

OVR The Block

The official newsletter of the Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball

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OVR Teams Victorious at Nationals

OVR seized four victories and 10 other gold-bracket finishes at this year's USA Volleyball national tournaments.

Team Z 171, last season's 16 Open National Champions, returned in 2003 to seize the Girls' 17 Open National Championship. Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red earned their National Champion title in Girls' 16 Club. Other Gold-bracket achievements by OVR girls' teams include Dayton Jrs. 18-Wulff (5th, 18O), Sports Express Black 18-1 (5th, 18C), Kaepa TVC 17 Cromer (2nd, 17C), Dayton Jrs. 17 Beam (5th, 17C), Eastside Cleveland Juniors 17 Navy (5th, 17 Inv.), Cincy VBC 14-1

(5th, 14 Inv.), and Northshore VBC 14 Gold (5th, 14 Inv.).

Renaissance Red-18 emerged as National Champions in Boys' 18 Club, and Cincinnati Attack Inc. 17-1 Black won their National Champion title in Boys' 17 Club. Also earning Gold-bracket finishes were Cincinnati Attack Inc. 18-1 Black (5th, 18C), Tool City 17s (2nd, 17C), and Renaissance Red-17 (5th, 17C).

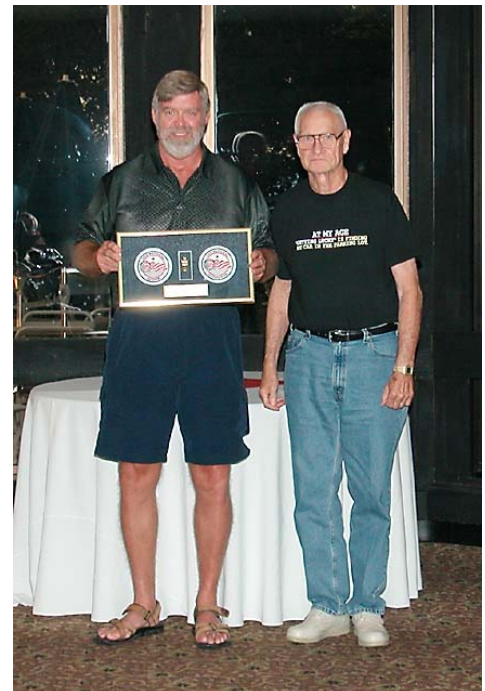
Beaver Steel took 9th in Men's Open, Kattus Pro-Team took 4th in Men's 40s, and Miami Valley Masters 55s took 5th in Men's 55.

Results for all 69 OVR teams that went to Nationals are summarized on page 15.

Terry Miller Receives the Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award

In recognition of Terry's tremendous contributions to the Ohio Valley Region as OVR Scorekeepers' Chairperson, National Referee, Officials' Rater, as well as his roles certifying junior officials, with OVR Championship events, and on the OVR board of directors, the OVR awards committee selected Terry Miller as the recipient of this year's Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award. Glenn presented the award, which consists of framed National officials' patches, a gold whistle, and an engraved plaque, to Terry at this year's OVR Awards Dinner.

The Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award recognizes outstanding contributions and commitment in refereeing and/or score-keeping. Previous recipients include Glenn Purdy and Rick Laskey.



Glenn Purdy (right) presenting the 2003 Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award to Terry Miller.

Executive Director's Commentary



"I started to coach high school volleyball again. It's great to be back and working with new, young players.."

Dear Members, The OVR board of directors, officers and staff recently completed their annual August meeting/retreat. The 2003 season presentations were by staff and officers and changes were made to improve OVR events and services. I would guess that many topics were discussed during meal breaks and well into the night. Thanks to this group of dedicated staff.

Online registration for officials will begin on October 1. As they register, officials will receive by mail their registration cards with 2004 season number as well as their new rule books. Again this season, we're asking that every team use the online system. If you have a problem please contact Nick or other friends who have successfully used the online process. The region will accept the traditional triplite hardcopy forms.

Check the website for championship, qualifier and tournament dates. Use these dates to

establish your 2004 OVR season calendar. We're always reaching out to bring into the organization new officials, adult and junior players, and coaches. Please have them contact the region office or proper officer.

As for me, this fall I started to coach high school volleyball again. It's great to be back and working with new, young players. Commissioner/President Bob Price gave me his traditional "You're doing what?" followed by "You must be nuts!" speech. I told him that this will be my tune-up for the OVR season. I do practice what I preach to all of you. Thanks for your continued interest, support, and involvement in the OVR.

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

OVR Officers Elected

At the August 9-10, 2003 board meeting, the OVR board of directors elected the following individuals to 4-year terms from Sept. 1, 2003 through Aug. 31, 2007:

Juniors' Program Director: *Bill Zehler*

Registrar: *Ron Wyzynski*

Junior Officials' Development Director:
Barb Strome

Art Faura, Al Herbert, and Tom Kohl will serve on the 2004 Bid Committee. Bob Dickenson was named Awards Committee chair. Nick Nystrom will direct region photography, and Elaine Viney will serve as 2004 Elections Chair.

West Virginia VB

Thanks largely to grassroots efforts by Paul Claridades and the Charleston VBC, who have been working with other coaches in Beckley and Lewisburg, growth of juniors' volleyball is accelerating in West Virginia.

The OVR is supporting this expansion by hosting the *Big Top Volleyball* tournament at the Charleston Civic Center on April 24-25. Brian Hemelgarn is considering holding a professional officials' clinic in Charleston, and Don Burroughs is planning on holding an IMPACT clinic there as well.

Other West Virginia coaches interested in participating should contact Paul at paul.claridades@verizon.net.

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Corner



The Ohio Valley Region staff, club directors, and their coaches have been busily preparing for the 2004 season. I encourage each junior athlete and his or her parents to become familiar with the OVR policies and procedures governing tryouts. Your understanding of these policies will guarantee you an enjoyable season. I want to emphasize to you how important it is to select the *right* club!

Club Selection

The most important decision you will make after deciding if you are going to play is the selection of the clubs for which you will tryout. I specifically mentioned *clubs* because each athlete is entitled and encouraged to tryout for more than one club. The rules provide this opportunity. *Do not allow a club director or coach to require you to make verbal or written commitment to their club prior to the 10 day grace period.* Their asking you to waive your right to the 10 days should be a red flag! Do you want to play for a club or coach who is asking you to violate OVR policies?

Please ask questions... What is the club philosophy? Who will be coaching? What determines playing time? What is the cost? Is there a contract? Is there an escape clause?

Your commitment to the club is for the *entire* season, which begins on November 1, 2003 and runs through October 31, 2004. There is no such thing as a winter season or a spring season. *Transfers/releases do not exist!*

From the previous statements I hope you can determine how important it is to select the proper club. Finding the right fit is critical for an enjoyable experience. Do some research and make an informed decision. Approximately 175 juniors' clubs fielding over 1,140 teams register to play in the OVR. Each club must follow the policies and procedures of the OVR to be eligible to register. If you experience any difficulty with a tryout or club not adhering to the rules please notify my office ASAP! Be advised: you are buying a product, so know what you are buying!

The 2004 season will provide many valuable volleyball experiences, great competition, quality tournaments, great facilities, and many opportunities to make new volleyball friends! I'm looking forward with great optimism for the best ever 2004 season!

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



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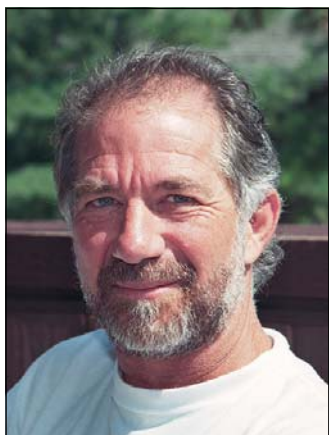
Future Board Meetings

October 19, 2003 Westerville South HS
January 19, 2003 Ramada Inn, Kent

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

The Juniors' Page

Bill Zehler, Juniors' Program Director



The Ohio Valley region has arrived! Not only are we the region with the most female junior athletes, five of those athletes were selected to participate on the USA Volleyball Youth National team! We are truly a region that tries to serve its grassroots programs and develop an elite program as well. Our High Performance teams did well in Utah also.

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* your state's volleyball championships. Tryouts for athletes in the 8th grade 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/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.

Tryouts may be of two types: open to anyone, or by invitation only. It is the responsibility of each club to 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 seven days from the date of the tryouts to agree 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 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 be an increase in fees of \$5.00 for female junior members for the 2004 season. There will not be any increase in tournament entry fees for female juniors' events. The USA Volleyball Regional Operating Division (ROD) did not mandate background checks for anyone involved in juniors' volleyball. There is still the possibility that the program will be put in place for the 2005 season. There is no need to put this expense in your club's budget for this season.

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 5, 2003. 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 for sites and dates.

Have a *great* season!

Juniors' Tournament Update

Tom Kohl, Juniors' Tournament Director



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

I would like to thank all the tournament directors for their progress in conducting tournaments with proper pool and tournament formats and online entry of tournament results. 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 four concerns for this upcoming season:

1. Ensure the quality of tournament facilities and play
2. Online reporting of tournament results
3. Power Challenge and Bid Tournament organization
4. Creation of support documents for boys' volleyball

I combined the former *Juniors' Procedures for Tournament Hosts* and *Juniors' Tournament Rules* documents into one document, *2004 Procedures and Rules for Girls' Regular Season Tournaments*. From recommendations from club directors, tournament directors and the OVR board, additional language was added to discourage minor abuses that were reported last year.

As the *2004 Procedures and Rules for Girls' Regular Season Tournaments* become available at the OVR website, download and read them. It is important for all parties involved in an OVR-sanctioned tournament to be informed of the procedures and rules of a tournament 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 accept Applications for Sanctions beginning September 1, 2003. Online publication of tournaments is scheduled for November 30.

Again, thanks for your help this past season. I look forward to your cooperation in the 2004 season.

Tired of paper forms?

Have your juniors' tournaments sanctioned online:
www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/

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Molten® Soft Touch™
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Molten® Tall Ball Cart
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Free drop shipping available for Molten® volleyballs. For other products, prices do not include shipping. Volleyball pick-up available in Kent, Columbus, Dayton/Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. Cart pickup in Kent and Columbus. Additional details are available at www.ovr.org/store/. To order or for more information, contact Ron Wyzynski at the region office: 888-873-9478, or by e-mail at wyzynski@ovr.org.



From the Women's Tournament Director

Michelle Fox

We are looking forward to a great new season beginning in January. To make the season go more smoothly for everyone, let's not let uniform issues take our focus off the game.

It is *required* that all teams have identical shirts/jerseys with contrasting numbers that are 6" tall on the back and 4" tall on the front. Black numbers on red or purple shirts are *not* contrasting. The libero's uniform needs to be of contrasting color, too. Grey and white are *not* contrasting colors. Please see your registration packet for more details on the specifications of the libero's uniform.

Shorts must be the same color. Black and navy blue are *not* the same. Black and dark grey are *not* the same. Navy blue and royal blue are *not* the same. If shorts have trim or a logo, it must be minimal. Black shorts with ½" wide trim are ok, if the rest of the team is wearing plain black. But, black shorts with 3" white side panels are *not* ok. Women are permitted to have a mixture of spandex and boxer-style shorts on the same team, as long as the color is the same.

Teams wearing improper shorts at tournaments will not be allowed to play. According to the rule, games will have to be forfeited until the proper uniform is obtained. We all know that we go to tournaments to play volleyball. Make sure your uniforms conform to the USAV rules so everyone can just *play volleyball!*

From the Men's Tournament Director

Keith Burke

Welcome back! It's almost time for another season in the OVR. I want to take a couple of lines to let everyone know what will be happening this year with the men's division.

To start, I am going to use the website even more for the convenience of all the tournament directors and teams. I will be requiring all men's tournament hosts to post teams as they enter their events on the website so everyone can all be able to see the entries and pools when we set them. The men's tournament hosts will be posting their results online as well. This will let everyone see the complete results for each tournament and allow for faster standings updating on my part. The juniors used this format last season with great success. I believe that the expanded use of the website by the host and myself will provide a clear, timely picture of the men's division and help you make decisions for tournament entries.

I would also like to mention that we are always looking for new tournament sites and hosts. If you know anyone who could host a weekend event, have them give me a call or drop me an e-mail. The more the merrier as far as I'm concerned.

Finally, I want to touch on several team-related items. The

OVR has never had to ask a team to change their name due to vulgarity, and I really like some of the more colorful entries we get every year. But let's remember that pushing the envelope is fine but in this politically correct world please be aware of those around you.



Along this same line, there are several teams with names that are almost identical. You need to be aware of this when you enter tournaments and use your OVR team registration number with all entry info. Tournament hosts are required to enter this number on all pool/results information they put on the website. To help your team and the tournament host, use your OVR registration number when you enter.

Have a great fall, and let's get ready for a great season.

Take Your Game to the NEXT LEVEL

The Ohio Valley
Region of USA Volleyball

invites you to join us for our 2004 season

of playing, coaching, officiating, and promoting volleyball. Registration benefits include: • Eligibility to participate in USA Volleyball events involving 1,319 teams and 13,659 members (2003 season figures) • Record-Breaking Regional Championships in the Columbus Convention Center • Nationals (for qualifying teams) • High Performance Program for development of elite juniors • Clinics, certification, and insurance for coaches, club directors, and officials • USA Volleyball rulebook (excepting junior members) • VolleyballUSA magazine subscription

OHIO VALLEY REGION

Advancing Volleyball in Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia

- Access to the OVR newsletter and Handbook
- Liability and sports accident insurance for you and your teammates participating in USA Volleyball-sanctioned events and practices
- Opportunities to purchase discounted volleyball merchandise and event tickets
- A voice in local policy decisions and elections, influencing national policy and leadership selection
- The time and talent of local, regional, and national staff, volunteers, and professionals to organize and conduct events for registered members
- Involvement with the national governing body of volleyball in the US
- Affiliation with top athletes and leaders, including those who represent the US in Olympic and world competition
- **Last, but not least, fun!**

The Ohio Valley Region is a non-profit Regional association of USA Volleyball dedicated to the promotion and growth of volleyball. Visit our web site, www.ovr.org, for registration and comprehensive information.

www.ovr.org

888-873-9478

Boys' Volleyball: Regional and National

Emi Vishoot, Boys' Jr. Volleyball Program Liaison



Here's a quick look at recent announcements and upcoming boys events for the OVR. If anyone has ideas or recommendations for the boys' volleyball program, please contact me at vishoot@ovr.org, 937-236-1554 (home), or 937-231-2385 (cell).

