

OVR The Block

The official newsletter of the Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball

Volume 18 Number 4: September 7, 2001

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Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award

Recognizing more than 50 years of service **Glenn Purdy** has given volleyball, the Ohio Valley Region created the *Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award*, naming Glenn as its first recipient.

Glenn began playing volleyball in 1941 at the YMCA in Joliet, Illinois. He played through 1964, at which time he switched his focus to officiating. Glenn obtained his National Referee rating in 1983 and his

National Scorekeeper rating in 1984, following which he obtained his National Rating for women's collegiate volleyball and officiated the Division III National Championship Finals twice. Glenn will have had his Class 1 Rating for high school volleyball for 25 years this fall.

Glenn has requested retirement from the USAV as a National official, but we expect to see him often within the region.



Bob Price (right), OVR Commissioner/President, presenting the first annual Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award to Glenn Purdy after dinner on August 11, 2001, at the annual Board of Directors' meeting and annual retreat.

OVR HP teams place well at Nationals

The mission of the Ohio Valley Region High Performance Program is to develop elite athletes and coaches, to prepare them to gain opportunities, and to be successful at the highest possible levels within the volleyball community. The OVR fielded two High Performance teams during the 2000-2001 season: 15-and-under and 16's-17's.

Head Coach **Don Burroughs**, Assistant Coach **Kelli Fisher**, and Head of Delegation **Lisa Shannon** selected ten 15-and-under players at tryouts throughout Ohio to participate in the 2001 AAU Junior National Championships in Orlando on June 14-19, 2001. The team members were **Diana Andreyko** (Carnegie, PA), **Lizaiha Garcia** (Fairborn, OH), **Allie Hemmelgam** (Vandalia, OH), **Kelsey Hills** (Toledo, OH), **Sara Hughes** (Perrysburg, OH), **Allison Niekamp** (Findlay, OH), **Stephanie Ross** (Dayton, OH), **Molly Spencer** (Dayton, OH), **Seanna Steinle** (Fremon, OH) and **Stephanie Swiger** (Findlay, OH).

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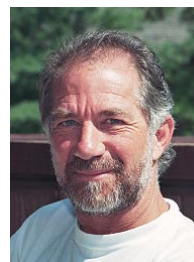
Bob Price appointed Commissioner

The Board of Directors appointed **Bob Price** to another 3-year term as Commissioner/President of the Ohio Valley Region, Inc. at the August 11-12 board meeting. The vote was unanimous excepting one abstention.



Zehler named Outstanding Director

Congratulations to **Bill Zehler**, Club Director of Kaepa Borderline Volleyball Club (Oxford, Ohio), recipient of USA Volleyball's **Outstanding Program Director** award for



(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue concludes Volume 18 of the OVR Newsletter. The 2000-2001 season was eventful, as each of ours is, heralding unprecedented growth in our membership and in opportunities within the Region. I hope that these issues of *OVR The Block* succeeded in capturing and conveying some of that fervor, and that they contributed to everyone's enjoyment of participating in USA Volleyball.

Aside from the roles in which most of you know me as editor and webmaster (and, naturally, volleyball player), I occasionally find myself teaching various cutting-edge aspects of computational science to diverse groups of scientists and engineers. One key to success in that endeavor is *bidirectional* communication: presenting content to a passive group may, with luck, address a subset of the group's needs, but once a few individuals begin asking questions and indicating their interests, new doors open for exchanging valuable and engaging information.

Communication with our membership, including this newsletter, shares many of those qualities. While reading *OVR The Block*, please keep in mind that this publication is *for our members*. Articles written by our officers and board members are clearly vital and permanent aspects of *OVR The Block*. However, equally important is the news that you, our members, are generating. Perhaps your team traveled to a noteworthy tournament, generating a tale of victory or crushing defeat, or simply one of entertainment. Or perhaps you have an opinion on some aspect of the game that you'd like to share. Perhaps your contribution is even artistic. With 11,676 members surely the we have an abundance of interesting material and talent. We welcome relevant articles and photos — be creative! E-mail me at editor@ovr.org if you'd like to contribute.

One of our goals for the 2001-2002 season is to obtain a better photographic record of our teams' accomplishments. Many of our players have requested that winners' photos, especially of important events such as our Regional Championships, be published on our web site and/or in the newsletter. Please bear this in mind when completing your 2001-2002 registration, granting or withholding permission to use your name, likeness, and image as you see fit. Releases will also be available at events at which photographs are being taken.

Every fall seems busier than its predecessor with the approach of a new season, and this year is no exception. Please watch www.ovr.org for daily news and updates as the 2001-2002 season unfolds. I wish you all a great season.

NICK NYSTROM

Editor, Webmaster, Board Member

nystrom@ovr.org

Calendar

Men's and Women's

Registration Packets to be mailed: early November.

KSU registration tournaments:

January 12, 2002: Men's and Women's AA

January 13, 2002: Men's and Women's A

January 19, 2002: Men's and Women's BB

January 20, 2002: Men's and Women's B

2002 Ohio Valley Regional Championships:

April 13 & 14, 2002, Columbus, Ohio.

www.ovr.org/mw/regionals/

Juniors'

Applications for sanction for 2001-2002 season tournaments will be accepted beginning: September 1, 2001.

Registration Packets to be mailed: early October.

Tournament schedule to be published: December 1.

2002 Ohio Valley Junior Championships:

May 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12, 2002, Columbus, Ohio.

www.ovr.org/juniors/championships/

Officials

Registration due: October 15.

Professional clinics (see page 9 for more information)

December 1, 2001, Westerville (sponsored by Molten),

December 2, 2001, Pittsburgh,

December 8, 2001, Toledo.

www.ovr.org/off_rules/clinics.html

Player ref clinics: To be announced.

www.ovr.org/off_rules/clinics.html

Administrative

OVR board meetings:

October 21, 2001, Westerville South H.S.

January 21, 2002, Kent.

Publications

Next issue of OVR The Block:

November 1, 2001. Submission deadline: October 15.

Subscription and Copyright Information

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Executive Director's Commentary

Dear Members,

11,676 individuals were members of the OVR during the 2001 season. This number also represents more than 1000 adult and junior teams. This overall total tells me that every season we're providing to all of you the enjoyment of volleyball activities whatever your level of interest. The OVR staff and Board of Directors is committed to you and our many programs and events.

I need at this time to thank our region sponsors and associates who work with the organization to enhance our programs: Kaepa USA (Sharon McCord), Molten USA (Jason Sterrett), The Greater Columbus Convention Center and Visitors Bureau (Linda Logan and Dittie Guise), East Coast VB Equipment (Chip Reiley), and Marriott Hotels. At this time I'd like to welcome the Hyatt Regency/Columbus (Valerie Gillespie) as a new partner for our convention center events. As time goes by I'll bring other sponsors into this group as I find a place for them.

So What's New? The region will be using Molten (red-white-blue) volleyballs this season for sanctioned competitions and championships on a best effort basis. Molten is the USA Volleyball national sponsor. For juniors the Kaepa/Molten Power League events will debut this season for Open teams. We'll also continue our very successful High Performance teams with a new director to be named in October.

Registration: Junior packets and information will be mailed the first week of October. Adult materials should be ready to go by about November 1. As always, for the most up-to-date information use the website.

Please take a few minutes to read the articles of the many people who make your interests a priority in the OVR. I'm very proud and honored to be part of this dedicated group. My goals will always be the same as when I started 14 years ago: to make it better for all of you. Have a great season...bring in a new person or start a new team in 2002! ♦



The OVR staff and Board of Directors is committed to you

Contacting Us

Our mailing lists formerly maintained through listservs at uakron.edu have been replaced by a number of convenient addresses, all @ovr.org...

staff@ovr.org	OVR Board of Directors, Officers and Staff
commissioner	Commissioner
ceo	CEO/Executive Director
registrar	Registrar
referees_chair	Referees' Chair
mens_td, womens_td	Men's and Women's Tournament Directors
juniors_td	Juniors' Tournament Director
juniors	Juniors' Program Director
jodd	Junior Officials' Development Director
high_performance	Juniors' High Performance Coordinator
jresults	Juniors' Results Coordinator
boys_liaison	Junior Boys Liaison
bid	Juniors' Bid Coordinator
editor	Publications Editor
webmaster	Webmaster

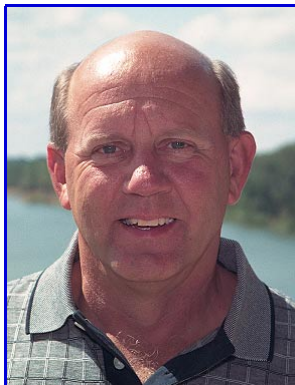
In addition, many of our online lists now allow sending e-mail to the selected contacts, offering expanded functionality and continuously updated information. Summarized at www.ovr.org/ovr_info.html#mailing_lists, those addressing facilities enable e-mailing Officials, Juniors' Tournament Directors, Juniors' Club Directors, and Men's and Women's Team Reps.

Get up-to-date OVR news at www.ovr.org

OVR Toll-Free
Hotline
888-873-9478

OVR Office
315 Johnson Rd.
Kent, OH 44240

Commissioner's Corner



The 2001 season came to a close with the Junior Nationals and the Davis Festival bringing down the curtain in July. The high school season will begin in early August, and once again we find ourselves back in the gym, either coaching or playing.

I want to alert all club directors and coaches to the guidelines you must follow when contacting players about the upcoming junior season. Please *read carefully* the policies and procedures adopted by the OVR regarding how and when these players can be contacted! We encourage all directors and coaches to be respectful of these athletes and their high school programs. Violations of these guidelines will result in serious penalties.

I ask that all parents and players research clubs' policies and procedures before tryouts. Be sure the philosophy of the club matches your needs and interests. Once you sign a contract you have made a commitment; the OVR does not get involved with the internal structure, policies, and fees of these clubs.

