



## February 2012: ISSUE 29

### **CONTENTS:**

🏐	<b>Welcome Note from the Commissioner</b>	1
🏐	<b>Letter from the Executive Director</b>	2
🏐	<b>Club Highlight – Venetian Bay Volleyball Club</b>	3
🏐	<b>Indoor IMPACT Coaching Clinic</b>	5
🏐	<b>Team Florida Indoor HP All-Stars Tryouts</b>	6
🏐	<b>Power-Core 360</b>	6
🏐	<b>Wilson Friday Night Adult Series</b>	7
🏐	<b>Team Florida WAVE</b>	7
🏐	<b>Highlight – Jordan Burgess</b>	8
🏐	<b>USAV Members In The News</b>	9
🏐	<b>Membership Options</b>	9
🏐	<b>Membership Count Update</b>	10

### WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Florida Region Members,

With the 2012 indoor season in full swing, we are enjoying a great start with many tournaments already completed. We are on pace to break our membership mark set last year at 11,000. We will be hiring our sixth staff member in the form of an Events Coordinator to assist with our events department.

We are also hosting the Wilson Friday night series for adults where we play in a convention center associated with a junior’s event. Bring your shoes, shorts and a shirt and join us on the court for some adult volleyball! Please check our website for the dates and locations where we will play.

Good luck in the indoor season and plan on joining us on the outdoor side for some great beach volleyball.

**James Phillips**  
 Commissioner  
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The month of January came and went in a flash! As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun!" We are having a lot of fun and it's an exciting time for the sport of volleyball here in Florida. There are more events than ever before on the schedule and our region leadership is working diligently to create safe and fun environments for everyone involved. At the end of January we surpassed our mark of 10,000 members and we are working towards our goal of having 12,000 members for the 2012 season. We invite you to help us accomplish this goal and move towards being one of the top 5 regions in the USA Volleyball family.

Here are some future events that you have to look forward to in 2012:

- 🏐 Team Florida WAVE Women's Pro Volleyball Team Exhibition Matches in March & April
- 🏐 FCVL Spring Break Tournament @ Cloverleaf in March
- 🏐 USAV Dig the Beach Tour (More Info Coming in March!)
- 🏐 Team Florida HP All-Star Program (Indoor & Beach)
- 🏐 Florida Tour of Champions (4 Cities in Florida)
- 🏐 Wilson Friday Night Adult Series (At Tour of Champions Events)
- 🏐 Regional PC360 Training Clinics (At Tour of Champions Events)
- 🏐 ASICS Girls' Jr. Regional Qualifier in April
- 🏐 Florida Region Awards Ceremony in May
- 🏐 Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships in May
- 🏐 Senior Regional Volleyball Championships in May
- 🏐 PVL Championships in May (Salt Lake City, UT)
- 🏐 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships in June
- 🏐 Board of Director Elections
- 🏐 Volleyball Hall of Fame Update
- 🏐 London Olympics (GO USA!)

Check the Florida Region website ([www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)) often for updates on these and many other programs in 2012.

Wishing you the best,

**Steve Bishop**, CYSA  
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball  
[www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)





## CLUB HIGHLIGHT – VENETIAN BAY VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Each month a member club is featured in **Vol-eNews**. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the clubs throughout Florida. This month **Brian Wheatley** and **Venetian Bay Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

### **Q: Tell us about your volleyball career.**

**A:** Growing up near Santa Cruz, California, I would go see the Professional AVP Beach tournaments and liked it so much that I started to play sand and grass tournaments. In high school, boys' volleyball was just forming and many of us would practice with the girls' team and the girls' coach would let the girls play against us in practice so they could get better. I went to San Jose State University and made the Men's Varsity Volleyball Team. Even though I was one of the shortest guys on the team at 6 foot, I played outside hitter but I took most pride in not letting the ball hit the floor on defense. Playing schools like Stanford, Cal, USC, and Santa Barbara really opened my eyes to Indoor Volleyball and the excitement that the Men's game brought to fans and players.

