

Which Florida Olympians and top athletes got their start at the Sunshine State Games?



Throughout the long history of the Sunshine State Games, thousands of medals have been presented to athletes from every corner of Florida. Some continued on in their sport as a hobby. Others realized they had potential to take their game to the next level.

The 2007 Summer Games, held in Polk County, June 9-10 & 15-17, give Florida's amateur hopefuls their annual opportunity to bask in the spotlight. Whatever the goals or aspirations of the 2007 Sunshine State Games participants, there's a good chance they can be fulfilled in 25 sports being offered.

Anquan Boldin, Basketball, Pahokee

Member of the gold medal winning 16-and-under City of Pahokee Team and Age Group MVP in 1996 Sunshine State Games... after a collegiate career at Florida State, Boldin was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals and was an All-Pro selection in his rookie season of 2003... posted career highs in 2005 with 102 receptions and 1,402 yards...

Jearl Miles-Clark, Gainesville, Track & Field

A member of the gold-medal winning Junior Women's 4 X 100 meter relay team in the 1982 Sunshine State Games... a member of the 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympic Team... won gold medals in the 4X400 Meter Relay in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics...

Tammy McGregor, Sanford, Synchronized Swimming

Participated in the Sunshine State Games as a member of the Orlando Loreleis from 1981-1985... a U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Team for eight years... a gold medal winner in the 1996 Olympic Games participated in the 2000 Olympic Games

Justin Gatlin, Pensacola, Track & Field

Won a gold medal in the Intermediate Boys 110 meter hurdles with a time of 14.42 in the 1998 Sunshine State Games... is the current 100 meter dash World Record Holder and recently tied the fastest 100 meter time ever recorded, running a 9.77 on May 12, 2006... won the gold medal in the men's 100 meters at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens...

Nicole Haislett, St. Petersburg, Swimming

Appeared in several Sunshine State Games competitions in early 1980s... a standout swimmer at the University of Florida where she was named Southeastern Conference Female Athlete of the Year in 1993 and 1994... won gold medals in the 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle relay and 400 medley relay at the 1992 Olympics...

Roy Jones, Jr. , Pensacola, Boxing

A gold medal winner the 1980 and 1982 Sunshine State Games... a silver medal winner in the 1988 Olympic Games... until recently was the undisputed Light Heavyweight World Champion and is considered one of the most successful pro boxers of the 1990s...

Hunter Kemper, Triathlon, Longwood

Won a silver medal in the triathlon competition of the 1992 Sunshine State Games in Palm Beach County as a 16-year old... has been the top-ranked U.S. male triathlete and finished 9th in the 2004 Olympics in Athens... was the top American triathlon finisher at the 2004 Olympic Games... named 2005 Male Triathlete of the Year by the USOC



Ryan Lochte, Swimming, Daytona Beach *(pictured at left)*

Won a total of seven Sunshine State Games medals competing in the 1999 and 2001 Games and made his Olympic debut in Athens in 2004. Completed one of the greatest performances in swimming history at the 2006 FINA Short Course World Championships in Beijing, China... Won five medals (three gold, one silver and one bronze) only 10 days after competing at the NCAA Championships in Atlanta... firmly established himself as one of the world's top swimmers by winning a gold medal in the 4x200-meter freestyle and silver in the 200 individual medley in the 2004 Olympics...

Katie Norris, Synchronized Swimming, Tallahassee

A gold medal winner in Sunshine State Games of the 1990s... attends Stanford University and is a member of the synchronized swim team... she has emerged as an elite collegiate swimmer winning two NCAA solo championships. A 2004 Olympic Training Squad member, Norris captured the solo title at the Aflac National Synchronized Swimming Championships in May, 2005.



Brian Olson, Woodville, Judo (pictured at right)

Participated in Sunshine State Games Judo from age 6 in 1981 and competed regularly until 1989... member of the 1996, 2000 and 2004 U.S. Olympic Judo Team... currently President and Chief Instructor of the Boulder Judo Training Center and is one of the most recognized names in the judo world as an athlete and coach.

David Ross, Baseball, Tallahassee

A member of a gold medal-winning baseball team and an honorary torch lighter along with Olympian Frank Shorter at the 1993 Games in Tallahassee... after a college baseball career at Auburn University and the University of Florida, Ross is currently in his seventh Major League season as a catcher for the Cincinnati Reds...

Antonio Tarver, Boxing, Orlando

A silver medalist in the 1982 Sunshine State Games... won a bronze medal at the 1996 Olympic Games... had a series of three rematches of the 1982 Sunshine State Games against Roy Jones, Jr. of Pensacola and became the World Light Heavyweight Champion winning the second match against Jones in May, 2004 and retaining the title in September, 2005...

Sunshine State Games Athletes of the Year (2000-2006)

- 2006
Tim Gehret, Miami, Ultimate
Lady Superfriends Basketball Team, Gadsden County
- 2005
Ryan Milmoie, Weightlifting, Fort Lauderdale
Susan Pfahler, Racquetball, Neptune Beach
- 2004
Shane Simerly, Judo, Niceville
Tyler Wolfe, Karate, Gainesville
- 2003
Samuel Valentin, Boxing, Plant City
Gertrude Zint, Rowing, Edgewater
- 2002
Anita Perkins, Track & Field, Belle Glade (Summer Games)
Larry Parzynski, Canoe/Kayak, Cape Coral (Summer Games)
Felecia Gostisbehere, Figure Skating, Margate (Spring)
Andrew Stroud, Fencing, Safety Harbor (Spring Games)
- 2001
Alina Syukova, Synch. Swimming, Longwood (Summer)
Robert Wimberly, Wrestling, Fort Lauderdale (Summer)
Melanie Vega-Borja, Judo, Wellington (Spring Games)
Chad Schiferl, Mountain Bike, Criterium, St. Pete (Spring)
- 2000
Amber Davis, Weightlifting, Chiefland (Summer Games)
Alex Forbes, Swimming, Casselberry (Summer Games)
Dusty Price, Figure Skating, Coral Springs (Spring Games)
Catherine Leach, Sport Shooting, Orlando (Spring Games)



Susan Phaler, 2005



Ryan Milmoie, 2005



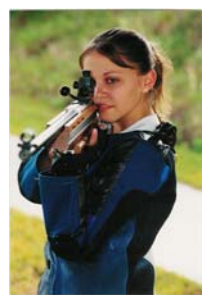
Tyler Wolfe, 2004



Shane Simerly, 2004



Felicia Gostisbehere, 2003



Catie Leach, 2001