



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

Andrew Burks – His Confidence Keeps Competition Strong

Competing in the National Veterans Golden Age Games for the first time, Andrew Burks is ready to make his mark on Houston. A native Houstonian and president of his Houston neighborhood’s civic club for the past 14 years, Burks is set on the gold, not just in one competition, but in all four of his events: swimming-freestyle, swimming-backstroke, table tennis and golf. “I have a chance for the gold in all four – and I mean that,” said Burks. “I was hard to beat at table tennis during some of the matches held at the Houston Park and Recreation Department.”



He heard about the Games from a fellow Houston teammate last year, but was not able to attend in 2006 in Hampton, Va. “When I saw my friend come home from Hampton with all these medals, I decided I wanted some of those too,” said Burks. “I was upset to see that he had all the medals and I didn’t. This year will prove differently!”

Burks is the pastor at the Bailey Chapel CME Church in Houston, and this inspirational 56-year-old veteran has been working closely with his fellow Houston Silver Eagle teammates to scientifically see who holds the records in certain competitions and decide what his strategy will be to win. His confidence will certainly motivate him during the week’s activities, and his competitive streak can’t help but inspire the other athletes competing in this year’s event.

Burks, an Air Force veteran who served stateside from 1970-1971, has been busy publicizing the Games with his friends and family. “They will all be there rooting me on, including my congregation of 50 people,” said Burks.

This is one Houston veteran ready to make a name for himself at the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

