



# FSGA

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION  
~NOVEMBER 2014~



**THAD HUDGENS CAPTURES  
33RD MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP  
IN DRAMATIC FASHION**



# 2014 Men's Player of the Year

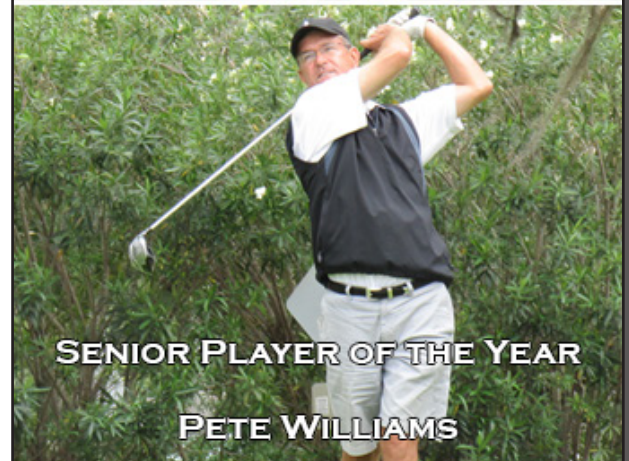
## **Don Bell – Amateur Player of the Year**

Don Bell, of Port Orange, earned 17,638 overall points to be named 2014 Amateur Player of the Year. Bell began the year quickly with a first place finish at the Mid-Amateur Stroke Play Championship, held at Sugar Mill Country Club, with two under-par rounds of 66 and 69 for a tournament total 135. He continued his strong play in his second tournament of the year; the Amateur Public Links Championship. He recorded three under-par rounds to finish one shot back as runner-up. Next, Bell qualified for the U.S. Amateur as Co-Medalist and moved right on to successfully qualifying for the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship where he made it to the Round of 16 matches. Bell capped off the year with a runner-up finish in the Mid-Amateur Championship held at The Loxahatchee Club.



## **Pete Williams – Senior Player of the Year**

The 2014 Senior Player of the Year, with 12,393 points, is Pete Williams from Juno Beach. Williams captured the Senior Amateur Championship with a tournament total of five-under par, 211. After securing the medalist honors with two under-par rounds at the Senior Amateur Match Play Championship, he went on to claim the crown. Next, Williams qualified for the U.S. Senior Open Championship, held at Oak Tree National in Edmond, Oklahoma, by shooting a strong two-under par score of 70. To round out the year, Williams placed in the top five three times with a tie for third at the Mid-Senior Championship and a fifth place finish at both the Senior Four-Ball and Senior/Mid-Amateur Four-Ball Championships.



## **Gabriel Lench – Junior Player of the Year**

Lake Mary's Gabriel Lench is the 2014 Junior Player of the Year. At the Amateur Championship, Lench hoisted the Amateur Trophy posting a six-under par total of 282 for a two shot victory. In the Boys' Junior Amateur Championship, Lench recorded his season low of 64 in round one to finish in fourth place for the tournament. He added two Florida Junior Tour victories, in the 16-18 Age Division, at Amelia National Golf Club and Sugar Mill Country Club. Finally, Lench had the opportunity to travel to French Lick, Indiana to represent Florida in the USGA State Team Championship, registering the low total of the team, where Team Florida finished in second place.



# 2014 Women's Player of the Year

## **Meghan Stasi – Amateur Player of the Year**

Meghan Stasi, of Oakland Park, captured the 2014 Women's Player of the Year with 21,980 points. Stasi has captured Player of the Year honors now for a fifth consecutive year. To start the season, Stasi claimed top honors at both the Women's International Four-Ball and Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. Stasi next advanced to the Round of 32 matches at the Women's Amateur Championship. In the familiar territory of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship, she advanced to the Semifinals before falling to the eventual champion. In her last tournament of the season, Stasi finished first at the Mixed Shoot-Out with partner Kevin Hammer.



## **Mary Jane Hiestand – Senior Player of the Year**

Mary Jane Hiestand, of Naples, claimed her fifth Senior Women's Player of the Year honors with 11,020 points. Hiestand garnered first place honors at the Women's Senior Amateur Championship at Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club in Ocala. She later finished in the top five in three championships beginning with a third place finish in the Women's International Four-Ball, followed by fourth in the Women's Four-Ball Championship, and second in the Women's Senior North and South Championship. Capping off her season, Hiestand advanced to the Round of 32 matches in the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship.



