

Boys' Volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region

On January 25th, nine of the ten boys' volleyball clubs registered in the Ohio Valley Region participated in an OVR-sponsored tournament at Kent State University. 22 teams competed: 14 teams in the 18-and-under division, and 8 in 16-and-under. 18 of those teams are registered in the OVR, and two teams in each division traveled from the Western Empire Region (western New York).

Renaissance 18 Red finished 2nd in the 18 Gold playoffs, and Cincinnati Attack 17-1 won the Silver playoffs. Cincinnati Attack 16-1 Black finished 2nd in the 16 Gold playoffs and Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black finished 2nd in the Silver playoffs. Full results can be viewed at the Region's web pages.

It was wonderful to see such a large turnout of OVR teams, and it was particularly inspiring to watch the Northcoast 14s play up to 16-and-under. Even though they were giving away several years in age (I was told that most of the players are actually 12 or younger), they still battled the older boys. If the age difference wasn't enough of a handicap, they also had to play with the net set at 7'11". The boys' 14s age group normally plays with the net set at 7'4", so the net was about 8 inches higher than usual for them. But they did not back

down from the challenge.

The Region will be hosting another boys' tournament on February 22nd. In this event, all OVR boys' volleyball clubs will be represented. There are currently 15 teams registered for 18U and 7 for 16U, all of whom are OVR teams.

The first-ever Ohio Valley Region Boys Regional Championships will be hosted on March 2nd at Capital University. Again, look at the Region's web pages for more information.

Another opportunity for boys' teams to play is the Presidents' Cup tournament on February 14-16 at the Dayton Convention Center. This tournament will be offering competition in 18s, 17s, 16s, and 15s age groups.

This is probably the first year in which there are 4 quality events within the OVR for boys to compete. It is great for the boys (and their fans) to have more events locally so that they do not need to travel as much.

The Region looks forward to continuing to host events for the boys. Hopefully this will help to grow the opportunities for boys to play the sport of volleyball within the Region.

— Al Herbert

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For April 11 & 12: \$98 plus tax for single/double occupancy. The deadline for making reservations is March 13, 2003. A non-refundable one night room and tax deposit will be charged to the credit card on file if you cancel your reservation after March 13, 2003.

For May 10-11: The rate is \$98 single/double occupancy, \$103 triple/quad occupancy plus tax. A deposit of one night room and tax is required at the time the reservation is made. The deadline for making room reservations is April 10. If cancelled after April 10, the deposit is non-refundable.

May 16-17: The rate is \$98 single/double occupancy, \$103 triple/quad occupancy plus tax. A deposit of one night room and tax is required at the time the reservation is made. The deadline for making room reservations is April 17. If cancelled after April 10, the deposit is non-refundable.