A point of emphasis for the 2002 season will again be the sportsmanship and conduct demonstrated by all directors, coaches and players. Competition can be a very pleasurable learning experience; it can also be a very disappointing, ugly experience. I encourage each of our members to make an effort to guarantee that respect for all competitors is a priority.

Check out the OVR website — it is one of USA's best!

Play hard and play often.

Respectfully,
Bob Price

Officials' Clinics

Additional information is available at www.ovr.org/off_rules/clinics.html.

Professional Officials' Clinics

The following are mandatory for professional officials, who *must* renew their membership prior to October 15.

- Sat., Dec. 1, 2001, Westerville South HS Media Room, Westerville, OH.
Contact Rick Laskey (937-372-8878/h, laskey@ovr.org) or Bob Price (614-882-2468/h, price@ovr.org).
Refreshments and raffles courtesy of Molten.
- Sunday, Dec. 2, 2001, Carlow College Kresge Theater, Pittsburgh, PA.
Contact Rick Laskey (937-372-8878/h, laskey@ovr.org) or George Sliman (412-578-8826/w, gsliman@carlow.edu).
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 2001, Toledo, OH.
Contact Rick Laskey (937-372-8878/h, laskey@ovr.org).
- Make-up clinics TBA (\$20 fee).

Player Referee and Women's Collegiate Clinics

- Player Ref Clinics to be announced closer to the 2002 season at www.ovr.org/off_rules/clinics.html
- PAVO (Professional Association of Volleyball Officials) and OTP (Officials' Training Program, formerly NTT) clinics: www.ovr.org/off_rules/clinics.html

Zehler named Outstanding Director

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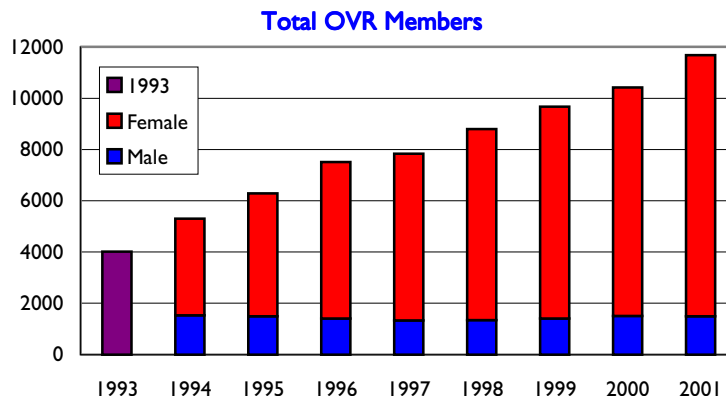
2000-2001. Bill was selected from among other nationally nominated candidates based on criteria including but not limited to excellence of coaching staff, development of players and leadership of high integrity and sportsmanship values, community rapport, and tournament hosting. (Selection criteria are fully enumerated on pages 24-25 of the 2001 USA Volleyball Official Guidebook). Bill accepted his award at the Junior National Championships in Salt Lake City. In addition to directing Kaepa Borderline, Bill is also the Junior Program Director and serves on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Valley Region. ♦

Patterns of Growth in the Ohio Valley Region

Stephen Donahue



For the past eight years the number of registrations in the Ohio Valley Region has increased every year. In addition, both the number of teams and percentage of female participation have increased significantly.

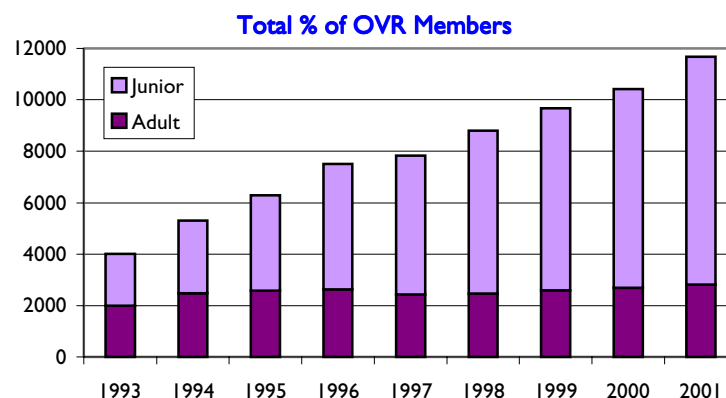


Total Number of Teams

- ✓ The number of teams increased 121.1 % from 530 teams in 1994 to 1,172 teams in 2001.
- ✓ The percentage of junior teams has grown from 57% of the total number of teams in 1994 to 82.6% of the total number of teams in 2001.
- ✓ The number of junior female teams has grown 230% from 293 teams in 1994 to 968 teams in 2001.

Total Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Membership

- ✓ Membership has increased 191.4% from 4007 members in 1993 to 11,676 members in 2001.
- ✓ The number of junior players has increased 342% from 2005 players in 1993 to 8863 players in 2001.
- ✓ Junior players and coaches represented 87% of the OVR membership in 2001.
- ✓ Junior girls represented 74.2% of the total membership in 2001.
- ✓ Junior players, boys and girls, represented 75.9% of the OVR membership in 2001.

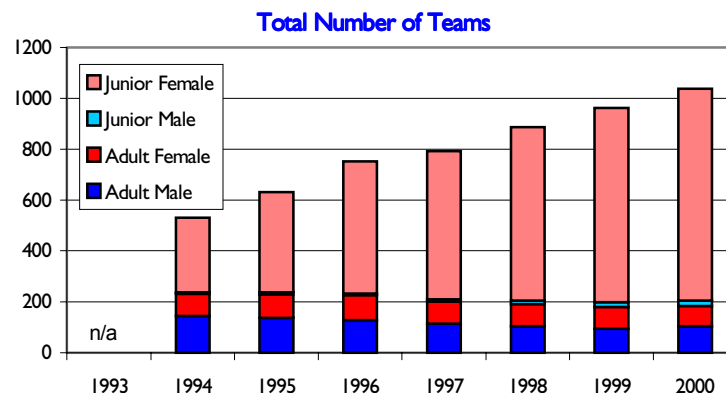


Total Female Membership

- ✓ Females represented 87.2% of the Ohio Valley Region membership in 2001.
- ✓ The number of female players has increased 170.6% from 3763 players in 1993 to 10,182 players in 2001.

2001 Ohio Valley Region Membership

	adult	colle- giate	other adult	junior	total
female	663	33	827	8,659	10,182
male	801	25	464	204	1,494
total	1,464	58	1,291	8,863	11,676



The Juniors' Page

Bill Zehler, Junior Program Director

Once again, the Ohio Valley Region shattered every record we have established in the area of Junior participation. We had over 925 registered girls' teams this past season. Over 625 teams participated in our Junior Championships. There were close to 40 teams representing the OVR at the 2001 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships in Salt Lake City. We also had several boys' teams make the long trek to Phoenix, Arizona for the Boys' Junior National Championships.

The tryout season for Juniors clubs is now upon us. Athletes (and their parents) are making every effort to "make" the club that is the best "fit". Clubs are trying to attract the best athletes to form the best teams possible. We hope this is a positive experience for everyone involved. Families are cautioned to do their homework when looking for a club. We ask club directors to use common sense when trying to attract athletes to their organizations.

The first day clubs may host tryouts for athletes in grades 9-12 is the day *after* the State Volleyball Championships in your state. Tryouts for athletes in the 8th grade or younger may be held no earlier than the last Sunday in October (provided the Middle School season is over in your area). State High School Athletic Association regulations mandate that athletes from member schools may not tryout for off-season teams while their high/middle school teams are still involved in competition. Failure to adhere to these dates may jeopardize the eligibility of the athletes we are trying to serve. Please make sure your season is over before attending a tryout.

Tryouts may be of two types, 1) open to anyone or 2) by invitation only. It is the responsibility of each club to act responsibly when trying to attract athletes to their tryouts. Clubs may advertise through the media and distribute information regarding their tryouts to the coaches of the schools in their area at any time. It will be considered inappropriate for any member of a club (director, coach, or athlete) to try to recruit a member of another club. Clubs may respond to anyone interested in trying out for their program.

There are many types of tryouts. Some clubs have mandatory

meetings the athletes and parents *must* attend before tryouts. Some offer a clinic and give each athlete a T-shirt for participating. Others simply do physical and skills tests and evaluate athletes based on a 2-3 hour session. Some bring athletes in for more than one session. Clubs are urged to give value for the dollar in the fees they assess. *The consumer is advised to know what they are receiving for the fees they are charged!*



The Ohio Valley Region provides secondary tryout insurance for all clubs in good standing in the region. Clinics and "open gyms" *are not* covered by this insurance. Clubs offering these events are advised that they may not be a mandatory part of their tryout procedure. You must provide your own insurance coverage for these events. Clubs need to register their tryouts with the region. The recommended cost of tryouts is \$10.00. Permission is granted to charge more when proof of expense or value is documented.

Clubs may offer contracts to athletes at the end of their tryout sessions. The parents of an athlete *may* sign a contract as soon as it is offered if they wish. Clubs may not require a commitment "on site". The parents of an athlete invited to join a club *must* be given a period of seven days from the date of the tryouts to agree to sign a contract with the club.

All club directors and coaches conducting tryouts are encouraged to be registered members of USA Volleyball. We strongly recommend registering anyone working at your tryouts to cover personal liability for injury of an athlete. Failure to obtain insurance for unsanctioned events will result in all responsibility for injury being placed on the club. The OVR accepts *no* responsibility for claims against directors or coaches that are not registered members of this region.