Boys' Fall League

As many of the boys teams are aware by now, the 2003 Boys' Fall League will not take place due to the low number of interested teams. The relative lateness of the league announcement was definitely a contributing factor. However, the OVR will host a Boys' Fall League in 2004. Details will be announced in February and March, providing OVR and high school boys' teams sufficient time to discuss and plan for this event.

If anyone has a 3- or 4-court facility and is interested in hosting a tournament in September or October 2004, please contact either me (see contact information above) or Keith Burke (burke@ovr.org; 614-818-9465 /home).

Boys' Tournament on October 12, 2003

Wick Colchagoff, University of Findlay Men's Volleyball Coach, is interested in hosting an OVR-sanctioned boys tournament on Sunday, October 12. He will probably offer competition for 18-under and 16-under age groups. If interested or to get more information, contact Wick at 800-472-9502 or colchagoff@findlay.edu.

Upcoming 2004 OVR Boys' Tournaments

The OVR hopes to offer two major boys' tournaments in February 2004. One will be a multi-day, inter-regional event during the Presidents' Day weekend. We will be sending out a broadcast e-mail this month to find two or three facilities that are in close proximity to each other and can support 8 to 10 courts. We will advertise this event on the USA Volleyball in-

ter-regional tournament list, potentially attracting teams from Canada as well as other regions.

The second event will be the OVR Boys' Regional Championships on February 29, 2004. Last year's event was a success, and we hope to build on that success for 2004. We are in the process of securing a facility for this tournament.

Watch for more details on both events over the next few months.

Proposed 2004 Boys' Open Bid Proposal

On the following page is a description of a Boys' Open Bid Proposal that is being considered for 2004. This proposal was presented by the Boy's Committee at the Youth and Junior Olympics Volleyball Division (YJOVD) meetings in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 31-August 3, 2003. Although I did not vote for this concept (I supported an Open bid process that combined region allocations with bid tournaments), this proposal was overwhelmingly approved by the General Forum during those meetings. Subsequently, the Competition Commission approved the proposal, as did the YJOVD Administrative Council.

The proposal will require approval by the Regional Operations Division (ROD), which is comprised of the region commissioners, at their meeting in October. I cannot predict whether the ROD will approve the proposal, but at least a third of the YJOVD meeting attendees were commissioners. If the ROD does not approve the proposal or if the concept cannot be implemented for 2004, then the boys' Open bid allocation process will revert to the existing system (Open bids allocated to regions based on boys' population). Regardless, it's very likely that the Competition Commission will adopt the proposed selection criteria for at-large Open bids or if an Open division becomes oversubscribed.

www.ovr.org/juniors/boys/

Boys' Open Bid Allocation Proposal Presented by the Boys' Committee August 3, 2003

Open Division:

The goal of the Open Division of the Boys' Junior Olympics Volleyball Championships (JOVC) is to produce an event that will promote the highest level of boys' competition. Open competition will be offered in the 18, 17, 16, and 15 age divisions with a minimum field size of 16 and maximum field size of 36.

Pending the application and approval of independent tournament directors, the Boys' Committee, with the oversight of the Competition Commission, will adopt Bid Tournament to provide bids to the Boys' JOVC for the Open Divisions. This system will be in place for two (2) years, being 2004 and 2005, while the Boy's Committee creates a Qualifier Tournament package. During this two-year period, the individual tournament directors will run the tournaments independently. At the end of two years, the individual tournament directors will have first right of refusal to become a Qualifier.

Of the 36 bids to be offered in the Open Divisions, twenty-eight (28) will be allocated through the Bid Tournaments, and eight (8) through an at-large process, which will be selected by the Competition Commission using the following selection criteria:

1. Current year's results against the accepted field
2. Strength or Previous JOVC results
3. Date of entry
4. Number of teams per club

The tournaments that have been selected and accepted as Bid Tournaments for the 2004 Boys season are:

1. Southern California Jr. Boys' Invitational (Jan. 17-19)
2. Gateway Festival (Jan. 17-19)
3. Nittany 1 and 2 (Feb. 7-8)
4. East Coast Championships (Memorial Day weekend)
5. Northern California Boy's Tournament (dates TBA)

Three additional tournaments that are still pending are the following:

1. Can Am (Jan. 17-19)
2. Wisconsin Boy's Festival (Jan. 31-Feb. 1)
3. Great Lakes Festival (mid-February)

The Boys' Committee and the Competition Commission will determine the number of bids awarded at each Bid Tournament. Distribution of the bids will be reevaluated at the Youth and Junior Olympics Volleyball Division (YJOVD) meetings in August.

The standards to be met by the Bid Tournaments are the following:

1. The event is to be sanctioned through the host region
2. It must be a multi-day event, with a minimum of two (2) days
3. Entry deadline is to be four (4) weeks before the tournament date
4. Inform teams of their acceptance within five (5) days of the entry deadline
5. Submit the necessary information for the tournament to be posted on the USA Volleyball website as an inter-regional event
6. Must offer single age group divisions in all divisions that are offered at the Boys' JOVC
7. Teams are to be guaranteed a minimum of six (6) matches at a two (2) day event or a minimum of seven (7) matches at a three (3) day event
8. The fields must have a minimum of twelve (12) teams to offer bids
9. Tournament directors will submit results in a format as determined by the Competition Commission
10. Criteria for entry acceptance into the Bid Tournaments will be:
 - a. All entry material received by the entry deadline
 - b. Current year's results
 - c. Number of teams per club
 - d. Strength or previous JOVC results

The Competition Commission and Boys' Committee will monitor compliance of the Bid Tournaments.

If a team should earn a bid at a tournament, and has already qualified at a previous event, the next highest finishing team will be offered the bid, not to exceed two positions past the designated number of bids for that particular event. If, after the trickle-down process, the bid is not filled, the bid will revert to the at-large pool.

The players on the roster of a team that has qualified for the Open Division, and has accepted the bid, through a Bid Tournament will be frozen. There will be no restrictions on additions to the roster (up to the limit of fifteen (15) players) of new players or players from non-qualified teams. All teams and players must maintain eligibility compliance within their region.

All the above information will be published in all pre-tournament sources, i.e. pre-tournament manual and website.



From the Referees' Chair

Brian Hemelgarn

The collegiate and high school seasons are well under way, and I wish you plenty of success as you progress through the fall! The OVR Board has been busy getting ready for the upcoming USAV season, and as always, great things are on the horizon!

Clinics: Our 2003-04 clinics will be at Westerville South HS on Dec. 6th, Toledo St. Ursula on Dec. 14th (tentative), and Ambridge Jr High on Jan. 3rd, 2004. There is also a clinic tentatively scheduled for Jan. 4th in Charleston, West Virginia! Please mark your schedules accordingly, and remember: attendance at one of the clinics is pertinent to maintain "good standing" in the OVR. As a new feature of our website, online pre-registration for the clinics will be available. It's important that we all use this function, as it will let our staff plan for the expected attendance.

Website: Speaking of website features, our awesome webmaster, Nick Nystrom, has been working hard to improve online functions for all of us! As these added features become available, I'll send out further details! Online availability calendars and the ability to update your own database are on the way, and an online officiating forum is already up and running. I highly suggest that you check it out at www.ovr.org/forum/. You'll need to register a user name and password, then you'll be all set! I plan to utilize the forum to discuss officiating topics, OVR regulations, and USAV rule interpretations. You'll be able to pose questions online, and have me or other OVR members respond. It will be a great addition for us!

Registration: Registration time is just around the corner, and our dues will again be \$50 for the season. The online registration process is almost ready, and we're hoping for 100% compliance by our officiating cadre! The process will be easy, efficient, and similar to last year's. I'll send an email to everyone when the system is ready (sometime before the end of the month). Remember, dues must be paid by October 31st, so plan accordingly! *Note:* Even if you are also a coach, player, or

club director, you must first register as an official!

Online testing: The most efficient way to take the test (and eliminate time from our clinics!) is to go online! If you're currently taking the NCAA rules test, you are more than welcome to take the USAV portion now – either online or by using the hard copy. If you take the written test, please be sure to send me a copy of your answer sheet! If you take it online via the USAV/PAVO website, you'll need a password. Please contact me, and I'll be happy to get it to you. I'll receive a copy of your answers automatically.

Recruiting: As is always the case, we need to do some recruiting of new officials! Being the largest region in the country means we obviously run the most tournaments. And all of those tournaments require officials! An ideal place to start recruiting is at the high school level. Considering the change to rally scoring for next season, officiating in the OVR will give those folks a head start on the transition to the new rules. If you work at the high school or junior high level, consider recruiting some of your fellow high school folks!

OVR Success Stories: We have added five new Junior National referees to our ranks! Congratulations to Rich Hambrick, Nathan Mahaven, Kristine Mullen, Rich Pillar, and Jim Sagenich! Also, Dan Litteral and Jimmy McKinzey successfully completed the National Referee certification process in Minneapolis in June, and we're glad to add them to our list of top officials. Our scorekeeping cadre also has some new members: Tom Joseph, Bill Kissell and Ron Moose attained the rating of National Scorekeeper in Minneapolis as well.

If you're interested in upgrading to Regional, Junior National, or National Referee or to Junior National or National Scorekeeper, contact me right away! We want to be sure you're well prepared for the task!

That should wrap things up for now. As we approach the USAV season, you'll be receiving more details from me about all of these items. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you a pain-free fall season,

Brian

Junior Officials' Development Program

Barb Strome, Junior Officials' Development Director

Hi,

My name is Barb Strome and I'm the new Junior Officials' Development Director for the OVR. I have big shoes to fill (Al Herbert's) literally, but also figuratively. Since I am relatively new to the region, having moved here last August, I am still learning much about the largest region in the country. I can use all the help I can get! Feel free to e-mail me with all ideas and suggestions for the upcoming season as well as anything that occurs throughout.

I have a few new ideas that I'm hoping will be useful in the training process of our junior scorekeepers and second referees. I would like feedback from coaches, club directors, and officials with regard to the first of those new ideas: training and rating days set up throughout the region for the benefit of all teams and clubs. I'm thinking maybe in Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Toledo, Akron, Charleston, Pittsburgh areas. The teams would gather for a "playday" early in the season, and at the same time the junior officials would have a clinic, followed by on-court training and practice. The idea would be for each club team to certify at least one or two scorekeepers and second referees that day. Then as the season

progresses, additional players could receive their cards at future tournaments. Each player would pay \$1 to cover the cost of renting the gym facility. The OVR would cover the cost of the adult clinicians/referees who would be on-court all day, teaching and rating the players. The coaches/players would do the officiating for the scrimmages in their normal work team assignment. I have experience with this type of "playday" in my former region, and when Jimmy McKenzie did this in Cincinnati last year it was very successful.

As in the past, if a club would prefer an individual clinic, that is still available. You would simply need to contact me with some dates and times, and I would schedule a clinician in your area to fit your needs.

I'm hoping this idea sounds good to you. A clinic early on in the season, certified players early on, and scrimmaging early on. If anyone would like to host a "playday" in their area, please contact me and we'll discuss logistics of size, numbers, dates, etc. My address is strome@ovr.org.

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Barb Strome

New on ovr.org...

(Continued from page 12)

forums categorized by area of interest. We've already had a number of excellent questions, fielded by OVR staff including Keith and myself, as well as posts by Brian and Tom. The forums are a good way to initiate discussions that may have widespread interest, complementing our other ways of communicating and potentially involving more members in the discussions.

Calendar

To help everyone with planning, I implemented a new online calendar (www.ovr.org/calendar/) that cross-cuts diverse region activities. One can display events by category (e.g. juniors, officials, etc.). Additional features will be implemented soon.

OVR Handbook

The *OVR Handbook 2004* will be available soon, published in a new format convenient for both browsing and printing.

Links to College and University Volleyball Programs

Addressing members' requests, I greatly expanded the list of college programs (www.ovr.org/links/colleges.php) to include all NCAA and NAIA programs and a few NJCAA schools

OVR Photography

Responding to the need for proper recognition of our athletes' accomplishments as well as to provide a service our members want, I agreed to direct photography for the OVR. Additional announcements will be posted for tournaments at which I or a representative will be present.



New on ovr.org...

Nick Nystrom, Webmaster & Publications Editor

ovr.org relocation

Last month I relocated the OVR website to a new host, gaining stronger infrastructure and better performance while reducing cost. The trial period and migration went exceptionally

well. Recent instability, however, may necessitate another move the new host's administrators are unable resolve the problems quickly and completely.

Registration

Online registration will reopen on October 1 at www.ovr.org/register/. Juniors' and Adults' registration packets are available at www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/ and www.ovr.org/mw/registration_packet/, respectively. Hardcop-

ies will be mailed on request: contact Micki Fox (fox@ovr.org, 330-666-8709). For more information on registration, see my article in the August issue of *OVR The Block*.

