

FEBRUARY 2010: ISSUE 5

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WELCOME NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER

Florida Region Members,

I hope that all of you have had a great start to the 2010 season. We have already had more tournaments this year than we did by far this time last season. We have had challenges and triumphs early in this season and are looking for more good volleyball the rest of the year. Our Wilson Friday Night Adult Tournament Series is well under way and we hope to see all of our adult players and coaches join us to participate in the sport we all love and adore. Remember to look at our website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org for information on dates and times of upcoming tournaments.

Remember, please come and introduce yourself to me anytime that you are at a tournament in the Region. I look forward to meeting all of you and enjoying a volleyball moment with all of our members. Make sure that you are cheering for your team, applauding your opponents, and thanking the officials for their hard work and diligence. Share the love of our sport with your fellow members and invite others to share in your joy and excitement.

Your Commissioner,

James Phillips

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this letter, I am sitting here looking over the venue of our 2nd Annual Florida Fest Boys' Bid Tournament being held in Daytona Beach. This is a combined Nationally & Regionally hosted bid event and we will be handing out 4 bids (2-16u, 1-17u, 1-18u) to the 2010 USA Volleyball Boy's Jr. National Championships at the conclusion of play on Sunday.

With 6 international boy's teams from Puerto Rico in attendance, it is exciting to watch the athletes and coaches from different countries interact with each other on and off the court. We jointly held this event in conjunction with the Daytona Beach 100 girl's volleyball tournament and a men's college volleyball tournament at the Ocean Center. This is one of the few mixed-gender junior events in the United States and the energy level was high throughout the entire facility.

This past Friday night (Jan 29th) we also held a combined Boy's National & Regional High Performance All-Star tryout. There were 57 boys that attended, making this the single largest boy's tryout we have ever had in the Florida Region. There are three remaining Regional HP All-Star tryouts scheduled between now and mid-April. Check the Florida Region website for the All-Star tryout schedule.

On another note, I am excited to announce that Sand Volleyball will be coming to a college near you in the future. The NCAA voted to approve Women's Sand Volleyball at their recent meeting and we hope to see the sport in full swing by 2012. As one of the most active beach/sand volleyball states in the United States, this exciting news will create many new opportunities for our upcoming juniors. Stay tuned for more information on this topic!

Keep an eye on the Florida Region website (www.FloridaVolleyball.org) for information on upcoming events. Also, remember to submit your ballot for our 2010 Regional Awards Ceremony. We need to hear from you!

See you on the court,

Steve

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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 – NORTH FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY

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 **Rita Crockett** and the **North Florida Volleyball Academy** will be highlighted, enjoy!



Rita "The Rocket" Crockett is a two-time Olympian indoor player for Team USA. She was an amazing athlete and role model back when she played competitively and still remains that way today. Rita was not only a remarkable indoor player but also a spectacular beach volleyball player. She became the first African-American to win a beach volleyball World Championship along with her partner Jackie Silva. To view "The Rocket" playing, click on the link provided: [USA vs. BRA 1984](#). If you would like to learn more about Rita Crockett please visit www.ritacrockett.com.

Q: Rita, how old were you when you started playing volleyball?

A: I started playing my freshman year in high school. I was 12 or 13 at the time; I was very young when I attended high school. I then continued to play volleyball in college. I played at San Antonio Junior College for one year then transferred to North Texas State University, and transferred again to play at the University of Houston.

Q: When did you start your club team?

A: I started my club in November 2006. I was the Associate Head Coach of Florida State University. I stopped coaching for them and took over The North Florida Volleyball Academy.

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

A: It is the most satisfying experience in my volleyball career to date. It's not just because of the kids but also the experiences I get with the parents, community and watching the kid's grow and learn. I love being apart of building their character not only in their athletic experience but also in their personal lives. I love being in our gym and I love what I do. I really, really, enjoy figuring out problems, if any, because you can't make everyone happy but I try to make them comfortable. This club has made me a more all around business person and mentor. I absolutely love what I do!

Q: What are some of your club's accomplishments? (Ex. All-State, All-American, College scholarships, etc.)

A: In our second year we won the 13's division and 17's division at Regional's, as a result we sent two teams to Nationals that year.

In 2008, the 17's Elite team that I coached won the Big South Tournament without losing a set. It was the first time ever a team in Tallahassee has ever won a national qualifier. We played teams from California, Texas, Florida and more. My team made a deal with me that if we went undefeated the whole tournament I had to dye my hair pink for two days. Regardless to say, we won the tournament, 20-0. The team got to paint my hair until it was completely pink.

I'm excited to say that our club has grown from 8 teams to 12 teams. We have a total of 140 kids in our club.