## **Mary Janiga – Junior Player of the Year**

The 2014 Girls' Junior Player of the Year is Mary Janiga with 16,775 points. Janiga claimed the Girls' Junior Amateur Championship, where she posted bookend rounds of 71 to capture the title. Mary also played in eight Florida Junior Tour events this season, posting victories at Bear Lakes Country Club and Banyan Country Club. She competed in the Women's International Four-Ball and finished tied for sixth with partner Alexa Pano. Next, she finished tied for tenth at the Women's Amateur Stroke Play Championship and completed her successful year by qualifying for the U.S. Girls' Junior as medalist and advancing to the Quarterfinals.





# Mid-Senior Championship

R J Nakashian fires a tournament total of 213 to win the Florida State Mid-Senior Championship at Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island. The Championship was conducted from August 22-24.

R J Nakashian, of Palm Beach, recorded a final round of one-over par 73 to secure the title by one shot. Nakashian opened up his Championship campaign with a stellar round of four-under par 66 on the Ocean Links course, to sit just one shot back entering play on Saturday. After a second round of two-over par 74 on the Oak Marsh course, Nakashian would find himself two shots back of the 36-hole leader, Gordon Marshall, of Sarasota. Nakashian played a steady final round in windy conditions making 15 pars, one birdie and two bogies for his round of 73. This is Nakashian's first Mid-Senior Championship title. Finishing just one shot behind Nakashian was Doug Snoap, of Apopka. Snoap posted rounds of 71-70-73 for a tournament total of 214. Snoap briefly grabbed the lead on Sunday, but a rough three hole stretch on holes 13-15 derailed his Championship hopes. Kelly Gosse, of Ocala, and Pete Williams, of Juno Beach, finished tied for third place with a tournament total of 216. *See FSGA.org for full results.*





# Women's Net Stroke Play Championship

Persistent rain and lightning storms made their way over Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, in Vero Beach, late Saturday morning bringing Round One of the Women's Net Championship to a halt. Play was suspended at 12:25 PM. The continuing storms made it impossible for play to resume the rest of the day, leaving players to finish Round One Sunday morning, prior to the start of Round Two.

After Sunday morning's completion of Round One, Tinker Sanger, of North Palm Beach, Connie Rummel, of Palm Bay, and Kay Waltman, of Pinecrest, all led their respective divisions by at least one shot. Sanger fired a three-under par 69, the field's low, while Rummel carded one-over par 73, and Waltman fired an even par 72.

In the Middle Division First Flight, Debbie Mook Sang, of Valrico, also carded an under par score, one-under 71, leaving her just two strokes back heading in to the final round. Monica Mondozi, of Palm Beach Gardens, carded a two-over par 74 leaving her one stroke behind Rummel in the Middle Division Second Flight, while Pat Takacs also stood one back behind Waltman in the Forward Division.



Thankfully Sunday's final round did not involve any thunderstorms and players were able to complete play. Kay Waltman came back strong with a three-under par 69, two round total 72-69-141, to take the lead and win the Forward Division by six strokes. Pat Takacs fired a consistent two-over par 74 to finish second while Charlene Lemon-Steiner shot an impressive five-under par 67 to pull in to third place.

In the Middle Division Second Flight Mondozi carded a 75 to give her a one shot lead and the win over Rummel, who finished second. Mary Lou Edwards wasn't far behind with a two round total of 74-78-152 to finish third.

In the Middle Division First Flight both Christine Martin and Debbie Mook Sang carded two round totals of 148. After a USGA modified tie break, Martin came in first after her final round of one-under par 71. Mook Sang, who fired a 71-77 placed second behind Martin. Kathi Lundstrom, of Sewalls Point, finished two strokes behind Martin and Mook Sang, with a two round total of 77-73-150 to take third place. ***See FSGA.org for full results.***



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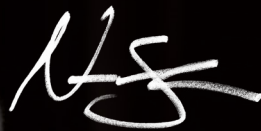
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# Mid-Senior Four-Ball Championships

Brian Keenan and Paul Royak captured the Mid-Senior Four-Ball North Championship at Reunion Resort & Club, in Reunion. In the South Championship, Stephen Anderson and R J Nakashian prevailed at Mayacoo Lakes Country Club, in West Palm Beach. The events were conducted on September 13-14.

