



## **2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships see record participation**

At the 2002 Florida Senior Games State Championships, a qualifier for the 2003 National Senior Games, the number of athletes participating topped 2,000 and all involved were ecstatic. The 2004 Games, a qualifier for the 2005 National Senior Games, saw the participation number just miss 3,000 athletes and all involved wondered just how high the number could go in coming years.

Over the first two weekends of December, The Villages hosted a record number 2,983 senior athletes (age 50 and over) participating in the 23 sports and events of the Florida Senior Games State Championships. Those athletes broke 128 records and over 1,408 individuals qualified for the 2005 National Senior Games to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in June, 2005.

Athletes were treated to an official welcome from Florida Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings at the Celebration of Athletes, held Monday, December 6 at The Villages Spanish Springs Town Square. Even the weather was compatible, despite the showers that held up a few competitions on the Games opening day. Play was resumed in Pickleball and Horseshoes the next day and no competitions were cancelled or postponed any further.

The 2005 Florida Senior Games will be held at The Villages, December 3-11, 2005. For a list of 2005 Florida Senior Games local qualifiers, check [http://www.flasports.com/page\\_seniorgames\\_localsites.shtml](http://www.flasports.com/page_seniorgames_localsites.shtml) and complete results from the 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships can be found at [www.flasports.com](http://www.flasports.com).

Following are some of the highlights from the 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships.

### **Bowlers rolling along to record scores**

Richard Merrill of Lady Lake set an all-time high men's singles record with a three-game score of 775 bowling in the 70-74 age group. He had individual game scores of 279, 258 and 238. His score topped the previous all time high of 745, set in 1994 by Jim McCormack of Bradenton. It was the longest-standing bowling record among all singles and doubles records.

Leesburg's Dave Kail and Samuel Anzalone, of The Villages, set a new men's doubles all-time high score of 1390 to win a gold medal in the 65-69 age group. Their total topped the previous record of 1346, set in 1995 by David Chance and Robert Campbell of Winter Haven by 44 pins. In game one of his three game total of 709, Anzalone missed a perfect game by one pin and finished with a 290. He left the 10 pin standing on his first roll of the game and then picked up the spare before striking out. He rolled a 173 in game two and a 246 in game three.

In mixed doubles, Mary and Bob Chamberlin, of The Villages, set a new all-time high score with a 1346 to take the gold medal in the 55-59 age group. They broke the previous mark of 1272 set by Joey Richards and Sandy Faber of Lakeland in 2002 by 74 pins. Carl Laubach, 91 of Palmetto, and Lillian Webb, 90 of Sebring, established a 90-94 mixed doubles age group record with their combined three-game score of 848. No team had ever competed in that age group prior to the 2004 Games.

### **Archers point and shoot**

The Archery competition saw 10 new age group records established, highlighted by an all-time high score in the men's Compound & Release event. Myers Parrish of Sarasota won the gold medal in the 60-64 age group with a score of 876 to set the new mark, topping the previous high score of Ivone Luchette of Melbourne of 874, by two points.

### **Suncoast Seniors rebound for big wins**

The Suncoast Seniors women's softball team from Clearwater won their final three games to take the gold medal in the 60-64 age group. After losing a pool play game to the Citrus Park Sunshine Girls of Bonita Springs, 13-4, the Seniors defeated Fenster's Red, White & Blue twice and then defeated the Sunshine Girls 9-5 in the championship game. The score was tied 5-5 after three innings of the championship game before Ann White scored a go-ahead run in the sixth inning and Sheila Gave added a three-run double in the seventh inning.

### **Slugfest for 50+ Softball**

In the Men's Softball 50+ division, Team Rail Trust of Jacksonville defeated Line Drive of Jacksonville 36-7 in the championship game pounding out 42 hits. Team Rail Trust scored 15 runs in the top of the third inning and led 24-7 after three innings.

In the men's softball 55-59 age group, Top Choice, of Jacksonville and The Villages of Florida 55's combined for 124 runs in a best of three slugfest. Top Choice won the third and final game by an 17-15 margin, scoring 10 runs in the final two innings to take the gold medal. After losing the first game 18-13, Top Choice rebounded to take the second game 36-23. In the second game, the score was tied 18-18 after three innings, before Top Choice sent 16 batters to the plate, scoring 13 runs to take a 31-18 lead.

