

OVR The Block

The official newsletter of the Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball

Volume 19 Number 4: September 10, 2002

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OVR HP Teams Excel at Volley Classic

Following a week of training on July 15-19 at the University of Findlay, the 2002 OVR High Performance Junior Team (17 and Under) took second place at the 2002 Salt Lake Volley Classic tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 23-28. The OVR team delivered a spectacular performance, losing only one game in pool play and going on to be defeated only by the USA National Team in the finals. Carrie DeMange (Dayton) was voted best spiker of tournament.

Going into tournament play on Saturday the Youth Team (15 and Under) had a record of 2-2. Fighting with everything they had left, they played 15 games in 9 hours on Saturday to earn 4th place in the Gold division.

(Continued on page 34)



Don Burroughs

OVR High Performance Junior Team: Michaelae Blackburn (Cincinnati), Stephanie Blackburn (Cincinnati), Carrie DeMange (Dayton), Stephanie Everett (Cincinnati), Chrissy Gotkhe (Whitehouse), Kelly Harms (Bowling Green), Ali Hausfeld (Springboro), Danielle Holt (Galion), Katy Jo Mroski (Hubbard), Beth Shelton (Cincinnati), Amy Stephens (Mt. Vernon), Stephanie Swiger (Findlay), Wick Colchagoff (Head Coach). Don Burroughs (Assistant Coach) not pictured.

Rick Laskey Honored at Mohican



Nick Nystrom

Glenn Purdy, Rick Laskey, and Bob Price at the 2002 OVR Awards Dinner, Mohican State Park lodge, August 10, 2002.

Rick Laskey, until recently the Regional Referees' Chairperson, is the 2002 recipient of the *Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award* for his long dedication to the growth of volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region. Bob Price, Commissioner, and Glenn Purdy presented Rick with the tastefully arranged National referee's patch, gold whistle, and engraved plaque at the 2002 OVR Awards Dinner at Mohican

(Continued on page 34)

Corner



The 2002 season saw the Ohio Valley Region lead the nation in both adult and junior membership. Those increases necessitated the largest Regional Championships ever held by the OVR. Volleyball, at least in the OVR, is quickly becoming the game of choice! I want to congratulate many of our teams on their successes while participating at the National Championship level.

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 about 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 request that individuals who are aware of violations to please report them to my office ASAP!

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 legal and binding commitment. Parents, be advised: a club director *must* allow 10 days after the tryout date before requiring a signed contract. The Ohio Valley Region does not get involved with the internal structure, policies, or fees of any club.

Special notice: The "season" is defined from November 1 through October 31. A player will represent *only one* club during this period. There is no such thing as a "winter", "spring", or "summer" season! Transfer/release from a club is not an option!

The OVR works very hard to communicate its policies and procedures to all of its members. Parents and players must be made aware of those directors and coaches who attempt to circumvent the rules. Legislating ethics is very difficult; please report any incidents that you feel are questionable!

Check out the award-winning website (Viggo O. Nelson Media Award, USA Volleyball) website! It is *USA's best!*

Play hard and play often!

Respectfully,
Bob Price
Commissioner & President
Ohio Valley Region, Inc.
USA Volleyball

Volleyballs and Carts at Special Region Prices

The Ohio Valley Region is offering **Molten Super-Touch & Pro-Touch at a special Region price of \$35 per ball** and **VB-Lite for only \$25 per ball** (free drop shipment for lots of 36). We also have **Baden 15-0 Lexum** (the official ball of the OHSAA) volleyballs at only \$38.95 per ball. These top-quality leather volleyballs are ideal for both tournaments and practice. Customer pick-up available in Kent, Columbus, Dayton/Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh.



The Ohio Valley Region is also pleased to offer the **Molten Tall Ball Cart at a special Region price of \$120**. This wheeled cart will hold over 30 volleyballs.

Prices do not include shipping. Additional details available at www.ovr.org/store/. To order or for more information, contact the region office at 888-873-9478 or by e-mail at wyzynski@ovr.org.

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Executive Director's Commentary

Dear Members, I hope your summer was enjoyable. Recently your OVR board of directors and staff gathered together for two days to plan for the 2003 season. This dedicated group spent both days and evenings listening to officer reports and planning strategy in all areas of the OVR volleyball business. This season the OVR will start to implement on-line registration. This is a choice of each club director or team rep. All registration materials (as in the past) will be mailed to each representative, director or coach. It's our hope that within a few seasons most of the registrations will be on-line and the need for mailing these materials will decrease. However some things will always need to be mailed. The OVR in 2002 had perhaps the most productive season in all areas of our business ... we plan to keep it that way. Please take a few minutes to read

the OVR online newsletter cover to cover. As always the region office will continue to serve you, the members. In the meantime, look for mailings to appear at your door sometime after Oct. 1st.

Sincerely,
 Ronald J. Wyzynski
 Executive Director / CEO
 Ohio Valley Region, Inc.
 USA Volleyball



“The OVR had in 2002 ... the most productive season ... we plan to keep it that way.”

@ovr.org

The region has a number of convenient new communication mechanisms accessible through our Mailing Lists link. Those facilities complement the mailing lists already accessible from our lists of clubs, teams, tournaments, and officials, providing one-click access to large groups of people. The distributions available now include

- OVR Board of Directors, Officers, and Staff
- juniors' tournament announcements
- all juniors' club directors
- all juniors' tournament directors
- all men's and women's team reps
- all men's and women's tournament directors
- all professional officials

As with our other mailing lists, sign-in is now required. Those with usernames and passwords should simply use them; others can easily create an account in a few seconds. That requirement protects our membership against unsolicited advertising and other inappropriate e-mail (*spam*).

You can also reach our board members, officers, and staff at *name@ovr.org* (e.g. *wyzynski@ovr.org*) or using the following easily remembered aliases, all @ovr.org:

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

The Juniors' Page

Bill Zehler, Juniors' Program Director

Once again, the Ohio Valley Region has shattered every record we have established in the area of Junior participation. We had over 10,000 registered girls the past season. Over 700 teams participated in our Junior Championships. There were over 40 teams (including National 16 Open Champion Team Z!) representing the OVR at the 2002 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships in Salt Lake City. Several more participated in the Girls' Invitational Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. We also had over 20 boys' teams make the trek to Louisville for the Boy's 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 their state. Tryouts for athletes in grade 8 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 try out for off-season teams while their high school and 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.

There will be a new document we will ask club directors to have available at their tryouts. It will be known as the *Athlete's Bill of Rights*. This document will spell out all procedures for participating in a tryout. It will also inform the athlete and their parents of the rights of the clubs whose tryouts they are attending. We hope to avoid any unpleasant experiences by making this information available during the tryout sessions.



Tryouts may be of two types: open to anyone, and by invitation only. Each club must 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 that register their tryouts with 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 no fewer than 10 days from the date of the tryouts to sign a contract with the club.

All club directors and coaches conducting tryouts must be registered members of USA Volleyball. We strongly recommend registering anyone working at your tryouts to cover

(Continued on page 5)

(The Juniors' Page, continued from page 4)

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 who are not registered members of this region.

There will not be any increase in fees for the 2003 season. The cost of registration and entering region-sponsored tournaments will remain the same as last season. There is a possibility that the USA Volleyball Regional Operating Division (ROD) *may* mandate background checks for *every* person involved in Junior volleyball. The cost of this policy would be \$15-\$25 for every adult member of each organization. We won't know the outcome of this potential policy until the ROD meeting in October. I am informing club directors now of the possibility that this may happen so they can budget for it.

Several educational programs will be offered to club directors and coaches. All club directors must complete the ASEP Sports Club Director course. This course will be offered in the region on December 7, 2002. There will be several sites available to attend the IMPACT course. The USA Volleyball CAP I and II coaching courses will also be offered in early January. Check the OVR website (www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching) for sites and dates.

Our regional High Performance Program was very successful this summer. Our Junior team finished second to the USA Junior National team, and our Youth team finished fourth in Park City, Utah (see cover article and the HP section of our website).

Have a *great* season!

Look for updated information on the Juniors' Page online:

www.ovr.org/juniors/

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Patterns of Growth in the Ohio Valley Region

Stephen Donahue, MIS Director and Verification Officer



For the past 9 years the number of registrations in the Ohio Valley Region has increased. In addition, both the number of teams and percentage of female participation have increased significantly.

Total Number of Teams

- ✓ The number of teams increased 131.7%, from 530 teams in 1994 to 1,228 teams in 2002.
- ✓ The percentage of junior teams has grown from 57% of the total number of teams in 1994 to 85.5% of the total number of teams in 2002.
- ✓ The number of junior female teams has grown 288.1%, from 293 teams in 1994 to 1017 teams in 2002.

Total Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Membership

- ✓ Membership has increased 216.3% from 4007 members in 1993 to 12,676 members in 2002.
- ✓ The number of junior players has increased 374.8% from 2005 players in 1993 to 9520 players in 2002.
- ✓ Junior players and coaches represented 87.5% of the OVR membership in 2002.
- ✓ Junior girls represented 72.5% of the total membership in 2002.
- ✓ Junior players, boys and girls, represented 75.1% of the OVR membership in 2002.

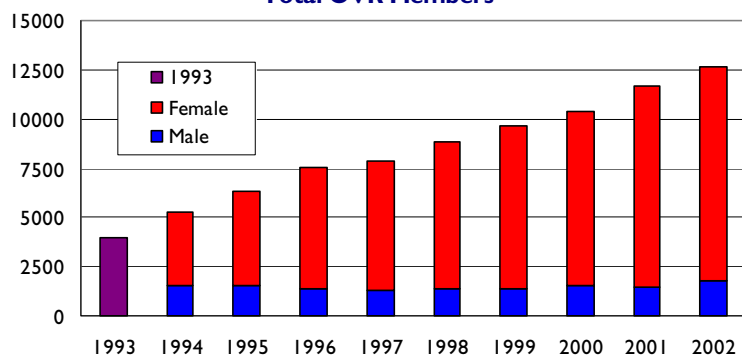
Total Female Membership

- ✓ Females represented 86.2% of the Ohio Valley Region membership in 2002.
- ✓ The number of female players has increased 190.3% from 3763 players in 1993 to 10,927 players in 2002.

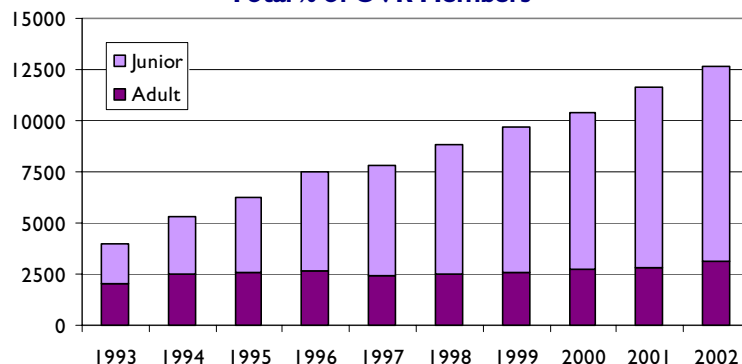
2002 Ohio Valley Region Membership

	adult	collegiate	other	junior	total
female	678	22	1,033	9,194	10,927
male	880	0	543	326	1,749
total	1,558	22	1,576	9,520	12,676

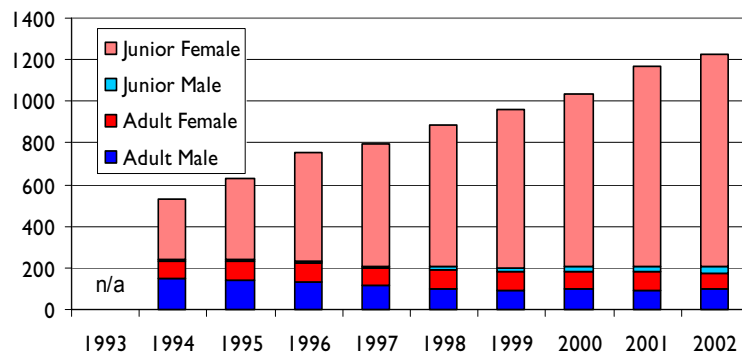
Total OVR Members



Total % of OVR Members



Total Number of Teams



From the Referee's Stand

Brian Hemelgarn

As we head into the collegiate season, it only means one thing: another season of USAV can't be far away! That means OVR referee clinics and volleyball rules tests!

Our clinics for the 2002-2003 season will be held in Columbus (Dec. 7), Toledo (Dec. 8), and Pittsburgh (Dec. 14). Please mark your calendars now, and remember: you must attend one of the three clinics to maintain your good standing as a referee in the OVR.

Speaking of clinics, we'll do our best to shorten them this year! One way in which we'll accomplish that is through online test-taking. After October 15, OVR members who did not take the joint USAV/NCAA rules test will be able to jump on the Internet and take the test online. Details will follow in a separate e-mail as that time draws nearer. This should enable us to trim some time from the clinics!

Incidentally, now is the time to also do some recruiting! We added 85 new officials to our ranks last year, and if we could do that again this year, we'll be in good shape to cover all of our tournaments. To each of you, I put the task

of bringing *one* new recruit to a December clinic. Remember, there's no cost to attend!

