



# Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

**The official source for Florida volleyball news!**



**July 2013: ISSUE 46**

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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE ASST. COMMISSIONER**

WOW, where does a person begin talking about what is happening in the Florida Region? As reported by our Executive Director last month, the teams representing our region at the USA Volleyball Opens made quite a statement. Not being affiliated with the teams, I was able to overhear conversations that our teams, coaches and staff may not have been privy to. Things like...”where did these Florida teams come from? (I really did hear this)”...”Do they play volleyball in Florida? (heard on Men’s Open court where California Teams have dominated)...”I guess we need to start paying attention to the Florida Region! (from a group of players on PVL court).

This is just the beginning of the Championship Season. Our Girl’s and Boy’s Junior Regional Championships are completed. Just around the corner are the national Championships for Juniors where Florida will be well represented. High Performance will be taking place in Ft. Lauderdale late July, with a record number of Florida teams. Beach Season is in full swing with tournaments almost every weekend around the state. So to answer the question heard on the Men’s Open Court in Louisville, “you’re darn right we play volleyball in Florida!” And there is more on the way.

Your Board of Directors held a retreat this month where region business was discussed and strategic planning took place. Many ideas were discussed on the future for our region. Things like establishing a Boy’s Advisory Committee, On-Line Check-in for Tournaments, and Releases and Transfers just to name a few. As stated by our Commissioner, we, your Board, are listening and will continue to move this Region in the direction **you** want. Please keep talking to us.

Have a safe and volleyball summer,

**Doug Darling**  
Assistant Commissioner



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from Reno, Nevada! I am attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Men's PVL Championships that is taking place in conjunction with the 2013 USAV Boys' Jr. National Championships. This is an exciting time for our sport as we wrap up our first year of men's indoor pro volleyball and our second year of women's indoor pro volleyball in the US.

Our men's Florida Wave team is one of 5 men's pro teams competing in Reno and we are currently 4-0 after two days of pool play. We have two more days of competition as we enter the double elimination playoff brackets as the #1 seed. Our goal is to continue the winning streak and make it to the finals on Tuesday night at 6pm (9pm Florida time) to win a share of the \$10,000 prize purse. You can follow the team's progress at any of the following links:

- 🌐 PVL website: [www.usapvl.com](http://www.usapvl.com)
- 🌐 PVL Twitter: [www.twitter.com/usapvl](http://www.twitter.com/usapvl)
- 🌐 FL Region FB: [www.facebook.com/FloridaRegion](http://www.facebook.com/FloridaRegion)
- 🌐 AES: [www.advancedeventsystems.com](http://www.advancedeventsystems.com)

I also want to wish the very best to all of the teams competing in the 2013 USAV Boys' Jr. National Championships here in Reno and also to the teams at the Girls' Jr. National Championships in Dallas, TX. Florida has many teams competing for a national championship title and we are hopeful that we will be able to report back some positive news in next month's *Vol-eNews* newsletter.

Lastly, we have four remaining DTB tour stops on the outdoor schedule in Florida. Since all four of our previous tour stops have sold out before the registration deadline, I want to encourage you to sign up early to make sure you can join us at some of the most beautiful beaches in Florida.

Let us know how we are doing. We hope to see you soon!

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball

E-Mail: [steve@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:steve@floridavolleyball.org)





### **CLUB HIGHLIGHT – FMB SANDGIRLS JR. BEACH VBC**

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 **David Case** and **FMB SandGirls Jr. Beach VBC** will be highlighted.

**Q: Tell us how you got involved with the sport of volleyball.**

**A:** Growing up on Fort Myers beach, I always played beach volleyball. It wasn't until a player from Orlando named Kipp and also a young man at the time, Dave Carstenson (who actually knew the rules) did I finally take it seriously, that I then starting competing in the late 80's.

**Q: When and why did you start FMB SandGirls Jr. Beach VBC?**

**A:** FMB SandGirls was started over 2 years ago. As a family, myself, my wife and daughters all play beach. It's a great way of life for our family and always has been. When we noticed a great interest in the sport of beach volleyball and with so many great indoor players who wanted to learn, we assessed that there were very limited structured programs and a serious need for actual beach coaching. We felt it was a great time to start FMB SandGirls VBC.

