



Linette Chaney  
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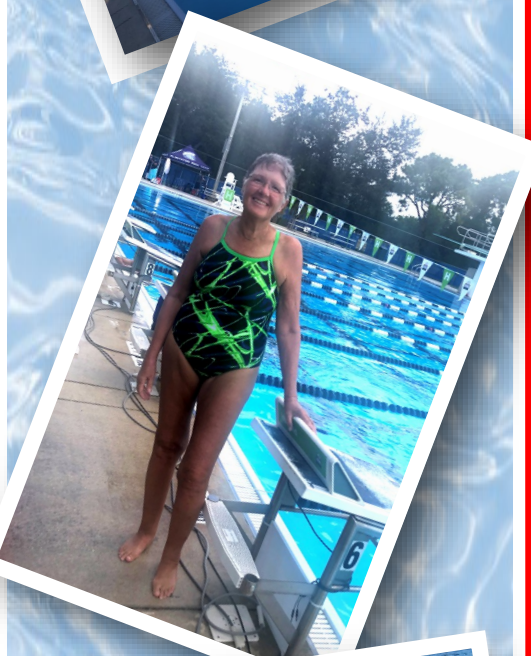
## Take Your Mark The Start Was Fast The Wait Has Been Long

Just when we thought the Swim Gods were going to call Linette, Mom, Grandma Chaney or Nettie (by whatever the name you affectionally may call her) to the 2022 SR Games Blocks she had to wait in the sun for another 4.5 hours to climb up on the block to hear: "Swimmers To Your Block!" We all know what it has taken for her get to this heat call. For three years she has so diligently and anxiously prepared.

So, double capped, goggles tight, and a little tremble she slid up on the block. A helping hand from her coach and that long, tan, trim Grandmother towered over the rest of the Sr. women in her heat.

The whirl of a whistle and... "Swimmers Take Your Mark", silence, then BEEEEP! They are off!!

She hit the water so fast she stopped to see where everyone was??? She thought there was a false start! Looking back she realized the race was on !! so she put her head down and lead by a stroke at the first turn.





A good first turn and I could see her settle into that long smooth loping stroke. Coming back to the wall a good breath and a better turn and long glide. Now three body lengths ahead, she started to pull away and the start was behind her.

Now I had a chance to breath and step back, thank all my angels for getting this thing underway and letting her live a dream.

Coming back to the wall at the mid way point her lead now stretched out to half a pool length (12 yards). The crowd now starting to cheer on their friends and favorites. Many started to call out swimmers names and encouragement. If she heard the crowd or sensed comfort in the pool I saw Linette put her head down and kept up the pace. Long strokes, her steady breathing just seemed too easy. We both knew she had more left.

Gliding into the wall to start the last two lengths I saw the deep breath. A big push, pull and I immediately knew she was going to just swim all out. The turnover was quicker, the kick was harder, she hit her best pace and pulled away. For a second, silence, a few murmurs and everyone knew this heat was over.



The last turn, her best. That arm came over and the dig for home. I could see her look over at the lane to her left to see another swimmer on her shoulder. A bigger kick and long stroke, a breath, and another look and she knew it was a lapped swimmer.

A few strong arm strokes and she was at the wall with a two hand touch. I knew she was not going to have that pad not record her time!!!

Immediately up and looking at the timer she asked for her time. With great enthusiasm the timer expounded "Great Swim, 3:49!!!"

By now Linette did a big arm lift and slide out of the pool. No going under the ropes to the end ladder where the old folks get out. Cap off and goggles in hand she said, "I could have gone ten seconds faster!"

A personal best by 13 seconds faster from when she qualified to go to Albuquerque! Three years older and 13 seconds faster. The smile was priceless!



Now on to tomorrow and the 50 yard Free. I am sure it will be eventful in only a way that a "Mom Story" can be told!



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2022

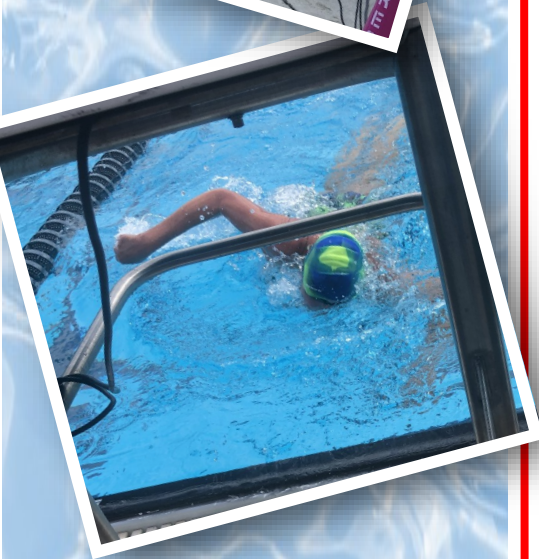
## Day Two & Three

At the start of day two everyone discussed their swims from day one like they were old friends. The aches, pains and who ate what for dinner while circled under the shade tent. Today everything started on time.

We had a three hour wait for Linette's 50 Free swim and again it was HOT! Her start was great and then bang, she hit a lane line. Timing now off and breathing into the turn was not good. She did her best but the timing and turn held her back from getting a personal best and finishing 18th out of 28 in her age group.

Day three looked to be her comeback day as she warmed up to swim the 100 yard freestyle. A cool morning and early swim had our spirits up.

Another good start for her at the BEEEEEP! Taking it out smooth all looked good. However a poor fist turn and she was off the leaders pace. Try as she might her energy was gone from two days of sitting, waiting and hotel bed discomfort. Not a bad swim but not a personal best with a finish of 13th out of 18 swimmers in her age group. This was one of the few events where a Sr. National Record was not set. Everyone was slow.





## Day Four

The 200 Medley Relay and the 200 Free Relay brought home ribbons. Linette teamed up with three other swimmers on-line. The four had never met until the day before the relay. Taking 6th place (out of 6) was good enough for some new friends to have a few parting memories of the 2022 National Senior Games held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**Linette has set a goal to swim in the 2023 National Sr. Games by qualifying at the Ohio Sr. Games, July 2022, Westerville, Ohio.**



The Big 10 + 1 Gator Show Off 6th Place Finishes In The 200 Medley and 200 Free Relay