Seven Weeks of amateur sports in Florida
May 13 - June 26, 2016
A Florida Tradition now in its fourth decade
**Week One**

*Broward County Spring Festival - May 13-15, 2016*

*Figure Skating and Rugby*

**Figure Skating**
Friday, May 13 – Sunday, May 15, 2016
Panthers IceDen, Coral Springs

**Summary in 140 characters:** 351 skaters of all ages and skill levels compete on two rinks for three days. Over 30 hours of competitions were held at the Panthers IceDen

**Highlights**
Of the 127 gold medals awarded, 10-year old Haley Scott, of Port Orange *(pictured at left)*, earned a pair of golds to win the Betty Stark Award as the top Juvenile skater of the Games. Winning the Dorothy Dodson Award for Figure Skating Excellence as the top skater in the Intermediate division free skating long and short programs events was 12-year old Anastasia Russ, of Parkland.

Scott won the gold medal in the Juvenile Free Skating Championship Round and Russ had a combined score of 86.36 (56.07 long program, 30.29 short program) in the Intermediate Free Skating Programs to win silver medals in both events while totaling the high score for the award.

The 2015 Dorothy Dodson Award winner, Paxton James, of Estero, won a pair of gold medals skating in the Novice Division Free Skate and Short Programs. This is the fourth consecutive year James has won a SSG gold medal.

**Bet you didn’t know…:** This is Betty Stark’s 30th year as a Figure Skating Sport Director, of Coral Springs. The Betty Stark award was created to recognize Stark for her service to the Sunshine State Games and amateur sports in the State of Florida. This was the second year that the award has been given out.

**Rugby**
Saturday, May 14, 2016
Brian Piccolo Park, Fort Lauderdale

**Summary in 140 characters:** The Orlando Lady Griffins Rugby Club and the Miami Rugby Club were both undefeated in winning the gold medals in the Women’s and Men’s Open Divisions of the 2016 SSG Rugby Championships.

**Highlights**
The Orlando Lady Griffins won the Women’s Open gold medal going undefeated in the double round-robin format tournament defeating Miami Vice and Fort Miami twice for a 4-0 record. The Miami A Rugby Club was undefeated in five games for the Men’s Open Division gold medal. In the first four games of pool play, Miami outscored its opponents 144-20 and beat Naples in the Championship Game.

The Palm Beach Punishers won the High School Division with four wins and a loss. Palm Beach defeated Okapi in the championship round 26-7

**Bet you didn’t know…:** The Orlando Lady Griffins are a competitive USA Rugby Division II Senior Women’s Club, part of the Orlando Rugby Football Club (established in 1970.) They are the oldest rugby club in Florida.
Lacrosse  
Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22, 2016  
Pine Trails Park, Parkland

Summary in 140 characters: A total of 121 teams (85 boys, 36 girls) competed in 12 age groups (9 boys, 3 girls) ranging from 9 and under through high school at Pine Trails Park in Parkland.

Highlights: Two teams dominated the field at the 2016 Sunshine State Games Lacrosse Championships. The Lacross Club Orlando (LCO) Black and LCO Blue teams from Orlando took home both of the highest division Gold Medals. LCO Black defeated the Stealth High School Elite team from Parkland, 7-2, in the championship round of the Boys High School A division. LCO Blue took the Gold Medal from the Palm Beach Revolution High School select in the Boys High School B division with a 6-2 win.

The Florida Select teams (Delray Beach/Boca Raton) wiped out competitors in the Girls High School A and B divisions, as both teams were undefeated 11 games. Florida Select 2018, a team no players older than current 10th graders, defended their 2015 SSG Lacrosse High School A division gold medal by defeating the StickBenders Gold from Vero Beach, 8-2 in the championship game. Florida Select 2020, a team of middle school athletes, outscored their six opponents 70-6 and defeated the Caribbean team 15-1 in the championship game.

Bet you didn’t know....: Not only has Lacrosse grown substantially in the Sunshine State Games as more than 20,000 athletes have played in the Games since it debuted in 2009, its popularity has grown nationwide. There are two main reasons for this trend, according to Rick Burton a sport management professor at Syracuse. “Lacrosse is being developed as a gender neutral sport and it’s virtually the same game between men and women. It’s an active, contemporary game not based on set plays with limitations on where people can play.”

Week Three  
Sunshine State Games Basketball and Boxing Championships - May 27-29, 2016  
Basketball Locations: Various venues in Alachua County - Boxing Location: Fort Lauderdale

Basketball  
Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, May 29, 2016  
Six Alachua County locations (Abundant Grace School, Santa Fe High School, Oak Hall School, St. Francis School, Gainesville High School, Buchholz High School)

Summary in 140 characters: 38 teams rounded out May on the hardwood at the Sunshine State Games Basketball Championships in Alachua County.

Highlights  
The Upward Stars of Gainesville 10th Grade team avenged a two-point loss (58-56) in the opening game of Pool Play against Thunderstruck, to win the gold medal in the 10th Grade Division with a 71-58 win over Thunderstruck. After the first game of pool play loss, the Upward Stars reeled off three straight pool play wins to set up the championship round rematch.
Team Jeremy won the 11\textsuperscript{th}/12\textsuperscript{th} Grade Division going undefeated in five games and defeated the P-Town Ballers in the Championship Game. Team Jeremy shut down the high scoring Ballers in a 73-64 win after they had advanced to the gold medal game in a 102-90 win over 3C’s Basketball.