### **Kenneth Cross pitches and paddles**

90-year old Kenneth Cross of the Villages won a pair of gold medals in pickleball and horseshoes competition during the first weekend of competition. Cross defeated Al Arigo of Lady Lake 11-5, 11-0 to take the gold in pickleball and defeated Allan Bjork of Sebring 22-5, pitching four ringers, in horseshoes to win the 90-94 division gold medal.

### **Swimming records falling from the sky**

25 different individuals set 62 age group swimming records during two days of competition at the Mulberry Grove Recreation Center. Leading the pack were first time Florida Senior Games State Championships participants, Patricia Sargeant of Melbourne and Meegan Wilson of Gainesville with six record breaking times and gold medals each.

Not far behind were Paul Hutinger of St. Petersburg and Thomas Bliss of Merritt Island with five record breaking performances each.

Adding more entries into the record book were Patricia Bond of Bradenton and Bunny Cederlund of Melbourne, with three new records, James Anderson of New Port Richey with two new records and Donald Puchalski of Oldsmar with four new records. Bond now holds seven swimming records in the 65-69 age group and all three distances of the backstroke in her age division. Cederlund now holds five records in the 80-84 age group and one in the 75-79 and the three records she set bested her own times. With his record-

setting times in the 50 and 100 yard breaststroke, Donald Puchalski now owns the age groups records in the 60-64 and 65-69 divisions.

Just by finishing her five races, Martha Castillo, of Orlando added her name into the record book as the first participant in the women's 85-89 age group.

### **High drama at the Paradise Recreation Center Horseshoe Pits**

Kathie Gregorich and Linda Seibel, both of The Villages, provided a dramatic finish for the Women's Horseshoes 55-59 age group gold medal. Both entered the championship match undefeated in seven matches. Gregorich overcame a 19-10 deficit hitting six ringers in her last eight throws to win 21-19. "There were probably 50 people that stuck around to watch the match," said sport director Mike Tattonetti. "It was very exciting to watch Kathie's comeback."

### **Quarles finds the finish line first, again**

At the 5K Road Race, Dave Quarles of Lakeland was the top overall finisher with a time of 17:59. His time was one second off his finish winning time from the 2003 Florida Senior Games State Championships of 17:58.

The top overall finisher of the 10K Road Race was David Ohnsman, of Neptune Beach, with a time of 39:43, to set a new overall record and a 65-69 age group record. It was the first time posted under 40:00. Gordon Johnson, the 1999 Florida Senior Games State Championships Male Athlete of the Year, finished with a time of 1:17:10 for a record in the 85-89 age group. Johnson holds records in three age groups of the 5K Road Race and made his first entry in the 10K record book.

### **Florida golfers to be well represented at National Senior Games**

A total of 122 golfers met the minimum qualifying standard to compete in the National Senior Games in Florida Senior Games State Championships Men's Golf today at the Glenview Champions Country Club. The men's golf field had a total of 205 golfers registered. Mike Mitchell of Winter Springs and Harry Kern of Boca Raton turned in the overall low scores of the day shooting a 70. Mitchell earned the gold medal in the 60-64 age group while Kern's scored not only won gold, but tied the age group record. William McCabe, of Lakeland, also established a record in the 85-89 age group with a score of 89 and Ed Ricca of Apollo Beach became the first player to compete in the 95-99 age group and finished the day with a record-setting 98.

Lakeland's Janet Brown not only beat her own record in the 50-54 age group, but established an all-time women's record shooting a 72 at Glenview Champions Country Club. The previous low score of 76 was set by Ursula Johnston, of Lakeland, in 1998.

Brown's 72 included birdies on hole 7 (par five), hole 10 (par four) and hole 13 (par three). Had it not been for a score of seven on another par 5, Brown's record-setting score would have been even lower. She won the 50-54 age division in 2003, setting a record with a score of 78.

Also establishing new records in their age groups were Sandra Willetts, of The Villages, with a 75 in the 60-64 age group and Shirley Nichols, of The Villages, with an 87 in the 80-84 age group.

