

Florida Region (USAV) FloridaVolleyball.org
Vol-eNews
 The official source for Florida volleyball news!

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WELCOME NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER

Welcome to the 2010 season of USA Volleyball in the Florida Region. The season has officially started and we have already had tournaments for both juniors and adults. Our first Wilson Friday Night Adult tournament held in Tampa during the NCAA Final Four was a resounding success. If you are 18 years of age or older and wish to participate as a player in this great sport; if you are wanting to start playing, or you wish to return; please join us at the next adult tournament for fun and excitement. Remember that you must be a USA member to participate. You may preregister online at www.floridavolleyball.org, or you may register at the door. Remember if you are participating with juniors, you must register as a full member and have your background screening done. We will have staff on site that can help you determine what membership would be best for you.

On another note, our goal this year is to reach the 10,000 members mark. We finished last season just shy of 8,000; therefore, we need your help. Please pass along to your friends and neighbors the fun and excitement they could have participating in volleyball. Please help us reach out to your communities and increase the participation in USA Volleyball, the leader in the sport. We have been the fastest growing region for many years now and we would like to continue that trend. Here is to wishing you Happy Holidays and that all your dreams will come true in the New Year.

James Phillips, Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy 2010! What an amazing year of volleyball in 2009 for Florida. We played host to so many great volleyball events in 2009 and everyone should be very proud of our performance as a host State. We had local, regional, national, and international events across the state at various times throughout the year and had an opportunity to welcome volleyball enthusiasts from across the state and around the world.

Attendance numbers at the AVCA & PAVO Conventions in Tampa set new records and will hopefully position Florida as a future destination for these events once again in the future. The attendance at the NCAA Final Four was estimated at over 10,000 for both nights of the matches at the St. Pete Times Forum. The City of Tampa was undoubtedly a great site!

As we get ready for the start of the new season, I want to share a few reminders to the following groups of individuals:

- PLAYERS** – Please make sure that you have renewed your USAV membership prior to participating in your first USAV event. I would also recommend that you have a copy of your USAV membership card and a copy of your notarized USAV Medical Release Form with you at all times.
- COACHES** – Please make sure that you have a current USAV membership, USAV background screen, and are at least IMPACT certified prior to working with any USAV junior players.
- OFFICIALS** – Please make sure that you have a current USAV membership and a USAV background screen prior to officiating at any USAV event. Also make sure that you are registered in NOVA so that you can be assigned by our Regional Official's Assignor (Michael Hertz @ michael@FloridaVolleyball.org).
- CLUB DIRECTORS** – Please make sure that you have a current USAV membership, USAV background screen, and have built your official USAV team rosters in WebPoint for every team in your club.
- CLUB ADMINS** – Please make sure that you have a current USAV membership, USAV background screen, and have been granted Club Admin rights with your personal login. (Please do not use the Club Director's login to access the WebPoint system.)
- TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS** – Please make sure that you have a current USAV membership, USAV background screen, and have familiarized yourself with the Tournament Director Checklist located on the FORMS page.

Remember to visit our new Florida Region website: www.FloridaVolleyball.org on a regular basis to stay current on upcoming events and news. Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

I look forward to a great year in 2010,

Steve

Steve Bishop, Executive Director
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
T: (352) 742-0080 E: steve@FloridaVolleyball.org



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2010 DESKTOP CALENDAR INFORMATION

The new 2010 Desktop Calendars are now available! Go to www.FloridaVolleyball.org and scroll down to see the 2010 Desktop Calendar link.

Calendars are available with 12 different beach scenes along with team pictures of the seven HP All-Star teams from 2009.

Additionally, you will find a printable 8.5x11 Year-at-a-Glance calendar along with an 11x17 Wall calendar with some great pictures from last season.



CLUB HIGHLIGHT – ORLANDO GOLD VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Each month a member club is featured in *Vol-eNews*. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the clubs throughout Florida. Clubs of all sizes and disciplines will be highlighted in future editions of *Vol-eNews*. This month **Mitch Sadowsky** and the **Orlando Gold Volleyball Club** will be highlighted, enjoy!