### **Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishment in volleyball?**

**A:** I have a quote that I like and it says "Things that are built to last are not built fast". In this day and age of coaches who come and go quickly, I knew I wanted to build a program that would be consistently successful each year on and off the court and not just be a one year wonder every once in awhile. After 18 years of teaching Physical Education and being the Head Volleyball Coach at Venice High School, I feel that our consistent success on and off the court, year after year, has been my biggest accomplishment. On the court, we have played in 4 State Championship matches and won 2 of them but the biggest accomplishment is the quality of girls that consistently comes through our program and being able to hopefully have made an impact on their life through my actions and words. Even though we have sent over 35 players on volleyball scholarships around the country, I have always said that we will know how successful we have been 20 years after a player graduates through our program.

### **Q: Tell us about the transition from player to coach. What made you decide to become a coach?**

**A:** My junior year in college, I transferred from San Jose State in California to Auburn University in Alabama. When I got there, Auburn only had a Men's Club team and not a Varsity team so I asked the Auburn Women's Coach, Liz Bitzer, if I could help the team out.



Through that experience, I learned how to run a practice, break down film, scout, and be a match coach and learn all the different facets of a program. I really enjoyed the experience and knew that I wanted to be a coach.

**Q: What are all the job titles you currently hold? How do you manage all of those responsibilities?**

**A:** I have been working at Venice High School in Venice, FL since 1994. I am the department chair for the Physical Education department and Head Volleyball Coach. I am also the founder and Director of Venetian Bay Volleyball Club since 1998. We usually carry about 9 teams in the club. I am currently the 11-1 Santa Cruz Coach for VBAY which my daughter plays on. The main thing is to keep the big picture in mind and know what is really important in life. But my main job is to be a husband and father first.

**Q: What do you like to do in your "spare" time?**

**A:** I have a beautiful wife, Lisa, and two kids, Brooke (10) and Luke (8), and love hanging out with them, especially being out on the boat on a hot summer afternoon. While my daughter is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of club volleyball, my son is heavily involved in baseball, basketball, and soccer. I also love to fish and watch Auburn Football Games. War Eagle!

**Q: With the addition of the first indoor women's pro volleyball team in the Florida Region and the addition of sand volleyball as a college sport, what is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years?**

**A:** Being from the West Coast, I saw first hand how popular volleyball had become, mainly because kids started playing at such a young age. I remember sitting in elementary class listening to the announcements and hearing the volleyball scores of our school playing other elementary schools and that was back in the early '80s. With the addition of many more clubs adding volley-totz and 10 and under teams, Florida is on the right path. Being in Florida, beaches come to mind and with the addition of sand volleyball, more and more kids and families will be introduced to the game earlier and at a more rapid pace which will be great for growth. Also, with the addition of a pro team, girls can now have the same dreams as the boys in becoming a professional athlete in the sport that they love.

**Q: If you could brag about your club, what would you say?**

**A:** I would say that we have an awesome coaching staff who knows the importance of being a good role model and knowing that proper feedback is the



key to maximizing potential. They also have a passion for coaching and it's obvious when you watch our teams play.

**Q: What are some of your goals for your club?**

**A:** We want to create a climate and culture that values people over productivity. We want the families and coaches in our club to sense a "family type" atmosphere where the process, specifically technique, is emphasized over a team's win/loss record as a measure of our success. We want kids to know that they are special and each have different talents and those talents, blended together with others, make up a true team.

**Q: How many of your club kids have gone to play college volleyball? What colleges?**

**A:** Venice is not a metropolitan area like Tampa, Orlando, and Miami so the majority of our kids are home grown from Venice and we also have kids sprinkled in from Bradenton, Sarasota, Punta Gorda, and Ft. Myers. We have sent over 40 players who have gone on to play at the next level at schools like Ole Miss, Marshall, West Virginia, Georgetown, Stetson, Colgate, University of Tampa, Florida Southern, West Florida, American U., Hofstra U., and others.

**Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region?**

**A:** I look forward to our region growing and seeing the leadership of Steve Bishop lead our region to being one of the best in the nation.

