



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA TEAMS EARN 18 MEDALS AT THE 2018 USAV JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Florida teams return from the USA Volleyball Boys' and Girls' Junior National Championships with 4 Golds, 5 Silver and 9 Bronze medals!

Eustis, FL – July 13, 2018 – The 2018 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships has finally wrapped up! The USA Volleyball Girls' 18s Junior National Championships were hosted April 27 – 29, 2018 in Anaheim, CA. Next came the USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships that took place June 25 – July 1, 2018 in Detroit, MI. Finally, the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships occurred on July 2 – 9, 2018 in Phoenix, AZ.

Throughout these three tournaments, the Florida Region had 119 teams compete. 39 of those teams ended in the top 10 of their respective division and 18 teams ended up on the podium (4 Gold, 5 Silver, 9 Bronze). This was an impressive year for Florida teams as they doubled their medal count from the 2017 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships.

Gold Medal Winners:

12 AMERICAN: OT 12 N. Pedro – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL)
13 NATIONAL: Palm Beach Jrs 13 Elite – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL)
14 OPEN: OT 14 S. Felix – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL)
18 OPEN: Top Select 18 Elite Blake – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL)

Cynthia Ortega, Assistant Coach for OT 14 S. Felix noted that the competition level was higher than it had been in previous years. Ortega stated that, "The level of competition in 14 Open was so big and I heard many college coaches comparing the 14s division to a typical 16s division." Though OT 14 S. Felix faced more competitive teams than they had faced previously they were still able to dominate the competition and finish the tournament with an 11-0 record.

Top Select 18 Elite Blake came into the USA Volleyball girls' 18 Junior National Championships as an underdog. The team started the tournament as the 28th seed overall out of 36 teams. At the start of the last day, the girls of Top Select 18 Blake were proud of themselves for making it into the Gold bracket and being one of the top eight teams. Their mentality throughout the tournament was to stay focused on the current play.

For the younger teams, the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships can be intimidating. This year the USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships brought in more than 1,300 teams over the course of 7 days. For many of the younger athletes this was the largest tournament they had ever attended. A common theme amongst the coaches was to remind their players to have fun.

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Pedro Zayas, Head Coach of OT 12 N. Pedro told us, “My assistant coach always reminds me that even though these players play at a high level, they are still twelve years old, they are young kids.” Before the championship match Zayas said that, “We went to our quiet place and played games, asked silly questions and had fun.” **Joy VanDyke**, Head Coach of Palm Beach Juniors 13 Elite had a similar philosophy when it came to her team. VanDyke said, “Going into the championship match was mostly about having fun. Many of the girls were putting way too much pressure on themselves and I was worried that they would forget to enjoy the experience. We went into the lobby of the Cobo center and sat together. I told them I was so very proud of them, but I wanted them to walk away and feel like they got everything they wanted out of Nationals.”

Below you will find a list of results from the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships:

Girls’ Junior National Championship

17 OPEN	Top Select 17 Elite Blake – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 2nd OT 17 S. Danny – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 5th
17 NATIONAL	NVL 17 Red – NVL Academy (Port Saint Lucie, FL) – 11th 305 VBC 17 National – 305 Volleyball Club (Doral, FL) – 33rd
17 USA	OT 17 S. Felix H. – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 13th OT 17 T. Dexter – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 17th OT 17 E. Spencer – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 29th
17 AMERICAN	TJVBC 17 Nike Pro – Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club (Tallahassee, FL) – 11 th PSVA 17 Black Gokhan – Prostyle Volleyball Academy (Tallahassee, FL) – 11 th Top Select 17 Elite Charles – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 17 th JJVA TEAM ROX 17N Nick – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 39 th Tampa United VBA 17T Rox – Tampa United Volleyball Academy (Tampa, FL) – 43 rd
16 OPEN	OT 16 S. Roberto – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 3rd
16 NATIONAL	LVA 16 Elite – Lightning Volleyball Academy (Oviedo, FL) – 9 th PSVA 16 Black Taylor – Prostyle Volleyball Academy (Tallahassee, FL) – 29 th
16 USA	Palm Beach Jrs. 16 Elite – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL) – 5th JJVA Team Rox 16N Austin – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 19 th Top Select 16 Elite – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 21 st OT 16 S. TJ – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 21 st Tribe 16 Elite Brett – Tribe Volleyball (Pompano Beach, FL) – 26 th Gulfside 16 Navy – Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy (Naples, FL) – 29 th
16 AMERICAN	Miami Hype 16’s Red – Miami Hype (Miami, FL) – 2nd OT 16 L. Isaac – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 21 st Wildfire 16 Nike Corey – Wildfire Volleyball Academy (Plantation, FL) – 35 th OT 16 E. Eric – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 37 th JJVA Team Rox 16N Tara – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 58 th
15 OPEN	OT 15 S. Melito – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 10 th
15 NATIONAL	OT 15 T. Randy – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 3rd JJVA Team Rox 15N John – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 17 th
15 USA	St. Pete 15 Teal – St. Pete Volleyball Club (St. Petersburg, FL) – 11 th OT 15 E. Laura – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 17 th OT 15 L. Semei – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 19 th Top Select 15 Elite – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 21 st
15 AMERICAN	Wildfire 15 Nike Ore – Wildfire Volleyball Academy (Plantation, FL) – 5 th Miami Elite 15 Julie – Miami Elite Volleyball Club (Miami, FL) – 10 th Tribe 15 Elite Dean - Tribe Volleyball (Pompano Beach, FL) – 17 th Club Steel 15 Navy – Club Steel Volleyball (Land O Lakes, FL) – 19 th OT 15 S. Jenn M. – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 39 th

