

## 2012 OVR High Performance Report

On the following pages, I have outlined the various components of this year's HP program and have listed my recommendations for further enhancements or changes to the program.

### **Tryout Information:**

#### Boys

The Boys Tryout was held on Saturday, February 24 in conjunction with the OVR Boys Regional Championship. It was held at Veteran's Memorial and 32 boys registered for tryouts.

After the tryout, we made the decision that there were not enough players to field two boys teams and we would field just 1 Boys National Youth Team. 22 players were invited to camp and 17 Accepted.

#### Girls Select and Youth

The Girls Select and Youth Tryouts were held in conjunction with the OVR Girls Regional Championship on Friday and Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. It was held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. 43 players registered for the Select Tryouts and 60 Youth and Women's Players registered for the tryouts.

The tryouts were organized by Rocky Koenig and ran quite smoothly. Allowing players to register on-site continues to be key for both the boys and the girls

The decision was made after the tryouts to field a Women's International Junior Team and a Girls International Youth Team. We opted to invite Select Age players to participate in camp - with the idea that any qualified Select level players could be placed on the International Youth Team.

21 Select Players were invited to camp and 14 accepted. The biggest reason for non acceptance given was the fact the girls would not have a chance to make the travel team. 22 players were invited to camp with the Girls International Youth and 21 accepted. All 16 players who tried out for the Women's International Team were invited to camp and 10 accepted their invitations.

Three of the key players from the Women's Youth Team opted at the last minute to not participate due to high school and college camp commitments and that definitely affected the competitiveness of the Women's International Junior Team.

Because the boy's tryout is held before the boy's high school season, we will continue to look at the feasibility of holding a second tryout for the boys in early June after the completion of their high school seasons.

The Tryout Flyer was helpful for the girls as was the letter sent directly to players who had been nominated by their club coach. Getting the support of the club coaches continues to be a difficult proposition. Many parents of players, who see the tryouts going on, ask about the program, as their club coaches had not told them about it. Enlisting the support of the high school coaches is also a challenge at times. The tournament and training weekend often conflict with high school pre-season events.

### **Coaching Staff**

The Coaching Staff for all three teams did an outstanding job. They were very well prepared for training camp and handled all of their responsibilities well.

Glenn Freed and Casey Marcelo served as the coaches for the Boys Team. Both have several years experience with the program. Glenn is by far the most organized and effective coach for the boys program and does a great job on all aspects of the coaching and administration. Coached the team last year. Both are high school and club coaches.

Danijela Tomic from Bowling Green State University coached the Girl's Youth Team and Sandra Borer from Kaepa Buckeye assisted her. Jayme Gergen was the coach of the Women's International Team and she was assisted by Sonny Lewis from TVC. The original assistant selected took a new job and was not available to coach and Sonny stepped in.

I cannot say enough about the great job all three coaching staff's did through the training camp and the tournament. In addition to the travel coaches, Meghan Keck from Ohio University led the camp for the Select Players and also did a fantastic job.

Having college coaches for the girls was an attraction and I would suggest continuing using college coaches. My goal since the beginning of my tenure with the program has been to involve college coaches as well as club coaches. I think the combination of the two is the best of both worlds.

I would recommend hiring coaches for a 2-year cycle. It is a great opportunity for them as well as for the program and it would be good to spread the opportunity around to interested and qualified coaches.

### **Training Camp**

Once again, we invited the players to camp at Capital University with the goal of training the players for the weekend of camp and then selecting the top players at camp to play on the travel team at the tournament. This is our third year of doing the camp and selection process this way and it has worked very well. It allows us to involve more players in the training program. And it allows the coaches a chance to watch players for more than three hours of a tryout. This helps in some regards to eliminate the player who is a superstar at a tryout, but has trouble putting it all together in a match situation.

Capital university has been the site of the training camp and they do an excellent job of housing and feeding the players and their training areas work well for training three teams at a time.

The travel team was selected at the end of the camp and reported the following weekend to BGSU for another day of training before we left via bus for Des Moines, Iowa.

### **Travel Arrangements**

We traveled via charter bus to Des Moines. We were pleased to have the same driver who drove us to the Dells two years ago. We used Lakefront Bus Lines and it was nice to work with the same company again, as they provided excellent customer service. This is one event where USAV does not require a "Stay to Play" hotel selection. However, it is more cost effective to use the hotels that they recommend.

### **Tournament**

Both the Girls International Youth and the Women's International Junior teams finished 15 out of 18 teams. It was an expected finish for the Women's Team, but a very disappointing finish for the Junior Team. This was the first year of the two-year cycle for all age groups, and while I am not using that as an excuse- as all teams have the same age restrictions, we did seem to have quite a few girls on the team who were not ready for the speed of the play and the International Rules. We also lost our starting setter to a concussion after the first match of the tournament and she was replaced by a Select Player who was brought on the team the last day of training in BG as a back up. In hindsight, a second setter should have been selected from the get-go.

Losing the 3 players from last year's HP team off of the women's International Team changed the entire make-up of the Women's team and their low finish was not unexpected. The girls who were on the team did compete hard and definitely were better by the end of the tournament.

The Boys Team finished 10<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams in the Boys National Division. This was a disappointment for the coaches and the team, in that they had finished as runners up the prior two years.

### **Conclusion**

Although, we did not meet our goal of winning a HP championship, I still believe that HP has a role in the OVR and that it makes sense for the region to support the program. I am hopeful that with our new registration program, we will be able to get the work out directly to the players this year and not rely on the club coaches to pass the information on to their players. Clearly, we need to get more of the region's top players involved in the program for our teams to be more successful. The 2013 site in Ft. Lauderdale may also be more attractive than Des Moines, Iowa was. Many of the players who were selected to participate in the program this year were

players from teams/clubs that do not traditionally go the USAV Nationals. It was a great experience for these players to see the game played at a high level and play with other high level athletes.

The HP program as it is currently designed is a “pipeline” opportunity for athletes to be recognized by USA Volleyball. However, I do think it is important for the OVR to continue to support this program. The program as it relates to the Boys Team is a selling tool for increasing the Boys membership.

The increase in the participation in the training camp by the alternates is an indicator that even with all of the camp opportunities available to our athletes participating in a High Performance Camp with a quality coaching staff is very attractive. I think that is an area of continued growth for the program.

I would like to thank the board for the opportunity to work on this project. It was a tremendous amount of work, but it was gratifying to see the athlete’s come together and represent our region in a positive and productive fashion.

A preliminary financial report is attached. Special thanks to Ron Wyzynski for his help in getting bills paid quickly.

Sincerely,

Michelle W. Hills  
[hills@ovr.org](mailto:hills@ovr.org)