In the lone overtime game of the tournament, the Northwest All Stars from Palm Beach defeated the Alachua Dream Team 38-32 to win the 3\textsuperscript{rd}/4\textsuperscript{th} Grade Division gold medal.

\textbf{Bet you didn’t know….} The gold-medal winning team in the 11/12 Grade Division, Team Jeremy was formed to give student-athletes an opportunity to gain exposure in front of college coaches and earn a college scholarship. The team is named in honor of Jeremy Martin, who battled Stage 4 Adenocarcinoma of the lung. After a long battle, Jeremy passed away on September 21, 2014. The Team Jeremy movement offers a scholarship fund to help student athletes further their education.

\textbf{Boxing}  
\textbf{Friday, May 27 — Sunday, May 29, 2016}  
\textbf{Carter Park Gymnasium, Fort Lauderdale}

\textbf{Summary in 140 characters:} Rounding out the calendar in May is the Sunshine State Games Boxing Championships in Fort Lauderdale the weekend of May 28-30.

\textbf{Highlights}  
Jake Miller, of the Boca Raton PAL Boxing Club, won three bouts over the three-day competition to win the gold medal in the Novice, 165 pound class. Miller scored split decisions over Elton Stain Jean, of the Contenders Boxing Club and Jude Mompoint, of Heart and Soul Boxing before a unanimous decision over Boca Raton PAL teammate Nodzu Maurice.

SSG Boxing has seen a good share of Olympians at contests throughout the years and 2016 was no exception. Also representing the Boca Raton PAL Boxing Club was Daniyar Yeleussinov, of Kazakhstan, a 2013 welterweight world champion, who also fought at the 2012 Olympics at welterweight. Yeleussinov won two bouts in the Senior, 152 pound division.

The youngest gold medalist of the 2016 SSG Boxing was 10-year old Christian Jaurequi, of Dade City Boxing, who won a unanimous decision over nine-year old Nathaniel Cintron, of Renaissance Boxing in Jacksonville.

\textbf{Bet you didn’t know….} The SSG Boxing Championships featured four women’s matches. Letrail Solomon of World Class Boxing won two matches in the Female Elite 112 lb weight class. Asia Taylor, of Heat & Soul Boxing, also won a bout and competed at the 2015 Women’s National Golden Gloves Tournament.

\textbf{Week Four}  
\textit{Sunshine State Games Sarasota-Bradenton County Festival and Swimming Championships - June 10-12}  
\textit{Locations: Gainesville (Swimming) and various Sarasota and Manatee County}  

\textbf{Swimming}  
\textbf{Friday, June 10 — Sunday, June 12, 2016}  
\textbf{Dwight H. Hunter Northeast Pool, Gainesville}
Summary in 140 characters: The SSG Swimming Championships featured 14 teams and over 400 swimmers in the pool Friday evening through Sunday afternoon in 120 events.

Highlights
For the third straight year, Trevor McGovern, of the Gator Swim Club has turned in multiple gold-medal winning performances. At the 2016 SSG Championships, McGovern earned seven gold medals and a silver medal in 13-14 year old age group races ranging from sprinting in the 50 meter freestyle to long races in the 400 meter IM. He was also on the 400 meter relay team and tested his stamina in the 1500 meter freestyle where he earned his lone silver medal. At the 2015 Games, McGovern won six gold medals and won the Individual High Point Award for the Boys 11-12 year old category in 2014, when he won nine gold medals. In the last three years, McGovern has won 22 gold medals.

The 2016 Team Points Trophy went to the Area Tallahassee Aquatic Club (ATAC), which finished 47 points ahead of the Gator Swim Club. The two squads have battled back and forth at this meet over the last few years and in 2016, ATAC tallied 1,271 points to 1,224 for the Gator Swim Club.

Bet you didn’t know….Gold medal winners ranged in age from 7 to 18 at the 2016 SSG Swimming Championships. Seven-year old Ethan Bathala, of the Episcopal AmberJax team, won four gold medals in 8 and under events and 18-year old Eric Geunes (pictured at left), of the Gator Swim Club, won a gold medal in the Men’s 1500 meter freestyle event. As reported in October, 2015, Geunes has committed to the University of Wisconsin for the fall of 2016. He is an Olympic Trials qualifier in the 400 free who competes for Gainesville High School.

Archery
Saturday, June 11 — Sunday, June 12, 2016
Sarasota County Archers and Premier Sports Complex

Summary in 140 characters: SSG Archers shot at traditional round targets in Field Archery events and at animal targets in the woods in 3-D Events over two days.

Highlights
Two archers topped 700 in the 720 Round of the Compound Release Event as Austin Hall, a 14-year old from Valrico, recorded the high score of the day with a 709 to win the gold medal in the Cub Division. 12-year old Sydney Sullenberger, of Valrico, shot a 701 for the gold medal in the Compound Release Bowman Division, setting a new record for Youth Division archers. Both shot from shorter distances than their adult counterparts. Among adult competitors, Angel and Angelica Ramirez, of Melbourne had the top Compound Release scores of 677 and 671, respectively.

