

## 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](http://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 <sup>st</sup> in pool
Day 2	5-2	1 <sup>st</sup> in pool
Day 3	4-0	1 <sup>st</sup> in pool
Day 4	6-2	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

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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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### NKYVC Making Its Mark at USA Nationals



141 Tsunami – Sky's the Limit!

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 33<sup>rd</sup>/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 11<sup>th</sup>/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 21<sup>st</sup>/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 19<sup>th</sup>/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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### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> place, but they fell short on the last day when your body does not have much more to give, finishing 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> in pool play. The second day

the girls seemed to pick up the pace and finished a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> in Gold

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

Because of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>- and 5<sup>th</sup>-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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Alferts (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

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—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 21<sup>st</sup> 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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# USA Volleyball Junior Championships & Invitational

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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 <sup>rd</sup> in pool
Day 2	0-6	last in pool
Day 3	4-4	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

## Renaissance Red-17 Takes 5<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> in pool
Day 2	5-4	2 <sup>nd</sup> in pool
Day 3	4-0	1 <sup>st</sup> in pool
Day 4	0-2	5 <sup>th</sup> 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 36<sup>th</sup> out of 38 teams, the team finished 5<sup>th</sup>.

— 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> out of 38 teams, the team finished 37<sup>th</sup>.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

## Renaissance Red-16 Clinches 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> in pool
Day 2	4-4	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 32 teams, the team finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

— John Turчек, Director, Renaissance VBC

## Renaissance Red-15 Finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> out of 32 teams, the team finished 26<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> and Golden West, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finisher of that pool won the Gold Bracket for 1<sup>st</sup>-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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> in our pool. We were points away from playing a tie-breaker for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> at the USA Junior Olympic Girls Volleyball Championships. Their first two days of play were good enough to let them sit pretty in the 11<sup>th</sup>-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

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in the last day when we lost to NKYVC in the first round of the Silver Tournament. We ended the tournament 13<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-place finish in the initial pool over the three days.

Day 4... Team Z was placed in the Bronze Division based on their 4<sup>th</sup>-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 15<sup>th</sup>-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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at the OVR Championships, our 16's winning the Gold Regional Championship, our 17's finishing 5<sup>th</sup> 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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