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14 OPEN	OT 14 S. Felix – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 1st Tribe 14 Elite Sebastian – Tribe Volleyball (Pompano Beach, FL) – 21 st Boomers 14 Black Kelsee – Boomers Volleyball Club (Pompano Beach, FL) – 21 st OT 14 T. Vanja – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 26 th
14 NATIONAL	JJVA Team Rox 14N Miriam – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 21 st Palm Beach Jrs. 14 Elite – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL) – 25 th
14 USA	Gainesville 14 Elite – Gainesville Juniors (Gainesville, FL) – 3rd MPV 14's Max – Max Performance Volleyball Club (Ocala, FL) – 3rd USA South Premier Purple – USA South Volleyball (Estero, FL) – 5 th Gulfside 14U Navy – Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy (Naples, FL) – 5 th U14 N1 No Fear Volleyball – No Fear Volleyball (Jacksonville, FL) – 10 th OT 14 E. Kim – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 11 th OT 14 L. Alex – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 13 th
14 AMERICAN	305 VBC 14 National – 305 Volleyball Club (Doral, FL) – 3rd Jupiter Elite 14E – Jupiter Volleyball Club (Jupiter, FL) – 5 th OT 14 W. Jon – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 11 th High Voltage 14 Elite Aaron – High Voltage Volleyball Academy (Miramar, FL) – 13 th Miami Xtreme VB 14 Black – Miami Xtreme Volleyball Academy (Doral, FL) – 25 th OT 14 S. TJ – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 35 th Cape Coast 14 Elite – Cape Coast Volleyball Club (Cocoa, FL) – 51 st
13 OPEN	Top Select 13 Elite – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 19 th OT 13 S. Gibby – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 23 rd
13 NATIONAL	Palm Beach Jrs 13 Elite – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL) – 1st OT 13 E. Doug – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 2nd
13 USA	Miami Elite 13 Kevin – Miami Elite Volleyball Club (Miami, FL) – 2nd WPVC 13 Elite Black – Winter Park Volleyball Club (Maitland, FL) – 3rd USA South 13 Premier Purple – USA South Volleyball (Estero, FL) – 3rd Gainesville 13 Elite – Gainesville Juniors (Gainesville, FL) – 9 th DME Adidas Elite 13U – DME Sports (Daytona Beach, FL) – 10 th
13 AMERICAN	Tribe 13 Hector – Tribe Volleyball (Pompano Beach, FL) – 3rd JJVA 13 Team Rox 13N Amy – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 5 th OT 13 S. Jose – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 13 th Pinellas Heat 13 Elite – Pinellas Heat (Clearwater, FL) – 21 st Tribe 13 Elite Eric – Tribe Volleyball (Pompano Beach, FL) – 57 th
12 NATIONAL	Wildfire 12 Nike Albert – Wildfire Volleyball Academy (Plantation, FL) – 9 th OT 12 S. Kim – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 13 th WPVC 12 Elite Black – Winter Park Volleyball Club (Maitland, FL) – 41 st
12 AMERICAN	OT 12 N. Pedro – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 1st Top Select 12 Elite – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 3rd OT 12 E. Sarah – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 9 th OT 12 L. Isaac – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 10 th 305 VBC 12 National – 305 Volleyball Club (Doral, FL) – 29 th
11 NATIONAL	OT 11 S. Danny – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 2nd Top Select 11 Elite – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 9 th Palm Beach Jrs. 11 Elite – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL) – 13 th WPVC 11 Elite Black – Winter Park Volleyball Club (Maitland, FL) – 33 rd