While only shooting for a year and a half, 12-year old Sydney Sullenberger from Valrico, is already making a name for herself in the Archery world winning a pair of gold medals and the 2015 Florida Archery Association Shooter of the Year. Besides her first day record-setting score, she shot from distances of 30, 40 and 50 yards in the 900 round, winning a gold medal with a score of 853.

It was a close one in the Archery Adult Male Freestyle event, at the Premier Sports Complex for the 900 round, as three archers finished within three points of one another. Lakeland’s Bill Kelly shot an 886 of possible 900 to win the gold medal. The silver medalist came in one point behind as Angel Ramirez, of Melbourne had an 885 and the bronze medalist James Pskowski, of Dade City, shot an 884. Kelly, who was the 2012 SSG Male
Athlete of the Year, also won a gold medal Saturday shooting a 553 in the 720 round in the Adult Male Freestyle Division.

**Bet you didn't know....** The number of youth archers competing in the Sunshine State Games continues to grow as 54 archers age 21 and under pre-registered for the 2016 Games, with the majority shooting both days of competition. The youngest Sunshine State Games star of the future on the archery course was five-year old Daniel Gyurka, of Sarasota, who competed with his nine-year old brother, Kevin, and his dad, Jonas. This rise in participation is due in part to Florida’s Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) programs in Florida. These are programs of USA Archery that teaches archery to young people.

**Disc Golf**
**Saturday, June 11**
**Lakeview Park, Sarasota**

**Summary in 140 characters:** Now in its third year, Disc Golf is played at the site of an old tourist attraction with a swan boat tour & "aquabelles" in water ski shows.

**Highlights**
In the 10-person Men's Advanced Division, Tampa's Michael Vaughn and Dunedin's Lyle “Fish” Fisher, shared the gold medal as both recorded a score 96 over 36 holes at Lakeview Park. After the first round of 18 holes, Fisher led Vaughn by three strokes with a 45. Vaughn topped Fisher by three strokes with a 48 for both rounds of 18.

Vaughn has won the gold medal in the Men’s Advanced Division for all three years of the Sunshine State Games Disc Golf event. Fisher earned a gold medal in his second Sunshine State Games sport having won a gold medal in Judo in the mid-1980s.

The Men’s Intermediate and Recreational Divisions were equally as close as Dylan Borden, edged Jason Shultis, both of Sarasota, by one stroke with an Intermediate gold medal winning score of 91. Quinn Conner, of Orlando, took the Recreational gold with a 92, ahead of Sarasota player, Gary Nilsen’s 93.

**Bet you didn’t know....** The low 18 hole score of 2016, a 42 in their second round of 18 holes, was turned in by Dylan Borden and Nicholas Ribera in the Intermediate Division. While Borden’s 42 was seven strokes lower his first round score, Ribera’s was 10 strokes lower earning him a bronze medal.

**Paddling**
**Saturday, June 11 — Sunday, June 12, 2016**
**Nathan Benderson Park (Sprint Events) and Ft. Hamer Rowing Facility (Marathon Event)**

**Summary in 140 characters:** SSG Paddling featured sprints starting at 200 meters and marathon races as long as 12 miles, over two days of competition.

**Highlights**
The Paddling Sprint races at Benderson Park brought out elite athletes of the sport’s community as a former Athlete of the Year returned to face a former member of the USA Canoe/Kayak National team. Tanner Mack (*right in photo*), a member of the USA National Team from 2008-2011 crossed the finish line one second ahead of the 2002 Athlete of the Year, Larry Parzynski (*left in photo*).

Mack paddled the 200 meter race in :39 while Parzynski crossed the finish line at the :40 mark.
The race was the highlight of the day for sport director Melinda Mack, as her son had the opportunity to race against another elite athlete of the sport. Mack also pointed out that 14-year old Kalen Oliveria, of Cape Coral also turned in a 200 meter sprint time of :39 seconds.

In winning four Paddling medals in two days, Ross Elder, of Hollywood paddled just over 13 miles in his Outrigger Canoe. The 60-year old Elder won three sprint races Saturday at Nathan Benderson Park over distances of 200, 500 and 1000 meters.

He got back in the canoe on Sunday for the 12-mile marathon race at Fort Hamer Park where he covered the course in two hours and 20 minutes. Elder was the only Paddling athlete to compete in both days of competition in Sprint and Marathon races.

Bet you didn’t know…. With so much water located in and around Cape Coral, Florida, kayaking is a popular activity enjoyed by locals and visitors alike and has made the city a kayaking hotbed. The Cape Coral-based South Florida Canoe Kayaking Club is working to transform the area into an International Training Venue for a multitude of Paddlesports. Sunshine State Games Sprint Kayak Sport Director Melinda Mack is the Executive Director of South Florida Canoe Kayak Club and currently serves on the USA Canoe Kayak Sprint Competition Committee.

Powerlifting
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Bradenton Area Convention Center

Summary in 140 characters: SSG athletes accomplished great feats of strength in bench press lifting and deadlifting as much as 700 lbs.

Highlights
To close out the Powerlifting competition at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, Kevin Phillipson, of Big Baby Powerlifting in Melbourne (pictured at left), had an impressive showing with his final three lifts of 645, 683 and 716.5 (325 kg) pounds

The 35-year old Electrical Engineer participated in the Sunshine State Games as a high school and college student as a member of the Lake Brantley Water Polo team in 1999 and 2000. The 2016 Games were his first in Powerlifting.

