

2004 USA Volleyball National Championships

USA Volleyball, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Southern Region hosted the *2004 USA Volleyball National Championships* at the World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia, from May 29 through June 5. This was the 75th edition of the tournament, which originated in 1928 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A record 556 teams competed in 30 separate tournaments. 311 men's teams, 209 women's teams, 26 co-ed teams, and 10 Special Olympic teams competed for championships in the Open, Club, Masters (age 30 and over), Senior (age 50 and over), Co-Ed, and U-Volley (height-restricted) divisions. Divisions canceled due to lack of teams included Men's & Women's 30s and 35 Masters, Women's AA/A U-Volley, and

Coed AA/A Regular and Reverse.

In the premier events of the tournament, the Men's and Women's Open Volleyball Championships, BAMESO – I Dig (Garden Empire Region) won the Men's Open, and USA A2 (Rocky Mountain Region) won the Women's Open. Winners of each division are listed here, along with results for Ohio Valley Region teams that participated. Complete results are available on USA Volleyball's website, www.usavolleyball.org/adults/04openresults.asp.

The *2005 USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships* will be held in Denver, Colorado, from May 28-June 4, 2005. Complete tournament and registration information will be posted at www.usavolleyball.org/Adults/.

2004 USA Volleyball National Championships: Selected Results

Women's Open

1. USA – A2 (Rocky Mountain)

Women's AA

1. Willowbrook Stars (Lone Star)

Women's A

1. Judo Chop (Great Plains)
- 35. Club One More Vollejdolls (OVR)**

Women's BB

1. Team Flora Bama (Gulf Coast)
- 19. Gillard Construction (OVR)**

Women's B

1. Pejsa Enterprises (Iowa)

Women's 40+

1. Tx Advantage Asics (S. California)

Women's 45+

1. Sassi Ones 45W (S. California)

Women's 50+

1. BLT (S. California)

Women's 55+

1. Mavericks "55" (S. California)

Women's 60+

1. Mavericks "60" (S. California)

Women's 65+

1. Texas Stars – 65 (Lone Star)

Women's BB/B U-Volley

1. Mini MIT (Keystone)

Men's Open

1. Bameso (Garden Empire)

Men's AA

1. Creole I (Garden Empire)

Men's A

1. Crackers & Rice (Florida)

Men's BB

1. Weaver Markets II (Keystone)

Men's B

1. The Old & the Restless (Gateway)
- 3. Shiloh Industries (OVR)**

Men's 40+

1. Texas Rangers (North Texas)

3. Kattus/Outsiders (OVR)

9. Michigan Wild (OVR)

Men's 45+

1. Kings Mountain Fog 45 (N. California)

Men's 50+

1. Kings Mountain Fog 50 (N. California)

9. Westerville VBC (OVR)

Men's 55+

1. Sao Paulo Masters 55 (Brazil)
- 9. Miami Valley Masters 55s (OVR)**

Men's 60+

1. Quiksilver Legends 60 (S. California)

7. Miami Valley Masters 60s (OVR)

9. Great Lakers (OVR)

Men's 65+

1. Molten VBC (Badger)

Men's 70+

1. MAC Classics 70s (Chesapeake)

Men's 75+

1. Minnesota Gold 75 (North Country)

Men's AA/A U-Volley

1. Top Shelf (Great Lakes)
- 5. Team Ohio - GYSP (OVR)**

Men's BB/B U-Volley

1. Yorktowne U-Volley (Keystone)

Coed BB/B

1. No Fear (Lone Star)

Coed BB/B Reverse

1. Tsunami SFVC (Southern)

Special Olympics

1. Fairway-Waycraft Chargers)

2004 USA Volleyball National Championships: Tournament Reports

Shiloh Industries

Shiloh Industries, won the Bronze Division of the Men's B tournament at the 2004 USAV Open/Club Adult Championships, at the Georgia World Congress Center, in Atlanta.

61 teams competed in the 2004 Men's B tournament. Based on pool play performance and, in some cases, challenge matches, each of the 61 teams advanced to the 16-team Gold, 14-team Silver, 15-team Bronze, or 16-team Copper tournament. In initial pool play, Shiloh won 2 matches and lost 3, defeating Natural Disaster Badin (Iroquois Empire) and Up All Night (New England), and losing to Pepper Shak (Michiana), Team Flora Bama (Gulf Coast), and High Velocity (Great Lakes). The 2-3 pool play result qualified Shiloh for a one-match event, with the winner qualifying for the Bronze tournament and the loser qualifying for Copper. Shiloh's opponent did not appear on the court; thus, Shiloh easily qualified for Bronze.

