



FloridaVolleyball.org

Vol-eNews

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



December 2011: ISSUE 27

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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Region Members,

I hope all is well with you and your family this holiday season. With the outdoor season behind us and the indoor season just beginning, we are looking forward to a wonderful season of volleyball for 2012! Please remember that you must be registered before you participate in any USA Volleyball activity where you are playing. If you have questions about registration, please do not hesitate to contact our office staff and they will gladly assist you with your membership. I hope that your tryouts go well and that you are chosen for the team of your choice.

To you and yours have a happy holiday and enjoy this joyous time of year with your family and loved ones. Please count your blessings and may all of your volleyball dreams come true!

Sincerely,

James Phillips
 Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's that time of the year again! Our indoor junior club season has started and we have already registered 7,464 members as of this writing. With our all-time high of 11,000 members last season, we have set an internal goal of reaching 12,000 members for the 2011/2012 season and we hope that you will help us achieve our new goal. As the 8th largest region in the US, we want to move up to one of the top 5 spots as quickly as possible. Thank you for everything you do in your respective area of Florida!

There are several hot topics this month that deserve a mention:

- 🏐 **2012 Volleyball Calendar** – Our 2012 volleyball calendar is available on the Florida Region website (www.FloridaVolleyball.org) for \$12. It is the only calendar in the US devoted solely to volleyball and all proceeds benefit the Florida Region scholarship fund. These make a great stocking stuffer! Order yours (and one for a friend) today!
- 🏐 **USA Volleyball Education Weekend** – Our annual education weekend is scheduled for Dec 9-11 in Orlando. We will offer IMPACT, BIMPACT, CAP I, CAP II, BCAP, and an IMPACT Instructor class for coaches. Additionally, we will offer a Regional and National training clinic for officials.
- 🏐 **Team Florida WAVE** – Our Team Florida WAVE women's pro volleyball team is in formation. Nick Cheronis (Univ. of Florida/PowerCore 360) will be our head coach and we have tryouts scheduled for Dec 9th & 10th in Orlando. This is a great opportunity for any post-collegiate female athlete that would like to continue their playing career and represent the Florida Region, both nationally and internationally! Click on the Team Florida WAVE on the Florida Region website for more information. (Note: We still have corporate, club, and individual partnership opportunities available. Contact Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator in the Region Office.)
- 🏐 **NCAA DII Volleyball Tournament** – Both Flagler College and the University of Tampa made it to the quarter finals of the NCAA DII Championship Tournament. Tampa won their match against Bridgeport and advanced to the semi-finals where they lost in 4 sets to Concordia-St. Paul. Congratulations to Coach Catanach at Tampa for finishing in 3rd place and to Coach Mott at Flagler for a 5th place finish.
- 🏐 **NCAA DI Volleyball Tournament** – We want to recognize the following DI colleges that made it to the NCAA DI Championship Tournament: Univ. of Florida, Univ. of Miami, and Florida State Univ. We wish them all the very best as they represent the State of Florida!

Happy Volleydays!

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball
www.FloridaVolleyball.org





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – MARION COUNTY JUNIORS

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 **Debbie Ingram** and **Marion County Juniors** will be highlighted.

Q: When did you get involved with volleyball?

A: Prior to working for Marion County Juniors, I spent 25 years in the fitness business as a program director for Humana Hospital, then the Central Florida YMCA, and, later, ran my own personal training business. When my daughter, Haley, began playing just two years ago, I assisted her coach and some of the other teams with physical conditioning. In 2010, I was hired by MCJ to be the first Executive Director of the club and oversee all club activities. There are a lot of similarities between running a volleyball club and running a fitness club. Both are member-based organizations, where communication and organization are key. We consider every player and their family to be a member of our club and try very hard to serve the entire membership to the best of our ability.



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

A: My title is Executive Director, so in theory, I oversee every aspect of the club. However, it is absolutely a group effort at MCJ. We have a board of directors, coaching staff, and parents group who are always on hand to help. Our core staff includes Skills Development Director and Boys Volleyball Director Jesus Montalvo, Tournament Director Steve Hubner, Girls Volleyball Director Jimmy Collins, Volunteer Director Carol Cameron, Administrative Assistant Suzanne Ritterhoff, and front desk clerk, Missy Brown. I could not do my job without every one of them. During club season, our corps of Team Moms is the glue that holds us all together. I communicate with them and our coaches constantly so that they can keep our families informed.

Q: What is the size of your club currently? When was it started?

