

PRESS RELEASE

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Team Florida Sitting All-Stars Earn Bronze in Dallas

Florida Region of USA Volleyball sends Team Florida Sitting All-Stars to the USA Open Adult National Championships where they won bronze!

Eustis, FL –June 2, 2018 – On May 28th and 29th Team Florida Sitting All-Stars competed in the USA Open Adult National Championships, located in Dallas, TX. With five out of their nine players having represented the United States on the National Team, Team Florida Sitting All-Stars has tremendous talent on their roster. Going into the National Championships, they were confident in their ability to compete at a high level.

This was Team Florida's 4th year fielding a Sitting All-Star team. The team has proven quite successful, having medaled three out of the last four years, winning a Gold (2015), a Silver (2017), and a Bronze (2018). Team manager, **Heather Belden**, said, "This year was a very exciting journey to the medal stand. The team fought very hard to earn the medal around their neck and it was exciting to watch."

Team Florida Sitting All-Stars competed in the Bronze Medal Match against the Nebraska High Rollers. From the first whistle of the match all the way through the very last point, the men of Team Florida fought their way through. They were able to win the first set with a score of 25-23. Unfortunately, they were unable to achieve the victory in the second set and were forced into a deciding third set. The third set was a battle with frequent lead changes but in the end, Team Florida was able to pull off a 15-13 finish and secure the bronze medal.

Over five hundred teams attended the USA Adult National Championships and nine of those teams competed in the sitting division. From those nine teams there were four regions represented: Oklahoma, Great Plains, Keystone and Florida. USA Volleyball is considering splitting the sitting division into two divisions in order to encourage more grass-root level participation from the regions. Team Captain, **Steve Bishop**, has been a part of Team Florida Sitting All-Stars since it originated in 2015. Bishop stated, "The competition level this year was higher as more region teams participated in the tournament. I was proud of the team for making it to the podium for the third year and we look forward to competing against everyone next year in Columbus."

The Florida region of USA Volleyball is unique in that it was the first region to field a region sitting team. They are devoted to growing the sitting volleyball game and are excited about the future of the sport. Head Coach, **Mary Andrew**, has been involved in the sport of volleyball for more than 40 years but this was her first year serving as a coach for Team Florida's Sitting All-Stars. Andrew stated, "I very much enjoyed the experience and am a definite advocate for the sport of sitting volleyball and I look forward to providing more opportunities within the region for sitting volleyball." If you are interested in learning more about sitting volleyball within the Florida Region you are welcome to reach out to the region office at: office@FloridaVolleyball.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 14,000 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.

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