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Lakeland area Senior Athletes win big on Day Two of the 2016 Florida Senior Games

CLEARWATER - It was a record-setting day for three Polk County bowlers in Florida Senior Games singles competition at Seminole Lanes.



Lakeland's James Barnett (*at left with Bob Peters*) rolled only the second 800 series in the history of the Florida Senior Games with a three-game total of 803 to establish a new record in the 50-54 age group. The other 800 series was rolled by Richard Merrill, of The Villages, who tallied an 825 total in 2010. Barnett, who turned 50 in May was competing in his first Florida Senior Games. The 800 series is considered the toughest accomplishment in tournament bowling since the bowler must average 267 or better in the three games. Barnett had scores of 279, 267 and 257.

Other Polk County bowlers with record-setting performances were John Spencer, of Lakeland, with a 743 in the 80-84 age group and Linda Myer, of Winter Haven, with a 634 in the women's 65-69 age group.

In Spencer's first of three games, he left the 10 pin standing in the second frame and then rolled 10 consecutive strikes to finish with a game one score of 280. His 743 broke the previous record by 91 pins. Myer's score of 634, broke the 65-69 age group record set in 1996, by Erlene Kapiton, of Brooksville.

Carol Teel, of The Villages, announced her presence again in the 60-64 age group by setting overall women's singles high score of 727 and set a new mark in the age group. She topped her own previous women's high score of 711 in 2012 and is now a record-holder in the 55-59 and 60-64 age group in women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Another athlete announced his presence upon advancing into another age group at The Long Center Pool. George Schmidt, of Palm Beach Gardens, set 65-69 age group records in the 50 back and 100 IM. Schmidt set three 65-69 age group records on Saturday and finished the weekend with five gold medals and a silver.

Patrice Hurr, of The Villages added two more record-setting performances to her weekend of swimming, in the 50 back and 50 fly, to bring her weekend total to four in the 65-69 age group. Hurr, the 2009 Female Athlete of the Year, had not competed in the Florida Senior Games for the last three years due to shoulder injuries.

Nearly 200 swimmers established 32 new records at the The Long Center over the weekend.

Florida Senior Games women's volleyball players showed their stealth at The Long Center Sunday.



When Sandy Garner, of the Beaches 50+ team put the final kill of the championship match win on the floor against the Florida Girls, it completed a day of seven matches over the course of nine hours for the two teams.

The two teams in the 50-54 championship match were actually one Central Florida based Florida Girls team that had to be split into two teams due to the number of players available for play this weekend. In the championship round, the Florida Girls forced an if necessary game, by erasing a 5-2 early deficit to win the third game 15-8. The Beaches team won the if necessary match, the seventh of the day for both teams, in two games.

Lakeland's Chris Haughee completed two days of winning straight set matches to win the Men's Singles Tennis 65-69 age group gold medal. He won two matches Saturday by scores of 6-3, 6-4 and two matches Sunday, including a final match against, John Baker, of St. Augustine, by scores of 6-2, 6-1.

Valrico's Barry Shollenberger won his first men's singles gold medal, defeating Joe Flores, of Port Charlotte, 6-2, 6-3 in the final. Shollenberger has teamed with several different partners to win four men's doubles gold medals since 2009, but today marked his first men's singles gold.

Martha Poitevent, of East Palatka, overcame a game one loss to win her fifth consecutive women's singles gold medal defeating Nancy Williams, of Sun City Center, in the 70-74 age group championship match 3-6, 7-5, 1-0. Poitevent won the gold medal in the 65-69 age group all four years between 2012 and 2015.

In Mixed Doubles Shuffleboard at the Clearwater Lawn Bowls and Shuffleboard Complex, Roy Packard and Craig Stein, of Lakeland, emerged from a star-studded 60-64 age group bracket to win the gold medal. The six players among the top three finishers, have combined to win 39 gold medals in Florida Senior Games Shuffleboard dating back to 2005. Included among the 60-64 age group besides Packard and Stein were Henry and Linda Armstrong and Stan and James Tredway. All six are from the Lakeland area.

Don Sperber, of Palm Beach, won his fourth Men's Singles Racquetball gold medal and eighth overall, since 2006, during a weekend of play at Richey Racquet in Port Richey. Sperber won three 75-79 age group matches in straight sets including a final match win over a formidable Florida Senior Games opponent, Earl Black, of Lakeland, who has won five men's singles gold medals since 1997. Sperber also teamed with Bruce Hollander, of Hollywood, to win the 70-74 age group men's doubles gold medal.

Day three of the 25th Anniversary Florida Senior Games celebration continues Monday with the first day of Table Tennis on 20 tables at The Long Center for the 50-69 age groups and the first day of Men's and Women's Doubles Tennis at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Course.

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

Schedule for Monday, December 5

Table Tennis (50-69 age group play) – The Long Center, Clearwater, 9:00 a.m.

Tennis (Men's & Women's Doubles) – Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Palm Harbor, 9:00 a.m