



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



August 2011: ISSUE 23

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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Florida Region Members,

I hope all is going well with your summer. I have had the opportunity of seeing many of you on the beach enjoying another aspect of our great game. We have had the opportunity to be a part of the largest beach tour for junior players in USA Volleyball and have seen some excellent play.

Some of our members were able to travel to California to participate in Beach High Performance and experienced a great event. Many of our members just returned from indoor High Performance where they experienced a very high level of competition. With the indoor season over and the beach season headed toward championship events, it is time to relax and enjoy the rest of the summer. Registration for next season will start September 1st, so please register early.

Also, please join me in welcoming the newest member of our staff, Steve Benson, Events Manager. He joins our team in an effort to help in the events arena and we look forward to working with him!

James Phillips
 Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Normally at this time of the year we are enjoying a little down time and some vacations, but due to our busy event schedule this season we have had to postpone the staff down time until we get closer to the holidays. This season we have managed 41 events so far and we have 9 remaining in 2011. Our big upcoming events this month are the four (4) District Jr. Forum Meetings for our indoor junior clubs. These meetings are very important as they allow us to meet with each district in a personal setting where we can update the clubs on our progress and get feedback on how we can better serve them in their local communities. Please check the Florida Region website (www.FloridaVolleyball.org) to see the locations, dates, and times of the meeting in your area.

A couple of other exciting items that deserve a mention here would be our two Team Florida HP All-Star programs. We have added a Beach HP All-Star program to our long running Indoor HP All-Star program and now have the first Beach HP All-Star program in the USA Volleyball family. Our inaugural Team Florida Beach HP All-Star delegation participated in the 2nd Annual USAV Beach HP Championships on Jul 14-17, 2011 in Hermosa Beach, CA. I am proud to announce that four of our eight beach teams won medals. On the indoor side, our 11th annual Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star delegation participated in the USAV HP Championships on Jul 25-30, 2011 in Tucson, AZ. This will be the third year in a row that we have medaled and our Girl's National Youth team, led by Head Coach Sam Cibrone, brought home a Silver Medal in the Gold Division. Congratulations to our Team Florida Beach and Indoor athletes and coaches for representing our beloved Florida Region with distinction.

We wish all of our middle school and high school athletes the very best as they gear up for their respective school seasons. Remember to support our Florida colleges as many of our graduating seniors will be playing throughout Florida. Stay tuned for more exciting news next month.

See you on the court,

Steve

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





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CLUB HIGHLIGHT – THE 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. This month **Isaac Raphael** and **The Volleyball Academy** will be highlighted.

Q: Tell us how you got started in volleyball.

A: I played many sports in school, including football, soccer, and basketball. In the 10th grade, because I was athletic, my coach, Mandy Llanos, encouraged me to play volleyball. I took his advice and fell in love with the sport. I gave up all the other sports for volleyball.



Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: I had my first opportunity to coach volleyball when I was a senior in high school, 25 years ago. Our coach, Coach Anduze, was in the latter part of the third trimester of her pregnancy and unable to lead daily practice with the team. I was faced with the choice of taking on the responsibility for the hands-on aspect of daily practices, or see the team dismantled for that season. I elected to take on the challenge of coaching although, at that time, I had no idea that I would continue coaching. My focus at that point was simply to ensure that I could continue playing volleyball.

Q: What are all the job titles you currently hold? How do you manage all of those responsibilities?

A: Wow, that's a question I don't really like thinking about because it can be overwhelming. First I am a husband to a beautiful and really awesome wife, Jacqueline. We are parents to 5 great kids, Mwai, Imani, Ishaq, Ismaill, and Sky. We also have a pet bird, a Conyer named Indy, and a Boxer named Moto-Moto. I don't know why I put that as my first responsibility because Jacqueline runs our home; I just get to live there. Did I mention I have a really beautiful and awesome wife??!!

