

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

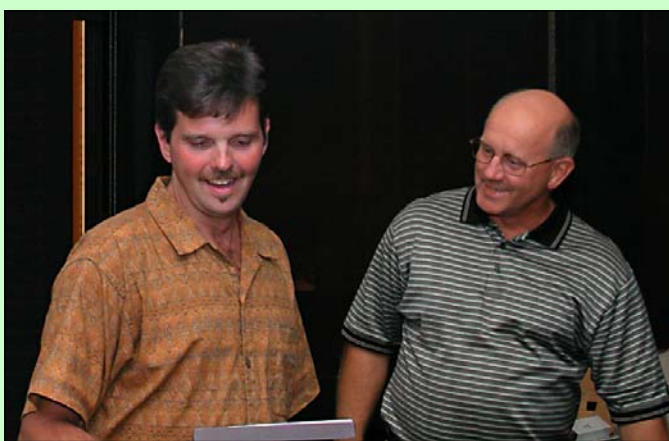
database infrastructure coupled with a robust security model allow tournament and club directors, officials, staff, and others to update information efficiently and with immediate results. www.ovr.org also delivers electronic versions of all OVR publications. It is an invaluable tool for publicizing 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.