Bet you didn’t know…. Several SSG Powerlifting athletes compete in Florida Senior Games Powerlifting. Lenore and Bill Devore, of Lakeland, were gold medalists in the 50-54 age group at the 2015 Florida Senior Games, in Clearwater and registered for the 2016 SSG. When not at the gym accomplishing great feats of strength, Lenore Devore is an editor at the Lakeland Ledger. Bill is a vice president at the Alford Group, a not-for-profit experience in higher education, healthcare, faith-based and civic organizations.

Racquetball
Saturday, June 11 — Sunday, June 12, 2016
Sarasota YMCA Frank G. Berlin Sr. Branch

Summary in 140 characters: SSG Racquetball featured competition in singles, doubles and mixed doubles for athletes of all ages.
Highlights
Juan Carlos Morales from Tampa, collected a couple of medals at the Sarasota YMCA Frank G. Berlin Sr. Branch, playing in seven matches Men’s Singles and Doubles events. In Men’s Singles, Morales advanced out of one of four pool play groups with three competitors each winning both matches in the pool play advancing him to the bracket competition. In the first round, he defeated Brian McEnnis out of Port St. Lucie, and Valrico’s Elvin Serrano, 16-14, 15-4, in the championship match. To go along with his first place win, Morales took home a bronze medal with partner Nestor Santana, of Tampa, for the Men’s Doubles A Division Championship.

Bet you didn’t know…. Current Miami Marlins as a special assistant to the President, Jeff Conine, who spent 16 years in the Major Leagues, started playing racquetball at age 10 and after attending a Junior Nationals tournament. He went “crazy with Racquetball,” and it became his passion. He eventually won a Junior Nationals Championship in Newport Beach, California, his home state.

Rowing
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota

Summary in 140 characters: SSG Rowers launched boats at the same facility as members of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Rowing team who qualified at Benderson Park in April.

Highlights
After receiving her 2015 Sunshine State Games Athlete of the Year Award, Gainesville Area Rowing’s Jen Figueroa (pictured at right) and her partner Lauren Day, wrapped up a close victory in the Women’s Masters 2X 1000 meter. GAR trailed the combined team, Karen Wiegandt, of the Sarasota County Rowing Club and Linda Detlefsen, from the Jacksonville Rowing Club until the last seconds of the race. Figueroa and Day had a nail biting victory beating their opponent by six-tenths of a second coming in at 3:48.00 and Wiegandt and Detlefsen trailed with 3:48.60.

The Men's Veteran's Master’s 50+ 1X 1000 meter, came down to the last meters where Sunshine State Games veteran Brice Crossley, of Row Brevard, pushed passed opponent, Clemente Sanchez, of Miami, taking the first victory of the day. Crossley finished with a time of 3:52.10 beating Sanchez by 1.7 seconds. "I had a rough start and had to play catch up the whole race," said Crossley.

Crossley has been Rowing since 1982 and attended the University of Central Florida, where he rowed for four years and eventually became a coach for the team. He now works as an engineer at the Kennedy Space Center. The two successful SSG Rowers have even medaled as a team as Crossley and Figueroa won a Mixed Quad Championship at a recent U.S. Rowing World Masters Championships in Canada.

Bet you didn’t know…. SSG Rowing attracts clubs from all over the state of Florida from Tallahassee to Miami.

Synchronized Swimming
Friday, June 10 — Sunday, June 12, 2016
Arlington Park Aquatic Complex, Sarasota

Highlights
While there were synchronized swimmers of all ages in SSG competition, one of the more experienced teams saved the best for last.
After a long day of Synchronized Swimming competition at the Arlington Aquatic Center, the Palm Beach Coralytes Masters Team (in photo from left to right Stacey Staley, Debra Cane, Coralytes coaches Courtney Karolinko and mother Jacki Barrett, Rebecca Aribbaslata and Martha Miranda), topped off the day with their six-member team performance set to “It’s Raining Men,” combined with a touch of Aretha Franklin to complete their edgy team routine. The two-minute routine including Karolinko, who swam in the Games as a teenager, performed while eight month’s pregnant with her daughter-to-be, Aria. The routine was judged based on their artistic routine, execution and difficulty.

Karolinko and Barrett, both coaches for the Coralytes, had a 12-hour day was filled with coaching, judging and swimming. Karolinko had rambling nerves before the competition, because she and her team were unable to warm up due to her mandatory coaching duties for Novice and Junior Olympic teams of the Coralytes. Courtney is set to deliver baby Aria sometime next month and her swimsuit and Coralytes T-shirt will be waiting for her.

The Miramar Mermaids earned the Novice Division Mary Rose High Point Award with a total of 11 medals. The 15 novice Mermaid swimmers earned eight gold medals and three silver medals. Miramar topped the Hialeah Stormettes, who earned seven medals. The Mermaids also won the Intermediate Division Mary rose High Point Award with a total of 9 medals, four gold, three silver and two bronze.

Suncoast Waterworks earned the Junior Olympic Division Mary Rose High Point Award with eight total medals, tied with the Tampa Bay SynchRays. However, all of Suncoast Waterworks’ medals were gold medals compared to three gold and five silver the SynchRays.

