



November 2011: ISSUE 26

CONTENTS:

- 🏐 **Welcome Note from the Indoor Chair**1
- 🏐 **Letter from the Executive Director**2
- 🏐 **Club Highlight – Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club**3
- 🏐 **Professional Volleyball League – Team Florida Wave**5
- 🏐 **Grass Volleyball Challenge – Ft. Myers**6
- 🏐 **TIMEOUT! News Bulletin**6
- 🏐 **HP Coaches Wanted**7
- 🏐 **Girl’s Junior Club Tryout Dates**7
- 🏐 **Michelle Daniels – Resignation**7
- 🏐 **Annual Education Weekend**8
- 🏐 **USAV Members In the News**9
- 🏐 **Membership Options**9
- 🏐 **Gold Seal Clubs**9
- 🏐 **NCAA Women’s Division I Championships**9
- 🏐 **Membership Renewal Reminder**10
- 🏐 **Membership Count Update**10

WELCOME NOTE FROM THE INDOOR CHAIR

Welcome to the 2011-12 season in the Florida Region. This new season promises to be more exciting than last year’s...and that is saying a lot considering the growth and excitement generated within our region last year. There will be many more exciting events hosted in the region this season and it looks like we are going to grow in membership again as we are looking at over 110 clubs registering. This growth is being experienced across the nation, this is a great time in history for our sport!

The Florida Region is setting the pace in many areas of development and in the effort to “Grow the Game” for USAV. The many nationally recognized accomplishments in the region are a tribute to our players who play and train so hard, to our coaches and directors who put in all the long hours helping players, to the parents who allow us to train their children and to the great staff at the region office who plan the events and follow up on all the details. Success should breed more success, so good luck with the season, play hard, have fun, and remember your sportsmanship along the way.

Thanks for the opportunity to work for you.

Mary F. Andrew
Indoor Chair



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we head into November, I am excited to share one of my most memorable volleyball experiences in the 25+ years that I have been involved in this sport. Last week I had the distinct pleasure of accompanying our very own **Rita Crockett** (Rita Crockett Academy in Tallahassee) to Holyoke, MA (the birthplace of volleyball) where she was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Rita was one of six legends inducted into the 2011 class and I was honored to see it all firsthand. Up until this class, only 100 other volleyball greats have been inducted into the hall. There are many familiar names scribed on the plaques that adorn the Hall of Fame gallery: **William Morgan, Doug Beal, Karch Kiraly, Flo Hyman, Al Scates, Marv Dunphy, Lang Ping, Sinjin Smith, Randy Stoklos, Don Shondell, and Andy Banachowski.**

Just visiting the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke and learning about the history of our sport was a true dream for this volleyball fanatic. Participating in the induction ceremonies for one of our own Florida Region board members and watching each inductee receive their official Hall of Fame ring and plaque made the trip even better. One lasting memory was the camaraderie that each of the 6 recipients displayed as they were being honored. Meeting volleyball greats from Italy, Serbia, Argentina, Cuba, and the Czech Republic was a great experience. The inductees quickly established friendships with each other in spite of the fact that they had been fierce competitors during their playing careers.

The takeaway for me was that volleyball itself is much bigger than the trivial things that distract us in our daily lives. Statistics show that volleyball is the most played sport in the world with approximately 218 Federations and 900+ million participants. That makes us the biggest sports family in the world and I was reminded of that as I experienced the warm reception from the people of Holyoke and the members of the 2011 Volleyball Hall of Fame class. (www.VolleyHall.org)

Please join me in congratulating Rita and her fellow class members. I would encourage each of you to reflect on the size of our sport and then find a way to make a positive difference during the upcoming season. Let's all be challenged to pursue greatness at whatever level possible and help someone else achieve their goals as part of our own personal mission. Life is much shorter than we think and we can all make a difference if we try.

Let us know how we are doing and how we can help you!

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – TALLAHASSEE 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 **Latoya Washington** and **Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

Q: Tell us how you got started playing volleyball. What made you decide to go into coaching?

A: I started playing volleyball when I was a freshman in High School. I learned the sport in PE and loved it. The high school coach saw me and encouraged me to try out for the team. I made varsity as a freshman. The summer after my freshman year, I learned about club volleyball and camps. I spent the entire spring playing club and the entire summer in camps every week.

I wanted to teach athletes the game I love! My coach, Charlie Fobbs was/still is a huge influence and has impacted so many positives things in my life and in the life of so many other young girls. I want to share what I have learned with others. He taught me to always pass the gift and to help those who needed help.