Q: Mitch, tell us how you got started with volleyball?

A: I broke my leg in 8th grade playing football and my mom wouldn't let me play it in high school so I had an option to play either cross country or volleyball. I obviously chose volleyball. I caught on volleyball faster than baseball and basketball so I stuck with it and continued to play volleyball in college.

Q: You were the setter for Ball State University, what were some of your achievements on and off the court?

A: Off the court: I made the dean's list in all 4 fall semesters.
On the court: Making it to the Final Four 3 times; definitely beating UCLA in 1995, and also beating USC my senior year.

Q: You played for Team USA at the Maccabbi games in 2001, what is your most memorable moment?

A: I would have to say opening ceremonies, walking in with all the other athletes, and also winning a silver medal.

Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishment in volleyball?

A: I don't live on accomplishments; I like to go on a life-journey then look back on what I've accomplished. I love being able to meet so many people and make so many good friends along the way. I also love to help coach and teach younger children to play volleyball.

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: I've been coaching for 15 years. I started with a club in Sienna, then approximately a year after that I started coaching high school as well.

Q: When was Orlando Gold Volleyball club founded?

A: The club started in 1989, and I took over in 2008.

Q: How many of your club kids have gone to play college volleyball? What colleges?

A: I would say approximately 50 of my club kids have gone to play college volleyball. To name a few, Long Beach State, Louise, Penn State, Warner Southern, Pfeifer, Lime Stone, Lees McCrea, Institute of Psychology, Rutgers, Ohio State, Ball State, Quincy, and BYU.

Q: If you could brag about your club, what would you say?

A: We have a really great dedicated staff, great parents, and really good kids. Not just good volleyball players but overall really great people in our program.

Q: What are some of your club's accomplishments?

A: Winning the AAU National Championships in 4 divisions last year. Placing 3rd in the Penn State Nittnay Lion Ninvitational last year, which was the highest finish ever.

One of our club kids, Robert Tarr, played for the USA National Team.

Q: You have experience in coaching both male and female athletes; what differences do you find in coaching volleyball between the two genders?

A: It is different but there are a lot of similarities. I would say that the only difference is how you interact with the players. Guys can be much more volleyball oriented and you can motivate them as a team. As for girls, you have to spend a lot of time motivating each individual. You can focus on encouragement for some girls or challenging other girls. At the end of the day I am still just teaching kids how to play volleyball.

Q: What changes have you seen in the past couple of years for the boys' clubs in Florida?

A: The biggest thing that I see is the growth and the size, and also the interest to play competitive volleyball. I also feel that the quality of play is getting better as well. I think it has to do with how well the National Team did at the Olympics, and the amount of athletes that came from Florida has helped out a lot.

Q: What is your highest finish in Boys Jr. Nationals?

A: We placed 17th in the Open division.

Q: You are involved with Dig 4 Kids Education Program; tell us how you got started? What are your goals with this program?

A: In March 2008, I went to California for a wedding. A good friend of mine I saw there was the Foundation Director. So, I went to visit her to volunteer and I really enjoyed it. I then started one in Orlando, Florida, 6-7 months later. My goal is to have Dig 4 Kids Programs throughout the state to continue fundraising. Also, I would like to have the manpower to spread out across the Nation without spreading to thin. I just want to help the schools, and help the under privileged kids play volleyball. If we could raise money for these children we would be able help them continue their education by going to college if we provided them with scholarships.

Q: What are your future plans with your club team?

A: To continue the growth of the club and the growth of boy's volleyball in Central Florida. I would also like to have a medal finish in the open division. As we build our club we are trying to get started earlier and earlier so we can expose volleyball to the children at a younger age. We provide our club kids with great coaches that can teach them the fundamentals of volleyball so they can play in competitive volleyball. We just want to continue to provide great volleyball especially in Florida.

Q: Tell us about your boys' league?

We are in the process of starting a league for middle school children. This will give them the opportunity to play and practice locally. It will also give them the chance to play all year around. We just want to be able to provide opportunities to have fun and continue to enjoy this sport. This will also help promote volleyball in Florida and hopefully help the growth of the sport.

