

Arizona Region Salute

Melinda Almazan and Barb Bell

Melinda Almazan and Barb Bell, both Tucson athletes, played important roles in bringing attention to Club Volleyball in Southern Arizona. Their success as Club players was the foundation that created collegiate recruiting inroads to this area. Their success as collegiate players and subsequent careers inspired many youngsters to strive to compete at the highest levels.

Deanna and Richard Anglin

Deanna and Richard Anglin started one of the first junior clubs named the Arizona East Valley Junior Volleyball Club. Richard and Deanna were the owners of the first private volleyball facility in the state. Deanna served on the first Junior Board of Directors in addition to coaching at a private high school.

Norma Bellamy

Norma Bellamy, as head coach for Safford High School in rural southeastern Arizona, ranks first nationally with most state championships all time with 21. She also ranked second nationally with the most consecutive state championships with a total of 13 coming from 1968 to 1980. Norma coached from 1968 to 1990 and holds a career record of 520 wins and 33 losses for a 94.0 winning percent.

Eric Boyles

Eric Boyles competed on the Arizona State University Men's Club team and later toured with Athletes in Action in the summer of 1985. Known as "The Preacher" on the AVP Tour, he spent six years on the beach tour playing with such partners as Sinjin Smith, Eric Fonoimoana and Robert Chavez. Eric finished third on two occasions with two different partners.

Mike Bruning

Mike Bruning represented the U.S. as a member of the indoor National Deaflympics Team and won a silver medal in beach volleyball with partner Scott Majorino at the 2005 Deaflympics in Melbourne, Australia. He played collegiately with the University of Arizona men's club team. Mike has played on the AVP Tour and continues to play in the CBVA while living in San Diego. His is married to Kelly Weiss, another Arizona volleyball product.

Mary Callentine

Mary Callentine was instrumental in the creation of the Cactus Region that would later become the Arizona Region. She served as the Region's first commissioner for 10 years, as well as handling the duties of registrar, treasurer among other roles. During her tenure as commissioner, Mary was also elected to the USA Volleyball Board of Directors.

Steve Carlat

Steve Carlat has been a fixture in Arizona volleyball since the Region 19 era. He has been an indoor and beach player, coach and continues to mentor boys and men in the Tucson area. Steve is a four-time National Champion coach for the University of Arizona men's program. He has participated in seven Maccabi Games and medaled five times – once as a player and four times as a coach.

Doug Clark

Doug Clark was responsible for bringing IVA volleyball to the state of Arizona back in the late 1970s. He played an important role in the effort to add boys' volleyball in the Tucson Unified School District before any other district in Arizona.

Harold Cranswick

Harold Cranswick has served as Arizona Region Commissioner since 1997, and the membership has almost doubled in size. He has provided leadership, strength and guidance to the Region as a player, coach and commissioner. During his tenure as commissioner, Harold has also served as assistant vice-president of the ROD and as a member of the USA Volleyball Board of Directors.

Steve Crook

Steve Crook brought volleyball to an under-served part of Arizona with the creation of Club Red in Mesa. He served on the Junior Board of Directors as well as Junior Tournament Coordinator during which time he managed to find gyms for tournaments every weekend. Steve also was an accomplished player, winning six Arizona Beach Championships. Crook and Brian Slominski have the distinction of being the first Arizona team to defeat a seeded team in an AVP event.

Kim Glass

Kim Glass played her collegiate volleyball at University of Arizona in Tucson and was a three-time AVCA All-American. She has gone on to play with the U.S. Women's National and Olympic teams earning a silver medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She continues to participate with the U.S. National team.

Joe Goetzin

Joe Goetzin formed Yavapai Juniors in 1992 and went on to help start the NAIA collegiate program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1997. He assisted at the University of Arizona and the University of South Carolina. Joe has served as head coach at University of Portland and is currently the head coach at Ole Miss.

Jerry Heikekia

Jerry Heikekia served as head coach at Eastern Arizona College and guided the team to first place in the very first AIAW Junior College Championship in 1975. At age 70, he continues to teach young players in the Gila Valley Juniors Volleyball Club in Safford, Arizona.

Tyler Hildebrand

Tyler Hildebrand played prep volleyball at Red Mountain High School in Mesa before going on to star collegiate at Long Beach State with three AVCA All-America First-Team honors. He left Long Beach State as the school's all-time assist leader and is currently on the U.S. Men's National Team roster.

Eric Hodgson

Eric Hodgson has devoted himself to the sport since joining the Arizona Region. In addition to starting and running his own juniors club, Zia Volleyball Club, he has served on the Junior Board of Directors, providing leadership in marketing and public relations, reaching out to encourage Grassroots efforts, writing and publishing the Arizona Region Newsletter, serving as the Education Director and the primary IMPACT instructor. In his spare time, Eric continues to direct the Region's summer junior beach program that he started.

