



PRESS RELEASE

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**2015 FLORIDA WAVE INDOOR PRO VOLLEYBALL TEAMS ANNOUNCE COACHES**

Both the Men's and Women's Florida WAVE have named their coaches for the upcoming season as they prepare for the 2015 PVL Championships in Detroit, MI.

**Eustis, FL – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015** – The Florida WAVE men's and women's pro volleyball teams are getting ready for a very exciting 2015 season as key leadership roles are officially filled. **Steve Benson** will be leading the Men's WAVE and **Brian Imperiale** will take over the reins for the Women's WAVE.

**Steve Benson** returns for his third year as head coach for the Men's WAVE. In 2013, he led the Men's WAVE to the first place spot in both the US Open and the first Men's PVL Championships. They finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in 2014.

Having coached collegiate volleyball for 12 years, Benson served as the head coach for both the men's and women's teams at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia from 2005 to 2011. He is also the longest serving Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star coach and has assisted USA Volleyball by leading HP tryouts and camps throughout the US. Benson is currently the head men's volleyball coach at Warner University in Lake Wales, FL.

Upon returning for his third season as head coach of the Men's WAVE, Benson said, "I'm very excited to be going into my third year as the Men's WAVE head coach. Coaching at this level is an amazing experience and it's only made better by the players, staff and the support of the Florida region and its members. Our goal is to return to the medal stand after our 5th place finish last year. With returners from past teams and new talent, I believe we can make a run at the PVL Championship. Each year the talent gets better, so we need to prepare to meet those challenges as we head into this year. Myself, the coaching staff and players are very excited to represent Florida at we want to bring home the championship to Florida once again!"

**Brian Imperiale** will be leading the Women's WAVE as head coach for his first year with the program. He will be taking over a team with two PVL Championship silver medals on their record. Imperiale is currently the top assistant coach at the University of Tampa (2014 DII National Champions). During his eleven years of coaching, Brian has also contributed significantly to Florida Southern College and the University of South Florida. Additionally, he has coached junior teams with the successful Pinellas Heat Volleyball Club and has also served as a Club Director for the Southern Select Volleyball Club.

As one of the only CAP III coaches in Florida, Brian has been part of the Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star program for the past ten years and has made it to the medal stand on numerous occasions. Brian is a recipient of the 2010 Florida Region Male Coach of the Year. He is a graduate of FSU, where he played college club volleyball during his time in Tallahassee.

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“I would like to thank Steve Bishop and the Florida Region for the great opportunity to coach the Women's Florida Wave this year,” said Imperiale. “Having worked with the Florida Indoor HP All Stars for the past 10 years, I'm excited for this new challenge and I look forward to working with the tremendous staff and athletes that will make up our team.”

Additional coaching staff for the Florida WAVE includes:

#### Men

- Associate Head Coach: **Rob Holley** (Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association)
- Assistant Coach: **Greg Villareal** (University of Miami)
- Statistician: **Semei Tello** (University of Central Florida)

#### Women

- Associate Head Coach: **Travers Green** (University of South Florida)
- Assistant Coach: **Tanya Jarvis** (Bishop Moore Catholic High School)
- Statistician: **Orlando Catalan** (LIU Brooklyn)

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, said, “I am proud to announce our Florida WAVE coaching staff for 2015. I welcome Coach Imperiale for his inaugural year at the helm of the women’s WAVE and welcome Coach Benson back for his third year as the men’s head coach. Our Florida WAVE teams have been contenders each year finishing in the top of the pack, with our women’s team placing second twice and our men’s team winning the 2013 PVL Championships. In the Florida Region we have a tradition of excellence and the coaches, staff, and athletes that make up our program are top notch. I would be remiss for not recognizing the pioneering spirit of departing coach **Nick Cheronis**, who has led the women’s WAVE for the past three years. Coach Cheronis has set the bar high and I am forever grateful for his leadership with the Florida WAVE since the beginning. I look forward to making new memories and setting new records in 2015. Go WAVE!”

Both the Men’s and Women’s Florida WAVE will hold tryouts to be determined at a later date. Once the teams are selected, they will participate in exhibition matches and ultimately the 2015 PVL Championships, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> in Detroit, MI.

#### **About USA Premier Volleyball League:**

The USA PVL is a grass roots professional volleyball league that began in 2012 and is made up of teams from among of the forty (40) regional volleyball associations across the United States. The USA PVL is sanctioned by USA Volleyball and offers tournament play and a League Championship event each year. Additional information on the USA Premier Volleyball League can be found at: [www.usapvl.com](http://www.usapvl.com).

#### **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 12,500 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](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

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