

Florida Region (USAV) FloridaVolleyball.org  
**Vol-eNews**  
 The official source for Florida volleyball news!

## OCTOBER 2009: ISSUE 1

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### COMMISSIONER’S LETTER

To all Florida Region Members,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 USA Volleyball season. I am looking forward to sharing a very busy, competitive season with all of you. Our region has shown unbelievable growth in the past 3 years and we expect the same this year. We, in the office, are trying to provide the best volleyball in the country to our members. We are constantly trying to add new programs for every level of volleyball player to include every level of skill so more members can enjoy this great sport.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at an event in Florida. Please feel free to come up and introduce yourself and let me know what you think. I, the Board of Directors and the office staff look forward to serving you and assisting every player, coach, spectator and any other volleyball enthusiast with any and all needs this upcoming season. Good luck and may all of your volleyball dreams come true.

**James Phillips**, Commissioner  
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.

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## NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We've had a very busy summer playing host to the Norceca Pan Am Cup (Miami), the Women's World Championship Qualifier (Orlando), the Girl's JO's (Miami), the HP Championships (Ft. Lauderdale), two beach coaching clinics (Orlando & Siesta Key), a beach development camp (Orlando), our junior beach tour with 6 stops across the Region (Siesta Key, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, & Clearwater), and our first ever Jr. Beach Regional Championships (Ft. Lauderdale). It was by far our busiest summer in the 27 year history of the Florida Region. All of this started shortly after our Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships in April, which was the largest ever with over 400 teams on 53 courts in Orlando.

Hosting all of these events during one of the toughest economic climates since the 1980's was a real boost to our Florida economy and it gave us a great opportunity to welcome volleyball enthusiasts from across the US and around the world. I am proud to say that we received raving reviews from our guests and I want to "tip my hat" to everyone in our Florida Region family that "rolled out the red carpet" and showed some of our great southern hospitality.

As we look to the future and get ready for our 2009/2010 season, we are very excited about adding a new series of adult tournaments on Friday nights, adding a new Corporate Volleyball Challenge grass tour, re-launching our monthly *Vol-eNews* newsletter, co-hosting the Florida Fest bid tournament with USA Volleyball, and playing host to the PAVO Convention, AVCA Convention, and the NCAA Final Four in Tampa. Our staff and Board of Directors are always exploring new ways to fulfill our mission of aggressively promoting the sport of volleyball and providing playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages. We invite you to join us by letting all potential players, coaches, and officials in your area know about our new Florida Region website:  
[www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

Let us know how we are doing. We'll see you on the court!

*Steve*

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director/President  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
T: (352) 742-0080 E: [steve@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:steve@FloridaVolleyball.org)



## CLUB HIGHLIGHT – FLORIDA GOLD COAST VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Each month we will be featuring a member club in *Vol-eNews*. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the club. We will be highlighting clubs of all sizes and disciplines in future editions of *Vol-eNews*.

The first club we are highlighting is **Florida Gold Coast Volleyball Club**, located in Boca Raton. They have been around since 1986, which makes them one of the oldest clubs in Florida. They have a very successful club and a dedicated, hard-working, and skilled Club Director, **Lori Eaton**. She is also a newly appointed Jr. Admin Board Representative for the junior clubs in our Region and was recently inducted into the Florida Region Hall of Fame. We interviewed Lori and asked her some questions to find out more about her and her club. Enjoy as you learn more about **Lori Eaton** and the **Florida Gold Coast Volleyball Club**.



### **Q: Lori, how old were you when you started playing volleyball?**

A: I started in elementary with a P.E. teacher who developed a competitive circuit and then in high school but my passion at the time was softball.

### **Q: What position did you play in college?**

A: I was recruited to Colgate University to play volleyball, start a softball program, and basketball. I played right side my freshman year, middle my sophomore year and outside my junior and senior years.

### **Q: Was it after college you realized you wanted to coach volleyball instead of softball?**

A: My college coach (**Janet Little** who is the associate A.D. and in charge of intramurals now at Colgate University where I went) had a great way of making us want to win while appreciating the technical aspects of the game. I developed a passion for learning the why's and how-to's of the game because of her. After college, I moved to Buffalo and assisted **Kelly Andrews** (now at Univ. of Toledo as associate A.D.) at Erie Community College where we were ranked in the top 16 in the nation which suggested to me we were a good team and I loved it.

### **Q: Who is your favorite NCAA D1 volleyball school?**

A: I really like Stanford because over the years I have seen many of their player's since they were 14's at various Junior Olympics. I also think Stanford is a tough academic school.



