



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



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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE OUTDOOR CHAIR

Florida Region Members,

Beach season has started and there is plenty to keep us busy all summer long! In March we had a Beach Kickoff with Professional Beach Volleyball star and Florida Native, Tyra Turner. Just recently, this past weekend, we had our first event from our Dig the Beach Legacy series. Alongside this event in Siesta Key, we had Beach Impact courses and Regional & National Beach High Performance tryouts. This is the first year the Florida Region has initiated a Regional Beach High Performance program. The teams selected will represent Team Florida at the National Beach High Performance Championships in Hermosa Beach, California! So far, the turnout has been phenomenal and I expect that to continue throughout the summer. Something else to look forward to is the addition of the SSOVA and FBVT to the USAV Junior Series. This has more than doubled the events that Juniors can play in and accumulate points throughout the season. The demand for beach volleyball in Florida is at its highest and with your help Florida has become the leader in Juniors beach volleyball!

Kendra VanZwieten, Outdoor Chair



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May was a very exciting month for the Florida Region. **We achieved our goal of having 10,000 members!** After reaching this milestone, we are now the 9th largest region of the 40 regions in our USA Volleyball family.

A few other notable events took place in May that are certainly worth mentioning here:

- On May 1st we announced the joining of several Florida beach tour stops to create the largest USAV sanctioned beach tour in the US. By combining the efforts of our current USAV Dig the Beach tour (**Chris Colgan**) with SSOVA (**Sam Cibrone**) and FBVT (**Gino Ferraro**), we are now able to offer 26 USAV sanctioned tour stops this year. The beach is officially OPEN!
- On May 6th we held our 10th Annual Regional Awards Ceremony in Orlando. At the awards ceremony we celebrated the outstanding volleyball people in Florida that make our Region great. We recognized our Team Florida HP All-Star coaches & our newest Jr. National & National officials, presented over 30 awards, awarded \$4,500 in scholarships to high school seniors, celebrated many club anniversaries, and inducted the newest member to our Florida Region Hall of Fame. Our 14th member to be inducted was **Dr. Cecile Reynaud** of Florida State University.
- On May 7th-8th we hosted our 2011 Girls Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships and crowned award winners in nine age divisions (10U-18U). This year's event played host to 359 teams and took place on 50 courts at the Orange County Convention Center. With 11 vendors in the venue and lots of space throughout the hall, the atmosphere was filled with fun and excitement for everyone.
- On May 21st-22nd we officially kicked off the beach season with our first USAV Dig the Beach Legacy tour stop in Siesta Key. Our first tour stop had almost 400 adult and junior teams in attendance and we anticipate that we will set some new beach attendance records this season.
- On May 21st-22nd we also held our first annual Regional HP Development Camp in Winter Springs. Eight athletes were selected from this camp to attend the upcoming Team Florida HP Travel Team Selection Camp at the University of Tampa in June.
- During May 23rd-27th, Florida Region representatives attended the annual USA Volleyball meetings in Dallas, TX. While at the meetings, we were asked to present to the other 39 Regional Volleyball Associations during the best practices sessions. Our topics were Club Certification and Marketing and our presentations were well received by all in attendance. Additionally, we presented on Growing the Game as a representative for the Regional Volleyball Associations during the 3rd Annual USA Volleyball Congress alongside some very notable presenters from across the US.

You can be very proud to be a member of the Florida Region. We are consistently noted for being a forward thinking Region and we are currently touted as the #1 jr. beach volleyball Region in the US. THANK YOU to all of you for helping us make the Florida Region shine!

Steve

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





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – TAMPA BAY JUNIORS 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 **Lauri Dagostino** and **Tampa Bay Juniors Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

Q: When did you first get involved with volleyball?

A: My first exposure to volleyball was in 8th grade when I found volleyball by accident. I tried out for the cheerleading squad at McLane Junior High and pulled a hamstring doing a gymnastics move during my final routine – best thing that ever happened to me. Volleyball tryouts were the next thing in line after I recovered. I had fabulous coaches (Mr. & Mrs Goo) who had played with the national team program in Guam. I think we were the only junior high team in Florida doing “over hand” serves in 1975 – how archaic in today’s terms. From there, it was a high school team then college and then starting a club. Randy, my husband, was taking a PE majors course (Volleyball 101) in college at the University of Illinois in 1973. Members of his class were eventually asked to scrimmage against the schools women’s volleyball team to help them get better. He later helped occasionally with teams at high schools he worked at but really never got involved seriously until he came to Tampa as the Athletic Director at Tampa Prep in 1976-77 school year. Then of course, the real story began at Berkeley in the 1981-82 school year.