*Thanks Brian for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011/2012 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Chad Davis** and **Gainesville Juniors**.*

**INDOOR IMPACT COACHING CLINIC**

There is an indoor IMPACT coaching clinic scheduled this month in Jacksonville. Please register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

**Feb 24, 2012**

**Prime Osborn Convention Center**

1000 Water Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
(904) 630-4000

**Time:** 6:00pm-10:00pm

**Instructor:** Jose Rivera

Note: The District hosted clinics are **FREE** to all registered Florida Region coaches. Registration must be submitted no later than seven (7) days prior to the clinic.



**TEAM FLORIDA INDOOR HP ALL-STAR TRYOUTS**

We just wrapped up the first round of **Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Tryouts** in Daytona Beach on Feb. 3! Below are the dates for the remaining HP Tryouts in Florida. Please note that the deadline for taking advantage of the online registration tryout fee is 2pm on the day prior to the respective tryout. If you have any questions, please contact [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org).

**TEAM FLORIDA HP TRYOUT INFO:**

- Feb 24 – Jacksonville** (Girls)
- Mar 23 – Ft. Lauderdale** (Girls & Boys)
- Apr 13 – Tampa** (Girls)



**NOTE:** The age definitions for HP candidates are as follows:

- Girls**-1991 & above
- Boys**-1992 & above

For more information, please visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!

**POWER-CORE 360**

Power-Core 360 regional training clinics are available for athletes that want to take it to the next level. Led by our Team Florida WAVE women's pro team coach **Nick Cheronis**, each clinic will help you generate substantially more power and arm speed by incorporating the larger, stronger, more powerful muscles of the legs, core, trunk, and arms to turn the body faster. Sign up below to attend a Power-Core 360 regional training clinic prior to your Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star tryout.



- Clinic dates:** Same as Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Tryouts (see above)
- Clinic time:** 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- Clinic price:** \$99 per athlete (14 & Above Only!)

Just add the clinic to your tryout registration at check out! Note: You can also attend a PC360 Regional Training Clinic without trying out for HP. See the Region website for details!



## WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT SERIES

### ATTENTION ADULT PLAYERS, CLUB COACHES, & OFFICIALS!

The Wilson Friday Night Adult Series was created to give adult players, clubs coaches, and officials an opportunity to come together and enjoy the game for a few hours the night before the tournament begins. Each host has been kind enough to provide up to 4 courts at each site. Come out and enjoy the music and fun...and make some new friends at the same time. We hope to see you at an upcoming event! Email Steve Benson at [sbenson@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@floridavolleyball.org) to sign up!

### UPCOMING EVENT DATE

**Fri - February 24, 2012**

Prime Osborn Convention Center - Jacksonville, FL

Host: JJVA Jax Jam (Mary Andrew)

### EVENT TIME

Check-in Begins @ 5:30p, Matches at 6:30p, 7:30p, & 8:30p

Teams will be finalized at 6:15p

Teams will play either 1 pool of 3 on 1 court or...1 pool of 4 on 2 courts!

### COST

\$10 per person (USAV Members)

\$20 per person (Non-USAV Members)

## TEAM FLORIDA WAVE



The **Team Florida WAVE** is gearing up for their first competition date on March 17 at UCF. The **WAVE** is the first indoor women's pro volleyball team in Florida and is part of the new **Premier Volleyball League (PVL)** sanctioned by USA Volleyball. The PVL is made up of teams from among the 40 Regional Volleyball Associations across the country. It will offer a single League Championship every year. This year, the championship will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, at the USA Open

National Championships in May.

The WAVE is comprised of post-collegiate female athletes from around the state of Florida and are led by Nick Cheronis, former UF Associate Head Coach. Athletes are excited for the opportunity to stay close to home and play professionally. "This is a great experience to be able to play on a pro team in Florida," said Benavia Jenkins, a former player for UF. "After playing overseas for many years, this is a chance for my family to be able to see me play in our home state."



## HIGHLIGHT – JORDAN BURGESS

The Florida Region would like to recognize **Jordan Burgess** for her outstanding volleyball career, and especially being named the **2011 Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year!** A few days after receiving the award, she was also named **Miss Volleyball USA** by **ESPNHS**. As a 6' Outside Hitter for **Tampa Bay Juniors** and Berkeley Prep., Burgess' hard work and commitment throughout her volleyball career have made her a role model for volleyball athletes of all ages.



