

On the Web and In Print

By any measure, 2002 was a spectacular season for the Ohio Valley Region. Our registrations are up by 7.5%, we hosted record-breaking championship tournaments (again), our web usage is up by 90%, and USA Volleyball recognized our web site with the Viggo O. Nelson publications award. We also implemented new facilities, for example electronic registration for the OVR Kaepa-USA Junior Championships. Approximately half of the teams registered used that facility, helping greatly with the tournament's management and with assembly of a significantly expanded college coaches' packet.

We regularly receive communications saying that we're providing the information people need – OVR members and individuals from other regions alike – but more importantly, we have plans to address many of our outstanding needs for next season. This, like most worthwhile endeavors, is a continuous learning experience. As we build a better foundation, we perceive the demand for more sophisticated facilities. Expect to see new features that will make the OVR work better for everyone: less work for club directors, team reps, and staff, and faster and more accurate reporting for our members. Our objective, we must remember, is *playing volleyball*: while an elaborate infrastructure is necessary to manage an organization of our size, that infrastructure must be transparent, diverting as little energy as possible from competing, coaching, and otherwise enjoying and advancing our sport.

Aside from new features, expect to see a completely new design for the OVR web site very soon. I had many reasons for that overhaul: more efficient navigation, expansion of

content, reorganization and cleanup, and a more aesthetic look and feel.

2002 also saw the revival of our Region Handbook. While we came close to our goal of authoring a complete but concise guide to participating in the OVR, extensive revisions are already underway for the 2003 edition, which will be published on www.ovr.org prior to the 2003 season's surge of activity. Any suggestions for revisions must reach me by the end of August to stand a reasonable chance of incorporation.

Before closing, I'd like to recognize those with whom I have the privilege of helping to build and sustain the OVR. In particular, USA Volleyball chose well in selecting Ron Wyzynski for the 2002 YJOV *Outstanding Service* award. The contributions Ron has made to building juniors' volleyball, as well as to all other aspects of our organization, have been phenomenal. Rick Laskey, who recently resigned his Regional Referees' Chair, similarly exemplifies dedication and professionalism. Rick was my first contact in the OVR many years ago, and he's been a valued colleague and friend ever since. I wish Rick and Connie only the best as they explore a new life in warmer and sunnier places. Of course they're not alone: our opportunities and growth are made possible only through the hard work of the entire staff.

If you have any suggestions regarding any of our media, simply e-mail them to me. I'll see some of you on the sand this summer, and to the everyone else, 2003 is just around the corner. Let's make it even better.

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