Q: You and your husband, Randy, were instrumental in establishing the High Performance (HP) Program in Florida. Tell us about the progress you have seen in the HP Program since it first began.

A: We were one of the first USAV regions to see the value of and start an HP program. Since then, the program has been competitive every year at the HP Championships helping Florida to earn a lot of national respect for being a volleyball hotbed. The number of players in the program has grown, the organization to run the program has become solid, the level of play has continued to increase, more coaches are getting involved and all of this just helps the sport continue to be the fastest growing sport for girls in the country. And even though boy’s volleyball is not the mainstream in Florida yet, the boys program has grown and is becoming strong as well.

Q: Congratulations on being awarded the “Ernest Langford Pioneer Award” at the 2011 Florida Region Awards Ceremony! How has volleyball impacted you and your family?



A: For me, volleyball has become a way of life I never imagined. It's now a family thing we do, not just a part time job. It's a passion that has brought my family so many gifts of which many do not get to experience. It has created special bonds between my kids and their coach/father that are hard to replace. It has given me a chance to be with my kids as they grew in a way that a 9-5 job would not. It has offered Randy and I a chance to share our lives in business through the development of a club program, where we were intimately woven into the lives of many kids along the way and lastly in the excitement of running a large tournament together. All of which are priceless.

Q: Tell us about your family. What key volleyball accomplishments for each of your kids are you most proud of?

A: I guess I am just proud of the fact that they have found their passion – well, at least one of their passions in life. Randy and I were very careful to expose them to every sport and not choose for them. They both truly enjoy playing and I think anyone can see that when they watch them. I LOVE watching them play with all of the pure joy, excitement and competitive qualities they exhibit. They have a way of making everyone on their teams “want” to play as well – that is an intangible gift. The other stuff – Awards, National High Performance teams, and college scholarships – those are just icing on the cake.

Q: As the first USAV Club established in Florida, what have you done to continue your success as a club?

A: Running a club is more than just teaching a sport. It is managing people, influencing lives, being creative with your programming and customer service. I think you need to know what it is you want to be and plan accordingly.

We never tried to be the club we weren't. We knew we didn't have the right infrastructure to be a mega-club so we never tried to service a huge clientele. We just focused on being the best we could be at the size that fit. We tried to find other coaches who shared a passion for the sport, mentor new ones and just support the growth of volleyball in general. We helped many new clubs start up and that in turn helped us become better.

We decided that putting our teams in the most competitive situations – even though they may lose – was the best was to become better. So we traveled to play the best teams we could, played out of age division and fostered the most game like, competitive practices we could.

Also, Randy is all about learning and finds those pearls of coaching wisdom in the strangest places. That's the passion that drove us for all these years – his love of teaching – and that's how he views coaching... it's teaching.



Q: How many teams were in your first year? How many now?

A: We have had the perfect “bell curve” of club volleyball. In 1984 we had one team. The largest number we had was probably in the late 90’s and that was 18. We now have 2 girl’s teams and 1 boy’s team and it is blissfully manageable.

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

A: Two things..... One, we have been able to compete with the best teams in the country in any given year without practicing 4-5 times a week. We don’t start our practices until January, we don’t run summer camps and we allow kids to be multi-sport athletes or have other passions outside of sports if they want to. But somehow, we manage to keep teams nationally competitive. And two, through this sport we have been able to help so many girls get to a college of their dreams. Many of which would not have had the opportunity to do so either because of financial limitations of the family or because of how tough it is to get into many universities.

Q: What are some of your goals for your club?

A: We have reached them really. It’s been the same every year – to be the best we can be and that means teaching each athlete how to be the best player and teammate they can be with what they have. Everyone wants to win right?

Q: Tell us about the transition of moving the Big South National Qualifier from Tampa, FL, to Atlanta, GA?