Junior Officials' Certifications

I redesigned online reporting of junior officials' certifications to work with online registration data. Club directors and coaches will be able to update their players' certifications quickly and easily, with the certifications displayed in context with rosters and on tournament directors' information pages. Junior officials' information is keyed to their names and dates of birth, so please supply their registration data accurately.

New Forums

Following up on requests from players, coaches, and club directors, www.ovr.org/forum/ now provides online discussion

(Continued on page 11)

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OVR Members Honored for Exemplary Service

Recipients of OVR and USAV awards were honored at the annual OVR Awards Dinner on August 9, 2003 at Mohican State Park. Terry Miller received the Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award, and Julie Kovick was honored as USA Volleyball's Outstanding Coach for 2003. Other awards will be announced after proper presentation, including but not limited to awards for outstanding officials and USA Volleyball's Meritorious Service Awards.

USA Volleyball's Outstanding Female Coach

Art Faura and Bill Zehler presented USA Volleyball's 2003 Outstanding Female Coach Award to Julie Kovick at the OVR Awards Dinner on August 9, 2003.

Julie Kovick has devoted much of her life to playing sports and coaching. She tells her players that they should play sports for one important reason, "... because it's *fun!*" Julie has life in perspective and teaches the true value of sports to impressionable youth.

Julie is a club director for COAST Juniors Volleyball Club in Canton, Ohio. She has been club director for the past 7 years and has coached at the 12s, 13s and 14s age levels. This season, her 14s team finished 10th out of 201 teams in the 14 Club division in the Ohio Valley Region.

As a coach, Julie is constantly teaching during practices and tournament games. Every play is a teachable moment for Julie. She stands at courtside, insisting on good fundamental skills. Julie spends a good amount of practice time drilling the basics to make them perfect! The team makes less mistakes as the fundamentals are developed, and the girls don't have to spend time breaking bad habits later. Julie also does a fine job of teaching the mental aspects of the game.

Above and beyond, and even more important than the volleyball skills themselves, Julie cares about the girls and their lives. She makes sure that they treat each other, their coaches, officials and their parents with proper kindness and respect. Julie is extremely honest and ethical. She is a fine role model of integrity and sportsmanship. She holds her coaches, her athletes and their parents to the same high standards. She stresses that rules are important as she informs coaches and parents of the rules and asks that they all work together to make the club compliant with USAV and OHSAA rules. Julie tells her players that they are very valuable people whether they win or lose at volleyball. She encourages



the girls on her volleyball team to participate in other sports and activities so that they can become well-rounded individuals.

Julie resides with her family in Green, Ohio, and is a Physical Education teacher in the Jackson Local School District. She is the head Volleyball Coach at Jackson High School, where she also coaches Track. Julie has also been involved in many other school organizations and in her community.

A parent of one of Julie's players says, "My daughter is better prepared for the future in volleyball and in life thanks to Julie Kovick."

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OVR Teams' Results from Nationals

69 OVR teams participated in 2003 USA Volleyball national tournaments including the 2003 USA Volleyball Championships (May 24-31, Minneapolis), the 2003 USA Junior Olympic Girls' Volleyball Championships (June 25-July 2, Atlanta), the 2003 USA Junior Olympic Girls Invitational Tournament (June 26-29, Phoenix), and the 2003 USA Junior

Olympic Boys' Volleyball Championships (July 2-8, Phoenix).

The following compendium of final rankings was extracted from results posted at USA Volleyball's website (www.usavolleyball.org). See also page 1 for a summary of the strongest performances and pages 16-25 for articles contributed by the participating teams.

Girls' Teams

team	division	finish (bracket)	overall
Dayton Jrs. 18-Wulff	18 Open	5 th , Gold	5 th
Kaepa CVC 18-1 Black	18 Open	3 rd , Flight 5	27 th
Sports Express Black 18-1	18 Club	5 th , Gold	5 th
Cincinnati Bullets	18 Club	5 th , Flight 1	29 th
Kaepa Borderline 18 Red	18 Club	3 rd , Flight 3	43 rd
Team Atlantis 18 Elite	18 Club	5 th , Flight 4	53 rd
Team Z 171	17 Open	National Champions	1st
Kaepa TVC 17 Lewis	17 Open	2 nd , Flight 2	14 th
Kaepa TVC 17 Cromer	17 Club	2 nd , Gold	2 nd
Dayton Jrs. 17 Beam	17 Club	5 th , Gold	5 th
Pittsburgh Elite VB Assn. 17 Open	17 Club	2 nd , Bronze	18 th
Premier Volleyball Club 17-1	17 Club	5 th , Flight 1	29 th
Eastside Cleveland Juniors 17 Navy	17 Inv.	5 th , Gold	5 th
Team Z 161	16 Open	3 rd , Flight 2	15 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red	16 Club	National Champions	1st
Premier Volleyball Club 16-1	16 Club	5 th , Silver	13 th
Team Atlantis 16 Elite	16 Club	3 rd , Bronze	19 th
Kaepa TVC 16 Waldrop	16 Club	Flight 3 Champion	41 st
Northshore VBC 16 Gold	16 Inv.	3 rd , Silver	11 th
Zero Gravity 16 Gold	16 Inv.	5 th , Flight 2	35 th
Team Z 151	15 Open	Silver Champion	9 th
Kaepa TVC 15-Grindle	15 Open	3 rd , Flight 1	19 th
NKYVC 15-1 Tsunami	15 Open	3 rd , Flight 1	19 th
SW Ohio Thunderbirds 15-1 Green	15 Club	Silver Champion	9 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Red	15 Club	3 rd , Silver	11 th
Team Atlantis 15 Elite	15 Club	5 th , Bronze	21 st
Dayton Jrs. 15-Ney	15 Club	2 nd , Flight 2	34 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black	15 Club	Flight 3 Champion	41 st
Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red	14 Open	3 rd , Silver	11 th
NKYVC 14-1 Tsunami	14 Open	3 rd , Flight 1	21 st
Dayton Jrs. 14-Ha	14 Club	5 th , Silver	13 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Black	14 Club	2 nd , Flight 1	26 th
Kaepa TVC 14-DBrown	14 Club	Flight 3 Champion	41 st
Kaepa CVC 14 Black	14 Club	5 th , Flight 4	54 th
Cincy VBC 14-1	14 Inv.	5 th , Gold	5 th
Northshore VBC 14 Gold	14 Inv.	5 th , Gold	5 th
NKYVC 13-1 Tide	13 Club	3 rd , Silver	11 th
Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red	13 Club	5 th , Silver	13 th
Glass City 13 Diamond	13 Club	5 th , Bronze	21 st
Team Atlantis 14 Elite	13 Club	5 th , Flight 1	29 th
Cincy Volleyball Club 12 Red	12 Club	2 nd , Flight 2	32 nd
NKYVC 12-1 Tide	12 Club	3 rd , Flight 2	33 rd

Boys' Teams

team	division	finish (bracket)	overall
Northcoast 18s Gold	18 Open	5 th , Flight 1	25 th
Renaissance Red-18	18 Club	National Champions	1st
Cincinnati Attack 18-1 Black	18 Club	5 th , Gold	5 th
CAVE 18 Black	18 Club	5 th , Silver	13 th
Tool City 18-1s	18 Club	2 nd , Bronze	20 th
Beaver Valley Premier 18-1	18 Club	5 th , Bronze	23 rd
Renaissance White-18	18 Club	2 nd , Flight 1	26 th
Beaver Valley Premier 18-1	18 Club	5 th , Bronze	23 rd
Tool City 18-2s	18 Club	2 nd , Flight 2	32 nd
Cincinnati Attack 17-1 Black	17 Club	National Champions	1st
Tool City 17s	17 Club	2 nd , Gold	2 nd
Renaissance Red-17	17 Club	5 th , Gold	5 th
Renaissance White-17	17 Club	5 th , Flight 2	33 rd
Renaissance Red-16	16 Club	3 rd , Silver	11 th
Tool City 16s	16 Club	2 nd , Flight 1	26 th
Cincinnati Attack 15-1 Black	15 Club	3 rd , Silver	11 th
Renaissance Red-15	15 Club	2 nd , Flight 2	26 th
Cincinnati Attack 14-1 Black	14 Club	Flight 1 Champion	25 th
Tool City 14s	14 Club	5 th , Flight 2	37 th

Men's Teams

team	division	finish (bracket)	overall
Beaver Steel	Open		9 th
Michigan Wild	A		14 th
Shiloh Industries	B		21 st
Sudden Impact	B		23 rd
Kattus Pro-Team	40s		4 th
Westerville Volleyball Club	50s		9 th
Miami Valley Masters 55s	55s		5 th
Miami Valley Masters 60s	60s		9 th

Women's Teams

(none)

USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

The following articles were contributed by club directors, coaches, players, and parents from teams who went to the 2003 USA Volleyball Junior Championship and Invitational tournaments. A complete list of OVR teams' final results is printed on page 15. For complete results, brackets, and the *Junior Journal*, see USA Volleyball's website (www.usavolleyball.org).

Team Z 171 — 17 Open National Champions

Day One... In the 3/5 seven-team pool format, teams play two matches each day. Team Z opened with Team St. Louis. TSL has played TZ tough at every meeting, and Atlanta was no different. TSL came out strong, evening the match at 1-1 before losing 3-1. Next TZ took on Willowbrook from Houston, moving on with a 3-0 win.

Day Two was a call to compete. This day brought two potentially competitive encounters and a chance to solidify a leading role in Pool 1. The first match with Milwaukee Sting ended in a 3-0 win for the girls from the OVR. Next was Lions from Chicago, who also went down in straight sets.

Day Three... The importance of Day Three is that the pool winner does not have to play a third 3/5 elimination match for the Gold Division. Pool champions go directly to the bracket seeded 1-4. Team Z was pressed to a hard five-game match by Coast Woodie from California. Coast gave the Ohio girls all they could want in a match that was decided 19-17 in the fifth. Up next was KC Power, a very good squad from Kansas City. Power would later medal as a semi finalist. Team Z overcame this talented group 26-24, 26-28, 25-18, 25-23 to finish first in Pool 1.

Day Four... Eight teams advance to the championship bracket. Team Z's first opponent was Circle City 171 from Indianapolis. This would be the fourth meeting of the year for this regional rival. TZ advanced with a 3-1 win. The semifinal match brought on Fraser VBC from Michigan. Fraser is the only team to hold multiple wins over the girls from Ohio. In one of their best matches of the year, TZ eliminated Fraser, 3-0. The finals brought on the much-awaited match up with Club Long Beach from California. The only meeting of the year ended with a 16-25, 25-28, 25-17, 25-23 National Championship victory for Team Z. TZ added another Gold Medal to their 16 National Championship of the previous year.

Team Z team members are Erin Kanetzke (Ursuline Academy), Julie Walroth and Elaine Walroth (Oak Hills HS), Beth Gillming (St. Ursula Academy), Beth Shelton (St. Ursula Academy), Nicole Britenriker (Mason HS), Bryn Kehoe (St. Ursula Academy), Brandie Molnar (Springboro HS), Danielle Meyer (Mount Notre Dame HS). Molnar, Meyer, Britenriker were named to the All-Tournament Team. Bryn Kehoe was named 2003 Tournament MVP. Team Z is coached by Amy Kehoe, Assistant Coach, and Rich Zeciski, Head Coach.

— Rich Zeciski
Head Coach, Team Z 171

Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red — National Champions

The Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red team finished their season in grand style, taking home the Gold and besting a field of 64 teams in the Club Division. Along the way, Cincy Classics defeated teams from Colorado, Nebraska, California, Kentucky, and Texas before their gold medal win against Hawaii. Setter Natalie Forbes, libero Melissa Zenz, and middle hitter Jamie Torok were named to the All Tournament Team, while Torok was also named the Tournament MVP! Cincy's gold medal roster includes the following players:

Ali Zimmerman	#19	Lakota West HS
Jamie Torok	#15	McAuley HS
Jen Ramminger	#22	Middletown Fenwick HS
Jess Hoeh	#11	Roger Bacon HS
Katelyn Reber	#10	McNicholas HS
Cristina Eisenmenger	#25	Notre Dame Academy HS
Lauren Sheppard	#13	Roger Bacon HS
Melissa Zenz	#17	Ursuline Acad. HS
Natalie Forbes	#3	Highland Hts. HS

Coaches were Kelly Daniel, Cristina Webb.

— Jim Zenz, Parent

Renaissance Red-18 Seizes Boys' 18 Club Championship

Coach: Drew Vosefski,
Head Coach, Latrobe HS Boys and Girls
Asst. Coach: Steve Lisowski
Players:

Andrew Atman	Upper St. Clair
Travis Bluemling	Mt Lebanon
Andrew Elmore	North Allegheny
Dave Fitz	Mt. Lebanon
Sean Hopper	Montour
Rob Julius	Upper St. Clair
Zach Nanni	North Allegheny
Eric Vosefski	Latrobe

Results:

Day 1	6-0	1 st in pool
Day 2	5-2	1 st in pool
Day 3	4-0	1 st in pool
Day 4	6-2	1 st in the Gold Championship

Despite being much the same team that lost in the 16 Club Gold Championship two years ago as well in the 17 Club Championship last year, Renaissance Red-18 was seeded 26th out of 32 teams.

On the final day, Red-18 beat NCVS in two games. They beat TVA in three games in the semi-finals, they matched up with Molten Hawaii Black in the finals. This was a team that the Red-18 had beaten in two games the prior day. But, Molten Hawaii came to play in the finals. In an exciting final match, Red-18 won the Gold Championship in three games by the scores of 26-24, 21-25, 21-19.