**Q: Why do you do what you do? What motivates you?**

**A:** Myself and our coaches, love teaching the girls. They have a great desire to learn and we absolutely love when they apply what they have learned on the court. Also, a great motivator for me and our coaches is their victory when competing and just seeing them grow as a player. We are also motivated by the success and recognition that beach volleyball is finally getting.

**Q: What do you do for fun when you're not coaching or working?**

**A:** Believe it or not, in my spare time you can find me most likely on the court playing. Both myself and our coaches are still competitive players, so needless to say, that's when we get our training time in. Not to mention we just love the game.

**Q: In your opinion, what does beach volleyball offer junior athletes now that it didn't 10 years ago?**

**A:** For one, college beach volleyball and beach scholarships are now offered. Unlike ten years ago, when the junior tournaments were just a small, if even existent, part of a beach tournament weekend and training was just playing pick up on the beach.

**Q: What are some benefits of playing beach volleyball for those athletes that may only play indoor volleyball and never played beach before?**

**A:** We feel the overall performance of the athlete is increased in every area. The athlete will have a more diversified game, increase stamina, and from working out in the sand, a greater performance all around.

**Q: What are some future plans & goals for your club?**

**A:** To continue offering a great training program for beach volleyball and our ultimate goal is to purchase a beach house so we can set up and have the perfect training facility for our juniors.



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

**A:** FMB SandGirls VBC isn't just a business; it's a way of life for myself, my family, and our coaches. We truly love the sport and we put that into every practice and tournament. Our coaches are true beach players who compete on the highest level. Also, we have the only all-inclusive practices in the area, meaning your junior needs only to bring a towel and a bathing suit; we take care of the rest. Also, our fees are affordable for all incomes.

**Q: What could the Florida Region do to better promote outdoor/beach volleyball?**

**A:** We are very grateful for the Florida Region as a governing body, not only for the great tournaments and great people, but for what they have done for the sport of beach volleyball. Therefore, we have no opinion of how they might do better at this time, other than to extend the competitive season. We have a number of juniors who plan and want to make beach volleyball a year round sport. We are confident that the directors will continue to lead the sport in the right direction.

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

**A:** We look forward to the Florida Region continuing to grow the sport of beach volleyball and we will be along with the Florida Region for the ride. We also look forward to the Florida Region producing the best beach volleyball athletes in the country!

*Thanks David for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2012/2013 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Kent Ammons** and **Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Beach Club**.*

## 2013 MEN'S PVL CHAMPIONSHIPS – RENO, NV

The **2013 Men's PVL Championships** will be held in Reno, NV from Jun 29-Jul 2! This is the first year of the men's PVL and we are excited to announce that Team Florida Wave is coming in ranked as the #1 seed! There will be 5 total men's PVL teams competing:

- Team Florida Wave
- Great Lakes Swing Away
- Team New England
- NORCAL Premier
- Team Western Empire

The PVL teams will be competing for a grand prize of \$10,000! You can watch the action live at [www.livestream.com](http://www.livestream.com)!

### Team Florida Wave Roster

- #1 Sergio Rios, S
- #3 Hudson Bates, OH
- #6 Robert Schramm, MB
- #7 John Michael Plummer, OH
- #8 Antwain Aguillard, MB
- #9 Chad Mercado, OPP





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- #10 Nick Jensen, MB
- #11 Mike landolo, S
- #12 Marshall Brock, OH
- #16 Rob Koehler, MB
- #20 Srdjan Nadazdin, OPP
- #22 Juan Ramirez, LIB
- #24 Kyle Friend, OH



### Coaches

Steve Benson – Head Coach  
 Rob Holley – Assistant Coach  
 Greg Villareal – Assistant Coach

### Staff

Steve Bishop – General Manager  
 Krissy McKane – Team Manager

## USAV DIG THE BEACH TOUR



**Register online early to make sure you secure a spot at the next event!** The deadline to register online is at noon on the Wednesday prior to the respective event. The Florida Dig the Beach tour stops in 2013 will take place in 5 of the most desirable beaches in Florida:

- Jul 13-14** Siesta Key Open & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Siesta Key Beach
- Jul 27-28** Ft. Lauderdale Open & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- Aug 3-4** Clearwater Open & ROX Jr. Series Championships, Clearwater Beach
- Aug 17-18** DTB Tour Championships, St. Augustine Beach

Register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!