A: If anyone remembers the last year we were here in Florida they will recall the 11th hour announcement to have ½ of the event in Orlando. We received a lot of nasty emails over that one. But it was a choice of turning away tons of teams or moving facilities – we lost the use of USF at the last minute. While that worked as a short-term solution, it wasn’t the best scenario for anyone. Tampa was just too small so we needed find a new home. We sent out an RFP and it came down to either Orlando or Atlanta. We would have loved to keep it in the state, but Atlanta won out in the end. Looking back it has been a good move. We have been able to have a huge effect on the growth of club volleyball in Georgia, Alabama and other surrounding states much as we did here in Florida. It also allowed the event to attract more diverse teams because Atlanta’s airport had many more flight schedules to accommodate the in and out time issues teams have when trying to travel to another time zone. And that diversity has helped every team that attends the event become a better team. The tournament has become one of the most competitive qualifying events to attend.



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

A: Its second life..... the Florida Region should always want to be the leader it has been; to be progressive and on the cutting edge nationally; be a rebel.

When Randy & I first got involved with the region there were no junior people involved, no junior structure. It was the passion, drive and creativity of a few young coaches across the state that crafted what we have today. While that sort of pioneering may not be needed anymore to **start** the wheels rolling, it is needed to continue into the next best phase.

They say the death of a business begins when you lack the vision to see what improvements you can/should make. Volleyball has come full circle in many ways. Now is a great time to take a step at reinventing the Florida Region and have the vision that no other USAV region or the even the national USAV structure has had.

*Thanks Lauri 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 **Sarah Barnhard** and **Beaches Volleyball Academy**.*

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

The Florida Region is excited and proud to announce that our goal of **10,000 members** has not only been met, but surpassed! Florida now ranks as one of the top 10 largest regions in the country!

Congratulations Florida Region!!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Florida Region is proud to announce the following individuals as the Florida Region Scholarship Award recipients for 2011:

Florida Region Scholarship – *Jillian Sherman & Mariah McCallum*

Commissioner's Scholarship – *David Specian*

Mark Headrick Memorial Scholarship – *Mikaela Maher*

Ned DeGroot Memorial Scholarship – *Lindsey Fleming*

Ben Jordan Memorial Scholarship – *Scott Witkowski*

Thank you to those whose donations have made it possible to award these scholarships year after year! If you are interested in making a donation to the Florida Region Scholarship Fund, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

KUDOS

Orlando Volleyball Academy is the first Florida Region Volleyball Club to win **Open Bids** in every age division possible (14U-18U)! Congratulations and good luck at the USAV Junior National Championships!!



FLORIDA REGION AWARDS CEREMONY

The **2011 Florida Region Awards Ceremony** was held on May 6th, 2011, at the Double Tree Resort in Orlando, FL. Thank you to **David Benzel**, the Guest Speaker, who entertained and inspired the crowd with his motivating speech! Congratulations to those individuals and teams who were recognized at the awards ceremony for their commitment to the sport of volleyball!

2011 FLORIDA REGION AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Jr. Scorekeeper – **Mikaela Maher, Rivers VBC**
Outstanding Jr. Officiating Team – **Club Storm U16 Black**
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 12U-14U – **Erica Bunch, Wakulla Storm**
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 15U-16U – **Enrico Discacciati, JJVA**
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 17U-18U – **Steve Wilcosky, Boomers VBC**
Outstanding Parent Award – **Bill Wegner, Pinellas Heat**
Outstanding Male Coach – **Rob Holley, JJVA**
Outstanding Female Coach – **Sindee Snow, OVA**
Most Improved Jrs. Club – **Top Select & Miami Elite VBC**
Outstanding Club Director – **Vicky Page, Club Storm of Tampa**
Outstanding Tournament Director – **Sam Skelton, Palm Beach Jrs.**
Outstanding Adult Male Player – **Kenny Veliky, FSU Men's Club Team**
Outstanding Adult Female Player – **Brooke Sweat**
Outstanding IMPACT Clinician – **Joan Powell, IMPACT Clinician**
Outstanding Official's Clinician – **Leisa Jordan, National Clinician**
Ben Jordan Golden Whistle Award – **Tony Cothron, National Official**
Outstanding Service Award – **David Crabb, UF Men's Club Team**
Extra Mile Award – **Donna Beasley, Secretary/Treasurer**
Meritorious Service Award – **Dave Carstenson, BCAP Certified Coach**
Volleyball Ambassador Award – **Bruce Perry, Palm Beach Jrs. & Randy Tedder, Palm Beach Jrs.**
Ernest Langford Pioneer Award – **Lori Eaton, Gold Coast VBC & Lauri Dagostino, Tampa Bay Jrs.**
Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee – **Dr. Cecile Reynaud**

OFFICIALS CLASS OF 2010

The Florida Region is proud to announce the Officials Class of 2010:

Steve Dalton – *Jr. National Official*
Toshiko Robison – *Jr. National Official*
Daniella Bragg – *National Scorekeeper*
Jackie Martin – *National Scorekeeper*
Jennifer Gale – *National Referee*

Congratulations to the officials from the Class of 2010! The Class of 2011 will be announced at the end of the summer on the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org.