Bet you didn’t know.... Sunshine State Games Synchronized Swimmers are judged in three categories for their performances that usually last two-to-three minutes. Scores are based on Execution, Artistic Impression and Difficulty.

Ultimate
Friday, June 10 – Sunday, June 12, 2016
Premier Sports Complex, Sarasota

Summary in 140 characters: The 23 teams of 2016 SSG Ultimate played on 12 fields at the Premier Sports Complex.

Highlights
The G-Unit Ultimate Team of Gainesville repeated as Champions of the Coed Division winning three close games in the Championship Bracket and defeated The Hucking Dead, of Jacksonville, 11-9, in the final game. G-Unit opened bracket play with a 12-10 win over Jolly Roger and defeated the previously undefeated Swing State team 13-12 to advance to the Championship at the Premier Sports Campus.

The Tampa Bay UpRoar won three Juggernaut Division Bracket Games Sunday to win the Men’s Open Gold Medal defeating Shrimpboat of Tallahassee, 13-6, in the Championship Game. After defeating the
Tampa Tyranny in the first round, 13-2, UpRoar knocked off the top seeded and undefeated Woolly Mammoth team 12-8 to advance to the final.

**Bet you didn’t know....** Ultimate is a self-officiated sport where players are responsible for their own foul and line calls. Players resolve their own disputes. Every tournament also awards a “Spirit of the Game,” honor stressing sportsmanship and fair play. Competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of respect between players, adherence to the rules, and the basic joy of play.

**Week Five**

*Palm Beach County Festival (7 sports) - Table Tennis and Track & Field Championships - June 18-19, 2016*

**Location:** Table Tennis Championships, Lakeland; Track and Field Championships, Minneola

**BMX Cycling**

**Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016**

**Okeeheelee Park, Palm Beach**

**Summary in 140 characters:** Okeeheelee BMX is Palm Beach County’s only BMX race track and is proud to be ranked one of the top 3 tracks in the USA.

**Highlights**

BMX Cycling racers ranging from Novice to Expert Class were on the track at Okeeheelee Park with all riders running a total of three races. Rocco Pesaturo, of Royal Palm Beach, won the gold medal in the 10 year old Expert Class and Jacob Jones, of West Palm Beach, won the 14 Year old Expert gold medal. To advance through the Novice and Intermediate Classifications riders must win a total of 30 races to reach the expert level.

**Bet you didn’t know....** SSG BMX has competition in 10 divisions ranging from Novice to Professional. Also included is a Strider Racing® Class, the fastest growing class in BMX and the perfect training ground for new riders and racers.

**Fencing**

**Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016**

**Palm Beach Convention Center**

**Summary in 140 characters:** SSG Fencing has become a final preparation for the USA Fencing National Championships held in late-June. The 2016 event is in Dallas.

**Highlights**

Jordan Griffith, an 18-year old fencer from of the Naples Fencing Club, won the gold medal in the Men’s Foil Division in a rematch from the 2014 Sunshine State Games in Gainesville. Griffith (*pictured at right after scoring winning point*) defeated Justin Hermann, of the Master’s Fencing Academy in Miami, 15-4, in the championship final.

At the 2014 Games, it was Hermann who won the final over Griffith. “We’ve fenced against each other quite a bit in the last few years at tournaments in Miami, Tampa and Orlando and I’ve kind of figured him out,” said Griffith. “I’m also a little bit bigger than him giving me a size advantage.”
Griffith, who recently graduated from Gulf Coast High School in Naples, will attend the Air Force Academy in the fall and was recruited as a fencing athlete for the Division I program.

The Stoccata Fencing Academy & Club, of Longwood, won the SSG Fencing Team Trophy with a total of 39 points, finishing ahead of the Master’s Fencing Academy and the Naples Fencing Academy. Stoccata fencers combined to win 19 medal over two days of competition, six gold, eight silver and five bronze. Contributing to Stoccata’s success on Sunday was three gold medals from Amanda Pirkowski, who won the Y-14 Women’s Epee, Y-14 Mixed Saber and Senior Women’s Saber events. Also winning gold on Sunday for Stoccata was Hannah Donderis in the Y-10 Mixed Saber and Jameson Karnes, who won the Div III Mixed Epee in a field of 36 fencers.

Bet you didn’t know….Monticello’s Wayne Frey competed in four events at the 2016 SSG. At one point in his career, Wayne and his three daughters were competing in the Sunshine State Games with great success. As they have moved on with their lives, Wayne remains a mainstay in Florida’s Olympic-style Sports Festival.

**Judo**
**Saturday, June 18, 2016**
**Palm Beach County Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**

**Summary in 140 characters:** SSG Judo annually recognizes a Judoka Junior Female, Junior Male and Senior Female and Senior Male athlete and other annual awards.

**Highlights**
19-year old Alejandro Menendez from Miami (*painted at right with Olympian Ato Hand*), was named the Outstanding Senior Male Judoka after winning four matches en route to the gold medal in the Men’s Shiai Advanced division, 60.1kg-66kg weight class. He is coached by his father, Ricardo Menendez, head instructor of the Falcon Judo Club and President of Florida Judo. Beyond SSG, Menendez has competed in two Pan American Judo Championships and the Jr. World Judo Championships. Menendez recently graduated from South Miami Senior High School and has been invited to compete in Japan.