I am really excited to announce that on July 1st I was named Head Volleyball Coach at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, FL. The volleyball program at Bethune-Cookman is a fully funded, (12 full scholarships) NCAA Division I program. Although this coaching assignment represents an awesome responsibility, I also view it as a tremendous opportunity to put the coaching skills and experience that I have garnered over the past two decades to the test to turn a program around that has struggled in the past. I am also excited to have had the opportunity to recruit Kisy Killingsworth to the program as my 1st Assistant.

In addition to being a husband and Dad, and most recently, a Head Coach, my wife and I are also Owners and Directors of TVA (The Volleyball Academy) in Winter Springs Florida, where we have operated for the past 8 years. I think everyone should give their club director a big hug because that is truly a huge responsibility that entails an incredible amount of work, dedication, and patience -- almost as much as my wife puts in each day in running our home.

Each summer, I also run numerous camps and clinics. I have served as the Volleyball Camp Coordinator for the City of Oviedo, for the last 5 years. Summer 2011 marked my second year running the volleyball camp in the US Virgin Islands and next year I will be expanding to the Commonwealth of Dominica and Trinidad, as well. The camps served over 350 children this year.

It is truly incredible that volleyball has given me the opportunity to touch the lives of so many young people. I also plan to start running free camps and clinics for underprivileged children, starting in summer 2012. I believe that every child should be given the opportunity to at least try our awesome sport.



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I have been honored to be a Coach for the Florida High Performance Program for the past two years. Currently, I am an assistant coach for the Girls International Youth team.

Amidst all these responsibilities, I am completing my MBA (Masters in Business Administration) at FIU. And, if my wife will allow me, I will Coach the US Virgin Islands Women's National Team in 2012. I am tired just thinking about all that.

Q: When did you start your club? How many teams were in your first year? How many now?

A: TVA was started in the fall of 2002 with 2003 being our first playing season. The club started with the help of some incredible parents from Winter Springs who had a great vision of what they wanted a volleyball club to be. I run the club keeping their vision in mind. We initially started with four teams and have had as many as 13 teams. This summer we started our inaugural boys' program which was a huge success.

Q: Tell us about your experience as a High Performance (HP) coach.

A: High Performance is an awesome program. I definitely believe that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. As such, I am really honored to represent the entire state of Florida. This program really gives the athletes an opportunity to play at a very high level, which in turn requires that I coach the athletes at a very high level. It may be the closest opportunity to play at a college level that our athletes have prior to actually going to college. I enjoy learning from my fellow coaches and players as well. The Region has done a fantastic job with this program and I definitely plan to continue to be an active part of the program.

Q: Tell us about your boys program. What can the Florida Region do to better promote boys volleyball in Florida?

A: I have to say that the Florida Region has done a great job promoting boys volleyball at the older level, specifically, ages 14 and up. Getting involved with Florida Collegiate Club Volleyball is brilliant. However, boys' volleyball has to be promoted at a grass roots level to our athletes. I loved the game once I was exposed to it when I was 15. However, I believe that having one's first exposure to volleyball as a teenager is too late for most boys to really excel in the sport. Most boys are already involved in some other sport by that age and would not be inclined to take volleyball seriously. The Florida Region needs to get together with club directors and really encourage boys' volleyball at the very young ages. It may need to be jump started by giving clubs some kind of incentive to have younger boys' teams. We may even just need to start local leagues to keep the cost down and to get young boys involved in the game. Once they play, I can assure you that most boys will get hooked and never want to stop playing volleyball.

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

A: TVA has a number of athletes playing at the next level. We have sent players to Harvard, LSU, and UCF, to name a few. More than 95% of the players who leave TVA their senior year get scholarships to play collegiate volleyball. We have also earned multiple trips to JO's and I have been recognized as Outstanding Coach of the Year by the Florida Region.

Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with TVA?

A: I have had many memorable stories but the one I am most proud of is when Lauren Williams (UCF), Emily Ryerson (Palm Beach Atlantic University) and Shakhea Moore-Hagins (Bethune-Cookman University), all TVA alumni who played at the next level, came home one summer and asked me to help them while they volunteered to run a camp at the Midway Boys and Girls Club in Sanford, Florida. Of course, because I had nothing else to do I said yes.