In order to win, all eight players had to play well. MH Andrew Atman (6'11", Univ of Buffalo) led the attacks. MH Andrew Elmore (6'5", Penn State) led in block-kills. OH Sean Hopper (6'6", St. Francis) gave the best all-around performance. OH Zach Nanni (6'1", St. Francis) was named to the All-Tourney Team for the third straight year. Setter Eric Vosefski (6'3", St. Francis) was also named to the All-Tourney Team for the third

(Continued on page 17)

USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

(Continued from page 16)

straight year. RS Travis Bluemling (6'5", Cal-Northridge) was named to the All-Tourney Team for the fourth straight year. Finally, setter Eric Vosefski was named the Tournament MVP.

For coach Drew Vosefski, "The third time was the charm." His Red-16 team had lost in the 16 Club Championship match two years ago; and, his Red-17 team had lost in the 17 Club Championship match last year.

For Executive Director John Turcek, it was his first National Championship since he started the Renaissance VBC 10 years ago.

— John Turcek

Director, Renaissance VBC

Dayton Jrs Excel at Nationals

The Dayton Jrs Volleyball Club sent four teams to Nationals: 18s Blue Angels, 17s Chill, 15s Blue Devils and 14s Tsunami. The 18s team qualified for the Open division, while the other three qualified for Club. This has been the best overall showing for the Dayton Jrs program at the National Championship event.

The good part for the program was that the National Tournament being held at Atlanta was for many of the members at driving distance. Just straight down I-75... what a deal!

The 14s Tsunami team, coached by Yoon Ha and Carrie Snider, started the tournament playing very tight and through unforced errors allowing their opponents to stay in the matches. Thanks to their great depth they were able to come out 3-0 and first place in the pool. On the second day with all tournament jitters gone they shifted into high gear and again went 3-0, winning their pool. They showed good ball control and a consistent attack. The third day was crunch time. With a record of 1-1 they fought to lose the first game 23-25. In the second game they spent a lot of energy to come back and win 25-23. Now it was evident that emotions were high, but their bodies were over spent and they lost 4-15. This put the team in the Silver Division; a loss to KIVA White in two put them in a tie for the 13th place of the tournament. Members of the team are: Emily Borchers, Jordan Bradosky, Katie Fritz, Kacie Hausfeld,

Katie Laravie, Meagan Martin, Michelle Nicol, Jessica Raffa, Casey Smith and Lauren Woeste.

The 15s Blue Devils, coached by Suzann Opperman, also had a rough start and came third in their pool with a record of 1-2, eliminating them from any possibility to contend for the Championship. On the second day they proceeded to win all three matches and moved up the food chain thanks to a great offensive display by all front-row players. On the third day they again finished third in their pool, but were in all the games. The final result was the team ended up in 34th place out of 64. Team members are: Natalie Bauer, Danah Brust, Alison Hess, Cassie Mangen, Gretchen Meyers, Kelly Oldiges, Kelsey Rankin, Alicia Sherrill and Emily Strader.

The 17s Chill, coached by Rob Beam and Mike Schroeder, went into the tournament already hot. In the first day they played outstandingly, winning all three matches and finishing first in their pool. On the second day things were not that easy, but again they came and went 3-0, in the process defeating Fusion, #1 seed of the tournament, in two. Based on their two performances they started to be the buzz in the 17 Club Division. Now on the third day they had in their pool M1 (another tournament favorite), Club Yahoo, and Fresno. Thanks to great defense and blocking the team won the pool with a record of 3-0 and earning the #1 seed of the Tournament. All three matches went three and the Chill did play the same way in each match. They dug a hole by playing very sluggishly in the first game and losing, winning the second game by a hair, and then crushing the opponent in the third. Now they had to play their friendly rival TVC – Cromer and lost in the first round in three exciting games, putting them in 5th place. Team members are: Pam Ballman, Sara Bochenek, Lizaiha Garcia, Ericka Duckworth, Stephanie Ross, Sarah Wellner, Chelsea Noble, Betsy Hiltibran, Molly Spencer, Lindsey Woeste and Mandy Robbe. Selected to the All-Tournament Team were Setter Chelsea Noble and MH Stephanie Ross.

The 18s Blue Angels, coached by Steve Leedy and Lori Schroeder, also came into the

tournament playing very well, however during the tournament they saw their backs against the wall in several occasions. In a pool that consisted of 7 teams they came out firing by beating a strong M1 team in four. Now here was the downer, they lost against Golden West in four. This was a team that many felt they should have defeated. The loss brought their first day record to 1-1. On the second day they opened against tournament favorite Vision and lost in three well-played games. Now they found themselves with a record of 1-2 and ready to play Delta Valley. All of sudden they turned it up a notch and with a great offensive display they beat DV in three games and finish the day again with a .500 record of 2-2. Based on how the other teams were doing, to move on a team had to have a record of 4-2. In this case the Blue Angels played non-inspired ball in the first two games against Sky High, but then came back and won three straight to get back into the mix of things. Now with a record of 3-2, in their last match they put their game in full gear with a great middle attack to beat Austin Jrs in three, allowing them to earn the third spot of the pool. Now for them to move into the Championship round they needed to play a crossover match vs. their nemesis, Tampa Bay Jrs. At 7PM lighting struck again in favor of the Blue Angels, thanks to great passing and outside hitting, and gave them the right to play Sports Performance in the first round. On the final day of the tournament and the last day of the six seniors being together, they bowed out in four games to the eventual National Champions while giving them 5th place in the tourney. The members of the team are: Jaclyn Strader, Jessica Strader, Carrie DeMange, Sarah Treadway, Abby Showers, Ali Hausfeld, Jenna Gaughran and Jenna Miller. Selected to the All-Tournament Team was MH Jenna Miller.

— Howard Garcia,

Director, Dayton Jrs.

(Continued on page 18)

USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

(Continued from page 17)

NKYVC Making Its Mark at USA Nationals



141 Tsunami – Sky's the Limit!

For the 3rd consecutive year Northern Kentucky-Ohio Volleyball Club has sent teams from every age division to the USA Girl's Junior Olympic Nationals. This year was no exception as the 121, 131, 141 and 151 squads arrived in Atlanta excited to represent the NKYVC family and eager to compete against the nation's best.

Each NKYVC team put forth their best effort displaying a high level of spirit, competition and camaraderie throughout the 4-day national tournament. At the end of the event, all the teams knew they left their best volleyball in Atlanta and everyone took away an unforgettable competitive experience to end the 2003 season on a high note.

"We are so proud of all the girls and the way they represented the club and themselves. Attending USA Nationals is a great opportunity for all of us to realize where we stand in the big volleyball picture and what is needed to prepare for the next level," stated Katie Wesseling, NKYVC Club Director.

"This kind of experience affects the entire club by raising the bar for every coach, team, and player in every age division. It is a wonderful

synergy of commitment, accomplishment and celebration for a job well done," added Kathy Kleinhuizen, NKYVC Coaching Director.

For the players, the excitement for 2004 began before they even left the Atlanta Convention Center. The noises of competition, the many smells, the constant laughter and a few tears really makes the athletes want to come back for more! So hang on to your cowboy boot straps 2004 is right around the corner and NKYVC is looking forward to the season's journey to Texas.

For the last 4 years NKYVC has been building the club from the youngest age group up making this year's performance by the 2003 national teams proof positive that hard work, commitment, and perseverance pays off *bigtime!* In addition, 2003 marks a major milestone for the club as 2 teams competed in the Open division: 141 Tsunami qualified open in Tampa FL and 151 Tsunami received an open at-large. *Way to go NKYVC!*

The following coaches and players represented NKYVC and the OVR at the 2003 USA Junior Olympic Nationals held in Atlanta.



NKYVC 131 Tide Reaching New Heights!



NKYVC 121 Tide – the future looks bright!

121 Tide Finished 33rd/48 in 12 Club. Head Coach: Sara Palazzo. Team Members: Caitlin Clark, Kaela Freppon, Sarah Iden, Jordan Laumann, Maggie Peddicord, Heather Schierer, Alyxandra Schulte, Karley Reid, Sarah Haas.

131 Tide Finished 11th/64 in 13 Club. Head Coach: Angie Boden. Team Members: Katelynn Bachman, Maggie Bowers, Jessica Kramer, April Lubrecht, Kenzie Martin, Sarah Robinson, Cristin Shaughnessy, Nicole Staverman, Anne Schwab.

141 Tsunami Finished 21st/28 in 14 Open. Head Coach: Jill Bornhorn. Team Members: Elizabeth Carl, Rachel Gadberry, Kristin Wells, Aimee Ryan, Rebecca Sebastian, Lauren Snyder, Allison Stark, Liza Toebe, Danielle Wurtz.

151 Tsunami Finished 19th/28 in 15 Open. Head Coach: Kathy Kleinhuizen. Assistant Coach: Cassie Doering. Team Members: Nicole Baker, Jessica Isaac, Stephanie Cutter, Katelyn Luckman, Sara Meineke, Hillary Otte, Andrea Price, Allie Bertke, Kristy Hock.

— Kathy Kleinhuizen
NKYVC Coaching Director

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USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

(Continued from page 18)

Toledo Volleyball Club Comes to Play in Atlanta!

The 2003 Junior Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia marked some major firsts for TVC. For the first time in the clubs' 11-year history, we qualified two teams in the Open division. Our 17-Lewis team finished third at the MEQ to garner a spot in the Open field. The 15-1 team received an at-large bid by virtue of its fourth-place finish at the Tampa Bay qualifier.

It was an exciting trip to Atlanta for 5 TVC teams. In addition to 17-L and 15-1 who played in the Open division, 17-C, 16-1 and 14-1 qualified in the Club division. 17-L finished 14th out of 28 teams, losing a three-way tie to advance to the gold challenge matches. 15-1 finished 19th out of 28 teams—a very commendable finish for their first trip to the Open Division.

14-1 and 16-1 both discovered that your finish on the first day of pool play often determines your fate for the entire tournament. Both teams went 1-2 on Day 1 and only lost one other match the entire week to finish the tournament 8-3. Both teams won Flight 3. The level of play at Nationals this year was outstanding, as both teams had incredibly exciting matches on Day 4 to come away with a victory in Flight 3.

The highlight of the trip to Nationals for TVC was the incredibly wonderful play and finish by the 17-C team. This team, without a player over 5'11" (with their shoes on), played with unimaginable heart, determination, and intensity. 17-C finished as runner-ups in the 17 Club division. This was the highest finish for a TVC team at Nationals as well as the highest finish for any team in Northwest Ohio. They accomplished this feat by winning their first 8 matches without dropping a game. Their first match of the tournament was against Fusion, the #2 seed of the tournament and picked the week before by prepvolleyball.com as the predicted winner. Seeded 34th in the tournament, TVC 17-C beat Fusion in two games, 27-25 and 25-23. They proceeded to win their pools on Days 1 and 2 and were undefeated until their final match of the day on Day 3. They dropped a 3-game thriller to Golden Bear, but had already

insured their spot in the gold tournament bracket.

Facing their season-long rival, Dayton Juniors 17-Beam, 17-C came out on fire and beat DJ easily in the first game. DJ came back and won the second. Down 11-13 in Game 3, TVC poured it on and won the game and the match with a 16-14 victory. Next on the agenda was the semi-final match against Delta Valley Pink. The girls had a little history with this team, having lost to them in 3 at the NEQ in Baltimore. They lost the first game and were down 5-0 in the second game, and it appeared that the Cinderella run at Nationals was just about over. Well the team that adopted the motto "Too Good To Be Two" stepped it up and won a 3-game thriller.

The week ended as it began, with TVC 17-C facing Fusion. This time it wasn't pool play, it was for the National Championship. Both teams came out a bit tight and TVC saw an early lead evaporate. They lost the first game 25-18. Regrouping, they came back and won the second 25-16. It was all down to one game to 15. After jumping out to an early lead at the switchover 8-4, the girls traded points with Fusion. They were up 14-11 with the serve and saw the match slowly slip away. Tough serving, timely blocks, and a few key kills by Fusion ended the match at 16-14. It was a great run for the girls and Coach Cromer.

It should be noted that at one time or another *every* play on TVC 17-C played like they belonged on the All-Tournament Team! Special congratulations to Ashley Barr, Ceara Barr and Nikki Pierzchala who were selected to represent TVC on the All-Tournament Team.

Congratulations to all of the TVC players and coaches for a great season and for representing the OVR so well in Atlanta.

—Michelle Hills,

Co-Director, Kaepa Toledo Volleyball Club

Sports Express 18 Black Shows Strength, Seizes Fifth

As a coach, you always want the Gold. This year, we achieved it. Although we did not finish #1, we finished as a bonded and accomplished team.

Sports Express finished 5th in Club at the 2003

JO Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia. We started this tournament out strong, winning every match the first day and making our hopes and dreams become more realistic. The first match of the tournament was against Utah Players, ranked first and returning Champions. SE came to Atlanta ready to *play!* We took Utah Players in three games and this set the pace for the rest of the tournament.

We finished first in our pool and were up against another first-place team and two second-place teams the following day. The second day was another tough one. We were up against Maunalani, who we have heard was a fantastic team. We were not as successful against them, but they did end up winning the tournament this year. The third day of play, we knew we had to step it up in order to have a shot at winning it. We had our third loss against Mizuno Sports Performance White. It was devastating for us all. The girls played their hearts out and wanted this win more than anything. That third day was the most trying because we were faced with a play-off game for second place. This would decide which team would go into the Gold tournament for the final day of play. Sports Express was unbeatable! They played with everything they had. It came down to who wanted it more. The outcome... *Sports Express!*

The next day we found out that we were up against Utah Players again. We knew that they wanted us. They were out for the kill. The match went to three games, but the end was not as good. We ended our season with a loss to the returning champions, whom we beat just three days prior. Tears were shed and hugs were given.

I couldn't have asked for a better team to coach. These young athletes have amazing futures with volleyball and life. The love they have for the game is immeasurable. Our experience in Atlanta will never be forgotten. Way to play, girls.

—Kelly Schoenhoft

Coach, Sports Express 18 Black

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Premier Volleyball Club Travels to Atlanta!