Ella Valenti, of Riverview, won the Outstanding Junior Female Judoka, earning a gold medal in the 9-10 Year Old Female Advanced Division, 34.1-38kg weight class. Valenti also won a gold medal at the 2015 Games.

**Bet you didn’t know…** Former SSG Judo athlete Angelica Delgado has been chosen as one of six members of the U.S. Olympic Team on the Road To Rio. Delgado was named the Outstanding Senior Woman at the 2006 Games when she was a member of the Ki-Itsu-Sai Club in Miami.

**Karate**
**Saturday, June 18, 2016**
**Palm Beach County Convention Center – Exhibit Hall**

**Summary in 140 characters:** Strict protocol followed in Karate. Unsportsmanlike conduct is not tolerated. Behavior not in the Karate-Do spirit leads to disqualification.

**Highlights**
In the Karate competition, Adrian Llamo, of Naples, won a pair of gold medal in both the 8-9 Year Old Novice Kata and Kumite events. It was the second consecutive year Llamo has won both events in the 8-9 year old age group. He won the Beginners Division in 2015.
18-year old Megan won the Women’s Advanced 18-34 year old event. Megan has won SSG gold medals since 2005 and is also a rising star in the weightlifting world after being named the Gainesville Sun’s 2015 Weightlifter of the Year.

Bet you didn’t know....SSG Sport Director Jason Sorgi has earned the status of a fifth-level Black Belt, meaning he is halfway to a total of 10 dan levels or black belt degrees to achieve. All 10 dan levels require continuous training, taking as long as 29 years of study and practice to reach the final level.

Taekwondo
Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016
Palm Beach County Convention Center

Summary in 140 characters: Forms, Weapons, Breaking and Sparring events are on schedule for SSG Taekwondo over two days at the Palm Beach County Festival.

Highlights
It was a Taekwondo family affair for Tampa’s Steve Quillian and his three sons, 10-year old Kaeden, eight-year old Korban and four-year old Kolten as they combined for a total of 19 medals in the sparring, forms, breaking and weapons divisions.

Kaeden and Korban have been competing since the age of four and Kolten made his entry into the sport today at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Steve spent the two days of competition as an official while supporting his sons in their matches. He also managed to win a pair of poomse (forms) and a sparring medal.

A special moment of the Palm Beach County Festival came when 12-year old Meredith Pence (pictured below in red gee), of Symmetry Martial Arts in Jupiter, was able to compete in the Inaugural Taekwondo Challenged Warrior Division event. Pence, a yellow belt athlete, who experiences epileptic seizures due to Dravet Syndrome, won a gold medal in the breaking competition. She broke three sets of boards, being held in place by her coach, Sonia Mendez, with a series of punches and kicks.

“Meredith is such an amazing spirit and gives it her all every time she comes for training,” said Mendez. “She never complains and inspires me to be my best all the time. She’s my hero.” Mendez coaches both Meredith and her brother Mason, who won a breaking gold medal and a silver forms medal in the 6-7 age group, at Symmetry Martial Arts.
Bet you didn’t know…. Jermaine James, a three-time USA National Champion and International Gold Medalist from Cape Coral, won a gold medal in the 18 and Over Male Black Belt 130.6 - 161.0 lb division. James is a 5th Degree Black Belt originally from Detroit, MI and has over 20 years of experience in the martial arts. James because of his Swiss dual citizenship, had the opportunity to compete as a member of a 2012 Switzerland Olympic Team. He also won a gold medal at the 2015 Sunshine State Games.

Weightlifting
Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016
Palm Beach County Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

Summary in 140 characters: SSG Olympic Weightlifting consists of two contested lifts, the Snatch and Clean & Jerk. Medals are awarded for the combined total weight.

Highlights
In the inaugural year of the SSG Weightlifting Robert L. Murphy Memorial Meet, Jeremy Jackson, of Orlando, won the Robert Murphy Spirit of the Games Award and Most Outstanding Male Lifter Award. Besides winning the gold medal for his successful lifts, Jackson earned the Spirit of the Games Award for his determination after an unsuccessful snatch.

“After Jeremy missed a snatch attempt of 118kg, normally lifters have two minutes to gather themselves before another attempt,” said SSG Weightlifting Sport Director Richard Lansky, and Robert Murphy’s coach for Team Florida Weightlifting. “But after about 10 seconds and before he walked behind the curtain, he turned right around and completed the successful lift.”

Cherisse Taylor, out of Sarasota, earned the Most Outstanding Female Lifter Award after her 84 kg snatch, which was the overall best of the women’s competition.

The Men’s Team Trophy was won by Team Florid a Jacksonville winning four three gold and a silver medal. Among the gold medals for Team Florida Jacksonville was a combined lift of 295kg by Tyler Reagan, a former NC State offensive lineman and 2020 or 2024 Olympic hopeful. The Women’s Team Trophy went to Team Florida Gulf Coast.

Bet you didn’t know…. The 2016 SSG Weightlifting competition is the Inaugural Robert Murphy Memorial Meet. The annual SSG will honor the late Robert Murphy, who not only competed in the Games but internationally and was a five-time National Champion in his class, before he passed away in April, 2015. At the 2002 SSG in Palm Beach County, Murphy had a combined lift of 335kg, which stood as a top SSG performance until 2013 when Andrew Davis, of Team Florida Orlando had a combined lift of 338kg.

