



# Covering the Court



The Official Volleyball Newsletter of the Arizona Region of U.S.A. Volleyball Vol. 9 No. 2

## From the Commish– Have You Noticed?

In my article last September, you were made aware of some pending changes in the Arizona Region. Among those changes were the new office location, a new Region Outreach Director and upcoming opportunities for players, parents, coaches and officials. Over the course of the last eleven months, the changes experienced by the Region have produced a number of opportunities for everyone connected with the Region. With the move into Court One, the Region Office has been able to provide improved service for the members of the Region. Greater storage space has enabled the Region to organize and more effectively provide the membership with improved response time and space for the staff to do their jobs better and faster. It has also created opportunities for the Region to bring on board additional manpower during the busiest times of the year.

Eric Hodgson has been extremely busy in his new role as Region Outreach Director. Region Outreach has expanded opportunities for coaches to enjoy a variety of new coaching education opportunities in an effort to help coaches keep up with an ever changing world of new equipment, new theories and new research related to coaching volleyball. They have also managed both indoor and outdoor clinics for juniors. Both boys and girls were provided with the rare opportunity to participate in clinics featuring some of the finest players in the world. With names like Kerri Walsh, Misty May-Treanor, Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser providing instruction, it was hard to tell whether the players or their parents had a better time at the clinics.

In addition, the ROD expanded the opportunities for junior girls to play more with the creation of the Vulture Peak Tournament in Wickenburg. For many of the players, the tournament was the only chance all year for them to experience an overnight out of town tournament. Based on the excitement in the gym and the stories that were shared afterward, the tournament was very successful and could open the door for more grassroots tournaments in other cities and towns outside of Phoenix in the years to come.

And what about the juniors (boys and girls) who have outgrown juniors as well as the adult men and women? This fall, the Region will be offering for the first time, indoor leagues at Court One. Besides offering a high level of volleyball on a weekly basis, the Region is extending a special invitation to young men and women to participate in a weekly league that does not involve coaches or practice sessions – just the fun of playing volleyball. Anyone 18 years or older is encouraged to call the Region Office and find out more details about the league.

Last year also saw more opportunities for the elite players and coaches in the Region to participate in the High Performance experience. Since taking over as the Arizona Region High Performance Director, A.J. Malis has increased the opportunities for both players and coaches. In addition, the USA Volleyball High Performance Tournament was held in Tucson this summer and the results proved that Director Malis was correct in his assessment of the talent in the Region. Next year's H.P. tournament in Des Moines could provide Region athletes with even more opportunities.

Still another opportunity will present itself when the first Arizona Region Junior Forum takes place in September. For the first time, junior club directors will be able to speak directly to the important issues facing the junior community and then vote on any motions. The change will mean that each club director from the previous season will have a voice and a vote regardless of the size of their club. For these reasons, every club director is encouraged to attend the Junior Forum.

Finally, even the Officials Division has produced opportunities. In addition to the usual opportunities to improve and advance their skills, the members of the Officials Division were asked to give serious thought to the structure and operation of their Division. For the first time in the history of the Region, Peter Meyer will not be leading the Officials Division. Instead, J.R. Salima was elected to the position of Officials Division Coordinator. Additional opportunities opened up for officials when J.R. reorganized the Division in order to spread the workload around and provide additional people to participate in the operation of the Division.

As you can see, the Region is growing both in terms of the number of participants as well as the number of opportunities provided for the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions for ways to add still more opportunities, please contact the Region Office. The Region is always interested in looking for ways to improve.



From the court,

*Harold W. Cranswick*

Commissioner, Arizona Region of USA Volleyball

# Region Heroes Honored at General Assembly

“Mick” Jordan O’Dell stood next to three of the four people that had saved his life 6 months before and said, “You don’t realize how precious life is until you almost lose it.”

What started out as a opportunity to watch his granddaughter play volleyball for her East Valley Juniors Club team on March 5th at the Court One facility nearly turned tragic when Mr. O’Dell suffered a heart attack. The quick action of four individuals who seized the moment got Mr. O’Dell into a hospital still alive where he underwent a double bypass.

At the Region’s General Assembly on September 18th, Mr. O’Dell got to meet and share his thanks with three of his four first responders. The Region honored these life savers for their quick and heroic actions.

Thank yous to Glen Masterson, Kurt Hover, Lori Zoller and Taryn Lyon from both the O’Dell family and the Arizona Region.



*The Arizona Region recognized first responders Glen Masterson (dark shirt), Kurt Hover (white shirt), Mr. O’Dell (center) and Lori Zoller (striped sweater). Taryn Lyon is not pictured. Mr. O’Dell is flanked by members of his family as well. (Photo by Audie Gonzales)*

## The Secretary's Desk— Registration Year Two

Registration for 2012 is right around the corner. There are a few changes coming on board for the new season with regard to registration.