Several educational programs will be offered to club directors and coaches. All club directors must complete the ASEP Sports Club Director course by January 1, 2002. This course will be offered in the region before this date. There will be several sites available to attend the IMPACT course. The

(Continued on page 7)

Juniors' Tournaments: 2001-2002

Tom Kohl, OVR Junior Tournament Coordinator

I am looking forward to another year of growth within the Junior Program and a greater number of sanctioned tournaments. Again, I would like to thank all the tournament directors for their help in achieving a 98% reporting of tournament results to the Junior Tournament Results Coordinator this past season. Your diligence in this responsibility helped reduce the number of complaints related to team seeding at various tournaments including the OVR Regional Tournaments.

My goals for this up-coming season are three:

1. continued reporting of results in a timely manner,
2. consistency of tournament procedures and formats, and
3. awareness by coaches, referees and tournament directors of the procedures for conducting OVR tournaments.

To this end, I have rewritten the Procedures for Tournament Hosts and Juniors' Tournament Rules to address situations that occurred last year and to clarify and simplify procedures and responsibilities for both the tournament

director and club director. It is important for all parties involved in an OVR sanctioned tournament, tournament directors, referees and coaches, to be informed of the procedures and rules of a tournament to ensure consistency of play and reporting of results. Should you have any suggestions, please email me at kohl@ovr.org.

To achieve the above goals, I will make a greater effort to inform and educate tournament directors, referees, and club directors of Junior tournament procedures through the use of e-mail and my attendance at the general referees' meeting in December.

I will begin accepting Applications for Sanction beginning September 1, 2001. The Application for Sanction may be viewed and printed at www.ovr.org/forms/. Please use the 2002 version for Juniors. Please be aware that any entry fee in excess of the \$125 OVR approved fee does require proof. Rental contracts and similar documents are required and must be submitted with the application.

Again, thanks for your help this past season. I look forward to your cooperation in the 2002 season. ♦



“...I have rewritten the Procedures for Tournament Hosts and Tournament Rules...”

The 2001-2002 Juniors' Tournament Schedule will be published at www.ovr.org/juniors/tournaments.php on December 1.

(Continued from page 6)

USA Volleyball CAP I and II coaching courses will also be offered in early January. Check the OVR WebPages at www.ovr.org for sites and dates.

Our regional High Performance Program was very successful this summer. Our High Performance team coached by **Don Burroughs** and **Kelli Fisher** finished 5th at the AAU Championships in Orlando. Our Youth team, coached by **Denise Van De Walle** and **Wendy Teaman**, went to the Colorado Springs Cup at the U. S. Olympic Training Center. Team OVR finished second at the event, going undefeated until the finals of the tournament!

There are two positions within the Juniors division to be filled soon. **Art Faura** is resigning the position of Results Coordinator. Persons interested in the position can contact me at zehler@ovr.org. The OVR Board of Directors approved the position of Director of High Performance and Coaching Education (see job description at www.ovr.org/jobs/hp_director.html). Persons interested in applying for this position should send their resume to Ron Wyzynski, 315 Johnson Rd., Kent, Oh 44240. The deadline for application is September 15, 2001.

Have a *great* season! ♦

Board Meeting Summary: August 11-12, 2001

The August 11-12 Board Meeting was held at the 2001 Annual Retreat at Salt Fork State Park. Following informal meetings on Friday evening, the BoD and Officers conducted two long but productive days of business. Minutes were recorded by Al Herbert, edited slightly for this issue. The full meeting summary is available online at www.ovr.org/executive/.

In Attendance: Emi Vishoot, Terry Miller, Bob Dickenson, Glenn Purdy, Rick Laskey, Al Herbert, Keith Burke, Steve Donahue, Ron Wyzynski, Nick Nystrom, Art Faura, Bob Price, Troy Dixon, John Buck, Tom Kohl, Don Burroughs, and Bill Zehler.

Guest: Hank Trimble.

Absent with notice: Michelle Fox, Patty Salvatore, Brian Hemelgarn.

Bob Price: Commissioner's Report

The Diversity Committee is requesting all Regions track minority involvement.

USA Volleyball is looking at developing/purchasing an online registration system. This would avoid each region having to enter their members' names. [The OVR is already moving along these lines. – Ed.]

There will be 9 Junior National Qualifiers with 4-year contracts to host. A Bid Manual is being developed to outline requirements for hosting a Qualifier.

Bob P. is now a member of the ROD's Long Range Planning Committee.

Emi is now on the YJOV Competition Committee.

Ron Wyzynski: CEO Report

The Ohio Valley Region registered 11,676 members for last season. This should make us the largest region.

Molten is the official ball of USA Volleyball for the next two years. We will use Molten balls at as many Region events as possible. The "Pro Touch" will be used by the men and the "Soft Touch" by the women. OVR will no longer sell Spaldings.

The Hyatt will be the Tournament Hotel for the second weekend of the 2002 Junior Regionals. Officials and staff will be housed at the Hyatt.

The Region's High Performance teams finished 5th (14U) at Orlando and 2nd (16's & 17's) at Colorado Springs.

Ron requested that the Region continue to fund a High Performance program. A Director and coaches need to be hired.

Ron recommended that the Junior Registration fee be increased from \$40 to \$45. This would be the first increase in four years. The increase would be used to fund Club Tryout insurance, High Performance teams, and USA Volleyball registration increases.

Rick Laskey, Referees' Chair

OVR now has over 250 Professional Officials. There were 60 new officials certified this year.

There will again be three Professional Official Clinics offered for the coming season. Dec. 1 in Columbus, Dec. 2 in Pittsburgh, and Dec. 8 in Toledo. These are mandatory for Professional Officials.

Officials are to bring other interested persons to the clinics for certification. We will continue to need more officials as the number of tournaments increases.

Rick and Nick will look into ways to train and test Player Officials via the web.

Terry Miller, Scorekeeper Chair

No changes in the scoresheet for the coming year.

The National Office wants more hand-on training of Junior Officials.

Suggested the Region identify outstanding Junior Scorekeepers and hire them to keep score for the Adult Regional matches.

Keith Burke, Men's Tournament Dir.

More adult tournaments are needed in the Region, e.g. in Toledo. The Region should approach tournament directors

to offer more adult dates.

Tournaments will not be posted on the Region's web page without the respective Tournament Director's approval.

Tom, Michelle, and Keith were asked to review both Tournament Packets and publish drafts for the October meeting.

Keith asked if he could move some AA teams down to A. The composition of the categories was left to Keith's discretion.

Bob P. commented that players may not move from one club to another. He also suggested that a club not have more than two teams in any category.

John Buck, Bid Tournament Coordinator

Is evaluating 5 and 6 team pools played across two days for the Region's Bid Tournaments. This would enable the teams to play more teams before bracket play begins.

Bid Tournaments will be April 20, 21 and 27, 28. This will avoid the Adult Regional weekend.

Bill Zehler will select tournament locations.

The entry fee for the bid tournaments will increase (exact amount TBA).

Don Burroughs, High Performance

Used the USA Volleyball template for holding tryouts to select players.

Would like to see a requirement that coaches be CAP II certified.

Recommends using college coaches to instruct the HP teams.

Tryout fee was \$10. Selected players paid another \$300 to be in the program.

Bill Zehler, Juniors Program Director

Feels the OVR should expand the HP teams.

Wants to see one person coordinate the

(Continued on page 9)

Board Meeting Summary: August 11-12, 2001

(Continued from page 8)

teams and coaches.

Bob P. moved that the OVR create a High Performance/Coaching Education Director. Troy seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

Bill, Troy, and Keith will develop a job description.

Steve will coordinate the schedule of Impact clinics.

Troy will coordinate a power League for the older Open teams.

National office would like to see the Regions sponsor Starling programs.

We had 650 teams play in our Regionals last season.

Would like to see our Regionals become two-day events for the teams instead of a single day.

Tom Kohl – Juniors Tournament Dir.

1,500 court/dates were sanctioned last season. Expects more this season.

Coaches must be Impact certified before the start of their second year of coaching in the Region.

Will modify the Tournament Results Form before the coming season.

Election of Region Commissioner:

Bob Price was the only candidate to apply.

Bill moved that Bob be re-appointed for another three-year term. Troy seconded. Vote was unanimous except for one abstainer.

Steve Donahue, MIS Director

Distributed updated regional statistics.

189 coaches attended Impact clinics.

Only half the coaches turned in their forms.

Al Herbert, Junior Official Development Director

The Junior National events no longer

required certified scorekeepers and second officials. But the OVR will continue to improve our player/officials by rating them during every match.

Only 300 second officials' names were sent to AI to complete the certification process. This season, a web page form will be developed for the Club Directors to enter their certified players' names.

The Region is looking at running a Boys Tournament at the KSU Annex the first week of January.

Nick Nystrom, Webmaster and Publications Editor

Web access has continued to increase and the current host is highly reliable and well-suited to our load.

Requests for paper copies of newsletters have stopped. [One request came in following the meeting. —Ed.]

The next Newsletter is scheduled for Sept. 1.

Plans to finish the Region's Handbook by Nov. 1.

Will write a Job Description for his function.

Needs several other job descriptions for the Handbook.

Bob P. will buy a digital camera to use at Region events. More images will be added to the web site.

Will evaluate adding member registration as a web form.

Bob Dickenson – Elections Chair

Brian Hemelgarn is the newest elected Board Member.

Emi Vishoot – Liaison to OHSCA

Presented a video to be used to promote Boys Volleyball in Ohio High Schools. This was funded by the OVR.

Elected to Competition Committee of YJOV.

Reported on how the OVR Boys teams did at Nationals.

USA Volleyball will soon be displaying Boys Tournaments on their web page.

The Boys High Schools programs in Ohio are now coordinated by the Ohio Boys Volleyball Coaches Association.

Old Business

Salary Survey Committee: A committee was formed at the previous meeting to review salary structures of other regions. A survey was distributed to six regions similar in size to the OVR. Three responded. Given the data, the committee proposed a new salary scale for the CIO and Commissioner position. After a lengthy discussion, Bill moved to change the CIO's salary to \$30,000 (from \$20,000) and the Commissioner salary to \$17,500 (from \$6,000) retroactive to the 2000-2001 season. These salaries will be reviewed every two years by the Board. Bob D. seconded. 12 voted in favor and 1 abstained.

