



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

Jackie Pope: Going for the Gold - Again!

Jackie Pope is ready to come to Indianapolis to compete in the 2008 National Veterans Golden Age Games and win another gold medal. His first was last year at the Games in Houston, Texas, where he competed for the first time.

Pope joined the Navy in 1963 ready to defend America but that plan fell short when only two and one-half years into his tour he received a head injury while on ship. Since that time he has undergone several surgeries, one that resulted in his leg being amputated. Following his recovery on the rehabilitation unit, 4-West, at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center, Pope reminisces about his time on the unit. “The 4-West nurses are funny, nice and treated me great,” said Pope. “The staff teaches you how to be independent and maintain your daily activities.



Born in Indianapolis, Pope spent his childhood in Brown County and has resided Spencer for the past 17 years. He is married to his wife of 28 years and together they share five children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Last year, Pope competed in the National Veterans Golden Age Games in Houston, Texas, in the wheelchair bowling competition. This was the first time that he participated in such an event and he brought home the gold, for him a major accomplishment. When asked about the event, Pope conveyed how proud he was to win the gold medal and to be the only Hoosier bringing home a gold medal. He enjoyed sharing his success with other veterans, families and staff at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center. “I think I carried the gold medal in my coat pocket for five months after receiving it,” said Pope.

In Indianapolis this year, he will compete in four events; horseshoes, bowling, shuffle board and air rifle. He stated that he would like to bring home another gold medal but that really he just enjoys being around fellow veterans and showing the world that even with his amputation he can still lead an active life.

Being a hometown favorite, Pope has all the cards stacked in his favor to be a gold medalist at this year's Games.

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