

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 6, 2016**

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**Palm Bay's Charles Madge wins Florida Senior Games Gold Medal playing on his 522<sup>nd</sup> course**

**CLEARWATER** - An 80% chance of rain, dark skies and wind, and an hour rain delay that brought a noontime heavy downpour, would not keep Palm Bay's Charles Madge from playing his 522<sup>nd</sup> different golf course, the Countryside Country Club, Tuesday, at the 2016 Florida Senior Games.



Scheduled for the final tee time of day at 12:12 p.m., Madge (*pictured at left with a self-designed and made putter*) had not yet teed off before the downpour forced a 45 minute rain delay. Upon return to play, a bit later than scheduled, Madge made his way through 18 holes, walked off the course as darkness fell and turned in his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Florida Senior Games scorecard with a gold medal-winning performance of an 89 in the 85-89 age group.

Madge, still using his meticulous attention to detail skills learned as a 1947 graduate of Purdue University, with a degree in chemical engineering, calculated he shot his age or less for the 330<sup>th</sup> time today. His degree and skills led to a career as a chemical engineer at Union Carbide from 1949-83.

"I've got spreadsheets from floor to ceiling at my house to keep track of all of this information," he admitted when asked how these numbers are verifiable. Another one of his "shooting lower than his age," accomplishments came at the 2007 Florida Senior Games when he won a gold medal with a 78 in the 80-84 age group.

Since 1998, Madge has played in 13 Florida Senior Games and won four gold medals, a silver and two bronze medals.

Also fighting the elements to turn in the lowest scores of the day, were Nick Kent and Ebba Wiechowski, both of The Villages, who both shot a 75. Kent was awarded the 70-74 age group gold medal using the USGA Tiebreaker system of scores on various holes throughout the course.

Kent and Wiechowski are former Midwest school teachers who now live in The Villages and have a friendly rivalry at Florida Senior Games golf events battling for the top spot on the medal stand several times over the years. The two will break the tie Wednesday when they tee off at 8:15, for day two of the 36-hole event, playing in the same foursome.

Janet Brown, of Lakeland, who received her 2015 Florida Senior Games Female Athlete of the Year award today, had the lowest overall women's score with an 85 to win the 65-69 age group.

At the 70+ age group and older Table Tennis competition at The Long Center, another year of the sport was completed and once again, John Shultz, of Inverness, climbed upon the medal stand for the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the longest consecutive years medal winning streak among all athletes. Now playing

in the 80-84 age group, Shultz won silver medals in singles and men's doubles with Deane Chickering, of The Villages, and a 75-79 age group bronze medal with Sylvia Longley, of Crystal River.

Jan Cline, of Sun City Center, who also has a streak of winning Florida Senior Games medals for over 20 years, won gold medals in all three events in the 80-84 age group. She won her fourth consecutive women's singles gold, teamed with Audrey Columbia, also of Sun City Center, to win a fifth consecutive women's doubles gold and paired with Joe Cincotta, of Lakewood Ranch, to win their third consecutive mixed doubles gold.

In championship men's doubles tennis matches at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Course, Barry Shollenberger, of Valrico and Chris Haughee, of Lakeland, earned their second gold medals over the last four days of tennis. Haughee teamed with Earl Harry, of Auburdale to win the 65-69 gold and Shollenberger teamed with Jay Bortner, of Valrico, to win the 70-74 age group. Both won championship men's singles matches on Sunday.

Mixed Doubles Tennis begins Wednesday at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Course and the second day of golf will be played for over 80 golfers who registered for 36-hole competition. All events of the 2016 Florida Senior Games have no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend.

Schedule for Wednesday, December 7

Golf, Countryside Country Club, Clearwater, tee times begin at 7:30 a.m.

Tennis (Mixed Doubles), Innisbrook Resort and Country Club, Palm Harbor, 9:00 a.m.