New Business

Bob P. moved that the Region create the Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award. Terry seconded. 12 voted in favor with 1 abstaining.

Al moved that the Region increase Junior registration fees from \$40 to \$45. Nick seconded. 11 voted in favor and 2 abstained.

Terry suggested that the Region's Compliance Officer should not be a Board member since the Board is the final part of an appeals process. Bob P. will research this and discussion will continue at the next Board meeting.

Bunny Brooks is proposing a Southern Ohio Volleyball League. Wants the league to be sanctioned by the Region. She will be invited to the October meeting to further discuss the League concept.

Rick moved to remove the Collegiate classification from the registration form.

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From the Women's Tournament Director

Michelle Fox



We are about to start a new indoor volleyball season!

Registration packets for adult teams will go out in early November.

Tournaments begin in January, and the schedule is starting to fill. If you would like to host a tournament, it's very easy. If you have access to a facility, check to see what

dates are available for you to host an event at the facility. Then, call or e-mail me to get a women's tournament on the schedule or Keith Burke for men's tournaments. We can help you with everything you need to know about running a tournament.

This season - Play hard! Have fun! And, remember,

volleyball is still just a game!

If you would like to host a tournament... we can help you with everything you need to know...

The 2001-2002 Men's/Women's Tournament Schedule is online at www.ovr.org/mw/tournaments.php

To have your own tournament sanctioned, contact Micki (womens_td@ovr.org) or Keith (mens_td@ovr.org).

From the Men's Tournament Director

Keith Burke



Well, the new season is upon us. I wanted to take a couple of lines to welcome all the new teams that will be playing this year for the first time in the region. I also want to thank all of those teams that are returning for another great year of competition.

We are always trying to keep the level of play in the different divisions as even as possible. I want to remind those teams who are returning to register at the level you were assigned at the end of last season. If there are questions feel free to contact me and we can talk about individual situations as needed.

New teams: be aware that we are always trying to raise the level of play. So when you fill out your registration forms, shoot high. It's always easier to adjust a team down if you overrate yourself rather than forcing a team up a division if they are too strong for the division

they have registered in.

The next subject I want to spend a little time on is tournaments. We can never have enough. So if you have access to a gym let's talk about you hosting an event. It can be an easy way to raise some funds for your club/team. And it makes a real close weekend tournament for you also.

If you have any questions about seeding or tournament procedures give me a call or email and let's talk about it. I am also always interested in hearing from you about suggestions for improving the tournaments and level of play within the Region.

Have a great start to the season.

Keith Burke
Men's Tournament Director
Ohio Valley Region

"Let's talk about you hosting an event."

From the Referee's Stand

Rick Laskey, Referees' Chairman

With the assistance of our webmaster, Nick Nystrom (nystrom@ovr.org), I have been able to post all sorts of information for officials on the Ohio Valley Region (OVR) website (www.ovr.org). The complete listing of the 253 certified referees, rule changes, directions to events, mailing lists for both officials and tournament directors, tournaments needing officials, and upcoming clinics and camps can all be found on our website. For those OVR officials (only 11 out of 253!) that still do not have an e-mail address or access to the web, now is the time to get on-line. You are missing out! If you are a current OVR referee, please check the list of certified referees on page www.ovr.org/off_rules/officials.php. If any information is incorrect, please let me know at laskey@ovr.org.

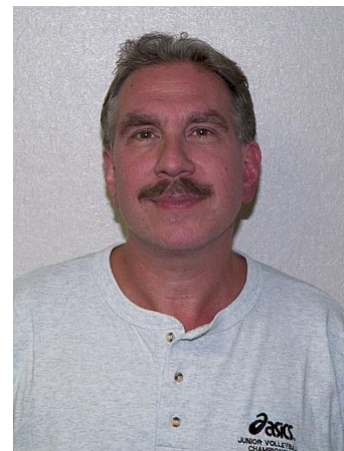
If you are a current or prospective USAV professional referee or scorekeeper in the Ohio Valley Region, please plan on attending one of our three all-day, free, mandatory USAV officials' clinics in December. Details are on the OVR website. The one at Westerville South High School will be on Saturday, December 1, 2001 (sponsored by Molten), the one at Carlow College in Pittsburgh will be on Sunday, December 2, 2001, and the one in Toledo will be on Saturday, December 8, 2001 at a site TBA (probably St. Ursula Academy). There will be a few make-up clinics (for current OVR referees only) in January and February 2002 at Kent State, Ohio Northern, and Dayton, but there will be a make-up clinic fee of \$20. If you attended a make-up clinic in both 2000 and 2001, you *must* attend the all-day clinic this December.

If you did not attend a USAV clinic last season, I have dropped you from the list of certified referees. It is imperative that you attend a USAV clinic and take the Form A test each year. In late August or early September all current OVR referees will be sent an e-mail message reminding them to renew their membership before it expires on October 31. The absolute deadline for renewal is December 8 and will not be extended. For those of you who are referees and coaches or players, you must renew your membership as an official before you renew as a player or coach.

Congratulations to our newest National Indoor Referee, **Joe Hardiman**, from Pittsburgh, and our newest National Beach Referee, **Emi Vishoot**, from Dayton. All four of our Junior National Candidates who passed at the Qualifiers, **Bob Dickenson** of Dayton, **Bruce Albert** of Wintersville, OH, **Lori Stahara** of Morgantown, WV, and **Patti Nelis** of Ruffsedale, PA, showed up at the Junior Nationals in Salt Lake City, passed another evaluation, and got their Junior National patches.

Because of a shortage of certified referees this season, I would like each currently certified referee to make an effort to recruit at least one new referee and bring them to one of the clinics in December. Please explain the process to them of pre-season clinic attendance, being rated in January or February, and joining the Ohio Valley Region.

Have a great summer and fall and I will see you at the clinics in December. ♦



“I would like each currently certified referee ... to recruit at least one new referee ...”

Reminder: OVR memberships expire on October 31. Officials should complete the questionnaire available on www.ovr.org and register by October 15.

The **Sports for Youth Foundation**, a non-profit member of USA Volleyball, is organizing *Goodwill Volleyball Tours to Europe* for fall 2001 and summer 2002. Visit them online at www.sportsforyouth.com/Tours/Toursmain.htm.

Contributions Wanted!

Articles and photos are always welcome for subsequent issues of OVR The Block. If you'd like to contribute, simply e-mail me at editor@ovr.org.

Boys volleyball in the OVR

Emi Vishoot, Boys Junior Volleyball Program Liaison



Hello, everyone! I can't believe the summer is winding down already. Here are a few items before we officially close the books on the 2001 USAV season.

First, my previous newsletter article had an incorrect statement regarding junior teams from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania teams have

a split boys season, but their high school association doesn't have as restrictive rules with respect to team composition. I apologize for misstating the facts.

Second, I want to congratulate the following clubs/teams who ably represented the Ohio Valley Region at the Boys Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Phoenix AZ: Beaver Valley Premier, Buckeyes, Northcoast, and Tool City. I hope their tournament experiences, both on and off the courts, were memorable and inspire them to pursue future volleyball accomplishments.

Third, I was one of three OVR representatives at the Annual Meetings of the Youth and Junior Olympic Volleyball Division (YJOVD) held August 1-5 in Colorado Springs CO. As much as possible, I attended sessions relating to junior boys and competition matters. The YJOVD Administrative Council discussed the following proposals that may impact junior boys competition for 2002. *However*, the proposals marked with an asterisk must go through proper USAV channels for approval and I hope to confirm their status following the Regional Operations Division (ROD) meetings in October. *Please treat the asterisked items as informational only!*

- a. There will be a consolidated list of 2002 boys tournaments available October 1 (probably on the USAV web site).
- * b. To be considered for an at-large Open bid, a team must submit performance data for the current year, using the USAV reporting form. A team that has not yet

competed during the current season (e.g., team from Guam/Puerto Rico/Hawaii, newly-formed team) may submit additional performance data (e.g., final finish at last year's Boys JOVC, player/coach bios, description of returning players) which the Seeding Committee may consider at its discretion.

- * c. Boys JOVC deadlines:
 1. On-line registration plus completed entry forms and fees are due to the National office NLT 21 days prior to the first day of the Boys JOVC.
 2. Final team roster due NLT 14 days prior to the first day of the Boys JOVC.
 3. Entry fee refund policy:
 - Guaranteed refund: 22 or more days prior to the first day of the Boys JOVC.
 - Conditional refund: 15-21 days prior to the first day of the Boys JOVC, if replacement team is found.
 - No refund: 14 or fewer days prior to the first day of the Boys JOVC.
- * d. ALL registered coaches at the JOVC must be at least IMPACT certified.
- * e. Roster additions at the JOVC must have written authorization, including appropriate written documentation, by the designated Regional authority. Roster additions will be allowed up to the team's first match at the JOVC.
- * f. Final roster verification will be conducted courtside prior to a team's first match at the JOVC.
- * g. If three teams are tied and two teams advance to the Gold division, the tie-breaker procedures at the Boys JOVC will be modified as follows:
 1. Seed teams by game percentage, then by point differential.

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2. Top seed advances.
 3. Tie-breaker game (one 15-point rally score game) between 2nd and 3rd seed, with top seed as work team.
- h. If a team from a U.S. territory or foreign country (including Canada and Mexico) participates in a U.S. tournament, they must have appropriate Sports Accident insurance. The Sports Accident insurance form is available on the USAV web site and should be included with your tournament entry form mailing. (Note: USAV notified the governing Federations of these territories and countries about this new requirement.)
- i. The All-Tournament Committee will publish the All-Tournament selection process and criteria, including factors that will eliminate a player from consideration.
- j. Encourage nominations for the following JOV awards: Outstanding Program Director; Outstanding Clinician; Outstanding Male/Female Coach; Outstanding Service; Outstanding Parent.
- * k. Teams may compete in a higher age group at the JOVC, provided no in-division team is denied entry.