On another note, kudos to **Tom Bailey, Terry Bush, Chuck Fleet, Anthony Hines, and Tom Joseph** for completing their Junior National referee certification in Salt Lake City during the Girls' JOVC in July. Likewise, both **Dan Litteral** and **Jimmy McKinzey** received a thumbs up to attend the 2003 NIRSA Collegiate Club Championships in Columbus next spring as USAV National referee candidates. Congratulations and good luck to all of you!

Our August OVR board of directors' retreat was quite productive, and I'll be detailing some of our discussions in the next issue! There are a number of positive things on the horizon, but I'll wait until we get through this collegiate season before springing those one you!

Finally, on behalf of the officiating cadre in the OVR, I would like to extend sincere condolences to the family of Leo Lubawy, a Regional referee, who passed away in late August. The OVR and volleyball in Pennsylvania will truly miss him.

Until next time, have a great fall season!



*Now is the time
to do some
recruiting!*

Officials' Clinics

Visit www.ovr.org/officiating/clinics.php for additional and updated information.

Professional Officials' Clinics

The following are mandatory for professional officials, who *must* renew their membership prior to October 15. For additional information and to register, contact Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org, 419-868-1317).

Saturday, December 7, 2002, Columbus, OH.

Sunday, December 8, 2002, Toledo, OH.

Saturday, December 14, 2002, Pittsburgh, PA.

Player Referee Clinics

Player Ref Clinics to be announced

Official Volleyballs for 2002-2003

Official volleyballs for 2002-2003 Ohio Valley Region tournaments are as follows:

Molten® *Super-Touch* all men's, women's, and girls' 13s-18s tournaments

Molten® *VB Lite* all girls' 10s-12s tournaments

Molten® *Pro-Touch* all boys' tournaments

Thanks to Molten's sponsorship, these balls are all available at special discount prices from the OVR office: \$35/ball for *Super-Touch* and *Pro-Touch*, \$25/ball for *VB Lite*. Free drop shipment for lots of 36. Contact Ron Wyzynski (888-873-9478, wyzynski@ovr.org) to order.

Juniors' Tournaments 2003

Tom Kohl, Juniors' Tournament Director

I am looking forward to another year of growth within the Juniors' programs and in the number of sanctioned tournaments.

Again, I would like to thank the tournament directors for their cooperation in conducting tournaments with proper pool and tournament formats. On the surface, this may not seem to be an issue, but in reality it is. Continuing to follow guidelines within our Juniors' organization helps to reduce the number of complaints related to tournament site safety conditions and tournament organization and ultimately creates a fair seeding process for the Bid tournaments and OVR Championships.



I have three concerns for the upcoming season:

1. *Ensure the quality of tournament facilities and play.*
2. *Consistency of tournament procedures, formats, and reporting.*
3. *Integrity of the Club Director –Tournament Director relationship.*

I have added additional language and re-worded certain areas of the 2003 Juniors' Procedures for Tournament Hosts and Junior Tournament Rules to discourage minor abuses that were reported last year. Many, if not all, of these infractions could have been avoided by tournament directors being familiar with the procedures stated in the *Procedures for Juniors' Tournament Hosts* and *Juniors' Tournament Rules*.

In addition, I felt that the club director – tournament director relationship was becoming strained. Tournament directors depositing tournament entry fees before clubs had even collected their monies and club directors canceling their entry in one tournament to go to another tournament that same weekend were common occurrences. In the past, there was a good faith exchange between tournament directors and club directors concerning the depositing of a team entry fee and verbal commitment to participate in a tournament. Tournament directors should wait until at least 4-weeks before their tournament to deposit a team's entry fee. This is sufficient time to determine if that team's entry fee is "good." At least let

the club know you are going to deposit their entry fee early.

Club directors should have the courtesy to honor their verbal commitments to tournament directors when asking to participate in specific tournaments. A club director needs to understand that a tournament director has turned away other interested teams to provide his or her entry into a tournament. To withdraw at a later date to enter another tournament "closer to home" can cause much ill will. not to mention causing the club to be fined the tournament entry fee.

In my opinion, the integrity of the club director – tournament director relationship is a foundation of the OVR's continued growth and success. We need to continue to demonstrate courtesy and respect in our conduct with each other.

The *Procedures for Juniors' Tournament Hosts* and *Juniors' Tournament Rules* are already available at the OVR website: please download and read them. It is important for all parties involved in an OVR-sanctioned tournament to be informed of tournament procedures and rules to ensure each participant's safety as well as consistency of play and reporting of results. Should you have any suggestions please email me at kohl@ovr.org with your suggestions.

I will begin accepting Applications for Sanctions beginning September 1, 2002. Please be aware that any entry fee in excess of the \$125 OVR-approved fee does require justification. Rental contracts and similar documents are required. Tentative online publication of tournaments is scheduled for December 15. This will avoid conflicts with OVR clinics being offered on December 1, 7, and 8. This will also permit more clubs to determine the number of teams they will register.

Again, thanks for your help this past season. I look forward to your cooperation in the 2003 season.

— Tom Kohl

OVR Juniors' Tournament Director

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Sound like a great idea?

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thinking of you

Board Meeting Summary: August 10-11, 2002, Mohican State Park

The OVR board of directors convened on August 9-11, 2002 at Mohican State Park for the annual retreat and board meetings. Organizational discussions began on the evening of Friday, August 9, followed by formal board meetings on Saturday, August 10, and Sunday, August 11. The meetings were punctuated by the annual OVR awards dinner on Saturday and followed by a cook-out on Sunday, both of which were open to all members. This summary reflects that weekend's results.

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

Not present: Patty Salvatore.

Guests: Becky Carl, Janet Nelson, Ed Novak, Sue Stephens, Hank Trimble, Sandy Widders.

CEO Report [Ron Wyzynski]

Ron circulated documents regarding registration, budgets, and championship dates. The region is on excellent ground, and we are committed to maintaining our high standards for championship events. Ron recommended that staff be compensated fairly for their efforts.

Juniors' Play Following Championships

Janet Nelson, Ed Novak, Sandy Widders, Becky Carl, Sue Stephens, co-directors of Columbus United Volleyball, presented arguments for relaxing restrictions on junior players following OVR championships. Bob Price and Bill Zehler are developing a proposal addressing these issues. Bill announced the new *Athletes' Bill of Rights*, to be passed out at tryouts.

Commissioner's Report [Bob Price]

Online registration will be a major issue

this season. The ROD may mandate background checks for individuals working with juniors: club directors should be made aware of that possibility. The OVR continues to grow and to have the potential for more growth, especially for boys. Mike Chandler, USA Volleyball, speaks very highly of the OVR.

Men's Tournaments [Keith Burke]

Plans status quo for the following year. The men's Open playoff format was discussed, concluding that the current practice works. 92% of men's teams participated in the 2002 Regionals.

Women's Tournaments [Michelle Fox]

Looking into an extended contract with KSU, which is attractive due to remodeling and new flooring. This year we have KSU from the first weekend in January through the end of April, alternating adults and juniors except for the first 3 weekends in January (adults). Women's Open will continue as is.

Referees' Chair [Brian Hemelgarn]

Rick reported that last year's promotional efforts doubled the number of new people coming to December officials' clinics. Very few people had to attend make-up clinics; would like to eliminate February make-up clinics. However, only half the players as in past years came to the player-ref clinics. There is a need for improvement in player refereeing and scorekeeping, especially at the BB and B levels.

Brian suggested a pay increase for officials, and is developing dates and agendas for this year's clinics. Rotating to Cincinnati/Dayton may be possible, but not for this year.

Online testing (13 regions already do it), organized by the New England Region, will eliminate up to 2 hours at the end of each clinic.

5 of the 7 candidates sent passed

their junior national evaluations. Jimmie McKinzie and Dan Litteral passed as National candidates.

Officials must help enforce standards to avoid unsafe facilities.

Bob P.: Incident Reports have helped in tracking and preventing problems. Those are applicable, for instance, to officials who don't show up.

Brian introduced the possibility of certifying 16s-18s to ref lower age divisions (e.g. 12s, 13s).

Brian also suggested changing First-Year Provisional and Provisional ratings to Provisional 1 and Provisional 2, with the promotion from 1 to 2 not automatic at the second year and with Provisional 1 restricted to, e.g., 14U.

Tom observed the need to ensure that tournament directors do not intentionally and repeatedly hire fewer than the required number of officials.

Scorekeepers' Chair [Terry Miller]

Junior National candidate fees increased from \$100 to \$200. The Scorekeepers' Chair is to sign off on all candidates: JN candidates must be able to keep score.

Each team must have a certified [knowledgeable, competent] scorekeeper at Junior Nationals.

International Scorekeepers (Brian): Jimmy McKinzie went to Dallas to get certified. Emi and Glenn (retired) are also certified. International Scorekeeper clinics now offered at the Open.

Online scorekeeping tests are not an option at this time.

No scoresheet changes this year. Roster and lineup sheets will change.

No new junior national scorekeeping certifications are being issued.

Juniors' Program [Bill Zehler]

Best year we've had; very few problems.

The large number of ASEP attendees obviated the need for a Junior Advisory

(Continued on page 11)

Board Meeting Summary (continued)

(Continued from page 10)

Board Meeting.

Athletes/Parents Bill of Rights: to be handed out by club directors at tryouts.

Club directors will need information on possible background checks.

Junior Championships: confusion over which team officiates playoffs must be avoided. Plans strictly online registration for 2003 Championships.

The College Coaches' Packet was the most successful we ever developed. Plans are in place to improve on that for the coming season. Changes to NCAA recruiting policy will preclude coaches attending our May tournament.

ASEP: only ~15 club directors, all new, lack certification. Will continue to offer the ASEP course annually.

Junior Officials' Development Program [Al Herbert]

Circulated an image of a proposed junior officials' patch. To get the patch, juniors must be observed at a higher level. It is important that junior officials ask to be rated.

Steve: verification of large clubs was problematic because some didn't report their certifications. Al distributed ~5000 cards for each of the last 2 years; only 400+ were reported last year. Increasing online reporting is critical for 2003.

Juniors' Tournaments [Tom Kohl]

713 tournaments were sanctioned in 2002, 96-97% of which were run correctly. Will focus on increasing compliance: our size requires us to address not only quantity of tournaments, but also quality. Needs input on facilities from officials and coaches.

Appointment of Officer Positions

Juniors' Tournament Director – Tom Kohl
Men's Tournament Director – Keith Burke
Regional Scorekeepers' Chair – Terry Miller

Election Procedures [Brian Hemelgarn]

To maximize votes cast while making the best use of booth volunteers' time, a voting booth schedule will be posted on the web site and at the voting sites.

Brian resigned as Elections Chair. Al, appointed as his successor, will draft a process for the October meeting.

Electronic Registration [Nick Nystrom]

E-registration will be introduced for 2003, allowing for significantly expanded services. It will not be mandatory: paper registration will remain available. US mail will still be required for signed forms and checks: Steve will process those. Credit card payments not planned in the interest of minimizing members' cost.

HP & Coaching Ed. [Don Burroughs]

12 IMPACT clinics in 4 weeks was dense; looking at a longer schedule this year.

CAP I & II: Jan. 3, 4, 5 at YSU.

HP: Park City; Junior team placed 2nd; Youth team placed 4th. HP camp: unable to find a suitable host site this summer.

Goal: by next year coaching education will support itself and the HP program.

MIS Director [Steve Donahue]

Distributed *Verification Officer Year End Report* and registration statistics.

Plans online reporting of IMPACT, CAP, and ASEP certifications to club directors.

Adult players who coach must be named as coaches at registration and submit signed coaches' codes of ethics.

Website & Publications [Nick Nystrom]

Photos to be done in-house for 2003. Reviewed updates to and schedules for publications (Handbook, registration and tournament packets) and the web site for 2003. Significantly expanded facilities are planned: e-registration, e-reporting of juniors' tournament results feeding automated standings updates,

online support for club directors' and coaches' certifications, etc. Addressed issues of worms, viruses, and reasonable precautions.

Boys' Program Liaison [Emi Vishoot]

Coaches can be registered in a different region from their team (e.g., OVR players who coach Keystone Region teams; an issue from Nationals).

John Buck will oversee boys' teams' registration for Nationals, as he does for girls' teams, in 2003.

Bob P. recommended getting a small group together under Emi's supervision, including Ohio HS directors, to establish a framework applicable for the growth of boys' volleyball in Ohio. Boys in high schools not offering HS teams aren't constrained by the split season. Bob, Emi, and others to follow up, encouraging formation of both HS teams and clubs. We should establish a Boys' Tournament Director or Program Director position within the next year. Bob, Brian, Hank, Art, and Keith to follow up on that. Middle school (boys' 12s, 14s) could run through our season.

Bid Tournaments [John Buck]

More teams qualified than ever. There was an effort to get more teams qualified for Open; *Team Z* even won. Yoon handled seeding, which worked well.

Opening hosting to multiple sites did not work well; John would prefer to secure the sites early (preferably 6-court facilities to turn no one away). It may be necessary to pay slightly more per court for quality facilities.

John suggested hiring an extra referee to help train junior officials potentially going to Nationals.

2003 Bids: April 5-6: 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s. April 12-13: 16s, 17s, 18s (based on when Qualifiers and Easter fall).

A motion to cancel all team subsidies

(Continued on page 12)



All you need to do to host a tournament is apply.

