

Biography – Louise Kiss

Growing up in Ohio, I was “limited” to playing tennis. Girls were told not to mix activities, so no swimming, etc. The sport of tennis was not only a wonderful physical experience, but became a social activity as I was recruited by the Middletown Country Club and allowed to play on the “club courts” and represent Middletown in the Jr. Wightman Cup tournaments held in surrounding cities.

I attended college at Bowling Green University majoring in health, physical education & recreation and then went on to Ohio State University and earned my Master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling.

In 1962 I came to New Mexico to visit my aunt and uncle who had moved to Albuquerque for health reasons (TB) and fell in love with this state and its wonders. I worked as a School Counselor at Rio Grande High School and Jackson Middle School, retiring from Albuquerque Public Schools in 1988.

During my time here in NM, I continued to pursue sports activities through local, state, and national tournaments. I did have to relinquish my tennis play in the 1970’s due to physical limitations, but I have kept my joy of racquet sports by dabbling in badminton, racquetball, table tennis, and recently pickleball.

My first National Senior Games competition was in 1993 in Baton Rouge, when I “jogged” to the finish line in the 1500 meter “run.” I managed to continue my very steady pace well behind the other competitors, and finished dead last to the encouraging cheers of the crowd. That was the end of my racing career. Fortunately, I had also entered table tennis and earned my first medal from these Games.

I have continued to participate in the next 12 biennial National Senior Games medaling in table tennis, badminton, racquetball, and 3 on 3 basketball, where my sports career was highlighted by taking the gold in basketball in 1997 and 2013 with my amazing teammates.

Working with the Senior Sports Foundation from its beginning has filled my years with friends, fun, and hopefully a future with longevity.

