

## 2009 National Singles Championships – Congratulations Team Florida!



Becca Burch, Toby St. Pierre, Rick Ferrin, Mike Harmon, Tim Hansen, Timmy Hansen & Laurie Welsh

There were 501 players participating in the 2009 National Singles Championships in Houston, Texas last month. Of those, Florida had 24 participants: Peter Berger, Laura Brandt, Becca Burch, Melody Butler, Ian Chin, Julio Estrada, Rick Ferrin, Renee Fish, Eric Foley, Tim Hansen, Mike Harmon, Josh Jones, Julio Junki, Gordon Kelly, Paul Knoblock, Ricardo Kramer, Sr., Aaron Metcalf, Howard Nellor, Toby St. Pierre, Shane Vanderson, Sarah Warhaftig, Jeff Weinstein, John Welsh, and Laurie Welsh.

Congratulations! You all made us proud!

### 2009 National Singles Champions – Mike Harmon, Toby St. Pierre, Gordon Kelly

Congratulations to Mike Harmon who came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the Open division fighting through an awesome 28 player division... facing his toughest battle during the semi-finals against Cesar Castro from Texas where Mike won the 1<sup>st</sup> game 15-7, then lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> 15-12, and fought back from a 10-6 deficit to win the tie-breaker 11-10. Mike stayed focus and aggressive to win the finals against Marcelo Laprea 15-3, 15-3.

Congratulations to Toby St. Pierre who came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the Elite division fighting through an impressive 25 player division... facing his toughest battle during the quarter-finals against CJ Shaffer from Oklahoma where CJ squeaked out the 1<sup>st</sup> game 15-14, then Toby came on strong to win the 2<sup>nd</sup> 15-8, and fought hard to win the tie-breaker 11-9. Toby stayed focus and aggressive to win the semi-finals 15-8, 15-8, and the finals against Darjon Bittner from Texas 15-3, 15-14.

Congratulations to Gordon Kelly who came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the 70+ division fighting through an amazing 10 player division... where it appears Gordon made quick work of his opponents; no one scored more than 10 points on him, including the finals where he beat Jerry Holly from California 15-7, 15-0. We should all be so friendly and athletic when we hit that age group!

#### **The following players brought home the hardware – CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**1<sup>st</sup> place** Mike Harmon – Men's Open, Gordon Kelly – Men's 70+, Toby St. Pierre – Men's Elite

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** Becca Burch – Women's D, Julio Estrada – Men's/Women's Military A, Tim Hanson – Men's 45+, Mike Harmon – Men's 25+, Laurie Welsh – Ladies C, Ladies 35+ C

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** Becca Burch – Women's Age C, Melody Butler – Women's 45+, Julio Estrada – Men's 35+A, Renee Fish – Women's 50+ A

#### **4<sup>th</sup> place and special mentions... CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**4<sup>th</sup> place** John Welsh – Men's 35+ B, Aaron Metcalf – Men's 35+, Rick Ferrin – Men's 45+, Ian Chin – Men's Military 40+, Laura Brandt – Women's 45+.

Rick Ferrin was in the daily news letter at the tournament for having the "match of the day" against Jimmy Lowe, where Jimmy won (14) 8, 7.

Shane Vanderson – Men's US Team Qualifier – came in 4<sup>th</sup> place so should be included in the Men's US Team

Rumor has it the last year the National Singles Championship will be held in Houston is 2010. After which the YMCA will be demolished – progress? Although I've only been once, and my tendonitis pain was too intense for me to finish my round robin, it was an amazing experience in a great venue, and walking distance from the host hotel made it a special atmosphere throughout the whole down-town area. I hear the host hotel has just been remodeled/ upgraded. If you can make it next year, I highly recommend it!