From the Men's Tournament Director

Keith Burke, Men's Tournament Director

Well, it's time to start thinking about the upcoming indoor season. The summer is just about over and the leaves are getting ready for their change. I want to take a minute to let everyone know that its never too late to start getting ready for the season.

We need tournament sites every weekend during the adult season. Take the time to consider hosting a tournament. Think of it... Not having to travel for a tournament. Being able to sleep in that extra hour or two before your first match. Then being home in your hot tub with a cool beverage, with no leg cramps from that long ride home, before the others are even off the freeway.

All you need to do to host a tournament is apply. The forms for requesting sanctioning

of an event are on our website. So please take some time and think seriously about hosting.

I also want to again thank everyone who helped make last season such a success. I hope this year will be just as exciting as last.

Team registration will start soon. Please take a moment to check your standing from last year. We want to promote play at the highest level that your team is capable of, so remember that when you register. I would rather have a discussion with your team needing to move down verses one forcing your team to play up.

Have a great fall. I hope to see you at a match in the near future.

Find everything you need to host an adults' tournament at
www.ovr.org/mw/tournament_packet/

Board Meeting Summary (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

for participating in Nationals, reducing Bid entry fees or avoiding an increase, was voted down. However, the July 31 deadline for submitting articles, as required for the subsidy, is firm.

Rick suggested subsidizing boys' teams as well (tabled until the October meeting). Terry Miller was appointed the chairman of the committee to develop a proposal on subsidies for October. To be assisted by Rick and Hank.

John recommended that we retain

our current policy of allowing teams entering Bid tournaments to declare whether they are willing to go to the Invitational if they do not make it into the National Championships.

Player Transfer Policy

Bob P.: "The Ohio Valley Region season is November 1 – October 31."

New Business

Al Herbert motioned, "The OVR board authorizes Ron Wyzynski to make adjustments to the pay rates of officials,

officers, and staff other than the CEO." Bob D. seconded. Passed 10/2/2.

Brian: should officials' pay be increased? Inequities will be identified and addressed in October.

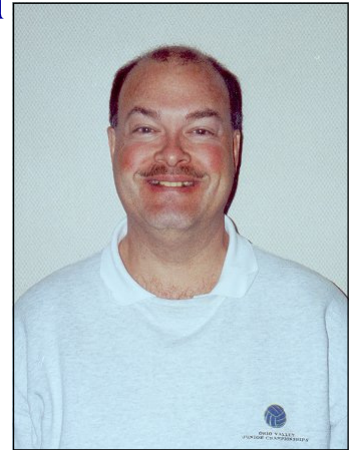
Tom: should we address a sanctioning fee or increasing juniors' tournament entry fees to cover officials, HP, etc.? Tabled for now.

Next Meeting

October 27, 10:00 AM, Westerville HS.

Junior Officials' Development Program

Alan Herbert, Junior Officials' Development Director



Congratulations to all Ohio Valley Region teams that participated at national level tournaments this past summer. Hopefully each of you had a tremendous personal and learning experience.

This is your first reminder that the certification of players who were certified as scorekeepers and/or second referees during the 2000 or 2001 seasons will expire on 10/31/02 (this October). {Those players attending scorekeeping clinics during the 2000 season were given an extra year of eligibility because we were late in getting their certification cards to them.} Certifications are valid for two years and so these players will need to be re-certified during the coming season that begins 11/01/02 and ends 10/31/03. Players who were certified this season will still be valid for next season.

Each year I offer to coordinate officiating clinics for your clubs. You can contact me and I will locate a professional official in your area to present scorekeeping and second refereeing materials to the players in your club. This year I will be a bit more pro-active and will try to assign professional officials to contact your clubs directly. Please remember that your club is responsible for paying the clinician \$75. But, these clinics are invaluable for the improvement of the officiating support crews at the tournaments. Also, if you plan or hope to attend large inter-regional or national tournaments, they typically require that you have certified junior officials on your team.

The OVR is evaluating three new programs involving junior officiating for the coming season and would like feedback on these proposals:

1. Players are certified when they attain a passing score of 80 on either a scorekeeper or second referee rating. They then are given a card to prove their certification. (The current process can be found at www.ovr.org/juniors/jodp/). In order to encourage them to continue to improve their skills, I am proposing a second level of certification. If the player continues to be observed and rated by Regional or higher ranked professional officials, they may obtain an 'OVR Junior Official' patch. This patch could be worn on their uniform from then on when they keep score or work as a second referee.

This patch would again be valid for two years.

2. The Ohio Valley Region continues to have a fantastic number of juniors' tournaments. We are often stretched to the limit to find officials. USA Volleyball does have a 'Junior Olympic Referee' classification. This is intended for 17 and 18 year old juniors who may be interested in becoming professional officials. The OVR is considering holding training clinics and rating sessions at specific sites early in the season to train and certify these juniors. Once certified, the Junior Olympic Referee would be allowed to officiate as the first official at 12's and 13's tournaments. This would enable other professional officials to work the older age groups.

3. Training materials are being developed for mini-clinics to be held before junior tournaments start each morning. This is something that we tried at the Region sponsored juniors tournaments at Kent State University this season. Each mini-clinic is expected to last about 15 minutes and would be presented (assuming the tournament starts at 9 am) between 8:20 and 8:35 am. There would be mini-clinics designed for scorekeeping, second refereeing and line judging. The professional officials hired to work the tournament would be asked to present the materials. Obviously, the mini-clinic will not be as in depth as a full clinic that would be presented at your club. The mini-clinic is intended to be a refresher course for the players just before they have to perform these functions during the tournament. I really believe that these mini-clinics enabled the tournaments at KSU to run more smoothly. I would like to give my personal thanks to the officials that presented the mini-clinics this year.

Please take some time to consider these proposals. Send me your views at jodd@ovr.org.

Good luck with your high school seasons, and I hope to see you in the spring.

USAV & OVR Meritorious Service Awards

Individuals were recognized for their dedication at the second annual OVR awards dinner on August 10. Four of those awards are reported in this issue. **Rick Laskey** was presented the Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award (page 1), **Nick Nystrom** received the Viggo O. Nelson media award and the OVR Commissioner's Award (page 15), and **Ron Wyzynski** received the YJOV Outstanding Service Award (below). In addition, several OVR Awards of Excellence and OVR Commissioner's Awards were accepted by OVR representatives on behalf of individuals not present. Since one or more of those awards will be presented in person to their true recipients, they will be reported in the November issue of *OVR The Block* so as to preserve their surprise.

Ron Wyzynski Exemplifies Outstanding Service

On behalf of USA Volleyball's 2002 Awards and Recognition Committee, Art Faura presented Ron Wyzynski with USA Volleyball's *Youth/Junior Olympic Volleyball Outstanding Service Award* at the second annual OVR awards dinner.

Ron's volleyball resume is extensive. He has been active in the USAV since 1969 as both a player and an official. In 1982 Ron was incorporator and Vice President of the Ohio Valley Region, followed by serving as Assistant Commissioner (1982-88), Commissioner (1989-95), and Executive Director/CEO (1995-present). He also serves as Financial Officer and Registrar (since 1989).

Ron's vision, energy, and determination are evident in all aspects of the Ohio Valley Region. Selected juniors' milestones in Ron's OVR career to date include:

- In 1989 the OVR registered 590 junior members; by 2002 that number exploded to 9,520.
- The number of junior teams registered in the OVR grew from 300 in

1994 to 1,050 in 2002.

- Hosted the nation's first Junior Regional Championships in a convention center (1997).
- Perennially hosts record-breaking Junior Championships. The 2002 OVR Junior Championships ran on three consecutive weekends, the second two at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, allowing 704 teams to compete.
- Fosters development of coaches and club directors through IMPACT, CAP, and ASEP courses and clinics.
- Promotes the OVR High Performance program for development of elite juniors.
- Developed the OVR Junior Advisory Board.
- Created an officer position to work exclusively on player development.
- Supports the development of junior officials.
- Took over a region with marginal funds, growing it into a stable, financially solvent organization. Ron has been an excellent fundraiser, obtaining sponsorships and



Ron Wyzynski, recipient of USA Volleyball's Youth/Junior Olympic Volleyball (YJOV) Outstanding Service Award.

donations and making sound business decisions.

- Served on the staff of 6 junior national events and as a member on various ad-hoc committees on the national level.
- Working to plan and develop the Volleyball Games for the International Children's Games in Cleveland, OH (summer 2004).

Clearly the awards committee selected well. *Congratulations, Ron!*

OVR Website Earns National Recognition



USA Volleyball's announcement is online at www.usavolleyball.org/news/news_051902.htm

The OVR website, www.ovr.org, is the recipient of USA Volleyball's 2002 *Viggo O. Nelson National Communications Award for Best Region Web Site*. Bob Price, Commissioner, accepted the award on behalf of the Ohio Valley Region on May 23 at the Dorothy C. Boyce Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet in Dallas.

Nick Nystrom initiated the OVR website and remains as its sole designer and administrator. The site offers continually updated content on all aspects of our organization, greatly reducing operating costs and enabling services that would otherwise be impossible for our tremendous numbers of individuals and teams. A sophisticated, efficient

database infrastructure coupled with a robust security model allow tournament and club directors, officials, staff, and others to update information efficiently and with immediate results. www.ovr.org also delivers electronic versions of all OVR publications. It is an invaluable tool for publicizing the region to new members and for promoting volleyball in a general sense. Usage of www.ovr.org has exploded from 1517 hits for the 1996 season to over 2 million for 2002, and the site regularly draws positive comments from readers worldwide.

We are grateful to USA Volleyball for this recognition and seek to build on this success for 2003.

Nick Nystrom Honored with OVR Commissioner's Award

In recognition for his dedication to the Ohio Valley Region, Bob Price presented Nick Nystrom with the inaugural OVR Commissioner's Award at the 2002 awards dinner. Highlights of Nick's contributions to the Ohio Valley Region include:

- Inception, development, and maintenance of the OVR web site, www.ovr.org (officially, 1995-present, although publication of OVR tournaments began earlier). As a consequence of always looking for ways to improve the region and of building whatever tools our staff and members require, that site has grown into a vast resource used by volleyball players, coaches, and officials across the country.
- Publications Editor (2000-present): redesigned, produces, edits, and publishes the OVR newsletter, *OVR The Block*. Authored and maintains the comprehensive *OVR Handbook*, providing a valuable reference for players, club directors, team reps, officials, coaches, and parents. Redesigned OVR forms and documents to professional standards commensurate with a first-rate organization.



Bob Price presented Nick Nystrom with both the Viggo O. Nelson award and the OVR Commissioner's Award at Mohican.

- Attracts and works with sponsors, generating financial support for the region while minimizing cost and providing opportunities for OVR members.
- Serving on the board transitions daily communication with our members, adult and junior alike, into action.



On the Web and In Print

2003 is on its way, and we're working to provide you with the biggest and best OVR season ever.

If you've checked www.ovr.org over the summer you've undoubtedly noticed its new design. Gone is the information overload of last spring's entry page: that list format is still available, expanded, as the Site Index, replaced by a simplified interface on entry. The search engine is more sophisticated, and most of the site has been reworked to present information in ways that are as easy to use as possible. Fast response, user customization, interactivity, compatibility, and quality hardcopies are all design goals. If you have ideas for content or enhancements that would be useful to you or if you run into any problems, please let me know.

Registration and tournament packets are nearing completion. Registration packets will be mailed to club directors and team reps (use the form on the OVR website if you need a packet and aren't on our list from last season). Tournament packets will be distributed online. The *2003 Juniors' Tournament Packet* is vastly expanded: Tom Kohl really went the extra mile to make hosting juniors' tournaments easier than ever.

Electronic registration is on track for this fall. Two main goals inspired us to acquiring better information in a more usable form. First, it will open the door for a number of expanded services throughout the season. Second, we anticipate saving time for everyone concerned: club directors, tournament hosts, and OVR staff. Look for our simple, secure e-registration facility on www.ovr.org in October. Traditional paper registration remains an option, but give e-registration a try: it's the way to go in the long term.

In cooperation with Bill Zehler, we will conduct application for sanction of juniors' tryouts electronically this season. Doing so will ensure that we have all necessary information to process your requests rapidly and to publicize your tryouts effectively.

The *2003 OVR Handbook* is scheduled for publication on or about November 1. A significant revision of last year's *Handbook*, the 2003 edition will be a valuable resource for all members of the OVR. Please read the sections pertaining to your types of involvement in the Ohio Valley Region.

Shortly we'll have available a flyer promoting the Ohio Valley Region. Please help us by circulating copies of that flyer to your local volleyball leagues and open gyms. Even though our overall membership is healthy and growing, it remains essential to reach potential players and officials: recent college graduates, individuals new to the area, and those who simply haven't heard of the OVR and its many opportunities.

As always, there's more on the horizon than I can describe in this space. The best advice is to watch our website for news of all aspects of the OVR. Newsletters are valuable for unifying related announcements, providing lasting recognition, and communicating important information through a medium that people can print and read comfortably, but that's a quite different purpose from the immediacy of web-based communication.

I wish you a successful and rewarding 2003 season in the Ohio Valley Region.

Nick Nystrom
Webmaster & Editor
nystrom@ovr.org

For 2003...

