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### **2016 Florida Senior Games kick off with Eight Sports in Play Saturday**

**CLEARWATER** - The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Florida Senior Games began Saturday in Clearwater with flip turns in The Long Center Pool by nearly 200 swimmers, arrows filling the yellow 10 rings by more than 130 archers at the Joe Dimaggio Sports Complex, baseline and net shots by more than 230 tennis players at the Innisbrook Resort, strikes and spares on nearly 30 lanes by 200 bowlers at Seminole Bowl and discs being pushed down the court at the Clearwater Lawn Bowls and Shuffleboard Complex.



The day began for Sarasota's Rudy Vazmina (*at left with FSF Sr. Vice President Stephen Rodriguez*) at The Long Center Pool receiving his 2015 Florida Senior Games Athlete of the Year Award. Approximately 20 minutes later, he dove into the pool to win a gold medal in the 100 meter butterfly beating George Schmidt, of Palm Beach Gardens, by less than a second. Vazmina missed topping his own record in the event, set last year, by less than a second.

Overall 21 records were set (15 women, 6 men) during Saturday's swimming events. While George Schmidt finished second to Vazmina in his first race of the day, he won three gold medals and set three 65-69 age group records in his next races, the 50 breast, 200 back and 100 IM.

Among the 15 women's records set, Cheryl Kupan, of St. Petersburg, set a pair of records in the 100 and 200 back, 50-54 age group. Kupan was a swimming letterwinner on the Florida State swim team in the early 1980s.

Also setting two women's age group records were Kathy Lewis and Linda Fulton in the 60-64 age group and Barbara Goltz in the 70-74 age group. The 2009 Female Athlete of the Year, Patrice Hirr, of The Villages, returned from a three year absence from the Games, to win a pair of gold medals and silver while setting a record in the 50 meter breast stroke.

Also at The Long Center Pool were 18 members of the Wayne Welsh family, all clad in neon green shirts, cheering on Wayne in his 50 yard breast stroke and 100 yard IM events. Not only is Wayne, a retired middle school physical education teacher from Miami, competing in the 2016 Florida Senior Games, his wife, Arlene, is playing Table Tennis on Tuesday. His niece, Beth Gorman, of Woodstock, Georgia is playing women's singles tennis.

After Wayne's swimming event, the family, ranging from age two to Wayne and Arlene, in the 70-74 age group, relocated to the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club to see Beth win her match against Edna Carlin, 6-2, 6-4. With the win, Beth advances to the championship match, Sunday against Chris Bartos, of Tampa, who won two matches Saturday. The championship match is set for 10:30 a.m. at Innisbrook and the stands will be filled with Beth's family who has traveled to Clearwater from Seattle, Washington, Buffalo, New York, the Atlanta area and Miami.

Bowlers Gerald and Carol Teel, of The Villages are now mixed doubles record holders in two age groups. The Teel's set the highest overall mixed doubles score with a combined score of 1495 in 2011 while bowling in the 55-59 age group. Today, they moved up to the 60-64 age group and set a new record with a combined score of 1363, 99 pins more than the previous record, set in 2006.

It was a double record-setting day for Carol, as she and Mary Chamberlin also established a new women's doubles record in the 60-64 age group with a score of 1224, topping the previous mark, set last year, by one pin.

Jack Appel, of Boca Raton, and Stanley Corwin, of Boyton Beach, established a men's doubles record in the 90-94 age group with a combined score of 1003. Corwin rolled a combined three-game score of 505 and Appel added a score of 498.

By consistently hitting the yellow 10 ring circle with accuracy, Scott Eurich, of North Palm Beach recorded the highest score of the day in the Compound Release event shooting an 882, of a possible 900 points, to win the 50-54 age group gold medal. He was 18 points ahead of the second place finisher Chuck Wilder, of Horseshoe Beach. The highest women's score of the Compound Release event was turned in by Melanie White, of Weston, an 861, to win the 50-54 women's gold medal.



94-year old John Horwath, of The Villages (at left), broke his own Compound Release record in the 90-94 age group with a score of 807, 35 points better than his 2014 record-setting performance of a 772. Horwath was the most experienced archer of the record number of 135 shooting at 34 targets lined up on the football field at the Joe Dimaggio Sports Complex.

The Ref Shop Blue 55+ Volleyball team went through competition undefeated to win the gold medal. The Madera Beach-based club had three teams competing in the 55+ and 60+ age groups. The 55+ and 60+ teams won their ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> Florida Senior Games gold medals since 2006

The husband and wife duo of Linda and Henry Armstrong, of Lakeland, each won their eighth singles gold medal dating back to the 2005 Games. Linda took the gold in the 60-64 age group while Henry won the 65-69 age group. The eight singles medals are the most won by any men's or women's shuffleboard athlete in the 25 years of the Florida Senior Games.

In the first Tai Chi competition of the Florida Senior Games, Orlando's Sam Winters won three gold medals and a silver. Winters, an instructor from Orlando, won gold medals in advanced pushed hands and weapons events and a silver in advanced hand form. Over 20 athletes took part in the first ever Florida Senior Games Tai Chi event at the Ross Norton Recreation Center.

The 2016 Florida Senior Games continue Sunday with six sports in play. All events are free of charge and spectators are encouraged to attend.

Bowling – Men's and Women's Singles, Seminole Bowl, 9:00 a.m.  
Team Bowling – Men's and Women's Teams, Seminole Bowl, 1:00 p.m.

Racquetball – Richey Racquet, 9:00 a.m.

Shuffleboard – Clearwater Lawn Bowls and Shuffleboard Complex, 9:00 a.m.

Swimming – The Long Center, Clearwater, 10:00 a.m.

Tennis – Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Palm Harbor, 9:00 a.m

The Florida Senior Games is presented annually by the Florida Sports Foundation, the state's lead sports promotion and development organization and are held in conjunction with the City of Clearwater and the St. Pete/Clearwater Sports Commission. The 2016 Florida Senior Games is the second year of four years the Games will be held in Clearwater/Pinellas County. The 2017 and 2018 Florida Senior Games will also be held in the Tampa Bay area..