Wrestling
Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016
Palm Beach County Convention Center — Exhibit Hall

Summary in 140 characters: SSG Wrestling now offers three events, Freestyle, Folkstyle and Greco-Roman divisions for males and females of all ages.

Highlights
The 2015 Sunshine State Games Male Athlete of the Year Award was presented to Jaden Villalobos, a 12-year old member of the Calvary Wrestling Club in Fort Lauderdale. Villalobos (pictured at right with his
**dad, Jared** earned a medal in his third consecutive SSG Wrestling competition taking silver medals in the Middle Folkstyle and Freestyle, 84 kg Class.

The Gladiator Wrestling Team won the SSG Team Award accumulating four gold medals and three silver medals in Folkstyle competition. Guillermo Jaramillo won four gold medals for the Gladiator Club earning two in different Folkstyle weight classes and one in Freestyle and Greco Roman competition.

**Bet you didn’t know...** The State of Florida boasts 147 Amateur Wrestling Association Clubs, according to [www.floridausawrestling.org](http://www.floridausawrestling.org)

**Table Tennis**  
**Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016**  
Simpson Park Recreation Center, Lakeland

**Summary in 140 characters:** The annual Championship is a two-star USATT sanctioned tournament and very popularity as players are drawn from far and near for 15 events.

**Highlights**  
Adam Maamoun, of Fort Walton Beach, won his second Table Tennis gold medal of the weekend winning the Under 2000 Division at the Simpson Park Recreation Center in Lakeland. Maamoun won the Sandpaper competition on Saturday. Kit Jeerapaet, of Tampa won the Open Division gold medal which featured some of the top table tennis players in the State. Jeerapaet won the Open Division silver medal in 2015.

For the second consecutive year, 13-year old Sherilyn Barwie-Perez, of Tampa *(pictured above)*, won gold medal the Under 2000 Division, topping several adult competitors. After winning two gold medals at the 2015 Sunshine State Games, she competed in six events of the U.S. Open Table Tennis Championships in July in Las Vegas. Sherilyn says she plays table tennis because it is her passion and one of the best exercises for both body and mind. It is also a great challenge – a sport impossible to master.

**Bet you didn’t know....** Table Tennis athletes have the ability to compete in two Florida Sports Foundation events, the SSG and the Florida Senior Games. Registered to compete in the 2016 Sunshine State Games, in the under 1800 division, is 75-year old Jose Borges, of Spring Hill. Borges was also a gold medalist at the 2015 Florida Senior Games in men’s doubles of the 75-79 age group. Borges also won a silver medal in men’s singles in the 75-79 age group.

**Track & Field**  
**Saturday, June 18 — Sunday, June 19, 2016**  
Lake Minneola High School, Minneola

**Summary in 140 characters:** SSG Track & Field offers events for youth, open & masters athletes. The event also serves as a qualifier for the 2016 Florida Senior Games.

**Highlights - 2016 SSG Track and Field Top Performers**  
Terrence Bobet, of Lakeland, returned to the 2016 Sunshine State Games and once again turned in some of the top youth performances in the field event throws 17-18 age group. His gold medal shot put was 11 feet more than the second place finisher. His Discus throw was 28 feet further than the silver medalist and finally, he topped the second place javelin throw by 52 feet. Following are his performances from the last two years.
While his impressive javelin throw covered 150 feet, it was not the longest of the event. Stuart Spangenberg, of Melbourne, had a throw of 176-01 in the Masters competition, 55-59 age group. Spangenberg was a gold medalist at the 2015 Florida Senior Games with a javelin throw of 184-01.

At the 2016 Polk County Track and Field Championships, Bobet had a discus throw of 166 feet. He was also an offensive lineman and the kicker for the Kathleen High School football team and the goalkeeper for the school's soccer team.

Also returning to win throwing gold medals were 12-year old Akari Isaac, from the Christian Cruisers team, and Johntavia Shaw, of Clearwater, who once again won their shot put and discus throw events. Shaw also added a gold in the javelin throw.

**Bet you didn’t know….** Dr. Brian Hickey, a Professor of Exercise Science and Sport Management at Florida A&M University, has won SSG Track & Field gold medals for 14 consecutive years dating back to 2002. A distance runner, Hickey has run in the 400, 800, 1500 and 3000 meter races, winning 36 gold medals and a silver during this streak of SSG performances. He began his streak running in the 30+ Masters age group and in 2016, he was in the 45-49 age group winning the 800, 1500 and 3000 meter gold medals. In 2011, when no SSG Masters Track & Field was contested, he won a gold medal at the all-ages 5K Road Race in the Florida Senior Games in Lakeland. Since 2010, his wife, Rachel, has also run the distance races and has won 14 gold medals.

Through this SSG competition, Brian puts theory into practice by competing regularly in duathlon, track and field, running, obstacle course racing and lacrosse. Over the course of his athletic career he has earned 30 national titles (29 in masters track and field, 1 in duathlon), set an American Record in masters track and competed in the 2004 US Olympic Trials for cycling. He has represented the United States as a national team member twice in master’s track and field and five times in duathlon. Brian is currently the Coach of the Florida A&M Lacrosse team, a program he helped form in 2015.