Jeri Howe

Jeri Howe helped establish volleyball for juniors on the west side of Phoenix. She served as the club director of the Grand Canyon Juniors Volleyball Club. In addition, Jeri served on the original Junior Board of Directors for the Arizona Region.

Becky Hudson

Becky Hudson joined the Region as the office administrator shortly before the Region was officially renamed the Arizona Region. She has managed the day-to-day affairs of the Region Office, the Region's finances, the tournament sites and all forms of communication. Becky has helped the Region to grow in size, in respectability, in financial stability and productivity. She is the one person the entire membership knows and she is acknowledged by the membership as the person who keeps the Region operating.

Don Hudson

Don Hudson was a crowd favorite with the IVA Phoenix Heat fans as the only local player on the squad. He continues to play competitive indoor and beach volleyball in the Region as well as at national venues.

Bernard Ing/Joaquin Soares/Tom Person

Bernard Ing, Joaquin Soares and Tom were responsible for creating the first junior volleyball club in Arizona appropriately named, Arizona Juniors. They also worked together to coach Scottsdale Community College to its first NJCAA National Championship.

Caren Kemner

Caren Kemner participated in three Olympic Games with the U.S. Women's National Team during the 1980s and 90s after a stellar career at University of Arizona. She earned a bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games. Caren was tabbed MVP at the 1991 FIVB World Cup and named to the 1991 World All-Star squad. She is a five-time winner of the USA team MVP Award.

Doug Kiefer

Doug Kiefer has been involved as a player, coach, official, board member, and/or club director since 1989. As a National Referee/Scorekeeper and Official's Trainer, he helped train 20 successful candidates for national certification. Doug co-founded the Junior Officials Development Program in 2001. As Secretary/Treasurer of the Executive Board, he helped establish Arizona Region by laying the groundwork for unprecedented growth from 1997-2005. Doug is currently Director of Coaching & Player Development for Team AZ VBC.

Shayne Lehman

Shayne Lehman established one of the first junior clubs in North Valley Juniors Club and served on the original Junior Board of Directors for the Region. Shayne started and still runs the high school Goldwater Tournament for the AIA. After coaching at Goldwater High School, Shayne coached South Mountain Community College and was one of the few IMPACT instructors for the Region.

Fred Mann

Fred Mann was instrumental in establishing boys' volleyball as a high school varsity sport for boys in Arizona. He has accumulated six Arizona State High School Volleyball Championships in his tenure at Mountain Pointe – once even winning the Boys' and Girls' State Championships in the same school season. Many of Fred's former players have gone on to play for men's programs at many prominent California Universities, including Olympic gold-medalist Reid Priddy.

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Katy Meyer

Katy Meyer has continued to be involved in the Arizona Region since joining as a junior member. After her playing days, she became the first female AVP Referee from the Arizona Region. Katy has served as club director of Peaks VBC and Yavapai Juniors, as volleyball coach and athletic director for Embry Riddle University, as a Junior National Referee, National Scorekeeper and National Beach Referee for USA Volleyball, as a member of the Junior Board of Directors and Chair of the Incident Review Committee, and as a coach for the Arizona Region High Performance Team.

Peter Meyer

Peter Meyer became the first National Official from the Arizona Region and has been responsible for helping create and direct the Officials Division since the Region was established. His leadership has resulted in an increase in the number of National Officials in Arizona from one to the current number of 43. In addition, Peter is also credited with establishing the nation's only Junior Officials Development Program which has provided another alternative opportunities for more than 250 juniors to stay involved in volleyball through officiating.

Debbie Moore

Debbie Moore worked hard to improve both her players and her fellow coaches as the varsity volleyball coach for girls at North Canyon High School in Phoenix. While serving as president of the Arizona Volleyball Coaches Association, she consistently worked to bring in prominent volleyball coaches to speak at area clinics. Before moving on to coach as Sunrise Mountain High School, Debbie was also involved in the effort to bring boys' volleyball to the high school scene.

Corey Morishita

Corey Morishita, the undisputed pioneer of club volleyball in southern Arizona, has worked to improve play at the high school level and beyond. He laid the framework for coaching development, player training and club structure. Corey's Club Cactus is the model by which all clubs are measured and is still the gold standard today, which helped him earn National Director of the Year. He helped create the Cactus Classic and has given special attention to the Boys' Division.

Lucinda Nash

Lucinda Nash has coached at Monument Valley High School on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona for 36 years. Along the way, she has won seven Girls' Volleyball State Championships – including the 2009 title – with her teams despite the challenges she faces in coaching a team in such a remote location. Lucinda has had 4 daughters play for her during her tenure.

Jonathan Norris

As the Club Director for Club Cactus Volleyball, Jonathan Norris stepped up to become the Junior Division Coordinator for the Arizona Region. Under his guidance and leadership, the junior division thrived and grew more than at any other time in the Region's history.

