



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



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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Members,

It has been an incredible year with our membership numbers over 9,800 and the largest number of Florida Girls teams qualifying for Junior Nationals! We will probably reach our goal of 10,000 members this summer and are one of the 10 largest regions in USA Volleyball. With that growth has come some challenges and some changes. Two of our staff members have left, Sara Hoffman and Kelly Mills. We wish them well in their future endeavors and hope they find happiness and success in their next job. We also look forward to bringing on new staff in the near future. We have added one member, so please join me in giving a warm Florida Region welcome to Michele Sisser, our new Registrar/Office Manager. She will be training this month and rapidly preparing for the next upcoming season. Please remember to check the Florida Region website, www.floridavolleyball.org, often for information pertaining to upcoming events such as our Regional Awards Banquet on May 6th in Orlando. It will be an exciting evening with lots of awards and prizes. I hope to see you at our Regional Events and look forward to speaking with you soon!

James Phillips, Commissioner



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this month's letter I am anticipating our upcoming 10th Annual Florida Region Awards Ceremony along with our 2011 Girls Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships in Orlando. Both of these events will recognize some of the best people and teams in our Region. At the awards ceremony this year we will present over 30 awards and \$4,500 in scholarships to high school seniors. Our memorial scholarships will be given in honor of some gentlemen that have made a notable impact on our great sport: Mark Headrick, Ned DeGroot, and Ben Jordan. David Benzel (Growing Champions for Life) will be our guest speaker and I'm sure that he will inspire and motivate us all to keep working toward our goals.

Our Girls Jr. Regional Championships will play host to 350+ teams and will play out on 50 courts in the Orange County Convention Center. This year we will have over 400,000 sf of space for the event. In addition to the expanded space, we will have 11 vendors in the hall and plenty of seating for all of our spectators and fans.

In closing, I would like to highlight a few exciting accomplishments that have happened recently:

- We now have 37 girls teams that have won bids to the 2011 USAV Jr. National Championships in Atlanta, GA. This is the highest number of girls teams to attend from the Florida Region during a season.
- Orlando Volleyball Academy has won an OPEN bid to the Jr. National Championships for every team possible (14U-18U). This is the first time that a single club has won an OPEN bid in every age division available.
- We have recently adopted two additional beach tours in Florida (FBVT & SSOVA) and will now have 13 tour stops for our junior beach athletes under the USAV Dig The Beach Tour name. Information on the tour can be found on our Region website: www.FloridaVolleyball.org (Click on Outdoor)

Stay tuned, it is quite likely that we will achieve our goal of having 10,000 members in the Florida Region this month. We will post the announcement celebrating the big day when it happens!

See you on the court!

Steve

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.



CLUB HIGHLIGHT – MIAMI MATADORS 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. This month **Greg Villareal** and **Miami Matadors Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

Q: Tell us how you got involved in volleyball?

A: I'm probably one of the very few people whose first experience with volleyball wasn't ever as a player, but as a crazy fan for our high school girls' team. This has to do with the fact that my growing up in New Mexico didn't allow me to participate because there wasn't a single school or club program for boys throughout the entire state. My varsity baseball coach in high school was also the volleyball coach, so when I was an upper classman, he asked if I wanted to help him over the summer at their volleyball camps and during the season, so I agreed. Then I moved away from NM and came to Miami, where I attended Barry Univ. and started the men's club team, as well as serve as a student athletic trainer for the National Championship women's program that was coach by Dave Nichols (now at FGCU). Next, I was hired by the University of New Mexico as a graduate asst. certified athletic trainer, where I was able to work with the women's volleyball team. After graduating from UNM, I then moved to Miami where I've been since at Columbus HS.



Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: On the club scene I started the Miami Matadors in 2008/2009, in which we had only one team of 16s. Then for high school, I first starting coaching JV boys in 2007 and continued with that until this year, in which I took over as head coach at Columbus HS. During that time, I also was hired as a head coach at Lourdes Academy for the girls' program.

Q: Congratulations on being selected as a coach for the High Performance All-Star Program! What are you hoping to take away from your experience with HP?

A: I looking forward to meeting a great set of talented athletes and coaches who will allow me to learn and take something away from all of them; exchanging of ideas, philosophies, drills, etc. Establishing more connections in the volleyball environment is always a goal as well.