This will be our second season with the WebPoint registration system. Everyone that registered last season should have a username and password to renew their membership. We expect the registration process to be a little smoother now that everyone knows what they are doing. For those that have moved here from a different region last year, please contact the Arizona Region office to move your membership into Arizona BEFORE you proceed with the renewal. If this is not done you will be renewing in your old region.

First let me say that no one should attempt to register for the 2012 season until AFTER Sept 1st. The membership season in Arizona is from Sept 1 – Aug 31. Anyone registering before Sept 1st is registering for the season that just ended. We don't want to waste your time or money for that. The only members that would need to register between now and Sept 1st are boys that did not play last season that are trying out for a club in August and beginning to practice. EVERYONE else must wait until after Sept 1st to register.

New for the 2012 season for registration:

1. There is now the ability to pay for your membership online with a credit card. The membership will become effective immediately upon completion of the registration process. You can still choose to pay by check or cash but you will need to print off the Registration Payment form off the AZ Re-

gion website and submit your payment. The registration will not be

2. completed until it has been processed by the AZ Region office and therefore could delay participation at tryouts or camps/clinics. If submitting payment by mail please give yourself plenty of time for this process to take place.

3. Membership types have changed.

For Juniors you will now choose a Boys Membership (\$50) or a Girls Membership (\$25). The boys will be starting right away so their full membership price shown is the full price. Boys should NOT pay for their membership online – the clubs have been told to collect it as part of their initial fees and submit with their team rosters. For girls the membership price of \$25 will allow you to participate in any fall clinics, camps and tryouts. Once you join a club the club will collect the additional \$25 to bring the membership to a full membership. The club will submit the payment to the Region office to allow the player to be put on a roster. At that time a birth certificate will be required to be given to the club if one is not already on file with the Region office. You will also need to go back into WebPoint and select the club you have joined.

There is now an Outdoor membership for \$15 which is a full season outdoor only membership – full season beach membership. The membership is annual and does not allow any participation on an indoor team. The membership type will not be able to be put on a roster. This membership can be upgraded to a full membership if participation indoor is needed as either a player or coach.

Eight and Under memberships are now available and in a move to

gain more of the younger players, USAV has made this a FREE membership! Collegiate Memberships (\$15) are for adult players that are in college. If a college age player is also a junior club coach this membership is NOT for them. Proof of current registration at a college/university is required.

Adult full memberships (\$50) are for adult players on indoor teams, junior coaches, club directors, officials. When registering as a full adult member make sure to select ALL roles you are filling as a member of the Arizona Region. If you are also officiating or associated with a junior club you must indicate the role in the registration process in order for the background screen application to appear. Background screens are required every two consecutive seasons for anyone officiating or associated with a junior club. Doing this all online will make the process smoother.

All coaches of junior teams must be registered online and paid a minimum of 2 weeks prior to any tryouts or camps/clinics that you will be participating in.

Background Screen charges have remained at \$20 per screen. Chaperone memberships have remained at \$25 per person as well.

You can find all this registration information on our website – [www.azregionvolleyball.org](http://www.azregionvolleyball.org) under Join the Region. If you have any questions or help with registration don't hesitate to contact the Arizona Region office at 480-626-6740 or [lisa@azregionvolleyball.org](mailto:lisa@azregionvolleyball.org)

Have a great 2012 Season!

*Becky Hudson*

Secretary— Arizona Region of USAV

# Az. Fear 18-Red Reflect on Fifth at Nationals

by Kyle Brainard

After arriving at the Minneapolis Convention Center a little early, to watch 18-open finish pool play, it was finally our turn to step on the court. We started as the number 9 seed overall. Our first two matches were against Vanguard and Kaizen Guam, we were able to beat both teams in 2 sets. Our 3rd and final match of the day was against Slainte, we dropped the first set 22-25, after being down 17-9 earlier in the match. The second set was really exciting and nerve racking. We started the set slow and went down 19-8, after a side-out, we went a 10-0 run. We ended up winning that set 25-23, and then the third set 15-10 to win the match. With going 3-0 on day one, kept us playing for gold.

After a goodnight sleep we were back at the Convention Center for our second pool. We did really well on day two, winning all three matches in two sets. We beat MEVBC 25-22, 25-20; Pittsburg VBC 25-22, 26-24; and Los Mulos 25-16, 25-19. Winning our pool kept us up for the gold medal.

Day three we knew that the competition was only going to be tougher, we knew that finishing top two in this pool would take us to the gold bracket. The first match we took care of FRVBC 25-17, 25-17. Next we played a really good SCVC team, losing the first set 22-25, we were able to bounce back and win the match in 3 sets, 25-19, 15-11. Last we had to play a very good APV team, the number two seed overall. This game was very intense, due to the long history of these players and teams playing each other so much in the last few years. APV won the first 25-22. We were able to get the sets back to even by winning the second 25-18. The third set was exciting but we lost 10-15. We finished second in our pool, which still meant that we were in the gold bracket.