Reid Priddy

As a member of the Mountain Pointe Volleyball team, Reid Priddy participated in the sport the first year it was available to boys and the second he led the team to a state championship. While in Arizona, Reid also played club with Arizona Primitive and sand volleyball. After playing collegiately at Loyola Marymount University, he joined the U.S. Men's National Team in 2000. Reid has participated in two Olympic Games and was instrumental in helping the team to win the 2008 Olympic Games gold medal in Beijing.

Cheri Roberds

Cheri Roberds has given to the sport of volleyball. As the head coach for a small high school in the rural mining town of Miami, Arizona, she established a club for junior girls and regularly took her teams to the Volleyball Festival in Davis, California for the experience – and paid for it herself.

David Rubio

David Rubio has turned the University of Arizona program into a conference and national title contender over his 19 seasons with the Wildcats. As head coach, Rubio has guided his team to 13 NCAA tournament appearances, a school-record 22 NCAA tournament victories, seven Sweet 16s, four Elite Eights and to the NCAA semifinals in 2001.

Leanne Schuster-McSorley

Leanne Schuster-McSorley, an Arizona native, played for Arizona State University where she was an all-Pac-10 and All-Region selection. She was a member of the 1992 Olympic Festival championship team. Leanne played in the WPVA, the BVA and the AVP Tour where she enjoyed national and international success with partners Carrie Busch and Nancy Mason.

Kelly Sliva

Kelly Sliva played her high school volleyball at Catalina High School in Tucson and went on to play for Pima Community College and the University of Arizona. From there, she coached at the University of Texas at Arlington, at the University of Southern California and finally at Northern Arizona University where she coached the team to the NCAA tournament.

Jenn Snyder

Jenn Snyder is an Arizona native who competed in juniors in Arizona and played collegiately at both Long Beach State and Arizona State. This year marks her seventh season on the AVP Tour. Jenn currently resides in Long Beach.

Regina Stahl-Mannix

Regina Stahl-Mannix earned All-American honors at Arizona State University from 1984-87 and later went on to a distinguished career as head coach at Scottsdale Community College and Club Red in Mesa. She still holds the all-time assist record at Arizona State with 5,180. In 2008, Regina was inducted into the NJCAA Coaches Hall of Fame.

Patti Snyder-Park

Patti Snyder-Park immersed herself into the state volleyball scene after being named head coach at Arizona State University. In addition to ASU, she coached for Arizona East Valley Juniors and worked tirelessly to raise awareness and educate young girls about the sport of volleyball. Patti has been a long-time lead staff member for the Volleyball Festival while held in Davis/Sacramento and now Phoenix.

Lisa Stuck

Lisa Stuck was Arizona State University's first women's volleyball All-American and the first women's volleyball player to be inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame. After ASU, she toured with the U.S. Women's National Team. Lisa is now head coach at Glendale Community College and earned the AVCA Two-Year College Southwest Region Coach of the Year in 1998. From 2002-2004 she was head coach of the Arizona Region High Performance Team.

Kim Ulrich-Suss

Kim Ulrich-Suss is credited with starting boys' volleyball in the West Valley. She has been the coach of the Deer Valley High School Boys' Volleyball team and was Chris Jackson's coach.

Eric Vincent

Arizona product Eric Vincent played junior volleyball in Tucson with Club Cactus Juniors. His CCJ 18s team finished third at the 2001 Boys' Junior National Championships held in Phoenix. Eric went on to play collegiately at UC Irvine and later was a member of the U.S. Men's Indoor Volleyball team at the 2005 Deaflympics in Melbourne, Australia.

Tammy Webb

Under the coaching of Debbie Brown, Tammy Webb helped put Arizona State University volleyball on the map. She had a stellar career at ASU before joining the U.S. National and Olympic Teams. She participated in three Olympic Games earning a Bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Lora Webster

Lora Webster, from Cave Creek, Arizona, has been instrumental to the U.S. Women's National Sitting Team in the past two Paralympics. She helped the squad to the bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games held in Athens. Lora was key to the team's silver-medal performance at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. She is a 2004 recipient of the Gene Autry Courage Award.

Rosie Wegrich

Rosie Wegrich played for the Tucson Sky IVA team and earned MVP Best Passer and Defender awards. She served as head coach of the University of Arizona volleyball program from 1977 to 1991, leading the Wildcats to 12 postseason appearances and a string of nine straight NCAA tournament berths. Rosie earned AVCA Northwest Region Coach of the Year in 1989.

Rod Wilde

Rod Wilde played for the IVA Tucson Sky after leading Pepperdine University to the NCAA Men's Championship. He also was part of the U.S. Men's National Team. During his tenure in Tucson, Rod helped to promote volleyball as a sport for men that eventually led to the establishment of the very successful University of Arizona Men's Volleyball Club Team.

Bob Wycoff

Bob Wycoff was instrumental in establishing the first Starlings Program in the State of Arizona. The program resulted in many opportunities for inner-city junior players to become involved in the sport of volleyball.