### **Lots of medals for Schultz and Kisbany on the table**

At the Table Tennis competition, held at Leesburg's Lake Sumter Community College, John Shultz, of Inverness won his eighth Florida Senior Games State Championship men's singles 65-69 age group gold medal. Shultz won the 55-59 age group in 1993 and 1994, the 60-64 age group in 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000 and the 65-69 age group in 2002 and 2004. He advanced undefeated through the 18-person bracket winning the championship game against Wendell Newton of Dade City. Schultz also played in the men's golf competition and shot a 91, eight strokes off the qualifying standard for the National Senior Games.

In women's singles competition, Sari Kisbany of Redington Shores won her ninth consecutive singles championship dating back to 1996. She won four matches in the 70-74 age group, defeating Joanne Pickett of Barefoot Bay in the final. She teamed with Pickett to win the 70-74 women's doubles age group to bring her gold medal total since 1996 to 21.

Winning a gold medal in the 95-99 men's singles age group was the Games' oldest competitor, John Donnelly, of Sun City Center. Donnelly's participation in the Florida Senior Games State Championships goes back to 1993 when he won a gold medal in the men's singles table tennis 80-84 age group.

### **Volleyballs on the Tennis Courts**

Lady Lake's Dale Nofzinger has won a medal in each of the last four Florida Senior Games State Championships men's singles tennis competition, but in 2004, he finally won a gold medal. Completing the bracket play with four wins over three days, Nofzinger defeated Chuck Harvey of Clermont 6-3, 6-3 in the championship match of the 65-69 age group. Since 2000, Nofzinger has won three silver medals and a bronze in singles competition spanning the 60-64 and 65-69 age groups.

In the 80-84 men's singles competition, Richard Collier of Englewood won his fifth singles championship since 1998. He won the 75-79 age group gold medal in 1998, 2000 and 2002. He has won the 80-84 age group the last two years. Collier, who played basketball at Georgia Tech from 1944-47, won three matches in the age group defeating Gilbert Calcagno of Leesburg in the final 6-2, 6-1.

In the women's 55-59 age group, Ann Slick of Port Charlotte, defeated Gail Hughes, of Longwood, in the final 6-1, 6-2 to win the age group for the second time in three years. Hughes was the gold medal winner last year.

In a very competitive tournament, a total of 85 singles matches were played and 19 went to three sets, including three championship matches. A total of 30 sets had to be determined by tie breakers, including four sets during championship matches.

Constance Leips and Linda Huber, of Punta Gorda, won their third consecutive Florida Senior Games State Championships women's doubles title defeating Rebecca Albert of Tequesta and Ann Culberson of Jupiter 6-4, 6-4 in the final. It marked the second consecutive year Leips and Huber have won the 65-69 age group, as the duo won four matches over two days. They won the 60-64 age group in 2002.

In men's doubles, Earl Allen, of Tavares, and Howard Ogburn, of Clermont, won the 70-74 age group with all three of their wins going to three sets. Allen and Ogburn defeated Frank Magruder, of Lady Lake, and Egon Reiger, of The Villages, 6-0, 6-7, 7-6 in the championship match. It marked the third time in four years Allen has won a Florida Senior Games State Championships men's doubles gold medal. He teamed with Keith Street, of Kissimmee, to win the 2001 and 2002 championships.

Of the 79 doubles matches played, 16 went to three sets and 31 sets went to tiebreakers.

Bernhard Burg, of Dunnellon and Brigid Chick, of Ocala won their third mixed doubles title in four years defeating Robert Hankins and Trilla Richardson, of Lakeland in the 65-69 age group championship match. Burg and Chick won three matches en route to their gold medals. Each won singles medals as Burg was a silver medalist in the 70-74 age group while Chick was the gold medalist in the 65-69 age group.

### **More racquet sports**

Three racquetball champions were repeat gold medal winners from 2003. Winning their divisions for the second consecutive year were Earl Black, of Lakeland, in the 65-59 age group, Royal Slack, of Lady Lake, in the 70-74 age group and Harold Hiles, of Lady Lake, in the 75-79 age group.

### **Wheels keep rolling**

Hans Van Eldik, of Martinsville, Ohio, shattered the 65-69 age group 5K Cycling Time Trials record by 30 seconds with a time of 7:29. The previous mark of 7:59 was established by Larry Reade, of Buffalo, New York, in 2002. Reade won gold medals Thursday in both races of the 70-74 age group. Van Eldik now holds the 5K time trials records in the 60-64 and 65-69 age groups. He set the 60-64 age group record in 2002 with a time of 7:32.