After a short night, we were back in the gym in less than 9 hours. We had made it to the gold bracket and we were still playing for the gold medal. We played a very good team, Borinquen Coqui. We won the first set 25-21, and then lost the second 15-25. Our season came down this set, win, we continue to play, lose, and our season was over. This entire set was back and forth, both teams just trading points, we were tied at 17-17, after a missed serve and a kill for Borinquen our season had ended. With that loss, we had finished 5th.

Our Nationals experience was amazing and fun. It's always fun to play good teams and be successful. Between AZ Fear finish 5th and APV taking the Silver medal, Arizona was represented very well at nationals.



## SMCC Named NJCAA Academic Champions for 2010-11 Season

For the 3rd time in 5 years, the South Mountain Community College Volleyball Team are the NJCAA Academic National Champions! The Cougars had the highest grade point average in the country, a 3.58.

Four of the graduating sophomores were also named Academic All Americans for achieving a 3.6 GPA or better; Brandi Rourke, Natalie Geiger, Crissy Izquierdo, and Melissa Rankin. Congratulations Cougars!

## Education Weekend Coming Dec. 3-4

The Arizona Region's biennial Coaches Education Weekend is scheduled for December 3-4 at Arizona State University's main campus in Tempe.

CAP Levels I and II will be offered. Scheduled cadres include Managing Director of Region Services Programs John Kessel and National Sitting Team's Program Director and Women's National Team Coach Bill Hamiter.

Discounts are offered by the Region for all Arizona Coaches wishing to sign up early. Go to [www.usavolleyball.org/events/8282](http://www.usavolleyball.org/events/8282) to register and get the discount.

The Region is also offering an IMPACT training course at Court One in Tempe on Friday, Dec. 2nd. Go to the Region website to sign up.

## 2 Ball Express Take 9th in Dallas

By Brian Bowers

The 2011 Open in Dallas was a great event. We also had the opportunity to see downtown Dallas in between our matches. The team was smaller than in the past due to prior commitments from some of the guys. We had eight guys on the roster.

On the first day of the tournament we played our first match around 7:00 PM. We came out strong and won the match in 2 and looked pretty good considering we picked up two players and had not played any matches together. A few hours later we won our second match and headed off to Fridays to grab some food. The train in Dallas took us from the convention center to the hotel and stopped at a few places that had restaurants along the way. The train was great considering the hotel was farther from the convention center than expected.

The following day we had a late start again. We won our first two matches and lost the third one in three games. Our next match was against an undefeated team. We were hoping to get a short break between matches, but we started right away. They were a little fresher than us and beat us in 2 games. We would challenge to get into the gold bracket the following day.

The following morning we played a challenge match against Last Call. They came out a little stronger than us and knocked us out of the gold bracket. After the match Marc, Marin, Shane, and I took a walk down to the grassy knoll to see the historic site. When we got down to the area we spoke to a local gentleman who for a few dollars went over the history of the events and pointed out some key windows and landmarks. Marin purchased a newspaper that had all the facts of the event. We then headed back to the convention center.

We ended up in the silver bracket playing a team we had already beaten in pool. The rest of the tournament was single elimination. We were playing in the silver bracket for 9th place. We were matched up with a team from our pool, 3-1-2. We didn't play well the first game, but responded and won the match in 3. The team was playing really good by the third day of the tournament and everyone on the 8 man roster was making contributions. We were making fewer errors that cost us matches earlier in the tournament and at times playing some defense.

On the last day of the tournament we would play two more matches. We played Creole in the first match and managed to beat them in 2 games. Both games were close, 25-23 and 31-29. The team continued to improve. Garrett and Shane were attacking well in the middle and couldn't be stopped. Marin was hammering balls from everywhere and we had established a good tempo on the bic. Tyson and Vince were both hitting well on the outside.

In the finals of the silver bracket we played a team from Texas. They had a full roster of 15 guys and we were down to 7 because Dave went to the hospital for strep throat. They beat us the first game due to some errors on our own side. We responded and ended up winning in 3 games for 9th place overall.

We would have liked to finish higher but 9th was a good finish considering we hadn't played together that much and only had 8 players. The tournament was a lot of fun and the team got along well which is always important and makes the trip enjoyable. We are planning on being there next year in Salt Lake City.

## Dallas Championships: Friends Reunite

By James Stover

This year's Championships in Dallas, Texas had a double benefit for me. Championships have always been a time to get away with friends for a few days and think about nothing except playing, sleeping, eating and.... let's not forget drinking! This year during reverse co-ed, we had two friends who moved away join us to play Reverse Co-Ed. Rhea Frondoza had moved to Seattle for work just prior to Christmas, 2010. Anni Siebenmorgen had moved to Auckland, New Zealand with her job over two years ago. Both had been reliable players in the past. I was worried this year that we may not be able to put a team together.

As I began formulating the team, it occurred to me "what precludes them from playing with us?" There isn't a rule against it, and everyone would not only love to see them, but they are very skilled, fun and competitive players. Much to my surprise, they both committed.

So this year was again about playing, sleeping, eating and drinking, but included an added bonus of acting as a reunion for those who know Rhea and Anni, and as a venue for new friendships for those who didn't.

