

# 2002 State Games of Mississippi

## Volunteer of the Year



On site and behind the scenes, the State Games utilizes more than 450 volunteers who continuously work to help the Games flourish into a spectacular sportsfest. Volunteer assignments are available with an average work shift of four to six hours.

Volunteer duties include ticket taking, equipment setup, timing, scoring, measuring distances, registration of athletes and delivering water and other supplies. Service duties include answering phones, registration, score reporting, media communications and parade logistics at the Opening Ceremonies.

Each year, one person is chosen to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award. There are always so many who are deserving of this award. The 2002 Volunteer of the Year Reception was sponsored by McAlister's Deli and held at Meridian's Bonita Lakes. The State Games of Mississippi was proud to announce Tom McCullough as the 2002 Volunteer of the Year.

Tom works for the University of South Alabama Foundation as a forester. He and his wife, Linda, attend Poplar Springs

Drive United Methodist Church. He has been a volunteer for the State Games of Mississippi for the past two years. The first year Tom and Linda were the venue managers for girl's softball and the second year he was recruited to work with the Operations crew.

Tom worked extremely hard on the Operations crew both weekends. This team of volunteers works tirelessly throughout the weeks of the Games to set up each venue for its sporting events. Some nights Tom and the Operations crew did not finish working until two o'clock in the morning only to have to return three hours later to start setting up for the next day.

"Volunteering is a wonderful way to participate in the Games without being an athlete. Without the support of our volunteers, the State Games would not be the event it is today", said April Luke, executive director of the 2002 State Games. "We want all of our volunteers to know that we appreciate their devotion and energy to make the Games the best it can be."

**Congratulations Tom!!!**

# 2002

Presenting Sponsor: **THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY MISSISSIPPI**  
Reaching kids. Getting results.

**STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI 2002**

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

**the Quarterly Score**

October 2002

**GOLD SPONSORS:** McALISTER'S DELI, conoco, superstop!, Coca-Cola, MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS, Rush

mark your calendars  
**2003 GAMES**

- June 7-8**  
Soccer Districts
- June 20-22**  
1st weekend  
Opening Ceremonies  
June 20th @ 7:30  
Ray Stadium
- June 21**  
Baseball Tryouts
- June 26-29**  
2nd weekend

## Upcoming Events

- October**
- 3-5 National Convention - San Diego, CA
  - 14 Columbus Day
  - 16 National Boss Day
  - 27 Daylight Savings Time Ends
  - 31 Halloween

- November**
- 5 Election Day
  - 11 Veteran's Day
  - 25-29 Thanksgiving Holiday
  - 28 Thanksgiving
  - 30 Hanukkah

- December**
- 13 Sponsor Deadline for 2003
  - 16 Christmas Break Begins
  - 25 Christmas Day

- January**
- 1 New Year's Day
  - 6 End of Christmas Break

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# from the Staff



## 2002 State Games of Mississippi

# athletes of the year

# 2002

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the State Games of Mississippi newsletter. We are so excited to be able to offer this service to both our sponsors and athletes. We will have the opportunity to keep all of you informed of the upcoming events and what the staff of the State Games of Mississippi is doing year round. We hope you take advantage of the newsletter and we would like to hear from you about your thoughts concerning the newsletter or what we can do to improve the State Games of Mississippi. Since the Games have completed the 2002 competition year, we have been very busy punching numbers and announcing our 2002 BellSouth/Cingular Athletes of the Year. We have also named a Volunteer of the Year for 2002. Look inside for more details.

During the 11th annual State Games of Mississippi, we had a great year with both sponsors and athletes. We had our first-ever Presenting sponsor, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, and were able to promote healthy lifestyles among our athletes along with our athletes being tobacco free. We had new sponsors to come aboard this year to add to our outstanding list of sponsors, including, McAlisters Deli, Conoco Super Stop, Community Bank and Chick-fil-A. We are very excited to have each of these supporting the Games and look forward to continuing to work with each of them to allow our Games to grow for many years to come.

Along with the new sponsors, we had 4,981 athletes to be a part of the 2002 State Games of Mississippi. This is outstanding and we strive to grow each year. Keep up the GOOD WORK guys! We were able to offer a record high 27 sports and hope to continue adding more in the future. Our Opening Ceremonies had a new format this year and we have had positive responses from you about the changes. The Games look forward to seeing you next year!