A: Marion County Juniors began in 2007 and played its first club season in 2008 with eight teams and a handful of volunteer coaches. This club season we have 17 girl's teams, two boy's teams, and a coaching staff numbering over twenty. We offer year-round programming with summer skills clinics, camps, and a fall mini-club program.

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

A: Make it affordable. Traditional boys programs, like youth football and baseball leagues, are cheap compared to club volleyball. Lower membership rates and tournament entry fees help keep boys program tuition in check. A lot of boys come to the club because their sisters play, so families need it to be reasonable in order for all their children to participate. We are especially challenged in Marion County where we don't have boy's volleyball in our high schools yet. Like other clubs, we run a short winter season but when boys in other parts of the state are playing high school volleyball in the spring, we lose our boys to other sports. We need to bring boys high school volleyball to more counties so we can compete with the boys who get to play year-round.

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

A: While we have seen over a dozen athletes continue on to play at a college level, and have had several teams rank or finish tournaments in the top ten of their division, our bigger accomplishment is the reputation we have garnered within our community and the state of



Florida for being a well-run, quality program. Marion County Juniors Volleyball Club helped to create a volleyball environment in Marion County. We believe in our mission, and while we will always strive towards having more teams winning tournaments, and more players getting college scholarships, we believe that by continuing to serve players of all levels our club will thrive at all levels.

Q: Tell us about the MCJ Facility.

A: In 2009 the club acquired its first facility, but moved into our current facility the following year. We have four practice courts, but during tournaments, we turn one court in to seating, so parents have ample space to watch every court. We have a concessions stand, pro shop, fitness room, meeting room, restrooms, and two offices. While we don't have central air conditioning, we employ large portable air conditioning units and fans to help keep cool in the summer. We are located in the heart of Ocala, so we are convenient for most of our families, as well as visiting teams. We love our gym, but we may outgrow it soon.

Q: What kind of programs does MCJ offer for younger athletes?

A: During club season, we offer a developmental team for girls 10 and under. This team has a shorter season, playing only one-day tournaments, and at a very reasonable price. We also assign skill development coaches to all of our club teams. These coaches assist our head coaches weekly with skill development. Throughout the summer, we offer one-day first-timers clinics, and weekly beginner's skills clinics for younger players. We offered three summer camps this year, two of which were geared towards younger players. Our fall mini-club program is a great starting point for many younger athletes. We are continually looking at ways to improve all of our programming to better serve and develop the 14 and under population.

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

A: Marion County Juniors is committed to our mission of making volleyball accessible and affordable to as many players as possible. We want to challenge our elite teams by providing them with high level coaching, sending them to the best tournaments, and seeing them off to play at the college level, but at the same time, we want to offer a quality volleyball program to the non-elite athletes as well. We are investing in our coaching staff by offering them opportunities for education and training so that our players get the best we can offer. We would like to begin offering USAV tournaments and reach out to the areas surrounding us that have yet to develop competitive volleyball.

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

A: MCJ is a great group of people all working together for a common goal. We don't always make everyone happy, or make all the right decisions, but we try to do everything with the primary objective being what is best for the club, and what is best for the athletes. We have a very active board of directors, who meet regularly and follow through on their commitments to the club. We have a very supportive atmosphere for our coaching staff, and strive to give them support and resources to make their jobs easier. We also have outreach programs in the community that help serve athletes outside our club. We work with several private schools, and offer a tournament for their teams every year. MCJ hosts a high school JV tournament, and we support the programs at the Marion County YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club of Marion County.

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

A: With the explosive growth of this sport, the Florida Region has an opportunity to support start-up clubs in new areas of the state where resources are not as plentiful as the big cities.



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Additionally, I would like to see the Florida Region assist clubs in the promotion of boys programs and help get boys volleyball into more public and private school systems. Training and educational opportunities for coaches, club directors, and volunteers would be valuable as well. And how about hosting a JNQ?

Thanks Debbie 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 Ore Pablos and Wildfire Volleyball Club.

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 FL CAP II CERT. COACHES!

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!

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!

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 Region website.

PREMIER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE – TEAM FLORIDA WAVE



**TEAM FLORIDA WAVE PRO-TEAM TRYOUTS SCHEDULED FOR
DEC 9 & 10, 2011 IN ORLANDO.**

Dec 9, 2011 - 5p-9p

Dec 10, 2011 - 8a-12n

Tryouts will be at the Orlando Sports Center.

