6pm.

Saturday was Men and Women Doubles - Age Groups AND Skill Levels. Now that was a very grueling day that started at 8:30am and lasted until 10pm – under the lights. For me it was well worth the effort and very satisfying! Again, it was great practice for the upcoming Nationals. BUT the Big Boys from Seattle are somewhat unique. You see, we like switching partners to create more intense competition – like we have up in Seattle! For us, it’s not all about the medals but about the tough competition that we give each other!

Sunday was Mixed doubles - age group and skill levels. Again, a very grueling day, starting at 8:30am and lasting until 8:30pm – under the lights. And once again, several of us “flip-flopped” partners. Another grueling but satisfying day for me.

All I can say is that it was a FUN time for all! Will I come back? YES!

I want to thank **Mario and Nicole Popov** for their WELL RUN tournament! Everything was first class – especially the pizza provided every day! I only see this tournament getting larger and causing great excitement within the pickleball community.

For all of you pickleballers, I hope to see you there next year!

Mark “Yoda” Friedenber