

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> in the Silver 50's division.

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

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