



Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Florida Region Members,

I hope that your season went as planned and that you experienced some great moments in volleyball in 2012. Many of our teams will represent the region in the National Championships for both Girl’s and Boy’s. Please help me in wishing them our best as they prepare to face the competition and bring home the gold. I wish all of our teams’ great success and triumph at their tournaments.

The beach season is in full swing, so I hope that you will join us at one of our Dig the Beach tour stops this year. You can participate in many divisions, or just watch some great competition from our athletes. Either way, it is a great way to enjoy a nice day with your family at the beach. Please see our website, www.floridavolleyball.org, for a complete list of dates and locations. I am sure that you will enjoy the competition.

James Phillips
Commissioner
Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Directors, Coaches, Player, Parents, Fans, & Officials:

Welcome to another Florida summer! I can't remember a time when we were so busy with volleyball events here in the Sunshine State. The popularity of our sport continues to grow each year as more and more volleyball enthusiasts join USA Volleyball to participate in our various indoor and outdoor events. Our current membership number in Florida is 11,684, which is almost three times larger than the 4,200 members that we had back in 2006. We credit this growth to the USA Volleyball clubs across the state that work so diligently in their respective communities to promote the sport and grow the game. If you are involved in any level of club leadership, I would like to extend my personal appreciation for all that you do for the youth and junior athletes in our great sport.

Right here is where I would like to compliment my staff. We currently have the best staff ever in the history of the Florida Region. They work countless hours to make sure that our events are the best ever and you can be very proud of their commitment level to each one of you. In case you don't know them by name, here you go...

- 🏐 **Michele Sisser**, Registrar/Office Manager
- 🏐 **Steve Benson**, Events Manager
- 🏐 **Heather Cormier**, Events Coordinator
- 🏐 **Krissy McKane**, Marketing Coordinator (Celebrating 2 years this month!)
- 🏐 **Sue Wainio-Oato**, Official's Coordinator

Our annual board/staff retreat is coming up this month. We use this 1-1/2 day meeting to review our recent progress, make any necessary adjustments, and then chart our course for the future. Our goal is to consistently improve every aspect of the organization and we welcome your thoughts and feedback. If you have something that you would like for us to review or something that you really like, please submit it to me directly at steve@FloridaVolleyball.org.

Thank you for all that you do for our sport! GO USA!!

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball
steve@FloridaVolleyball.org





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – NAPLES 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 **Rich Hubbard** and **Naples Juniors** will be highlighted.

Q: Tell us how you got started in volleyball?

A: Friends got me playing on the beach in high school and then it became a passion and a lifestyle I enjoyed through college, discovered the indoor game more in college at USF. I was fortunate to have worked many events on the beach for the AVP which even furthered my love of the game.

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: I became a club coach at 18 with Jim Reed at Southwest VBC which let's just say was over 20 years ago. I have been coaching as a head volleyball coach for 19 years now. Amazing how time goes by so fast.

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

A: Business/Marketing/OJT Teacher and Head Volleyball Coach at Naples High School, Director of Player and Coach Development for Naples Juniors Volleyball, and divorced dad of one. There is definitely some stressful times of time management and things overlapping but I try my best to prioritize items based on what is best for each day and situation.

Q: What do you like to do in your “spare time”?

A: “Spare Time”, haha seriously what is that, no well I try to enjoy fun times watching my son play sports, spending time with him and fishing whenever I can, even a bad day fishing is better than a good day of work!

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

A: I have seen the ups and downs of the sport, the big boom of the late 80s on the beach and the AVP and a few clubs in Florida to now tons of clubs doing all year training and more youth beach play. I have to say competition is great for business but when you are dealing with youth players and impressionable parents I think some of the politics of it all hurts the sport and the players. As a director of a non-profit club who doesn't do this as a full time job but rather for the love of the game I have to say that the business of club has disheartened me over the years as I feel we have lost focus of why we are all involved in this to begin with, not money or fame but to work with young athletes in a sport we all once loved to play or coach ourselves. That I hope is my legacy with Naples Juniors.



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

A: Naples Juniors was started in 1995-1996 by Jennifer and Ted Russell, both former high school Head Coaches here in Naples Fl.

Since their relocation to Atlanta we have changed just in the aspect that we became a Non for profit organization and run by a Board of Directors (formed with parents, coaches and business members.)

