



Florida Region
of USA Volleyball

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MEDIA ADVISORY

TEAM FLORIDA ALL-STAR SITTING VOLLEYBALL TEAM TO DEFEND GOLD IN ORLANDO, FL

The Team Florida All-Star Sitting Volleyball team took home the gold medal at their first-ever appearance last year at the 2015 USA Volleyball Adult Open National Championships in Detroit, MI. The team is looking for a repeat in 2016.

Orlando, FL – Friday, May 27th – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is looking forward to defending their national title this upcoming week at the 2016 USA Volleyball Adult Open National Championships in Orlando, FL. The competition will take place May 30th – 31st at the Orange County Convention Center.

The team includes athletes with a connection to Florida, including five current and past USA Volleyball National Sitting Team players and two 2016 Invictus Games athletes. All current members of the USA National Sitting Teams listed below have qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games with their respective teams:

Athletes

Eric Duda, OH* (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
Nicky Nieves, MB* (Kissimmee, FL)
Chris Seilkop, MB* (Deland, FL)
Jose Zabala, Setter** (Orlando, FL)
Bradley Johnson, MB** (Pompano Beach, FL)
Erik Stordahl, OH (Jacksonville, FL)
Scott Trinler, OH (St. Petersburg, FL)
Brett Parks, OPP*** (Jacksonville, FL)
Javier Rodriguez, Setter*** (St. Cloud, FL)
Steve Bishop, MB (Eustis, FL)

Coaches

Jose Zabala, Head Coach**
Linda Gomez, Assoc. Head Coach
Morgan Ledford, Assistant Coach

Staff

Heather Belden, Team Manager
Steve Bishop, General Manager
Mary Andrew, Commissioner

*Current National Team athletes

**Past National Team Athletes

*** Invictus Games Athletes

Last year was the first year that the Florida Region sent an all-star sitting volleyball team to compete in the annual event; they went undefeated in the tournament.

The Florida Region launched an initiative late 2014 to bring sitting volleyball to the state of Florida. The goal was to grow the game and to reach out to volleyball enthusiasts with physical limitations, as well as those without. Multiple sitting volleyball open houses and clinics took place across Florida to introduce and enhance the sport. These events raised awareness of the need for adaptive sports programs in our communities. They also provided a chance for everyone in attendance to play a game of sitting volleyball.

About USA Sitting Volleyball:

USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of sitting volleyball in the United States and is recognized by World ParaVolley and U.S. Paralympics (a division of the United States Olympic Committee - USOC). Additional information on USA Sitting Volleyball can be found at: www.USAVolleyball.org.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves over 13,500 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

For additional information contact:

Ashley Shewey, Marketing Manager

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.

t: 352-742-0080 e: Ashley@FloridaVolleyball.org