



PRESS RELEASE

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TEAM FLORIDA DOMINATES ON THE BEACH; BRINGS HOME 3 GOLD MEDALS

3 out of 5 Team Florida High Performance volleyball teams won gold at the 2019 USAV Beach HP Championships in Santa Monica, CA!

Eustis, FL –August 2, 2019 – The USA Volleyball Beach High Performance Championships are held to give elite junior beach volleyball athletes the opportunity to compete against each other. The event was held in California on Santa Monica Beach from July 29th – 31st. Athletes came from across the United States and Canada to compete in this championship event. Team Florida’s Beach Program Coordinator, **Kristin Stanley**, commented, “Southern California is a known beach volleyball destination and I am so happy that these girls were able to experience that atmosphere and be successful.”

The Florida Region sent five girls’ teams to the event and are proud to announce that three of those teams earned the gold medal in their respective division! The three gold medals were in the Girls U15 International division, Girls U17 National division and the Girls U19 National division. Team Florida also came in 5th place in both the Girls U15 International division and Girls U17 National division.

Athletes **Jordan Boulware** and **Ashley Pater** represented Team Florida in the Girls U15 International division. The pair did not lose a single set throughout the entire tournament. In the championship match, the girls dominated their competition, beating them 21-9 and 21-11. This international win came just a week after the pair finished third overall in the U14 division at the USAV National Beach Tour Junior Championships!

Hayden Wooldridge and **Madison Binkley** earned the gold medal for Team Florida in the Girls U17 National division. On the last day of the tournament, Wooldridge and Binkley were ranked second in their division but in the championship match, they were able to upset the number one seeded team (27-25, 21-11).

Team Florida’s Girls U19 team consisted of **Saskia Hernandez** and **Mila Yarich**. They had the opportunity to play athletes from places such as Arizona, Texas, California and Canada. These athletes started ranked third in their division but were able to win two consecutive upset matches in order to win the title. In the semifinals, they competed against a pair from Canada, where they won 21-17, 21-6. In the championship match, they faced off against athletes in the USA National Training Team Program and won 21-16, 21-12.

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Travel coach, **Erik Peterson**, led Team Florida’s Beach High Performance program. Peterson is the former head beach volleyball coach at Saint Leo University. In addition to his experience coaching beach, Peterson has experience coaching indoor collegiate volleyball at the University of Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida. He was also an assistant coach for the 2004 USA Women’s National Team!

The program was also supported by three tryout coaches; **Jeff Lamm**, **Vince Miranda** and **Chris Hamilton**. Lamm is the current head beach volleyball coach at the University of Tampa, where he led the team to the Division II title at the 2019 AVCA Small College Beach Championships. Miranda previously worked at Stetson University as their assistant beach volleyball coach. During his time at Stetson, Miranda helped lead the team to the NCAA Division I Beach Volleyball Championships where they upset the number one seed, University of Southern California. Hamilton is the current beach volleyball director at Ocala Power United and played an instrumental part in developing high school beach volleyball in the state of Florida.

High Performance has made a positive impact on the Florida Region by bringing all-star athletes, college coaches and club volleyball coaches together from all areas of the state. Team Florida was sponsored and outfitted by Smack Sportswear.

“I’m very proud of our 2019 Team Florida Beach HP delegation and their results this year,” commented **Steve Bishop**, Present and Executive Director of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. “This is our first year back after a two-year hiatus and the teams picked up right where we left off in 2016. We were the first region to field a Beach HP delegation in 2011. It is very important for our program to continue the tradition of excellence started by our Indoor HP delegation back in 2000. The talent of our athletes and coaches in Florida is truly remarkable and we look forward to what the future holds. I want to also express my appreciation to Smack Sportswear for outfitting our delegation. They are a great partner!”

The rosters are as follows:

Team Florida Beach High Performance

| Coaches | Athletes |
|--|--|
| Travel Coach Erik Peterson - Saint Leo University | Team Florida Girls U15 International – 1st Place Jordan Boulware (Tallahassee, FL) Ashley Pater (Bradenton, FL) |
| Tryout Coaches Jeff Lamm - University of Tampa Vince Miranda - Stetson University | Team Florida Girls U15 International – 5th Place Riley Baer (Delray Beach, FL) Lily Lucas (Naples, FL) Team Florida Girls U17 National – 1st Place Hayden Wooldridge (Tampa, FL) Madison Binkley (Sarasota, FL) |
| Chris Hamilton - Ocala Power United | Team Florida Girls U17 National – 5th Place Madison Espy (Odessa, FL) McKenna Flaherty (Sarasota, FL) Team Florida Girls U19 National – 1st Place Saskia Hernandez (Miami, FL) Mila Yarich (Tampa, FL) |

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 is headquartered in Eustis, FL and manages the 21-court Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex in Tavares, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

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