

Florida Dart Association

2023 State Team Championships

40th Anniversary News

October 2023

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Florida Dart Association
www.floridadarts.org



History....

1983 until 2023

Dorothy Filley
FDA STC Director

In the beginning... In 1983, Three association presidents joined forces to provide members with something else: some other type of dart competition. The original 3 were C. E. Leach from BCDA, Tom Rhodes from MDDA and Nick Garrison from EDO. In 1984 the concept was promoted to the FDA and so the first annual FDA-Wizard State Team Championships was held that year in Annie's Attic in Pompano. There were 4 teams that first year and every round took about 3 hours. It proved to be a very long and exciting weekend.

By 1988 this competition had expanded so much that it could no longer be held in a "bar". By this time, the format had been shortened; but it still took a full weekend to decide who the Champs were.

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When I look back over the years it's hard to imagine how we got here.

I remember some of the early places we played and all the people who have been so important in making this event the outstanding competition it has become....Patty Post and Annie's Attic in Ft. Lauderdale--a great beginning for the first year. Ric Rudiger and the Boars Head in Sarasota--where we played a couple of times--most famous for the 3 boards surrounded with plastic sheeting that created its own atmosphere of smoke and heat! We played in a closed mall in Venice one year--a real change for us. We have played in American Legions, Moose and Elk's halls and a whole host of bars that were too small, too smokey and too hot! We have been at Hiltons, Hyatt's, the Bonaventure and Wyndham's in Tampa, Orlando and Miami Beach— where we had to evacuate on Saturday morning for a Hurricane Warning. And all the people involved from the beginning that we owe so much to...Tom Rhodes, CE Leech, Nick Garrison, Lana and Dennis Loomis, all our past officers and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it better every year...the largest, continuous darting event in Florida and the only true State Team Competition in the US! Congratulations to everyone for working so hard to make sure we continue with the same spirit!

Here's to another Great Year!!

FDA Youth group

Director: Michelle Bullock

Watch them shine!

We want to take the opportunity to highlight the great work done by our Youth Director and her team of volunteers. The Florida Dart Association has a bright future with our Youth members representing us Nationally.

They will have their own Blind Draw on Friday night. Sign up is at 6:45pm in the hall. We will also hold a 50/50 raffle on Saturday morning to support their activities.

I'm sure they have a few spooky Halloween Specials planned.

What was considered the first “official” F.D.A. - Wizard State Team Championship was held November 10-11, 1984.

In 1990 with a format that had been reduced to one hour and fifteen minutes and our growth in teams; the event could not be accomplished in a single weekend. The State was divided into three regional preliminary events and one weekend final event. This was done so that the “round robin” concept could continue. Seven years later this format was again expanded due to increased participation to two preliminary rounds and one weekend final event. In 1999, twenty-four teams competed for the title of Florida Dart Association State Team Champion.

With another growth in 2002 to twenty-nine teams; this event faced many challenges in the next few years to continue as a full round robin event. Looking to the future, the number of teams and associations will mean a change in how and where this event will be held. 2003 marked the twentieth anniversary of the State Team Championships. With much celebration, we saw a great improvement in the venues; fundraising provided a few extras, including an anniversary newsletter and the debut of the artistic abilities of the teams with the pennant contest.

In 2008, our 25th Anniversary, we moved the event to the Orlando area for both the Regional and Finals. To celebrate we themed the party as the Florida Tourist party and asked members to dress as the typical tacky FLA tourist and each team was asked to bring a tourist souvenir from their area.

Now we are celebrating 40 years. We made it thru 2020 and the first disruption in play due to COVID-19. But we are back and as strong as ever. This continues to be the largest and only state-wide team dart competition in the nation.

We are planning to celebrate with some special happenings during the final weekend.

WHEN THE CUP WAS MAGIC.....

Back at the beginning of the State Team Championships; a sponsor was recruited to provide a suitable trophy. A new dart supplier from the Port Richey area, Wizard Darts offered to provide the very first traveling cup. This trophy was to be known as the Wizard Cup. It was engraved with the Wizard Logo and had a single tier. Later that first decade, Wizard Darts had moved on or was no longer in operation in Florida and the FDA Board decided that a new, larger cup was needed with plenty of space for additional winning teams to be engraved. Once the new trophy was completed and all the history was transferred, it was agreed that the original cup should be retired to MDDA in recognition as a Co-Founder and the winner of the inaugural event.



Well; somewhere in the next few years the two cups seem to have been transposed or exchanged until we have the present trophy with the original Wizard cup on top of the re-worked bases. I do remember a time when I tried to find the original trophy to keep it in Miami and was unable to locate it! Now, I just like to believe that the Wizard was always in control of the cup. If you look closely at the State Team Championship Trophy you can faintly make out the “Wizard Cup”.

*Note: In 2008, to recognized our 25th anniversary the trophy was refurbished and cleaned by Michelson’s Trophies of Miami and was unveiled at the Captain’s meeting.
Dorothy Filley, Director*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- October 13** 8PM – Captain’s meeting
8:30PM – Blind Draw \$1000.00 Guarantee
Registration closes
- October 14** 9AM – Opening Ceremonies, announcements, National Anthem
9:45AM – Start of event
2:30-3:30PM – Approximate time for lunch
9:30pm – Finish for day
- October 15** 11AM – Start play
5PM – Trophy Presentation (est. time after event)

FLORIDA DART ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

President.....Lee Weiss
Vice President.....Lisa Eimer
Secretary.....
Treasurer.....Amy Downs
Membership Director.....
Tournament Director.....Larry Stoy

Caribbean Cup Director.....Stephanie Mincey
ADO Director.....David Tillery
Youth Director.....Michelle Bullock
Public Relations.....William Ponder
Statistician.....Andrew Brady
Webmaster.....Brad Gronli