The duo from Tampa, Brian Keenan and Paul Royak posted a tournament total of 17-under par 127 to capture the title after prevailing in a playoff. In the first round the pair fired an impressive round of 10-under par 62 to hold a one stroke lead heading into the final round of play. In the final round, the pair posted another great round of seven-under par 65, but found themselves tied with Chad Ibbotson, of Sanford and Thad Hudgens, of Longwood after their rounds of 63-64. The teams would head for a sudden death playoff where Keenan and Royak would prevail for the title. Rob Maddox, of Lynn Haven, and Mike Riley, from Panama City, finished alone in third place with a tournament total of 14-under par 130.



In the South Championship, Stephen Anderson, of Hobe Sound, and R J Nakashian, of Palm Beach Gardens, held off the team of Gary Nicklaus, of Jupiter, and Jon Veneziano, of Mount Dora in a playoff to capture the title. In the opening round, Anderson & Nakashian had it all going posting a 9-under par 62 which included two eagles. Their final round of 65 was not good enough to hold off the hard charging team of Nicklaus and Veneziano who posted a final round of nine-under par 62. The playoff would go two holes and would end with a Nakashian birdie to clinch the title. The team of Josh Skivington, of West Palm Beach and George Weston, of Palm Beach, finished in third place after rounds of 64-65. *See FSGA.org for full results.*



# New GHIN Clubs

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# 2014 Florida Junior Tour Champions



**August 16-17 - Via Mizner Golf & Country Club, Boca Raton (13-15)**

Boys - Jeffrey Cunningham, West Palm Beach - Girls - Hannah Leiner, Pompano Beach

**August 23-24 - Sugar Mill Country Club, New Smyrna Beach (16-18)**

Boys - Gabriel Lench, Lake Mary - Girls - Dree Fausnaugh, Orlando

**September 6-7 - Carrollwood Country Club, Tampa (13-15)**

Boys - Robert Eisch, Tampa - Girls - Brittany Shin, Cape Coral

**September 13-14 - Palm Aire Country Club, Sarasota (16-18)**

Boys - Philip Knowles, Bradenton - Girls - Terese Romeo, Tampa

**September 20-21 - Vero Beach Country Club, Vero Beach (13-15)**

Boys - Andrew Kozan, Palm Beach - Girls - Alyssa Lamoureux, Seminole

**September 27-28 - Banyan Golf Club of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach (16-18)**

Boys - Andy Zhang, Reunion - Girls - Mary Janiga, Wellington

**October 4-5 - Ocala National Golf Club, Ocala (13-15)**

Boys - Alberto Martinez, Weston - Girls - Amy Zhang, Lake Mary

**October 11-12 - Sun 'N Lake Golf & Country Club, Sebring (16-18)**

Boys - Jerry Zhu, Lake Mary - Girls - Amanda Doherty, Atlanta, GA





# Senior Four-Ball Championship

Soft golf course conditions at Sara Bay Country Club, a Donald Ross designed golf course located in Sarasota, led to a total of 41 exciting under-par rounds for the 40th Senior Four-Ball Championship. First round play on Tuesday was suspended with only three groups finished due to rain and inclement weather. Play resumed on Wednesday where the teams completed round one and continued on to play round two and finish the tournament.

Gordon Marshall, of Sarasota, and teammate Rick Woulfe, of Fort Lauderdale, fired two strong rounds of 66 and 62 consecutively to be named Champions of the Senior Division. Woulfe and Marshall led the tournament after round one by two strokes and were trailed by a three way tie at second place. Doug LaCrosse, and partner Richard Kerper were tied for second place with teams Peter Sherwin/Rokki Rogan and Mark Larsen/Alan Payne.

