

MARKING LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SHUFFLING!! ONE PERSON LEADS THE WAY IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, FL.

The Central District of the Florida Shuffleboard Association (FSA), decided in 2003, that they would celebrate the success of a player when he/she achieved a point total of 100 points! Points are allocated on the basis of 5 points 1st in the Championship Event; 4 for 2nd; 3 for 3rd; 2 for 4th; 2 for 1st in Consolation; and 1 point for 2nd, 3rd and 4th in Consolation. Competition is keen at these weekly events ~ average attendance 70 shufflers, plus or minus. Winning does not come easily, winning does not come often. Skill, ability, determination, judgment, and yes enthusiasm and desire all help in the Sport of Shuffling! One player of the Central District has achieved that plateau, the first to do so, and that player is Max Tate.

Max began shuffling at the Sebring Club in January of 1995. It did not take him long to realize that "greater challenges" beckoned beyond Sebring. Within 1 month he was competing in "local tournaments". Max earned his State Am status in 1997; and his Pro Status in 1999. In recounting some of the highlights, Max recalls a win in a District T., a Singles T. in which he played 6 matches WITHOUT A LOSS!! (Lakeland)

Some plateau achievements: District Masters competitor for the past 5 years; a winner of this event in March of 2001. Of the other 4 occasions, Max never placed lower than a tie for 3rd.

However; as important as winning is, Max never allowed this part of shuffling to consume him. Never have I heard him offer a negative comment about his partner; never has "making that extra point" interfered with the administrative responsibilities he accepted: ~ Chair of Shuffleboard at Sebring for 4 years~~1997 to 2001; Club President at Sebring~~2001 through 2004; 2nd VP of the District ~ March of 2000; 1st VP of District ~ March of 2002; and President in March of 2004. And that is only his contribution in FL. In Canada Max served as 3rd VP of the CNSA beginning June of 2003; and became the 1st VP on July of 2004. He belongs to the London, ON Shuffleboard Club ~~ where he describes his role as "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" ~ I can attest to that, and folks, as you would expect ~ the "bottles are kept well cleaned and the cooking is au courant!! Max represented Canada at International competitions in California and Australia. He has been chosen as a member of the team to travel to Brazil this Sep. ~ at the ISA Event in Rio de Janeiro. Still with Canada; he won the CNSA Doubles Champion [with Ruth] in 2003. He was the OSA Singles Champion in 2003.

At the present time Max's most complex and perplexing problem is dealing with change in the FSA. He serves as Chair of the President's Committee ~ "How to Increase Participation in Shuffleboard Tournaments". As if this is not enough, Max is the Curator of the FSA Hall of Fame. In his spare time, Max enjoys golfing, boating and spending time with the grand children. Max and Ruth reside in Hickory Hills which is a retirement community in the beautiful town of Tillsonburg, ON ~ pop circa 14,000. (A town immortalized by a famous Canadian Singer ~ Stompin Tom Connors ~ My back still aches when I hear that word!!)

Ruth and Max have 4 children: Lori, Bradley, Steven and Gary, and as noted above, 3 grand children.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please acknowledge both Max's contribution to the Sport, and of course, his achievement with regard to the 100 Points!!

Stan McCormack (presenter) at CD HOF Induction 2005 03 19.