



Texas A&M Kingsville, Webber International Prevail at the Inaugural AVCA Small College Beach Championships

Tavares, FL - It was a historic weekend on the sand at Hickory Point Beach as college teams from 14 schools battled in first-ever AVCA Small College Beach Championships. The teams competed in two divisions - one consisting of seven DII programs and the other of seven teams from DIII, NAIA and CCCAA institutions.

Texas A&M Kingsville defeated Eckerd by a score of 4-1 to win the DII crown, and Webber International defeated Stevenson 4-1 to claim their divisional crown. Eckerd's top pair of Kaitlyn Sibson and Paula Hoffman, who went undefeated on the weekend and are 21-2 on the season, earned AVCA/Collegebeachvb.com Pair of the Week honors – the first DII pair to earn the national award.

Realtime coverage of the results and scores were provided at the [AVCA Small College Beach Championships HQ](#) and covered on AVCA social media platforms. Comprehensive results for the beach volleyball season can be found at AVCA partner site: www.collegebeachvb.com.

The event was filled with historical significance: runner-up teams, Eckerd and Stevenson, were the first colleges in NCAA Divisions II and III to add a varsity beach team; Webber International, was the first NAIA institution to add a varsity beach team; Florida Southern and St. Leo, two other participants, were in the group of institutions signing letters of endorsement in 2008 (10 years ago) to put Beach Volleyball on the NCAA Emerging Sports list.

The growth of beach volleyball as a college sport is unprecedented: starting with 15 DI schools in the spring of 2012, the sport is sponsored by over 120 institutions this spring. Small College Beach Championship participants San Diego City College and Mt. San Antonio College are part of 36 varsity programs in the CCCAA. On Saturday, April 7, during the championship, the NJCAA Board of Directors adopted beach volleyball as a full-time varsity sport in their organization ([see release](#)).

"I'm so proud of the leadership and the membership of the AVCA for supporting this growth in opportunity," said AVCA Executive Director, Kathy DeBoer. "Today there are hundreds and soon there will be thousands of young women getting a chance to participate on college teams in beach volleyball. And, several schools are eyeing the feasibility of men's beach teams. Our future is sunny!"

With the success of the inaugural AVCA Small College Beach Championships, plans are already underway to return to Hickory Point Beach in 2019.

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About AVCA

The AVCA, with its headquarters in Lexington, Ky., is managed by Associations International. The mission of the AVCA is to advance the sport of volleyball with AVCA coaches at the epicenter of leadership, advocacy and professional development. With a membership of over 7,200 and counting, the AVCA provides a professional network for those individuals and companies dedicated to enhancing and promoting the sport. Members include collegiate, high school, club, youth and Olympic coaches, as well as volleyball club directors. The AVCA provides education to volleyball coaches, recognition of elite players and coaches, promotion of volleyball competitions throughout the world, and networking opportunities for volleyball products and services providers. Further information is available at www.avca.org.

About CollegebeachVB.com

Seeing a need for a centralized site for rosters, results, rankings, program information and event details pertaining to collegiate beach volleyball, Mike Placek (former pro beach player, current youth beach coach and college beach recruitment coordinator) launched CollegebeachVB.com in May of 2017. The site provides up-to-date match results for both schools and individual pairs. The aim is to create a one-stop site for players, coaches, media, and fans from all over the country.