Q: Tell us about your experience playing at the collegiate level. What position did you play in college?

A: I loved college volleyball and every aspect of it. I had a great coach in Cecile Reynaud and I learned so much not only about volleyball but about life and being a good person. I started at outside my Freshman-Junior year. My senior year, I played right side.

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

A: My biggest accomplishment in volleyball is being able to pass my passion along to my 3 daughters who play. I am also very proud of the job the Tallahassee Jrs. Board and I have done to help grow Tallahassee Jrs. into what we are today.

Q: Tell us a little about your life outside of volleyball?

A: I am a wife to Anthony Washington, who was a track and field All-American at FSU and the mom to 3 wonderful daughters, Daijah (13), MaKayla (11) and Alexa (7). I love to play volleyball and will participate on the first ever TJVBC Women's Club team this year.

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

A: I am amazed at how much volleyball has grown. I started playing volleyball when I got to high school. I don't think I would have been able to compete with some of the kids now who have been playing since 10, and now my daughter who has been playing since she was 5. Volleyball has definitely grown into a top women's sport in the country. It's been an exciting journey!



Q: Tell us about your Volley-Tots Program.

A: This is the first year we have done a volley tots program. Hall of Fame coach **Joy Becker** and **Angie Strickland** are heading this program for our club. Both Joy and Angie have degrees in Physical Education and Angie has a PhD. Since elementary and middle school PE programs have been drastically reduced in this area, our emphasis has been on basic movement skills, body management skills(using “An Obstacle Course A Day”), throwing and catching techniques and all basic volleyball skills and footwork patterns. The programs are designed for children ages 5-12 who are interested in improving their athletic ability as well as learning basic skills and concepts in volleyball. Children work on basic loco motor movement skills, basic motor control and beginning volleyball skills. The program is meant to be fun, challenging and educational. The kids use balls that are conducive to their size and weight and lowered nets. It’s fun and adorable to see 5 year olds showing you their platform and how to serve the ball. What can the Florida Region do to better promote volleyball for younger players? Encourage more clubs to have programs for younger kids and possibly offer these events at club tournaments. Most of the kids in our programs are younger sisters of girls who play travel volleyball. This might be a good place to start. Volley Tots is kind of like what the Tennis Association did to bring tennis to younger audiences. They shortened the court, the weight of the balls and the rackets. That’s what we are doing with our tots program. Even at that level the volley lites are too heavy, but we found lighter balls to teach with so that the kids could see success in what they are doing. We are excited to be able to offer this program to the Tallahassee volleyball community.

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

A: Our goal is to continue to help athletes achieve their goals, whether it’s assisting with volleyball recruiting and scholarships, helping to start coaching careers, or just helping those athletes that are playing for the love of the game. We want to create an atmosphere for all levels of interest in our sport and help to cultivate lifelong volleyball players.

Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with Tallahassee Juniors?

A: Some of our most memorable moments came during the summer. When we moved into our new facility, volunteers literally spent the night at the gym getting it ready for opening day! We had a blast sweating, putting down courts and hanging banners all while singing along to our favorite music (with no AC in the middle of June). The warehouse was hot because we had not installed AC yet, but that didn’t stop our volunteers from getting the job done. Let’s just say we learned a lot about what heat and exhaustion can do to people.

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

A: We have the best coaches, parents and players EVER! Hands down!

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

A: I look forward to the region growing and implementing new programs and more scholarships to assist our student athletes.



*Thanks Latoya for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011/2012 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Debbie Ingram** and **Marion County Juniors**.*

PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE – TEAM FLORIDA WAVE

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Florida Region's FIRST Women's Indoor Semi-Pro Volleyball Team!** The Board of Directors has approved partial funding for this endeavor and athletes will have a chance to be a part of history by attending the first **Team Florida Wave** tryout on December 9 & 10 in Orlando, FL. The tryout is in conjunction with our annual Education Weekend at the Orlando Sports Center in Orlando, FL. (More details can be found on the Florida Region website!)

Post-collegiate athletes will be given primary consideration; however, any athlete that has graduated high school and did not play volleyball in college may attend the tryout. (NOTE: Athletes currently participating on a college volleyball team are not eligible to attend the tryout.)

In the first year the season will begin in January, 2012, and extend through May, 2012, playing in several exhibition matches and a league championship. Athletes will be expected to attend practice twice a month in the Central Florida area.