LaCrosse and Kerper consistently posted a round two score of 68 and remained tied for second place with Mike Miller and Roger Dean who fired a second round 66. With a second round score of 69, Sherwin and Rogan bumped back to fourth place. Not one team could catch Woulfe, and Marshall when they came out hot in round two with seven birdies and two pars for a first nine hole score of 29. The duo fired a 62 to remain in first place and were named Senior Four-Ball Champions, with a 16 under-par total of 128.



In the Super-Senior Division, duo Steve Earsley, of Hobe Sound, and Bruce Scamehorn, of Winter Haven, held the first round lead by three strokes with a great score of 66. Last year's champions, Skip Lujack and Peter Andrews, finished round one with a score of 70, which pushed them to a tie for fourth place. Round two was no match for first round leaders, Earsley and Scamehorn, who shot a two under-par 70 for a 136 tournament total. Although Mike Womble and teammate Howard Benedict, both of Naples, shot a four under-par 68 in round two, they did not catch Earsley and Scamehorn. Womble and Benedict captured second place with Lujack and Andrews moving up from fourth place to finish third for the tournament. Earsley and Scamehorn claimed first place by one stroke and were crowned Super-Senior Four-Ball Champions. *See FSGA.org for full results.*



# USGA State Team Championship

Florida finishes second for the third time in the 11th USGA Men's State Team Championship held at the French Lick Resort in French Lick, Indiana, September 30 - October 2. Team Florida was led by three outstanding players; Jon Veneziano, 2013 Player of the Year, Sam Horsfield, 2013 Junior Player of the Year, and Gabriel Lench, 2014 Amateur Champion.

The competition consisted of 54 holes of stroke play, counting the lowest two out of three scores as the team total for each round, against all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Round one began on Tuesday, September 30th at the challenging Pete Dye course at the French Lick Resort. Iowa, who finished runner-up in the 10th Men's State Team Championship, took the lead after round by posting an impressive three under-par 141. Sam Horsfield, of Davenport, started off the tournament hot with a two under-par 70, which when combined with Lench's one over-par 73, placed Florida tied for second with Louisiana and Virginia at 143 (one under-par). Texas completed round one in third place with a 144 team total.

Round two, of the biennial championship, began with early tee times for Team Florida. Horsfield led the team again with an

even par 72. Jon Veneziano, of Mount Dora, fired a two over-par 74 and Florida dropped from second to fifth place with a round two total of 146. Gabriel Lench finished one shot higher than Veneziano, but was prepared for a strong round three on Thursday. Texas came from behind shooting a fiery five under-par, 139, to move from third place and capture the lead.



Florida began the third and final round six strokes behind Texas at the top of the leader board. This did not discourage Veneziano who charged forward with a two under-par 70. Veneziano, who has experience playing in the Men's State Team with this being his fourth time on Team Florida, lit up the field with two birdies and an eagle on the front nine. Lench, of Lake Mary, fired an even par 72 on top of Veneziano putting Florida in close competition with Texas. Florida put up a good final round fight and at one point was tied for the lead with Texas. Texas shot their highest tournament round of 145 on Thursday, but held on to be crowned 2014 Men's State Team Champions.

***See FSGA.org for full results.***



# Men's Net Stroke Play Championship

The Men's Net Championship named three players champions on October 4-5, at Grand Cypress Golf Club in Orlando. Patrick Brisley, Todd Gilbert, and Brian Carroll captured trophies in their appropriate age divisions.

In the Under 50 Age Division, Patrick Brisley, of Tampa, finished strong with a great final round back nine to seal the title. Brisley led the tournament after a first round 63 and was trailed by Joseph Choi who was in second place by 4 strokes with a 67. Jake Peacock and Reggie Martin were tied for third place with first round scores of 69. Choi did not put any pressure on Brisley during the second round with his disappointing score of 82. Peacock played strong and shot a two under-par 70 but did not catch Brisley's solid play, which led him to a first place win by six strokes with a tournament total 133 (11 under-par).

Todd Gilbert, of Tampa, captured the 50-64 Age Division with two consistent scores of 66 (132 tournament total). Gilbert was tied for first place with Rick Weinacht after round one but Weinacht faltered with a second round 72 to fall to a fourth place finish. Mike Gilman came back from a first round third place with a strong second round 67 but could not catch the consistency of Gilbert. Gilbert won his division by four strokes over Gilman, of Vero Beach.