Finally, I was elected to a two-year term as a voting member of the Competition Commission of the YJOVD. The Competition Commission addresses both boys and girls issues such as seeding and formats for national-level tournaments, determining entry selections and selection criteria for national-level competition, and recommending improvements to tournament procedures. Please let me know your concerns and ideas, and I will do my best to present your views to the Commission and YJOVD.

Until next time,
Emi Vishoot

The next OVR Board Meetings will be on October 21, 2001 (Westerville South HS) and on January 21, 2002 (Kent).

Junior Officials' Development Program

*Alan Herbert,
Junior Officials
Development
Director*



Congratulations to the 2,500 juniors players who are now certified scorekeepers and the 200 junior players who are now certified second officials. Remember that this certification is valid through the coming 2001-2002 season.

I believe that the actual number of certified players is significantly higher but that some club directors were either not aware that the player had passed or didn't forwarded their names to me via e-mail. This year we are looking at having a web page into which the club directors will be able to enter the names of their players who pass the certification process. Hopefully, this will increase the number of names that I receive.

The process for certification will be very similar this year. Scorekeepers and Second Officials will be observed during each match of the season. Even if they have already passed their certification, they will still be observed and critiqued. This will further improve their knowledge of their responsibilities as officials.

I will continue to coordinate clinicians to come to your individual clubs to teach your players the functions of scorekeeping and second officiating. The cost to be paid by the club directly to the clinician(s) is increasing to \$75 for up to 100 clinic attendees and \$100 for over 100 attendees. Remember that the clinics do not certify the players. They only get certified during matches during the season. The clinic is to help them learn their responsibilities and techniques without the stress of the match. When you know that you would like a clinic, please contact me. I will identify a clinician in your area to present the materials. The club is responsible for printing copies of a Deciding Game Scoresheet for each attendee.

Finally, I would like to ask for comments about the current process. How can it be improved? The better trained the players become, the better officiated the matches will be. Please e-mail your suggestions to me at herbert@ovr.org. ♦

Junior Nationals

The Girls' 2001 USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships were held June 27 through July 8 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Boys' Championships were held July 4-9, 2001 in Phoenix, Arizona. Complete results are available on the USA Volleyball

website at www.usavolleyball.org/juniors/01_girls_result.htm and www.usavolleyball.org/juniors/01_boys_result.htm. The following trip reports were contributed by players, coaches, and directors of OVR teams who competed.

Blackswamp

Blackswamp had 2 Teams advance to nationals at Salt Lake, our 17's and 12's. Our 12 finished went 4 and 4 finishing 31st out of 48 teams. Our 17's went 5-5 but finished 13 overall out of 64 teams after 2 days they 5-1, but went 0-4 after that. It was a great experience for all involved. Thanks to all OVR people that helped the OVR teams have this great experience.

— Dave Reinhart
Club Director

Cincy VBC

Cincy VBC completed its 2001 volleyball season sending four teams to Nationals in Salt Lake City, Utah. The setting was spectacular with the view of the mountains surrounding you, a brand new facility to participate in, and great hospitality. What more could a couch ask for?

Our 14's finished with our clubs best overall standing of 5th place in the Gold Division. They had a great tournament with many nail biting matches, including one third game rally come from behind 6-12 to win.

Our remaining teams also did well the 13's finished 19th, 16's finished 35th, and last but not least the 15's finished 61st. There is a fine line and few points between the top and the bottom with all players giving their all and competing for the one #1 spot. Achieving the opportunity to compete for the #1 spot makes everyone a winner in the big picture of life.

I would like to say thank you to the OVR for all the hard work and dedication you give to our region year in and year out.

Also, hats off to Bill Zehler for his award that was presented to him during the finals of the 16's at Nationals for all that he has done for Junior Olympics.

See you next season,

Mindy Leonard
Director, Cincy VBC

Cleveland Volleyball Company

CVC 16 Black

During the winter months, qualifying for Nationals was nothing short of a remote possibility. But, in April, a determined CVC 16 Black team defeated the number one ranked team and went on to qualify for 16 Club Nationals at the Toledo Bid Tournament.

For many of the girls, this would be their first Nationals experience... so, what do we do now? Well, after weeks of practice and preparation (JO Nationals really should be earlier, don't you think?), we packed our bags and headed for Salt Lake City, Utah. Our Plan? Play as well as we can and enjoy the whole "experience." we started off very strong, winning our pool to remain in contention for the gold division. Our second day was definitely our most challenging. We faced three very tough teams and, although we played hard, we moved from the gold division to the bronze division. The last two days, we split matches, finishing 27th overall out of 64 teams. We were one of the highest placing teams in 16 Club from the OVR, acquiring major bragging rights by being the only team to beat the eventual 16 Club Champion Golden Bears from California.

Salt Lake City was beautiful and we thoroughly enjoyed the whole

experience, interspersing volleyball with dancing at Joe's Crab Shack (photos not included), previewing the 2002 Olympic venues, and numerous shopping trips. We hope to be back next year, Nationals is definitely worth the trip!

— Sherry O'callaghan
Coach, CVC 16 Black

CVC 15 Black

The mountains of SLC were the perfect backdrop for the National Tournament. Smooth passes setting up to high peaks for the straight downs to hit rock bottom. The facility was beautiful and brand new. The proud team marched in ready: Mary Kate Glowe, Anna Guadiz, Juli Jedick, Christina Mahovlic, Becky Petrulic, Jackie Phiel, Katie Richardson, Kate Verhoff, and Emily Yutzy. Nationals! It was finally here and the team played well, taking the bronze medal round!

The sites of the area were as spectacular as the event: the Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, Park City getting ready for the Olympics. The restaurants were fun and different. A great time was had by all!

— Amy Schloss
Coach, CVC 15 Black

CVC 14 Black

This year our J.O. club team, Cleveland Volleyball Company (CVC), competed at Nationals. We played in the 14 club division, having qualified at the bid tournament, and our goal was to play consistently well and I'd say that we reached our goal...

On the first day, we went in pretty excited knowing we were ranked 3rd in

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Junior Nationals

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the seedings for our division. We ended the first day undefeated with our toughest competition being San Francisco Juniors.

On day two, we got off to a slow start. We beat TOSA from Wisconsin and Central Cal. Our last game of the day was late and we were all tired. That tiredness ended up losing us the match against the Cheetah Dumas. Fortunately for us, we had enough wins to keep us in the gold division.

Day three had come and this was our most important day. Today would determine what bracket we'll be locked into. We had the #1 seeded team (Cajunland), the #2 seeded team (City Beach) and another very strong team, West End from Texas, all in our pool! It was rather hard not to worry because all of them were good! Our first match was against City Beach and we lost. This loss was very heartbreaking because we weren't sure if we were going to be able to beat Cajunland. But, they were our next match and it was an awesome one! The digs and blocks in the match were amazing! And... we won! Our game against West End would determine everything for us. I don't remember if it was 2 or 3 games but that was the hardest I've ever played in my life! there were so many people yelling and cheering and both sides were giving it their all. With an extremely close ending, we won! This was the best victory I've ever had! This now meant that we were going to be in the top 8 teams in our division no matter what! this also meant that we had broken a record for our club because no other CVC team had ever finished in the top 8. We went back to the hotel to find a huge poolside party waiting for us. We partied until we had to go to bed and that was pretty early because tomorrow was the final day and everyone was out to win. In the end, we lost our first game of playoffs and ended

up 5th in the nation for the club division. We were pleased with our ending, and our time at the 2001 Junior National Championships is a time I will always remember!

While we were in Salt Lake City, we did a lot of fun things. We went to Park City, the Olympic Training Center, fun restaurants such as the "Mayan" and some parents on our team even climbed a mountain! Salt Lake City was pretty cool!

— Anne Dunn
CVC 14 Black

CVC 13 Black

My nationals experience in Salt Lake City, Utah this past summer was a wonderful. Not only did I get to play volleyball and challenge my ability as an athlete, I had the chance to spend time with my teammates and coach. We were able to see some of the Winter Olympic venues. These are once in a lifetime experiences. One of the most memorable parts of the trip was going out to dinner with the entire team and getting a chance to really know them and their personality off the court. I would not trade the trip for anything. I will remember it forever!

— Catherine Leona Laskovics
CVC 13 Black

CVC 12 Black

CVC 12's had a fabulous time at Nationals! Our first day on the court was way off-beat and quite disappointing; however, Nationals in Salt Lake City had more to offer OUR girls than just volleyball. We had a great time cheering on our fellow OVR team: Blackswamp, as they played on the next court. (We appreciated Blackswamp and Toledo Volleyball Company's effort in coordinating scrimmages -and lunch- prior to the National Tournament.) The

hotel pool, the Great Salt Lake, the 2002 Winter Olympic Village/ Park City all made a huge splash with our team. Going undefeated the next two days — finishing 1st in the Flight #1 level — positively rounded out our incredible National experience. Of course, the cartwheels performed by two of our Dads and the awesome family hooting and hollering inspired and tickled us too. Hannah, Lauren, Ashley, Jessica, Stefanie, Holly, Alyssa, Clare, and Kelsey exhibited amazing teamwork, win or lose, and should be very proud for years to come.

— Renee Nedoma
Coach, CVC 12 Black

Dayton Jrs.

Dayton Jrs. 18's

For the girls on Dayton Juniors 18's, this was their first trip to Nationals. After qualifying with a relocation bid, the team was very excited to represent the region in Salt Lake City. Of course the trip included more than volleyball, with the team making trips to Snowbird Mountain, Park City, and the Temples in downtown Salt Lake City.

