



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM FLORIDA DOMINATES; BRINGS HOME 3 GOLD MEDALS

3 out of 5 Team Florida High Performance volleyball teams earned gold medals at the 2018 USAV HP Championships in Tulsa, OK.

Eustis, FL –August 1, 2018 – Every year since 2000, The USA Volleyball High Performance Championships have been held to showcase the best junior athletes from across the globe. They come together to compete against one another in a weeklong tournament. Five teams represented Team Florida this year, four girls’ teams and one boy’s team. The event was held in Tulsa, OK at the Cox Business Center from July 24th – 28th.

The Florida Region is proud to announce that three of their five teams won gold medals. The three gold medals went to Boys’ National Youth (ages 16-17), Girls’ International Youth (ages 15-16) and Girls’ National Select (ages 14 and under). Team Florida earned 6th place in the Women’s International Juniors division and 8th place in the Girls’ National Youth division.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Head Coach **Flavia Siqueira** led Team Florida to a first place finish in the Girls’ National Select division. The Girls’ National Select team had a tougher road to the championship match this year since they lost a match on the first day of the tournament. This was the first time the Girls’ National Select team had lost a match since the 2012 USA Volleyball High Performance Championships. Coach Siqueira stated, “I believe that losing that match was the best thing that could have happened to our team. After the loss, we had a team meeting and players not only talked about volleyball but also about using that moment to grow as young ladies. That meeting made them trust each other and our team chemistry changed completely.” In the championship match, the Girls’ National Select team beat Aloha Girls’ National Select (23-25, 20-25, 25-18, 25-10, 15-10). When asked about the moment her team won gold, Coach Siqueira said, “The feeling of winning is always amazing! Coach Gio and I looked at each other and just smiled! Then Coach Danny joined us in a group hug and we could only smile... it was pure joy.”

This is the second year in a row that Team Florida won gold in the Girls’ International Youth division. Team Florida’s Girls’ International Youth team went 8-0 throughout the entire tournament and only dropped 2 sets over the whole 5 days. Athletes **Alanys Viera** (setter), **Jangelyz Ramirez** (libero) and **Kallista Cors** (outside hitter) were named to the All-Tournament team. In addition, Cors was named the MVP of the Girls’ International Youth division. “I’m speechless,” Cors said. “This is my first year doing HP and this is one of the greatest experiences ever. I loved it so much. I love all the girls; the coaches are awesome. This tournament was the best part of my summer.”

- MORE -

This is the first time in program history that Team Florida's Boys' National Youth team has earned a gold medal. Head Coach **Tom Snodgrass** said that, "The mindset of our team and coaching staff was to improve our chemistry every time we stepped foot on the court. Once we accomplished that, nothing was going to stop us!" Team Florida beat Southern California Volleyball Association (SCVA) in the championship match (22-25, 25-17, 25-10, 15-25, 15-11). Outside Hitter, **Omar Hoyos**, commented, "In the beginning of the tournament we were still getting use to each other, the sets and communicating. You can see in the game that we weren't talking that much but by the third day we peaked and starting getting closer to each other, communicating better and in the finals that's what we did and that's why we won."

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 ASICS and Baker's Sporting Goods.

"What a great group of athletes and coaches" commented **Steve Bishop**, Executive Director/President of the Florida Region. "This year, like many before, our delegation was focused on performing at their highest level and making it to the podium. Having 3 of our 5 teams win gold was an extraordinary performance and allowed our delegation to be the highest finishing region for the 5th year in a row. There is something magical that happens when everything comes together and teams hit the highest tier of the team-building pyramid. They achieved a level of volleyball nirvana that is hard to describe. I enjoy watching it happen every year and I salute the parents, athletes, coaches, staff, and sponsors for supporting our program the way they do year after year. Go Team Florida!"

The rosters are as follows:

Women International Junior

Coaches	Athletes
Head Coach Julie Darty - Mississippi State University	Outside Hitters (OH) Samantha Caglianone (Tampa, FL) - OTVA Shania Cromartie (Tallahassee, FL) - Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Kylee Quigley (Port St Lucie, FL) – NVL Academy
1st Assistant Coach Tony Cothron - Manatee Area Volleyball	Middle Blockers (MB) Destiny Nelson (Vero Beach, FL) – NVL Academy Burgundy Walters (Sanford, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Makayla Washington (Tallahassee, FL) - Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Kate Wonus (Lady Lake, FL) – Ocala Power United
2nd Assistant Coach Jeff Reavis - Ocala Power United	Opposites (OPP) Jacqueline St. Cin (Saint Petersburg, FL) – St. Pete Volleyball Club
Technical Coordinator Jon Wong - Bradley University	Setters (S) Ivana Marrero (Kissimmee, FL) – OTVA Savannah Vach (Winter Springs, FL) - OTVA
Training Coach Travers Green - Mississippi State University	Liberos (LIB) Marley Banton (Saint Augustine, FL) – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association Essence Bell (Ocala, FL) - Ocala Power United