- New website design
- E-registration
- Online application for sanction of jrs' tryouts
- Improved registration and tournament packets
- OVR Handbook 2003
- New promotional flyer
- Improved handling of juniors' tournament results and standings
- Improved updating and reporting for coaches' and club directors' certifications
- Improved e-registration for clinics and other OVR events
- ... (watch our website!)

2002 USA Volleyball Open Championships

The 2002 USA Open Volleyball Championships were held in Dallas, Texas on May 25 through June 1, 2002. This annual tournament is the culmination of the USA Volleyball indoor season, drawing talented and hopeful teams from across the country. Divisions and competition schedules for the 2002 Championships were as follows:

Saturday, May 25 through Tuesday, May 28

- US Open Championship tournaments
- US Club Championship tournaments, Class A and AA
- US Masters Championships: 30 and over, and 40 and over
- US Seniors Championships: 50 and over, 60 and over, and 70/75 and over Combined

Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26

- US Class B/BB Regular Co-Ed Championships
- Special Olympics National Unified Championships

Monday, May 27 and Tuesday, May 28

- US Class B/BB Reverse Co-Ed Championship tournament

Wednesday, May 29 through Saturday, June 1

- US Club Championship tournaments: Class B and BB
- US Masters Championships: 35 and over, and 45 and over
- US Seniors Championships: 55 and over, 65 and over

Wednesday, May 29 and Thursday, May 30

- US Class A/AA Reverse Co-Ed Championships

Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1

- US Class A/AA Regular Co-Ed Championships
- Disabled (Sitting Volleyball) National Invitational Championships

11 teams registered to the Ohio Valley Region competed, a number somewhat lower than that of other recent years due to the distance. Those teams, as reported on USA Volleyball's web site, included:

<i>team</i>	<i>division</i>	<i>place</i>
Sports Imports Big Ten All-Stars	Women's Open	5 th Gold
D.I.V.A.S	Women's AA	9 th Silver
TJ's	Women's AA	12 th Silver
Teamwerks	Women's A	17 th Copper
Ohio Tornadoes	Women's 60s	4 th Gold
Shiloh Industries	Men's B	12 th Copper
Michigan Wild	Men's 35s	4 th Gold
Westerville Volleyball Club 50s	Men's 50s	1 st Silver
Miami Valley Masters 55s	Men's 55s	1 st Silver
Miami Valley Masters 60s	Men's 60s	11 th Gold
Franklin County Flyers (Columbus)	Special Olympics	n/a

For pool, match, and game results, see USA Volleyball's documentation at www.usavolleyball.org/adult/02results.htm.

Articles submitted by several of the participating teams appear on the following pages. For more information on the USA Open Volleyball Championships, including information for 2003 when available, see www.ovr.org/mw/usopen/ (on the OVR site) and www.usavolleyball.org/adult/main.htm (on the USA Volleyball site).

(Continued on page 18)

Contributions Wanted!

The Ohio Valley Region's greatest strength is you, our members, and we welcome your insights. If you have a perspective, story, or photo you'd like to share for a future issue of *OVR The Block*, please contact editor@ovr.org.

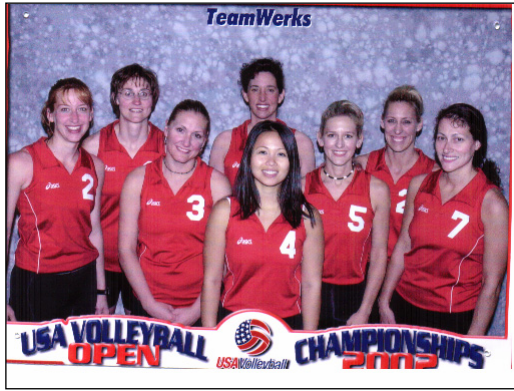
Future Board Meetings

- October 27, 2002 10:00 AM, Westerville
- January 20, 2003, time & location TBA

Board meeting schedules, minutes, and agendas are online at www.ovr.org/executive/.

2002 USA Volleyball Open Championships

TeamWerks



Stephanie Barrett, Kim Barber, Kim Bajko, Amy Tubbs, Trang Pham, Sherry O'Callaghan, Kathy Harris, Bridgette Samame.

We had a great time participating in our fourth Nationals. Our first two days we played well, but we missed qualifying for the Gold division by losing our last match to the defending women's A champs from 2001.

Even though we didn't qualify for gold, we definitely won the West End after hours division. Dallas was a fun city and the facilities were nice, despite the construction. Nationals are a great experience, and we are looking forward to representing the Ohio Valley Region again in Minneapolis next year.

We really appreciate our sponsors: Desperate Enterprises of Medina, OH and Superior Waterproofing and Restoration Company of St. Louis, MO. Their support made our trip possible.
— Kathy Harris

Ohio Tornadoes – Women's 60s

This was the first time the Ohio Tornadoes, the region's only Women's 60s team, played in the Nationals. Our team has competed at the events available for senior volleyball through the National Senior Games Association and the Huntsman World Senior games. The event was very enjoyable and very competitive. It was exciting to be a part a tournament with 36 courts of volleyball all under one roof! We hope to compete in future Nationals.
— Shelly Woodward

Michigan Wild – Men's 35s

We had a great time participating in our third straight Nationals. Coming off winning the Men's A Regionals in Columbus, we felt confident going into Dallas. After surviving an 18-hour minivan drive from Ann Arbor we were ready to play. However, we had to make major lineup adjustments from Regionals. Our normal setter, Todd Stamm, was unavailable, so we used Scott Mais, our libero, to set. In addition, we picked up Steve Crane from the Michiana Region to be used as the second middle. Middles Don Crandall and Eric Olsen were unavailable. In addition, our weak side lefty, Randy Stelpflug, could not make the trip

The first day we went 4-2. We beat Vail Sport from Colorado 2 out of 3 games and upset Maui Jim from California, winning 2 out of 3 games. The second day was not as fortunate: we dropped 2 to Team Brucer and lost 2 games to Richmond Volleyball Club. Tournament day on Friday started with defeating Vail; however, we were trounced in the second match by Maui Jim, led by fellow Michigander David Jack. The third match against Richmond was very hard-fought; however, we dropped the third game 15-11. Special thanks to Terry Miller for supporting us during the tournament! After a long night, we left Saturday morning and survived the long drive home.

Team members included Scott Mais, Kevin Patrick, John Rusaw, Steve Schwartz, Scott Reusze, Steve Crane, and Jeff Kless.
— Jeff Kless, Team Captain

Take your team to the 2003 US
Open ... watch for details at
www.ovr.org/mw/usopen/

2002 USA Volleyball Open Championships

Miami Valley Masters 55s



Kneeling (L to R) Steven DiBacco, John Wilder, Rick Laskey.
Standing (L to R) Howard Belsheim, Downey Young, Alan
Brunzman, Mike O'Hair, Terry Miller, Ivan Woltmann.

Seeded second in our pool, the Miami Valley Masters 55s team finished second, defeating Texas (25-23, 25-22) and Palmetto (25-27, 25-12, 15-5) and losing to Quicksilver (15-25, 11-25). In the second round of pool play we were not as fortunate, losing to Brazil, Warren Six Pak, and Rusty's.

In the Silver Division the team defeated People Against Drugs (11-25, 25-19, 15-10) and Dinosaurs (24-26, 25-19, 15-13), and we had our revenge against Warren Six Pak in the Silver Division Finals, winning the Silver Championships (16-25, 25-12, 15-9).

Members of the team were Howard Belsheim (West Des Moines, IA), Alan Brunzman (Yellow Springs, OH), Steven DiBacco (Huber Heights, OH), Rick Laskey (Xenia, OH), Terry Miller (Dayton, OH), Mike O'Hair (Hamilton, OH), John Wilder (Lafayette, IN), Ivan Woltmann (West Chester, OH), and Downey Young (Marietta, GA). — *Rick Laskey*

Miami Valley Masters 60s



Kneeling(L to R) Alan Brunzman, Tom Czechowski.
2nd Row(L to R) Jerry Osterholt, Shan Hise, Sim Garrett.
3rd Row (L to R) Tim Vaughan, Walt Deal, Tom Fulton.

The Miami Valley Masters 60's volleyball team participated in the 2002 USA Adult Volleyball Championships in Dallas, Texas during the Memorial Day Weekend. Playing in the 60-64 age group, the team went 1-4 in pool play, beating Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter of Virginia Beach, VA 2-1 and losing to Rusty's (Portland, OR), Texas SR 60 (Across, TX), Outback Steakhouse (Seattle WA) 0-2 and to Warren Six Pak (Warren, NJ) 1-2.

In the Gold Championship playoff the Masters went 0-2, losing both in close three-game matches to 6th-seeded MAC 60 (Glen Dale, MD) and 8th-seeded Automated Analysis (Ann Arbor, MI). Keystone Mac (Las Vegas, NV) won the championship, going undefeated in match play with Outback Steakhouse finishing second.

Members of the team were Alan Brunzman (Yellow Springs, OH), Tom Czechowski (Eden, NY), Walt Deal (Clearwater, FL), Sim Garrett (Lisle, IL), Shan Hise (Clearwater, FL), Jerry Osterholt (St. Henry, OH), Tim Vaughan (Chesterland, OH), and Tom Fulton (Troy, OH). The team enjoyed good fellowship and competition throughout the tournament. A big *Thank You* goes to our sponsor, Miami Valley Masters Volleyball Club of Xenia, OH.

2002 Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships & 2002 Junior Olympic Invitational Tournament

Congratulations to the 57 teams who represented the Ohio Valley Region at the National level, competing in the 2002 USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah (June 26-July 7) and at the Girls' Invitational Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky (June 27-30). The following teams qualified through a national qualifier tournament, an OVR Bid tournament, an open at-large bid, or a reallocated bid, or were invited by the USA Volleyball national office participate in the Invitational. Many club directors and coaches

contributed lively accounts (pages 22-33) of their teams' experiences in Salt Lake City and Louisville: literally "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

Stephen J. Donahue, OVR Verification Officer, provided the comprehensive list of teams. Finishing brackets and places were extracted from the final bracket results on the USA Volleyball website, which also contains the *Junior Journals*, photos, and pool results. For that complete account, visit www.usavolleyball.org/juniors/02_girlsresults.htm.

2002 Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships

18 Open

Sports Express Black 18-I	Bronze	3 rd
Adidas Penn Juniors 18-I	Flight 3	3 rd

18 Club

Mid Ohio Juniors 18 Sharks	Bronze	3 rd
Kaepa CVC 18 Black	Flight 2	2 nd
A.C.E. 18-I	Flight 2	5 th
Premier 18 Black Mavericks	Flight 3	5 th
CincyVBC 18-I	Flight 4	3 rd

17 Open

Dayton Juniors 17 Blue Angels	Gold	3 rd
Cincinnati Bullets	Silver	2 nd
Maverick Third Degree	Flight 3	3 rd

17 Club

Kaepa Toledo Volleyball Club 17-I	Bronze	1 st
North Shore 17 Gold	Bronze	5 th
Cincy Volleyball Club 17-I	Flight 3	5 th
Mid Ohio Juniors 17 Black	Flight 4	1 st

16 Open

Team Z	National Champions	
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16 Club

Team Atlantis Snipes	Silver	1 st
Mizuno Classics 16 Red	Silver	3 rd /4 th
Dayton Juniors	Silver	3 rd /4 th
Kaepa Toledo Volleyball Club 16-I	Bronze	1 st

15 Open

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Red	Silver	3 rd
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15 Club

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black	Gold	5 th
Kaepa Toledo VBC 15-I	Flight 1	2 nd
Eastside Cleveland Juniors 15 Navy	Flight 3	2 nd
Kaepa CVC 15 Black	Flight 3	5 th

14 Club

Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red	National Champions	
NKYVC – 14 Tsunami	Gold	5 th
Kaepa Toledo Volleyball Club 14-I	Bronze	1 st
NKYVC – 14 Tide	Bronze	5 th
Quicksilver 14-I	Flight 4	5 th

13 Club

Kaepa CVC Black	Gold	5 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red	Silver	5 th
NKYVC – 13 Tide	Flight 2	2 nd
Dayton Juniors 13-I (Sparklers)	Flight 3	3 rd

12 Club

Mizuno Cincy Classics 12 Red	Bronze	4 th
NKYVC – 12 Tide	Flight 1	5 th
Kaepa TVC 12-I	Flight 2	5 th

(Continued on Page 21)

2002 Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships & 2002 Junior Olympic Invitational Tournament

(Continued from Page 20)

2002 Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships All-Tournament Team

Eight girls competing on Ohio Valley Region teams were named for the all-tournament team at the 2002 USA Junior Olympic National Tournament.