Premier Volleyball Club qualified their 13-18s teams to either Phoenix or Atlanta this year, carrying on the tradition of success. Opting not to send teams to the Phoenix Invite due to cost, we did, however send our two top teams, 16-1 and 17-1, to Atlanta for the USA Girls' National Tournament. Premier had a great year with these two teams, both of them winning many tournaments throughout the season with the highlight being sweeping the Best of America tournament in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Both teams finished well in Orlando, Florida, the week prior, giving them confidence to compete at nationals against some of the same teams.

In Atlanta, both teams knew they had to do well on the first day to even try and get to the coveted top of the pack. They both did so, winning their pools and advancing to the top 32 teams. 17-1 played a great match against Dunes 17s, winning it by two points in the 3rd game. Both teams showed up to play the second day with 16-1 coming out of their pool 2-1, advancing them to the final 16. 17-1, however, had a rough task in front of them, getting a tough pool of Sky High, Munciana, and Golden Bear all in one pool. Playing some of their best volleyball yet this year, the team lost a heart-breaking tiebreaker near midnight, putting them in position not to advance to the upper bracket. The heart had definitely been taken out of this team at that very moment. Emily Zulauf, one of the team's top players, experienced some back trouble and had to be pulled from the game, and the team could not come back to win. The next day, 16-1 tried to take care of business, but fell to 1-2 in their pool by two points in the third game twice in the pool. This still left 16-1 in position to finish in 9th place, but they fell short on the last day when your body does not have much more to give, finishing 13th. 17-1 had no heart on the last day, losing early, and wanting to just come home to Ohio. 17-1 definitely got their volleyball in while they were there, playing every match to 3 games the entire tournament. We are very proud of the girls on both teams and their families for having such a

great tournament and playing the best teams in the country. We look forward to hopefully sending more teams to Texas next year!

This was a great year for Premier in many ways. We opened our own Academy with many new programs, added many new faces to our club, and took some new kids on the National scene, hopefully to train for the future. We sent away 12 seniors to play collegiately this fall and have 6 players verbally committed for 2004. We had three players join the OVR HP team this summer, and they had a great time in Utah!

—Jodi Schramm

Director, Premier Volleyball Club

Kaepa CVC 18 Black Competes in 18 Open in Atlanta

Kaepa CVC 18 Black traveled to Atlanta to compete in the very competitive division of 18 open. The team qualified in open by placing second at the MEQ. The squad consisted of the seniors Kris Brown (Wooster, Penn State), Cortney Gilbert (Midview, Cleveland State), Kailee Goold (Magnificat, West Virginia), Jess Pompei (Magnificat, Seton Hall), Katie Tobiasz (Rocky River, University of Alaska, Fairbanks); juniors Maggie Case (Austiontown Fitch), Jill Qualye (North Royalton, Xaiver), Ashley Wallace (Amherst), Jackie Phiel (Amherst), Mel Snyder (Amherst), sophomore Lucy Raus (Wooster) and freshman Michelle Rossi (Padua). Coaches Troy and Cass Dixon kept this diverse group focused and prepared the entire season. The memories will last a lifetime!

—Jess Pompei, Kaepa CVC 18 Black

Cincy VBC 12s Excel in Atlanta

Cincy VBC 12s' trip to Atlanta had hoped to be a competitive one with their middle player getting the approval to play after recovering from a broken arm. Unfortunately, just prior to departing for Atlanta, the team's best player slipped on a nail and had to get 24 stitches in her foot and was on crutches for ten days.

Everyone else on the team would have to step it up a notch to fill Courtney's shoes. The first day proved to be long for not only Courtney sitting on the bench cheering, but for the team who ended up 3rd in pool play. The second day

the girls seemed to pick up the pace and finished a 2nd at the end of play.

Day three was thrilling: if Cincy won their first playoff match, then they would come up against their home-town rival, NKYVC, who they have had the pleasure of playing several times throughout the season. Cincy VBC came up with a win after a hard fought, three-game match. Who would have thought that we would end up in Atlanta playing a team from our backyard? Again it was a battle for both teams, and Cincy VBC came out the winners this time.

The team had just one match to finish on a winning note, but unfortunately the other team, which was small but mighty, prevailed at the end. Cincy VBC 12s had a great experience and a lot of tears when the day and season had come to an end.

—Mindy Leonard

Director, Cincy VBC

Cincy VBC 14-1 Earns 5th in Gold

The 14 Cincy VBC came to Phoenix with an ax to grind. Seeded 34th, the group knew it would be tough to survive the first day. The team finished 3rd in their pool, winning only one match.

Because of the 3rd place finish, Cincy had to play one match to stay in the top division early on the second day. They won the match in two games. Later that day, Cincy played hard, beating the second- and third-seeded teams in the pool and placing second that day.

The third day brought on the 4th- and 5th-seeded teams, Brazos Valley and NI Jrs. First Kill. Cincy took on a tough Brazos Valley, who had lost only one game over the past two days. Cincy dropped the first game 13-25 and then fought back to win the second game 25-22 and third game 16-14, handing the Texas team their first loss. First Kill won the next match against Cincy 25-22, 25-27, but Cincy pulled out the spot in the gold division by placing second. In the quarter-final game on Sunday, Cincy lost to eventual gold champion, N. Iowa X-treme, in three close games. Cincy 14s finished a very respectable 5th place in the gold division.

—Jo Henderson

Parent, Cincy VBC

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Kaepa Borderline Sends First Team to Nationals



photo courtesy of Team Photo

The Kaepa Borderline Junior Volleyball Club was founded in 1994 and began competition in 1995. The name came from the club's location near the Indiana and Ohio border. There were two 14 and Under teams the first season. The club grew to 8 teams in 1996 and 14 teams in 1997. By 2001, we were up to 22 teams in Liberty and Oxford. The club sent their first team to Atlanta for the 2003 National tournament.

18 Red, Borderline's 18 Open team, coached by Gene Williams, had a fantastic season. They placed 9th out of 119 top teams at the 2003 Kaepa Hoosier Mideast Qualifier and 3rd in the 18 Open division in the ASICS Junior National Volleyball Championships 2003 at Chicago's Navy Pier.

The 8 players who competed in the National tournament were Claire Alfors (4), Jesi Bewley (13), Melissa Doss (5), Elizabeth Eby (18), Stephanie Geis (12), Nicole LoVaglio (1), Holly Morgan (6), and Eryn Speed (11).

The team went 0-3 on day 1 but came back to win 5 matches over the next two days while only losing 2. They finished in the top two thirds of the teams in the tournament.

—Gene Williams

Head Coach, Borderline 18 Red

NKYVC Making Its Mark at USA Nationals

For the 3rd consecutive year Northern Kentucky-Ohio Volleyball Club has sent teams from every age division to the USA Girl's Junior Olympic Nationals. This year was no exception as the 121, 131, 141 and 151 squads arrived in Atlanta excited to represent the NKYVC family and eager to compete against the nation's best.

Each NKYVC team put forth their best effort displaying a high level of spirit, competition and camaraderie throughout the 4-day national tournament. At the end of the event, all the teams knew they left their best volleyball in Atlanta and everyone took away an unforgettable competitive experience to end the 2003 season on a high note.

"We are so proud of all the girls and the way they represented the club and themselves. Attending USA Nationals is a great opportunity for all of us to realize where we stand in the big volleyball picture and what is needed to prepare for the next level," stated Katie Wesseling, NKYVC Club Director.

"This kind of experience affects the entire club by raising the bar for every coach, team, and player in every age division. It is a wonderful synergy of commitment, accomplishment and celebration for a job well done," added Kathy Kleinhuizen, NKYVC Coaching Director.

For the players, the excitement for 2004 began before they even left the Atlanta Convention Center. The noises of competition, the many smells, the constant laughter and a few tears really makes the athletes want to come back for more! So hang on to your cowboy boot straps 2004 is right around the corner and NKYVC is looking forward to the season's journey to Texas.

For the last 4 years NKYVC has been building the club from the youngest age group up making this year's performance by the 2003 national teams proof positive that hard work, commitment, and perseverance pays off *bigtime!* In addition, 2003 marks a major milestone for the club as 2 teams competed in the Open division: 141 Tsunami qualified open in Tampa FL and 151 Tsunami received an open at-large. *Way to go NKYVC!*

The following coaches and players represented NKYVC and the OVR at the 2003 USA Junior Olympic Nationals held in Atlanta GA.

121 Tide Finished 33rd/48 in 12 Club. Head Coach: Sara Palazzo. Team Members: Caitlin Clark, Kaela Freppon, Sarah Iden, Jordan Laumann, Maggie Peddicord, Heather Schierer, Alyxandra Schulte, Karley Reid, Sarah Haas.

131 Tide Finished 11th/64 in 13 Club. Head Coach: Angie Boden. Team Members: Katelynn Bachman, Maggie Bowers, Jessica Kramer, April Lubrecht, Kenzie Martin, Sarah Robinson, Cristin Shaughnessy, Nicole Staverman, Anne Schwab.

141 Tsunami Finished 21st/28 in 14 Open. Head Coach: Jill Bornhorn. Team Members: Elizabeth Carl, Rachel Gadberry, Kristin Wells, Aimee Ryan, Rebecca Sebastian, Lauren Snyder, Allison Stark, Liza Toebe, Danielle Wurtz.

151 Tsunami Finished 19th/28 in 15 Open. Head Coach: Kathy Kleinhuizen. Assistant Coach: Cassie Doering. Team Members: Nicole Baker, Jessica Isaac, Stephanie Cutter, Katelyn Luckman, Sara Meineke, Hillary Otte, Andrea Price, Allie Bertke, Kristy Hock.

—Kathy Kleinhuizen

NKYVC Coaching Director

Glass City 13 Diamond Closes an Outstanding Season

The Glass City Volleyball Company 13 Diamond team roughed it through three families with car difficulties to finish in 21st out of 64 teams. The National experience was wonderful for the players and the girls and allowed them the opportunity to meet teams from all over the country. The difference between a finish in the top eight was really a third game loss, 13-15, on day two. The girls now know how hard it is to compete at this level and are more prepared for the future. They may not have won the gold, but the parents and the players shook the Hard Rock Cafe and the streets of Atlanta by leading a parade to the tune on "Y.M.C.A." The girls then finished the night with a horse and buggy ride back to the hotel.

—Dana Johnson

Director, Glass City Volleyball Company

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Renaissance White-18 Works Through Injuries at Nationals

Coach: Valon Pennington,
Renaissance Boys' Coordinator

Asst. Coach: Jason Trocki

Players:

Jonathan Bodnar	Deer lakes
Mike Frederick	Latrobe
Matt Greenwell	Upper St. Clair
Alex Kozlowski	Central Catholic
Ryne Murray	Upper St. Clair
Karl Radke	Upper St. Clair
Eric Schons	Montour

Results:

Day 1	3-4	3 rd in pool
Day 2	0-6	last in pool
Day 3	4-4	3 rd in pool
Day 4	3-3	lost in finals of

Flight 1 Championship

Considering that the team lost three All-WPIAL players at the end of June due to injuries, the team fared well. As last minute replacements, juniors Mike Frederick, Alex Kozlowski, and Jonathan Bodnar all had strong performances. Setter Karl Radke, OH Ryne Murray, and MH Matt Greenwell and led the team. Originally seeded 31st out of 32 teams, the team finished 26th.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

Renaissance Red-17 Takes 5th at Boys' 17 Club Nationals

Coach: John Romano

Asst. Coach: Matt Tamborino

Players:

Andrew Belden	Baldwin
Brandon Cook	North Allegheny
Steve Donaldson	North Allegheny
Everett Good	Mt. Lebanon
A.J. Hitchcox	North Allegheny
John Kofmehl	North Allegheny
Adam McMahon	Central Catholic
Aaron Wynkoop	North Allegheny

Results:

Day 1	8-1	1 st in pool
Day 2	5-4	2 nd in pool
Day 3	4-0	1 st in pool
Day 4	0-2	5 th in Gold Championship

On the last day, the team lost 27-25 and 25-22 to

a good Tool City team in the first round of the Gold Championships. Tool City would then go on to lose in the finals in three games to a good Cincinnati Attack 17-1 Black team. Thus, the OVR had a very strong showing in the 17-Club Gold Championships.