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It felt awesome to see these athletes wanting to give back to our community. I realized then that they do get it-- and that's why we run this club.

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

A: TVA is true to its name: we are The Volleyball Academy. We train athletes to play the game and I think our training is second to none. We don't recruit; we train who we have and train them well. We also stress having a positive, family oriented environment for our athletes. I firmly believe that it takes a village to raise a child and TVA is definitely part of our athletes' village.

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

A: Professional Volleyball!! I don't understand why we don't or what we are waiting for to have it. If we need a model, just take a quick flight to Puerto Rico. They have been doing it for years. We could even play in their leagues. But we just need to do it!

*Thanks Isaac 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 **Mike Zarate and Ocean B Volleyball.***

EVENTS MANAGER – USAVFL REGION STAFF

Please join us in welcoming Steve Benson to the Florida Region Staff! Benson started the new position of **Events Manager** this month and comes to us with many years of volleyball experience.

- 1996-1999 Head Varsity Volleyball Coach at Leesburg High School
- 1999-2005 Coach for Lake County Juniors
- 2001-2002 Assistant Club Director for Lake County Juniors
- 2002-2005 Club Director for Lake County Juniors
- 2000-2003 Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach at Lake-Sumter Community College
- 2003-2005 Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Lake-Sumter Community College/Coordinator of Student Recruitment
- 2005-2011 Men's & Women's Head Volleyball Coach at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia - most coaching wins in the 21 year history of the school
- Current Head Varsity Volleyball Coach at South Lake High School
- Just wrapped up 7th year coaching for the High Performance Program (3yrs. Girl's HP Program, 4 yrs. Boy's HP Program)



"I'm looking forward to continuing the success of the Florida Region. Through my role I hope to add to and improve the events within the Region. Our family is excited to be back in Florida, close to our family & friends!"

If you would like to drop Steve Benson a note, please do so at sbenson@floridavolleyball.org.

2012 CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

It's that time again! We are asking for you to submit your best volleyball photo whether it's an action shot, group shot, indoor or outdoor; we want to see them all! You can submit your photos to Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org. (Please submit high resolution photos only.) To view the 2011 Calendar, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the calendar located on the home page.



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DISTRICT JUNIOR FORUM MEETINGS

2011 DISTRICT JR. FORUM MEETING SCHEDULE

The District Jr. Forum meeting will have 5 different components:

1. NEW CLUB DIRECTOR ORIENTATION - 9am to 10am

This meeting is for any new club that would like to affiliate with the Florida Region and add USAV teams to their club.

**2. INDOOR JUNIOR CLUB DIRECTOR MEETING - 10am to 4pm
(Note: Boy's Jr. Club Breakout During Lunch, 12p-1p)**

This meeting is MANDATORY for all Indoor Jr. Club Directors! We will provide lunch for the Club Directors attending this meeting.

3. INDOOR IMPACT TRAINING - 9am to 1pm

This training is for new volleyball coaches and is free to all USAV registered members. Non USAV members must pay \$50 to attend the IMPACT training class.

4. TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SESSION - 10am to 12n

This training session is for the individual(s) that will be responsible for teaching/training the officials in your club. This is a mandatory training session for all clubs!

5. CLUB ADMIN TRAINING - 1pm to 3pm

This training class is for any Club Admin that uses the USAV WebPoint online registration system or AES event management system for their junior club.

NOTE TO INDOOR JR. CLUB DIRECTORS - The Indoor Jr. Club Director Meeting is MANDATORY for all Club Directors. If you are unable to attend the meeting in your District, you may attend another District meeting to fulfill the requirement. Please do not send a representative from your club to attend the Indoor Jr. Club Director Meeting. The Club Director of record must attend. Proxies will not be honored!

