

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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