Onsite check-in will begin 1 hour prior to the tryout.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The team will practice twice per month in Orlando (Jan-May)

PLAYING SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Mar 17, 2012 - Spring College Tournament @ UCF, Orlando, FL

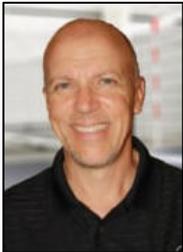
Mar 24, 2012 - Exhibition Scrimmage @ Cloverleaf, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Apr 2012 (Date TBD) - Exhibition Tournament, San Juan, Puerto Rico

May 26-29, 2012 - Premier League Championships, Salt Lake City, UT

COACHES & STAFF INFORMATION

TEAM FLORIDA WAVE HEAD COACH



Nick Cheronis has coached collegiate volleyball for 28 years. He served as the Associate Head Coach at the University of Florida for 18 of those years. During his collegiate coaching career, Nick had 7 NCAA Final Four appearances and won 18 SEC championships. He coached 25 AVCA All-Americans, coached the USAV Jr. National team, and served as a coach and Technical Director for the Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Program. Nick is now a Master Coach with PowerCore360.

*We had the pleasure of asking **Nick Cheronis** a few questions about his career and thoughts on joining the Team Florida Wave Program:*

Q: How did you get started coaching volleyball?

A: I began as a volunteer assistant coach at Valparaiso University and spent 28 years coaching collegiate women's volleyball. Most recently I was the Associate Head Coach at the University of Florida for 18 seasons. While I was there, we won the Southeastern Conference Championship 18 years in a row while going to 7 final fours.

Q: How will coaching the first female Regional semi-pro team differ from coaching female college athletes? How is it similar?

A: I don't really know the answer to this as it will be new to all of us. However, athletes will have to get used to this being more of a business where execution will be more important than potential. In college, players have a chance to develop and grow into a role. In this environment, that won't necessarily be true. Hopefully there will be a passion for competition and playing the game that will transfer over to playing at this level.

Q: What kind of opportunities will Team Florida Wave give to post collegiate female athletes?



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A: An opportunity to continue playing without having to go overseas. It will take a special player to understand the long term goal of the league and not get caught up in "what's in it for me today". In the beginning, there won't be much in it for the players except to fill the need for the passion to play.

Q: Five years from now, what do you hope to see, as far as the growth of professional volleyball, in the United States?

A: That's a one word answer.... television. Sustained growth over a long period of time will depend on media coverage. Initially that will come through internet streaming, newspapers and maybe radio, but in the long run we will need to attract advertisers who will benefit from the exposure of our game.



TEAM FLORIDA WAVE ASSISTANT COACH

Steve Benson has coached collegiate volleyball for 11 years. He served as the Head Coach for both the men's and women's teams at EMU in Virginia from 2005-2011. Steve is the longest serving Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star coach and has assisted USA Volleyball by leading HP tryouts and camps throughout the US. During his tenure with the Team Florida HP All-Stars, Steve led both girl's and boy's teams to a 1st, 3rd, and 4th place finish at the USAV HP Championships. Steve is now the Events Manager for the Florida Region of USA Volleyball.

For **FAQ** and to sign up for tryouts, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org. The deadline to sign up is **Thursday, December 8th at noon**. Space is limited...only 24 spots per tryout. If you have any questions, please contact Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org.

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:

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

The 2012 USAV High Performance Championship Tournament will take place in Des Moines, IA from Jul 23-28, 2012. (The entire delegation will meet for a training session on Jul 22nd before we depart for Des Moines.) The training camps for both boys and girls are tentatively scheduled for Jun 2-3, 2012, (Boys & Girls) in Orlando. (Note: A tentative Development Camp is scheduled for May 5, 2012. This camp will be optional for staff coaches and will have an additional stipend.)

Selection criteria will be based on the following:

- **Head Coach** - Prefer College Head Coaches (DI/DII/DIII/NAIA/NJCAA) with minimum CAP I certification (preferably CAP II) and 10+ years coaching experience
- **1st Asst. Coach** - Prefer College Asst. Coaches (DI/DII/DIII/NAIA/NJCAA) with minimum IMPACT certification (preferably CAP I) and 5+ years coaching experience
- **2nd Asst. Coach** - Club coaches with minimum IMPACT certification & 2 Years Coaching Experience
- **Tryout/Training Camp Coach** - Any coach that would like to get involved with the program and learn from some of the top college coaches in Florida





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NOTE: All Team Florida HP All-Star coaches must be a member of USAV with a current USAV background screen and be IMPACT or CAP Certified before tryouts!

Please complete all information and submit your application by Thursday, Dec 15, 2011. Visit the Region website for more information and to apply!