2011 USAVFL DIG THE BEACH SERIES TOUR

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

2011 Schedule:

June 4-5 – Fort Myers

June 11-12 – Siesta Key

June 11-12 – Fort Lauderdale (FBVT)

June 18-19 – Hollywood (FBVT)

June 18-19 – Siesta Key

June 25-26 – Clearwater (SSOVA)

June 25-26 – Fort Lauderdale

July 9-10 – Siesta Key

July 16-17 – Deerfield Beach (FBVT)

July 23-24 – Fort Lauderdale

July 30-31 – USAV National Invitational Beach Championships-Fort Lauderdale

August 6-7 – Clearwater (SSOVA)

August 6-7 – Hollywood (FBVT)

August 13-14 – Miami Beach National Championships

August 20-21 – Fort Lauderdale State Championships (FBVT)

September 10-11 – Miami Beach National Championships



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

BEACH IMPACT CLINIC

All beach coaches must attend a Regional Beach Coaching Clinic (at a minimum) to participate in any USAV Jr. Beach event! Coaches that successfully complete a Regional or National Beach Coaching Clinic will be eligible to coach at any USAV junior beach event in Florida.

A **Beach IMPACT Clinic** is scheduled for Friday, **June 3rd**, in **Longwood @ Lyman High School** from 10am-1pm. Please arrive 30 minutes early to check-in. Wear coaching 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!!****



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HP TRAVEL CAMP SELECTIONS

Eight players were selected from the HP Development Camp to attend the HP Travel Camp on **June 4-5 at the University of Tampa**. Congratulations to the following players:

MaryEllen Pole – YNT	Monica Lower – YNT
Jessica Johnson – YNT	Kat Boll – YNT
Katy Kuhlmeier – SEL	Madison Sroufe – SEL
Jordyn Saulsberry – SEL	Madison Dill – SEL



Twelve players from each team will be chosen to travel to Tucson, AZ, for the HP Championships on July 24-30.

Players are responsible to bring the following items to the Travel Camp: shoes, socks, spandex/shorts (black or navy only), knee pads, Regional HP tryout t-shirt, club warm-ups, backpack/gym bag, water bottle, medical release form (notarized) and any prescribed medications. Additional Training Camp t-shirts will be provided once you arrive. (Development Camp athletes are to bring HP t-shirts provided at Camp.)

The Florida Region would like to recognize the outstanding HP Coaches for their dedication and hard work! We would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteer HP coaches who have selflessly devoted their time and effort to the HP Program and athletes! For more information and details regarding the HP All-Star Program, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

2011 BOYS JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **2011 Boys Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships** will take place June 11-12 in Wellington at the Wellington Village Park Gym.

Wave Assignments (Tentative):

AM Wave - 15U & 16U
 PM Wave - 17U & 18U
 Split AM & PM - 14U

Tournament brackets will be posted NLT June 9th, 2011. Admission into the Boys Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships is **FREE**. For additional information and hotel accommodations, please [Click Here](#).



INDOOR IMPACT CLINIC

ATTENTION future indoor coaches! There is an **Indoor IMPACT Clinic** scheduled for **Friday, June 10th** from 5:30pm to 9:30pm at the **Wellington Village Park Gym**. The instructor will be veteran IMPACT Instructor, Linda Gomez.

The District hosted clinics are free to all registered Florida Region coaches. Visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the **Education** link to sign up!



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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.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of June 1st, 2011 is **10,395** 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

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Mary Andrew, Indoor Chair
Kendra Vanzwieten, Outdoor Chair
Darin Clark, Official's Chair

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Michele Sisser, Registrar/Office Manager
Vacant, Events Coordinator
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
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The Official Outdoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Florida Region HP All-Star Program since 2006!



The Official Indoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!

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