**Q: What did it mean to you to be chosen as the 2011 Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year and to be presented with the award by pro volleyball player and former Gatorade NVPOY, April Ross?**

**A:** It was a huge honor and extremely humbling to receive the Gatorade National Player of the Year Award! Since I started playing volleyball in seventh grade, I dreamed about receiving the award but it was always such a far off hope... I never let myself believe that I would actually get it (maybe this was a good thing because it kept me fighting for more!). When April walked in with the trophy in her arms, I almost started crying. I was sincerely as happy as I could be... nothing was going through my head other than disbelief and utter joy. I remember during the ceremony in front of my school, hearing Chad Konecky, the National Director of the Gatorade Player of the Year Program, rattling off names of past winners... including Logan Tom, Kerri Walsh, Dwight Howard, LeBron James, and Candice Parker. What an honor for my name to make its way into the same sentence with those athletes. I instantly found myself at the bottom of a steep mountain of the most elite athletes in the world. What a humbling experience!

**Q: Tell us what it takes to be a devoted volleyball athlete?**

**A:** Time management and lots of training have been staples of my road so far with volleyball. I've found that my life is a bit different than that of a typical teenager. I have never been the type to hang out with friends every weekend, I suppose because school, volleyball, hanging out with family, and training have always taken up the majority of my time. While it's different, I've always thought of it as a commitment I was making because it's been exactly what I wanted to do. In terms of volleyball... training has always been my favorite thing



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to do! I've found that quality is much more important than quantity... reps are valuable and making each one count is extremely helpful! Working out is equally important and the biggest thing that I would suggest, aside from regular weight lifting, is beach training! The impact that it makes on core strength, agility, and vertical is irreplaceable.

## **Q: What are you looking forward to in your future with volleyball?**

**A:** In the next several months, I am looking forward to a great club season with Tampa Bay Juniors. We have a good team this year and are training for a national title! This fall, I will be heading to Stanford University to play volleyball. The opportunities there are endless. I hope to help bring home four national titles while I am there. GO CARDINALS! After college, I am hoping to play professionally and my ultimate dream is to represent the US on the Olympic Team. Of course, this dream is very far off but it is something to work for and fuels me everyday!

## **USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

- **Jordan Burgess**, 6' outside hitter from Tampa Bay Jrs. and Berkeley Prep. was named the **2011 Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year** and **Miss Volleyball USA** by ESPNHS. Way to go, Jordan!
- **Christine Moskovits**, a coach for Southern Select Volleyball, has been named as the new head coach for the women's volleyball program at **Warner University**.
- Current Florida State enrollee and former Treasure Coast player **Nicole Walch** has been named one of 51 senior finalists for the **2011 PrepVolleyball.com National Player of the Year** award.

**If you or someone you know is making headlines, please let us know by contacting [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org). You could see your name in the next Issue of Vol-eNews!**

## **MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS**

The **Spectator/Fan Membership** option is available for \$25 and includes a full year, NON-PLAYING membership with secondary insurance and entrance into all Florida Region hosted tournaments. This membership option is ideal for those members that plan on attending more than one USAV Event this year. \$25 cost...\$30 value!



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There is a also new **FREE** membership for all youth who are 8 years old and under. This is a limited membership and must be upgraded to play in any qualifiers or national competition. If you have any questions, please contact [MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org).

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of January 1, 2012, the Florida Region has **10,201** members. We are on our way to meeting our goal of 12,000 members! Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

## REGION INFORMATION

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
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Eustis, FL 32726

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### Board Members:

- James Phillips**, Commissioner
- Shanon Lewis**, Asst. Commissioner
- Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mary Andrew**, Indoor Chair
- Kendra Vanzwieten**, Outdoor Chair
- Darin Clark**, Official's Chair

### Staff:

- Steve Bishop**, Exec. Director/President
- Steve Benson**, Events Manager
- Michele Sisser**, Registrar/Office Manager
- Krissy McKane**, Marketing Coordinator
- Sue Wainio-Oato**, Official's Coordinator

### Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

- Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton**

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