Merle Arens

From Dayton came the ‘33 Ohio and soon to be Southern Open Singles winner Merle Arens, and the ‘33 Dayton City runner-up Howard Thomas whose interest in the Sport would hold strong for decades. Also representing Dayton was defensive standout Calvin Fuhrman who, by downing Northwest Pacific Champion Harry Packard in 5 in the summer of ‘34 Great Lakes tourney, then winning the Miami Valley Open in Nov., and, finally, by getting to the quarter’s of the ‘35 National’s, could clearly lay claim for months, indeed years, to being the Ohio #1. Cal, reportedly, had been at the very first National’s in New York in 1931, had entered every APPA National’s since, and back in the fall of ‘32 was said to have "memorized the ranking of every individual player in Singles and Doubles" for the "[last] three years" (YFS I, 12). Quite an enthusiast, eh?

In the very first tie, Dayton almost pulled the upset of the tournament. They were up 4-1 on New York, the never-before-beaten Defending Champions. First Arens, all forehand and likely as not indulging himself in a big grin when he saw that he was getting a set-up to smack-in, upset N.Y. Team Captain Jacobson, then (in a deuce in the 3rd thriller) Fuhrman did too, and Thomas downed Silberman, and Fuhrman knocked off Lobel. But then a N.Y. team huddle with advisor Schaad turned the tie completely around, and N.Y., who would eventually finish second, rallied for a 5-4 win.

The 3-men-to-a-team round robin (5 matches needed to win the tie) format established by Chicago Tournament Committee members Coleman and Bob Clark, Dougall Kittermaster, and Reginald Hammond was coincidentally the same as the Swaythling Cup (Men’s Team) format at the World Championships. The Chicagoans had arrived at this method of play independently after rejecting the Davis Cup lawn tennis format where just one "hot" player might be enough to win the tie.