Team Florida Wave will participate in the USAV Semi-Pro Volleyball League and will compete against women's pro teams from other semi-pro college teams, Puerto Rico and teams across the country. Other potential league teams will come from California, Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Utah and Illinois. Team Florida Wave will also have the opportunity to compete at juniors events in exhibition matches and while there will be able to sign autographs and take pictures with the junior teams.



Other opportunities and benefits include:

- Playing under the direction of a well known Florida college coach
- Outfitted by the official Team Florida Wave apparel partner
- Lodging, airfare & meal costs covered when representing team
- Percentage split of prize money won
- Featured as an indoor pro volleyball player with the Professional Volleyball League (PVL)
- Traveling across the U.S.

If you have any questions concerning Team Florida Wave, please contact Krissy McKane @ Krissy@floridavolleyball.org.



Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



GRASS VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE – FT. MYERS

WHEN:

November 12, 2011

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30a – Team Check-In Begins

9:15a – Captain's Meeting

9:30a – Tournament Begins

WHERE:

ESTERO RECREATION CENTER

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd, Estero, FL 33928

WHO CAN PLAY?

Co-ed Adult Teams - (Ages 18 & Above)

Recreational 6's or Competitive 4's Divisions

(Recreational Teams = 4 guys & 2 girls, Competitive Teams = 3 guys & 1 girl)

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Competitive 4's Team Fee:

\$120 Corporate Rate

Recreational 6's Team Fee:

\$250 Corporate Rate or \$500 VIP Rate

(VIP Rate includes lunch, drinks, and an event t-shirt for each player)

ADDITIONAL INFO:

All proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 between the local school or club volleyball team co-hosting the event and the Florida Region of USA Volleyball's scholarship fund.



The playing surface is grass! (Wear Sneakers)

Bring your sunscreen and favorite lawn chair!

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC, FOOD, & FUN!

*** [Click Here To Register A Team!](#) ***

Email Steve Benson (SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org) to schedule a grass event in your area!

TIMEOUT! NEWS BULLETIN



Take a look at our second junior news bulletin called **TIME OUT!** This bulletin was created to keep our junior athletes, coaches and parents updated on the *hot topics* for each month. We will be emailing you a copy each month as well as posting it on the Florida Region website. We hope you enjoy the second edition of **TIME OUT!**

** [Click Here To Read The Latest Issue!](#) **



HP COACHES WANTED

All USAV coaches interested in coaching the 2012 USAV High Performance teams must submit an online application. Here is a snapshot of the dates for the Team Florida HP Tryouts this year:

- **February 3** - Daytona Beach (Girls & Boys)
- **February 24** - Jacksonville (Girls only)
- **March 23** - Ft. Lauderdale (Girls & Boys)
- **April 13** - Tampa (Girls only)



The Team Florida HP Development Camp will take place on **May 5** and the Team Florida HP All-Star Training Camp will take place **June 2-3**. The locations are TBD for both of these events.

The 2012 USAV High Performance Championships will take place in Des Moines, IA from Jul 23-28, 2012. To be considered, follow the link on the Region website. The deadline to apply is **December 15, 2011**.

Please contact **Krissy McKane** at Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org if you have any questions.

NOTE: The Florida Region requires that all coaches are either IMPACT or CAP certified before they begin working with players in tryouts.

GIRL'S JUNIOR CLUB TRYOUT DATES

The earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 15U – 18U) is Sunday, **November 20th**. Any club found to be holding tryouts prior to these dates will be subject to fines and/or penalties! Please contact **Steve Benson**, Events Manager, @ SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org if you have any questions.

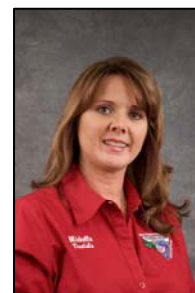
MICHELLE DANIELS - RESIGNATION

Michelle Daniels, Florida Region bookkeeper and former Registrar/Office Manager, has formally announced her resignation.

Michelle has been a key member of the Region staff since 2006, working at every event since. She has been extremely instrumental in the success of the Florida Region events and worked many thankless hours behind the scenes, making sure everything ran smoothly.

Michelle is looking forward to spending more time with her daughter Taylor, 14, and she will be truly missed here in the Region office!

Her last day at the Region office will be November 10th and the Florida Region Staff & Board of Directors would like to wish her the best in her life adventures! We would also like to personally thank her for all she has done to better the Florida Region and for the impact she has made on those around her. If you would like to send Michelle a farewell note, please contact her at Michelle@FloridaVolleyball.org.