*Thanks Mitch for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes him and his club continued success in the 2009/2010 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Nancy Cothron and the Manatee Area Volleyball Club.***

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WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT TOURNAMENT SERIES



The first event, which was held on December 18th, 2009 in Tampa during the Final Four festivities, was a great success. There were six co-ed teams, and three girls' teams. The competition was awesome and everybody enjoyed themselves.

The Florida Region is excited to provide new opportunities for adults to play some competitive volleyball. Tournaments will continue to take place all the way through May across the State of Florida.

The next Wilson Friday Night Adult Tournament Series is January 22nd, 2010 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville. It is going to be hot! Don't miss it. Email sara@FloridaVolleyball.org in order to register a team.

Playing times will take place at 7pm, 8pm, and 9pm. Random pools of three will play twice and referee once. No uniforms required. There will be men's division, women's division, and a co-ed division. Single players are encouraged to come and the tournament staff will build co-ed teams on-site. Bring kneepads and shoes and get ready to play ball.

Click on the Wilson Friday Night Adult Tournament Series to view the entire 2010 Adult Tournament Schedule.

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT – ASICS



A special THANKS goes to ASICS, who has supported the Regional High Performance All-Star Program since 2006. ASICS has been one of the best region partners supplying all the HP uniforms for all of our teams. Their generosity and has impacted hundreds of junior volleyball players in the Florida Region.

Each year ASICS has gone above and beyond. In 2009, in spite of the economic climate, they supported our largest number of teams in the history of our Regional HP Program. Thank you ASICS!

IMPACT TRAINING CLINICS

The IMPACT Coaching Clinic schedule is posted on the EDUCATION page of the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org. IMPACT stands for Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory. It is a required course for all USAV coaches and any Florida Region hosted course is offered for FREE to all new USAV coaches. Check out the available dates online.

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TAMPA SUMMARY (NCAA, AVCA, PAVO)



The 2009 Final Four was at the St. Pete's Time Forum in Tampa, Florida. The semifinals were held Thursday, December 17th where Texas played against Minnesota, and Penn State competed against Hawaii. On Saturday December 19th Texas, ranked 2nd in the nation, played against Penn State, ranked 1st in the nation in the finals. It was a very exciting game.

Texas won the first two games. Then Penn State came back and beat them the last three games. Congratulations to the final four teams for all their hard work and dedication to the sport, it was definitely very thrilling and entertaining to watch them battle for the NCAA National Championship title.

Both of the conventions set new attendance records:

AVCA – There were 2,026 coaches and exhibitors that attended the AVCA Annual Convention.



PAVO – There were 247 attendees including speakers and guests that attended the PAVO clinics. We also want to congratulate **Donna Carter** for winning the *Excellence of Service Award* and **Mike Carter** for winning the *Honor Award*.



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FLORIDA FEST BOY'S BID TOURNAMENT

The Florida Fest Boy's Bid Tournament will be held on January 30th and 31st, 2010 at the Ocean Center located on 101 N. Atlantic Avenue Daytona Beach, FL 32118.



Go to www.FloridaVolleyball.org for event information and registration. If there are any additional questions please contact the USA Volleyball Events Department at bbid@usav.org.

REGIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE (HP) ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

The first Regional HP All-Star tryout for girls will be January 22nd, 2010 in Jacksonville. It will be held at the Prime Osborne Convention Center.

On January 29th the first Regional HP All-Star Tryout for boys will be held in Daytona Beach at the Ocean Center. Visit our Region website to learn more about the Regional HP All-Star program and to register online for an upcoming tryout.



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FLORIDA COLLEGE WRAP-UP

Below is a recap of how some of the top women's colleges in Florida finished their 2009 seasons. We want to congratulate them all!

