



APPL State Championships News (2021 Playoffs)

Monday April 5, 2021 Day 1

Monday kicked off our APPL State Championships with 5 exciting Men's Division matches at Dave White Regional Park in Casa Grande. It was a hot day made even hotter with outstanding and well played matches. Here's a summary of what went on:

Men's 3.5: At 11:00 the Southern Region champs in the 3.5 Skill Group, Team Tubac, took on the undefeated Happy Trails 2 from the West Valley Region. Going into the 3rd round it was Team Tubac with a one point 17-16 lead. When all was said and done Team Tubac prevailed 27-21.

Men's 4.0: Also at 11:00 the Casa Grande Region champs, Palm Creek, faced the undefeated West Valley champs, Paddle Up for their first round match. Palm Creek led 10-8 after the first round. Paddle Up closed the gap after the second round to tie it at 17-17. Some outstanding clutch shot making was exhibited by both teams with Paddle Up prevailing 26-22 at the end of round 3.

Men's 3.0: The first championship match began at 1:00 pitting the Southern Region's 3.0 undefeated champion, Oro Valley, against the Casa Grande's 3.0 champion team, Robson Ranchers. Again, a great demonstration of pickleball and sportsmanship with Oro Valley coming out ahead 30-16. They will proudly take home the state championship trophy and bragging rights for the year. Congratulations to captain Jeff Sween and his outstanding Oro Valley team.

Men's 4.0: The 2:30 session began with Casa Grande's Palm Creek team returning from their morning match to face the undefeated Southern Region representative, The Diamondbacks. Palm Creek put on quite a fight with some impressive between the leg shot making that resulted in a standing ovation (and the point) but the Diamondbacks were too strong in the end winning 35-6. They will face Paddle Up Wednesday for the winner take all finale.

Men's 3.5: The 2:30 session wrapped up with one of the most exciting matches of the day. Team Tubac, coming off their morning win, faced the fresh Casa Grande Region undefeated champ, SCAMR. The wind was picking up, the temperature was rising, and the 2 teams battled for over 2 hours in front of a large gathering of spectators (socially distanced) from both regions. SCAMR took an early first round lead of 10-7. SCAMR continued to ride their momentum in the second round, leading 20-15 heading into the third round. Team Tubac must have gotten their second wind in taking the third round 11-5 giving them a hard fought 26-25 victory. The win gave Team Tubac the top position in the 3-team flight and the State Championship title. Congratulations to Steve Burkhart and his impressive Team Tubac.

Daily Raffle Winners:

Volunteers:

Kurt Bauer - Paddle
Mark Fynn - Bag
Daphine Brues - Balls

Players:

Darrel Keifer - Paddle
Steve Burkhart - Bag
Jerry Seiberlich - Balls

Tuesday April 6, 2021 Day 2

Tuesday was Women's day at the APPL Championships. Dave White Park was serene in the early morning but when 11:00 rolled around things started to heat up fast with another extraordinary demonstration of team-based league pickleball following Monday's kickoff with the Men. The following is a summary of what ensued.

3.0 Women: The first 11:00 match pitted Casa Grande's regional champions, Encanterra who were 9-1 in their region, against the West Valley champions Happy Dinker, 7-1 in their region, on courts 1,2 & 3. Encanterra took an early lead winning all 6 first round matches in round 1 and never looked back. After round 3 the final score: Encanterra 31 - Happy Dinker 12.

3.5 Women: On courts 4,5 & 6 also at 11:00, Casa Grande's 8-0 regional champion Anthem faced the Southern region's undefeated 7-0 champions Hot Shots. After the first round the score was 9-6 Anthem. The Hot Shots shifted the momentum in their favor taking the second round 11-5. The third round took the match time past the 2-hour mark with hard fought matches by both teams. The Hot Shots just would not give back the momentum winning the match in the end. Final score: Hot Shots 28 - Anthem 18.

4.0 Women: In one of the 1:00 sessions the Southern Region's co-champions Designated Dinkers squared off against the Casa Grande Region's 10-0 champions Team Drop Shot in what proved to be one of the most exciting matches of the day. The Designated Dinkers took an early 8-6 lead after round 1. Round 2 was quite a battle with the teams garnering 17 out of a possible 18 team points. The Designated Dinkers grabbed 9 points. Team Drop Shot scored 8, making it 17-14 Designated Dinkers after round 2. The third round had an incredible 3 games that ended with a 12-10 score. The final score after a remarkable Team Drop Shot 11-4 third round: Team Drop Shot 25 - Designated Dinkers 21.

4.0 Women: Also, at 1:00 the West Valley, undefeated 10-0 champions Fine Whines, faced the Southern Region's co-champions Dezert Gilas. The Fine Whines took an early 10-7 lead after the first round and followed with a 9-7 performance after the second round. The Fine Whines wouldn't let down, winning the third round 9-7 again. The final score: Fine Whines 28 - Dezert Gilas 21.

3.5 Women: The 2:30 session pitted the West Valley Region champs Dinkalicious against Casa Grande's Anthem returning from an 11:00 loss earlier in the day. Dinkalicious took a commanding 12-1 lead after round 1 but Anthem countered with an impressive 11-5 round 2 performance. Dinkalicious regained their momentum in the third round resulting in a well-earned victory. Final score: Dinkalicious 27 - Anthem 17.

3.0 Women: In the other 2:30 session, the Casa Grande champs Encanterra, winners in the 11:00 session, were matched against the Southern region 9-0 champions, Oro Valley. Oro Valley took an early round 1 lead scoring 9-5 over Encanterra. Encanterra rebounded with their own 10-6 round 2 victory making it 15-15 going into the third round. Clearly Encanterra found their second wind and never relinquished, winning the third round 10-3 resulting in a final score of Encanterra 25 - Oro Valley 18. This gave Encanterra a 2-0 win/loss record in their flight and therefore they will take home the State Championship trophy. Congratulations to Captain Mary Ellen Bishop and team Encanterra!