Please email Michele Sisser (Registrar) at msisser@floridavolleyball.org to sign up a representative for each of the sessions listed above. In your email, include the following items:

1. Who is attending the New Club Orientation (New Clubs Only!)
2. Who is attending the Indoor Junior Club Director Meeting (Club Directors Only!)
3. [Click Here](#) to sign up for Indoor IMPACT
4. Who is attending the Train-the-Trainer Session
5. Who is attending the Club Admin Training

Note: Lunch will be provided for Club Directors only! All other guests and attendees will have to make separate arrangements if they will be attending during the lunch break. Thank you for your cooperation!

****Please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org for more info and locations.****



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INDOOR IMPACT CLASSES

Note: The District hosted clinics are **FREE** to all registered Florida Region coaches. Registration must be submitted no later than seven (7) days prior to the clinic.

Aug 13, 2011

[Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites](#)

213 SW Commerce Drive

Lake City, FL 32025

Time: 9:00a-1:00p

Instructor: Jose Rivera

Aug 14, 2011

[Embassy Suites Orlando North](#)

225 Shorecrest Drive

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

Time: 9:00a-1:00p

Instructor: Linda Gomez

Aug 20, 2011

[Hyatt Regency Sarasota on Sarasota Bay](#)

1000 Blvd of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236

Time: 9:00a-1:00p

Instructor: Nancy Cothron

Aug 21, 2011

[Holiday Inn - Palm Beach Airport](#)

1301 Belvedere Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Time: 9:00a-1:00p

Instructor: Linda Gomez

Please call the Florida Region at 352-742-0080 if you have any questions.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

USAVFL DIG THE BEACH SERIES TOUR

The USAVFL Dig the Beach Series Tour is winding down with only two more events! **SSOVA** will be hosting an Affiliate Tour Stop in Clearwater on Aug 6-7. Adults play on Sat and Juniors & Coed play on Sun. Visit www.SSOVA.com for more details and registration.

Dig the Beach is hosting their National Championships in Miami on Sept 13-14. This event is for Adults only. Visit www.digthebeach.com to sign up! Hope to see you on the beach!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It's that time again! Membership Renewal time is here for all current and future USAV members. You will notice on your membership cards that it expires October 31st, 2011. You can renew your membership, **AFTER September 1st**, by visiting our website and logging into your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080 or info@floridavolleyball.org.



CLUB RENEWAL REMINDER

All club directors must renew their clubs by September 1, 2011. Only clubs that complete this requirement by the deadline will be recognized as an official USAV Club.

You can renew your club by viewing our website's homepage and clicking on the "How Do I..." drop box located on the left under "Quick Links". Contact Michele Sisser, Florida Region Registrar, at msisser@floridavolleyball.org for any questions.

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

This year marked the highest number of teams in Florida Region history to represent Florida at the Junior National Championships! The 2011 USAV Girls' & Boys' JNC took place Jun. 25 - Jul. 4 in Georgia and Jun. 29 - Jul. 6 in Minnesota, respectively.

Top 10 finishes at the 2011 USAV Girls' JNC

18 Open

Tampa Bay 18 Black – 5th Place

18 National

Pinellas Heat 18 Elite – 5th Place

17 Open

Boomers 17 Elite Black – 7th Place

16 Open

OVA 16 Asics – 3rd Place

16 American

Top Select 16 Elite – 5th Place

15 National

Miami Elite 15 Blue – 2nd Place

15 American

Tribe 15 Platinum – 5th Place

14 Open

OVA 14 Asics – 3rd Place

14 American

Pinellas Heat 14 Elite – 3rd Place

13 American

Top Select 13 Elite – 5th Place

12 National

OVA 12 Asics – 10th Place

12 American

Top Select – 9th Place

Top 10 finishes at the 2011 USAV Boys' JNC

18 Open

Ocean Bay 18 Quiksilver – 10th Place

16 Club

Longwood 16B – 10th Place

15 Club

Orlando Gold 15 Black – 5th Place

Congratulations to all the teams that participated! For a complete list of results, please visit [AES](#).