We currently have four levels of play that we are very proud of. We start with our volleytots program ages 5-9 working on the hand eye coordination and developing the love for the game. Then we have our Non travel power league program for ages 10- 14 for the young athlete that may not be ready for travel but is looking for something with more instruction and a higher level of play. We then have our travel program for age's 12- 18 broken into two levels Regional and Extreme. In total this year we have 143 players and families.

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

A: Have several I am equally proud of...Getting my IMPACT Cadre Certification, Going to the FHSAA Final Four with two separate high school programs (Cypress Lake 1999 and Naples 2006), and having a former player consider you to be a father figure in her life.

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

A: I would say that Naples Juniors is a club that puts players and people first over money, wins, and accolades. We measure ourselves by the way our players develop not only on the court but how they grow as young women as well. We try to instill positive imaging and help them develop their character while having a great time with teammates and coaches. We truly believe that Naples Juniors is a club "where players grow, learn, and love volleyball".

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

A: Our goal and mission is to provide the female athletes in our area a place to love and learn the sport of volleyball as we do and to grow into great young women who can do whatever they set their hearts and minds to do.

*Thanks Rich 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 **Stephanie Wyatt** and **Vision Volleyball**.*

INDOOR IMPACT CLINIC

The District hosted clinics are free to all registered Florida Region coaches!

Jun 8, 2012

Broward County Convention Center

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Time: 6:00pm-10:00pm

Instructor: Nancy Cothron

Please register online at www.FloridaVolleyball.org!



USAV DIG THE BEACH TOUR

The next Dig the Beach Tour Stop is June 2-3 in Ft. Myers Beach!

Register online at www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

The USAV Dig the Beach tour stops in 2012 will take place in four of the most desirable beaches in Florida:



Jun 2-3 Ft. Myers Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Myers Beach

(Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Tryout, 12u-26u)

Jun 9-10 Siesta Key Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach
(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)

Jun 30-Jul 1 Ft. Lauderdale Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Laud Beach

(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)



Jul 14-15 Siesta Key Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach

Jul 28-29 Ft. Lauderdale Open & ROX Jr. Series Championships, Ft. Laud Beach

Aug 4-5 Clearwater Open & DTB Tour Championships, Clearwater Beach

Register online at www.FloridaVolleyball.org!

2012 TEAM FLORIDA BEACH HP ALL-STAR PROGRAM

We are proud to announce that **ROX VOLLEYBALL** has agreed to continue as the Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program! Thank you to **ROX VOLLEYBALL** for their support of the Florida Region!

Here is the proposed timeline for our 2012 program:

- Jun 11 - Athlete/Team selections announced
- Jul 14 - Team Florida Beach HP Training Camp in Siesta Key, FL
- Jul 16 - Team Florida Delegation meets in Orlando
- Jul 17 - Travel Day from Orlando, FL to Los Angeles, CA
- Jul 18-22 - USAV Beach HP Championships in Hermosa Beach, CA
- Jul 23 - Travel Day from Los Angeles, CA to Orlando, FL

2012 Beach HP Age Divisions:

- Future Select/15U - Born in 1998 or After
- Select/17U - Born in 1996 or 1997
- Youth/19U - Born in 1994 or 1995
- Junior/21U - Born in 1992 or 1993
- 26U - Born in 1987 thru 1991

Delegation Coaches & Staff:

- Steve Bishop, Program Director
- Heather Cormier, Program Assistant
- Beach Coach 1 - Rita Crockett, FIU
- Beach Coach 2 - Danalee Corso, FSU





2012 BOYS' JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **2012 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships** will take place June 9-10 at the Broward County Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Admission into the Boys Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships is **FREE**. For additional information and hotel accommodations, please visit the Florida Region website. **NOTE:** Boys' teams participating in the 2012 Boys' Jr. National Championships must attend the 2012 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships!



TEAM FLORIDA HP ALL-STAR TRAINING CAMP



The **Team Florida HP All-Star Training Camp** will take place on June 2-3 at the Orlando Sports Center. Players are responsible to bring the following items to the Training 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.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Florida Region is proud to announce the following individuals as the Florida Region Scholarship Award recipients for 2012:

- ASICS "Sound Mind, Sound Body" Scholarship** – Jakub Ciesla, OBV (\$1,000)
- Marriott "Serving the Community" Scholarship** – Shauna Shortal, JJVA (\$1,000)
- Walgreens "There's A Way" Scholarship** – AnneMarie Chin, Tallahassee Jrs. (\$500)
- Chilling Rocks Water Scholarship** – Waverly Chin, Tallahassee Jrs. (\$500)
- Commissioner's Scholarship** – Emilee Larger, Ocala Power (\$500)
- Rox Volleyball Beach Scholarship** – Emilee Larger, Ocala Power (\$500)
- 1st Place Volleyball Scholarship** – Brad Thele, OBV (\$500)
- Mark Headrick Memorial Scholarship** – Jessica Johnson, USA South (\$1,000)
- Ned DeGroot Memorial Scholarship** – Annaliese Marie Lausberg, OVA (\$1,000)
- Ben Jordan Memorial Scholarship** – Kiersten Willenbacher, No Name VBC (\$1,000)

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.



FLORIDA REGION AWARD WINNERS

The **2012 Florida Region Awards Ceremony** was held on May 18th, 2012, at the Double Tree Resort in Orlando, FL. Thank you to **Dr. Cecile Reynaud**, our Guest Speaker, who entertained and enlightened the crowd! Congratulations to those individuals and teams who were recognized at the awards ceremony for their commitment to the sport of volleyball!



2012 FLORIDA REGION AWARD WINNERS

Ashley Morrison Jr. Referee Award – **Donna Lewis**, Palm Beach Jrs.
Outstanding Jr. Scorekeeper – **Tori Ellison**, Lakeland VBA
Outstanding Jr. Officiating Team – **USA South 16 Black**
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 12U-14U – **Casey Winn**, Tampa Elite
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 15U-16U – **Eric Praetorius**, Tampa Elite
Outstanding Jr. Coach, 17U-18U – **Lauren Stegenga**, Tampa Elite
Outstanding Parent Award – **Gail Clark-Bittman**, OVA
Outstanding Male Coach – **Randy Dagostino**, Tampa Bay Jrs./Invaders
Outstanding Female Coach – **Melissa Pennington**, JJVA
Most Improved Jrs. Club – **Jason Morris**, Ocala Power
Outstanding Club Director – **Laurinda Nguyen**, Tampa Elite
Outstanding Tournament Director – **AJ Joseph**
Outstanding Adult Male Player – **Mark VanZwieten**, Pro Beach Player
Outstanding Adult Female Player – **Benavia Jenkins**, Team Florida WAVE
Outstanding IMPACT Clinician – **Jose Rivera**, JJVA
Ben Jordan Golden Whistle Award – **Dave Skove**, National Official
Outstanding Service Award – **Isaac Raphael**, Team Florida WAVE
Extra Mile Award – **Ben Keyes**, Rx Massage Therapy
Extra Mile Award – **David Jester**, David Jester Photography
Meritorious Service Award – **Richard Purtz**, Florida Region Board Attorney
Volleyball Ambassador Award – **Rob Holley**, JJVA
Ernest Langford Pioneer Award – **Nick Cheronis**, Team Florida WAVE
Florida Region Hall of Fame Inductee – **Nancy Cothron**, Manatee Area VBC

OFFICIALS CLASS OF 2011

The Florida Region is proud to announce the Officials Class of 2011:

Teresa Halliday – Jr. National Referee
Joya Teter – Jr. National Referee
John Dalton – Jr. National Referee
Jeffery Herrick – Jr. National Referee
Dave Skove – National Official

Congratulations to the officials from the Class of 2011! The Class of 2012 will be announced at the end of the summer on the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org.



TEAM FLORIDA WAVE



The Team Florida WAVE traveled to Salt Lake City, UT, on May 26 to compete in the first ever Premier Volleyball League (PVL) Championships at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

The PVL is a grassroots professional league built around the foundation of USA Volleyball's 40 regions. A total of 12 regions placed a team in the PVL bracket. Regions competed for the \$20,000 prize purse and included Arizona (Arizona Sizzle), Northern California (Dream Team NCVA), Great Lakes (Team Great Lakes), Hoosier (Exterminators), Puget Sound (Puget Sound), Evergreen (Team Evergreen), Florida (Team Florida WAVE), Iowa (Iowa Ice), New England (Team New England), North Texas (Team North Texas), Intermountain (Utah Unity) and Western Empire (Western Empire).

The WAVE came out of pool play 3-2, falling to North Texas and No 4 seed, Iowa Ice. In the bottom half of the PVL quarterfinal bracket, No. 3 seed Utah Unity rallied from two sets down to defeat the WAVE 21-25, 22-25, 25-18, 25-15, 15-10.