## Sugar and Spikes add Flavor to Open Nationals by Calley Carpenter

We packed our bags, said our goodbyes and hopped on the plane headed to Dallas, TX for the much awaited 2011 Open Nationals tournament. As soon as we walked into the convention center to register, we were faced with an excitement and overwhelming energy from the mass of courts and players. Our team, Sugar and Spikes, has played in previous national tournaments, and we were thrilled to be traveling to Dallas for this year's tournament.

In our first two days of pool play we came up against some very talented volleyball teams. The change in pace was challenging for us, but in the grand tradition of our team, we never take ourselves too seriously and we welcomed the challenge of each new team. We ended up playing all four days of the tournament and even faced a fellow Tucson team, Cheerios, on the last day. It was a great pleasure to face teams from all over the United States and to see the level of competitive volleyball that is available for adults.

When we were not playing, we were most often in the gym watching other Tucson teams and fellow teammates. We had the pleasure of cheering on Clark's Pools (Men's BB), Killer Bunnies (Men's BB), Desert Thunder (Men's 60 and over), The Relics (Men's 50 and over) and Cheerios (Women's BB). We had a great time playing volleyball, but the best part had to be spending time with our team and members of the other Tucson teams. Our National's tournament was filled with good, competitive volleyball, but most importantly memories we will never forget and friendships that have lasted beyond the tournament in Dallas. Until next year....Honey Badgers!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Region's Junior Champions Earn Spot on Wall of Fame

The Arizona Region wrapped up its 22nd season by adding a decorative touch to their offices. As you walk in, the Region Champions wall has been established and features pictures of this year's winners.

Club Red's 17 Mizuno won the Open Division Region title topping Spiral's 17 Black in the final. The 16's Open title went to Spiral's 16 Black team which topped Az. United's 16 Premiere squad.

In the 18 Championship division, Arrowhead's 18N10CT took the gold medal while Kamalii Puwai 17 Red took the 18 Club crown.

Northern Arizona Juniors 16 Black team took the gold in the 16 Championship and the Arrowhead 16 Ninjas took the 16AAA top spot. The Az. Sky 14 Black Ops won the 14's Championship division.

Aspirer's 12N Black team won the 12AA division and East Valley Juniors 11 Annette won the 12A championship.

Az. Saguaros Inter Gold won the 16AA championship and Zona's 15R2 won the 16A crown.

Yavapai Junior's 14N won the 14AAAA division and the ATOA 14 Cyclones won the 14AAA tilt. Player's 14 Black won the 14AA title and Agape Jrs. won the 14A division.

Congratulations to all the season champions and welcome to the Region Champions wall.



# Webster Introduces Sitting to NORCECA Coaches



Cave Creek's own Lora Webster was a special invitee to the Volleyball Festival held in late June at the Phoenix Convention Center.



Webster was asked to share sitting volleyball with 50+ coaches from around the Caribbean including Haiti and Puerto Rico and teams from the Festival as an exhibition.

Webster, a two time Paralympic medalist signed autographs, took pictures and answered questions over the exhibition.



# High Performance Begins Second Decade

By A.J. Malis

The 13th annual USA Volleyball High Performance Championships were held in Tucson, Arizona July 26-30, 2011. The Arizona Region, represented by three girl's and two boy's teams, was one of the seventeen regions that fielded teams in the event that boasted 98 teams from the USAV pipeline in addition to teams from Chili, China, Peru, Mexico, New Zealand, and Dominican Republic.

The Arizona Boy's Select team, coached by Matt Dyck and David Thistle, played in the Boys' Regional Division. The team, a true Select aged team and the only one from a Region, competed against two USA Select teams and four teams of youth and select-aged boys from the Northern California, Carolina, Badger, and Iowa regions. In pool play, the Arizona team defeated the Carolina Boys (3-2) and the Iowa HP Boys (3-0), and lost to NVCA Select Boys (1-3), USA BSCT White (1-3), USA BSCT Red (1-3), and Badger Boys Region (2-3). Their fifth place finish put them in the Silver Bracket, where they battled against the Carolina Boys to win the division, finishing 5th place overall in the Boys' Regional Division.

The Arizona Boy's Youth team, coached by Ryan Woodworth and Troy Dueling, played in the Boys' International Division. Competing in the highest division of the tournament, the first day of competition was disappointing as Arizona lost a heartbreaker to Team Florida (2-3) and then lost to USA BYCT Blue (0-3), the eventual tournament champion. However, the team bounced back, winning the next four matches against USA BYCT Red (3-1), USA BYA2 Red (3-2), USA BYCT White (3-1), and Aloha Region BIY (3-1). The team's 4-2 finish in pool play was great, but the tie breaker put Arizona in the Silver Division. In the bracket, Arizona lost to USA BSA1 Red (1-3), but bounced back to defeat USA BYCT White (3-1) to finish 7th overall in the Boys' International Division.