17 Open

Carrie Demange	Dayton Juniors
Ali Hausfeld	Dayton Juniors

16 Open

Danielle Meyers	Team Z – also Most Valuable Player
Bryn Kehoe	Team Z
Beth Shelton	Team Z

16 Club

Nicole Fawcett	Team Atlantis Snipes
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15 Club

Jennifer Ramminger	Mizuno Cincy Classics Black
Ali Zimmerman	Mizuno Cincy Classics Black

2002 Junior Olympic Invitational Tournament

18s

Spirit 18 Pounders	Silver	1 st
Quicksilver	n/a	
Zero Gravity 18-1	Flight 1	2 nd

17s

Sports Express Red 17-1	Gold	2 nd
North Columbus 17 Gold	Silver	3 rd
Premier 17 Black (Raptors)	Bronze	2 nd
Kaepa CVC 17 Black	Flight 2	3 rd

16s

Premier Black Magic	Gold	1st
Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black	Bronze	2 nd
Kaepa CVC 16 Black	Flight 1	3 rd

15s

Premier 15 Black Outlaws	Gold	2 nd
NW Ohio – The Ultimate Force	Gold	3 rd
North Shore 15 Gold	Silver	5 th

14s

SW Ohio Thunderbirds – Green	Gold	3 rd
Cincy Volleyball Club 14-1	Silver	1 st
Northshore Gold	Silver	5 th
Kaepa CVC 14 Black *	Bronze	3 rd

13s

Borderline Juniors Liberty 13 *	Gold	3 rd
Cincy VBC 13-1 *	Gold	3 rd
Premier 13 Black Superstars	Silver	3 rd
Kaepa Toledo VBC 13-1 *	n/a	

12s

Cincy VBC 12 Red *	Gold	1st
Kaepa CVC 12 Black	Silver	5 th

2002 Boys' Junior National Championships Louisville, Kentucky, July 3-8, 2002

An OVR record of 23 boys' teams participated in the 2002 Boys' Junior National Championships in Louisville this past July. Those teams and their finishing positions included:

18 Open	CAVE	(Powell, OH)	29 (Flight 1)
	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	19 (Bronze)
18 Club	Buckeye VBC	(Dublin, OH)	33 (Flight 2)
	Dayton Boys VBC	(Dayton, OH)	25 (Flight 1)
	Northcoast VBC	(Akron, OH)	22 (Flight 1 Runner-up)
	Pittsburgh Elite	(Pittsburgh, PA)	31 (Flight 2)
	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	30 (Flight 2 Runner-up)
17 Open	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	27 (Flight 3)
17 Club	CAVE	(Powell, OH)	3 (Gold)
	Cincinnati Attack	(Cincinnati, OH)	9 (Silver Champion)
	Dayton Boys VBC	(Dayton, OH)	5 (Gold)
17 Open	Cincinnati Attack 16-1	(Cincinnati, OH)	31 (Flight 3)
	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	27 (Flight 2)
16 Club	Beaver Valley Premier	(Baden, PA)	27 (Flight 1)
	Cincinnati Attack 16-2	(Cincinnati, OH)	27 (Flight 1)
	Cincinnati Attack 16-3	(Cincinnati, OH)	29 (Flight 1)
	Dayton Boys VBC	(Dayton, OH)	29 (Flight 1)
	Northcoast VBC	(Akron, OH)	13 (Silver)
	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	29 (Flight 1)
14 Club	Buckeye VBC	(Columbus, OH)	34 (Flight 2 Runner-up)
	Cincinnati Attack	(Cincinnati, OH)	13 (Silver)
	Pittsburgh Elite	(Pittsburgh, PA)	26 (Flight 1 Runner-up)
	Tool City VBC	(Meadville, PA)	18 (Bronze Runner-up)

Monte Moser's article on the Dayton Boys VBC teams' trip to Nationals appears on pages 32-33.

— Emi Vishoot,
OVR Boys' Junior Volleyball Program Liaison

2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

Team Z 16-1

Salt Lake City Junior Olympics 2002 16 & Under National Champions

Day One – Playing in the 3/5 format, Team Z got off to a fast start, winning in three over Circle City 16-2 (12,11,20). CC 16-2 handed TZ a loss in the very first match of the JO season at a Central Zone event. A bit later that day TZ took on its first California opponent, defeating Delta Valley 16 Blue 29-27, 25-13, 25-12.

Day Two – The second day began fast again, with a 3-0 win over Front Range from Denver, CO (13, 21, 20). TZ's next opponent would be Austin Jrs. Navy. Austin featured a strong block and heavy hitting from antenna to antenna. While the match scores were close (26-28, 23-25, 25-21, 20-25), Team Z never did establish a comfortable pace as Austin avenged an earlier Mid East Qualifier defeat.

Day Three – Day three would be all about responding to the Austin loss. The morning started off with a 3-1 win over another nationally elite club, Tampa Bay Jrs., 25-17, 25-22, 23-25, 25-23. The last pool play had significant implications. A loss would mean a 3-way tie in the pool. A win would guarantee continuation in the Gold bracket. It was a five-game thriller against Copa Del Caribe Caribenas from Puerto Rico. Team Z prevailed 25-18, 25-18, 22-25, 26-28, 15-10. The tournament format required an extra match for 2nd- and 3rd-place pool finishers on day three. Team Z was cross-pooled with the vaunted Vision VBC from California. The Ohio girls prevailed in a 3-1 win 25-19, 25-12, 23-25, 25-17 to advance to the Gold Bracket.

Day Four – The last day of the tournament started with a foe/friend match that would determine advancement into the medal round. Munciana vs. Team Z over the past two seasons has produced many memorable matches and a number of continuing friendships. Day four produced another gut-wrenching contest. Team Z, down 8-3 at the turn, clawed their way back for a 16-14 win in game five. The semifinals were a rematch with Delta Valley Blue, with TZ advancing to the finals 3-0. The Championship match was with another national powerhouse, Milwaukee Sting. In front of a large crowd, Team Z lived out their dreams in a 3-1 win to become the USAV 2002 16-and-Under *National Champions*.

Team Z 16-1 team members included Julie Walroth (Oak Hills HS), Elaine Walroth (Oak Hills HS), Erin Kanetzke

(Ursuline HS), Brandie Molnar (Springboro HS), Beth Gillming (St. Ursula Academy), Beth Shelton (St. Ursula Academy), Bryn Kehoe (St. Ursula Academy), and Danielle Meyer (Mt. Notre Dame HS). Team Z is coached by Amy Kehoe and Rich Zeciski. Beth Shelton and Bryn Kehoe were All-Tournament Selections with Danielle Meyer selected as Tournament MVP. — Rich Zeciski, Director & Coach

Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red Take Nationals By Storm!



Front row: Katie Veatch, Gina Sabato.
Middle row: Nicole Dollries, Jaime Frey, Meagan Dooley, Madison Arents, Shelley Walroth.
Back row: Jessica Savage, Stephanie Roeper (coach), Victoria Randolph.

Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red qualified for the USA National Volleyball Tournament in April. All of their preparation that began in November of 2001 has finally paid off. They left for Sandy (a suburb of Salt Lake City), Utah on July 3rd not knowing what to expect when they got there. They were originally seeded 20th of 64 teams in the 14 Club division. They went through the entire tournament, 4 days of pool play, without losing one match (12-0), ending their season with a National Championship title. A team who had won their region (Ohio Valley Region) in May had traveled a long way to play against teams from all over the nation. Throughout their season they had won several tournaments that were held all over Ohio, but no one thought that a National Championship would be added to their list of many accomplishments. The girls had tryouts in November 2001 and have been working very hard 2-3 days every week, practicing for this one event! All of their

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2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

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hard work and dedication finally paid off when they walked away from Sandy, Utah with gold medals around their necks.

The following teams were among the 12 that Mizuno Cincy Classics defeated on their road to winning Nationals:

<i>Pool play, day 1</i>	Coast Jimmy, Tide Water, Iowa Power
<i>Pool play, day 2</i>	NKYVC Tide, KIVA White, Genesis Green
<i>Pool play, day 3</i>	St. Louis CYC, USA South, Club Momentum
<i>Quarter Finals</i>	NKYVC Tsunami
<i>Semi-Finals</i>	Cajunland Tommy
<i>Finals</i>	Seal Beach 14 Gold

Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red is coached by Stephanie Roeper, a graduate from the University of Findlay, where she played 4 years of varsity volleyball. She has just been hired as the head women's varsity volleyball coach at Fairfield High School and looks forward to a successful fall season.

— Stephanie Roeper

Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red

Sixty-four teams, or 16 pools of 4, began the tournament for the 16 Club Division. Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red started strong the first day by taking round one of pool play, winning against California's Team Complete Athlete, Iowa Power, and North Dallas.

The second day was tough, with two first- and two second-place teams from round one. Cincy Classics started off slow by losing their first match against Minnesota's Northern Lights. Although they lost the first match, they came on strong to win their next two matches against Hit Away (Texas) and Munciana Gators (Indiana).

By day three, 16 teams were still in it for the gold, and MCC played their worst day of the tournament. MCC started the day losing their first match to Olympia Relentless Pursuit in three tight games. Cincy continued to struggle and lost in two games to Centex. MCC pulled out a win against Mizuno M1 161 and finished third for the day. Finishing third knocked them out of the gold and into the silver bracket.

The fourth and final day, Mizuno Cincy Classics started strong by winning the first match against North Dallas but couldn't hold on in the semifinals. The loss to SW Minnesota Juniors placed Mizuno Cincy Classics in 11th position in the Silver Division.

Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black

Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black attended the Invitational Championships in Louisville, Kentucky in June. Here are the results:

Day 1 – Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black started the tournament strong winning three matches against San Gabriel, Tidal Wave, and the Dunes 16 Teal.

Day 2 – MCC Black continued to hold pace by taking three matches against Rolling Thunder, Sport Performance, and Circle City.

Day 3 – MCC won the first match against San Gabriel, but lost the second match to Spike Sport. MCC rallied to win a tight three-game match against South Central, finishing second in their pool. This placed them in the bronze bracket for day 4.

Day 4 – Cincy Classics started the day out with a win against Central Wisconsin but could not hold the course, losing the next match to Alabama Juniors in the finals. — Gina Litzler

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Red

The first day was CC 15 Red's best day. They fought back and beat some very good teams like Mizuno M-1 who made it to the Gold division. The team that was most surprising was Oahu. They were not a very tall team, but had good jump, were fast, and played great defense. Their style of play kept us out of sync most of the game. When we played our game, we were able to put the ball down. It was a great learning experience for the team, especially four first-year nationals players. Here is a quick recap of matches.

<i>Wednesday, 6/26</i>	Celtic Force	(25-22, 25-23)
	Team Complete Athlete	(25-22, 15-25, 15-13)
	Mizuno M-1	(17-25, 25-22, 15-13)
<i>Thursday, 6/27</i>	Alamo	(25-22, 25-12)
	Delta Valley VBC	(19-25, 25-23, 8-12)
	Oahu	(19-25, 13-25)
<i>Friday, 6/28</i>	Asics Munciana	(15-25, 21-25)
	Team St. Louis	(16-25, 23-25)
<i>Saturday, 6/29</i>	Oahu	(25-22, 21-25, 4-15)

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Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black started their road to Nationals in December. They began practicing 2-3 times a week, improving their game and setting their season goals high. The team played in challenging tournaments throughout the season in preparation for Nationals. It took them three tries to qualify for Nationals. 15 Black played in the Indy and Tampa qualifiers but failed to earn the national berth. They came in very close with both attempts, finishing a respectable 7th place. As the saying goes, the third time's a charm. At the OVR's regional qualifier, 15 Black came in 2nd, earning them a spot in the 15 Club Division in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On the first day of pool play, Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black got off to a good start, winning the first game against NASA 15, 25-18. The team then dropped the second game, 24-26, but rebounded in the third game 15-13 to win the match. 15 Black's second match of the day proved to be one of their easier ones. Playing with confidence, they took the match against Long Beach Club 15 Gold in two games: 25-21 and 25-19. The third and final match of the day was a difficult and trying one. 15 Black dropped the first game against Houston Jrs with a close score of 23-25. The team rebounded strongly the next game with a decisive 25-13 win, forcing the match to three games. Mizuno Cincy Classic Black won the third game in a dramatic 15-13 finish.

These three victories placed the 15 Black team first in their pool and earned them one of the eight coveted spots in the elite Gold Division. On Saturday at 8:00 AM, Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black played KC Power in the first round of play-offs. In a three-game battle, 15 Black lost, placing them 5th in the National Championships.

This team, Mizuno Cincy Classic 15 Black, has a lot to be proud of. They'd had a great season that enabled them to compete in Nationals and place 5th out of 64+ teams in the 15 Club Division. In addition to these accomplishments, two of the 15 Black players were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

— Al Roysse

Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red

Coach: Karen Lewis (Lew).

Players: Alison Bartish, Allison Bergheger, Maura Hovey, Hope Lohmueller, Sarah McGrath, Abby O'Connor, Kelsey Rose, Becky Shaffer, Kellie Torok.

Day 1, July 4 ... was great for Cincy Classics 13's, winning all three matches in two games each.

Match 1: Parkway Lightning VBC 13 Boltz (Manchester, MO)
We won the first game easily 25-18. Alli Bergheger started off with a run of 4 serves with PLB hitting long. Next Becky Shaffer had a streak of 5 serves resulting in points with the help of Kellie Torok and Kelsey Rose's strong net play. Kelsey finished the game with a great hit. The second game resulted in a 25-19 win for Cincy. Abby O'Connor played a great game at Libero. The combination of hits by Alli Bergheger and Kelsey Rose along with PLB serving long made this an easy win. Head coach Karen Lewis had this to say – "We Won – Woo Hoo. Despite first game jitters we played well".