Q: As one of only two USAV Clubs that offer boys-only programs, what opportunities do boys have to play volleyball now that they didn't have when you were growing up?

A: Well I didn't have ANY opportunity at all, so they have the world to them being able to play club, high school, developmental camps, etc.

Q: How would you rate the volleyball potential in Miami?

A: I would say the overall potential on the boy's side is greater than the girl's side in Miami-Dade, but bringing that potential out is very difficult because of socioeconomic factors, stigma of boy's volleyball within the traditional mindsets of many parents, and also lack of facility availability for those who do want to play and develop.

Q: Do you have any noteworthy alumni from your club?

A: Not yet because the first boys we ever started with are now seniors in high school. We have 5 players that are being recruited to play in college (10th-12th grade), but I'm not too sure any of them will take offers because of financial reasons of going out-of-state, while they already have



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just about all their school paid for in academic scholarships, grants, Bright Futures program, etc. here in FL. We've always stressed academics first with all of our players.

Q: Does your club have an outdoor program? If not, do you plan having one in the future?

A: No, we do not have an outdoor program, nor am I looking at developing one any time soon.

Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with the Miami Matadors Volleyball Club?

A: Hands-down best memory comes from last year's USAV Nationals in Austin, TX. We were matched up first day against #1 seeded Balboa Bay from Southern California and were playing in front of a large crowd that included many other clubs and college scouts. It was a high-energy game that we were eventually able to pull out in the 3rd set and show that a little club of relatively modest volleyball experience could go up and defeat the big boys from SoCal.

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

A: We have a great set of boys and families who are always supportive of our efforts as a club and aren't afraid of making sacrifices for the betterment of their sons and club; fundraising, travel arrangements, schedules, etc.

Q: What can the Florida Region do to better promote boys volleyball in Florida?

A: I don't think the Florida Region can do it alone. Yet, if there was a combined effort between the Florida Region, USAV, and hopefully NFHS/FHSAA...then there would be a better marketing and promotion initiative to show to the public what boys' volleyball is all about.

I definitely applaud the Region for starting the college club championships because it at least gets colleges involved and a step in the right direction for promoting the development of boys' volleyball in the state. If parents don't see potential avenues for their sons to earn scholarships or playing opportunities in college, they are usually less likely to support their sons playing club volleyball because of its cost.

I also think that we need to tap into colleges around the state of FL to help out and join in on sponsoring boys' tourney around the entire state, since it seems as though almost everything is held in Orlando for boys. I know it is really difficult in Dade County because of the lack of facilities.

Q: What do you look forward to in the Florida Region? In your club?

A: Just looking forward to the continued progress and growth of volleyball, especially on the boy's side, since the girl's movement is on full-throttle.

My intention for my club is quite simple and doesn't involve growing it any bigger...unless some sort of investor would like to join in and build a volleyball facility for the use of volleyball clubs in Dade County.

*Thanks Greg for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Lauri Dagostino** and **Tampa Bay Juniors Volleyball Club**.*

BEACH HP TRYOUTS

There will be a **Team Florida Beach HP All-Star** tryout on May 21st in Siesta Key. Please check the website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, for additional information to be posted after The Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships!



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BID RECIPIENTS

Big South JNQ:

- **OVA 14 Asics** - 14 Open Bid
- **Tampa United 14 Tampa** - 14 National Bid
- **OVA 15 Asics** - 15 Open Bid
- **Gainesville Jrs 15 Black** - 15 National Bid
- **Ocala Power 15 Rox** - 15 American Bid
- **Gainesville Jrs 17 Black** - 17 National Bid
- **Treasure Coast 18 National** - 18 National Bid