**Online Registration closes at 12noon on Wednesday before each event!**



## 2013 ROX FLORIDA BEACH HP CHAMPIONSHIPS



Make plans to join us in July 2013 for the first ROX Florida Beach HP Championships in Deerfield Beach, FL. This elite all-star junior beach volleyball showcase will field the top 10 girls teams and top 5 boys teams per age division. Florida teams will qualify based on their Florida Dig the Beach tour rankings. Out-of-state teams may sign up their top teams in each age division by contacting the Florida Region office. This unique event will offer team competition on day 1 & 2

along with individual competition on day 3 to determine the best team and best athlete on the beach in each age division!



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This event will also be a college scouting combine and college sand coaches will be invited to attend from across the US. The first two days of the event will be team competition as athletes will play with their partner to determine the best team on the beach. On day three all athletes will play in a king/queen format to determine the best athlete on the beach. Officials will be provided for all matches during the event. This unique beach volleyball showcase will allow competitors to compete for team and individual titles at the same event.

**Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Teams will be announced by July 3! For more information visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!**

## 2013 USA HP CHAMPIONSHIPS – FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

This year's Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star teams have been announced! We are gearing up to compete in the **USA HP Championships** which are being held in our very own home state this year in Ft. Lauderdale, FL from **July 23-27**. This year, we are excited to be able to bring 4 girls' teams and 3 boys' teams - we hope you'll come on out and support this year's Indoor HP All-Stars!

The Florida Region would like to recognize the outstanding HP Coaches for their dedication and hard work. We would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteer HP coaches who have selflessly devoted their time and effort to the HP Program and athletes!

### GIRLS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH (GIY)

HC - Brian Imperiale, Univ. of South Florida  
1st Asst - Brian Goodhind, Webber Int'l Univ.  
2nd Asst - Lakisya Killingsworth, DE State Univ.

### BOYS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH (BIY)

HC - Sergio Rios, Warner University  
1st Asst - Greg Villareal, Barry/WAVE  
2nd Asst - Ashley Schinzing, Orlando Gold

### GIRLS NATIONAL YOUTH (GNY)

HC - Michelle Piantadosi, Eckerd College  
1st Asst - Travers Green, Florida Int'l Univ.  
2nd Asst - Tony Cothron, Tampa United

### BOYS NATIONAL YOUTH (BNY)

HC - Tom Snodgrass, Orlando Gold  
1st Asst - Ore Pablos, Wildfire VBC  
2nd Asst - Semei Tello, UCF

### GIRLS NATIONAL SELECT (GNS)

HC - Isaac Raphael, Bethune Cookman Univ.  
1st Asst - Bri Smith, Univ. of South Florida  
2nd Asst - Robby Baker, Naples VBA

### BOYS NATIONAL SELECT (BNS)

HC - Rob Holley, JJVA/ WAVE  
1st Asst - Roger Peluso, Ransom Everglades  
2nd Asst - Jesus Montalvo, Marion Cty. Jrs.

### GIRLS NATIONAL FUTURE-SELECT (GFS)

HC - Flavia Siqueira, College of Central FL.  
1st Asst - Chris Taylor, Northwood Univ.  
2nd Asst - John Babbitt, Club Storm



We would like to once again thank ASICS for their continued support of the Florida Region as the Official Outfitter of the Indoor HP All-Star Program!

For more information and details regarding the HP All-Star Program, please visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org). If you have any questions, please contact [HP@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:HP@FloridaVolleyball.org).



