



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S PRO VOLLEYBALL TEAM LAUNCHED IN FLORIDA!

The Team Florida WAVE is the first women's indoor pro volleyball team in the history of Florida.

Eustis, FL – January 17, 2012 – The Florida Region is pleased to announce the first women's indoor pro volleyball team in the history of Florida. The Team Florida WAVE is part of the USA Premier Volleyball League (PVL), sanctioned by USA Volleyball. The PVL will offer tournament play and a league championship event each year. The Florida Region is the first of the 40 Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs) in the U.S. to field a team and is looking forward to showcasing the Team Florida WAVE in its first competition date at the University of Central Florida on March 17.

"Team Florida WAVE is an exciting new opportunity for players to continue their indoor playing careers after their college careers are over. There have been several attempts in the past to provide post collegiate opportunities, but this is the first that is starting at the grass roots level," said Head Coach Nick Cheronis, former Associate Head Coach at UF. "Having coached at Florida for 18 seasons, there have been countless players who loved their playing experience so much, that they weren't ready to put the knee pads away just yet." Benavia Jenkins, a former UF player, added "This is a great experience to be able to play on a pro team in Florida. After playing overseas for many years, this is a chance for my family to be able to see me play in our home state."

The WAVE athletes include: Megan Wallin (Sarasota/Michigan State), Kristen Batt (Venice/Kentucky), Kisya Killingsworth (Deltona/UF), Benavia Jenkins (Fort Pierce/UF), Tanya Jarvis (Orlando/UCF), Adriana Fundora (Miami/FIU), Marcela Oliveira (Temple Terrace/USF), Katie Sanders (Ft. Myers/Baylor), Rebecca Royal (St. Augustine/Flagler College), Kelly Dantas (Pembroke Pines/Barry University), Sarah Mendoza (Winter Park/Rollins College), Alicia Johnson (Orlando/Southern Illinois), Valerie Martinez (Miami Beach/UNF), and Janice Rivera (Orlando/USF/Winthrop).

The Florida Region would like to recognize ASICS for their continued support since 2006 and are pleased to announce they have signed on as the Official Outfitter of the Team Florida WAVE. Their commitment to the Region has allowed stabilization of program costs over the years. The Florida Region would also like to recognize and welcome 1st Place Volleyball as the Official Branding Partner of the WAVE. Their partnership, along with ASICS, clearly demonstrates their support of athletes, especially in this tough economy.

"The PVL has unlimited potential and could grow to become one of the largest professional sports leagues in the United States," commented Steve Bishop, PVL Asst. Commissioner and Executive Director of the Florida Region. "With the potential of having up to 40 teams, I believe that our fans will enjoy seeing pro-level volleyball at many of the USA Volleyball sanctioned events in the United States. For me, this has been a long-time coming. I am honored to be involved in the development and rollout of the first USA Volleyball sanctioned professional league and I invite all volleyball enthusiasts to get on board and help us make the PVL a permanent part of the volleyball landscape."

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About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball was established in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is a member of USA Volleyball and currently serves over 11,000 adult and junior members. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

About USA Premier Volleyball League:

The USA PVL is a grass roots professional volleyball league beginning in 2012 and it will be made up of teams from among of the forty (40) regional volleyball associations across the United States. The USA PVL will be sanctioned by USA Volleyball and will offer tournament play and a League Championship event each year. Additional information on the USA Premier Volleyball League can be found at: www.usapvl.com.

About USA Volleyball:

USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of volleyball in the United States and is recognized by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Additional information on USA Volleyball can be found at: www.USAVolleyball.org.

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