2011 Florida Bid Championships & trickle down, upgraded or reallocated bids:

- **OVA 12 Asics** - 12 National Bid
- **OVA 13 Asics** - 13 National Bid
- **Top Select 13 Elite** - 13 American Bid
- **Tribe 13 Platinum** - 13 American Bid
- **Top Select 14 Elite** - 14 National Bid
- **Pinellas Heat 14 Elite** - 14 American Bid
- **Miami Elite 15 Blue** - 15 National Bid
- **Tribe 15 Platinum** - 15 American Bid
- **OVA 16 Asics** - 16 National Bid
- **NFVA 16 Elite** - 16 American Bid
- **Boomers 17 Elite Black** - 17 National Bid
- **OVA 17 Molten** - 17 American Bid
- **Pinellas Heat 18 Elite** - 18 National Bid
- **OVA 18 Asics** - 18 American Bid
- **SFVC 15 Gold** - 15 American Bid (Trickle Down)
- **JJVA 17N Rox** - 17 American Bid (Trickle Down)
- **OVA 18 Molten** - 18 American Bid (Trickle Down)
- **NFVA 16 Elite** - 16 National Bid (Upgraded)
- **Gainesville Jrs 12 Black** - 12 National Bid (Trickle Down)
- **Top Select 16 Elite** - 16 American Bid (Trickle Down)
- **Top Select 12 Elite** - 12 American Bid (Reallocated)
- **GAC 14 Black** - 14 American Bid (Reallocated)
- **Top Select 15 Elite** - 15 American Bid (Reallocated)
- **USA South 16 National** - 16 American Bid (Reallocated)
- **Ocala Power 17 Rox** - 17 American Bid (Reallocated)
- **Top Select 18 Elite** - 18 American Bid (Reallocated)

Northern Lights JNQ, Northeast JNQ, Show Me JNQ, Lone Star JNQ:

- **OVA 12 Asics** - 12 National Bid (Northern Lights)
- **OVA 16 Asics** - 16 Open Bid (Northern Lights)
- **OVA 17 Asics** - 17 Open Bid (Northern Lights)
- **Top Select 15 Elite** - 15 National Bid (Northeast)
- **MAV 16 Elite** - 16 American Bid (Northeast)
- **Pinellas Heat 17 Elite** - 17 National Bid (Northeast)
- **Fort Myers Fusion 15** - 15 National Bid (Show Me)
- **Boomers 17 Elite Black** - 17 Open Bid (Lone Star)
- **OVA 18 ASICS** - 18 Open Bid (Lone Star)





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FLORIDA REGION AWARDS CEREMONY

The Florida Region Awards Ceremony will take place on May 6, 2011, at the [Double Tree Resort - International Drive](#). This is a time to recognize those that have gone above and beyond to make our Region better. Many thankless hours go into coaching a team, running a club, attending clinics, getting certified, planning events, and contributing to the sport of volleyball. The Guest Speak is David Benzel, creator of Growing Champions for Life. Buy your tickets online today at www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

Time: 6:30p Reception, 7:00p Ceremony Begins

Cost: \$10 per person in advance (Age 13 & Above), \$15 at the door
 Light food & drinks will be provided, Cash bar will be available

Dress Code: Business Casual to Business Standard

Guest Speaker: David Benzel, Growing Champions For Life



GIRL'S JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2011 Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships will be held May 7-8 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. This tournament is for girl's junior teams, age's 10U-18U. **No bids will be awarded at this event!** We expect this year's event to be one of the largest yet with 374 teams signed up to play!!

Wave Assignments (FINAL) - As of April 18, 2011

AM Wave: 10u, 11u, 15O, 16O, 16C, 17O, 17C, 18u

PM Wave: 12u, 13O, 13C, 14O, 14C, 15C

Pools & Brackets will be posted NLT 5/4/11

Team Check-In Information:

Date: **Friday, May 6, 2011**

Location: **Double Tree Resort**

Time: **3:30pm to 6:30pm (EARLY)**

9:00pm to 10:00pm (LATE)

Admission for fans/spectators is \$5 per day or a two-day pass on Saturday for \$10.



OTHER EVENT INFORMATION

This year, we have teamed up with **Orlando Convention** to help you make the most of your time in Orlando while attending the **Girl's Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships**. Available discounts include restaurants, golf, attractions, nightlife, shopping and much more. Each listing offers detailed information and discount coupons that can be printed. They can also make your dinner reservation and book your group dinner party or event.



Just click on the golden ticket to:

- *Purchase, discounted attraction tickets!*
- *Receive, discounts to fantastic restaurants and make dinner reservations!*
- *Enjoy complimentary cocktails at some of Orlando's best nightlife!*
- *Play great golf at a discount!*
- *Shop at Orlando's most exclusive stores and outlets with discounts!*
- *Rent cars and make use of other great services all with fantastic discounts!*

Be sure to check out the coupons available and call Orlando Convention at **(407) 248-8629** if they can help you in any way!



