

# From the Referees' Chair

## Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Regional Referees' Chair

**I**T'S SEPTEMBER AGAIN – fall high school and collegiate volleyball, leaves changing colors, and the USAV season only a few months away.

The 2004-05 season brought many changes to USA volleyball, primarily in rules and techniques. As has always been the case, OVR referees stepped up to the plate and hit a home run! We quickly and efficiently adapted to the new FIVB rules and mechanics. Across the country at national level tournaments, I consistently heard, "The OVR must be doing something right because [we] can tell who the OVR officials are at this event." Great work! Keep it up!

We finish the 2004-05 season with a record number of referees: 415. Thanks to the OVR rating and training team for their efforts and hard work in evaluating 150 prospective referees! I need to offer a personal "thanks" to Tom Joseph who spear-headed the training/evaluation process for our new officials. For the coming season, we will focus on continued training and evaluation of our existing cadre.

For 2005-06, rule changes will be minimal compared to last year, but there are still a couple of significant changes which we'll address those at clinics prior to the season. Likewise, we'll be adopting some new techniques and mechanics. Remember, change is a good thing, and we should look forward to incorporating some new things into our "game."

As this season winds down, we need to recognize some of the accomplishments of our fellow officials this year. Elaine Viney and Gary Hesse both completed their certification as National Scorekeepers at the US Open Championships in Denver. It was

a busy year for Gary, as he also obtained his Junior National referee certification during the Girls' JOVC in Salt Lake City. Congratulations to both of them!

We also need to mention a noteworthy retirement from officiating: Bill Noffke has decided to retire after 51, *yes* – 51 years as a coach, player and referee! Bill will leave as a Regional referee who has provided a substantial service to the OVR and the sport of volleyball. Thank you, Bill, and best wishes for a relaxing retirement.

With the new season just around the corner, our online registration system is up and running. Our OVR dues will again remain \$50 this season. Remember, our USAV membership expires on October 31, 2004, so we *all* need to register online as soon as possible. For referees who completed background screening last year, that check remains in force for this season also, so there's no additional fee (\$20).

Finally, the OVR website will again be a primary means of communication for all of us this season. Details about online registration, testing, clinics and new officials' information will be available in a timely fashion. Please stay up to date by checking the website a few times each week.

Thanks to our entire cadre of referees for a super job in 2005, and let's make 2006 even better!



## Hank Trimble Elected as Men's Tournament Director

At the August board meeting, the OVR board of directors elected Hank Trimble as Men's Tournament Director.

Hank brings considerable experience to the position. Many players from OVR men's teams will recognize Hank from the court, where he played last season with Miami Valley Masters. Hank also draws on deep organizational experience: he is hidden but critically important at the tournament desk of many of our Girls' Championships and

Bid events, skillfully assimilating incoming results, reporting results, and developing brackets from up to 40 courts.

We look forward to new growth of men's volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region. Please register early and consider hosting a tournament, both of which build critical momentum for the coming season, and feel free to contact Hank at [trimble@ovr.org](mailto:trimble@ovr.org) with any concerns you may have for our men's program. — Ed.