Brian Carroll started the tournament on fire in the 65 and Over Age Division by posting a ten under-par 62 in round one. After round one, the next lowest score was 67 shot by Leonard Carothers and George Fries. Carroll, of Daytona Beach, shot another under-par round of 71, with a strong final six holes, to run away with the title. Jerry Felty shot two consistent under-par rounds of 69-70 to capture second place, six strokes behind Carroll's 133 tournament total. *See [FSGA.org](http://FSGA.org) for full results.*



# Mixed Shoot-Out Championship

After battling through wet conditions during round one, on Saturday, October 4th, teams were greeted with cooler temperatures and sunny skies on Sunday for the final round of the Mixed Shoot-Out. Meghan Stasi and teammate Kevin Hammer captured the win in the Championship Division and in the Forward Division Carol Kilean and partner Chris Berens brought home the win.

The Mixed Shoot-Out, held at Santa Lucia River Club in Port St. Lucie, consists of three different formats. The first round is a front nine scramble and a back nine Chapman (modified alternate-shot) format. After round one in the Championship Division, there was a tight race at the top of the leaderboard. Meghan Stasi, of Oakland Park, and Kevin Hammer, of Boynton Beach, led the tournament with a 63 total, 30 in the Scramble and 33 in the Chapman. Hammer had the highlight of round one with his hole in one on number 17! Right behind Stasi and Hammer trailed the team of juniors, Philip Knowles and Kendall Griffin who scored a 64. One stroke divided first from second place and second from the two teams tied for third place, Charlotte and Ben Daughan and Sarah and Matthew Matin.

The final round of the Mixed Shootout is an 18 hole Four-Ball format. Stasi, who was on the winning team in the International Four-Ball, and Hammer, who came in first in the 2012 and 2013 Mixed Team Championships, have experience in team formats and held on to the lead during the four-ball format. Stasi and Hammer fired a final round 68 (131 tournament total) to defeat Knowles and Griffin who remained in second place for the tournament by shooting a final round 69, tournament total 133. The Daughan team finished in third place one stroke behind second with a total 134 for the championship.



In the Forward Division, Carol Kilean, of Daytona Beach, and Chris Berens, of Mount Dora, played their hearts out in the final round to shoot 67 and finish in first place. Debbi and Brent Mooksang, of Valrico, led the tournament after day one with a 32 in the scramble format and a 37 in the chapman format. The Mooksang's could not hold on to their four stroke lead after shooting a 76 in the Four-Ball final round and finishing with a tournament total 145 (one over-par). Kilean and Berens came back from a first round second place to win the Shoot-Out by five strokes with a tournament total 140 (four under-par).

The Mixed Shoot-Out also awards Net Winners. Charlotte and Ben Daughan finished ten under-par net and won the Championship Division. Christie and Tom Turner fired eleven under-par net to capture the Forward Division. *See [FSGA.org](http://FSGA.org) for full results.*



# Mid-Amateur Championship

Thad Hudgens defeated Don Bell, 2 & 1, in the final match to win the 33rd Mid-Amateur Championship held at The Loxahatchee Club, in Jupiter, October 9-12.

Thad Hudgens, of Longwood, earned the 8th seed after 36-holes of stroke play qualifying to advance to match play. In the first match, Hudgens went head to head against number 25 seed, Derek Camps. Hudgens defeated Camps 6 & 5 and continued to the Round of 16 matches where he would win again over Michael Weeks. In Hudgens' third match he faced two time Champion, Steve Carter and once again moved forward to the Semifinals. In the Semifinals, Hudgens played strong against Mike Riley and posted a 6 & 5 win. Hudgens, last year's Mid-Amateur runner-up, moved onto the Final match ready for redemption.

Don Bell, number one in the points rankings for Player of the Year, moved on to match play from the qualifying stroke play as the 6th seed. In the Round of 32, Bell, of Port Orange, stuck out a tough match of 21 holes to defeat Greg Eckels, of Tampa. Bell's second match was against Edward Ortega where he moved forward with a 3 & 2 win. Bell defeated Rick Woulfe in the Round of 8 and went to the Semifinals to face Jon Alfieri, the 1999 Mid-Amateur Champion. Bell fired two birdies to seize the win over Alfieri and move straight into the Final match against Thad Hudgens.



