



October 2010: ISSUE 13

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WELCOME NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER

I want to personally welcome all 8500+ Florida Region volleyball members back to a new and exciting season of volleyball. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you during this full season of volleyball. We hope to grow our membership to at least 10,000 members and could use your help in showing our great sport to potential new members.

Since last season, we have had some changes to the staff and want to wish Kelly Corkhill much success in her future endeavor as a teacher. She will be missed in the office and by our members. We thank her for her years of service to the region. Please say hello to two new staff members, Krissy McKane, marketing coordinator and Kelly Mills, registrar. Michelle Daniels has moved to bookkeeper. Please give a warm Florida welcome to our new staff members and let them know how they can help you.

I wish all of you good luck in the upcoming season; may you reach all of your volleyball goals. Please join me in welcoming Russel Williams, Junior Administrative Representative, to the Board of Directors. Please let Russel and all of the Board members know how we can best serve you.

James Phillips
 Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve

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CLUB HIGHLIGHT –ST. AUGUSTINE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

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. This month **Taylor Mott** and **St. Augustine Volleyball Association** will be highlighted.

Q: How old were you when you started playing volleyball?

A: 13

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: 23 years



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

A: Getting up every day and still doing the thing I love, coaching.

Q: How do you juggle family life while coaching college and club volleyball?

A: I don't, it juggles me. It is definitely the most challenging part of my job. I am not going to lie, there are some days when I wonder how I am going to get through the next day but I am fortunate to have a supportive husband that understands my passion for the game. There are many times when I have to leave practice early to pick up one of the kids or cancel practice if one of them is sick and even bring them on the road if we don't have someone to watch them. I love having my kids around my Flagler College Volleyball team; I don't think you could ask for better role models than that.

Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years?

A: I think it is amazing. I was a basketball player that found the game on accident. My neighbor growing up was a few years older and made the high school volleyball team. She needed someone to pepper with, I did not know what that even meant. It did not take long for me to fall in love with the game and I know I am biased, but there is no better sport. I think there are many great programs out there now that were not available when I was a kid, programs for all ages to get involved with volleyball. If you can have an over 75 age group at nationals you must be doing something right.



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

A: WE plan on continuing to have club as long as there is an interest. WE would love to get the beach side going but it is difficult in the summer because kids are always coming and going. We are going to try though.

Q: You were selected as a coach for the High Performance Championships this year. Tell us about your experience there.

A: I think HP is one of the best programs out there. It is a great way for the elite club members to come together and represent the Florida Region. I really enjoy working with the select age group and it is also an opportunity for me as a coach to learn from other coaches.

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

A: I feel we have really great coaches that care about the kids. We work with kids that play more than one sport so they don't have to choose.

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

A: The possibility of having a professional team.

*Thanks Taylor for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club continued success in the 2011 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Melissa Chaplin and Volleyfrog Florida.***

JAB ELECTION RESULTS

The 2010 JAB Elections results are in! Thank you to all the candidates that ran for the JAB and to the clubs that voted. Congratulations to Lori Eaton (Florida Gold Coast) and Russel Williams (Longwood VBC), who have been elected to serve through August 2012. A total of 46 clubs voted.

Here are the results:

Lori Eaton (Incumbent, Florida Gold Coast) – 29 votes

Russel Williams (Longwood Volleyball Club) – 22 votes

Jason Kucera (West Pasco Volleyball Club) – 10 votes

Tim Harris (Performance Volleyball Club) – 9 votes

Chad Davis (Gainesville Juniors) – 7 votes

Latoya Washington (Tallahassee Juniors) – 7 votes

Ed Vazquez (Sunrise Volleyball Club) – 3 votes

Please submit any questions about the election to vote@FloridaVolleyball.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LORI EATON AND RUSSEL WILLIAMS!



FLORIDA FEST BOYS' BID TOURNAMENT



Join us at the 3rd Annual Florida Fest Boys' Bid Tournament in Daytona Beach! The Florida Fest, in conjunction with the Daytona Beach 100 Girls' Volleyball Tournament, is one of the few mixed gender events in the USA under one roof. In 2010, the event award 4 bids!

This year, The Florida Fest Boys' Bid Tournament will be held at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach from January 29th – 30th, 2011. *Register early to reserve your spot!*

2011 Entry Fees:

Early Bird \$400 (Before Oct. 15, 2011)

Regular \$500 (Oct. 16th – Jan. 6, 2011)

Late \$600 (After Jan. 6, 2011)

For more information, please visit www.FloridaFest.org or visit our website www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the logo on our homepage.

GROWING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

The Florida Region has partnered with **Growing Champions for Life** to provide parents and coaches the tools necessary to give young athletes the emotional skills to win at sports, and essentially, win at life. Here are some key aspects of the program:



- parents gain an increased understanding of their role as supporter
- less parental pressure applied on young athletes so they perform better
- reduced fear of disappointing parents
- more cooperation with trainers, coaches, and program administrators
- fewer misunderstandings between parents, trainers, and coaches
- more positive environment within the organization and at competitions



I had the pleasure of asking the creator of **Growing Champions for Life**, David Benzel, a few questions.

Q: What was your inspiration for creating the program Growing Champions for Life?

A: Many times I wondered if I was helping or hurting my children with my competitive spirit and my own emphasis on peak performance. I knew my sport parent strategies were based only on theory, and not on knowledge. I never found the manual on “how to help your kids survive youth sports.” Two years ago I was approached by a Hall of Fame Olympic gymnast named Wendy Bruce, who won a bronze medal in 1992. As a mother of two athletic children she was looking for answers to many sport parenting questions. Knowing about my background as a corporate speaker and trainer she suggested I create workshops and educational materials for sport parents. It didn't take long to discover there's a real need for this kind of information, and with my children still competing in their early to mid-twenties; I had learned a lot since T-Ball!

Q: How does your program benefit, not only coaches, but entire families?

A: The relationships we have in our families are the most important ones we'll ever have. Unfortunately, we sometimes inadvertently strain or even damage those relationships because we apply performance pressure disproportionate to unconditional love and total acceptance. In other words, our message to our children gets out of balance with our real assignment as parents. We're not supposed to be their Agent! By giving parents positive strategies for teaching kids self-discipline, self confidence, and perseverance we help build bullet-proof child/parent relationships and cohesive families.....for life, not just for a season. Parents become heroes to their kids. Athletes never fire their heroes; but they will fire their Agent.

Q: What feedback have you received from individuals who have used your program?

A: The two comments I hear most often are: 1) “I wish someone had shared these concepts with me earlier.” 2) “This should be required of all parents before they're allowed to put their kids in sports.” The majority of parents are not horrible parents. But that same majority realizes that they're accidentally putting unnecessary pressure on their children, and that pressure is getting in the way of a child's development and performance. It's not helping! Parents want to know what works best.



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