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The ezine of table shuffleboard

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Creakbaum, Long enter Hall of Fame

BOURBON, Ind. — With great fanfare the doors of the Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame rushed open Friday night honoring Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long of Indiana to the hallowed grounds.

The inductions took place Friday afternoon prior to the 44th Spring Open Doubles and Open Singles at American Legion Post 424.

The longtime partners, and champions, had different beginnings in the game.

Long started playing after getting out of the Army in 1960.

He credits Billy Mays, the Texas road player of certain ability and fame, with giving his game a jump start.

“Jim thought he was getting pretty good until he ran into a guy named Billy Mays in 1964.

Billy gave him a pretty good beating, Long says.

That pushed Jim Long to elevate his game to a higher level.

Larry Creakbaum had a different start in the game. He lived in a small Indiana town — Mentone — and on Saturday



Jim Long, left, and Larry Creakbaum were inducted into the Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame on Friday in Bourbon, Ind.

would go with his father into town. The last stop on that trip was the Lake Trail Cafe, which had a shuffleboard.

Unfortunately, Indiana passed a law, that you had to be 21 to enter a bar and the shuffleboard at the Lake Trail Cafe was inside the bar, thus interrupting his career.

Although they'd played against each other for a number of years,

Jim and Larry didn't team up until 1973 but they were instantly successful, winning the Open Doubles at the VFW in Rochester, Ind.

They started 1976 with four consecutive tournament victories then two the last two in 1980 and the first two in 1981 for another four-tournament run.

Long has played in more than 850 tourna-

ments while Creakbaum won 76 of 317 he played in through 1986 and played in at least 700 tournaments.

With Long and Creakbaum inducted into the Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, tournament play in the 44th Annual Spring Open Doubles/Singles got underway with the draw partner event.

Dave Vondran-Larry

Brown grabbed the championship, defeating Terry Wolfrum-Ron Sosovic.

Third place went to Brian Collins-Bill Melton with Vicki Morgan-Gary Neff claiming fourth.

Also competing in the 26-team field were: Squirrel-Bill Kane, Jerry Hersman-Larry Creakbaum, Dan Kent-Rick Pittman, Mike Johnson-Junior Lopez, Glen Ingram-Jimmy the Kop Kumpula, Jerry Seibert-Butch Thomas, Uriah Graham-Brenda Kane, Roger Wilhelm-Ron Palmer, Jody Brerry-Dennis Bittner, Rick Stocker-Amber Morgan, Bud Esterline-Wally Dan, Beef-Marge Camp, Alonzo Contrell-Gary Anglin, Jim Payne-Phil Ladd, Bobby Voorhis-Frank Blade, Bill Niswonger-Dave Arnett-Terry Dowell-Ann Harrell, Deb Voorhis-Mark Rohrig, Sheryl Cockeril-Bud Broka, Mary Brown-Marty Allen, Don Volk-Dennis Stantz.

Results and photo courtesy of eshuffleboard.com.