The Arizona Region boasted the only Future Select-aged team in the tournament. Playing in the Girls' National Select Division, against teams comprised of select-aged athletes, the Arizona team improved with every match under the direction of Molly Stark and Shasta Millhollin. The team lost in straight sets to USA GSCT Blue, Badger Girls NS, Lakeshore Select, Lone Star Select, OKRVA HP Select, and CHRVA Select. Although the team did not win a set in pool play, set scores and team cohesiveness grew closer as the tournament progressed. Arizona started down a set against IREVA SNT in the Flight 3 Bracket, but battled back to win the match (3-1). Momentum and confidence was with the team as they took the first set against NCVA Select White in the Flight 3 Championship match, but they were unable to sustain the level of play and ended up losing the next 3 sets. Overall, the team finished 22nd out of 24 teams. This team has set a new standard of participation for our Region and has changed the expectation

for players of this age.

The Arizona Girls' Select team, led by Pat Mooney and Charlea Hillman, also played in the Girls' National Select Division. The team started out strong, defeating IREVA SNT (3-0) and Intermountain Select (3-1), on the first day. On day two, Arizona ran into trouble against the SCVA Select Blue team, losing a 5 set battle 15-17 in the fifth set. However, the team rebounded to defeat NCVA Select Red in straight sets later that day. Arizona was unstoppable day three, defeating OVR Girls Select (3-1). The team's 4-1 pool play record earned them the right to play Sun Country Region in a challenge match. Arizona won in straight sets to earn the third seed in the Gold Bracket. Arizona lost in straight sets to Iowa GSEL Navy, the eventual tournament champion, in the first round of bracket play. The loss placed them in the bronze medal match against the Iowa GSEL White team. Arizona won the 4 set battle, earning the bronze medal, finishing 3rd out of 24 teams in the division. This was a tremendous accomplishment by our Select team and established a new level of excellence for this program in the Region.

The Arizona Girl's Youth team, led by Amanda Burbridge and Megan Taylor, competed in the Girls' International Youth Division, the most competitive division in the youth division. In pool play, the Arizona team dominated day one, win again both New Zealand YNT and Intermountain Youth in straight sets. Day two started with a battle against the USA GSCT Red, which Arizona won 21-19 in the fifth. They then rolled on to beat USA GYCT Red in straight sets. In the final match of pool play, the Dominican Republic Select team surprised the Arizona team, beating them in straight set. However, the 4-1 pool play finish was enough to guarantee the team a challenge match against the USA GSA2 White team. Arizona won the match 3-1, which placed them in the Gold Bracket as the third seed. Facing USA GSA1 Blue in the first round, Arizona lost the first two sets 21-25 and 26-28. Battling back to win the next three sets 25-19, 25-17 and 15-10, the Arizona team earned a spot in the championship match. In the gold medal match, Arizona lost to USA GYA2 Blue, bringing home a silver medal for our region. Emily Franklin and Sierra Nobley were named to the Girls' International Youth All Tournament Team. This marks the second time in 4 years that an Arizona Region team has been on the medal stand in the Youth International division.

The Arizona Region saw tremendous growth in High Performance this year. The number of athletes participating in the try-outs and traveling to the High Performance Championships exploded. Our first goal is to continue this growth into 2012. Our second goal is to maintain the same level of excellence and performance at the HP Championships. With two teams on the medal stand this year, the future looks bright.

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# Welcome J.R. Salima, Our New Official's Chair

**Aloha**, from the sunny side of Mesa!!

My name is J.R. Salima, newly elected Officials Division Coordinator for the Arizona Region.

I am honored to have the opportunity to work alongside each of you. I am equally grateful to so many of you fellow officials, who helped me become the official I am today. I consider so many of you dear friends and I appreciate all the support. So I'm guessing many of you who don't know me, are asking, "Hey, who's this J.R.?"

Well, I was born and raised in Hawaii, where volleyball is a love and a passion, almost as much as Spam!!! I then continued my love of the sport in California, and eventually made my way east to Missouri with my family. It was there I got married, started my own family (2 boys and a girl), and in 1975, began a career in Law Enforcement. In the mid-80's, I started officiating volleyball. In 1991, I moved my family to Arizona and finished up my police career with the Mesa Police Department. After 27 fun and exciting years, working every assignment from DARE to SWAT, I pulled the pin and retired. The rest is history....

Well, by now, I'm sure you're also asking, "So what's going on in the Region?, What's new?" I'd like to start by thanking Peter Meyer, our first and only Officials Division Coordinator for the last umpteen years (that's Ref Chair for those new to the business!). I am indeed honored to follow in his footsteps. Peter has no doubt done so much for our USAV and college officiating ranks. We are where we are, due to his dedication and hard work for all these years. I do express my sincere and profound gratitude to Peter, for giving us all a chance to do what we love to do, in such a respected Region. With this passing of the torch, comes change! So standby!