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USAV BEACH HP CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

Approximately 125 boys' and girls' beach volleyball teams competed at the 2nd Annual USA Volleyball Beach High Performance Championships on July 14-17 in Hermosa Beach, California.



The Florida Region had the pleasure of sending the first and ONLY Beach HP Delegation to California. **Steve Bishop**, along with guest coaches **Danalee Corso** (sand volleyball coach at FSU), **Cindy Phillips** (Pro Beach Player & Owner of Club Beach Dig) and **Tyra Turner** (Pro Beach Player) accompanied Team Florida.

Congratulations to the following medal winners:

- U21-Jeassica McGregor/Bree Scarbrough,

Bronze Medal

- U19-Kristina Pellitteri/Savannah Davis, Gold Medal (Silver Division)
- U19-Julie Brown/Kayla Joyce, Silver Medal (Silver Division)
- U17-Brittany Pellitteri/Haley Mitchell, Silver Medal (Silver Division)



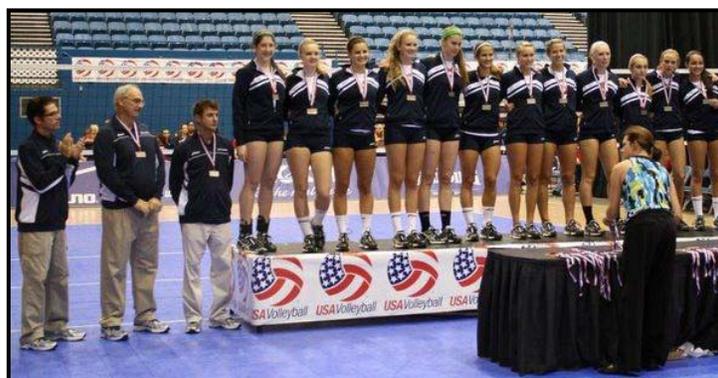
The Florida Region would like to extend a big THANK YOU to **ROX Volleyball** for outfitting the entire Beach HP Delegation. Team Florida was, by far, the "best dressed" team there!

USAV INDOOR HIGH PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

A total of 98 teams competed in the USAV High Performance Championships at the Tucson Convention Center in AZ, July 26-29. The USA Volleyball High Performance Championships, which featured a tournament-record number of teams.

Final results for the 2011 Team Florida HP All-Stars:

- GNY - 2nd Place Gold, 5-3 record
- BIY - 4th Place Gold, 4-4 record
- BNY - 5th Place Gold, 5-3 record
- GIY - 1st Place Bronze, 5-3 record
- GNS - 1st Place Flight 2, 5-3 record



Thank you to all the dedicated HP coaches and staff! We also want to thank ASICS for their continued support and sponsorship of the Florida Region HP Program!



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USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- o Congrats to **Katie Mosher, Elise Walch, Nicole Walch & Kamryn Sherman** on winning the Gold Medal at the **European Global Challenge** last month!
- o **Nikki Lyons & Julia Lewkowicz** won the Gold Medal in the **USAV Beach HP Championships** in California, making them the best U15 team in the nation!
- o Congratulations to **Lindsey Owens** and **Hailey Luke** on making the **All-Tournament Team** at the 2011 USAV Girls' Junior National Championships!

If you or someone you know is making headlines, please let us know by contacting Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org. You could see your name in the next issue of Vol-eNews!

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of August 1st, 2011 is **10,967** 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:

James Phillips, Commissioner
Shanon Lewis, Asst. Commissioner
Donna Beasley, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Andrew, Indoor Chair
Kendra Vanzwieten, Outdoor Chair
Darin Clark, Official's Chair

Staff:

Steve Bishop, Exec. Director/President
Michele Sisser, Registrar/Office Manager
Steve Benson, Events Manager
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
Michelle Daniels, Bookkeeper/Special Proj. Mgr.
Sue Wainio-Oato, Official's Coordinator

Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

Rita Crockett, Lori Eaton, Mitch Sadowsky, Russel Williams

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



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



The Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program!

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