



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**TEAM FLORIDA DOMINATES; BRINGS HOME 4 MEDALS (3 GOLD, 1 SILVER)**

4 out of 5 Team Florida High Performance volleyball teams earned a medal at the 2019 USAV HP Championships in Ft. Lauderdale!

**Eustis, FL –August 1, 2019** – Every year since 2000, The USA 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, three girls’ teams and two boys’ team. The event was held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL at the Greater Fort Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center from July 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Florida Region is proud to announce that four of their five teams earned a medal at the event. The three gold medals went to Boys’ National Youth (ages 17-18), Girls’ International Youth (ages 16-17) and Girls’ Future Select (13 and under). Team Florida earned a silver medal in the Girls’ International Select division (ages 14-15) and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the Boys’ National Select division (ages 16 and under). In addition to each team’s individual success, the Florida Region won USA Volleyball’s inaugural Region Cup for being the most successful region at the tournament!

This is the fourth consecutive year that Team Florida has won gold in the Girls’ International Youth division. Throughout the tournament, the athletes competed against international teams such as New Zealand and Puerto Rico. Team Florida faced off against Team Ontario (Canada) in the championship match where they won in 3 sets (25-18, 25-18, 25-22)! Athletes **MiaBella English** (setter), **Khori Louis** (middle blocker) and **Erin Morrissey** (outside hitter) were named to the All-Tournament team in the International Youth division. In addition, Morrissey was named the MVP of the tournament! When asked about being named MVP, Morrissey commented, “Being the MVP was just the icing on top. I couldn’t have done it without my talented teammates and amazing coaches. An experience I will never forget!”

This is the second time USA Volleyball has offered a Girls’ Future Select division at the USA High Performance Championships, the first being in 2017. In 2017, Team Florida won the gold medal in the future select division after going undefeated (7-0 match record). This year, Team Florida repeated themselves with another undefeated record and gold medal. That leaves the Florida Region with a 14-0 program record in the Girls’ Future Select division. For many of the younger girls, it was their first time playing in an international tournament. Though the goal was to be successful, the staff also emphasized the importance of enjoying the experience, making new friends and cheering the other Florida Region teams on. Outside hitter, **Amaria King**, shared, “My week with Team Florida was unforgettable. I made great friends and had the chance to play with an amazing team! My coaches were the best. I can’t wait for next year!”

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In 2018, Team Florida earned a gold medal in the Boys' National Youth division for the first time in program history. This year, nine out of the twelve athletes were returners and the team was determined to make it back to the top of the podium. Outside hitter, **Omar Hoyos**, stated, "For me, this year was more enjoyable than last year. The fact that the tournament was on home soil, gave us the opportunity to have our family and friends watch our games. Also, since we were the defending National Champions, every team wanted to come after us and beat us which made every game more fun and challenging, but in the end we ended up on top of the podium which is what we had planned since day one." For many of these athletes this was their last opportunity to play for Team Florida since they are headed off to college in the fall. They are proud to have ended on a win and setter, **Jack Sarnowski**, stated, "Winning the gold medal made me feel like I was on top of the world. All of the hard work paid off and it's something I'll never forget!"

Team Florida earned the silver medal in the Girls' International Select division. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row that Team Florida has earned a medal in the girls' select age group. In 2012, Team Florida earned the bronze medal and then they won the gold medal six consecutive years after that. In fact, since 2012, Team Florida has had an overall win record of 62-3 in the girls' select age group. In the championship match, Team Florida competed against SCVA select (Southern California). The match was a tough battle and ended with a score of 13-15 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set (25-21, 25-15, 23-25, 20-25, 13-15). Additionally, athletes **Cailin Demps** (opposite) and **Angeles Alderete** (outside hitter) were named to the All-Tournament team in the International Select division. Though the tournament didn't end as they had hoped, the players took it as a learning experience. Middle Blocker, **Zeta Washington**, said "I learned that sometimes the games won't go your way even if you're expected to win, but in the end, the experience is what mattered and the amount of information I learned from the week was incredible."

