

SPORTS

College pickleball tournament this weekend at Pictona includes Gators, Knights, Dawgs

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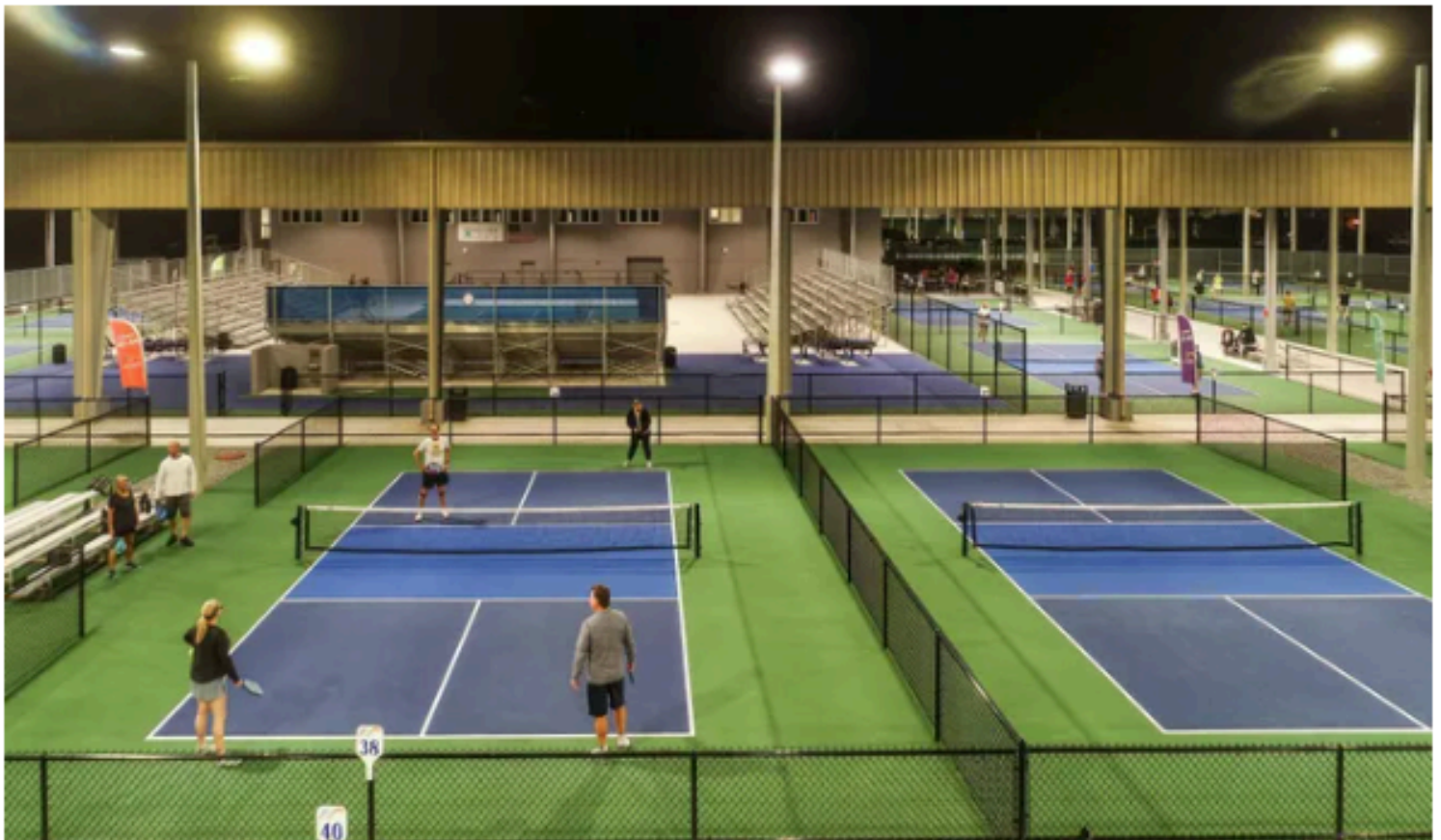
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HOLLY HILL — The rapid [growth of pickleball](#) has many of the game's proponents imagining a day when the sport joins other mainstream sports on network TV, or perhaps as an Olympic event.

Or as [a college sport](#).

Well, that day has arrived, though not with official NCAA sanctioning. Teams representing 19 colleges and universities will compete Saturday and Sunday at Pictona in Holly Hill under the banner of the National Collegiate Pickleball Association.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: [Mike Gundy is no Lee Elia. Also, Florida football rankings, picks. LSU or Alabama?](#)



Pictona 2 includes 25 courts, including the 1,500-seat Championship Court. *File*

The 2024 Florida Regional Championship features 19 schools from six states and schools with both Division I and II NCAA programs. It's one of six regional events around the country that will send teams to next February's national championship in Las Vegas.

The teams, alphabetically: Clemson, Embry-Riddle, Emory, FAU, Florida, Florida Gulf Coast, FIU, Florida State, Georgia, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, High Point, Kennesaw State, Maine, North Florida, Palm Beach Atlantic, Rollins, Samford and UCF.

"We're thrilled to be hosting the regional championship this weekend," said [Pictona CEO John Phillips](#). "There are more than 200 colleges across the country sponsoring pickleball teams and we're excited to help grow the game at the collegiate level.

"We look forward to welcoming the Florida Gators, the Georgia Bulldogs, Clemson Tigers and, of course, our hometown team, Embry-Riddle Eagles."

Play begins each day at 9 a.m. It's open to the public and will be played on the courts of Pictona 2, including the Championship Court.



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[APP Daytona Beach Open pickleball tournament begins at Pictona at Holly Hill](#)