In the Bronze playoffs, Shiloh defeated its first-round opponent, Scuba Time (Southern), 25-22, 25-23; the quarterfinal opponent, Homeboyz1 (Lone Star), 25-17, 14-25, 16-14; the semi-final opponent, HSH (Great Lakes), 25-17, 25-16; and the finals opponent, Team Shiner Bock (Carolina), 25-21, 25-15.

Playing for winning Shiloh team were Butch Thomas, Kevin Hine, Doug Smith, Sterling, Johnson, Hanse Cromer, Ryan Garland, Daniel Foreman, Nick Hauptstueck, Jim Foreman, and Ed Hine. Although very few juniors participate in the Adult Nationals, and fewer still play on championship teams, Shiloh included two, Daniel Foreman and



Shiloh Industries

Kevin Hine. Also remarkable is the 40-year age gap between Shiloh's oldest (57) and youngest (17) players.

2004 marked the fifth consecutive year that Shiloh has represented the Ohio Valley Region in the Men's B Nationals. All the Shiloh team members were proud to represent the OVR and thrilled to be champions at the 2004 USAV Open.

— Ed Hine

Michigan Wild

The Michigan Wild over 40 team experience at the Nationals was at best an experience we will all remember for a long time.

It started about a month prior to the tournament when we had three players unable to play due to injury, leaving only 5. Jeff Kless, captain, started a search to find a sixth player who was over 40. Three days prior to the tourney, we found Randy Etheridge, a 6'4" setter from Atlanta to play with us!

Driving down in a van, four players and a player's daughter ended up getting a flat tire in Cincinnati on a 3-lane highway. After the tire was replaced, we made it and registered in a timely fashion.

Our team consisted of only 6 players (the only team with such distinction), whereas the other 10 teams had as many as 11 players dressed. Players included Jeff Kless (6'4"), captain coming off injury due to a torn ligament in left hand; Scott Mais (MH, 6'4") from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Randy Etheridge (S, 6'4") from Atlanta; Steve Schwartz (OH, 5'11") from Warren, Michigan; John Rusaw (OH, 5'10")

from Fenton, Michigan; and Keith Hinkle (OH, 5'9") from Grand Rapids.

Play started on Wednesday, where we played two matches with both going three games, losing to the team out of Philadelphia who won it last year, and losing in three to another squad.

The second day we won both games against the south Carolina team, then it took three games again to lose our second match of the day. The third match, we played well enough where they took a time out, but we ended up losing to the California team with Doug Partie!

On Friday, we ended losing in three to a team 15-12 in third game then bowed in tow to the team that in last year, in 2 straight.

Overall we beat every team at least one game except the team from California, finishing with a 6-12 game record.

It was great to see Terry Miller, Bob Price, and the other Ohio and Michigan teams compete.

— Jeff Kless, Captain, Michigan Wild

2004 USA Volleyball National Championships: Tournament Reports



Miami Valley 55s: Steve Crane (9), Steven DiBacco (17), Terry Miller (55), Bob Price (5), Dick Kappel (4), Rick Laskey (1), Bob McLain (10), Rip Rohrer (7), Mike O'Hair, John Tokash (51).

Miami Valley 55s

Based on our performance at last year's tournament, the Miami Valley 55s team was seeded third in our pool of six teams. With a roster of ten players, we experimented with different lineups during pool play, and it wasn't until the playoffs that we finally found a successful lineup. Two of the top four teams in the 18-team tournament were in our pool: defending champion Brazil and Roof. We did not do well the first two days, finishing 6th in our pool.

In the first round of the single elimination Gold Bracket, we lost to Bay Magic in three games, 13-25, 25-13, 12-15. Then we faced Rusty's in the losers' bracket and won 25-18, 25-12. Spike Force put us out of the tournament in the next match, 25-15, 25-18. We finished tied for 9th place overall.

Team members included setters Bob Price and Rick Laskey, middles Bob McLain and Mike O'Hair, outside hitters Terry Miller, Dick Kappel, Rip Rohrer, Steven DiBacco, and John Tokash, and Libero Steve Crane. — *Rick Laskey*



Miami Valley Masters 60s
Front row, left to right: Don Clark (10), Earl Morgan (4), Roger Morgan (1), Dale Isgrigg (3).
Back row, left to right: Alan Brunzman (2), Ivan Woltmann (7), Jerry Osterholt (9), David Burton (5), Don Moody (6), Tom Fulton (8).