ANNUAL EDUCATION WEEKEND

The **Annual Education Weekend** will be held on December 9-11 at the Orlando Sports Center. Once again, we are offering one scholarship for a coach to attend a CAP Level I or CAP Level II Course and also one scholarship for a coach to attend a BCAP (Beach) Course. The drawing will take place at the Education Weekend. See below for the educational opportunities offered in the Florida Region:

Educational Offerings for COACHES:

IMPACT (Indoor only)

Fri, Dec 9, 2011

5:30pm - 9:30pm

FREE FOR FULL USAVFL MEMBERS!

IMPACT INSTRUCTOR (Indoor only)

Fri, Dec 9, 2011

4:30pm - 9:30pm

FREE FOR CAP II CERT. COACHES IN FLORIDA!

CAP I & II

Sat, Dec 10, 2011 & Sun, Dec 11, 2011

8:00am - 8:00pm Sat, 8:00am - 4:00pm Sun

VARIOUS PRICE POINTS BASED ON MEMBERSHIP

B-IMPACT (Beach Course)

Fri, Dec 9, 2011

6:00pm - 9:00pm

FREE FOR FULL USAVFL MEMBERS! (\$25 for non-members)

BCAP

Sat, Dec 10, 2011 & Sun, Dec 11, 2011

8:00am - 8:00pm on Sat & 8:00am to 4:00pm on Sun

Educational Offerings for OFFICIALS:

Regional Clinic

Sat, Dec 10, 2011

12:00n - 4:00pm

FREE FOR FULL MEMBERS!

National Clinic

Sun, Dec 11, 2011

10:00am - 2:00pm

FEE SET BY USAV NATIONAL OFFICE!



For registration and hotel information, please visit the Florida Region website!

IMPORTANT NOTE: In addition to these educational offerings, we will also have two tryouts for our Team Florida Wave Women's Pro Team on December 9 & 10. Make plans to come out and support the athletes that will be representing us in 2012!



Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- o **Nicole Nieves**, from Kissimmee, FL, as part of the U.S. Women's Sitting Team, won the gold medal at the **Parapan American Zonal Championship** after defeating Brazil, 25-13, 25-12, 25-15 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- o Martin County outside hitter **Nicole Walch** was named the **MaxPreps/AVCA High School Player of the Week for Florida** after her standout performances at the Asics Challenge in Chicago. Walch had 101 kills and 31 digs during the week of Sept. 26-Oct. 2.
- o **Meghan Sherman**, a two-time All-American setter from the University of Tampa, is playing with **Ljungby Volleyball Klubb**, a professional volleyball league in Sweden. [Click Here to Follow Meghan's Blog!](#)



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 OPTIONS

The **Spectator/Fan Membership** option is available for \$25 and includes a full year, NON-PLAYING membership with secondary insurance and entrance into all Florida Region hosted tournaments. This membership option is ideal for those members that plan on attending more than one USAV Event this year. \$25 cost...\$30 value!

There is a new **FREE** membership for all youth who are 8 years old and under. This is a limited membership and must be upgraded to play in any qualifier or national competition. If you have any questions, please contact MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org.

GOLD SEAL CLUBS

Congratulations to the first Gold Seal Clubs for the 2011/2012 season!

- ❖ **Cape Coast Volleyball Club** – Connie Denaburg
- ❖ **Faith in Action VB Academy** – Sandra Maher
- ❖ **Gainesville Juniors** – Chad Davis
- ❖ **Rita Crockett Academy** – Rita Crockett



NCAA WOMEN'S DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship is a premier event that provides student-athletes an once-in-a-lifetime experience. This year, the Championship will be held December 15 & 17 in San Antonio, TX at the Alamodome. The Championships will be hosted by San Antonio Sports, UTSA, and the City of San Antonio. For more information, click on the NCAA logo located on the Florida Region homepage at www.FloridaVolleyball.org.





Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



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 expired October 31st, 2011. You can renew your membership by visiting our website and logging into your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080 or MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region. We met and last year's goal of 10,000 members and look forward to meeting our new goal of 12,000 members!

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
Steve Benson, Events Manager
Michele Sisser, Registrar/Office Manager
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
Michelle Daniels, Bookkeeper
Sue Wainio-Oato, Official's Coordinator

Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION SPONSORS



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!



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

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION BUSINESS PARTNERS