Q: You recently opened up your own facility, how many courts are there? How did you feel when it finally opened?

A: We have 3 courts two full courts, a training court, a nice lobby, a girl's bathroom which is pink, and a boy's bathroom that is blue.

I was so excited when it opened, I felt like a kid opening the best Christmas present you ask from Santa but never get it. Well he finally dropped it down the chimney. I enjoy seeing how much everyone else enjoys it as well, it truly makes me happy. I just love my club.

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

A: Want to continue to keep our facility up and keep it going so that it opens up for more kids so that they can have this outlet and opportunity. I would love to get adults in here too (so that I can play too)! I want to be successful by giving the kids what they want out of their experiences, to be a good player, to get a scholarship or

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just continue to play ball. I want to continue to help the kids accomplish their goals. In the long run we want our seniors to be excited about where they go to college.

Q: Tell us your most memorable moment(s) playing in the Olympics?

A: It would have to be when we were down against Brazil to get in the semi-finals. It was a very intense game, we were down match point in the 4th but we came back and beat them in the 5th game. We told ourselves we will not lose this. We wanted it so bad, we fought hard and beat them. The game was so intense that they interrupted Nightline until the game was over. I can honestly say I cried after that game even though we won. It was a much deserved victory.

Q: How did you get your nickname "The Rocket"?

A: I got the name by having a 42 inch vertical jump. Whenever we toured the announcer would call me "Crockett-the-Rocket". It stuck ever since, even to this day.

Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishments with volleyball?

A: Some of my biggest accomplishments would definitely be winning a silver medal in the Olympics and also being the first African American to win The Beach Volleyball World Championships. The experiences were amazing and I never took anything for granted, I cherished every moment. It was such an honor to wear the USA jersey, and represent my country.

Q: Tell us your role in the Florida Region?

A: I am on the Board of Directors. I enjoy being on the board to help make the Florida Region better. I take pride and I am very honored to be representing the region by being on the board. I feel like now that I've lived in Florida for 6 years, being on the board for 3 of those years, has allowed me to get to know a lot more people now.

Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region?

A: I want to see our region get stronger across the board by winning championships, and qualifiers in all divisions. I want to continue building so we can have the most members in the nation. I would also love to get more members in the adult's beach and grass leagues. Want us to be big in every aspect of volleyball and I think we are definitely capable of it.

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

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JUNIOR YOUTH MILLION VOLLEYBALL PARTICIPANT'S (MVP) CD'S

This CD will help coaches develop a volleyball program that will help the youth develop basic skills and volleyball concepts so they can learn how to play volleyball the "right way." There are videos, drills, rules, parent information, beach volleyball basics and much more.

This is a great program to help teach the youth basic concepts for volleyball in their early years. Please contact the office at 352-742-0080 or email Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org to get your FREE CD; it's a great way to get the kids off to a good start in volleyball.

WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT TOURNAMENT SERIES

The Florida Region is excited to provide new opportunities for adults to play competitive volleyball. Tournaments will continue to take place all the way through May across the State of Florida. There are many tournaments remaining before Adult Nationals and so far the competition has been awesome in both the co-ed division and women's division.

We are finalizing locations for several additional dates in February.

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. More info: www.FloridaVolleyball.org



REGIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY



The 2010 Florida Region Awards Ceremony will be on Friday night, May 7, 2010 at the Double Tree Resort in Orlando. This year's guest speaker will be a real treat. We will officially announce our speaker in the March 2010 edition of *Vol-eNews*. Tickets will be available online starting Feb 15, 2010.

Also, our online voting is now open, so start thinking about someone that you can nominate for one of our many awards. Voting will close on April 1, 2010. Just visit our website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, and click on the Regional Awards Ceremony logo to vote.



REGIONAL HP ALL-STAR AGE UPDATE

The Florida Region has great news! We just received confirmation from the National Office that the junior boys born in 1992 are now eligible to tryout for our BYNT Regional HP All-Star team. As for the junior girls, if they are born in 1991 they are now eligible to tryout for our GJNT Regional HP All-Star team.

If you are interested in attending a tryout, there are three remaining opportunities this season. Information about the program, tryout times, and the link to register online can be found here: www.FloridaVolleyball.org (Click on the HP All-Star Link)

REGIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE (HP) ALL-STAR PROGRAM

The first Regional HP All-Star tryout for girls was held on January 22nd in Jacksonville. The first Regional HP All-Star tryout for boys was held in Daytona Beach on January 29th. They both had a good turn-out, 45 girls showed up at Jacksonville and 57 boys showed up at Daytona. Click here for more information about the program: www.FloridaVolleyball.org (Click on HP All-Star flyer).