Match 2: SW Minnesota Juniors 13s (Marshall, MN)
Cincy made the first game quick, winning 25-12. Hitting was strong by Kelsey Rose, Alison Bartish and Alli Bergheger. The 14th point was a great volley for both teams, with Cincy taking the point. Kellie Torok's great back-row hit and Sarah McGrath's block resulted in Cincy's 21st point. Hope Lohmueller's serves were great with multiple aces. Cincy Classics took the match in 2 games again, winning 25-22. Serving by Becky Shaffer, Hope Lohmueller and Alli Bergheger was strong. The game went back and forth between Cincy and SWM until it was tied at 22. Alli Bergheger took the serve when Cincy had 23 points and served out the game. It was strong defensive match with Cincy's back row, including Libero Abby O'Connor, playing very well.

Match 3: Maverick Volleyball Club 13-1 (San Antonio, TX)
Sarah McGrath started the game with a great ace serve. Kelsey Rose and Allison Bartish had a great block. Kelsey Rose then had a 6-serve streak to give Cincy a solid lead. Kellie Torok had a kill for our 18th point. Kelsey Rose's kill into the corner put Cincy ahead at 20-13. Becky Shaffer took the serve at 21-14 and served out for a final score of 25-14. Cincy once again won in two, with the second game score of 25-18. Becky Shaffer started off with a kill. Sarah McGrath had a great tip. Cincy fell behind during the middle of the game but came back strong with the help of Maura Hovey's strong hits and blocking by Sarah McGrath and Alli Bergheger.

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Day 2, July 5 ...

Match 1: Celtic Force 13 Green (Worth, IL)

Kelsey Rose started us off with great blocking. Becky Shaffer had a 6-serve streak to take us ahead 11-3. The Celtics went ahead 14-13. Alli Bergheger's ace serving along with Abby O'Connor's defensive play gave us the lead. Sarah McGrath stayed with the block to take Cincy ahead 21-14. Alli Bergheger had a streak of 5 good serves giving us a 25-23 win. Cincy started off slow with the Celtics taking a 12-6 lead. Kelsey Rose and Sarah McGrath had strong hits to the corner. Kelsey Rose served 5 straight to bring Cincy back 15-14. Hope Lohmueller's ace serving gave Cincy a 21-15 lead. Alli Bergheger served out the game giving Cincy a 25-16 win.

Match 2: Cal Juniors 13M (Norwalk, CA)

The first point was won with a great block by Sarah McGrath. Alli Bergheger tied up the game at 6 with a great hit. Kelsey Rose scored the 7th point with a hit to the corner. The game was tied again at 10 by a kill by Becky Shaffer. Both teams were evenly matched with the game being tied at the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 21st, and 22nd point. Cal Juniors pulled ahead and won the game 25-22. Cincy had to be proud of playing a great game of volleyball. In game 2, Sarah McGrath started out again with a great serve. Cincy fell behind 9-3 with Abby O'Connor executing a great dig to give Cincy their 4th point. Cincy fell down 15-8. Sarah McGrath served 6 screaming serves to bring Cincy back. Maura Hovey had a great up. Cincy lost this game 25-20.

Match 3: St. Louis CYC D L (St. Louis, MO)

Alli Bergheger started the game with 3 strong serves. Cincy fell down 21-14. Becky Shaffer had 3 strong serves to bring us back 22-19. The game was tied at 22. Cincy pulled ahead 24-22 and won with a strong block by Alison Bartish. Once again, Abby O'Connor was a strong defensive force. In the second game, Sarah McGrath gave Cincy their first point with a strong hit. Once again, these two teams were evenly matched with ties at 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9. Cincy fell behind 18-16. St. Louis won 25-18 despite strong hitting by Kellie Torok and Allison Bartish. In game 3, Cincy came out strong with a 14-6 lead. Kellie Torok had a string of strong serves to give Cincy the lead. Cincy took control and won 15-7.

Day 3, July 6 ...

Match 1: Encinitas YMCA 13-1 (Encinitas, CA)

Cincy started out with strong defensive play by Maura Hovey and Abby O'Connor. Encinitas played a different brand of volleyball with no blocking at the net, which made Cincy have to adjust their game. Cincy was outmatched in this game 25-11. In the second game, Cincy once again had a difficult time with the Encinitas different court play and size. Sarah McGrath had some nice hits into the corners and Cincy made a valiant attempt to cover the net. Size won, with Encinitas winning 25-10.

Match 2: Washington VBC 13 TJ (Pacific, MO)

Alli Bergheger started out the match with 3 great serves. Sarah was the next server firing off 2 aces. Kelsey helped the effort by strong hits down the line. The game was tied at 16 all. Cincy pulled ahead 20-17 with Kelsey Rose's well-placed ball to the corner. Sarah McGrath's block brought Cincy home with a 25-20 win. Game 2: Once again, Cincy and Washington were evenly matched at the beginning of the game staying even until the 8th point. Washington pulled ahead but Cincy fought back to tie the game at 21. Cincy played strong to finish out the game with a 25-22 win. Hope Lohmueller and Becky Shaffer had great setting games. Sarah McGrath had a strong serving and hitting game.

Match 3: 2nd City 13 Nike (Evergreen Park, IL)

Sarah McGrath took the first point with a kill. Kelsey Rose's tip at the net tied the game at 3-3. Cincy fell down 9-5 but came back to tie it at 13 with serving by Becky Shaffer. Kellie Torok had a great dig to put Cincy ahead 21-17. 2nd City came back to tie the game at 22. 2nd City pulled ahead to win the game 25-22. In game 2, Cincy rallied with great serving and strong movement on the court. Once again, both teams were evenly matched and the score reflected it with ties at 3, 9, 12, 14, 16, and 18. Maura Hovey's strong serves pulled Cincy ahead 21-18. Cincy played a strong offensive game to win 25-19. Alli Bergheger game 3 with an ace. Cincy fell down 9-5 but quickly rallied to tie the game at 11. Maura Hovey had a strong hit for Cincy's 12th point. Becky Shaffer hit the back line to close 2nd City's lead to 14-13. Cincy played strong but lost 15-13 in game 3.

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Playoff Round: Cincy vs. 2nd City

Due to a three-way tie for second place in our pool, there was a playoff. Cincy had a bye the first round due to the point differential. After 2nd City won the first game against Washington VBC, they played Cincy. Cincy fell down quickly 5-0. Alli Bergheger's hitting brought the game to 9-3. Cincy rallied, but wasn't strong enough to get back into the game. 2nd City won 15-11. The Mizuno Cincy Classic 13 Red team qualified for the Silver Bracket – one of the top 16 teams in the country.

Day 4 – July 7 ... Silver Tournament, First Round: Midwest Select Starz (Fenton, MO)

Kelsey Rose and Alison Bartish worked together at the net with strong blocking. Kelly Torok had a nice up that Sarah McGrath took advantage of for a strong kill. This tied the game at 9. Hope Lohmueller had a 4 point serving streak to take Cincy ahead 12-10. Kelsey Rose had a great hit to the corner to pull ahead 19-14. Cincy stayed strong to win 25-22. Cincy started game 2 slow when Midwest went ahead 4-1. Abby O'Connor's great defensive play along with the consistent setting afforded Maura Hovey the chance to have numerous strong hits. Cincy fought hard to bring the score back to 13-9 Midwest. Cincy won their 13th point by sheer hustle. Midwest won the second game 25-19. Alli Bergheger won the first point of game 3 with a great kill. Sarah McGrath's string of ace serves took Cincy ahead 4-1. Hitting by Cincy's front row took Cincy ahead 13-12. Midwest tied the game at 13 and pulled ahead to win 15-13.

After losing to Midwest Select Starz, the team went to cheer (loudly) and show support for the Cincy Classics 14 Red team which won the 14 Club Tournament. The Cincy Classics 13 Red team finished the JO National Championships tied for 13th in the country. The experience is one that the players and their families will never forget.

— *Chris Shaffer*

Mizuno Cincy Classics – 12 Red

Our Cincy Classics 12 Red team was very excited about competing at Nationals this year. Some players were first-year junior olympic athletes while others were second-year. Several players had big sisters who had competed at Nationals before or were competing this year at the same time, making for even

more excitement.

The Mizuno Cincy Classics 12 Red team started off the first day rather anxious but settled down to win the first match against Front Range 12 Pink in three games. Our second match found us playing much more confidently, and we beat Milwaukee Sting 12 Gold in two games. The last match of the day was the most challenging, against HP Kaepa Impact, and we just couldn't close a game that match. The team was very excited about the caliber of play they experienced on the first day and knew it would be even tougher on the next day as we were still in contention for Gold.

Despite being really pumped up for the second day of competition, those old butterflies came back with a vengeance. Combine that with some really good competition, and needless to say the day just did not go well for us. We faced really good teams that day in Asics Kiva 12 Red, South Central 121 and Austin Jrs. 12 Navy Kaepa – they played awesome. Though we played up to the competition most of the time, we were just unable to close a match that day. Our team was sadly disappointed to be out of the running for Gold, but we had a team meeting that night and set our sights enthusiastically on the Bronze medal.

After the previous day's competition we wondered how we would start off the day: nervous or confident? Well, we took our first match against TES Lightning and then went on to play even more confidently against High Country 12 and won that match, which put us in the finals against Asics Mid-America 12-1. This was a really exciting and intense match. Our girls played their hearts out but we were unable to defeat our opponents. I think our team was actually more sad that it meant the experience of Nationals was over as opposed to the actual defeat. This placed us at a ranking of #20 overall, which was great for our first time at Nationals.

Overall this was an exciting experience for our girls. Many had never been to Salt Lake City before. The added opportunity of watching the USA women's team was a lot of fun as well. We met some really great coaches and players who exhibited super sportsmanship. The officials were professional, humorous, and very helpful, and the whole event seemed well-run. We are proud of what we accomplished this year, and I know many are already envisioning next year. However, next year once again we will be aiming for Gold.

— *Nann Grome, Coach*

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Toledo Volleyball Club Bottles Bronze in SLC

Toledo Volleyball Club's 14-1, 16-1 and 17-1 teams each won bronze in the club division in Salt Lake City, finishing 17th out of 64 teams.

The 16-1 team, coached by Shelli Smith, kicked off the Bronze Fest. After going 3-0 on their first day of play, they found themselves on Day 2 in the pool with the tournament's top seed and eventual champion. As luck and volleyball would have it, also in the pool was the #8 seed and our good friends, Team Atlantis. It was a long day, and Atlantis avenged our victory at Regionals, beating us in 2. We then lost to Nebraska and finished the day with our best play against St. Louis CYC, winning the first game, losing the second, and losing a heartbreaker in the third. Day 3, we looked for some redemption and won all of our matches. We saved our best play for tournament play winning big and getting a little redemption ourselves against Nebraska for the bronze title.

The 17-1s found themselves in a similar situation, though they arrived there a little differently. 17-1, coached by Sonny Lewis, also went 3-0 the first day and advanced to the top pool for day 2. Again, as luck and volleyball would have it, they went 2-1 on Day 2 and were in a 3-way tie to continue in gold. They lost a tiebreaker and ended the day in 3rd place. The tiebreaker would be the last match the team would lose, finishing the tournament in 17th place and winning the bronze division.

By the time the 14-1 team arrived in SLC, they had heard about the bronze babes and were hoping to improve the club's position. The 14-1s, coached by John Buck, finished 2-1 on Day 1 and stayed in the top half of the bracket. Once again, Day 2 was TVC's Achilles' heel and the 14-1s lost every match. Bronze was now the team's goal. And it was achieved in fine fashion with excellent play on Day 3 and 4.

The 15-1 team missed the clinic on finishing in bronze and lost in the finals of Flight 1. This was their first visit to nationals since they were 12 year olds, and they are committed to returning next year and finishing higher than any other TVC team. The team, coached by Jaime Walton, started out like gangbusters, barely breaking a sweat in their first day, winning all of their matches in 2. Day 2, was well, Day 2, and they lost all 3 matches. They were still hoping to make it to bronze, but one match on Day 3 got in their way. They fought hard and lost a tough one in the finals of flight 1 – still a respectable 27th out of 64 teams.

The 12-1 team, coached by Tom Duran, enjoyed their visit to Salt Lake City and their first experience in the big leagues. Unfortunately they had more fun sight seeing than they did playing volleyball. But, it was a learning experience and they are hoping to get another chance next year. They finished 35th out of 48 teams.

TVC is very proud to have represented the Ohio Valley Region and to have sent 5 teams to nationals. Our goal for 2003 is to send a team in every age group to nationals! Special thanks to the OVR Board for their support of volleyball in Northwest Ohio.

— Michelle Hills, Director

Kaepa Cleveland Volleyball Company – 13 Black

Even though 7 out of 9 players from the CVC 13 Black Team were returning to Utah again to represent their club team in the Junior Nationals, the thrill and excitement still existed. From the moment we qualified at our Bid Tournament until we hugged good bye on the flight home, it's an experience our team will always remember. Meeting girls from all over the nation, exchanging gifts with each other, having the same goals and dreams. I can hardly wait for my school volleyball season to end only because I know it's time for club season to begin! Thank you to all the people that make this possible. We appreciate it, we love it, and can't wait for it all to begin again in 2003.