2012 USAV FLORIDA REGION CALENDARS

The **2012 USAV Florida Region Calendars** are here!! Take a look and see if you made it into the calendar this year! The calendar is made up of Florida Region member-submitted photos and is 100% devoted to Florida Volleyball. With high resolution photos and over 45 volleyball photos, you're sure to find yourself or someone you know featured in this calendar. Order one today for your home or office (or both) and support the Florida Region Scholarship Fund. *(Makes a great stocking stuffer too!)* For \$12, plus S&H, your calendar(s) will be shipped out within 2 business days of receiving your order. They will ship from the Florida Region office in Eustis, FL. Visit the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, to order yours today!



February



April



August



November

SAND SCHOLARSHIPS HIGHLIGHT

Sand volleyball has been officially recognized by NCAA Division I and II schools as an up and coming sport for women. Several Florida Region athletes have already signed letters of intent to play for Division I Schools around the U.S. **Courtney Liddle** (Springhill, Fla.) and **Jackie Wegner** (Clearwater, Fla.) both signed with Tulane University in Oklahoma. **Nina Pellitteri** (Pompano, Fla.), **Julie Brown** (Geneva, Fla.) and **Kayla Joyce** (Geneva, Fla.), will join FSU sand volleyball teammates **Stephanie Pellitteri** (Pompano, Fla.) and **Aurora Newgard** (Groveland, Fla.), and **Jessica McGregor** (Groveland, Fla.). Pellitteri, McGregor, Brown & Joyce were all a part of the Team Florida Beach HP delegation that competed in the 2011 USAV Beach HP Championships in Hermosa Beach, CA this past July. The Team Florida Beach High Performance program is offered to male and female athletes ages 12-25. Tryouts dates for the 2012 Beach HP program will be announced soon. Check the Florida Region website for updates!



2011 Team Florida



FHSAA STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following teams and coaches on winning the FHSAA State Volleyball Championships!

- (Class 8A) **East Lake High School**, Tarpon Springs (Head Coach: Mike Estes)
- (Class 7A) **Martin County**, Stuart (Head Coach: Krissy Schmidt)
- (Class 6A) **Leon High School**, Tallahassee (Head Coach: Angie Strickland)
- (Class 5A) **Merritt Island**, Merritt Island (Head Coach: Angie Patrick)
- (Class 4A) **Berkeley Prep High School**, Tampa (Head Coach: Randy Dagostino)
- (Class 3A) **The First Academy**, Orlando (Head Coach: Lindsey Hurlebaus)
- (Class 2A) **Lake Worth Christian**, Boynton Beach (Head Coach: Terri Kaiser)
- (Class 1A) **Lafayette**, Mayo (Head Coach: Sonya Land)

USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- **Jordan Burgess** (Berkeley Prep/Tampa Bay Jrs.) and **Sarah Burrington** (Riverview HS/Tampa Bay Jrs.) made the **2011-2012 Under Armour All-America First-Team**. **Mackenzie Dagostino** (Berkeley Prep/Tampa Bay Jrs.) made the **2011-2012 Under Armour All-America Second-Team**. **Leigh Andrew** (Cardinal Gibbons HS/Boomers), **Nicole Walch** (Martin County HS/Treasure Coast VBC), **Victoria McPherson** (North Broward Prep School/Boomers), & **Gabby Mallette** (The Bolles School/JJVA) were selected for the **2011/2012 Under Armour All-America Honorable Mention** category. *Congratulations girls!*
- Several Florida High Schools made the **2011 POWERADE FAB 50 Girls' Volleyball Rankings**, including:
 - (5th) **Berkeley Prep School** - Stanford-bound **Jordan Burgess** had 15 kills in the Class 4A state title win over Bishop Moore.
 - (20th) **East Lake** - **Jackie Wegner** had 19 kills defeating Wellington for the Class 8A state title.
 - (21st) **Bishop Moore** – Lost in the State Finals to Class 4A state champions Berkeley Prep. **Lindsey Owens** shined with a match-high 16 kills.
 - (38th) **Martin County** - Florida State-bound **Nicole Walch** put down 30 kills as Martin County defeated Winter Springs in the Class 7A state championship match.
 - (39th) **Cardinal Gibbons** – Their loss in the Class 4A semifinals to Berkeley Prep diminished their dreams of a 17th consecutive state championship title. **Leigh Andrew** had 16 kills and 12 digs in the match.

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.



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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

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Kendra Vanzwieten, Outdoor Chair
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Steve Benson, Events Manager
Michele Sisser, Registrar/Office Manager
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
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