**Q: Did any girls from your club team move on to play for Stanford?**

A: Unfortunately, I did not have any girls go to Stanford but I have had some go to UCLA, Rice, N. Alabama, Florida State, Texas, Colgate, Buffalo, Valdosta, Nova, and every kind of school in between.

**Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?**

A: I started coaching when I was interning in Hamilton, N.Y. back in 1980.

**Q: What was your biggest challenge you faced coaching college girls your first couple of years?**

A: In Hamilton, I coached high school but when I coached at Erie, it was the 2 year athlete that I had the biggest problem with because you only had them for 2 years. It seemed like as you got them to the level you wanted, you lost them to a 4 year school. I actually was "burned out" from the pressure of being ranked and maintaining that as well as the weather in Buffalo which is why I moved. On my way down here, I was called by Yale University to coach volleyball and softball but chose the sunny skies of Florida instead!! Once I applied for jobs, it just so happened that the coach for Spanish River was leaving and so was **Steve George** so I fit right in.

**Q: When did you start your club team?**

A: Gold Coast was originally started by **Steve George** who left the year I moved down to Florida so I took it over in 1986.

**Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years?**

A: Volleyball has grown in numbers without a doubt but some of the finesse of the game has been changed by the rule changes which I do not like all of them.

**Q: Do you think the growth has helped volleyball with media coverage? How?**

A: I think the biggest contributor to the growth of volleyball was the winning of the medals at the Olympics. I see increases after USA wins and especially since **Kerry Walsh** and **Misty May** have come onto the scene. The media loves the two of them because they are good athletes, pretty, and good role models.

**Q: What are some of your club's accomplishments? (Ex. All-State, All-Americans, College scholarships, etc.)**

A: We have had All Americans, scholarships, and many success stories of which I could go on forever but the most memorable would have to be my 1996 Spanish

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River team that was tied for first of all high schools and in combination with Olympic heights players won the Crossroads and was about to win the Junior Olympics when they were 16 but one of our player went down with an ACL injury.

**Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with Gold Coast Volleyball?**

A: I have a lot of wonderful memories with club; meeting coaches from other states to seeing my past player's children. I would not change anything I did for the past 22 years with Gold Coast.

**Q: You are one of Florida's first volleyball clubs, with that being said, what have you done to continue your success as a coach?**

A: I think Gold Coast has appealed to the player who likes to play in general. We have also kept our club costs down. We have not enjoyed the successes we have had in the past but I think a lot of that has to do with the number of clubs increasing and "watering down" the power that can be achieved in one club.

**Q: Does your club do anything to promote youth volleyball (11 and under)?**

We are in the process of working with the local YMCA to promote youth volleyball in our area.

*We want to thank Lori for participating in our first Club Highlight and we wish her and her club continued success in the 2009/2010 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight as we learn more about the Jacksonville Juniors.*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

During the 2008/2009 season we had over 7,900 active members in the Florida Region. We saw an increase of over 1,000 new members and are still focused on our goal of having 10,000 members by the 2010/2011 season.

## JUNIOR ADMIN BOARD ELECTION RECAP

Thank you to all of the candidates that ran for the Jr. Admin Board (JAB) and congratulations to **Rita Crockett** (North Florida Volleyball Academy) and **Mitch Sadowsky** (Orlando Gold) who have been elected to serve on the Jr. Admin Board through August 2011.



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## JUNIOR CLUB TRYOUTS

This year USA Volleyball has changed the membership season start date. The new membership season is now September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. This new date will also coincide with the age definitions the National Office sets for players. Girls Jr. Clubs were allowed to have a tryout prior to the start of the high school season on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. Those were the only dates tryouts were allowed to be held for any rostered FHSAA player until the high school season ends. Tryouts for FHSAA players will begin again on or after November 22<sup>nd</sup>. With these new dates players may commit to a club as early as September 1<sup>st</sup> or anytime thereafter.

Clubs are allowed to hold positional training camps/clinics and private lessons on Sundays during the FHSAA season. Clubs are **not** allowed to have a mandatory practice or open gym during the FHSAA high school season as many of the players are already participating with their high school teams. All players that attend any sanctioned USAV event must be registered with USAV in order to participate in the event. If you have any questions please visit our website at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org) and look at the new tryout/player commitment policy.