The Florida Region is proud to announce the 2010 Regional HP All-Star Coaches:

GIRLS JUNIORS (GJNT) – Girls born in 1991, 1992, & 1993

Head Coach - Jill Stephens, Florida Southern

1st Asst - Erik Peterson, UCF

2nd Asst - April Lowe, Boomers VBC (formerly Kansas State)

GIRLS YOUTH (GYNT) – Girls born in 1994 & 1995

Head Coach - Lynze Roos, Lynn University

1st Asst - Brian Imperiale, Florida Southern

2nd Asst - Adis Imamovic, JJVA

GIRLS SELECT (GSEL) – Girls born in 1996 & After

Head Coach - Taylor Mott, Flagler College

1st Asst - Kelly Morrisroe, Eckerd College

2nd Asst - Isaac Raphael, TVA-WS

BOYS YOUTH (BYNT) – Boys born in 1992, 1993, & 1994

Head Coach - Steve Benson, EMU

1st Asst - Yasmin Ortiz, South Dade VBC

2nd Asst - Jesus Montalvo, Marion Co Jrs.

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BOYS SELECT (BSEL) – Boys born in 1995 & After

Head Coach - Rob Holley, JJVA (formerly University of Kentucky)

1st Asst - Russel Williams, Longwood VBC

2nd Asst - Charlie Negron, Central FL VBC

Special thanks go to the coaches for their hard work and dedication to the Regional HP All-Star program. The Florida Region would also like to thank the volunteer coaches for helping out in Jacksonville and Daytona. If you would like to volunteer for future tryouts please email Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org.

REGIONAL RANKING INFORMATION

The Florida Region Ranking Reports are available on our Region website on the Indoor VB page. They are separated by age division, and ranked from highest to lowest points. Points are awarded based on the final finish at each tournament and the size of the age division up to 32 points. The Ranking Report will be updated within 3-5 days **AFTER** a Florida Region approved tournament takes place.

The Regional Ranking Guidelines have been approved by the Regional Ranking Committee and are available on our website as well. Check out the rankings and guidelines at www.FloridaVolleyball.org (click on Indoor VB).

FLORIDA FEST BOYS' BID TOURNAMENT RECAP

The Florida Fest Boys' Bid Tournament was held on January 30th and 31st in Daytona. It was an exciting event. There were 33 boy's teams in the tournament. The top three teams in each division are as follows:



14's Club

- 1st IMUA Na Opio
- 2nd Longwood 14 Black
- 3rd Orlando Gold 14 Black

16's Open

- 1st Halcones de Torrimar (won Bid)
- 2nd Pitirres 16 (won Bid)
- 3rd Tampa Bay Invaders 16
- 3rd Narasito Envol

17's Open

- 1st Halcones de Torrimar (won Bid)
- 2nd MVA 17 Mizuno
- 3rd High Intensity 171

18's Open

- 1st Vaqueros (won Bid)
- 2nd Orlando Gold 18 Black
- 3rd Ocean Bay 18 Quicksilver

For more information on the final standings visit www.usavolleyball.org

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GIRL'S JR. REGIONAL BID CHAMPIONSHIPS



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

All teams **MUST** register through AES (Advanced Events Systems.com) **NLT 03/16/10**. 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.

GIRL'S JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2010 Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships will be May 8th-9th, 2010 in Hall NA at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. This tournament is for Girl's Junior teams ages 10U-18U. All teams **MUST** register through AES (Advanced Events Systems.com) **NLT 04/09/10**. Teams may play up. **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 hotel prices and event information.

MEMBER CLUB BANNER INFORMATION



The Florida Region is offering a 36"x36" banner for 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 February 1, 2010 is 7,626 members. Our goal for this year is 10,000 members.

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VOLLEYBALL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

This year the Florida Region will offer five scholarships for High School Seniors that are USAV members and live in the Region.

The scholarships are as follows:

1. Edward "Ned" DeGroot Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
2. Ben Jordan Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
3. Mark Headrick Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
4. Florida Region Scholarship - \$500.00
5. Commissioner's Scholarship - \$500.00

The application & checklist will be available on the Florida Region website: www.FloridaVolleyball.org, under 'Latest Region News'. The deadline to apply is April 1st, 2010. No packets will be accepted after this date!

FACEBOOK REMINDER

Come join our group of friends and get daily updates on what is occurring in the world of USA Volleyball. It is an easy way to remain in touch to know what is taking place throughout the Florida Region. We make daily updates on volleyball tournaments and other events across Florida. Please come find us on the web and become part of the Florida Region Volleyball Family.



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