Setter John Kofmehl was selected to the All-Tourney team. OH Steve Donaldson, RS Brandon Cook, and MH Adam McMahon had very strong performances. Originally seeded 36th out of 38 teams, the team finished 5th.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

Renaissance White-17

Coach: Kris Scigliano,

Head Coach, Fox Chapel HS Girls and

Head Coach, Central Catholic Boys

Asst. Coach: Brian Kapusta

Players:

Jake Churton	Mt. Lebanon
Trey Daerr	Central Catholic
Ryan Dax	Mt. Lebanon
Alex Lutz	Central Catholic
Chris Manly	Central Catholic
Kellen Petrone	Central Catholic
Dan Vargo	Mt. Lebanon
Chris Warman	Central Catholic
Steve Westhead	North Allegheny
Dan Wright	Mt. Lebanon

Results:

Day 1	0-6	last in pool
Day 2	0-6	last in pool
Day 3	2-5	3 rd in pool
Day 4	0-2	last in pool

The team was led by S/BR Ryan Dax, S/RS Kellen Petrone, and MH Chris Warman. Seeded 28th out of 38 teams, the team finished 37th.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

Renaissance Red-16 Clinches 11th at Nationals

Coach: Brendon Aleski,

Head Coach, Montour HS Boys/Girls

Asst. Coach: Jake Lawrence

Players:

Brandon Czemerda	Deer Lakes
David Gerger	Montour
Alex Joyce	Mt. Lebanon
Dan Killinger	Bethel Park

Rob McCartney	Mt. Lebanon
Ricky Murray	Upper St. Clair
Steve Nicola	North Allegheny
Nickolas Overbaugh	North Allegheny
Adam Rector	North Allegheny
Joel Trocki	Deer Lakes

Results:

Day 1	3-4	3 rd in pool
Day 2	4-4	2 nd in pool
Day 3	0-4	last in pool
Day 4	2-2	lost in semifinals of

Silver Championship

The team was led by Setter Steve Nicola, OH Nickolas Overbaugh, MH Dan Killinger, and RS Joel Trocki. Originally seeded 22nd out of 32 teams, the team finished 11th.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

Renaissance Red-15 Finishes 2nd in Flight 2 at Nationals

Coach: Phil O'Keeffe,

Head Coach Fox Chapel HS Boys

Players:

Jimmy Boyle	Fox Chapel
Cory Haywiser	Thomas Jefferson
Mike Larko	Plum
Matt Lutz	Central Catholic
Chris Oczypok	Thomas Jefferson
Nickolas Rivett	Fox Chapel
Peter Swauger	Baldwin
Kyle Wentzel	Mt. Lebanon
Kevin Wojcik	Montour

Results:

Day 1	0-6	last in pool
Day 2	2-6	last in pool
Day 3	5-3	2 nd in pool
Day 4	3-3	lost in finals of

Flight-2 Championships

The team was led by S/OH Peter Swauger, who averaged 5 aces per game, as well by the hitting of OH Kyle Wentzel and MH Nickolas Rivett. Originally seeded 31st out of 32 teams, the team finished 26th and 2nd in Flight 2.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

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USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

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Cincinnati Bullets Qualify for Nationals 3 Years Straight

Another Great Year, Another Great National Tourney. This is the 3rd year the Cincinnati Bullets have earned the right to represent the OVR at the Junior National Tournament in Atlanta. As always, it was great volleyball and a lot of fun. We love playing the best volleyball teams in the country — there is nothing that can compare to playing at that level. Just being on the court with teams from all over the US is awesome.

Playing JO Nationals is a fabulous experience on many levels. You meet a lot of great players who you will be playing with and against for the rest of your career. For some players, Nationals are the highlight of their career. For others who continue to play at the college level, Nationals are the beginning of the level of play they will experience later.

I will never forget my first time to go to nationals, there is nothing to compare to it. The intensity and level of play is incredible. You can feel the passion of the players. There is an atmosphere that I have never experienced anywhere else. Everybody plays hard and gives their all. However, in spite of the desire to win, I always see good sportsmanship. Even after losing a tough match, the players are respectful to each other.

Playing Nationals is the perfect way to end a season. It is the reward for all the hard work the girls put into our favorite sport. JO Volleyball is a long season, starting around December and not ending until July. The girls put in a lot of time on the court practicing and working hard to be the best they can be. Getting a ticket to Nationals is the first reward for the effort, and that is a good experience on its own. But the real reward is playing at the National Tourney.

In spite of the fact that there are only a limited few teams that leave the last day winning their final match, every team that attends is a winner. That is one of the nice features of the experience: teams don't have to win every match to have a positive experience.

Our Team has really enjoyed our experience, and has been fortunate to win a "ticket to the Big Dance" every year of our existence. We are a

one-team club and it has been our goal from Day 1 to go to Nationals. We are fortunate to be able to achieve this goal, and we are looking forward to playing in Houston next year. We hope to see you there!

— Beth Blackburn

Director, Cincinnati Bullets

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black Come Home Winners from Nationals

After a disappointing first day at the Bid tournament, Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Black set the tone for the remainder of the second day by playing exceptionally well against Toledo Volleyball Club. We placed 6th in that tournament with a loss to our own Red team and Atlantis (again!). But it was enough to get us to Atlanta. Our first day in Atlanta was tough, but the girls never gave up. We finished 3rd in our pool with only one win against New York Volleyball Club and two losses against Colorado Juniors and Palm Beach. The second day came with more enthusiasm and more drive to win. We finished 2nd but only after a tough loss in the first game against Faribault Red. But we beat teams from Hawaii and Front Range, and the girls were very excited. Things were getting better with back-to-back wins on the second day. The third day brought great teamwork and great volleyball. We won our pool with wins against RVC and Adidas Select, and the girls were more excited than ever. With four straight wins under our belts, we headed into day four with our heads held high and with great confidence. Day four turned out to be a victorious one, as we beat Circle City Juniors to walk away Flight 3 winners. With seven straight match wins and a win in our final game as a team, the girls went home winners!

— Beth Martin and Omar Elias

Coaches, Mizuno Cincy Classics

Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Red Take 11th at 15 Club Nationals

Cincy Classics 15 Red ended a successful JO season in Atlanta, finishing 11th out of 64 teams in the 15 Club division. Throughout the season this team defeated several 15 Open Qualifier teams such as Circle City 15-1, TVC Grindle, Asics Munciana Banana Slugs, and Team Z. They qualified for the national tournament at their regional qualifier in Columbus, Ohio, having finished 2nd overall. The girls started off the national tournament perfectly, with a 3-0 first-place finish on their first day of pool play.

The second day they finished 2-1 and second overall, playing a grueling match vs. Seal Beach. The second game of the match lasted over an hour and the ending score was 36-34! The score was so high that the scorekeepers had to start back at single digits to keep score after 30. They finished out the match with a win, but had to defeat the same team in a 15-point tie-breaking match for a second-place finish in the pool. They defeated Seal Beach 15-9 and moved on in the tournament for a chance at Gold.

On the third day Cincy didn't fare quite as well, turning up with a 1-2 record, but also having their only win in the pool be against the first-place finisher, Team Complete. Team Complete ended the tournament 5th and Golden West, the 2nd-place finisher of that pool won the Gold Bracket for 1st-place overall. Needless to say, the competition on the third day was pretty fierce. Cincy ended up in the Silver bracket and loss in the second round. They ended up 11th overall and were very happy with their finish. Throughout the tournament Cincy played teams from Arizona, Illinois, Southern and Northern California, and Ohio. Congratulations on a great year!

The Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Black roster included Malorie Wessel (15, Mount Notre Dame), Alexis Lonneman (14, Mount Notre Dame), Mandi Binggeli (21, Lakota East), Chelsea Graman (7, Seton), Becky Hendrian (8, Seton), Lauren Marsh (9, Colerain), Brooke Sparks (13, Walnut Hills), and Anna Richter (5, Ursuline Academy).

— Stephanie Roeper

Coach, Mizuno Cincy Classics 15 Red

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Next Stop... Atlanta for Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Black

The Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Black team traveled to Atlanta this June to compete in the 2003 National Tournament in the Club division. We earned this bid after a hard weekend of pool play in Columbus on April 12 and 13. The twist to this bid was the fact that we had to play our sister team — Cincy Classics 14 Red — with the winner getting a bid... It was a high-energy, 3-game battle by both teams, with the victory going to the Black team. It was a very exciting moment for us. We ended up placing third overall in this tournament.

Day One in Atlanta found us placing 2nd in our pool overall, keeping us in the Gold/Silver division. After beating Biltmore in two and Texas Victory (26-24, 28-26), we lost to Dallas Summit in two. That gave our pool a 3-way tie for 1st place. We had to play a one-game playoff to 15 with Dallas Summit, to whom we had just lost... the winner of the playoff earns the 2nd place status in the pool. We pulled off the victory and left the gym very happy.

Day Two we moved to Court One, which was exciting. We played some strong matches that day but ended up 3rd in our pool. We were points away from playing a tie-breaker for 2nd place — that was disappointing to us. One highlight to the day was that setter Hope Lohmueller was awarded the Sweet Hands of the Day distinction from the tournament coordinators. Congratulations Hope!

Day Three was a 3-team pool day. We ended up going 1-1, losing to Washington 14 TJ and beating NBC Camps-Club KI, putting us 2nd in our pool and playing for Flight 1 the next day.

Championship Day was filled with lots of volleyball. After beating Nike Six Pack 14's in two, we beat Court Masters 14's in three. The finals were very exciting, we lost a little momentum at the end and lost in three to City Beach RSB 14 Green.

It was a great effort by this team all season long as they worked towards their goal of getting to Nationals.

Members of this team include Becky Shaeffer (Ursuline), Jordan Henderson (Ursuline), Lyndsay

Upton (Mount Notre Dame), Kelsey Rose (Roger Bacon), Marie Bazeley (St. Ursula), Amanda Fago (Mason), Hope Hohmueller (Sycamore), Trish Grannen (Sycamore), Jenna Suttles (Colerain), and Abby Schaller (McAuley). Great job girls - your coach is proud!

— Sandy Grannen

Coach, Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Black

Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red

After missing the Open qualification by one spot at two Open Qualifiers and missing Club qualification by one spot at our Regional Bid tournament, our #1 14s team at Mizuno Cincy Classics was hoping for the at-large bid into the national tournament in Atlanta, Georgia.

Yes, Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red got the at-large Open bid, but as a coach, you need to think of some new strategy to do well in the Open side of the tournament. The team was newly organized, unlike most of the experienced teams that would be there that consisted of the same "core" group they took to Nationals when they were 13. Our Cincy Classics 14 Red team was newly reorganized from the year before, and our new strategy was simply trying to "peak" at Nationals. Our team consisted of 10 girls: setter Sam Viox, middle hitters Michelle Kenning, Molly Rowland, and Tarah Childress, outside hitters Jenna Hagglund, Sarah McGrath, Brittany Reinert, and Alex Kelly, and defensive specialists/liberos Carolyn Gagliardi and Alli Bergheger. The coaches were Ronald and Lisa Mahlerwein.

The only good thing about going to Open Nationals as an at-large bid team was hopefully to surprise a few teams who thought we weren't good enough to qualify elsewhere. After a 10-week course of speed enhancement and jump training the girls not only bonded in a new way, they were faster and jumped higher than they ever had before. The feeling of the team "peaking" had come over the coaches, the parents, and other teams we were playing in the meantime. They felt strong going into the first day of play, Wednesday, June 25th, at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. The first challenge faced was playing the #2 seed, 2nd City. We were 0-2 with 2nd City and owed them a beat-

ing. After stomping 2nd City in two games, Mizuno Cincy Classics went on to win their first day at Nationals *undefeated*. The girls were peaking and felt that they owned the court all day. The second day into Nationals was the same way, undefeated, with great matches again as the 10 girls stuck together as a team and were unstoppable. The second day ended with the most intense match of their 14 year old career against Jammers, out of Hawaii. The match went three games point for point, and Cincy Classics came out on top after all 10 girls' contributions and all 10 girls' families' contributions.

I am sad to say but those two days were the best they could have done. The gas ran empty and the inexperience of the 10 girls being at Nationals showed through the next two days, as not another match was won. Overall, Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red finished 11th at the USA Junior Olympic Girls Volleyball Championships. Their first two days of play were good enough to let them sit pretty in the 11th-place finish.

— Lisa Mahlerwein

Coach, Mizuno Cincy Classics 14 Red

Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red Start Off Strong at Nationals

Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red won the bid to go to Nationals in Atlanta at the Bid tournament, where they placed first and were undefeated by beating NKYVC in the semifinals and beating Glass City in the finals.

The first day of play consisted of playing such teams as Seal Beach (#1 seed), TAV 13 National, and KJ Black. We won our pool with ease on the first day.

The second day of play consisted on the top 32 teams in the tournament. We once again ended the day undefended by beating Lions 13-1, Mizuno Long Beach, and Kaepa Circle City. The third day of play ended in heartbreak. We ended the day 2-1, beating City Beach and Vision. The girls showed some real heart when they came back from a 5-12 deficit against Vision to win the third game. Unfortunately, the pool ended in a 3-way tie and we lost the playoff game to City Beach. It was difficult being 8-1 for the first three days and only making it to the Silver Bracket. This disappointment was apparent

USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

(Continued from page 24)

in the last day when we lost to NKYVC in the first round of the Silver Tournament. We ended the tournament 13th overall.

Since this was the first time that the coach and most of the players attended the National Tournament, we are very proud of their performance. The team played some of the best volleyball of the season in Nationals!

—Laura Marshall

Coach, Mizuno Cincy Classics 13 Red

Team Z 161 Battles a Tough Field in Nationals 16 Open

Day 1... Team Z 161 opened against one of the pre-tournament favorites in M1 of Minnesota and dropped a sluggish match, 0-3. Next they turned the tables on Tampa Bay VBC with a 3-0 win to start the 2003 National's with a 1-1 match record.

Day 2... turned into one of the best days of the event. TZ opened with City Beach VBC from San Jose, California. This was the same squad that was the 2002 15 Open Champions. Team Z squeaked out an up-and-down, 5-game thriller 15-11 in the fifth. Next up was Illinois Jrs Black, who TZ beat 3-0 to stand 3-1 in the pool.

Day 3... was the toughest schedule yet. TZ opened with a 0-3 loss to Sports Performance 16-1 from Chicago. Later in the day they incurred another 0-3 loss to eventual champion Mavericks 16-1 from California. This gave the Team Z a pool record of 3-3 for a 4th-place finish in the initial pool over the three days.

Day 4... Team Z was placed in the Bronze Division based on their 4th-place finish in pool play. The opening match would be against South Bay 16's from the Los Angeles area. Team Z raced to a 2-0 lead in the semi final match. However, South Bay came back for a 15-25, 19-25, 25-22, 25-21, 15-10 win. The loss in the Bronze semi gave TZ a 15th-place finish in the Open field of 28.

Team members were Darcie Hunter (Oak Hills), Emily Cahill and Allison Menne (Notre Dame Academy), Mindy Rees (Mount Notre Dame HS), Kelly Hoffmeyer and Caitlin Carey (Seton HS), Tricia Meyers (Mercy HS), and Maggie Schmelzle and MacKenzie Angner (St.