Next, I'd like to share with you some thoughts on how we as a Division can continue to move forward. I believe it starts with the three C's- Commitment, Communication, and Camaraderie. I truly believe that if you start anything with commitment, it will lead to the others. All of these, if acted upon, will lead to making this the best season for everyone. It's said, " Why we work always determines how we work..." As we continue to hold a firm commitment to ideals such as Professionalism, Courtesy, and Respect, our true nature will shine through. We become more approachable and outgoing, ready to listen and interact, this will then open lines of communication with players, parents, and especially coaches. We then as fellow referees will gain mutual trust among us as a group, willing to help each other out, making our own volleyball experience a meaningful and memorable one.

Let's remember to set the example; look and act professional, then you will be seen as such. If we adhere to USAV and Regional policies, and keep in contact with your Team Leaders, we will always be covered. Your leaders are there to help you with any questions. "When in doubt, give us a shout", should always be standard operating procedure. Remember what you sign up for is what you should be there for. If an incident or condition warrants a write-up, send it. Once again, Commitment, Communication, and Camaraderie...these are the hallmarks of great officiating. Now, let's have fun blowing that whistle...as they say in Hawaii...Smile! It no go broke you face!

Thanks to all for your support and trust. I will do my best to lead our Division and together we will continue making it better!!!

From behind the whistle...

*J.R. Salima*

Officials Chair for the Az. Region of USAV



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## Navigating the Recruiting Process by Yourself By Tracey Vargas

At the age of eight, Chelsea Phillips began playing the sport of volleyball. Nine years later, the 5'10" all-around player from Cactus High School, and former member of a club in the Az. Region is across the country to play collegiate volleyball.

Like many young volleyball players across the country, Phillips is lucky to be continuing her career in the sport at a collegiate level. Unlike so many, she achieved this by personally endeavoring to do this at virtually no cost to herself or her family: The University of North Carolina- Pembroke agreed to pay for most of Phillips' expenses with an athletic scholarship covering her next four years of living on the East Coast.

While most college volleyball prospects rely on their club or high school coaches to handle their recruiting – communicating with scouts, video footage, etc. – Phillips took matters in to her own hands. By working hard, and using a little help from her family, she was able to make herself noticed by college coaches and, in the end, secured her own future as a Brave. At Chelsea's request, her mother and father filmed her matches and practices, while a cousin dissected the footage in order to showcase the best clips of her talent for coaches to view her at her most competitive. Astutely, Phillips converted her highlight reel in to a YouTube video. This way, coaches needed only to click on the online link provided to them, eliminating the time and money it takes to send a DVD or videotape via standard mail.

Phillips further proved her efficiency by beginning her quest to find the perfect school as soon as the National Collegiate Athletic Association's rules would allow. Armed with a list of university volleyball programs and their coaches – even those she was only remotely interested in - she sent out a barrage of e-mails, making sure to include the link to her online highlight reel and her upcoming club volleyball schedule. "Don't be too picky," says Phillips, "it's always good to know you have options."

One of the biggest mistakes young recruits make is severing communication with schools before they've done their research. However, Phillips also cautions, "it's important to figure out what you don't want in a school." There may be certain requirements – such as location, school size, or degrees offered – that a player is not willing to compromise. Knowing all the facts and taking a few unofficial visits will begin to put things in to perspective for a young player with stars in his or her eyes.

Phillips traveled to two other Division II schools – Palm Beach Atlantic University and the University of Montevallo – before deciding to become a Brave and study Medicine with a solid background in Biology at UNC- Pembroke this fall. By visiting schools with a wide range of differences, Chelsea was able to hone in on what she was really looking for in her college volleyball experience. She confidently stated, "I know I'll be happy [at UNC- Pembroke]" – the most anyone can expect after long, yet gratifying, process.

Universities offer a plethora of information to prospective players, and not only about their volleyball programs. The academic offerings of every school you research are equally important, as you will be expected to sustain above-average grades for a full four years while playing for their program. Nearly every university in every division of athletics maintains a website with their degrees offered and information about their own athletics program. Being proactive, efficient, and insatiable in your search for information about possible schools are the keys to finding the right match for yourself, and ultimately ensuring you a fun and challenging college career.



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# Region Outreach Wants to Reach YOU!

The Arizona Region spend last season living up to its mission statement:

*The mission of the Region is to promote, govern, oversee, plan and coordinate amateur indoor and outdoor volleyball in the Arizona Region, in order to provide a variety of opportunities for all interested parties to participate in a safe, positive and appropriately competitive environment.*

To that end, the Region Outreach division went to work in November and started putting a face and a purpose to that mission statement.

In November, Region Outreach headed to the Parks and Recreation departments of Peoria and Gilbert to do athlete and coaches clinics for both. The followed up in the spring with both as well.

In December and January, the Region put together the Parents as Partners Initiative from seminars in March and August with the cooperation of USAV and the Promise of Good Sport Foundation. Four Clubs tried these first of their kind workshops which are geared toward working with athletes, coaches and parents on how to enhance the youth sports experience. Club Zia, Northern Arizona Juniors, West Valley Juniors and East Valley Juniors all sent their teams, coaches and parents to the 90 minute seminar to rave reviews. If your club is interested, contact the Region Office to schedule your free seminar.