Miami Valley Masters 60s

The Miami Valley Masters 60s volleyball team participated in the USA Volleyball Association Nationals in June of 2004. Playing in the 13-team Masters 60s division, they earned two wins and four losses in pool play. Losing to Just Volleyball, Rusty's, Team Sota, and Spike Force while beating Texas Seniors and Dinosaurs 60s, the MVM 60s finished 5th in their pool.

In the Championship playoff, the MVM 60s lost their first match to Warren Six Pac, then beat Texas Seniors before being beat out by Rusty's, tying them for 7th overall. Team members included Roger Morgan, Alan Brunzman, Dale Isgrigg, Earl Morgan, Dave Burton, Don Moody, Ivan Woltmann, Tom Fulton, Jerry Osterholt, and Don Clark. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great experience. — *Rick Laskey*

2004 USA Volleyball National Championships: Tournament Reports

Kattus / Outsiders

The Outsiders were in Pool 2 along with Burgess VBC (NC), X-Men (GL), Nittany Legends (KE), and Texas Rangers (NT). There were a total of 6 teams in the other pool. Kattus Outsiders began pool play on Wednesday by defeating the Texas Rangers (eventual 40s champion) in a very competitive 3-game match (21-25, 25-20, 15-12). The next pool play match was against the Nittany Legends. We won that match in 2 games by scores of 25-21 and 25-12.

On Thursday, our first match had us playing the X-Men, again winning in 2 games by scores of 25-6 and 25-19. The first-game winning margin would be instrumental in the seeding for the playoffs. Our final pool play match had us playing against Burgess VBC, the team that finished ahead of Kattus in the 2003 Championships. The Outsiders jumped out early and won the first game, 25-17. The second game swung their direction, with The Outsiders falling, 16-25. The third and deciding game was a hard-fought battle to the end. Unfortunately, Burgess eked out the victory, 14-16.

The Outsiders finished pool play with a 3-1 record. Fortunately, Burgess lost to the Texas Rangers, whom we had defeated the day before, creating a 3-way tie for first place in the pool. Based on point percentages, The Outsiders received the #1 seed from our pool going into the elimination bracket (thank you very much X-Men in game #1).

The elimination round started for Kattus on Friday morning. After receiving a first round bye, we hooked up against Team Ted out of the Great Lakes region. We won the match relatively easily by scores of 25-18 and 25-18. Our next match pitted us against the team that we played first in pool play, Texas Rangers. Kattus dropped two consecutive games to Texas by scores of 25-20 and 25-19, thus dropping us into the losers' bracket for Saturday's play.

Saturday morning began with an 8:00AM match against iDig40s from Northern California. After trailing 15-21 in the

opening game, the Outsiders received a wake-up call and rallied to win the game, 25-22. After the dramatic comeback, iDig seemed to lose their fight and dropped the second game to us by a score of 25-13. The next match – the one that decides who gets into the medal rounds – was against Burgess VBC. Having lost to them in pool play (and in this match last year), Kattus was motivated to come out on top. The first game was back and forth for most of the game before Kattus made a break and won 25-17. The second game was a much tougher battle, but we held on for the win, 30-28. The win moved us into the losers' bracket championship match, again to face the Texas Rangers.

The Outsiders came quickly out of the blocks to secure a 25-19 win over the Texas team in the initial game. The second game was much closer, with both teams taking and giving up the lead throughout the game. Kattus had several swings at match point in the second game but were unable to capitalize on the opportunities and eventually dropped the second game, 25-27. At that point, the air had been let out of our balloon. With fatigue setting in, the deciding game of the match went to Texas, 8-15. The Texas Rangers went on to defeat Team Oakley twice in the final match to secure the championship.

Loren Gebert, from The Outsiders, was selected to the All Tournament Team. Other members of the team from Ohio included Jeff Moody, Mike Torch, Rob Ebright, Scott Thomas, Andrejas Plume, Brian LeMaster, Pat Carus, and Marlin Weisenbarger. The team also included two out-of-region players added at the last minute: David Williams (Arizona) and David Strege (Iowa).

Overall, the experience was a great one. The disappointing part was having several swings to get into the championship match but being unable to convert. The tournament was well run, the people of Atlanta were great, and only a few cards and finger waggles were issued.

— Marlin Weisenbarger

2005 USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships
Denver Convention Center, Denver, Colorado
May 28-June 4, 2005