



March 2012: ISSUE 30

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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE OUTDOOR CHAIR

Florida Region Members,

I am pleased to announce that the 2012 Florida beach volleyball schedule is now available! The Dig the Beach Series has been a strong tour for twenty years and has given us so many opportunities to grow the sport in all levels of the game. With the Florida Region assuming the management responsibilities for the USAV DTB Tour, there will be many things to look forward to this beach season.

The Board and staff of the FL Region have been working hard to improve the player experience, for both juniors and adults, while still striving to maintain the beach culture that we all know and love. Along with the USAV Dig the Beach Tour, both SSOVA and FBVT will once again have USAV sanctioned affiliate events during the summer! With over 20 beach tour stops on the schedule for junior and adults, our beach volleyball calendar is packed! We look forward to seeing you at a beach in Florida very soon!

Kendra VanZwieten, Outdoor Chair
Florida Region of USA Volleyball



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our 2012 indoor season is well underway and the Region office is busier than ever before. With almost 70 region managed events on the schedule this season, we are pursuing our mission of aggressively promoting the sport of volleyball and creating playing opportunities for players of all ages.

I want to take a moment and thank our Commissioner and the Board of Directors for allowing us to blaze new trails and implement new programs each year. I also want to recognize my hardworking staff for their tireless commitment to the Florida Region. They can often be found coming in early, working late, and finishing up projects on the weekends to keep the corporation moving forward. They are a great team and I can confidently say on their behalf that we all consider it an honor to be able to serve our Florida Region members across the state. On that note, I am proud to welcome our new Events Coordinator, **Heather Cormier** to the team. She starts next week and already has a half dozen projects waiting for her on day one. Please join me in welcoming Heather to the team.

On another note, we have several new strategic partnerships that have been finalized since our last edition of Vol-eNews. The following companies have signed on or renewed as corporate partners with the Florida Region:

- 🏐 **ASICS America** – Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Program and the Team Florida WAVE
- 🏐 **1st Place Volleyball** – Official Branding Partner for the Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Program and the Team Florida WAVE
- 🏐 **ROX Volleyball** – Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program and the USAV Dig the Beach Tour
- 🏐 **Exclusive Sports Marketing** – Official Tour Partner for the USAV Dig the Beach Tour
- 🏐 **Orlando Sports Center** – Official Training Site for the Team Florida WAVE
- 🏐 **Marriott Hotels** – Official Hotel Partner for the Team Florida WAVE

Please join us by showing your appreciation to these great companies for their amazing support of the Florida Region. Stay tuned for another update next month..

Let us know how we are doing and how we can help you,

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball
steve@FloridaVolleyball.org





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – GAINESVILLE JUNIORS

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 **Chad Davis** and **Gainesville Juniors** will be highlighted.



Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: I have been coaching since 1994, which is when I started coaching high school. I started coaching club for Gainesville Juniors while I was a student at UF in 1997. Overall, I have been coaching for 18 years.

Q: What are all the job titles you currently hold?

A: I am the Executive Director of the club and Head Coach of the 13 Black team and 14 Black team. It's a lot of work but I am very fortunate to have a great staff of coaches, club treasurers and secretary, and great parent groups.

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

A: There is not much of it these days but when an occasional free weekend comes on the schedule, taking a trip to the beach, or hanging out with our coaches/friends is always a good time.

Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishment(s) in volleyball?

A: For high school volleyball, it would be the State Title with Gainesville HS in 2000 and taking three different high schools to the Final Four. For club volleyball, it would be qualifying a team for Junior Olympics every year and a 9th place finish in Open in 2001 at the Junior Olympics when it was held in Utah, giving Gainesville Juniors a top ten team in the country. None of this could have been accomplished without outstanding players and assistant coaches.

Q: What are the differences in coaching high school compared to club?

A: Obviously the main difference is that the high school team is comprised of only players that go to that school, whereas, in club, you can have a team with players from all area schools on it. Also, the school pride/tradition and the rivalries with other area high schools make high school volleyball very unique. Finally, the compactness of the season in high school is a huge difference. It is similar in that you are basically dealing with the same age range of players and so many high school players play club now.

Q: What is the size of your club currently? And when it was started? **A:** We have 9 teams with a total of 91 players in our club. Our club was started in 1995 by Terry Tougaw. Chip Williams took over as Director in 1998 and under his direction we began to experience success in the Region and at national qualifiers.

