

# Shuffleboard can be complex

## State pro tourney continues today in North Fort Myers

By DAVE KEMPTON  
Special to The News-Press

When you think professional sports, shuffleboard may not be high on the list. It definitely will not make it on ESPN's "SportsCenter" anytime soon.

But pro shuffleboard has made its way to Southwest Florida.

The Florida State Pro Tournament started a two-day competition Monday at North Fort Myers Community Park, operated by the Lee County Shuffleboard Club.

Steve Biaggi, a club vice president, promises the state's best players are here.

"(Glen) Peltier and (Mike) Vassalotti are bad news for everyone, but they can be beat if everything goes well," said Biaggi. "But they are among the top shuffleboard players in the state and they play well together."

Shuffleboard can be a complex game. Especially at the level where some money is at stake.

"There are drifts on every court that can be different and some people get dizzy with this," said Biaggi. "Then you can have bad days when you don't execute well."

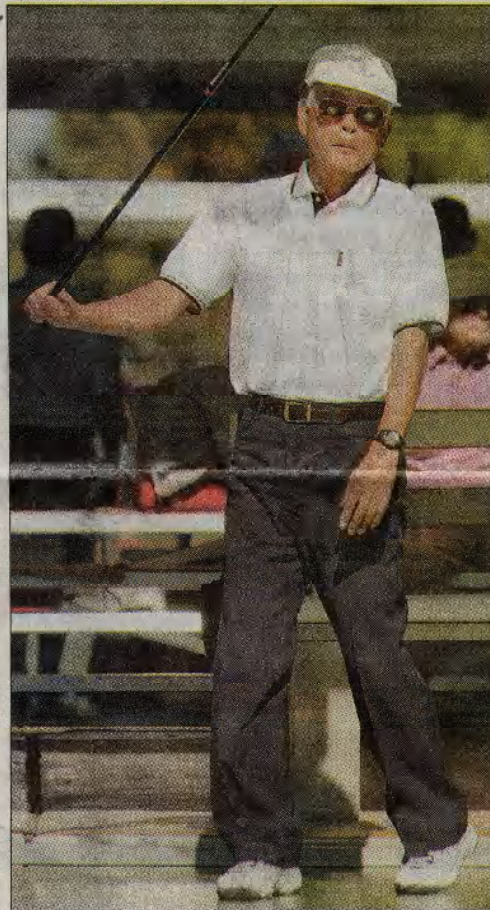
Pro tournaments move around the state, playing in shuffleboard hot spots such as Clearwater, Hollywood, Fort Pierce, Winter Haven, Port Charlotte and Lakeland. The Hall of Fame is in St. Petersburg.

The North Fort Myers facility was built two years ago as a state-of-the-art club that includes 24 courts, seating and a clubhouse with more than 200 active members.

More than 3,000 serious players compete throughout Southwest Florida in a district that runs from Port Charlotte to Naples and east to Arcadia. Among the more active communities in the North Fort Myers area are Bayshore, Pioneer Village and Buccaneer Village.

Pete Edmiston of Fort Myers is the leading player in the local district, while Ray Razor ranks as the top money-winner. Jean Guy Martineau and Skip Wilde are other local high-ranking male players.

Phyllis Biegel, Marietta Cobb and Donna Thomas



**SHUFFLING ALONG:** Roberta Day, 60, of Haines City (top photo) celebrates making a hammer, or scoring, during the Mens and Ladies Pro Doubles Tournament at North Fort Myers Community Park on Monday morning. Day has been playing shuffleboard for six years. Part-time Bradenton resident Shunzo Satsukawa, left, 70, from Japan, grimaces after a shot.

The News-Press photos by CLINT KRAUSE

### If you go

- **WHAT:** Lee County Shuffleboard Club
- **WHERE:** North Fort Myers Community Park, Old U.S. 41
- **WHEN:** 12:30 p.m. daily
- **COST:** \$15 annually
- **INFO:** Steve Biaggi, at

What makes this sport played on a 52-foot-long court with a long-handed stick and six-inch disc so popular with the senior crowd?

"You get great competition and regardless of your age, you can win," said Biaggi. "It's not a physical sport and even folks in poor health can play."

### How to play shuffleboard

**The game:** Played on a flat, slick surface, usually outdoors, between two or four people.

**How:** Normal games during a tournament go to 75 points, lasting about 40 minutes. Discs are pushed