



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

National Competitor Profile

Jack Faust: Oldest Competitor Goes for the Gold!

The year was 1911: Proctor & Gamble unveiled a product that became a mainstay in American kitchens for decades, famously known as Crisco; the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre museum in Paris, France, and; the White Star Liner called Titanic was released from her holding bay and launched into history for the first time. There was another significant occurrence 97 years ago; something wonderful and not well known—Jack Faust, now the National Veterans Golden Age Games oldest contender for two years straight, was born. He's been active ever since, and as a silver medal winner in croquet last year, Faust shows no signs of winding down.

Faust, a Navy veteran of WW II and a California resident, will be joining his team from Palo Alto in the 2008 National Veterans Golden Age Games. He was encouraged to participate in the Games by Kathy Kelley, a recreation therapist and team coordinator for the Palo Alto medical center. "He turned me down at first," she remembers. "I bugged the heck out of him." It's a good thing Kelley, who has been coaching the local participants for more than 16 years, didn't give up on convincing Faust to join the team.

A retired painter who once worked for the Worker Project Administration during the Great Depression, Faust credits his well-being and longevity to his active involvement in his community, including volunteer clown performances, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. "I never smoked or drank," he says, sharing some of the secrets in his prescription for good health.

"I'm going to try my best to win a gold medal," he says. "We used to play that all the time at my grandmother's house." Faust has many memories from his youth, including the end of WW I and a victory parade down Main Street of Elwood, Ind., with a replica dummy of defeated German leader Kaiser Wilhelm being dragged behind a shiny Ford truck. Hopefully, Faust will be celebrating another victory very soon: one in which he has earned a gold medal in the croquet competition at the Games. If not, disappointment won't get the best of him because he knows it's about more than winning. It's not losing when you're with your comrades.

"They're all a bunch of good guys," he says. Now, let's see how good they are at croquet!

