

GLEN MULLINS



As a lifelong tennis player, Glen Mullins wasn't going to be caught dead playing pickleball. But life had other plans.

Mullins' wife signed him up for a pickleball lesson after some heart complications and a surgery left Mullins down and out.

"I thought no way I'd go play something called pickleball," Mullins said. "But I went and it was a ball."

Five years later, the Edmond resident is hooked. He plays weekend tournaments whenever possible and is a regular at the Oklahoma Senior Games.

Even a knee replacement last year couldn't keep him off the court for long. Mullins, who is 70 now, said the injury only bothers him when he's looking for an excuse for a poor swing.

That's one of the great things about pickleball, Mullins said. It's less strenuous than tennis, but it still feels familiar and provides a great workout.

Mullins received his undergraduate degree at the University of Oklahoma while on a tennis scholarship and returned years later for his law degree.

He also loves the competition. It's what drew him to tennis and to his job.

Mullins is a trial attorney in Oklahoma City. There is competition with the opposing attorney and going to trial is like playing in the big game, he said.

Work restricts Mullins' ability to play in more pickleball tournaments, but he looks forward to upping his game one day after he retires, which isn't likely anytime soon.

"I'm afraid I'd just sit at home and vegetate if I weren't working," Mullins said. "That's another nice thing about pickleball. It keeps me busy and it's something I can do for a long time."

Oklahoma Senior Games competitions occur annually in September and October. This year, competitions will be held in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Shawnee, Norman, Yukon and Warr Acres.

Events include three-on-three basketball, track and field, golf, swimming, water walking, 5K and 10K runs, 5K power walk, 5K race walk, bowling, tennis, table tennis, golf croquet, shuffleboard, cycling, cornhole, badminton, archery, pickleball, racquetball, softball and triathlon. Participants age 50 and older will compete in categories by age and gender.

Oklahoma Senior Games qualifies athletes for National Senior Games competition held every two years. About 300 athletes who qualify in 2020 will represent Oklahoma in the National Senior Games competition November 5-18, 2021 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more information visit www.okseniorgames.com or call (405) 821-1500.