The Final Match started with Hudgens 2 up after nine holes. Bell struggled through the front nine with three bogeys, which were defeated by Hudgens' pars. Hudgens posted a strong birdie on hole number 10 to gain one on Bell, but fell back to 2 up after struggling with a double bogey on hole 11. After Hudgens' double bogey, Bell went on a winning streak by winning three out of the next four holes to move the match to all square. Hudgens fought back and stood on the par three, 197 yard, number 17 tee box, 1 up. With a five iron in hand, Hudgens landed his shot three feet from the hole and with a trickle forward made a hole-in-one. Bell, having to make a hole-in-one to halve Hudgens, stuck his shot ten feet to the right of the hole, giving Hudgens' a 2 & 1 victory.

The Mid-Amateur Championship marks Hudgens' first individual Championship title. He has won several Four-Ball Championship titles, but was never named an individual champion. Hudgens' Mid-Amateur runner-up finish in 2013 was followed by a Championship victory in 2014.

***See FSGA.org for full results.***

# 10th Florida Cup Matches

South Florida seized the Florida Cup on Friday, October 24, defeating North Florida by a score of 20 points to 12 points, at Seagate Country Club in Delray Beach. With this win, the South eliminated North Florida's series lead and both teams now stand tied.

After a small delay due to morning showers, round one matches of the Florida Cup finished with the South and North tied at four points. South's team captain, Ryan Abbate, and the North's team captain, Thad Hudgens, led by the example by capturing two victories for their team. The largest defeat of the morning came from the North's George Roat and Jimmy Jones with a 4&2 win over Rick Woulfe and Dwight Rogers.

South FL played strong in the afternoon matches to end day one with a 3 point lead over North FL. With a change of partners in round two, the North faltered with only two wins and one tie. South Florida grabbed the lead winning five matches and tying one. After day one, the South would take a three point lead into the final round.

On the final day individual matches, the South team prevailed over the North winning nine matches and tying three

out of the sixteen matches played. South team members; Bobby Bird, Ryan Abbate, and T J Shuart, finished undefeated in all three matches assisting the South in gaining the Florida Cup for the second year in a row. Captain Ryan Abbate led his team well with a final round 5&4 victory over the North's captain, Thad Hudgens. Bobby Bird also contributed to the South's win by never losing a match and finishing the last round by defeating Lloyd Fisher 4&3. Undefeated T J Shuart shut out Doug Snoop 2&1 in the final match to add to the South's success. Gordon Marshall and John Wegmann played great final matches winning 6&5 and 6&4 respectively. Other singles match winners for the South team included: Mike Stiber, Jim Weick, R J Nakashian, and Steve Anderson.



The North Florida team included: Team Captain: Thad Hudgens, of Longwood, Bob Campione, of Palm Coast, Derek Camps, of Sanford, Roger Dean, of Ormond Beach, Daniel Debra, of Lutz, Lloyd Fisher, of Dade City, Chad Ibbotson, of Sanford, Jimmy Jones, of Tampa, Doug LaCrosse, of Tampa, Rob Maddox, of Lynn Haven, Blake Marshall, of Palm Coast, Mike Riley, of Panama City, George Roat, of Windermere, Jamey Salmon, of Jacksonville, Doug Snoop, of Apopka and Don Whittemore, of Temple Terrace.

The South Florida team included: Team Captain: Ryan Abbate, of Fort Lauderdale, Stephen Anderson, of Hobe Sound, Matt Avril, of Vero Beach, Bobby Bird, of Vero Beach, Michael Cox, of Naples, Chuck Gould, of Vero Beach, Brian Kennedy, of Highland Beach, Gordon Marshall, of Sarasota, R J Nakashian, of Palm Beach Gardens, Dwight Rogers, of Fort Lauderdale, T J Shuart, of Coral Springs, Mike Stiber, of Pembroke Pines, John Wegmann, of Southwest Ranches, Peter Wegmann, of Fort Lauderdale, Jim Weick, of Fort Lauderdale and Rick Woulfe, of Fort Lauderdale.

***See FSGA.org for full results.***



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