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

A: It is amazing how much the Florida Region has grown over the years and new volleyball clubs continue to emerge in all regions. The growth is obvious with the addition of the National and American divisions at Nationals and the expansion of the Open Division. The quality of play in the younger age groups gets better every year. The growth of beach volleyball programs is awesome and with it being added as a college sport will only continue to grow.



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

A: We are very proud of our history and tradition at Gainesville Juniors. Every year we average 3 teams qualifying for Nationals which given our city's size is something we take great pride in. We have sent over 80 players onto college with volleyball scholarships and we look forward to that number growing in the coming years. I feel we have one of Florida's best coaching staffs and we stress the importance in the quality of coaching offered here at Gainesville Juniors. We won our first AAU National Championship last year (15 Club). Now that we have Gainesville's first and only year round volleyball facility we look forward to our teams and players becoming even better with more training time.

Q: What future plans do you have for your club?

A: Now that we have our own facility, we are excited about the expansion of our program, not only in Gainesville, but also the surrounding areas such as High Springs. This year marked the first time we have had 10, 11, and 12 year old teams and we look forward to that continuing. We are going to add a beach volleyball program this summer and will continue to work to add a boy's program. We are beginning our fundraising towards a 4th court for our facility and look forward to running summer camps and enhancing our mini-club program in the fall.

Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region? **A:** The Florida Region's growth under Steve Bishop and his staff has been amazing and that growth will continue. That is evident by the membership numbers climbing which led to an additional bid being granted in the 12's division which is great. Every year more Florida teams qualify for Nationals, and the region as a whole competes very well at Nationals. The success of the Florida High Performance Program and Junior Beach program is directly attributed at the Region's leadership hard work. The creation of the Florida Pro Women's team, the Florida Wave is exciting, and will hopefully lead to a permanent successful league here in the United States. I look forward to seeing more Florida teams at Nationals and continued growth in all avenues of volleyball as the Florida region becomes a pioneer in many areas of the sport.

*Thanks Chad 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 **Bonnie Priester** and **South Brevard Spirit Volleyball Club**.*

INDOOR IMPACT COACHING CLINIC

There is an indoor IMPACT coaching clinic scheduled this month in Ft. Lauderdale. Please register online at www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

Mar 23, 2012

Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center

1950 Eisenhower Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 765-5900

Time: 6:00pm-10:00pm

Instructor: TBD



USAV DIG THE BEACH TOUR

The Florida Region has announced a change in tour management of the **Dig the Beach Tour**. Florida Region has assumed all management responsibilities for the longest running beach tour in Florida and will now be the only region in USA Volleyball to manage a large multi-stop tour. USAV Dig the Beach tour stops in 2012 will take place in four of the most desirable beaches in Florida:



- Apr 14-15** Ft. Lauderdale Tour Kickoff, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- May 12-13** Clearwater Classic & ROX Jr. Beach Kickoff, Clearwater Beach
(Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Tryout, 12u-26u)
- Jun 2-3** Ft. Myers Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Myers Beach
(Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Tryout, 12u-26u)
- Jun 9-10** Siesta Key Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach
(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)
- Jun 30-Jul 1** Ft. Lauderdale Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)
- Jul 14-15** Siesta Key Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach
- Jul 28-29** Ft. Lauderdale Open & ROX Jr. Series Championships, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- Aug 4-5** Clearwater Open & DTB Tour Championships, Clearwater Beach

The Florida Region leadership anticipates several tour enhancements in 2012 to help the Dig the Beach Tour maintain its position as the premier beach series in Florida:

- New 8U & 10U divisions on Sunday with smaller courts and lower nets
- New 21U & 26U divisions on Sunday for college age athletes
- New 45 & Over (Masters) divisions for adults on Saturday
- Lower cost Open Division entry fees
- Credentials & photo opportunities for Open/Pro Players
- Enhanced center court layout/awards podium sponsored by ROX VB
- "How well do you know the pros" trivia
- USAV officials on both center courts all day on Saturday
- DTB Tour apparel featuring the latest styles
- Player highlights for Open/Pro players and up-and-coming junior athletes
- Junior National Beach Tour Qualifiers for junior athletes (x2)
- ROX Beach Girls on Saturday for raffles, photos, and prize giveaways



Stay tuned for additional beach tour information...registration begins on March 5!

AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2012 Florida Region Awards Ceremony is **April 1!** You don't have to place a vote for every category...but vote for as many as you can so that we can recognize the amazing people that make our Region great! Visit the Region website to vote today! **We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 18th in Orlando!**





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2012 ASICS GIRLS' JR. REGIONAL QUALIFIER

What: 2012 ASICS Girls' Junior Regional Qualifier

When: April 28-29, 2012

Where: Orange Co. Convention Cntr.
South Hall A - Orlando, FL

Who: For Girl's Junior Teams 12u-18u

36 Courts - Up to 288 Teams!

For Girl's Junior Teams: 12u-18u
Playing Divisions: 12u, 13u, 14u, 15u, 16u, 17u, 18u

Wave Assignments (TENTATIVE) - As of Jan 1, 2012
AM Wave (8:00AM): 12u, 16u, 17u, 18u
PM Wave (2:30PM): 13u, 14u, 15u



NOTE: In order to be in compliance to compete in the Qualifier, please remember to register your teams for the JNC's (Junior National Championships) and send your official entry forms and checks in the amount of \$900 (made out to **USA Volleyball**) to the Florida Region Office by **April 1!**

Deadline to register teams in AES: Mar 27, 2012!

Admission for fans/spectators is \$8 per day.
We will also offer a two-day pass on Saturday for \$15.

See the Region Website for details!

2012 GIRLS' JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

What: 2012 Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships

When: May 19-20, 2012

Where: Orange Co. Convention Cntr.
West Hall A - Orlando, FL

Who: For Girl's Junior Teams
10u-18u

50 Courts - Up to 400 Teams!

Wave Assignments (TENTATIVE) - As of Jan 15, 2012
AM Wave (8:00AM): 10u, 11u, 15O, 16O, 16C, 17O, 17C, 18u
PM Wave (2:30PM): 12O, 12C, 13O, 13C, 14O, 14C, 15C



Deadline to register teams in AES: May 18, 2012!

This year, we will be adding a **Senior Regional Volleyball Championships** in conjunction with the **Girls' Regional Volleyball Championships**. This will be for Men & Women, **ages 50 and above only!** If you are interested in participating in this new event, please contact Steve Benson at SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org.



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TEAM FLORIDA INDOOR HP ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

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.

TEAM FLORIDA HP TRYOUT INFO:

Mar 23 – Ft. Lauderdale (Girls & Boys)
(in conjunction with the Cloverleaf Invitational)
Apr 13 – Tampa (Girls)
(in conjunction with the Tampa United Slam)

NOTE: The age definitions for HP candidates are as follows:
Girls-1993 & above
Boys-1994 & above

For more information, please visit 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 online at www.FloridaVolleyball.org 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!)

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 to sign up!

UPCOMING EVENT DATE

Fri - March 23, 2012
Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center - Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Host: Cloverleaf Invitational (Sam Skelton)

EVENT TIME

Check-in Begins @ 5:30p, Matches at 6:30p, 7:30p, & 8:30p
Teams will be finalized at 6:15p





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 is led by Nick Cheronis, former UF Associate Head Coach. **Tanya Jarvis**, a 5'9 outside hitter from **Orlando** gave us some insight on her experience so far with the WAVE:

What are your thoughts on the team so far?

It is a very fun group combined of years of playing and coaching experience.

Our desire to continue to play volleyball for the love of the game is evident in all of us and is what drives us to make this experience the best we can. The amount of time and dedication everyone has put in and will continue to put in is a great example that our hearts are in the right place and we realize we are fortunate to be the starting chapter to a story that will soon be bigger than all of us.

What expectations do you have for this season?

I am sure it will be a successful season. We are improving and getting to all know each other a little better each practice. I hope we will have the opportunity to really get the world out about the WAVE and get people as excited and interested as we are.

Where do you hope to see yourself and the WAVE pro team in the next 5 years?

I hope this is the start of what we all know it has the potential to be and can be. Youth volleyball is such a vast growing sport; more girls are playing in college and wanting to continue on after. To have something available to them here in the states when they are finished has all of the potential to be successful and a goal/dream for so many.

Come on out and support the WAVE in their first competition on March 17 @ UCF!

BEACH COACHING CLINIC – LARGO, FL

All beach coaches must attend a **Regional Beach Coaching Clinic** (at a minimum) to participate in any USAV Jr. Beach event. Coaches that successfully complete a Regional or National Beach Coaching Clinic will be eligible to coach at any USAV junior beach event in Florida.

There is a regional beach coaching clinic tentatively scheduled for **Mar 11** in **Largo, FL**. If you are interested in attending this regional beach coaching clinic, please contact Steve Benson, Events Manager, at SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org.





VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME

Steve Bishop, Executive Director of the Florida Region, has been invited to sit on the Volleyball Hall of Fame Board of Directors. The Volleyball Hall of Fame was established for the purpose of planning, promoting, establishing and maintaining a living memorial to the sport of volleyball.