**Week Six**

*Sunshine State Games Water Polo and Badminton Championships – June 24-26, 2016*

**Location: Coral Springs Aquatic Center and ClearOne, Orlando**

**Water Polo**

Friday, June 24 — Sunday, June 26, 2016

Coral Springs Aquatic Center

**Summary in 140 characters:** A total of 69 teams competed in age groups ranging from 12 & under to 30+ for 41 hours at the 2016 Games.

**Highlights**

The Riptide Women’s Open team won its seventh consecutive gold medal, dating back to 2010, outscrewing opponents 45-18 in four wins. The Riptides Women’s Open team was one of three gold medal winning teams at the 2016 Water Polo Championships. The Men’s Open and Girl’s 18 and Under teams also won gold medals.
The Men’s Open team scored a tournament high 71 goals in five wins and a tie and defeated YCF Central Florida 9-8 in the championship game. The Girls 18 and Under team won five games by a 52-17 margin including an 8-4 championship game win over the South Florida Water Polo Club. The 18 and Under team featured four players on the All-Miami Dade Water Polo First Team.

The South Florida Water Polo Club had seven teams playing in the eight divisions and won two gold medals and two silver medals. The Boys 16 and 18 & Under teams won the gold medals and the Women’s Open and Girls 18 and Under teams won the silver medals.

The Boys 18 and Under team advanced out of the largest division of the tournament winning six games in the 13-team field, including an 8-4 gold-medal game win over YCF Central Florida.

**Bet you didn’t know...** Water Polo is alive and well in the Bahamas. Making the trip stateside were three teams from the Bahamas Mantas Water Polo Club. The 12 and Under and 14 & Under Coed teams went home with gold medals.

**Badminton**

Saturday, June 25 — Sunday, June 26, 2016

Clear One, Orlando

**Summary in 140 characters:** Not as fast on the SSG level, Badminton can stake claim to be the world’s fastest racket sport, with smashes reaching speeds of 332 kph.

**Highlights**

27-year old Milind Dake, from Tampa, won three medals, a pair of gold medals in the Men’s Open Singles and Club-Novice 2 Mixed Doubles. He won a silver medal in Men’s Open Doubles with partner, Cosmin Ioan. Dake has over 20 titles over the last three years competing in the Dallas, Mid-Atlantic, North Carolina, DC and Adidas Boston Opens. Dake is originally from Hyderabad, India, and he has been competing regularly in the U.S. for only two years. He is currently ranked 5th nationally in the USA Badminton Mixed Doubles standings. He competed in the 2015 SSG, placing first in the Men’s Open and Mixed Doubles, the highest and most competitive divisions.

Alek Kylsz, from Orlando, has won a medal in the SSG for four of the past five years and won six of his eight matches in 2016 to win. Kylsz was a Mixed Doubles silver medalist at the 2016 U.S. Senior International Badminton Championships in Miami Lakes, in January.

Adding even more of an international flair to the Games was Allan Graham Steen who traveled from Stanley, Falklands Islands to win medals in four divisions. Steen won gold medals in the Novice Men’s Singles and Novice Men’s Doubles divisions. He earned bronze medals in the 40+ Men’s Singles and 35+/40+ Men’s Doubles divisions.

**Bet you didn’t know...** SSG State Director Dave Zarco is a walking billboard for the sport of Badminton. Besides winning a gold medal in Men’s Doubles at the 2016 Games, he is the Florida Senior Games and National Senior Games Badminton Sport Director, a regional director for USA Badminton and traveled to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to serve as an advisor for the television broadcasts.
Remaining 2016 Sunshine State Games Events

**Sunshine State Games Beach Ultimate Championship**
September 24-25, 2016 - *Sheraton Sand Key, Clearwater*

**Sunshine State Games Sport Shooting Festivals**

**Sunday, September 4, 2016**
Smallbore Metallic Silhouette, Hollywood Rifle and Pistol Club, Dania Beach

**Saturday, September 10, 2016**
Smallbore Rifle Prone - Hollywood Rifle and Pistol, Dania Beach
3 Position Smallbore, Hollywood Rifle and Pistol, Dania Beach

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**
International Pistol – Air Pistol, Standard Pistol, Centerfire and Sport Pistol - Hernando Sportsman’s Club, Brooksville
Rimfire Benchrest - Hollywood Rifle and Pistol, Dania Beach

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**
Bullseye Pistol - Hernando Sportsman’s Club, Brooksville

**Friday, October 21 - Saturday, October 22, 2016**
International Style Air Rifle (Sporter Air Rifle, Precision Air Rifle) - Sarasota Military Academy

**Saturday, November 5, 2016**
International “Style” Trap- Skyway Trap & Skeet, St. Petersburg

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**
International “Style” Double Trap - Skyway Trap & Skeet, St. Petersburg

**Saturday, November 19, 2016**
International “Style” Skeet - Skyway Trap & Skeet, St. Petersburg
USPSA - Volusia County Hunt & Gun Club, New Smyrna Beach

**Sunshine State Games – Baton Twirling and Fall Lacrosse Classic**
November 5-6, 2016 - Vero Beach, Florida