- MORE -

Girls International Youth

Coaches	Athletes
Head Coach Adis Imamovic - JJVA	Outside Hitters (OH) Fabiana Castro (Pembroke Pines, FL) - 305 Volleyball Club Kallista Cors (Saint Petersburg, FL) - St. Pete Volleyball Club Nicole Dorothea (Ocala, FL) - Ocala Power United Jenna McNamara (Orlando, FL) - Lightning Volleyball Academy
1st Assistant Coach Corey Sarubbi - Lynn University	Middle Blockers (MB) Juliana Lentz (Doral, FL) - Miami Volleyball Academy Khori Louis (Tallahassee, FL) - PSVA Volleyball Academy Fatima Samb (Ponte Vedra, FL) - Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association
2nd Assistant Coach Cinthia Angus - Barry University	Opposites (OPP) Luciana Paiva Pereira (Celebration, FL)
Technical Coordinator Semei Tello - OTVA	Setters (S) Laura Caro (Orlando, FL) – OTVA Alansy Viera (Longwood, FL) - OTVA
Training Coach John Alvarez - Volleyball Players Academy	Liberos (LIB) Libby Bickelhaupt (Fort Myers, FL) - Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy Jangelyz Ramirez (Fleming Island, FL) - Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association

Girls National Youth

Coaches	Athletes
Head Coach Amanda Phelps - Lake Sumter State College	Outside Hitters (OH) Taylor Bates (Pompano Beach, FL) - Boomers VBC Emily Diaz (Miami, FL) - Miami Volleyball Academy Alexis Distasio (Windermere, FL) - OTVA Elise Frierson (Tampa, FL) - OTVA
1st Assistant Coach Ore Pablos - Lynn University	Middle Blockers (MB) Chaise Campbell (Saint Petersburg, FL) - St. Pete Volleyball Club Skye Ekes (Sarasota, FL) – OTVA Brianna Jackson (Port St Lucie, FL) - High Tide Volleyball
2nd Assistant Coach Angie Strickland - Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club	Opposites (OPP) Sophie Fedder (Bradenton, FL) – OTVA Nina Moorer (Lutz, FL) – OTVA
Training Coach Felipe “Pepa” Ralat - Wildfire Volleyball Academy	Setters (S) Giulia Dias (Pompano Beach, FL) - Ocean Breeze & Ocean Bay Volleyball Autumn Raulerson (Fort Pierce, FL) – NVL Academy
	Liberos (LIB) Caroline Davis (Orlando, FL) – OTVA

- MORE -

Girls National Select

Coaches	Athletes
Head Coach Flavia Siqueira - Lynn University	Outside Hitters (OH) Angeles Alderete (Miami Springs, FL) – High Voltage Volleyball Academy Sydney Jackwin (St. Petersburg, FL) – St. Pete Volleyball Club Isabella Mendoza (Doral, FL) – 305 Volleyball Club
1st Assistant Coach Giovanny Delevry - Marshall University	Middle Blockers (MB) Gabriella Karman (Orlando, FL) – Nona Sports LLC Serena Kohler (North Port, FL) – Jellys Volleyball Zeta Washington (Ponte Vedra, FL) – No Fear Volleyball
2nd Assistant Coach Daniel Eleutiza - OTVA	Opposites (OPP) Kendall McCain (New Port Richey, FL) - OTVA Cambrie Riffe (Ocoee, FL) - OTVA
Training Coach Yamil Del Valle - Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy	Setters (S) Gabrielle Spankus (Palm Harbor, FL) – Pinellas Heat Elaisa Villar (Hialeah, FL) – High Voltage Volleyball Academy
	Liberos (LIB) Perla Rosa (Weston, FL) – Wildfire Volleyball Academy Sofia Santamaria (Miami, FL) – Miami Xtreme Volleyball Academy

Boys National Youth

Coaches	Athletes
Head Coach Tom Snodgrass - Orlando Gold VBC	Outside Hitters (OH) Sarjoun Awar (Winter Springs, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Nathan Cartier (Orlando, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Jonathan Diedrich (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Omar Hoyos (Pembroke Pines, FL) – MVP Academy
1st Assistant Coach Dexter Rogers - OTVA	Middle Blockers (MB) Logan Green (Orlando, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Connor Feulner (Maitland, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Trevor Schultz (Saint Augustine, FL) – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association
2nd Assistant Coach Roger Peluso - 352 Elite	Opposites (OPP) Jake Vorburger (Saint Johns, FL) – Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association Jayden Young (Lake Worth, FL) – Ocean Breeze & Ocean Bay Volleyball
Training Coach Corey Marks - Johnson and Wales University	Setters (S) Ethan Morales (Orlando, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy John Sarnowski (Winter Springs, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC
	Liberos (LIB) Ryan Lynch (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC

- MORE -

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.

For additional information contact:

Sierra Schomburg, Marketing Coordinator
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
t: (352) 742-0080 e: sierra@floridavolleyball.org

###