— Hannah Brown

Kaepa Cleveland Volleyball Company – 18 Black

The Kaepa CVC 18 Black team had a successful National experience. The team finished 33rd out of 66 with a predominantly 17s team. Our two seniors, Julie Lewis and Jamie Herr, are headed off to college in August to Northern Kentucky and Walsh University respectively. We wish them well! The rest of the team will be back next year. (We know you can't wait, Troy.) The rest of the team consisted of 5 juniors, Kris Brown, Kailee Goold, Jessica Pompei, Brittany Alaburda, and Katie Tobiasz, and one sophomore, Jill Quayle. This team had a good time and played some solid volleyball.

— Jill Pompei, Kaepa CVC Coaching Supervisor

Kaepa Cleveland Volleyball Company – 15 Black

For six years, it has been my dream to go to Nationals. Two years ago, my team attended the Denver qualifier and placed 2nd in the club division. That was one year after the rule was

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changed to allow only the 1st-place team to qualify. The following year we just didn't play well at the Bid Tournament and once again did not qualify. It was torture! This season, I began coaching a new team and qualified for the Junior National Championships for the first time! My high school team qualified for State this past fall and now my club team had qualified for Nationals all in one year! It was unbelievable! I had met two of my goals within a matter of months.

Nationals was everything I thought it would be...all the college coaches, watching the best high school and middle school players in the country, meeting coaches from all over the country, and seeing the Women's National Team play! My goal now is to continue this dream and return to Nationals again next year. It was an experience I'll never forget!

— Rich Severino, Coach

Sports Express Red 17-1

We started this tournament not really knowing how we would do. Most of the team was tired and not focused. We just returned from a tournament in Chicago and only had two days of rest. Pool play started bright and early on Thursday, which wasn't a good thing trying to get a group of 17 year old girls up and ready to play at this time in the morning. To the parents and my surprise; the team started with a bang! We ended that day of pool the same as we did the rest of the week—undefeated, until we met up with the Lions VBC. We had beat them once, fairly easily, but played with our heads down the second match. It was upsetting to lose our first match of the week, but we knew what needed to be done to get to the finals. That is what this team did, they played their hearts out and made it to the championship. As we looked to see whom we were to play, our hearts pounded as we saw the Lions warming up. We had to get them back! Unfortunately, we did not play as well as we could have the first game of the match, and the Lions took it from us rather easily, but did we ever come back. Although we lost one of our outside hitters in the second game, we still came from behind and surprised the Lions, our parents, and the referees to get the win. It came down to the final match. We fought hard and long. We played with every last bit of energy we had, but couldn't hold on. We came in second place, but could not have been more proud. We did our best and that is all you can ask for.

— Jeni Case, Club Director

Sports Express Black 18-1

We were very excited this year to go to nationals in Utah, but didn't know exactly what to expect. We received an at-large bid to play 18 Open. This was the first time we played Open at nationals, so we were a little nervous. Most of the girls on the team are going on to play in college, so we figured playing Open would be very beneficial. There was some unbelievable volleyball being played in the 18 Open division.

We started off the first match going into 5 games, but winning 18-16 in the 5th game. It was good to have that happen right away, because playing the best of 5 was new to the girls also. We won the 2nd match fairly easy and we were done for the day! It was a pretty good way to start off the tournament. The next day we played Texas Advantage, a very good team, and beat them in 3 games. Everyone on the team played outstanding! We won 30-28, 27-25, 25-19. So here we were still undefeated! All we had to do was beat Munciana and the worst we could have done was silver! Needless to say, we ran out of gas and got beat in 3 games. The 3rd day was the hardest. We had to play City Beach and Sports Performance back to back. We lost each match in 3, but did have some pretty close games with both teams. This put us in the bronze division which was the top 16. The last day we played Houston Juniors in the semi-finals of the bronze and lost in 5 games! This match was disappointing because I know we were a better team than they were and we just didn't play with a lot of heart! I guess by the 4th day when you're not going for gold, it makes it hard to keep up the intensity.

Overall, it was a very successful trip. We played 2 of the teams that made it to the final four in gold, we won 3 matches, and the girls became better players by playing that level! We had a very successful year, and the girls should be proud of themselves and all that they have accomplished! We came in 4th at the 18 Open Mideast Qualifier and were seeded 32nd out of 36 teams, won the OVR Regional Championships, came in 3rd at the Asics Championships in Chicago and got a 15th in the 18 Open National tournament! Way to go Sports Express!

— Jeni Case, Club Director

Premier 15 Black Outlaws

Premier 15 Black Outlaws traveled to the National Junior Invitational. The team started off the tournament in great standings, finishing 3-0 in their first two rounds of play. The third

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2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

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day, the team went 2-1, but still managed to make it into the Gold Bracket. On the fourth and final day, the team played the best volleyball of their season and advanced to the final round. The gold medal match against the undefeated Wisconsin Juniors was before a crowd of hundreds and played right next to the final match of the 16s division, where Premier 16-1 was competing. All looked to be going Premier's way as they jumped out and won Game 1. Wisconsin, however, won the greatly-fought match, with Premier taking second place in the Gold Division.

Premier 15-1 had two USA All-Tournament Selections on the team: Morgan Ammons (Findlay, OH) and Lauren Henning (Bowling Green, OH). The team is coached by Brian Yale, Head volleyball Coach at Genoa High School and Co-Club Director of Premier. It was great to see the team compete in such a great event and a new addition to USA Volleyball National events. — *Jodi Schramm and Brian Yale*

Premier 18 Black Mavericks Travel to Two National Championships

June 13-19, they flew to Orlando, FL to compete in the AAU National Championships for the fourth straight year. They have finished in the top five in all four years, this year placing third. They went undefeated, having played some great teams including five Sports Performance teams, until the match against nationally-ranked KIVA, and then came back and beat Orlando Volleyball Academy to get into the final four. The famous Sports Performance 18-1 team stopped their try for National Champions. Premier played a great match, and we are proud of all of the players on the team for a great match to watch in front of a crowd of hundreds. This year, Ashlei Nofzinger was named a three-time AAU All-American Selection at the tournament.

Premier then trained another week and headed off to Salt Lake City to compete in the USA National tournament for the third straight year. Returning as the Silver Champions (9th place overall) from 2001, they looked to do well again. However, Orlando Volleyball Club stopped them in a three-game match that took them out of gold contention on the first day. From there the team could not find the tools needed to bounce back to play great volleyball and dropped another match on the second day. Day three proved to be better, going undefeated, but in the end the team finished in 42nd place.

Playing the best teams in the country is hard anywhere you do it. We are proud of our team for qualifying once again and for representing themselves very well in Salt Lake City. All but two of the players on the team are off to college to play.

Premier 16 Black Magic

Premier Volleyball Club, based in Maumee, Ohio, qualified four teams to the National Invitational tournament. We had our 13s, 15s, 16s, and 17s teams competing against volleyball teams from all over the US. Our 18s team qualified for the USA Nationals in Salt Lake City.

The highest finish: Premier 16 Black Magic won the 16s division, finishing first out of 32 teams. Their overall match record for the tournament was 10-1, dropping only one match to Sports Performance Red (Naperville, IL). Sports Performance Red was the team that Premier beat in the finals, defeating them in 2 games. Premier 16 Black Magic's results were:

- Day 1 defeated Great Lakes 16-1
defeated Arizona E. Valley Jrs.
defeated Rolling Thunder 16 Blue
- Day 2 defeated CVC 16 Black
defeated Lakes 16-1
defeated Tampa Sand Spurs
- Day 3 defeated Sports Performance 16 White
defeated Stewie Blue
lost to Sports Performance 16 Red (in three)
- Day 4 *Championship/Gold playoffs*
Semifinals: defeated KIVA 16 White 25-12, 23-25, 15-13
Finals: defeated Sports Performance Red 25-17, 25-20

Three Premier 16 Black Magic players earned national recognition: #6 Callie Miller (Anthony Wayne HS) and #8 Laurie Schade (Maumee HS) made the All-Tournament team, and #3 Elizabeth Simon (Bowling Green HS) was named Tournament MVP. The roster also included #1 Courtney Nissen (Genoa HS), #2 Brooke Amstutz (Northview HS), #4 Caitlin Scannell (St. Ursula Academy), #5 Erin Baier (Northview HS), #7 Beckie Lowery (Fremont St. Joseph HS), #9 Courtney Nelson (Bowling Green HS), #19 Haley Eshleman (Fremont St. Joseph HS), and Coach Heather Grieser. — *Jodi Schramm*

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2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

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Premier 17 Raptors

Premier Volleyball Club's 17-1 Team, the Raptors, finished in 12th place at the National Junior Invitational Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Out of 28 teams participating, the Raptors took second place in the Bronze division. Coached by Michelle McCord and Craig Vlietstra, the Raptors took second place in their pool on the first day of competition. On days two and three, losses to three teams by two points in game three placed the Raptors in the Bronze division. A great win against Club Sport (CA) in the Bronze semis put the Raptors in the finals against San Gabriel (CA), a team the Raptors beat in pool play on day one. A victory was not to be this time, though, as the Raptors lost to San Gabriel (CA) in two to take second in Bronze. Standouts for the Raptors at Louisville included Karyn Thomas (Soph. MB from Findlay, OH), Kelly Harms (Jr. OH from Bowling Green, OH) and Noelle Owen (Jr. OH from Rossford, OH). Premier Volleyball club is proud of the 17 Raptors for a good showing at the National Tournament, one of 6 Premier teams to qualify in 2002. Congratulations Raptors!
— Jodi Schramm

Premier 13 Black Superstars

Premier 13 Black Superstars were one of Four Premier teams that traveled to the Junior Olympic Invitational Tournament. The team was very excited about going to the event because it was new and the girls had never traveled to a national tournament before. They took a month off from playing in tournaments due to two major injuries on the team. When it was time to play, all ten girls were at the tournament, with only one player with a broken leg. The girls played very well on the first day, going 2-1 and dropping a match to OVR rival Cincy Classics.

The next day the competition was even better in the upper bracket. Premier ended up in a tie-breaker and won it in the end to go to the Gold/Silver round. On the third day, the team dropped a match, putting them in the Silver bracket for the last day. The team suffered two more injuries that day, putting the team at 7 players. The Superstars came out playing very well but lost in the second round, earning the team 7th place.

We are so proud of the 13s for going to the NIT and playing so well. It was a great experience and well-run event for USA Volleyball. The team is coached by Melissa Smith, Varsity Coach at Sylvania Northview High School.

NKYVC Reaches New Heights in OVR and Nationals

It's been a busy and exciting season for NKYVC in the Ohio Valley Region this year. In its inaugural season, the Northern Kentucky-Ohio Volleyball Club has a lot to be proud of, sending 4 of its 8 teams to the USA Nationals in Salt Lake City.

The following coaches and players represented NKYVC and the OVR:

12 Tide – Head Coach Sara Palazzo

Katelynn Bachman, Maggie Bowers, Meagan Dunn, Jessica Kramer, April Lubrecht, Kenzie Martin, Sarah Robinson, Cristin Shaughnessy, Nicole Staverman

13 Tide – Head Coach Angie Boden

Elizabeth Carl, Rachel Gadberry, Aimee Ryan, Rebecca Sebastian, Lauren Snyder, Allison Stark, Liza Toebe, Danielle Wurtz

14 Tide – Head Coach Maureen Donnellan

Allie Bertke, Abbey Blank, Sarah Crossman, Stephanie Hemmer, Kristy Hock, Andrea Price, Emma Kate Raver, Jenna Siemer, Lindsay Zumdick

14 Tsunami – Head Coach Jill Bornhorn

Nicole Baker, Megan Dooley, Jessica Isaac, Alex Klein, Katelyn Luckman, Sara Meineke, Hillary Otte, Jennifer Suedkamp, Stephanie Ward

All season long the coaches, players and their teams worked hard to prepare for the OVR bid tourney and then Nationals. And upon their arrival to SLC, NKYVC had one goal in mind: work hard, play hard, and have fun. For all the NKYVC teams, Nationals were a great opportunity to meet new people, watch great volleyball, and learn more about the sport and each other on many levels.

Dreams were realized, goals were met, some disappointments were inevitable, but the total experience each player took away from Nationals will be forever. NKYVC left Salt Lake City with a smile on their faces and a mission in their minds of how they will get back to Nationals again next year.

So congratulations to all the members of the NKYVC family. All season long you earned every point, every game, every match, and made it to Nationals. *Way to go!*

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2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

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Cincy VBC

Cincy VBC sent three teams to the Invitational in Louisville and two teams to Nationals in Salt Lake City. Our 12s accomplished the best, winning the gold in Louisville. This was an exciting moment for our young team to experience such an awesome awards ceremony for the first time in their careers as junior Olympic volleyball players. Just as it was a positive emotional remembrance for our players, it was a proud occasion for our parents. Our 13s also took part in an award ceremony, placing third overall and receiving the bronze medal.

Our 14s lost a tough match at the Invitational on the third day of pool play, bumping them down to the silver division, which they later won.

Our 18s made the trip to Salt Lake for the players' first-ever appearance to nationals. It was a great accomplishment in itself to be at playing at such caliber play for the first time in their careers. Five players returning next year hope to return as true 18 and under players after being part of the excitement of Nationals once before.