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## 2013 BOYS' JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

- 1st 18's Gold Division - Tampa Bay Invaders 18's
- 2nd 18's Gold Division - OBV 18's
- 1st 18's Silver Division - IMUA Kila Kila
- 2nd 18's Silver Division - Solid VBC 18's
- 1st 17's Gold Division - Orlando Gold 17 Black
- 2nd 17's Gold Division - OBV 17 Quiksilver
- 1st 17's Silver Division - VPA 17's
- 2nd 17's Silver Division - Orlando Gold 17 White
- 1st 16's Gold Division - Top Select 16 Royal
- 2nd 16's Gold Division - Orlando Gold 15 Black
- 1st 16's Silver Division - OBV 15 Quiksilver
- 2nd 16's Silver Division - Miami Select 15 Black
- 1st 14's Gold Division - Tampa Bay VBA 14's
- 2nd 14's Gold Division - JJVA 14's
- 1st 14's Silver Division - Orlando Gold 14 Black
- 2nd 14's Silver Division - OBV 14 Quiksilver



## 2013 USAV GIRLS' & BOYS' JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Best wishes to our Florida Region clubs heading to the 2013 USAV Girls' Jr. National Championships in Dallas, TX!

- Coastline Volleyball Club
- Gainesville Juniors
- Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association
- Marion County Juniors
- Matrix Volleyball Academy
- Miami Elite Volleyball Club
- Ocala Power Volleyball Academy
- Orlando Volleyball Academy
- Palm Beach Jrs.
- Pinellas Heat Elite
- Power Volleyball Academy
- Tampa Bay Volleyball Academy
- Tampa United Volleyball Academy
- Top Select Volleyball Academy
- Treasure Coast Volleyball
- Tribe Volleyball
- USA South Volleyball
- Vision Volleyball Club
- Voleimiami

Best wishes to our Florida Region clubs heading to the 2013 USAV Boys' Jr. National Championships in Reno, NV!

- Florida Suns Volleyball Club
- IMUA
- Ocean Bay Volleyball Club
- Orlando Gold
- Playeros Volleyball Club
- Tampa Bay Juniors
- Tampa Bay Volleyball Academy
- Top Select Volleyball Academy
- Longwood Volleyball Club

### BOYS YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM EXPERIENCE – BY KYLE DAGOSTINO

Below is a short blog from Kyle Dagostino, a Tampa Bay Invader, who, along with 2 other Invaders, shares with us his experience so far in Mexico as part of the boys' Youth National Team who will be competing in the FIVB Youth World Championships. Enjoy!

*Kyle: Starting from the beginning, it's a little hard to leave your family and friends when you know you'll be gone for quite some time. For me, I had never been to a summer camp before and the longest I had ever been away from home or not seen anyone from my family had been about five days. That's the beauty about a game like volleyball; it keeps the family together, especially when the whole family is so invested in the sport. I knew that leaving would be hard, but it was something that I had to do and what could be better than playing volleyball for 28 days, right?*

*I took off from the Tampa International Airport to land in Dallas Fort Worth where I met up with Connor Lammey, the middle on my club team. From Dallas, we flew into Colorado Springs and there was a group of five of us that flew together, one of which I had never met before. His name is Matt Walsh and he's a 6'10 middle from Ultimate in Chicago.*

*Going to the Colorado Olympic Training Center (OTC) was an experience in itself because the five of us could see the forest fires from the windows and the amount of smoke that was being produced. It was unreal to say the least. When we arrived at the OTC, we checked in, had our pictures taken, and got badges that were our keys to almost everything at the facility. We dropped our bags off in our rooms, had a team meeting, and then got ready for practice. That first practice was hard, not because the practice itself was hard, but because it seemed like there was no oxygen in the gym. Playing at that altitude is difficult and we must have had about 10 water breaks in that first practice. But day one was down and I was looking forward to what was to come.*

*Of the 19 guys that were supposed to be there, on the first day there were only about 9 there including myself. The rest were due to come in the next few days. Training in the Olympic Training Center is a very cool experience because you're treated as an Olympic athlete but you're still in high school. The food is amazing and you get to spend time with other teams. One team that the guys volleyball team started to hang out with was the girls u16 basketball team. At first, our relationship started on the second day when we noticed a 6'9 girl walking through the door to breakfast. She was accompanied by a 6'3 girl and a 5'9 girl. Being the person that I am, small and outgoing, I wanted to take a picture with this girl and also challenge her to a game of hoops. I didn't build up the courage to do that until we were walking back from our practice and they were walking to their dorms.*