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. Additionally, this year the program had help from **Ben Keyes**, **Hector Negron** and **Carlos La Torre**. Keyes is a licensed Massage Therapist and owner of RX Massage Therapy. He helped rehab the players so that they could be in their best performance shape for the duration of the tournament. Negron and La Torre are the founders of The SpikeNet. Their team provided the Florida Region with real-time event coverage as well as post event interviews. The Florida Region sponsors and business partners make this a one of a kind experience for the athletes involved. Opposite, **Jake Vorburger**, stated, "We are spoiled for the week with great lunches, a private meeting room, massage therapist, excellent coaches and continual one on one instruction when needed. It's one of the best experiences of my life and I'm really happy that I was chosen to experience it."

"Our 2019 Indoor Team Florida HP All-Star delegation once again achieved outstanding results in Ft. Lauderdale and continued our tradition of excellence," commented **Steve Bishop**, President and Executive Director of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. "I am consistently amazed at the overall talent of our athletes and coaches that represent Team Florida, not to mention the remarkable support of our legacy sponsors ASICS and Baker's Sports."

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Bishop continued, “Finishing the event with four podium finishes and three national titles is a reflection of the work being done in our clubs across the state. We were honored to receive the inaugural USAV Region Cup, which recognizes the delegation that finished the highest in the event. It is worth noting that Team Florida has actually finished the highest for the past seven years straight and we will strive to continue this goal as we have already started planning for 2020. We invite all elite-level junior athletes that wish to compete at the highest level to attend a tryout next season to see if you have what it takes to be a Team Florida All-Star.”

**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](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

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The rosters are as follows:

**Girls International Youth (Finished 1<sup>st</sup> Place)**

<b>Coaches</b>	<b>Athletes</b>
<b>Head Coach</b> Adis Imamovic - JJVA  <b>1st Assistant Coach</b> Corey Sarubbi - Lynn University - Wildfire Volleyball Club  <b>2nd Assistant Coach</b> Stephanie Zielinski - Florida Gulf Coast University  <b>Technical Coordinator</b> Semei Tello - OTVA	<b>Outside Hitters (OH)</b> Kallista Cors (Saint Petersburg, FL) - St. Pete Volleyball Club Elizabeth Price (Tampa, FL) – OTVA Erin Morrissey (Tampa, FL) – OTVA Emma Truluck (Ocala, FL) – Max Performance Volleyball  <b>Middle Blockers (MB)</b> Juliana Lentz (Miami, FL) - Miami Volleyball Academy Khori Louis (Tallahassee, FL) - Prostyle Volleyball Academy Fatima Samb (Ponte Vedra, FL) - Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association  <b>Opposites (OPP)</b> Audrey Koenig (Wesley Chapel, FL) – No Name VBC Fabiana Castro (Pembroke Pines, FL) - 305 Volleyball Club  <b>Setters (S)</b> MiaBella English (Orlando, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Katherine Roth (Ormond Beach, FL) - DME  <b>Liberos (LIB)</b> Jangelyz Ramirez (Fleming Island, FL) - Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association

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### Girls International Select (Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> Place)

Coaches	Athletes
<p><b>Head Coach</b> Flavia Siqueira - Auburn University at Montgomery</p> <p><b>1st Assistant Coach</b> Giovanny Delevry - East Tennessee State University</p> <p><b>2nd Assistant Coach</b> Jordana Price - Florida State University</p> <p><b>Technical Coordinator</b> Tony Cothron - Tampa United Volleyball Academy</p>	<p><b>Outside Hitters (OH)</b> 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</p> <p><b>Middle Blockers (MB)</b> Gabriella Karman (Orlando, FL) – OTVA Jordyn Byrd (Palmetto, FL) – OTVA Zeta Washington (Ponte Vedra, FL) – OTVA</p> <p><b>Opposites (OPP)</b> Cailin Demps (Tallahassee, FL) – Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Madeline Snider Land O Lakes, FL) – No Name VBC</p> <p><b>Setters (S)</b> Nayelis Cabello (Clermont, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Elaisa Villar (Hialeah, FL) – High Voltage Volleyball Academy</p> <p><b>Liberos (LIB)</b> Perla Rosa (Weston, FL) – Wildfire Volleyball Club Emma Laade (Bradenton, FL) – OTVA</p>