## VOLLEYBALL IN THE NEWS

### Volleyball In The News



Florida Region has officially launched a **Volleyball In The News** page on our website. We are asking everyone to send in volleyball news links from their community. Volleyball is growing fast in Florida and we would like put your links on our website at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org) to recognize individuals, teams and anything volleyball related that has made your local news. This page will provide a large, easy to read database to show what is happening in the Florida volleyball community without having to search the web. It will also make it more convenient to show friends and family news articles about volleyball by directing them to our easy to access website. You can send any volleyball news stories to [Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org).

## REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

It's time to renew your annual membership again. The Florida Region will continue to use the USA Volleyball WebPoint online registration system to register our members and manage our clubs and teams. This will apply to **ALL** USAV Florida Region members, which includes Officials, Adults, Juniors, Coaches, Club Directors, etc. But, don't fret the process is simple, go to

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[www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org), there you will see a bright yellow box that says LOGIN (if you are a member) or JOIN (if you are not a member yet).

If you do run into trouble, email your full name and date of birth and send to the FL Region office: [michelle@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:michelle@FloridaVolleyball.org) or call Michelle @ (352) 742-0080 between the hours of 10am & 4pm, Monday - Friday.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Once you renew your membership, remember to print a copy of your USAV membership card and carry it with you at all times!

### **MYSPACE, FACEBOOK AND TWITTER, OH MY!**

We would like to introduce the new Florida Region MySpace Facebook, and Twitter sites. Join our group of friends and get daily updates about what is occurring in the Florida Region and the world of USA Volleyball. These sites are an easy way to remain in touch and know what is taking place through out the Florida Region. We make daily updates about volleyball tournaments and other activities across the Region. Please come find us on the web and allow yourself to become part of the Florida Region Volleyball family.



twitter

### **IMPACT & CAP CLINIC**

IMPACT (Improved Mastery and Practical Application of Coaching Theory) is an entry-level coaching requirement of USA Volleyball. Individuals who wish to enter into coaching must complete the IMPACT entry-level instruction before the start of the season in the Region in which they reside.

CAP (Coaching Accreditation Program) is the next level after IMPACT for volleyball coaches. The CAP certification is offered in 4 levels with level 4 being a Master Coach.

IMPACT, CAP I, & CAP II clinics will be held in Tampa during the AVCA Annual Convention on December 15<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> at the Tampa Bay Convention Center. Follow the link on the Florida Region website: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org) to get more information and register online!

Some of the CADRE/Clinicians will be:

**Hugh McCutcheon**, Head Coach of US Women's National team

**Alan Knipe**, Head Coach of US Men's National team

**Karch Kiraly**, Asst. Coach of US Women's National team

**John Kessel**, USAV Director of Grassroots and Membership Development and many more!

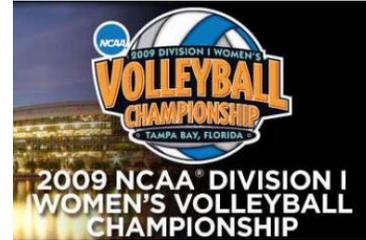
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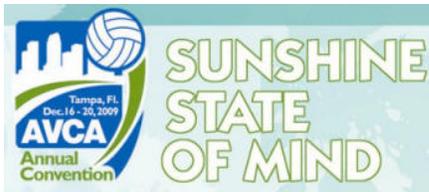
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## NCAA VOLLEYBALL FINAL FOUR

The University of South Florida and Tampa Bay Sports Commission are hosting the 2009 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships in Tampa Bay, Florida at the St. Pete's Time Forum on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Youth group tickets will be available through November 13<sup>th</sup>. All session tickets are \$20. This includes two semifinal matches and NCAA championship for youth groups of 10 or more. To get more info and purchase tickets follow the link on the Region website: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).



## AVCA CONVENTION (FOR COACHES)



The 2009 AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches' Association) Annual Convention will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> in Tampa at the Tampa Convention Center. This is a great training and networking opportunity for volleyball coaches in Florida. Be sure to register by November 6<sup>th</sup> in order to take advantage of the early registration discount. For more information on registration, tickets and prices, click on the AVCA link located on the Florida Region website: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

## PAVO CONVENTION (FOR OFFICIALS)

The 2009 PAVO (Professional Association of Volleyball Officials) Convention will be held in Tampa in the St. Pete Times Forum from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. A limited number of NCAA National Championship tickets will be available for PAVO members; a special seating block is provided but limited. Register before November 15<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the early registration fee. For more information on registration, tickets and prices, click on the PAVO link located on the Region website: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS

## REGION CONTACT INFO

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
15014 US Highway 441 Eustis, FL 32726  
T: (352) 742-0080 E: [info@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:info@FloridaVolleyball.org)