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**The Villages Golfer Benefits from Return of Blue Skies to 2016 Florida Senior Games**

**CLEARWATER** - The return of clear blue skies provided the opportunity and motivation for William Jones, of The Villages, to record the lowest score of two days of 2016 Florida Senior Games Golf at Countryside Country Club.

Jones shaved 17 strokes off of his total from Tuesday to turn in a 73 Wednesday and win the gold medal in the 80-84 age group.

He teed off Tuesday right before the rains came and during the delay could not get dry and became stiff. He finished the first day's 18 holes with a 90.

"I forgot my rain gear and got soaked to the bone," he said. "Once we got back out on the course, I could not get loose. Today, I got up did my exercises before the round, hit the ball down the middle of the fairway, had some nice putts and made five birdies. Today's game was reverse image of yesterday."

Jones' birdies came on a par 5 hole, two par 4's and a two par 3's en route to the lowest score of the two days of 18 hole golf.

Surprisingly, there were not many drastic decreases in scores like Jones' performance Wednesday. The next lowest score was a pair of 77's shot by Jack Allen, of Seminole, to win the 65-69 age group and Richard Burke, of Bonita Springs, to win the 70-74 gold medal.

"I'm not surprised," said Jones. "Even though the weather was a big improvement, the course was pretty tough if you didn't know it."

Jones claims his goal every time he steps on the golf course is to break his age like he did today.

"I'm at an age now where the number is high and if I play half decent, I can do it," he said. "At the moment, I'm at the sweet spot."

Janet Brown, of Lakeland, once again had the low women's score of the day, with an 86, to win the 65-69 gold medal.

The first day of mixed doubles tennis competition featured a birthday celebration as Jessica Franzini, of St. Augustine, officially became Senior Games age by playing two matches, in the 50-54 age group, with her husband, Lou.

The Franzini's won their first match against Cheryl and Romeo Domingo, of Punta Gorda, 6-2, 6-4. They dropped a second round match to Susan McGill, of Lake Wales, and Charles Counter, of Winter Haven, 6-2, 6-4. The Franzini's will play for a bronze medal Thursday.

Day six of nine at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Florida Senior Games goes to the beach as the 5K and 10K Cycling Time Trials will be run at Fort DeSoto Park. Also on the schedule for Friday is Horseshoes at Ed C. Wright

Park and Lawn Bowls at the Clearwater Lawn Bowls and Shuffleboard Complex. All events of the 2016 Florida Senior Games have no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend.

**Schedule for Thursday, December 8**

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

Cycling (5K & 10K Time Trials) - Fort DeSoto Park, Tierra Verde, 9:00 a.m.

Lawn Bowls - Clearwater Lawn Bowls and Shuffleboard Complex, 9:30 a.m.