On the first day of competition, we had two close losses that dropped us down to third in our pool of four. After losing to Ichiban and River City, we came back to beat Panama City, but unfortunately we were a little disappointed to already be out of contention for the gold.

The second day, the team played some of the best volleyball ever and came out on top with wins against White Bear Lake, Kirkwood and Premiere Renegades. The win against Renegades was a great match with quite a bit of revenge in the our teams mind since this was the team that knocked us out from qualifying at our region bid tournament.

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Junior Nationals

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In order to jump back up to the bronze division we had to win our 3-team pool. After losing to Birmingham, the team was definitely disappointed once again with a close lose to Circle City 18-2 (scores: 25-23, 21-25, 16-18). After this lose we were dropped down to flight 2.

The final day we ended with a winning streak. After beating Mizuno MI 18-2, Tidewater, and Cajunland in the finals with a score of 19-25, 25-14, and 15-12 we won our bracket and left Salt Lake City with a plaque.

Parents and coaches were very proud with how Dayton Juniors 18's played, even though everyone would have liked to finish a bit higher. Our record for the four days of play was 7-4.

I know that everyone will always remember their trip to Nationals and were very proud to represent Dayton Juniors in 18-Club.

Dayton Jrs. 16's – Blue Angels

For the girls on Dayton Juniors 16's team, this was their second straight trip to OPEN Nationals. They qualified by finishing second in the Indy Qualifier (MEQ) and then followed with winning the NEQ in Baltimore. The Blue Angels were very excited because they knew that these results would put them as one of the top seeds in the tournament. So on went the team to Salt Lake City to play volleyball and also enjoy great food, do some site seeing to the mountains and get a chance to see a great city.

As the 4th seed of the tourney the team started on the first day of competition with a record of 1-1. The match they lost was to Circle City after being up 2-0 in games and leading the third game 24-18 was a heart breaker. It seemed to continue to snowball after that.

The second day, the team played at the same intensity but lost one of their key players to an ankle injury and ended up with another split and a record of 2-2 after two days of play.

In order to stay in contention, they needed no worse than a split on the third day of play. After loosing the first match to National Champions City Beach in four games, they proceeded to play their hearts out against Austin Jrs. In this match they had the lead in games and points but fell short in five well-played games. After losing to Austin the team was definitely disappointed because they knew they were out of any medal contention.

The final day the Blue Angels played as best as they could beside the injuries to key players with the season ending with a loss to Ohio rivals Jump Serve.

Parents and coaches were somewhat disappointed, but they all know deep down inside that there are many more opportunities with this group if they choose to stay together. Great year for the Dayton Jrs 16's Blue Angels. They will be back!!!!!!

Dayton Jrs. 15s Blue Dragons

This year's Dayton Juniors Blue Dragons (15's) earned a trip to the USA Junior National Championship by placing 4th at the OVR Bid Tournament. Salt Lake City, here we come. Prior to play and during the event we had a chance to visit the mountains, eat at some "crazy" restaurants (cliff diving or dancing on tables) and do other things that we really had a chance to enjoy as a team. Our first day was a tiresome one. We were in a three way tie for first in our pool. We played Alamo (TX) and lost 20-25, 18-25, welcome to the tournament. We woke up and beat Adversity (IL) and Asics Nova (CA) 25-22, 26-24 and 23-25, 25-14, 15-8 respectively. Playoffs put us in third place after a loss to Alamo

10-15. With the jitters behind us our second round pool found us in a three-way tie for first (see the pattern). Again we lost the first match of the day to Players (WA) 23-25, 21-25 and then came back and won against Minnesota and San Gabriel (CA) 23-25, 25-14, 16-14 and 25-18, 25-23 respectively. Playing Players for the playoff we won 15-13 and placed 1st. Still being in the lower half of the tournament, we had to work to make it into the top half. We went into a 3-team pool and played Coast (CA) and lost 25-20, 21-25, 6-15 and won against Fusion (IL) 18-25, 25-19, 15-13 and yes, we were in a three way tie again. Only at this point since we were fighting to get into the medal brackets (bronze) the computer played us in the playoff and we lost and placed 3rd. We fell into Flight 2 of the tournament playoffs and went all the way to Salt Lake City to play a team down the street, Cincy Classic Black (OH). Well the grudge match was on and we went on a mission to obtain the "Ohio" title between us (2-2 in our previous encounters). We won the first match of the day (which we had not to this point) 25-23, 25-19. We then played Stewie (MN) and lost to the queens of tipping and roll shots 21-25, 25-15, 15-17. Overall we placed 35th in the tournament.

Special notice goes out to Molly Spencer, Stephanie Ross and Lizaiha Garcia for making the OVR High Performance team and placing 5th at the National High Performance Tournament (AAU) in Florida.

Dayton Jrs. 13's Blue Devils

Our first trip to Nationals representing Dayton Juniors was an experience we will all not forget. It included everything from playing, of course, to snow ball fight on Snowbird Mountain, to watching cliff divers in a restaurant, YES – INSIDE the restaurant. We even went to see where

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Junior Nationals

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the ski jumpers are going to ski jump for the 2002 Winter Olympics! The US Olympians jumped into a pool for their practice runs.

I guess we should tell you how we did at the tournament. We ended up in the 13's bracket tied for 35 overall out of 64 teams with an overall record of 4-6. We would have liked to been in the top half, but we lost a couple close games. First Day/ First Nationals jitters was a large factor. On Sunday, June 30, we were in a four team pool and lost to Houston VB 17-25, 16-25; St Louis CYC 13 D&L 10-25 and 13-25; and a tough loss to Sportscourts 13-1 21-25, 25-14, 9-15. This put us in fourth place.

Monday afternoon we played much better and won our pool. We defeated Delco VBC 13-1 Tsunami 25-23, 27-25; Brandywine Blast 26-28, 25-20, 15-11; and Primo VBC Pythons 26-24, 22-25, 21-19. That last victory was a dog fight to the end. At this point we are 3-3 for the tournament.

Tuesday, July 3, we lost both matches in the three team pool but played very competitive with them. We lost to Asics Sky High VBC Black, 23-25 and 11-25; and lost a very tight match to Glenwood Springs Collins 25-20, 21-25 and 14-16. This loss put us in Flight 2 bracket. SOOO CLOSE!!!

Wednesday, FOURTH OF JULY, we played great match against Agape Juniors winning 28-26 and 25-22, which put us up against Wisconsin Juniors. As close as we beat Agape, we lost closer to Wisconsin, 24-26, 23-25. WE PLAYED OUR HEARTS OUT!

Parents and coaches were very proud on how Dayton Juniors Blue Devils finished up. We never let down and fought until the end. Wisconsin went on to win Flight 2 in two easy games. But they and other clubs now know who Dayton Juniors are.

The experience we had was unforgettable and just makes us hungry to make a repeat trip next year. See in 2002!

— Howard Garcia
Director, Dayton Jrs.

Sports Express 18 Red

Our trip out west was a successful venture but also somewhat disappointing as we lost a couple close matches that might have propelled us into the gold bracket. We were seeded 21 at the beginning, the second best seed for an OVR team.

The first day we won our pool defeating teams we felt comparable to (SW Minnesota, Club Davis (Utah) and Oklahoma Wind). This put us in a pool with other first place teams on the second day.

The second day was our downfall. We played horrible yet hung in enough matches to be disappointed at the end. In the first match, we lost to River City (Texas) who eventually ended up in 6th place. We also lost to Iowa Power (26-24, 27-25). We did come back and win our thirdmatch of the day, against the #1 seeded team in our pool (East Bay). This put us in third place, and able to enter either the bronze, flight 1 or flight 2 playoff, depending on how we did the next day.

The third day was our best day. We played two great teams, a Sky High team and South Central (NE). These teams were taller than us and definitely had a better offense but our team played great defense and actually won some close matches. And, by winning both matches in this three team pool, we were able to play in the bronze playoff, instead of the lower flights.

We won the first two rounds of the bronze tournament (against Texas Elite and Cajunland) but lost, in three, to

Team KC Elite, a team that was just too strong offensively for us to handle. Our final results were 8-3, ending up 18th out of 64 teams — bronze runner-up. This was the best finish for an OVR team.

— Mike Seibert
Sports Express 16 Red

Sojo 17's

Sojo 17's (Springfield, Ohio) placed 31st at Nationals in Utah this past July. After winning their pool play round on the first day, they were then placed against #1 seeds on the second day of tournament play. The second day saw very competitive play but it seemed that SOJO just couldn't get the breaks to win out their matches on Day 2. Day 3 was a day that saw tired legs and bruised egos as their competitive edge seemed to falter. On the fourth and final day, Sojo not only rebounded from Day 3 but won all their matches in tournament play. Determination and Pride seem to come to the forefront by all players. The SOJO 17 team had an extremely worthwhile and valuable experience that will enhance not only their high school seasons but make them hungry to return to Nationals in 2002!!

— Connie Surowicz
Director, Sojo

Toledo Volleyball Club

TVC 15-1

Toledo Volleyball Club's 15-1 team arrived in Salt Lake City with high expectations for a great tournament. The team came out strong with victories in the first two matches. The final match of the first day against Golden West was the toughest match of the day. Unfortunately, the team was not able to pull out a victory and finished second in the pool. On Day 2, we ran into three

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Junior Nationals

(Continued from page 17)

excellent teams and while we played well, we finished the day 0-3 eliminating our chances to advance to gold or silver. On Day 3, the team won our first seeding match against the San Francisco Juniors and then faced our OVR rivals to the east: Cleveland Volleyball Club's 15 Black team. The winner of the match would advance to the bronze division and the loser would advance to Flight I. It was a close match, with Cleveland victorious.