Our 17s made a fifth appearance at Nationals, competing for their dream of champions. However, both the 17s and 18s lost some great 2-point games and did not end up as far as they had dreamed.

Hats off to all the USVBA in making this another pleasurable year for Cincy VBC. — *Mindy Leonard*

Mid Ohio Juniors 18 Sharks

The Mid-Ohio Juniors 18 Sharks finished 19th at the 2002 USA Volleyball Junior Nationals in Salt Lake City, Utah in early July. The team was eliminated in the semi-finals of the bronze bracket by Austin Juniors. With the 19th spot, Mid-Ohio became the highest finisher from the Ohio Valley Region in the 18 Club division. One of the highlights was playing the first day against Players Volleyball Club from Orem, Utah, and Junior National Team player Kristen Richards. Mid-Ohio lost in two, but gave a valiant effort against a very talented Players team that eventually won the Club National Championship. Team members were: Allison Barnes and Danielle Holt of Galion, Jessica Fick of Fremont, Ashley Balogh of Clyde, Ashley Hill of Bellevue, Keri Kuhlman of Shelby and Jenna Maddocks of Norwalk. Joe Fick of Fremont coached the Mid-Ohio 18s, who qualified for nationals by winning the Northeast Qualifier in Baltimore in March. Congratulations on a great season! — *Jill Fick*

Mid Ohio Juniors 17 Black

Mid Ohio Juniors 17 Black qualified for the 2002 USA Volleyball Junior Nationals at the OVR Bid tournament. This was the first time that all of the girls on the team had ever been to nationals, which made it extra special to have the opportunity to participate. The team worked hard to prepare for nationals by having extra practices and scrimmages. They also worked hard at fund raising to help offset their travel expenses by selling candy bars, suckers, candles, cookie dough, washing cars, writing sponsor letters, and even parking cars at Norwalk Raceway. As the trip approached the girls grew closer together as a team, so much so that we even decided to stay together in a large vacation home near Brighton ski area; yep all 24 of us (players, parents, siblings, grandma, and coaches, too!) On the first day we struggled, I think it was nerves, but after realizing that it was still the same volleyball game we played in Ohio, the girls pulled it together. Playing better and better each day, winning more and more matches. This hard work and fantastic season paid off, Mid Ohio Juniors 17 Black won Flight 4, placing 49th. Mid Ohio 17 Black was composed of freshmen Tiffany Uhler (Hillsdale) and Erica Short (Orrville), sophomore TaNeisha Winters (Orrville), and juniors Brittany Rowe (Orrville), Kristen Playko (Norwalk St. Paul), Amanda Hoeft (Wynford), Ashley Kimmel (Buckeye Central), and Leah Wilson (Norwalk St. Paul). Mid Ohio 17 Black was coached by Melissa and Tom Fittante. — *Melissa Fittante*

Dayton 17-1 places 5th in Inaugural National Championships

The first-ever trip to the Boys Junior Nationals by the Dayton Boys VBC was a combination of fun, success, and valuable experience for everyone involved. Three teams represented the Ohio Valley Region from the Dayton area in the 18 Club, 17 Club, and 16 Club divisions, with the 17s team placing 5th overall and team member Bret Versen selected to the 17 Club All-Tournament team.

Dayton 18-1 began their Nationals experience with opening-day losses to Colorado Gold 18, Arizona Absolute, and Pittsburgh Elite Black. Day two began with a rematch loss to Pittsburgh Elite Black, followed by two three-game wins over West Coast Black and friendly inter-region rival Northcoast 18 Gold. A disappointing early loss to California Foothills 18-1 on day three was balanced with a win over

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2002 Junior National Volleyball Championships

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Renaissance White to qualify the team for Flight One on the final day of competition. Dayton 18-1 ended the four-day tournament with a 25-16, 22-25, 12-15 loss to Santa Monica Beach Club 18 Red in the quarter-finals of the Flight 1 bracket to finish tied for 25th out of 36 teams. Members of the squad were Kevin Boehmer, Eric Franz, Jeremy Hartke, Matt Koons, Kevin Schultz, John Stahly, Jeremy Waldron, Zach Wilson, and coaches Jill Boehmer and Monte Moser.

Dayton 17-1's desire for a national championship opened well with three first-day wins over California Club Sport, Utah Twin Peaks, and Long Island VBC Gold. A hard-fought 21-25, 25-23, 13-15 loss to Puerto Rico Arsel VBC early on day two toughened the team, and they responded with easy wins over Pacific Waves and West Coast Black in their climb to the top. Day three was split between a loss to eventual national runner-up Renaissance Red and a win over NY Power Station to qualify the team for the Gold division bracket. The team ended its run for a national championship to Long Island VBC Elite in the Gold quarter-finals, 19-25, 18-25, to finish 5th out of 32 teams. In addition, team member Bret Versen was named to the All-Tournament team. Players for Dayton 17-1 included Adam Brust, Reed Chilton, Ben Devine, Tim Green, Andrew McFarlin, David Millward, Josh Millward, Bret Versen, and coaches Erik Versen and Jim Wannemacher.

Dayton 16-1's goal of "gain experience and steal a few matches" started as a good learning experience with opening day losses to Balboa Bay White, Wisconsin Tosa, and NY Power Station. Day two saw more determination on everyone's face, and following a first-match loss to inter-region rival Cincinnati Attack 16-3, the team responded with wins over Houston Mizuno and Maryland VBP Black. This success was continued on the third day with great defense and strong attacks to defeat California Club Marauder and Addison 16-2 to qualify for Flight 1 of day four's playoffs. Dayton 16-1's winning streak ended with the opening-round match against eventual bracket champion Asics Mid-America, 25-23, 18-25, 7-15, to finish tied for 29th out of 40 teams. The squad consisted of players Dylan Balser, Ryan Devine, Michael Earman, Tyler Jolly, Jesse Manders, Scott Mayer, Kyle Paxson, Brad Zavakos, and coach Gary Parker.

This was a great opportunity and wonderful experience for all involved. We appreciate the assistance provided by Ron Wyzynski and Steve Donahue in helping us with this endeavor and hope we've represented the OVR well. We look forward to next year's championships.

— Monte Moser

Director, Dayton Boys VBC

In Memoriam – John Ketchum

John W. Ketchum, born in Piqua, Ohio, died on June 30, 2002. John, known as "Mr. Volleyball" in Columbus, began playing volleyball at the age of 16 and played into his 50s. He was extremely active with the United States Volleyball Association, bringing the USVBA National Open Championships to Columbus in 1952, serving on committees for National Tournament Site Selection, Public Relations, Olympic Selections and player and team eligibility, and serving as Vice-President from 1962-1969. Donations in remembrance of John should be made to any children's charities, USAV, or the American Cancer Society. John will be remembered most for his kind and thoughtful treatment of any and all who met him. A Memorial Service will take place in early September.

A fuller biography for John, doing greater justice to his remarkable dedication, is available on USA Volleyball's website (www.usavolleyball.org/news/news.asp?id=111).

The 2003 OVR Handbook will
be published in November...

www.ovr.org/handbook/

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(OVR HP Teams Excel at Volley Classic, continued from page 1)

Wick Colchagoff (head coach, University of Findlay) and Don Burroughs (assistant coach and OVR HP director) led the OVR HP Junior team, and Carlos Chia (head coach, Northern Kentucky University) and Michelle Buck (assistant coach) led the Youth team to those impressive results. Additional details on the OVR high performance program are available at our website: www.ovr.org/juniors/hp/.

It was a great week of volleyball with a super group of athletes for the OVR. Our whole region should be proud of these athletes.

— Don Burroughs

OVR HP Junior Team Results – 2nd Place, Gold Division

Pool Play

OVR def. New England Region	25-13 25-13 25-21
OVR def. British Columbia	26-24 25-16 27-25
OVR def. Intermountain Region (A)	25-23 25-22 25-15
OVR def. Puerto Rico	25-22 19-25 25-20 25-19
OVR def. Florida	25-11 25-19 25-21

Playoffs

OVR def. Puerto Rico	16-25 25-16 25-23 25-19
USA National def. OVR	25-14 25-15 23-25 25-17

OVR HP Youth Team Results – 4th Place, Gold Division

Wednesday

OVR def. New England Region	25-12, 25-17, 25-18
Badger Region (Wisconsin) def. OVR	(0-3)

Thursday

OVR def. Arizona	23-25, 25-23, 25-18, 25-17
OVR def. Intermountain Region (Utah)	(3-0)

Friday

Intermountain Region (Utah) def. OVR	17-25, 20-25, 20-25
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Saturday

OVR def. Sun Country (New Mexico)	20-25, 23-25, 25-22, 25-22, 15-11
Great Lakes Region def. OVR	15-25, 25-23, 27-25, 18-25, 7-15
Badger Region def. OVR	25-20, 25-16, 22-25, 19-25, 13-15

(OVR HP Teams Excel at Volley Classic, continued from page 1)

State Park lodge, held in conjunction with the annual two-day August board meeting/retreat.

Rick's contributions to the Ohio Valley Region have been profound. Rick began playing volleyball at Antioch in the early '70s. He started officiating rec league volleyball in Yellow Springs in 1978, Ohio HS in 1980, and college in 1984. Rick attained his USAV National Referee rating in 1987, his PAVO National Referee in 1988, and he has been Chairman of the Southwestern Ohio Board of Officials, 1986 to date. Rick was first elected to the Ohio Valley Region Board of Directors in the mid-1980's, and he was appointed as Regional Referees' Chairperson for the OVR in 1992. Rick has also served as tournament director for the annual Air City Tournament in Dayton since 1992. He routinely participates in men's competition both in the Ohio Valley Region and at Nationals with the Miami Valley Masters.

Rick recently resigned his Referees' Chair position and board seats to relocate to North Carolina with his wife, Connie. We wish them happiness and prosperity in their new home.

— NN

Need a team or a player for
the coming season?
Try the Players' Connection...

www.ovr.org/connections/

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

Look forward to additional updates for the 2003 season, results from the October board meeting, and more awards for meritorious service. And, as always, *OVR The Block* will feature insightful commentary from our officers and board members, complemented by member contributions. Contact us at editor@ovr.org if you'd like to submit an article.

Advertising to the Ohio Valley Region

Do you want to reach more than 12,676 USA Volleyball, collegiate, high school, and recreational players, coaches, team reps, officials, parents, fans, and enthusiasts?

Advertising space is available in *OVR The Block* and also on www.ovr.org, tailored to suit your organization's individual needs. For information, contact Nick Nystrom at nystrom@ovr.org or (412) 372-1817.

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Board of Directors' Terms (BoD, above) expire

5/31/03: Dixon, Donahue, Salvatore, Vishoot, Buck
5/31/04: Hemelgarn, Herbert, Laskey, Nystrom, Price
5/31/05: Dickenson, Faura, Miller, Purdy, Zehler

Officers' Terms (3-year, except as noted) expire

8/31/03: Registrar, Junior Officials' Development Director,
Juniors' Program Director
8/31/04: Regional Referees' Chairperson, Women's Tournament Dir.
8/31/05: Commissioner (4-year term)
8/31/05: Men's Tournament Director, Regional Scorekeepers'
Chairperson, Juniors' Tournament Director

The calm before the storm



Nikki Nystrom

Bill Fox serves up a hot dog to Bob Price at a cookout following the August board meetings.

Keep 'em coming, Bill ... another record-breaking season is quite possibly on its way!

Calendar

Men's and Women's Competition

January 4-5 and 11-12 2003: kickoff tournaments at KSU

January-April: competition continues...

www.ovr.org/mw/tournaments.php

April 12-13, 2003: Ohio Valley Regional Volleyball Championships,
Greater Columbus Convention Center

www.ovr.org/mw/regionals/

Juniors' Competition

Tryouts: following your state's state volleyball championships

www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts.php

December 15, 2002: publish Juniors' Tournament Schedule

www.ovr.org/juniors/tournaments.php

Bid Tournaments:

April 5-6, 2003: 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s

April 12-13, 2003: 16s, 17s, 18s

www.ovr.org/juniors/bid/

May 3-4, 10-11, 16-18, 2003: Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa-USA
2003 Junior Volleyball Championships

www.ovr.org/juniors/championships/

2003 Junior Olympic Championships

Girls' JO Championships: June 25-July 2, 2003, Atlanta, GA

Boys' JO Championships: July 2-8, 2003, Phoenix, AZ

Girls' Invitational: June 26-29, 2003, Phoenix, AZ

www.ovr.org/juniors/nationals/

Club Directors' and Coaches' Development

December 7, 2002: ASEP Course, Columbus.

www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/asep.php

January 4-5, 2003: CAP I Clinic, Youngstown State University

January 3-5, 2003: CAP II Clinic, Youngstown State University

www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/cap.php

Officiating

October 16, 2002: online professional referees' testing begins

Professional Officials' Clinics:

December 7, 2002: Columbus

December 8, 2002: Toledo

December 14, 2002: Pittsburgh

Player-Ref Clinics to be announced (January at KSU?)

www.ovr.org/officiating/clinics.php

Administrative

October 27, 2002: OVR Board Meeting, Westerville, 10:00 AM

www.ovr.org/executive/

Publications

November 1, 2002: OVR Handbook 2003 to be published

Next issue of *OVR The Block*:

November 9, 2002. Submission deadline: November 2.

editor@ovr.org