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2011 USAVFL DIG THE BEACH SERIES TOUR STOP

The Florida Region together with Dig the Beach has put together another season of outdoor competition that you'll find nowhere else but here on our own Florida beaches!!

2011 Schedule:

- May 14-15 – Clearwater Beach
- May 14-15 – Ft. Lauderdale
- May 21-22 – Siesta Key
- June 4-5 – Fort Myers
- June 11-12 – Siesta Key
- June 25-26 – Fort Lauderdale
- July 9-10 – Siesta Key
- July 23-24 – Fort Lauderdale (Regional Championships)



For more information and to register, please visit www.digthebeach.com. You must have a current USAV membership to participate in the following tournaments. See you on the beach!!

BEACH IMPACT CLINIC

A **Beach IMPACT Clinic** is scheduled for **May 21** in **Siesta Key** from 9am-12n. Please arrive 30 minutes early to check-in. Wear beach attire, bring a notebook & bring along your favorite beach drill!

Clinic Fees for Beach IMPACT:

Coaches w/ a Full Membership (Oct-Sep) - NO CHARGE for Beach IMPACT
Coaches w/ a Seasonal Membership (Apr-Sep) - \$25 in Advance (\$35 Onsite)

****Please visit our website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org to register!****

HP CAMPS

The **HP Development Camp** and the **HP Travel Camp Selections** have been made and are being finalized! The Development Camp will take place on May 21-22 at Winter Springs High School. The Travel Camp will take place on June 4-5 at the University of Tampa & Tampa Prep. For hotel information and to view Camp selections, please visit our website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org. If you have any questions, please contact Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org.



NEW REGISTRAR/OFFICE MANAGER



Michele Sisser grew up in Burton, Michigan, and moved to Florida in 1991 to escape the snow. Michele lives in Mount Dora with her 16 yr old son Wayne, who is an avid baseball player. She also enjoys all things NASCAR! She previously worked in the aviation field before coming to the Florida Region office. *"I feel so blessed to be taking on a new challenge in my life by coming to the Florida Region as the New Registrar/Office Manager. Thanks for letting me join your Team!"*

Welcome Michele! The Florida Region looks forward to working with you. If you would like to drop Michele a note welcoming her, please do so at MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org.



USA VOLLEYBALL OUTSTANDING PARENT AWARD

Keith & Courtney Lindner have been recognized by USA Volleyball for the "Outstanding Parent Award". Keith and Courtney are the parents of Bailey (18), Austin (16), Alley (14) & Court (11), all of whom are affiliated with Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Academy (JJVA).

Q: Tell us a little about your family.

A: We have lived in Jacksonville, Florida, for the last 5 years moving from Cincinnati, Ohio. We have home schooled our family for the last 10 years with the first of our 4 children graduating this May! She will be playing volleyball in college. Keith is busy with investing, but more importantly with ministry projects. Currently, he is working on bringing family friendly shows to television. Courtney home schools and spends most of her time driving kids and coordinating the family schedule.

Q: How did your children get involved with volleyball? Do they play other sports, too?

A: Our oldest daughter was a tennis player growing up and became interested in a team sport in 8th grade. She tried out for JJVA and got chosen for her "tennis serve". All 3 of our other kids played tennis as well, but after a couple of years in the gym they too have picked up volleyball and play both tennis and volleyball year round.

Q: How do you both manage your time between work, sports & family life?

A: That is very difficult. We have to divide and conquer as a family. My husband and I are rarely in the same town on weekends. He is often with the boys at a tennis tournament while I am with the girls at a volleyball tournament. We bring our work with us to tournaments. The kids bring school work and Keith spends a lot of time on the phone and computer during travel. During the week we play tag team with pick ups and drop offs at tennis practices, volleyball practices, and work outs.

Q: What kind of sacrifices do you have to make as parents of athletes?

A: Many weekends are spent separated as a family and it takes its toll. What we cherish most is a family dinner. This does not happen very often so when it does it is a very special evening. As parents we have to put aside our own interests in order to invest the time in the kids. It is harder to get involved in church and ministry opportunities due to training, weekend tournaments, and summer camps. Our children appreciate the sacrifices we make and almost always thank us for taking them on a tournament.

Q: What kinds of rewards or benefits do you see your children reaping because of being involved with sports?