After successfully winning our first two matches in Tournament Play, the 15-1 team played Network for the finals in Flight I. We won the first game and lost the second in a close one. The pivotal 3rd game went back and forth and once again, we finished on the losing side. Our overall finish for the week was 26 out of 64 teams. While we were disappointed with our finish, we had a great time in Salt Lake City. Our accommodations were great and lent themselves to nightly barbecues and parent euchre tournaments. When we weren't playing, we spent the days sightseeing. A highlight was the visit to the Olympic village and a team dinner in Park City. Another highlight was watching the cliff divers perform during the team dinner at the Mayan Restaurant. All in all it was a great trip and we look forward to another opportunity to represent the region at Nationals in 2002.

— Michelle Hills
Director, TVC

TVC 17-1

The trip for the Toledo Volleyball Club 17-1 team was filled with a lot of excitement both on and off the court. We were able to play and still save time for sight seeing. Our first day of competition pitted us in a pool with three other great teams. There was a three-way tie for first between us,

Invasion VBC 17, and SWMN Jrs. Mizuno 17's. We managed however, to come out of our pool in second place. Sadly, the second day we were not as fortunate and lost all three of our matches placing us in fourth. Our third day was successful and we won both of our matches against, Asics Munciana Trunks and Charleston Juniors 17NT. We then advanced to the bronze championships where we lost in the semi-finals placing us 19th overall.

— John Buck
Director, TVC

TVC 16-1

The Toledo Volleyball Club's 16-1 team saw a great deal of excellent competition during their trip to Salt Lake City. Although, we did not finish as well as we would have liked this trip shall not soon be forgotten. Our first pool proved to be quite a challenge for us. After losing our first match, to Team KC 16-1 Adidas, we knew that we had to win our next two in order to advance to the top half of the tournament. Up next came South Shore 16-Mizuno, after losing the first game 25-15 we rallied to win the next game 15-11. The third game ended in a 15-11 loss. We were able however, to gain our composure and win our third match against WA County Jrs. Hurricanes, placing us third in our pool. Our second day of competition we played three very good teams and came out of our pool in fourth. Our third day of competition proved very successful and we won our pool. However, we lost in the semi-finals of our division the final day of play.

Salt Lake City was a wonderful town, with plenty of activities to keep us busy when we were not in the gym. Our favorite activity was the Alpine Slide. A ski lift takes you up a mountain and you slither down a gigantic slide built right into the mountain. We partook in this activity two days in a row. Another neat

opportunity that we were able to have took place in the Olympic Village. We watched the Olympic Team practice for the Free Style Alpine Skiing. The practice facilities were amazing. The skiers "ski" down what is essentially a hill built of rollers, they do their trick and land in a pool.

— John Buck
Director, TVC

TVC 12-1

The first day of competition in Salt Lake City for the Toledo Volleyball Club's 12-1 team was excellent. We won our first and second matches 25-6, 25-4, and 25-16, 25-19 respectively. Our third match was a little more difficult as we lost to Asics Munciana Peppers, 25-19, 6-24. However, we were please because we took second and were still able to advance. We didn't start the second day quite as well as we started the first and lost to Club Yahoo 25-9, 25-22. However, we were able to find our rhythm and win our next two matches against Cajunland VBC 12s and N. Kentucky Jrs. 12 Tide, both in three games. We thought that we were going to come out of the pool in second. However, the last match of the pool proved us wrong. And a three-way tie for first developed. Unfortunately, our game percentage placed us third and we had to have a play-off for second place. We came up on the short end of the stick and took third that day which put us in the silver bracket for the next day. The following morning we played Milwaukee Sting, they are a very good team and beat us in two. While we were disappointed with our loss we truly enjoyed our trip to Salt Lake City. It was fun to play and meet girls from all over the country. We enjoyed site seeing and hope that we will be able to represent our region again in the future.

— John Buck
Director, TVC

On the Web

NICK NYSTROM, PUBLICATIONS EDITOR AND WEBMASTER

VR web site usage has already exceeded one million hits for the 2000-2001. That figure, along with a considerable amount feedback from both members and potential members, indicates that we're delivering useful information in an effective manner. But that doesn't mean that the coming season's offerings on www.ovr.org will simply be more of the same: significant enhancements to content and usability are on the way. A few of our many continuing goals are to promote the sport of volleyball and grow the Region, to ensure that all of our members can quickly and easily find the information they need, and to facilitate efficient, accurate communication between our membership, tournament directors, officers, and staff.

With the 2001-2002 season just around the corner, I'd like to ask all tournament directors to review the online directions to their sites and let me know of any additions or updates. We'd like to have directions to 100% of our sites online. Also, remember that you can post pools, site- and/or tournament-specific instructions and rules, and the officials you hired for each event. Each of those is useful to participants and staff in a

variety of ways. Finally, watch www.ovr.org for opportunities to report your tournaments' results electronically, especially for Juniors.

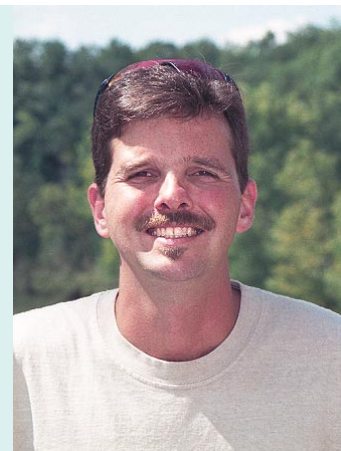
We are updating registration packets now, with the Juniors' and Adults' Registration

Packets to be mailed in early October and early November, respectively. Those will both be online (www.ovr.org/forms/) as well, with the exception of the triplicate forms. And yes, we are moving toward allowing electronic as well as

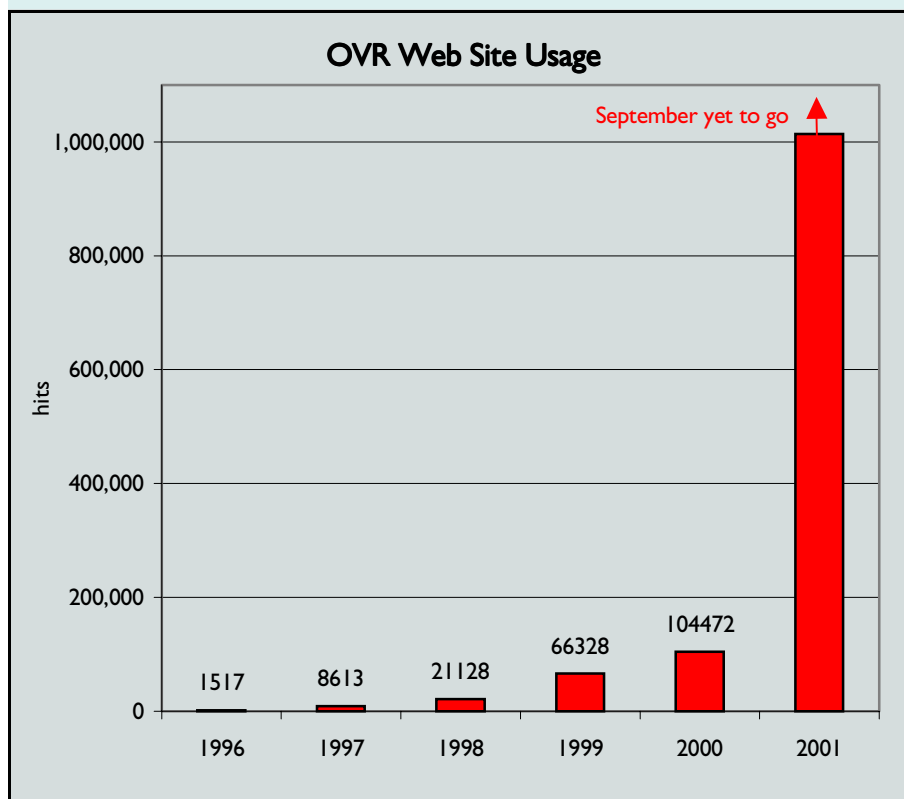
the regular postal registration.

As always, let me know what would make our site work better for you. You can reach me at nystrom@ovr.org.

Good luck getting your teams together, and I hope to see you on the court! ♦



>1,000,000 hits!



Visit "What's New" at www.ovr.org/updates.html for a list of recent updates

Volleyballs at Special Region Prices



The Ohio Valley Region is offering to its members **Molten "Pro-Touch"** and **"Super-Touch"** as well as **Baden 15-0 Lexum** volleyballs at a special Region price of **\$35 per ball**. These top-quality leather volleyballs are ideal for both tournaments and practice.

Prices do not include shipping. To order or for more information, contact the region office at 888-873-9478. Customer pick-up available in Kent, Columbus, Dayton, and Pittsburgh.

2001 USA Volleyball Open Championships

Beaver Steel, Men's Open

Beaver Steel played well, learned a lot, and gained respect as they competed at USAV Nationals. Playing in the elite Open Division, they competed against the nation's top teams such as Team Paul Mitchell and the Los Angeles Athletic Club (LAAC).

Beaver Steel opened the round-robin portion of the tournament by beating rivals Pace Bootlegger from Rochester, NY 3 games to 1. This was followed immediately by a match that could have been the upset of the tournament, as they were up 2 games to none, before falling to LAAC in five games. They then played a strong Surf City team, losing in four, 21-25, 21-25, 25-23, and 34-32 in a closely contested battle. They finished off a grueling 4-match first day against Peligro of NY with another 1-3 loss.

Even though they carried a 3 and 1 record into the night, they earned a lot of respect from the other teams. While some teams faced line-ups that did not include their top players, Beaver Steel always faced their opponents' top players.

They started the second day against Team Paul Mitchell, where they were out-played in a 0-3 loss, and then Copeland Sports of NJ, where they lost a match they should have won, by the score of 1-3.

Fatigue was a factor. Being the 7th seed, Beaver Steel was the only team to have 4 matches the opening day, and they did not seem to have the energy to put up a fight in the day's last match. They placed in 7th place after round-robin, which meant they had to open the double-elimination finals against Team Paul Mitchell, where they were defeated 0-3. Then they had to play Pace in the losers' bracket, where they lost by the same score.