A YMCA Coaches clinic was offered in December and began an array of coaching clinics for both the beginner and experienced Region coaches. Clinics were offered over the Fiesta weekend, a Gold Medal Squared clinic was offered in early January and a first of it's kind Region Coaching Academy saw 20+ coaches attend 4 straight Friday nights in June. This is an area the Region will continue to expand in the coming years.

Looking to gain more opportunities, Outreach put together a Holiday Family Beach tournament, a free boy's beach tournament in January, a Valentine's Day coed tournament and the first Region Beach Club Cup Series which took athletes from the same club and pitted them against other clubs over a four tournament series throughout the spring to earn the Region Beach Club Cup. Also added to

the sand offerings was the third annual Collegiate Sand Championships.

Adding to the sand mystique was the opportunity to bring in Kerri Walsh, Casey Jennings, Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser to a February sand clinic followed by an indoor clinic the next day. Two weeks later, Misty May-Treanor came out for an indoor clinic as well giving the Region a double dose of Olympic Royalty for the month.

Perhaps the most exciting addition at the hands of Outreach was the addition of two tournaments. The Vulture Peak tournament in Wickenburg in early April and the Sol Survivor tournament held the week before the Volleyball Festival in mid June. Both tournaments saw 23 teams compete giving nearly 500 Region athletes an additional tournament for the season.

Region Outreach also partnered more charitable ventures into our tournaments. Early February saw the Region's first ever Dig Pink tournaments. The Vulture Peak tournament also helped fundraise for Haiti Street and the Sol Survivor tournament was used as a fundraising vehicle for the USAV Sitting programs where Arizona's own Lora Webster, a bronze and silver medalist from the last two Paralympics, was flown out to sign autographs and do a sitting clinic for those interested. (She was also asked to do a sitting clinic at the Volleyball Festival for teams and a gaggle of visiting NORCECA coaches where she was greeted like a rock star).

As you can see, it was a busy year but if we have our way, there's lots more coming in the future. We're working on Adult leagues and clinics for both indoor and beach and High School beach opportunities for both boys and girls. Sitting volleyball open gyms that may lead to leagues in the future and we are anxious to work with the deaf community in clinics and tournaments in the future.

To that end, if you have a request, call us. Need a coaching or athlete clinic for your city youth teams or YMCA or Boys and Girls clubs, call us. Want to host a PAPI/PGS clinic with your parents, call us. Want to know more about sitting and/or deaf and/or Special Olympics opportunities, call us. Need a coaching clinic in your area, call us. We are YOUR Outreach to this wonderful game. We may not be able to fulfill every request but we'll sure try!

**[outreach@azregionvolleyball.org](mailto:outreach@azregionvolleyball.org)**

## 2011 King & Queen of the Beach: J.T. Hatch & Jordan Anderson



On August 2nd, the annual King & Queen of the Beach tournament took place. The top six boys and top six girls in the 16's, 18's, and open divisions competed for the title of King & Queen of the beach. The top six boys that participated were: Nick Benson, Cody Martin, Jake Nuneviller, J.T. Hatch, Ryne Benson, and Carson Flood. The top six girls who competed were: Lexi Anderson, Logan Rae, Maddie Mertz, Jordan Anderson, Christine Johnson, and Audie Gonzalez. Each individual was paired up at least once with every player, and each round lasted 15 minutes.

It was great competition throughout the night, and everyone was having a fun time. By the end of the night, there was a tie between the Anderson sisters. When it came down to points, Jordan Anderson had the most; making her the 2011 Queen of the Beach.

The competition for the boys was neck in neck throughout the whole night. However, JT Hatch had one more win than the rest of the boys making him the 2011 King of the Beach.

## Arizona Beach Performs Well at USA Beach HP Championships

On July 14-17 in Hermosa Beach, California about 10 teams played in the 2nd annual Beach High Performance Championships representing the Arizona Region. Not only was it great to have that many teams play in it, but also how successful they were.

Lexi Anderson and Sarah Sponcil played together in the U19 Division and went undefeated the first two days. They made it into the Gold division and lost in the second round to the U19 winners, Justine Wong & Sara Hughes of California .

In the Girls' U17 Gold Division, Alexis Patterson and Danielle Westfall took 2nd place losing in the finals.

In the Girls' U15 Gold Division, Jordan Anderson and Victoria Svorinic took 2nd place. They were undefeated for all three days until the championship game where they lost to a team from Florida. Hailey Harward and Lilly Nelson made it to the Gold Bracket and got to play on Sunday. They lost first round and finished in a tie for 5th place. Tiyanna Cooper partnered up with Mia Merino from Tustin, CA and won 1st place in the Silver Division placing 9th overall. Makenna Martin and Jess Daniels took the Bronze in the Silver Division, 11th overall.

Ryne Benson and Carson Flood played up in the Boys' U-17 Division where they finished second.

Congratulations to all those teams that participated and represented the Arizona Region so well.