*I took a picture with Nancy (the 6'9 girl) and then challenged her and her teammates to a game of basketball at 2 pm. The volleyball team rested for about an hour and then Connor Lammey, Alex Pia, and I (the three Invaders) got ourselves ready for this basketball game; we weren't losing. We started doing shoot around, lay-up lines, and giving ourselves pep talks. 2 o'clock came around and two girls, Lauren (6'3) and Sabrina (5'9) were ready to play, but Nancy wasn't there and she wasn't answering her phone. Another girl, Kalani, a 6'5 girl from New*







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Orleans, was there and she agreed to play. Long story short, with poor defense from Alex Pia, we ended up losing 12-15, but not without challenging them to another game at 8 pm that night, this time 5-on-5. In a win-by-2 game to 15, your boys USA Youth Volleyball Team defeated the USA Girls u16 Basketball Team 20-18 to take over the #1 seed in the world as the best u16 girls basketball team. The girl's volleyball team arrived the next day and each night after practice for the next couple days, we hung out with both the girls basketball and girls volleyball teams at the basketball courts. By this time, about the fourth day, we had nine practices and were getting very tired. We had called it quits on basketball games with the girls and just sat around and rested, watching both the NBA finals and the Stanley Cup Finals. Practices were getting tougher too because we were exhausted and our coaches were really letting us have it because we had a long way to go before we did anything special at Worlds.

On June 16th, we practiced in the morning and had the afternoon off. The plan was for us to go see a movie and go to Buffalo Wild Wings to watch the hockey game between the Boston Bruins and the Chicago Blackhawks. We stuffed our faces at Buffalo Wild Wings, came back to the OTC and went to bed. That next morning we had an earlier practice that was just alright and our coaches informed us that they were going to be calling us in for short five-minute meetings numerically based on our practice shirts. None of us expected what was coming.

Connor Lammey was first and he was told he needed to work on a couple of things and then the coaches also informed him that he had made the team. I was sitting at 8th and I just figured Connor had been put on the roster because the coaches knew how he could play and he already had international experience. As the next six guys went in front of me, I realized the coaches were making the final cuts for the team. We all thought the cuts were going to be made the next day.

Going into my meeting, I was very nervous. I didn't know what to expect and I didn't know what the coaches were going to say, and whether I was going to make the team. My nerves were quickly calmed when the coaches first told me that I had made the team. They told me what I needed to work on, communicating throughout the rally and working to really get stopped on defense, and sent me on my way. Connor was waiting outside for me and I told him that I had made it. Alex was number 11 so he was almost up and Connor and I both wanted to wait until he was done to call my dad. When he came out, he was smiling and he gave us a thumbs up. We then called Mr. Randy Dagostino to inform him of our good news. He was up in Maryland at the time helping my sister train for her A2 Women's National Team tournament in Dallas.

They were out to lunch and I told him to put the phone on speaker and all three of us told him we made it at the same time. He was very pleased and happy to hear that; all three Invaders made the 2013 Boys Youth National Team. The Invaders have more representatives on this team than any other club! We were very excited but still had a couple days left before we were leaving for Mexico.

We had practices and hung out with each other as much as we could since the guys that were cut were still at the OTC with us. Those nine days at the OTC were full of laughs, sweat, and the desire to get better. It was a great experience and we really were treated like Olympians.

**- STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES!**



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## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

The USAV Summer Membership option is still available! For \$20, you will have access to play in any Florida Dig the Beach tour stop or any USAV affiliate tour stops this summer. Please contact [Michele@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Michele@floridavolleyball.org) with any questions.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of July 1, 2013, the Florida Region has **12,121** members. We look forward to meeting our new goal of 13,000 members! Thank you to all of you for supporting USA Volleyball...please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

## REGION INFORMATION

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### Board Members:

**Mary Andrew**, Commissioner  
**Doug Darling**, Asst. Commissioner  
**Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Sam Skelton**, Indoor Chair  
**Nancy Cothron**, 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, Carrie Prewitt**

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION CORPORATE PARTNERS



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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!

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