Again we are thrilled to bring you this newsletter quarterly and hope you enjoy reading and keeping up with the State Games of Mississippi. If you would like to contact us, our e-mail is [stgamiss@aol.com](mailto:stgamiss@aol.com) or you can call our office at 800-482-0205. Have a great fall and you will hear from us again in the 2003 New Year!

Sincerely,



April Luke  
Executive Director



Out of 17 nominees for the BellSouth/Cingular Wireless Sportsman of the Year award, the State Games of Mississippi chose amateur athletes Lydia Rice of Tupelo and William Calvert of Gulfport. Based on the national program, the State Games of Mississippi established the annual BellSouth/Cingular Wireless Athlete of the Year Award in an effort to recognize Mississippi amateur athletes. Coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers and spectators nominated one male and one female athlete from each sport for the award. The athletes nominated personify the ideals of the State Games movement, such as participation, sportsmanship, special attributes, achievements, efforts and positive attitudes.

BellSouth/Cingular Wireless Female Sportsman of the Year, 14-year old Lydia Rice, was a track and field participant in the 2002 State Games of Mississippi. Her results in the 2002 Games are one silver medal and three gold medals. She won a silver medal in the 400 meters, gold medals in the 100-meter hurdles, high jump and 4x100 relay. She set a new record in the high jump for the State Games of Mississippi with 4 feet 9 inches in the 13-14 year old age division. In the 100-meter hurdles she ran a time of 18.5 seconds.

Lydia is very focused in her preparation in these events and has worked hard to learn the technical aspects. Lydia is an all around athlete having been a member of the Tupelo's '88 Select Soccer team for several years. She is a key defender on Mississippi's Olympic Development Program soccer team. As an eighth grader, she was also All-State in the Mississippi High School Athletic Association 5A State cross-country meet finishing 9th overall and as the 3rd Tupelo High School runner therefore helping Tupelo win the 5A championship.

Lydia is a straight-A student and a leader in her church youth group and choir. In addition to sports, Lydia's interests include reading, piano, and drama. As one of two medalists from Northeast Mississippi, this past spring she was invited to participate in the state competition of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Participating in the State Games for the third year, 66-year-old William Calvert, the BellSouth/Cingular Wireless Male Sportsman of the Year, was nominated for his participation in the 2-mile walk where he received a gold medal. Mr. Calvert demonstrates the true spirit of the State Games of Mississippi as he is committed to doing his best to compete in numerous events in which he has excelled for the past three years.

During the 2002 Games he also participated in the Summer Biathlon receiving a gold medal. In the track and field event he won a silver medal in the 400-meter and 200-meter and a gold

medal in the 100-meter. He brought home additional gold medals in the Canoe/Kayak event 500-meter and two-mile sprints. In the 2001 Games he competed in the Summer Biathlon and the 2-mile Road Race and won gold medals in both events. In 2000, he first entered the State Games of Mississippi and won a gold medal in the Summer Biathlon.

Mr. Calvert brings an inspiring story to the State Games of Mississippi. His commitment to training and exercise began after battling and surviving cancer having 40 treatments of radiation following surgery. He started participating in the State Games of Mississippi to improve his health and chances for a longer life. He has now been cancer-free for 5 years. He enjoys the competition and has respect for the athletes, volunteers and staff who work, plan and implement this annual classic.

Mr. Calvert brings many of his family members as well as friends with him each year from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to participate in the Games. A retired Deputy Sheriff with the Harrison County sheriff's department, William continues to be active in law enforcement as a Detective with a nearby coastal city in Harrison County. He takes his vacation time from his position to participate in the Games over the two-week period. He is a huge supporter of the State Games of Mississippi. William Calvert truly displays his love of life in everything that he does.

As the BellSouth/Cingular Wireless Sportsman of the Year, Rice and Calvert will have the opportunity to be the official torch runners in the 2003 State Games of Mississippi's Opening Ceremonies and work with State Games of Mississippi throughout the year to promote amateur athletics for all Mississippians.

Rice and Calvert will represent the State Games of Mississippi as nominees for the National Athlete of the Year Award. The national awards will be presented in October in San Diego, CA.



Lydia Rice

**SPONSORS:**  
David Burns (left)  
Cingular Wireless



William Calvert

C.D. Smith (right)  
BellSouth