## 2011 Junior Beach Program Comes to an End....

This summer turned out to be very successful for the Jr. Beach Program. Of the 275+ players this season, a lot of new members that joined and tons of returning players saw the Region put on 26 different tournament nights. We had some very positive feedback about this summer, especially for the Father/Daughter tournament.

Even though school is starting back up, we plan to continue to have some sand tournaments throughout the year. We hope we can continue to keep growing and look forward for next year. Thank you to all of you who participated to help make this a fun, competitive summer.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the Jr. Beach Coordinator Audie Gonzales and her staff for this past summer, Cory Romine, Lisa Doremus and Karra Lombombarde. Thank You Ladies and Gentlemen.

Also a big shout out to Mike Krueger of Victory Lanes and his staff who continue to work with the Arizona Region in offering opportunities for our athletes to play.

# Az. Region Beach Continues to Expand Opportunities

The Arizona Region is continuing its commitment to the beach side of volleyball .

On December 18th, the Region will host the Family Holiday 4's tournament. Cost is \$20 per family to play and will be organized by age group.

On January 22, 2012, a free boy's sand tournament will be hosted by the Region. All boys 10-18 are welcome as the Region is picking up the cost of the courts and the tournament staff to get more boys playing beach.

On February 12, the Region will once again host the Valentine's Day Coed doubles tournament for all Junior's age groups. Cost for this tournament will be \$10 per player.

The Region is once again hosting it's Club Cup Series for a second year. The Region Club Cup pits sand doubles teams by club and age group against each other in a series of four tournaments with points awarded by finish in each age group. At the end of the four tournaments, the

club with the most points is awarded the Region Beach Club Cup .

The dates of the Club Cup tournaments will be March 11th, March 25th, April 22nd and finally May 6th. Any USAV registered Junior is invited to attend. Cost of the tournaments is \$10 per player.



On April 28-29, the USA Jr. Beach tour makes its stop into Phoenix. The Desert Open celebrates its 5th year with the winners and runners up earning entry in the Jr. Beach Nationals held later in the summer.

All these events and the Jr. Beach summer program will be held at Victory Lanes Sports Park at 43rd Ave. just south of

Pinnacle Peak Rd. in Northwest Phoenix. Thanks to Mike Krueger and his staff for working with the Arizona Region on events such as these.

More information will be coming on all of these events and can be found on the Beach page of the Region website.

## Az. Future Select Show Muscle at COS By Linda Harward

Arizona was well represented in the inaugural A1 Future Select program with Khalia Lanier, Justine Spann, Olivia Hallaran and Hailey Harward. Being the Mother of Hailey, I would highly recommend the HP program to anyone. Our girls had an incredible experience!

The Arizona girls were very strong amongst the 36 A1 Future Select athletes, Khalia Lanier was named MVP of the week, Justine Spann was named MVP for her team and Hailey's team was undefeated in the tournament, but lost to Olivia's Hallaran's team (whose only loss was to Hailey's team) in the Championship game 21-25.

The coaching was phenomenal, the facility, the girls, the food and the organization of the program were all outstanding. Hailey said it was the best week of her life so far and hopes to be invited back for the Holiday Camp in December.



# Special Olympics Az. Looking for Unified Volleyball Teams

Special Olympics Arizona (SOAZ) thanks you, the Arizona Region Volleyball Clubs' Directors, Players, Parents, Coaches and Arizona Region Officials, for your continued support and participation in growing the Unified Sports Volleyball Program! In recognition of your support and in hopes of continuing this growth, a new program has been custom made for Volleyball Clubs throughout Arizona.

## Unified Sports Volleyball Program

Unified Sports® is an inclusive program which combines individuals with intellectual disabilities (athletes) and individuals without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Athletes and partners compete alongside one another, each in a meaningful and integral role on the Unified Sports® team.

## 10 Volleyball Clubs = 10 Unified Sports Volleyball Teams

### Unified Sports Volleyball Teams

6 Partners (your club players) + 6 Athletes (recruited from your players' schools)

Middle School and High School Aged Co-ed Athletes (SOAZ will assist as needed)

Athletes wear matching club uniforms (\$350 provided by SOAZ)

Unified Sports Volleyball Team practices organized and held by the club

Athletes will be registered and covered by SOAZ provided insurance

Participate in Unified Sports Volleyball "Friendly Matches"

Upcoming opportunities to compete as a Unified Sports Volleyball Team

2012 SOAZ Summer Games and the 2012 Volleyball Festival

Future Unified Sports opportunities to support locally and out-of-state

AIA endorsed Unified Sports Volleyball Programs throughout Arizona

2015 Special Olympics Summer World Games in Los Angeles, California

For additional information about the Unified Sports Volleyball Program, please contact Teresa Scobee, SOAZ Volleyball Program Coordinator at [GrowTheGame@aol.com](mailto:GrowTheGame@aol.com).



**Special Olympics**  
*Arizona*



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Region Commissioner Harold Cranswick enjoys a laugh with Misty May-Treanor who was in the Region at the end of February doing a clinic at the Court One facility in Tempe.