

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nick Gandy (850) 322-3404 or ngandy@flsports.com

Second Saturday of 2016 Florida Senior Games Showcases Speed and Accuracy

CLEARWATER – It was all about the speed and accuracy Saturday at the 2016 Florida Senior Games with Cycling, 5K Road Race and Race Walk and Track and Field athletes displaying speed and Basketball and Billiards displaying accuracy while Pickleball players used a combination of both. It was the busiest of the nine days of the 25th Anniversary Florida Senior Games with nine sports in action.

In the 5K Road Race, run held in conjunction with the Clearwater YMCA Reindeer Run at John Chestnut, Sr. Park, Arlene Hanson, of The Villages, once again got into the Holiday Spirit and broke her own record, in the 75-79 age group set last year on the same course. Hanson crossed the finish line in 25:27, 53 seconds better than her 2015 time.



Florida Senior Games standout 5K Road Racers added a couple more gold medals to their collections, as Mickey Hooke, of Bradenton (*at left*), won the men's 55-59 age group and Danute Kubelik, of Crystal River, won the women's 65-69 age group.

Hooke was the top overall finisher in the 2012 and 2013 Florida Senior Games 5K and ran an overall best 17:24.30 in 2012. He was the fifth overall finisher this year with a time of 19:03.50

Kubelik, the 2014 Florida Senior Games Female Athlete of the Year, had a gold medal winning time of 25:01.50 Saturday and will run in all six races Sunday, ranging from the 50 meter dash to the 1,500 meter run. Her husband, George, won the bronze medal in the 70-74 age group with a time of 26:44.

The Reindeer Run/Florida Senior Games 5K also had a "celebrity runner," in Elmo Shropshire, who sang the classic Christmas hit, "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer." Shropshire won the silver medal in the 80-84 age group with a time of 30:49.

Since recording the holiday favorite in 1979, Shropshire has become a national champion cross country runner.

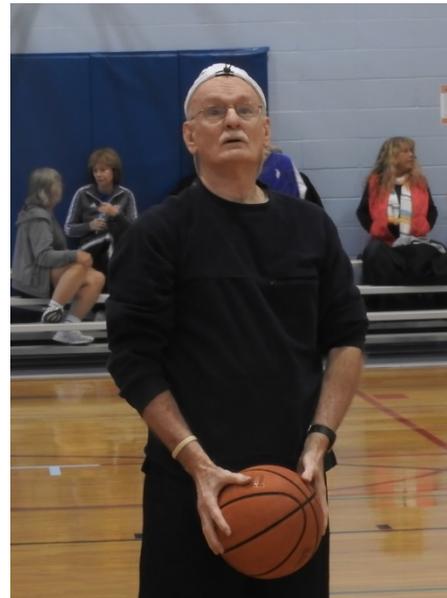


Leading off the day with a 7:30 start time, Dave Lewis, of Sarasota (*on right in photo*), outsprinted Tallahassee's Pete Butler (*left in photo*) to the 20K Cycling Road Race finish line, on Cleveland Street, to win the 50-54 age group gold medal by less than a second. Lewis repeated his gold medal winning performance in the 40K Road Race outpedaling Pablo Santa Cruz, of Safety Harbor.

Kay Carver, of The Villages, was the top overall women's finisher in both races to win gold medals in the 50-54 age group. Carver also won her age group gold medals in the 5K and 10K Time Trials on Thursday.

To set records in the Long Jump and Triple Jump, Brian Hankerson used his speed down the runway to the jump pits to break the 55-59 age group long jump record by over a foot with a leap of 19-09.5. Besides setting the new age group, he topped his own overall best long jump of 19-01.50 set in 2010, which is also the 50-54 age group. His triple jump of 37-02.25 broke his own record in the 55-59 age group, set in 2014. He holds the 50-54 age group record with an overall best triple jump of 37-09 in 2009.

Accuracy was on display at the Ross Norton Recreation Center this morning in the Basketball Shooting event and Ronn Wyckoff, of Sarasota (*at right*) and Ron Plano, of The Villages, were near perfect hitting 29 of 30 free throws. Wyckoff missed his second shot of the first round and then hit his next 28 free throws to repeat as the gold medalist in the 70-74 age group. He won the 2015 gold medal and become only the fifth basketball shooter in Florida Senior Games history to record a perfect 30 for 30 score. Plano missed the sixth shot of the first round and hit 24 consecutive free throws to win the 75-79 gold medal.



William Oliver, of Reunion, had the top Timed Field Goal Shooting performance compiling 97 points. In winning the 65-69 age group gold medal, Oliver hit 17 three point shots in three one-minute periods. He hit six three pointers in the first two rounds and seven in the third, along with a layup.

In the women's shooting, The Villages' Sandra Glick won gold medals in the 65-69 age group with 13 of a possible 15 points in the Spot Field Goal shooting and 90 points in the Timed Field Goal Shooting. The top overall women's Free Throw Shooter, was Carol Waters, of The Villages, hitting 25 of 30 for the 65-69 age group gold medal.



Following the Basketball Shooting, 22 teams (13 men and 9 women's teams), took to the courts and played until the evening hours. The hometown Clearwater Aces overcame an early deficit in the Championship Game to win the 70-74 age group for the second consecutive year. The team of Mike Campbell, Harry Carothers, Doug Moreland and Clay Russell fell behind 10-4 to the Bucket Masters, a team made up of players from Midwest states and rallied to a 28-19 halftime lead. The Aces started the second half with a 10-0 run and Clay Russell scored 28 of his 37 points in the second half en route to a 73-49 win.

A combination of speed and accuracy led Florida Senior Games veteran Pickleball player Rosemarie Pietromonaco, of The Villages (*left*), to a mixed doubles gold medal in the 70-74 age group with her partner, Keith Coates, also of The Villages at the North Greenwood Recreation Complex.

Pietromonaco is the only player to have played in the inaugural year of Pickleball in the 2003 Games and 25th Anniversary Games in 2016. She and Coates defeated Diane Reynolds, of The Villages and Steve Arlen, of Kissimmee, in a final “if necessary,” match, 15-7. Reynolds and Arlen forced the match after coming out of the elimination bracket and winning the first contest 11-7, 11-9.



Lois Miller, of Dunedin (*left*), used accuracy on the Billiards table to win her third consecutive Eight Ball Gold medal in the 65-69 age group. She also won a Nine Ball medal Friday. Ray Rupertus, of Winter Haven, was awarded the 60-64 age group Nine Ball gold medal on Friday and won the silver Eight Ball Medal at Stroker’s Sports Bar and Grill.

The 25th Anniversary Florida Senior Games, featuring more than 2,600 athletes competing in 24 sports over nine days, come to a conclusion Sunday, with three sports in play.

All events of the 2016 Florida Senior Games have no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend.

Schedule for Sunday, December 11

Pickleball (Men’s and Women’s Doubles), The Long Center and North Greenwood Recreation Center, Clearwater, 8:00 a.m.

Track and Field (Running Events Only), Clearwater High School, 9:15 a.m.

Billiards (Nine-Ball), Stroker’s Sports Bar and Grill, Clearwater, 10:00 a.m.