Daily Raffle Winners:

Volunteers:

Carol Barron – Paddle
Yvonne Reynolds – Bag
Mark Fynn – Bag
Cristina Campbell – Balls

Players:

Janet Gannon – Paddle
Krista Deweerd – Bag
Tam Ambrose – Bag
Maria Boulton - Balls

Wednesday, April 7, 2021: Day 3

Wednesday brought more heat and more exciting matches on the last day of the APPL Championships at Dave White Regional Park in Casa Grande. Three remaining championship matches were on the schedule along with three placement matches. Here is how it all played out.

11:00 - Courts 1,2 & 3: The first match of the day featured the West Valley Region's 3.0 Happy Dinkers against the Southern Region's 3.0 Oro Valley team. Both had losses to the Casa Grande Region's team, Encanterra, on Tuesday. Oro Valley took an early lead with a strong round one showing of 10-4. The Happy Dinkers took notice and followed with an equally impressive round two performance outscoring Oro Valley 10-4. That made it 14-14 going into the third round. Oro Valley recovered quickly however and went on to win all 6 games in round three resulting in a final score of 26-16 and taking second place behind Encanterra in the final championship standings. Congratulations to all 3 teams for winning your regional 3.0 Skill Groups and playing some outstanding team pickleball in the championships.

11:00 - Courts 4,5 & 6: Our first championship match of the day pitted Casa Grande's champs, Team Drop Shots, who went undefeated 10-0 in their region's 4.0 Skill Group against West Valley's champs, Fine Whines, who went undefeated 10-0 in their region's 4.0 Skill Group. Both teams had won their semi-final match Tuesday. Only one team would remain undefeated at the end of Wednesday. This match was one of the finest examples of team pickleball over the entire season. Round one started out perhaps as expected, with all but 1 of the 18 possible team points claimed by the teams. Team Drop Shots took the lead over Fine Whines 9-8. Then things really heated up. The Fine Whines took all 6 games with strong performances in each one, outscoring Team Drop Shots 12-2. The Fine Whines entered round 3 with a solid 20-11 lead. It wasn't over by any means. Team Drop Shots won all three first session games of round three and held the Fine Whines to only 2 team points closing the gap to 22-17. The crowd was on the edge of their seats. Team Drop Shots won all three of the second games of round three, but the Fine Whines managed to get another 2 team points in the second games session and held on for an exciting 24-23 victory. Congratulations to both teams for an outstanding effort and congratulations to captain Julie Billetz and her Fine Whines team for taking home the State Championship trophy.

11:00 - Courts 7,8 & 9: This 3.5 Men's Skill Group match had West Valley's Happy Trails 2 going up against Casa Grande's SCAMR. Both teams suffered losses to the champion, Team Tubac, on Monday. Although it wasn't for the trophy it was nonetheless exciting. SCAMR came out of the gate strong winning the first round 9-6. Happy Trails responded in the second round with a stronger performance, winning the second round 12-2. Going into the third round Happy Trails 2 lead 18-11. SCAMR again had a strong performance with a 10-5 showing but that wasn't enough. Happy Trails 2 prevailed with a 23-21 win. Congratulations to all 3 teams for winning your regional 3.5 Skill Groups and playing some of the closest matches in the championships.

1:00 - Courts 1,2 & 3: This 3.5 Women's winner take all match showcased the Southern Region's Hot Shots, undefeated 7-0 in their skill group against the West Valley Region's Dinkalicious champs 8-2 in their skill group. Both teams were victorious in their first-round robin matches on Tuesday. The Hot Shots came out with an impressive 12-1 first round. Things tightened up in the second round, but the Hot Shots still edged out Dinkalicious 9-7 in the second round. They followed with a 10-7 third round effort resulting in a 31-15 victory and the State Championship title. Congratulations to co-captains Cece Derickson and Pam McCallum and their Hot Shots team for an outstanding performance and the State Championship title.

1:00 - Courts 4,5 & 6: Two 4.0 Mens teams, undefeated in their Regions and both coming off wins in the Monday matches, faced each other for the title. West Valley's 9-0 Paddle Up faced off against Southern's 9-0 Diamondbacks. Both teams won 3 games in the first round, but the Diamondbacks garnered 8 team points against Paddle Up's 6. The Diamondbacks turned up the heat in the second round with an 11-5 showing and led 19-11 going into the third round. They kept the pressure on again in the third round and came out with an

impressive 29-16 victory. Congratulations to captain Mark Brewer and his Diamondbacks team winning the State Championship and bragging rights for the next year.

1:00 - Courts 10,11 & 12: Both the Dezert Gilas and the Designated Dinkers came up short in their first 4.0 skill group matches on Tuesday. They both came back Wednesday hungry for a win. At the end of round one the Designated Dinkers outscored the Dezert Gilas 9-6. The Dezert Gilas countered with an 8-6 round two, still leaving them behind 15-14 at the start of round three. After the first session of round three games the score was 18-18. The spectators were being treated to a great match and were watching intensely. The Dezert Gilas swept the second session of games resulting in a final score of 24-19. Congratulations to both teams for a great demonstration of team pickleball and sportsmanship.

Daily Raffle Winners:

Volunteers:

Jim Reynolds – Paddle
Yvonne Reynolds – Bag
Rob Medel – Balls

Players:

Tina Greenwood – Paddle
Karen Rasler – Bag
Jay Swartz – Balls