NCAA Division I

FSU (Tallahassee), 31-3 – Finished 5th in the Nation (tied)

UF (Gainesville), 25-6, Finished 9th in the Nation (tied)

NCAA Division II

Flagler College (Saint Augustine), 36-9– Finished 3rd in the Nation (tied)

University of Tampa (Tampa), 31-3, Finished 5th in the Nation (tied)

Saint Leo University (Saint Leo), 30-4, Finished 9th in the Nation (tied)

NCCAA Division II

Clearwater Christian College (Clearwater), 45-4 – National Champions (1st Place)

NJCAA Division I

Miami-Dade College (Miami), 32-5 – Finished 5th in the Nation

Hillsborough Community College (Tampa), 30-10 – Finished 7th in the Nation

Visit the "FLORIDA COLLEGES WITH VOLLEYBALL" link on the Home Page of the Florida Region website: www.FloridaVolleyball.org. The 53 colleges in Florida with volleyball programs are listed alphabetically.

GIRLS JR. REGIONAL BID CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 2010 Girls Jr. Regional Bid Championships will be held on April 17th-18th, 2010, in Hall NB at the Orange County Convention Center located in Orlando. Only teams that have registered to attend the 2010 Girl's Jr. National Championships (JNC) by April 1st, 2010 are eligible to attend this event. This Tournament is for Girl's Junior teams ages 12U-18U trying to earn a bid to the 2010 JNC in Reno, NV.

All teams must register through AES (Advanced Events Systems.com). All USAV teams will be downloaded into AES.

The host hotel is The Double Tree Resort (Formerly the International Plaza Resort & Spa). Visit the Florida region website at www.FloridaVolleyball.org for hotel prices and event information.

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GIRLS JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2010 Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships will be May 8th-9th, 2010 in Hall NA of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. This tournament is for Girl's Junior teams ages 10U-18U. No bids will be awarded at this event.

The host hotel will be The Double Tree Resort on International Drive located 1 mile from the playing site. Visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org for more information on prices and event registration.



REGIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY



The Florida Region has some of the greatest volleyball people and they deserve recognition for their hard work and commitment to further the sport. Many thankless hours go into coaching, running a club, attending clinics, getting certified, officiating, planning events and improving our Region every year.

Information on our 2010 Regional Awards Ceremony along with online voting will be announced in our February 2010 edition of Vol-eNews. Start thinking about someone that you can nominate for one of our many awards!

USA VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS WANTED

The Florida Region is always looking for new officials to join the volleyball family. The Florida Region has grown by over 3,500 members over the past three years. It is required to have more trained volleyball officials for the clubs and teams participating in sanctioned events.

Becoming a USA Volleyball official will allow you to earn some extra income on the weekends, travel throughout the State, and meet some of the best people in the sport. Florida Region officials are former players, coaches, administrators, Regional Board Members, and they enjoy the camaraderie of working with professionals who share the love of the game.

If there are any questions on becoming an official click on the Official's Wanted logo on the Florida Region website.



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VOLLEYBALL IN THE NEWS REMINDER

The Florida Region is excited to learn more about your club and your accomplishments! Let us know about any scholarship signing's or club tournament results. This is a great way to share your success stories with the members of the Florida Region. Send your volleyball articles or news stories to Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org.



MEMBER CLUB BANNER INFORMATION



This year we are offering a 36"x36" banner to our member clubs to hang up in the practice gym or playing facility to show their affiliation with the Florida Region and USA Volleyball. The first banner is FREE and each additional banner is \$25.

To order a banner for your club, email info@FloridaVolleyball.org or call the office at 352-742-0080.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of January 1, 2010 is 6,700 members. Our goal for this year is 10,000 members.

REGION CONTACTS

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
15014 US Highway 441 Eustis, FL 32726
T: (352) 742-0080 E: info@FloridaVolleyball.org
Web: www.FloridaVolleyball.org

Board Members:
James Phillips, Commissioner
Shanon Lewis, Asst. Commissioner
Donna Beasley, Secretary/Treasurer
Terri Jimenez, Indoor Chair
Dave Carstenson, Outdoor Chair
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Sara Hoffman, Events Coordinator
Kelly Corkhill, Marketing Coordinator
Michael Hertz, Official's Assignor
Wally Hendricks, Head Rater

JAB Representatives:
Rita Crockett, Lori Eaton, Mitch Sadowsky, Bryan Carver