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**Governor Bush announces 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships
Athletes of the Year**

TALLAHASSEE - Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Sports Foundation today applauded Harry Carothers of Pinellas Park and Lillian Webb of Sebring as Athletes of the Year for the 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships. They were honored for their athletic accomplishments at the Games held December 4-12 in The Villages.

"The Florida Senior Games State Championships provide Florida's mature athletes with the ideal opportunity to participate in a wide array of sports events, while promoting fitness, camaraderie, and the spirit of competition," said Governor Bush. "We all have much to learn from the exuberance and passion exhibited by these Sunshine State Seniors. Congratulations to Harry and Lillian and all the 2004 participants."

Carothers, 61, lit up the scoreboard at the basketball competition while Webb, 90, was a dual-sport athlete competing in bowling and field events at the track & field competition. The pair was selected among 2,983 athletes, a record number of participants. At the 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships, Carothers won three gold medals in all three basketball shooting events in the 60-64 age group and was a member of the gold medal winning Clearwater Aces 60+ basketball team. In three games en route to the 2004 Florida Senior Games State Championships gold medal, Carothers averaged 41.6 points per game for the Aces.

Carothers and Patrick Schloemer, of The Villages, had to take 15 tie-breaking free throws to decide a winner in the Basketball Free Throw Shooting 60-64 age group. Both Carothers and Schloemer finished hitting 27 of 30 free throws in regulation. Carothers won the gold hitting 15 of 15 tie breaking shots while Schloemer had 14 of 15. Since 1999, Carothers has won 14 basketball shooting gold medals and gold medals as a member of the Clearwater Aces 60+ basketball team.

Webb totaled five gold medals winning gold in three bowling events (singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles) and the shot put and discus events of the track & field competition. She averaged a 157 score in three games to win the 90+ singles bowling gold medal with a three-game total of 472. She won the women's doubles with Evelyn Gooding, of Sebring, and mixed doubles with Carl Laubach, of Palmetto.

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She rolled her high score of the weekend competition in women's doubles with a 179 game. Webb holds women's shot put records in the 80-84, 85-89 and 90-94 age groups. Her record throw of 13 feet, five inches in the 90-94 age group, set in 2004, is six inches better than her 85-89 age group record of 12 feet, 11 inches, set in 2001.

With their gold medal winning performances, both Carothers and Webb qualified for the 2005 National Senior Games, to be held June 3-18, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2005 Florida Senior Games State Championships will be held December 3-11, in The Villages.

The Florida Senior Games State Championships are a program of the Florida Sports Foundation, the official sports promotion and development organization for the State of Florida.

Florida Senior Games State Championships Athletes of the Year (1994-2004)

1994	Doris Prokopi, Land O'Lakes	Wayne Wakefield, Bradenton
1995	Mary Melehan, Englewood	Leonard Stone, Barefoot Bay
1996	Hope Fage, Largo	F.L. McFadden, Lakeland
1997	Ethel Lehmann, Largo	Seymour Duckman, Daytona Beach
1998	Lucia Schatteleyn, Englewood	Donald Ritenour, Belleview
1999	Patricia Bond, Bradenton	Gordon Johnson, Dundee
2000	Erika Messner, Clermont	Al Treichel, Spring Hill
2001	Sperry Rademaker, Floral City	Howard Hall, Port Charlotte
2002	Janice Lathouwers, The Villages	Allen Bjork, Sebring
2003	Madelaine "Tiny" Cazal, The Villages	James Anderson, New Port Richey
2004	Lillian Webb, Sebring	Harry Carothers, Pinellas Park

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