



## APPL Championships Wednesday Update!

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's 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 therefore 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 again 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, when all was said and done, 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