The WAVE took 12 of the 17 rostered athletes to Utah: Benavia Jenkins (UF), Lakisya Killingsworth (UF), Nirelle Hampton (TCU), Janice Rivera (USF), Marcela Oliveira (USF), Kristy Jaeckel (UF), Rebecca Royal (Flagler), Danielle Bletso (St. Leo), Kimika Rozier (USF), Tanya Jarvis (UCF), Sarah Mendoza (UK), and Emily Kohler (UNF). The WAVE was accompanied by Head Coach Nick Cheronis, Asst. Coaches Steve Benson and Isaac Raphael, Program Manager and PVL Asst. Commissioner Steve Bishop, Team Statistician Mary Andrew, Team Manager Krissy McKane, and the team's Sports Massage Therapist Ben Keyes.

The Team Florida WAVE would like to thank ASICS for outfitting the athletes, coaches, and staff and also a big thank you to all the fans of the Team Florida WAVE. We will see you next year!

The 2013 PVL Championships will take place in Louisville, KY. If you are a post-collegiate athlete and are interested in being a part of the Team Florida WAVE next season, please email WAVE@FloridaVolleyball.org.

DISTRICT JR. FORUM MEETINGS

Save the date! The dates for the **District Junior Forum Meetings** are as follows:

- o August 11 – **DISTRICT 4**
- o August 12 – **DISTRICT 3**
- o August 18 – **DISTRICT 1**
- o August 19 – **DISTRICT 2**

Please check the website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, for updates on meeting locations and times.



USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- o Berkeley Prep's **Sidney Brown** was named to **USA Girls Youth National Team** and will travel to Croatia this summer to participate in the eighth annual European Global Challenge. Sidney is a former member of the Florida Region's Indoor HP All-Star Team and is a member of Tampa Bay Juniors. **Best of Luck Sidney!**
- o **Tommy Tyson**, a setter for Boca Raton HS Senior and member of Ocean Bay Volleyball, was named the **Sun Sentinel Boys' Volleyball Player of the Year**.
- o **Lydia West**, a middle hitter for UPONTOP Volleyball Academy and St. Lucie West Centennial HS, will continue her volleyball career in the fall after signing with **Lynn University**.
- o **Tori Penrod**, a Florida Region Indoor HP and Beach HP All-Star Athlete, has verbally committed to a full scholarship at Division 1 **Mercer University** to play sand volleyball in 2013. **Congrats Tori!**
- o **Yoel Benarroch**, a 6-foot-2 outside hitter for South Broward HS and member of Ocean Bay Volleyball, was named the **Boys' Volleyball Player of the Year** with 338 kills, 176 digs, 185 points, 25 aces, 25 assists and 22 blocks.
- o **Palm Beach All County Boys VB Team – First Team**
 - o **Jakub Ciesla**, (OBV) the 6-foot-6 outside hitter who has signed with Cal State-Northridge had 193 kills, 85 blocks and 94 digs.
 - o **Matthew Clayton**, (OBV) the outside hitter recorded 247 kills and had 53 blocks to lead the Warriors to the state tournament.
 - o **Kent Culp**, (OBV) the libero, a four-year starter and two-time first-team selection, registered 353 digs and 111 service points.
 - o **Maher Khazem**, (OBV) the 6-foot-4 middle hitter had 261 kills and 74 blocks and also made 101 digs for district runner-ups.
 - o **Eddy Kosiec**, (Palm Beach Jrs.) the 6-foot-5 middle blocker and Cobras' captain had 286 kills and 164 blocks for the district champs.
 - o **Nikolas Nelson**, (OBV) the 6-foot-5 middle blocker registered 272 kills, 134 blocks and 42 aces and is committed to Sacred Heart University.
 - o **Connor Stone**, (Palm Beach Jrs.) the middle hitter had 315 kills, 190 digs, 134 service points and also contributed 23 blocks.



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!



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SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

The USAV Summer Membership option is now available! For \$20, you will have access to play in any USAV Dig the Beach tour stop or any affiliate tour stop this summer. Please contact Michele@floridavolleyball.org with any questions.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of June 1, 2012, the Florida Region has **11,684** members. We are on our way to meeting our goal of 12,000 members! Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

REGION INFORMATION

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.
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Eustis, FL 32726

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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 Mgr.
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
Heather Cormier, Events Coordinator
Sue Wainio-Oato, Official's Coordinator

Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION CORPORATE PARTNERS



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

