

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Florida Senior Games Table Tennis Takes Over the Clearwater Long Center

CLEARWATER - For day three of the 2016 Florida Senior Games, The Long Center in Clearwater made the transformation from a three court volleyball venue to a table tennis venue accommodating 20 tables for the 50-69 age groups.



The 20 tables will play host to the 70+ age groups Tuesday as the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Florida Senior Games continues in Clearwater and Pinellas County.

In accumulating 13 men's singles gold medals over the years, Ocala's Alan Millett has spanned four age groups and three decades of play in the Florida Senior Games. He won the 65-69 age group gold Monday defeating William Mogensen, from The Villages, in the championship match in three games.

Millett's first gold medal came in 1999 in the 50-54 age group. From 2003-2006, he won four consecutive gold medals in the 55-59 age group. From 2008 to 2012, he won four gold medals in five years. He has won gold medals in the 65-69 age group in two of the last three years.

He also teamed with Frank Valliant, of Leesburg, to win a men's doubles silver medal.

Jacksonville's Joan Ruggerio won her fifth women's singles gold medal in six years and second consecutive in the 65-69 age group She won three gold medals in the 60-64 age group between 2011 and 2014.

Ruggerio, Patricia Benitez and Juliana Milanov won gold medals in all three events, Ruggerio in the 65-69 age group, Benitez in the 55-59 age group and Milanov in the 50-54 age group.

Milanov, a native of Bulgaria, now living in Winter Garden, began playing table tennis at her granddaughter's birthday party three years ago. At that time, she was living in Chicago and the birthday party was held at a relative's house in Indiana where they kept a table in the basement.

"In Indiana, they have basements in their houses," she said. "I started playing and now it has become my getaway from work as a mechanical engineer, designing heating and air conditioning ducts," she said while pointing up in to the rafters of the Long Center.

Milanov repeated as the 50-54 age group women's doubles champion with Hisae Senko, of Kissimmee and teamed with Kenny Griffiths, a native of Jamaica now living in Orlando, to win the mixed doubles gold.

In the first day of Men's and Women's Doubles Tennis at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, a pair of women's singles medal winners teamed together to win a women's doubles gold. Martha Poitevent, of East Palatka, won the 70-74 age group women's singles gold yesterday and teamed with 60-64 age group silver medalist, Marcia Plante, of The Villages, to win the 60-64 age group. The pair defeated LouAnne Schultz and Donna Spindel, of Wimauma, 6-0, 6-2 in the championship match.

The Table Tennis 70 and over age groups will be in action at The Long Center Tuesday and Men's Doubles Tennis competition continues at Innisbrook. A total of 175 men's and women's golfers will tee it up at Countryside Country Club Tuesday for 18-round play. On Wednesday, 85 golfers will return to the links for 36-hole play.

All events are free of charge and spectators are encouraged to attend.

Schedule for Tuesday, December 6

Golf, Countryside Country Club, Tee Times begin at 7:30 a.m. and continue through 12:20 p.m.

Table Tennis (70 and over age groups) – The Long Center, 9:00 a.m.

Tennis (Men's Doubles) – Innisbrook Resort and Country Club, 9:00 a.m.