Ursula Academy). The head coach was John Spinney, and the and assistant coach was Rich Zeciski.

—Rich Zeciski

Director, Team Z

Team Z 151 Wins Silver Open Division at Atlanta JNC

Day 1... Team Z 151 started out this year's National Open Tournament with an opponent that has been formidable this entire season. TZ opened strong and defeated Asics Munciana 25-21, 25-23. Next was Gold Cal Jrs., which ended in a 2-0 victory. The third match of the day was a 2-1 win over Club Texas, leaving the Ohio team with a 3-0 pool record.

Day 2... continued well with a 2-1 win over St. Louis CYC and a hard fought 2-1 win over Vision Gold from California. The last pool play match of the day was against Orlando Volleyball Academy, which TZ dropped in 1-2 loss. Through a series of tie-breakers, Team Z came out of the initial pool in 1st place and advanced to Day 3's 3-team pool structure.

Day 3... TZ was placed with regional rival Dunes 15 Black and Golden Bear from California. The top two teams would advance to the Gold Pool, and the 3rd-place finisher to the Silver Division. Team Z could not hold an 11-8 lead on Dunes in the third game and dropped the match in 3. After a 2-0 loss to Golden Bear, the Ohio girls were placed in the Silver Division finals.

Day 4... The semifinal match was a 2-0 win over highly regarded Delta Valley Blue from California. In the finals of the division, TZ posted a 25-20, 25-19 win over Tampa Bay 15 Black to claim 9th place in the 2003 15 Open Division.

Team members were Madison Arents and Megan Dooley (Lakota West), Shelley Walroth (Oak Hills), Sam Holden (Ursuline Academy), Victoria Randolph (Mount Notre Dame HS), Katey Schroeder (McNicholas HS), Katie Veatch, Ashley Morgan, and Jaime Frey (Roger Bacon HS). 151's head coach was Sally Veatch.

—Rich Zeciski

Director, Team Z

Zero Gravity Juniors

Zero Gravity Juniors had a very had a very successful season in 2003, ending with a visit to the land of melted pavement... Phoenix. A team comprised of girls from 3 different teams traveled to Arizona and didn't disappoint.

The girls played teams from the Southern California, Pioneer, Badger, Rocky Mountain, Sun Country, and Western Empire Regions and finished the week with a 15-8 game and 6-4 match record. The girls made a lot of new friends and got a little sun, while playing a little volleyball along the way.

The trip capped off a season that saw our 18s end the season ranked #1 in the OVR and finishing 2nd at the OVR Championships, our 16's winning the Gold Regional Championship, our 17's finishing 5th in the OVR, and 10+ tournament victories along the way for the club.

The future looks very bright for the program with 23 kids returning from the 3 teams in 2004. Good luck to all in the upcoming high school seasons and we'll see you in the gym in a couple of months.

—Chuck Musselman

Director, Zero Gravity Juniors

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2003 USA Volleyball National Championships

Nearly 500 teams competed in the 2003 USA Volleyball National Championships, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on May 24-31, 2003. Competition was divided into two sessions: May 24-27 and May 28-31. The following accounts were contributed by the participants.



Miami Valley Masters 55s



Miami Valley Masters 60s

Miami Valley Masters 55s

Seeded 4th in our 5-team pool at the US Open we finished 4th, with a 1-3 match record and a 4-6 game record. We defeated Bay Magic, 25-10, 25-17 and lost to Sao Paulo Masters, 14-25, 18-25, Papakoa, 25-18, 18-25, 9-15, and Rustys, 19-25, 25-22, 7-15. All seventeen teams were placed in a double-elimination Gold bracket championship. In the playoffs, we beat Louisville Masters, 19-25, 30-28, 15-10, then lost to Just Volleyball, 16-25, 19-25. This put us in the losers' bracket, where we were victorious over Colorado, 25-16, 25-17 and Northern Heat, 25-21, 25-19. Facing Quicksilver Legends in the quarter-finals of the losers' bracket on the final day, we lost 14-25, 13-25. Of the six teams still left on the final day, three came from our original 5-team pool: Papakoa (who finished 3rd), Sao Paulo, and us. The Brazilians defeated Just Volleyball in an exciting double final for the gold medal. Miami Valley Masters finished tied for 5th in the Gold, which is the best we have done in the 55s' division. Team members were Rick Laskey (Jacksonville, NC), Terry Miller (Dayton, OH), Steven DiBacco (Huber Heights, OH), Steve Crane (Houston, TX), Rich Knouff (Sidney, OH), John Tokash (Newnan, GA), and Ken Rahn (Northridge, CA).

Following Nationals, the Miami Valley Masters 55s competed at the Senior Games in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on June 3-5. In the first 3-team pool, we lost to PA Keystone 55s and defeated Third Ward from New York. In the second 3-team pool, we defeated Bombers II of Tennessee and lost to Michigan 55s. Only the top two teams from each of the pools on the second day went to a single elimination playoff. We finished 2nd in our pool and were seeded 5th for the final day. In the quarter-finals we beat Oxford 55s from Alabama. In the semi-finals we lost to Michigan 55s, who eventually won the tournament. In the Bronze Medal match, we were victorious over Tennessee Wheels. Team members were Rick Laskey (Jacksonville, NC), Terry Miller (Dayton, OH), Steven DiBacco (Huber Heights, OH), Mike O'Hair (Hamilton, OH), Fred Gealey (Pittsburgh, PA), Ivan Woltmann (West Chester, OH), Rick Harpster (Wadsworth, OH), and Don Clark (Toledo, OH).

— Rick Laskey

Miami Valley Masters 60s

The Miami Valley Masters 60s participated in the 2003 USAV National Volleyball Tournament representing the Ohio Valley Region. We were in Pool 2, from which the Gold and Bronze winners came along with the 4th- and 5th-place teams overall. In pool play we lost to Just Volleyball (1st), 14-25, 7-25; Team Sota (3rd), 18-25, 14-25; Outback Steakhouse (4th), 20-25, 10-25; Rusty's (5th), 22-25, 22-25; and beat Palmetto 60, 25-22, 25-18.

We won our first match in the playoffs with Warren Six Pac, 15-25, 25-10, 15-9. Then we lost to champion Just Volleyball, 16-25, 18-25. We ended with a disappointing loss to Palmetto 17-25, 25-15, 13-15 after leading 13-10 in the third game. A fun time was had by all and plans are being made for next year in Atlanta.

— Tom Fulton

OVR Board Meeting Synopsis: August 9-10, 2003

OVR directors, officers, staff, and guests met on August 8-10, 2003 at Mohican State Park for the annual retreat. Early discussions began on Friday night, with the board meetings running from 8:15AM-6:18PM on Saturday and 8:17-10:15AM on Sunday. Saturday night featured the annual OVR Awards Dinner.

Attendance (board members italicized):

Present: Ron Wyzynski, *Bob Price, Nick Nystrom, Terry Miller, Art Faura, Bill Zehler, Al Herbert, Keith Burke, Michelle Fox, Brian Hemelgarn, Bob Dickenson, Elaine Viney, Emi Vishoot, Tom Kohl, Glenn Purdy, Steve Donahue, Jimmy McKinzey, Barb Strome.*

Not present: *Troy Dixon, Patty Salvatore.*

Guests: Paul Claridades, Eric Gillespie.

Introduction of Guests – Bob Price

- Bob welcomed Elaine Viney to the board and introduced Barb Strome.

Ron Wyzynski – CEO/Executive Director

- Ron thanked the board for their support and confirmed his commitment to the OVR.
- The OVR continues to be in a financially sound position due to frugal spending, solid business practices, valuable fundraisers, and dedication of our staff.
- Molten® volleyball sales benefit our membership, and sale of Baden® volleyballs is a valuable opportunity for Ohio schools.
- The 2004 OVR Regional Championships and the OVR-Molten National Bid Qualifier will be held on April 16-18, 2004 at the Columbus Convention Center using 40 courts. Adult Regionals will provide non-playing tournament directors.
- The 2004 OVR Junior Championships will be held on May 1 at various Columbus sites and on May 8-9 and 14-16 at the Columbus Convention Center (36 courts).
- Working with Paul Claridades, the OVR will host a new tournament in Charleston, to help grow volleyball in West Virginia. This year's event will take place on April 24-25 (setup April 19 or 23), coinciding with the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Charleston Civic Center.

- Molten® will be the official ball of the OVR (and of USA Volleyball) through 2008. OVR members benefit through excellent rates, including direct shipping.
- Official volleyballs for 2003-2004: Molten® Super-Touch™ for men, women, and girls 13s-18s; Pro-Touch™ for boys; Volley-Lite™ for girls 10s-12s
- **Staff changes:** Building on last year's successful online registration, any paper registrations for 2004 will go to Nick. Steve will continue to collect checks and continue with verifications. Tom Kohl will be more involved in seeding, following Yoon's resignation. Due to the online reporting Nick introduced last year, coordinating juniors' results no longer requires a separate position. Al Herbert is increasingly involved with running tournaments at KSU and Charleston.

Bob Price – Commissioner/President

- Background checks probably will not be implemented for this season.
- Juniors' directors and coaches must avoid violations of OHSAA's 3-player rule. This includes apparent violations that might occur through not updating their rosters on the OVR website.
- Player transfers do not exist in the Ohio Valley Region, excepting certain extenuating circumstances. Transfers for tournaments following the OVR Championships, for example, are not granted.

Michelle Fox – Women's Tournament Dir.

- Registration information will be sent by e-mail, sending hardcopies only on request.
- Regionals: Steve Donahue and Al Herbert will assist with setting up playoffs to avoid delays. Players greatly appreciated having certified officials for pool play. The entry fee for Regionals will increase to \$150, in return for all-day officials. A format playing all adults on Sunday was strongly recommended to the Bid committee.

Keith Burke – Men's Tournament Dir.

- Divisions have reached an unprecedented

level of equality: 2003 Regionals required more matches to decide playoff spots than ever before. Pre-playoff games were needed on all 4 courts of Men's A, including 2 games on one of the courts.

- Keith suggested having a computer and database at the championship information desk would help guests locate teams and individuals. Nick offered to arrange it.

Brian Hemelgarn – Referees' Chair

- The following referees passed their ratings at this year's championships: *Jr. National Referees:* Kristine Mullen, Rich Pillar, Rich Hambrook, Nathan Mahaven, Jim Sagenich; *National Referees:* Dan Litteral, Jimmy McKinzey.
- Requirements for libero uniforms have changed (Rule 11.3.2.1).
- High school will use rally scoring (3/5 varsity, 2/3 sub-varsity) and the net serve next year. West Virginia and Pennsylvania are using rally scoring this year. Ohio may use the Libero in 2005. This is an opportunity to invite HS officials to OVR membership and training.
- Rule stability is expected to continue through 2004, after which FIVB will meet (following the Olympics).
- Online testing will continue this year, but with a new 1-hour limit (including for Regional referees).
- Professional Officials' Clinics: Westerville: December 6, Toledo: December 14, Pittsburgh: January 3, KSU: January 10.
- The region increased from 309 to 326 officials, including 34 new provisionals.
- Rating tournaments will be the second and third tournaments at KSU, along with the boys' tournament. The *Presidents' Cup*, February 14-16, may also be used.
- Bob Price suggested that the region pay several raters to visit larger tournaments, providing valuable feedback to experienced officials.
- The officials' pay scale for 2003-2004 is unchanged: \$135/day for up to six matches. Any matches beyond six at a

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OVR Board Meeting Synopsis: August 9-10, 2003 (cont'd)

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regular, local tournament are an additional \$22.50 each. For Regionals, \$22.50/match under 2/3 format; \$15/match for two 25-point games (or 21-point games).

Terry Miller – OVR Scorekeepers' Chair

- *National Scorekeepers*: Ron Moose, Tom Joseph, Bill Kissell.
- There's a move to resume using professional scorekeepers for Nationals, and Jr. National certification is being reinstated.
- Professional officials should send Terry their scoresheets from 1 match each year.

Paul Claridades and Eric Gillespie – Charleston VBC

- The Charleston program has grown from 60 girls trying out for 30 spots for 2002 to 100 girls trying out for 2003. Geography, however, poses a significant problem, as it has been difficult to attract Ohio teams to West Virginia.
- Local education and training would be helpful. Bill recommended doing IMPACT and perhaps IMPACT+ to start.
- The region will assist through the Big Top Volleyball tournament, training, and perhaps other efforts.

Bill Zehler – Juniors' Program Director

- Bill and Emi attended the YJOVD meeting last week.
- The OVR registered 10,084 female junior members.
- Bill will contact Ron Sours to ensure that the region receives information on juniors' waivers.
- The OVR hosted 712 teams on 32 courts at the 2003 Junior Championships, leaving only 2 openings overall. Every team that entered on time was finally accepted.
- The deadline for next year's registration for Junior Championships will be April 1.
- 5 OVR girls made the Youth National Team. 4 are starters. Trickle-down from HP to grass roots is very favorable. Bill recommended a new HP sand effort, attracting summer interest from both boys and girls.

- Bob mentioned that at a coaches' meeting last weekend, 3 college coaches said that Ohio is now one of their top 5 states for recruiting.
- Bill will schedule a late-September forum at Westerville, at which one representative from each club will pick up rulebooks and receive instructions, updates, and clarifications. [This forum was later canceled due to low projected turnout.]
- The ROD requested scorekeepers for all National events.
- Bill distributed and discussed a report, *YJOC Champ Proposal to Improve and Grow*. All divisions will increase by at least 24 teams. New "National" divisions would include automatic bid for regional (Bid) champions. The National division would include the top 2 OVR teams, and the "American" division would include approximately 3-5 more.

Tom Kohl – Juniors' Tournament Dir.