In the women's competition, Patricia Bond, of Bradenton, won gold medals in the 65-69 age group and topped her own 5K record, of 9:09 set in 2003, by nine seconds, crossing the finish line in 9:00. Bond, the 1999 Florida Senior Games State Championships Female Athlete of the Year, now holds seven swimming records and four cycling records.

### **Stepping up to the line**

Six eagle eye shooters swept the age group gold medals of all three Basketball shooting events. On the men's side, Harry Carothers, of Pinellas Park, Jerry Barr of Orlando, Tom Scott, of Maitland and Andy McGuffin, of Umatilla, won the free throw, spot field goal and timed field goal shooting. For the women, Doris King, of The Villages, and Claudette Braswell, of Lake Wales, won all three events.

McGuffin's three-medal winning performance in the 80-84 age group marked the sixth consecutive year he has accomplished the feat. He had the best field goal shooting day of all competitors hitting 28 of 30 free throws, missing the second and 20<sup>th</sup> shot. He finished hitting the last 10. Since 1996, McGuffin has connected on 225 of 240 free throws in Florida Senior Games State Championships competition for a .9375 accuracy rate.

In the men's 60-64 age group free throw shooting, Harry Carothers, of Pinellas Park, and Patrick Schloemer, of The Villages, had to take 15 tiebreaking free throws to decide a winner. Both Carothers and Schloemer finished hitting 27 of 30 free throws in regulation. Carothers and Schloemer matched perfect sets of five free throws in the first two sets of tiebreakers. In the third set of five, Carothers hit five of five. Schloemer hit the first four and missed the fifth, giving the gold medal to Carothers.

In winning three gold medals in the 65-69 age group, Claudette Braswell of Lake Wales had the highest total in two of three women's events hitting 21 of 30 free throws and compiling 60 points in timed field goal shooting.

### **Running, throwing and jumping**

A total of 16 records fell at the Florida Senior Games State Championships track & field competition at The Villages High School.

The biggest record breakers of the day were Jacksonville's Michael Brown, with a javelin throw of 226 feet. It establishes a new all-time high, beating his throw of last year's Games by nine feet. The throw fell two feet short of the American Masters Javelin Throw Record, which was set by Brown in April of 2004, a throw of over 228 feet.

In the men's 60-64 long jump, Ted Kalaidi, of Jupiter, set a new age group record and an all-time mark with a jump of 17 feet, seven inches. It bested the previous mark of 17 feet, three inches, set by Ted Watt of Largo in 1996, competing in the 50-54 age group.

On the second day of the track & field competition Kalaidi set 60-64 age group records in the 100 and 200 meter dashes. His time of 13.04 in the 100 meter dash bested the previous record of 13.12 and his time of 27.31 in the 200 meter dash was more than a second faster than the old mark of 28.37.

### **These guys know the peach baskets**

The Collier County Barons their second men's 70-74 age group championship in three years, defeating the Florida Old Stars 60-57 in the championship game. Jerry Shackelford, of Naples, scored 38 points connecting on six three pointers. The Magic Seniors defeated Sunshine Beach, taking a best of three series, to win their eighth Florida Senior Games State Championship since 1994.

For the first time since 1998 women's basketball champions were crowned as the Buffalo Gals won the 50+ age group and the Buffalo Bullets won the 60+ age group. Both teams are from The Villages.

The Clearwater Aces won two basketball age division gold medals. The 60+ Aces rebounded from a loss to the Orlando Fossils in pool play to win the championship game 73-57. Sidney Holzer scored 36 points and Harry Carothers added 31 for the Aces, who led 40-26 at halftime. The 65+ Aces were undefeated through their bracket and beat the St. Augustine 65s 72-40 in the championship game. Fritz Showers scored 29 points and John Weaver had 21 points in the gold medal game.

### **Shuffleboard repeaters**

In the women's shuffleboard singles competition, four women repeated as age group champions as Chris Corven, of Tavares, won the 50-54 age group, Doris Bumstead, of Lakeland, won the 70-74 age group, Virginia Glezen, of Lakeland, won the 80-84 age group and Anna Duffy, of Lakeland, won the 85-89 age group. All four won their age division at the 2003 Florida Senior Games State Championships.