Girls' 18U Junior National Championships

18 OPEN	Top Select 18 Elite Blake – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 1st OT 18 T. Aaron – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 9 th OPU 18 Rox Blue – Ocala Power United (Ocala, FL) – 27 th
18 NATIONAL	OT 18 S. Tom – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 13 th OT 18 E. Richard – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 41 st
18 USA	JJVA Team Rox 18N Ashley – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association (Jacksonville, FL) – 21 st Palm Beach Jrs. 18 E – Palm Beach Juniors (Boynton Beach, FL) – 33 rd 305 VBC 18 National – 305 Volleyball Club (Doral, FL) – 41 st
18 AMERICAN	TJVBC 18 Nike Pro – Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club (Tallahassee, FL) – 43 rd OT 18 S. Eric – Orlando Tampa Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 45 th LVA 18 Elite – Lightning Volleyball Academy (Oviedo, FL) – 53 rd WPVC 18 Elite Black – Winter Park Volleyball Club (Maitland, FL) – 53 rd

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Boys' Junior National Championships

18 OPEN	MVP Academy 18 Fire – Marks Volleyball Prep Academy (Miramar, FL) – 5 th
18 USA	352 Elite Boys Rox 18 Lime – 352 Elite (Ocala, FL) – 18 th
18 CLUB	Coastal Toreros 18 OLA – Coastal Volleyball Club (Sunny Isles Beach, FL) – 5 th
17 OPEN	Orlando Gold 17 Black – Orlando Gold Volleyball Club (Orlando, FL) – 14 th Top Select 17 Royal Nate – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 25 th Toreros Coastal 17 – Coastal Volleyball Club (Sunny Isles Beach, FL) – 30 th Ocean Bay 17 Quiksilver – Ocean Breeze & Ocean Bay Volleyball (Boca Raton, FL) – 35 th
17 CLUB	Miami United 17 Black – Miami United Volleyball (Miami, FL) – 15 th Top Select 17 Royal Kody – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 35 th
16 OPEN	352 Elite Boys Rox 16 Lime – 352 Elite (Ocala, FL) – 23 rd MVP Academy 16 Fire – Marks Volleyball Prep Academy (Miramar, FL) – 35 th
16 CLUB	Toreros Coastal 16 OLA – Coastal Volleyball Club (Sunny Isles Beach, FL) – 13 th Orlando Gold 16 Black – Orlando Gold Volleyball Club (Orlando, FL) – 19 th Top Select 16 Royal – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 49 th
15 OPEN	Top Select 15 Royal – Top Select Volleyball Academy (Orlando, FL) – 17 th Florida MOJO 15 Dorado – Florida MOJO Volleyball (Longwood, FL) – 33 rd
15 CLUB	Ocean Bay 15 Quiksilver - Ocean Breeze & Ocean Bay Volleyball (Boca Raton, FL) – 11 th MVP Academy 15 Fire – Marks Volleyball Prep Academy (Miramar, FL) – 16 th Miami United 15 Black – Miami United Volleyball (Miami, FL) – 18 th
14 OPEN	352 Elite Boys Rox 14 Lime – 352 Elite (Ocala, FL) – 5 th WPVC 14U Elite Boys – Winter Park Volleyball Club (Maitland, FL) – 25 th FL MOJO 14 Dorado – Florida MOJO Volleyball (Longwood, FL) – 25 th
14 CLUB	Orlando Gold 14 Black – Orlando Gold Volleyball Club (Orlando, FL) – 21 st

“On behalf of our board and staff I would like to congratulate the Florida Region teams that medaled at the three USAV Jr. National Championships in 2018,” stated **Steve Bishop**, Executive Director/President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. “With twenty eight more teams qualifying this year (81 teams in 2017 vs. 109 teams in 2018), it speaks to the continued increase in overall talent and we applaud our Florida Region clubs for their continued work with these athletes. We know that the largest increase in qualified teams, year-over-year, is in our 14U division where they grew from twelve teams in 2017 to twenty-three teams in 2018. The most impressive stat is the increase of ten more Florida Region teams making it to the medal stand this year (8 medals in 2017 and 18 medals in 2018) with four national champions. Well done!”

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves 14,000 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is headquartered in Eustis, FL and manages the 21-court Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex in Tavares, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at:

www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

For additional information contact:

Sierra Schomburg, Marketing Coordinator
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
t: (352) 742-0080 e: sierra@floridavolleyball.org

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