Steve Bishop commented: "I am humbled by this opportunity. I had the great pleasure of meeting the board and staff of the Volleyball Hall of Fame during Rita Crockett's hall of fame induction ceremony in 2011. In my opinion, this organization is one of volleyball's best kept secrets. As the only regional representative in our USA Volleyball family to be invited to sit on this board, my personal goal is to expand the participation and support of the Volleyball Hall of Fame and help them promote the stories and history of our great sport. I am very excited to serve in this role and I hope to serve the members of the Florida region and our collective USA Volleyball family with distinction."



Congratulations Steve...we know you will make the Florida Region and USA Volleyball very proud!

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The deadline to submit nominations for the **2012 Board of Director** Elections is **April 15!** Nominations will start **April 1** and will end **April 15**. Check the Region Website for updates.

The positions open for election are as follows:

- o **Commissioner**
- o **Indoor Chair**
- o **Assistant Commissioner (By Appointment)**

FLORIDA REGION USAV SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline to submit your 2012 Scholarship Application Packet is April 1!

The following scholarships will be awarded: (Note: These scholarships may be divided into multiple awards with the minimum being \$500.)

1. **Edward "Ned" DeGroot Memorial Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
2. **Ben Jordan Memorial Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
3. **Mark Headrick Memorial Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
4. **Marriott "Serving the Community" Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
5. **ASICS "Sound Mind, Sound Body" Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
6. **ROX/1st Place Volleyball Scholarship** - \$1,000.00
7. **Commissioner's Scholarship** - \$500.00

OUTDOOR JR. FORUM MEETING

There will be an **outdoor junior forum meeting** via conference call on **Mar 15**. This conference call will be open to all club directors that would like to discuss any ideas or concerns pertinent to this year's outdoor season. Below is the conference call info:

Date: Mar 15

Time: 8:00pm to 9:30pm - **Open to all Club Directors**

Dial In #: 866-576-7975

Code: 109816



NEW EVENTS COORDINATOR

Please join us in welcoming Heather Cormier as the new Events Coordinator for the Florida Region!

Here is what Heather had to say about joining the Florida Region Staff:

First off, I am very excited to join the Florida Region team as the Events Coordinator. I have had a passion for volleyball for many years and now I have the opportunity to apply that passion to my career. I am a Navy brat and was born in New London, Connecticut. After living in New England for a few years, my father got stationed on a nuclear submarine in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, where we lived for four years. We then moved to Florida in 1998.

I am a recent graduate of the University of Florida where I studied Telecommunications Management with a minor in Communications Studies and a Business concentration. During my time as a Gator, I was the president of the Women's Club Volleyball team and also coached both high school and club volleyball. After graduating, I began to work for the University-owned radio and television stations in the Sales and Promotions department. There, I served as an assistant to the Sales department, working on sales packages, research, and marketing materials. I also worked closely with the Promotions department, helping to plan station events, organize on-air contesting, and maintain the stations' image.

Growing up in Hawaii and Florida has definitely turned me into a beach lover and I can't wait to spend my summer at the 2012 USAV Dig the Beach Events!

You can welcome Heather to the USA Volleyball Family by sending her a note at Heather@FloridaVolleyball.org.

USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- o University of Miami senior **Lane Carico**, who took home top honors as **ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year**, was also recognized on the **2011-12 ACC All-Academic Volleyball Team** along with her teammates and Florida Region members: senior **Ali Becker** and sophomore **Alexandria Johnson**. **Carico** is the first player in the history of the program to win the prestigious award. All three athletes also coach for South Florida Volleyball Club in Miami.
- o Suncoast Volleyball Club coach **Kristen Batt** is expected to play in the **4C Totally Light 2Go Big Shot Volleyball Series** presented by Rider Sandals when it swings through Florida in March and April. **Batt** and Estero's **Brooke Sweat** are considered the top women's team on the east coast.
- o Tallahassee Jrs. Volleyball Club player and Leon High School standout, **Rachel Garrett**, has committed to **Bryan College** women's volleyball program.



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



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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!

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.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of March 1, 2012, the Florida Region has **10,472** 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.
15010 US Highway 441
Eustis, FL 32726

T: (352) 742-0080
F: (352) 414-5304
E: info@FloridaVolleyball.org
Web: www.FloridaVolleyball.org

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 Mgr.
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
Heather Cormier, Events Coordinator
Sue Wainio-Oato, Official's Coordinator

Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION CORPORATE PARTNERS



The Official Outdoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Florida Region HP All-Star Program since 2006!



The Official Indoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program!

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION BUSINESS PARTNERS

