

Junior Officials' Development Program

Alan Herbert, Junior Officials' Development Director

Congratulations to all players, coaches, officials and administrators for another fantastic season! 2002 will be a season that many participants will remember for a long time.

My thanks to all of the officials that helped to provide clinics for clubs and rated the players during matches. I know it took most of your free time during tournaments, but I feel that the quality of player officiating has continued to improved the past couple of years since Steve DiBacco first implemented the program.

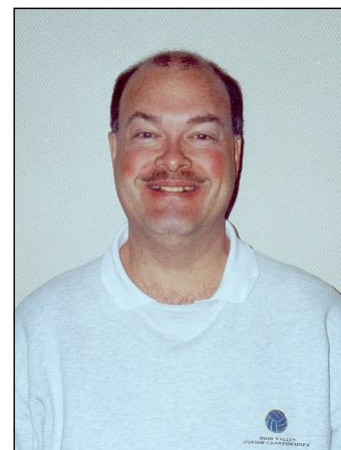
There are 420 players entered in the Certified Junior Official web page. Some of these players are dual-certified. My congratulations to Players Choice for having the most players listed (30). I wish to thank the Club Directors that took the time to enter their players into the database. Please remember that this is the official listing of your certified players. I feel that the 420 players listed are just a single tile in the SportCourt (or drop in the bucket) of how many players were actually certified. 6,000 certification cards were distributed to officials at the beginning of the season, and more were mailed to officials as they ran out of their original allocations. I hope to in-

crease the number of teams entering their certified players next year.

On a note for next year, I recommend that Tournament Directors offer 15 minute long Junior Official mini-clinics before each tournament. One mini-clinic would cover how to be a second official. The other would cover how to keep score. I tried this at the 15 Juniors Tournaments that I ran at the Kent State University Annex this past season. I think it helped to have a refresher just before the tournament. I had the mini-clinics run from about 8:20 to 8:35. This was late enough so that most of the teams had arrived but still gave the attendees time to get to their courts and warm up before their first match. I have training materials developed for these mini-clinics that I will make available via the web for next year. I also plan to add a third mini-clinic on how to be a line judge. As the players get better at all three functions, our tournaments will continue to run more smoothly.

Again, my thanks to all who worked and played so hard to make this past season so successful.

– Al Herbert



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Ron Wyzynski Honored

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aspects of our region's operation, and it is especially clear in the growth and development of our Juniors' programs for which this award is given. Ron's Outstanding Service Award will be presented in Salt Lake City. *Congratulations, Ron!*

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