- The *Juniors' Tournament Packet* is being revised extensively for 2003-2004.
- No points will be awarded for incorrectly run tournaments.
- Power Challenge tournaments will be run on March 6-7: 13s, 14s, 15s; March 20-21: 16s, 17s, 18s. Sites will be finalized by October 1. Tom Kohl will announce the Power Challenge tournaments and accept registrations early (as with Bids).
- Major OVR tournaments will be posted as soon as possible. The full schedule will be published on Sunday, November 30.
- A tournament directors' meeting will be held on Dec. 6 at Westerville South HS.

Al Herbert – Junior Officials' Development Director

- 10,000 certification cards and 500 patches were distributed to officials.
- Al expects next year's nationals to require certified second officials and scorekeepers (as before).

Emi Vishoot – Boys' Volleyball Liaison

- Boys' Nationals: 18 OVR boys' teams par-

ticipated at Nationals. Renaissance 18 Red won 18 Club, and Cincinnati Black 18 took 5th place. OVR teams also took 1st and 2nd in 17 Club. Selection criteria were established at the YJOVD meetings for Open. 2003 was the first year this event was over-subscribed. Earning a bid will be required through a designated Bid tournament to be implemented for 2005 and, if possible, 2004.

- Emi requested help with the OVR boys' fall league, expected to run September-October. Elaine volunteered Monte Moser as the tournament director. Emi will contact coaches through Monte Moser's list. [The league was postponed to 2004.]
- OVR Boys' Championships: Sunday, February 29. Keith will be the tournament director and secure a site. If more than one site is necessary, Jimmy will be the tournament director at the second site.

Don Burroughs – Director of High Performance and Coaching Education

- Coaching education: Changes to the coaching education department at USA Volleyball will mean changes to CAP.
- High Performance: The HP Camp team finished 3rd out of 8. Coaches: Paco Labrador and Jeff Wagner. The HP Youth team finished 5th out of 8. Coaches: Wich Colchagoff and Tony Geer. 5 OVR players were selected for the Youth National Team, up from 1 last year. 2004 HP tryouts are tentatively scheduled for the Friday night before Bids.
- Don would like to move to coaching education funding better coaching education, and a summer HP camp funding the traveling teams.
- The International Children's Games will be held at Cleveland (Baldwin Wallace College) on Jul. 29-Aug. 1, 2004. 5-court, 3-day tournament: 14 international teams, 6 US teams. 15-and-under, FIVB rules.

Nick Nystrom – Editor and Webmaster

- Many improvements are planned to sup-

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Updated 2004 USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship Dates

Girls' JOVC: Houston, Texas

18, 17, 16 Open & Club: Sun., June 27 - Wed., June 30
 15, 14 Open & Club : Wed., June 23 - Sat., June 26
 13, 12 Club : Wed., June 23 - Sat., June 26

The 12 & Under age classification tournament will add teams in 2004, going from 48 to 64 teams and competing over 4 days versus the previous format of 3.

Girls' Invitational: Austin, Texas

13-18 Club: Thu., June 24 thru Sun., June 27

With the Girls' JOVC adding teams and the geographical proximity of sites, the Invitational will not offer 12s in 2004. An earlier deadline date for entry with region qualification will be used in 2004.

Boys' JOVC: Austin, Texas

18, 16 Open & Club: Wed., June 30 - Sat., July 3
 17, 15 Open & Club: Sun., July 4 - Wed., July 7
 14 Club : Sun., July 4 - Wed., July 7
 13 Club : Wed., June 30 - Sat., July 3
 12 Club : Sun., July 4 - Tue., July 6

Note: The 15s age classification will add a 15 Open tournament in 2004.

Pre-Tournament Manuals for each tournament will be posted www.usavolleyball.org/juniors/main.htm on December 1.

OVR Board Meeting Synopsis: August 9-10, 2003 (cont'd)

(Continued from page 28)

- port both professional and junior officials.
- Usage of ovr.org for the '02-'03 season is approaching 4 million pages served. The site will soon relocate to a new server to provide stronger infrastructure and better performance at lower cost.
- The 2004 OVR Handbook is proceeding well and will be published using recently matured technologies to improve access for browsers while still printing acceptably.
- The region must ensure that photos of regional champions are taken, for OVR records as well as to meet juniors' enthusiasm. Following Terry's recommendation, Nick agreed to direct OVR photography.
- Keith requested online reporting of men's tournament results and automated calculation of standings, as was done for juniors in 2002-2003. (Michelle prefers to continue receiving pool sheets, through which she reviews individual results.)
- Providing accurate dates of birth will be stressed for all registrations for positive identification and also for verification of age-group teams.

Steve Donahue – Verifications Officer

- The certifications database on ovr.org contains 3,137 records.

Filling Terms and New Positions

- Bill Zehler was re-elected as Juniors' Program Director (term: 9/1/03-8/31/07).
- Ron Wyzynski was re-elected as Registrar (term: 9/1/03-8/31/07).
- Barb Strome was elected as Junior Officials' Development Director (term: 9/1/03-8/31/07).
- Elaine Viney will serve as Elections Chair for 2003-2004.

Bid Tournaments

- 2004 Bid Committee: Art Faura, Al Herbert, Tom Kohl.

Awards (OVR, USAV)

- Awards Committee Chair: Bob Dickenson.
- Additional OVR Meritorious Service Awards have been determined and will be announced after they are presented, for instance at coaches' clinics.
- USAV Meritorious Service Awards are be-

ing framed for Wendy Alfors, Keith Burke, Don Burroughs, Steve Donahue, Michelle Fox, Scott Garver, Brian Hemelgarn, Al Herbert, Tom Kohl, Terry Miller, Nick Nystrom, Don Roderick, Hank Trimble, and Emi Vishoot.

- Art requested nominations for national awards by the end of January.

Fees Summary

- Registration and tournament entry fees are unchanged with the following exceptions:
 - The entry fee for adult Regionals increases from \$130 to \$150 to allow professional officials for pool play as well as playoffs.
 - Registration for female juniors increases from \$45 to \$50, reflecting increasing cost of the Junior Championships and operating expenses.
 - The entry fee for the Bid tournament will be determined by the Bid committee.

Future Board Meetings

- Oct. 19, 2003 10AM: Westerville South HS
- Jan. 19, 2004 9AM: Ramada Inn, Kent

2003 OHIO VALLEY MEN'S REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's results from the 2003 Ohio Valley Regional Volleyball Championships didn't reach our publication office in time for the August newsletter. Top results among the 80 teams

that participated are reported here, courtesy of Keith Burke, OVR Men's Tournament Director.

Men's Open (10 teams)

1. Six Bucks
2. Beaver Steel
3. North Coast
3. Outsiders / MV Brown
5. Green Horizon
5. Momentum

Men's A (17 teams)

1. Team Ohio Buckeyes
2. Augusta Eng.
3. City Disposal
3. 3rd Degree
5. Michigan Wild
5. Pittsburgh's Finest
5. Zippers
5. 8 Lazy Foot Diggers

Men's BB Gold (20 teams)

1. Big Dogs / Focus
2. Plumer Insurance
3. Absolut
3. Nutz
5. EVC Rusty
5. T.A.S.S.
5. SOFA
5. LMNOEng.Com

Men's B (18 teams)

1. Q-Sport
2. Cleveland Fire Dept.
3. K&J VBC
3. Dicks
5. Quality Door
5. BVVA
5. First Choice
5. King Kourt

Men's BB Silver (15 teams)

1. Black Squirrel
2. Mighty Mongoose
3. Coon Caulking
3. The Chapel
5. AIA
5. Coaches' Corner

The 2004 Men's and Women's Tournament Schedule is already taking shape at www.ovr.org/mw/tournaments.php

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

Results from the October board meeting, more news for the rapidly approaching 2003-2004 USA Volleyball season, additional OVR and USAV award recipients, regular columns from OVR officers and staff, and whatever members would like to contribute. Contact us at editor@ovr.org if you'd like to offer additional news or perspective.

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Committees

Juniors' Bid Committee

Art Faura, Al Herbert, Tom Kohl

OVR Awards Committee

Bob Dickenson (chair), Brian Hemelgarn, Emi Vishoot

Other Board Members

Bob Dickenson

825 Stonequarry Rd.
Dayton, OH 45414
937-890-8615 (home)
dickenson@ovr.org BoD

Board of Directors' Terms (BoD, above) expire

5/31/04: Hemelgarn, Herbert, McKinzey, Nystrom, Price
5/31/05: Dickenson, Faura, Miller, Purdy, Zehler
5/31/06: Dixon, Donahue, Salvatore, Viney, Vishoot

Officers' Terms expire

8/31/04: Regional Referees' Chairperson, Women's Tournament Dir.
8/31/05: Commissioner, Men's Tournament Director, Regional Scorekeepers' Chairperson, Juniors' Tournament Director
8/31/07: Registrar, Junior Officials' Development Director, Juniors' Program Director

Calendar

Registration

Memberships run from November 1 through October 31. Online registration will re-open on October 1. Juniors' (www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/) and Adults' Registration Packets (www.ovr.org/mw/registration_packet/) are available now. Hardcopies will be mailed on request: contact Micki Fox (fox@ovr.org; 330-666-8709).

Juniors' Competition

Regular-season girls' tournaments will be published on November 30. Application for Sanction: www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/.
www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/

Tryouts: The first day clubs may host tryouts for athletes in grades 9-12 is the day after your state's volleyball championships (Nov. 10 in Ohio and Pennsylvania). Tryouts for athletes in grade 8 and younger may be held no earlier than the last Sunday in October, provided the middle school season is over in your area.
www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/

OVR Boys' Regional Championships www.ovr.org/juniors/boys/
February 29, 2004 (site TBA)

Power Challenge Tournaments

14 Open & elite 13s: March 6-7, 2004, KSU
15 Open: March 6-7, 2004, GE Park, Cincinnati
18 Open: March 6-7, 2004, Univ. of Toledo
16 Open: March 20-21, 2004, Sports Express, Mason
17 Open: March 20-21, 2004, Premier VB Academy, Toledo
www.ovr.org/juniors/tournaments.php

High Performance Tryouts www.ovr.org/juniors/hp/
April 16, 2004 (evening), GCCC (tentative)

Bid Tournaments www.ovr.org/juniors/bid/
April 17-18, 2004, GCCC (tentative; may start April 16)

Big Top Volleyball www.ovr.org/juniors/tournaments.php
April 24-25, 2004, Charleston Civic Center (divisions TBA)

Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa-USA **Registration deadline: April 1**
2004 Junior Volleyball Championships

10s & 12s : May 1, 2004, Columbus schools
13s, 15 Club lower : May 8, 2004, GCCC
14 Club : May 9, 2004, GCCC
17-18 Club & Open : May 14-15, 2004, GCCC
16 Club : May 15, 2004, GCCC
14-16 Open, 15 Club upper : May 16, 2004, GCCC
www.ovr.org/juniors/championships/

National Qualifiers www.usavolleyball.org/juniors/nat_qual.htm

March 26-28, 2004: Pacific NW Qualifier (Spokane)
March 26-28 and April 2-4, 2004: Southern California (Los Angeles)
April 2-4, 2004: Tampa Bay Qualifier (Tampa Bay)
April 2-4 and 9-11, 2004: Hoosier Mid East Qualifier (Indianapolis)
April 9-11, 2004: NorthEast Qualifier (Baltimore)
April 16-18, 2004: Far Western (Reno)
April 16-18 and 23-25, 2004: Lone Star Classic (Austin)
April 23-25, 2004: Northern Lights (Minneapolis)
TBA: Colorado Crossroads (Kansas City, MO)

Juniors' Competition (continued)

2004 Junior Olympic Championships
Girls' JOVC: Houston, Texas
15, 14 Open & Club; 13 & 12 Club: June 23-26, 2004
18, 17, 16 Open & Club: June 27-30, 2004
Girls' Invitational: Austin, Texas
13-18 Club: June 24-27, 2004
Boys' JO Championships: Austin, Texas
18, 16 Open & Club; 13 Club: June 30-July 3, 2004
17, 15 Open & Club; 14 Club: July 4-7, 2004
12 Club: July 4-6, 2004

www.ovr.org/juniors/nationals/

Men's and Women's Competition

Kent State dates are already available on the Men's and Women's Tournament Schedule. To host your own tournaments, contact Micki Fox, OVR Women's Tournament Director (fox@ovr.org) or Keith Burke, OVR Men's Tournament Director (burke@ovr.org).

www.ovr.org/mw/tournament_packet/

January 3-April 11: regular-season competition

www.ovr.org/mw/tournaments.php

April 18, 2004: Ohio Valley Regional Volleyball Championships, Greater Columbus Convention Center.

www.ovr.org/mw/regionals/

May 29-June 5, 2004: 2004 USA Volleyball National Championships, Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA

www.ovr.org/mw/usopen.php

Club Directors' and Coaches' Development

ASEP, CAP, and IMPACT courses for juniors' club directors and coaches will be announced soon. ASEP and IMPACT will probably be offered at Westerville South HS on Saturday, December 6.

ASEP Courses www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/asep.php
CAP Clinics www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/cap.php
IMPACT Clinics www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/impact.php

Officiating

Officials' registration opens on October 1. Professional officials must renew by October 31, including having their fee in to the region office.

Professional Officials' Clinics:

December 6, 2003: Westerville South HS, Westerville, OH
December 14, 2003: St. Ursula Academy, Toledo (tentative)
January 3, 2004: Ambridge Area Jr. High, Ambridge, PA
January 4, 2004: Charleston, WV (tentative)

www.ovr.org/officiating/

Administrative

OVR Board Meeting: October 19, 2003, Westerville South HS
OVR Board Meeting: January 19, 2004, Kent Ramada Inn

www.ovr.org/executive/

Publications

Next issue of OVR The Block: November, 2003.

Submission deadline: October 26, 2003.

editor@ovr.org