All in all, it was a good showing for Beaver Steel, but they now know they can compete at this very high level. The experience gained should be of great value in coming years.

— Phil O'Keeffe, Beaver Steel

TeamWerks, Women's AA

We had a great time participating in our third Nationals. Our first two days we played well but missed qualifying for the Gold division by two points.

Four points into our third day, one of our middles sustained an injury and could not continue playing. Since we only had six players, she had to step off of the court each rally and we played with five. Needless to say, things went downhill quickly from that point. Despite this disappointing ending, we still enjoyed

our Nationals experience. Milwaukee was a fun city and we are looking forward to Dallas next year.

We really appreciate our sponsors: Panther Trucking and Desperate Enterprises, both of Medina, Ohio, Joe Koziol at Fila, and Windswept Farms. Their support made our trip possible.

— Kathy Harris, TeamWerks

Dexter Chiropractic, Women's BB

Well, maybe next year... We headed off to Milwaukee with high expectations and were unfortunately disappointed. After a few weeks off, we were rustier than expected. Dexter's play did not go smoothly, ending us in the Bronze division. After a good first round in Bronze, we thought we were turning our play around, but it was short lived.

We did, however, enjoy some of the Milwaukee sites. We spent some time at Miller Park watching the Brewers play, lost and won some money in the local casino, visited some local shopping areas, and some of us mastered the transit system. We even met some new friends, Rob from Arkansas and Sherman from Hawaii. We enjoyed watching the other teams play. It is always such a thrill to be at Nationals and be able to play and watch the other teams that participate. Next year? Maybe.

Team members included Kim Antill, Kathrine Cline, Heather Crowley, Kelly Gillard, Melinda Lasure, and Chana Tepe.

— Kathryn Cline, Dexter Chiropractic

Miami Valley Masters 50's

Twenty-eight men's 50's team participated at the USA Nationals in Milwaukee this year. Seeded 3rd in a 7-team pool, the Miami Valley Masters 50's team went 1-5 in matches and 5-10 in games. They defeated Team BJB of San Francisco, CA (25-16, 25-21) but lost to Outrigger Canoe Club of Honolulu, HI (12-25, 14-25), Yesterdog of Grand Rapids, MI (22-25, 25-19, 15-8), IREVA of Schenectady, NY (13-25, 25-22, 4-15), Texas Yahoos of Bastrop, TX (22-25, 25-22, 11-15), and Northern Heat of Minneapolis, MN (20-25, 20-25). This placed them 6th in their pool and in the Silver Division championships. There they defeated Older Not Wiser of Richmond, VA (25-22, 25-15) and Spike Force of Northfield, NJ (25-16, 25-19), then lost a close one to the eventual Silver champion, Comatose (23-25, 25-27). The team finished 4th in the Silver 50's division.

Playing for the team were: Alan Brunzman (Yellow Springs,

(Continued on page 21)

2001 USA Volleyball Open Championships

OH), Steve Crane (Houston, TX), Steven DiBacco (Dayton, OH), Jacque Henes (Dayton, OH), Rick Honeyman (Greenville, OH), Tom McDonald (Dayton, OH), Terry Miller (Dayton, OH), and Mike O'Hair (Hamilton, OH).

Information provided by Steven DiBacco, team captain. Written by Rick Laskey, Club Director.

Miami Valley Masters 55's

Fifteen 55's men's teams participated at USA Nationals in Milwaukee, WI this year. We were seeded 4th in a 5-team pool with Legends of Irvine, CA (eventual 55's champion), Rusty's of Portland, OR, Sao Paulo Masters of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Palmetto Masters of Charleston, SC. We finished 3rd in our pool, defeating Rusty's, 9-25, 25-21, 15-8, and Palmetto, 25-18, 20-25, 15-11, and losing to Legends and Sao Paulo. We gave the Legends a scare in our pool, beating them in the first game, 25-23, losing the second, 16-25, then barely losing the third, 14-16. This was the only game they lost in pool play and the only game they lost all tournament until the finals.

We were seeded 8th going into the single elimination Gold championships. We beat Warren Six Pak of Warren, NJ, 25-20, 25-20 and then faced Just Volleyball of Mountain View, CA. We lost 25-12, 25-10, putting us in the losers' bracket, where we defeated Palmetto Masters 25-19, 25-16. If Gordy Johanson had not been sitting on the bench injured for our match against Outback Steakhouse, I believe we would have won that match and gone on to the final six teams on Tuesday. As it turned out we lost to Outback, 25-13, 25-23 and finished tied for 7th place in the Gold division of the Men's 55's division.

Playing for the Miami Valley Masters 55's team were outside hitters, Alan Brunzman, Gordon Johanson, and Terry Miller, middle hitters Bob Martin and Ivan Woltmann, and setters Rick Laskey and John Wilder.

— Rick Laskey, Miami Valley Masters Club Director and 55's Team Captain

Miami Valley Masters 60's

Here are the results for the Miami Valley Masters 60's team at USA Nationals in Milwaukee May 30-June 2:

(Continued on page 22)



Miami Valley Masters 55's

Front row, left to right: 9. John Wilder, 1. Rick Laskey, 2. Alan Brunzman. Back row, left to right: 4. Gordon Johanson, 54. Terry Miller, 10. Bob Martin, 7. Ivan Woltmann.



Miami Valley Masters 60's at Nationals in Milwaukee

Front row, left to right: 6. John Parks, 1. Don Roderick, 2. Keith Rufener, 53. Jim Mills. Back row, left to right: 5. Findley Boyd, 9. Darrell Morken, 10. Ernie Thoms, 4. Shan Hise, 8. Tom Fulton.

2001 US Open

(Continued from page 21)

POOL PLAY

1. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Virginia Beach, VA.
L 2-0 25-21 25-13
2. Rustys 60, Portland, OR (2000 Champion)
L 2-0 25-9 25-16
3. Michigan Seniors 60+ Detroit, MI (Played at AD)
L 2-0 25-13 25-14
4. MAC 60, Rockville, MD
L 2-1 25-20 20-25 15-8

Gold Championship

5. Warren 6 Pac Warren, NJ
L 2-0 25-21 25-19
6. MN Senior 60,s Minneapolis, MN
L 2-0 25-17 25-12

We should have been able to beat Mac 60 and Warren 6 Pac. We would be in the lead until 17-18 points in a lot of games but couldn't finish them off.

— Tom Fulton, Miami Valley Masters 60's team rep ♦

Board Meeting

(Continued from page 9)

Steve seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Chip Reiley is bringing the East Coast Early Bird Tournament to Columbus for the 2003 – 2005 seasons. It will be a good opportunity for the Region's teams to play teams from other regions.

Should the Region sponsor an inter-regional tournament during June of 2002? It could be a combined event with a Boys Tournament, Girls Tournament and High Performance Camp all spread across a week and a half. More discussion will follow on this idea. ♦

In the November 1 issue of *OVR The Block*...

We'll have updates for the imminent adults' and juniors' seasons, news from the October board meeting, and information on new OVR programs and personnel. And, as always, OVR The Block will feature insightful commentary from our officers and board members, complemented by member contributions. Contact editor@ovr.org if you'd like to submit an article.

OVR HP teams place well at Nationals

(Continued from page 1)

To prepare for the tournament, the team practiced two full weekends and participated in two scrimmages. Once in Florida, the OVR 15-and-under HP team played in three 3-team pools and one 4-team pool after which they qualified for the Gold Medal Championship. Although they lost in the first round, the team finished in fifth place out of forty teams with a tournament record of 7-4. One of the team's setters, **Sara Hughes**, was named to the AAU All-American Team.

In retrospect, the girls played extremely well and had a lot of fun. It was also good to see so many parents make the trip to watch their daughters play. The support of the Ohio Valley Region coupled with the enthusiasm of those who participated made this experience a worthwhile event that none will soon forget.

— Don Burroughs, High Performance Coach

The OVR High Performance Youth Team (16-17's) achieved a second-place finish in the 8-team 2001 Colorado Springs Cup, played from July 25-28, 2001. Coached by **Denise Van De Walle** (Coach at Bowling Green State University) and **Wendy Teaman** (Head Coach of Toledo Volleyball Club), the OVR HP Youth Team included **Kaycie Carr**, **Ann Dzierwa**, **Schea Fissel**, **Jessica Hohl**, **Bryn Kehoe**, **Lauren Kelbley**, **Danielle Meyer**, **Brandie Molnar**, **Ashlei Notzinger**, **Kim Norris**, and **Abby Showers**.

The Florida Region captured the 2001 Colorado Springs Cup with a four-set victory (25-8, 25-18, 25-27, 25-19) over the Ohio Valley Region. OVR's **Lauren Kelbley** had eight kills and easily captured the high scorer award for the tournament. Other regions represented at the Colorado Springs Cup included Heart of America, Michiana, Carolina, Arizona, Iowa, and Intermountain.

Complete tournament results, standings, and statistics are available at www.usavolleyball.org/highperf/01coscup.htm.

— Ed.

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Board of Directors Terms (BoD, above) expire

5/31/02: Burke, Dickenson, Miller, Purdy, Zehler
5/31/03: Dixon, Donahue, Salvatore, Vishoot, Buck
5/31/04: Hemelgarn, Herbert, Laskey, Nystrom, Price

Officer Terms expire

8/31/02: Men's Tournament Director, Regional Scorekeepers' Chairperson, Juniors' Tournament Director
8/31/03: Registrar, Junior Officials' Development Director, Junior Program Director
8/31/04: Commissioner, Women's Tournament Director, Referees' Chairperson

The Back Page



As the rest of the Region enjoys the summer weekend, the OVR Board of Directors and officers plan the next season. Don Burroughs, standing, presents ideas for the 2002 High Performance Program during the August 11-12 Board Meeting.

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