A: Weeknights and many weekends are spent at tournaments or training, therefore they have less time to get into trouble! On a more serious note, they are focused and disciplined because of sports. Our children are better organizers of their time since they have less time on weekends to get homework done. While they may not always enjoy it, they have learned how to be team players and the give and take that entails. Most importantly, they know that to be great at a sport it takes time above and beyond the basic practices. Hopefully, this will translate into all phases of life—that to attain excellence you have to go the extra mile, whether it is in college, work, relationships, or ministry.

Q: Do you have any advice for future parents of athletes?

A: Make your children choose one sport! Dual sports are hard! Competitive sports are a huge commitment and as a family you have to be ready for it. If the family is not on board 100% then it can be divisive. Try to make tournaments a family event. Include fun things for the non competing siblings to do so they don't resent being in a gym weekend after weekend. When you as a parent lose heart, keep in mind the many life lessons your children are learning.



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FLORIDA REGION HIGHLIGHT

Check out this month's edition of the USA Volleyball Magazine to read about our very own Florida Region! USA Volleyball Magazine highlighted topics ranging from our vastly growing membership count to famous Florida alumni to our beaches hosting some of the top sand tournaments in the U.S. Visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org to read the full article!

USAVFL DIG THE BEACH, FBVT & SSOVA PARTNER!

USAVFL Dig The Beach is excited to announce that it has partnered with the Florida Beach Volleyball Tour (FBVT) & SSOVA. This partnership allows players the opportunity to play in over 25 USAV sanctioned beach volleyball events every year!

"This news is very exciting and proves that when everyone pulls in the same direction that the sport of beach volleyball and all of our beach volleyball enthusiasts win! Our partnership with Exclusive Sports Marketing (Dig the Beach) over the past three years has helped us create the most successful junior beach tour in the entire country. This year we will add the adults to the mix to afford them the same levels of participant accident insurance coverage that we have historically offered the juniors as USAV members. We look forward to the roll out of the new combined tour and we welcome FBVT & SSOVA to the USA Volleyball family!"

- Steve Bishop, Executive Director/President Florida Region of USA Volleyball

"By the three of us partnering it allows a consistent setting for Florida beach volleyball. This is truly something that will benefit Florida beach volleyball and I am excited to be partnering with Chris and Sam."

-Gino Ferraro of the Florida Beach Volleyball Tour

"Chris and Gino have been running great tours here for years and this partnership shows all of our commitments to the sport. By us coming together players will be able to play just about every weekend somewhere in the state of Florida. This is a great opportunity and I am excited to take my events to the next level."

-Sam Cibrone of SSOVA.

"With all of us working together we are giving Volleyball players a consistent product in the state of Florida. By all of us partnering, basically all Florida beach volleyball events will be USAV sanctioned. This helps us establish Florida as a serious contingent on the National level. Working with Sam and Gino increases the footprint of where we can go. We are each able to handle various size events, opening up new markets. I am extremely excited to be working with Sammy and Gino and looking ahead to a promising beach volleyball season."

-Chris Colgan of the Dig the Beach Series

OUTDOOR SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Region has added a new **Outdoor Summer Membership** option, effective April-September. The Outdoor Summer Membership costs \$15 and is available for all Junior Boys & Girls or Adults who are interested in participating in any USAVFL Dig the Beach Events this summer (does not include National Competition). For more information on the memberships offered by the Florida Region, visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org.



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2011 ADULT REGIONALS

Registration for the 2011 Adult Regional Championships is now open! The event will be held on May 21-22 at Lyman High School & Winter Springs High School.

Team Fees:

\$200 if registered by May 13, 2011

\$250 after May 13, 2011

\$300 onsite, day of event (based on available space)

Note: Teams that have applied to participate in the 2011 USA Volleyball Adult National Championships in Dallas, TX will be assigned bid position at this event. Please visit the Florida Region website for details on registration, team check-in & play schedule!



MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of April 1st, 2011 is **9,800+** members! Our goal for this year is 10,000 members. Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

REGION INFORMATION

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
 15014 US Highway 441
 Eustis, FL 32726

T: (352) 742-0080
 F: (352) 414-5304
 E: info@FloridaVolleyball.org
 Web: www.FloridaVolleyball.org

Board Members:

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Shanon Lewis, Asst. Commissioner
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