### Girls Future Select (Finished 1<sup>st</sup> Place)

Coaches	Athletes
<p><b>Head Coach</b> Courtney Draper - University of South Florida</p> <p><b>1st Assistant Coach</b> Nick St. Thomas - Jacksonville University - JJVA</p> <p><b>2nd Assistant Coach</b> Ore Pablos - Lynn University - Wildfire Volleyball Club</p>	<p><b>Outside Hitters (OH)</b> Halley Tang (Plantation, FL) – Tribe Volleyball Samantha Bowron (Windermere, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Hunter Crawford (Weston, FL) – Wildfire Volleyball Club Amaria King (Jacksonville, FL) - JJVA</p> <p><b>Middle Blockers (MB)</b> Ashtyn Sims (Winter Garden, FL) – OTVA Gia McGrew (Gainesville, FL) – Gainesville Juniors</p> <p><b>Opposites (OPP)</b> Sarah Brodner (Jupiter, FL) – Jupiter Volleyball Club Aisha Keric (Naples, FL) – Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy</p> <p><b>Setters (S)</b> Juleigh Urbina (Lakeland, FL) – OTVA Melissa Gonzalez (Miami, FL) – 305 Volleyball Club</p> <p><b>Liberos (LIB)</b> Zara Leilani Stewart (Bonita Springs, FL) – Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy Jannelize Perez (Orlando, FL) - OTVA</p>

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### Boys National Youth (Finished 1<sup>st</sup> Place)

Coaches	Athletes
<b>Head Coach</b> Tom Snodgrass - Orlando Gold VBC  <b>1st Assistant Coach</b> Dexter Rogers - OTVA  <b>2nd Assistant Coach</b> Ashley Monfort - JJVA	<b>Outside Hitters (OH)</b> Nathan Cartier (Orlando, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy Jonathan Diedrich (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Omar Hoyos (Pembroke Pines, FL) – MVP Academy  <b>Middle Blockers (MB)</b> Logan Green (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Connor Feulner (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Justin Gregory (Lake Worth, FL) – Palm Beach Juniors  <b>Opposites (OPP)</b> Jake Vorburger (Jacksonville, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Ian Kuilan (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC  <b>Setters (S)</b> Ethan Morales (Orlando, FL) – MVP Academy John Sarnowski (Winter Springs, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC  <b>Liberos (LIB)</b> Ryan Lynch (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Eric Diaz (Miami, FL) – Miami United

### Boys National Select (Finished 6<sup>th</sup> Place)

Coaches	Athletes
<b>Head Coach</b> Rob Holley - JJVA  <b>1st Assistant Coach</b> Ashley Schinzing - Orlando Gold VBC  <b>2nd Assistant Coach</b> Diego Perez-Gaitan - East Florida State College - Cape Coast Volleyball Club	<b>Outside Hitters (OH)</b> Andrew Webb (Maitland, FL) – Winter Park VBC Joel Romero (Miami, FL) – Miami United  <b>Middle Blockers (MB)</b> Daniel Beacham (Winter Park, FL) – 352 Elite Volleyball Club Dennis Morgan (Orlando, FL) – Orlando Gold VBC Wesley Yusk (Casselberry, FL) – Top Select Volleyball Academy  <b>Opposites (OPP)</b> Nico Paula (Tampa, FL) – 352 Elite Volleyball Club Allen Faison (Altamonte Springs, FL) – Winter Park VBC Ketcher Stewart (Winter Park, FL) – Winter Park VBC  <b>Setters (S)</b> Cayden Marin (Orlando, FL) – 352 Elite Volleyball Club Andre Aguilar (Orlando, FL) – Florida MOJO Volleyball  <b>Liberos (LIB)</b> Ryan Esteras-Escobar (Orlando, FL) – 352 Elite Volleyball Club Ryan Peluso (Miami, FL) – 352 Elite Volleyball Club

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