



IREVA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2014-2015

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**Fall 2014**

WELCOME

to another sensational season of USAV / IREVA volleyball...

NEW THIS SEASON:

- \*\*Discounted membership option ("Other") for non-playing, non-coaching club supporters to assist in areas approved by the Club Director.
- \*\*On-line pre-registration for in-person IMPACT, R2 &/or Scorer Clinics, as well as HP Try-Outs required via Web-point.
- \*\*Opportunity for Juniors & Adults to earn R2 &/or Scorer certification via a Pre-Test on-line vs. in person, if pass within requirements
- \*\*Tournament Directors' sanction fees are eliminated and performance bonds are changed to \$50 plus \$25 per court
- \*\*Solid color jersey requirement for libero or team uniforms.
- \*\*Juniors work team supervisor can be any USAV adult member knowledgeable in the rules of the game and specifically for the roles of Scorer, Second Referee, and Line Judge as long as on roster or with current membership card upon request.
- \*\*Adult Open Gym Night to be piloted.
- \*\*Administrative Consulting Fee Tiers for Director approved membership assistance with Regional work assignments.
- \*\*\$100 CAP subsidy for all rostered CAP certified members in attendance at the Junior Regional Championships

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMISSIONER**
- ADULT NATIONALS ARTICLES**
- HIGH PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**





## A Message from our IREVA Commissioner Patty Blacklock

I and the entire IREVA BODs are very excited about working with you and your Club Directors, Team Reps, Club Admins, and Tournament Directors as we continue to update our policies and procedures over this season and discuss our plans for future seasons. While we are continually attempting to improve our communications with our entire membership, we are also trying to improve our:

- IREVA presence in and out of the region,
- Connection with schools and other organizations to build beneficial partnerships in an effort to grow and develop our sport, and
- availability & resources to assist members in getting every volleyball opportunity they seek.

Our Marketing Director, Kristen Gaudreau, has been hard at work finding items she thought you and your club / teammates would like to earn or purchase with our IREVA logo on them. So please keep your eyes open for their arrival and availability. Gary and Mike Bynon are working on a proposal that involves Gary meeting with the Athletic Directors of our large schools to discuss a plan to improve the number of boys participating in volleyball. The plan will involve Mike running physical education classes at these schools to help get more players playing. IREVA is very excited to support this type of effort. Without it, it is very likely that boys' volleyball in this area will end very soon.

We, the IREVA BODs, have started some exciting discussions about the initiation of some great IREVA Incentives that we need to have our members get involved with for them to be effective and implemented with the start of our next season (2015-2016). They include IREVA using its financial resources to better support those who are assisting the organization toward the goals and objectives in its mission statement. To date the areas that we would like to work with you and your members on involve figuring out what incentives would entice people &/or clubs to assist us in increasing:

- youth and boys awareness of, exposure to, and participation in volleyball;
- the number of collegiate players in our adult population to grow their opportunities for, and levels of, competition;
- the number of clubs who have programs for outdoor volleyball;
- the number of officials who improve their rating from one level to the next;
- the amount of parent education available to clubs;
- the number and quality of tournaments held within our region; as well as
- maintaining compliance, administratively and otherwise, with USAV as our governing body.

PLEASE don't hesitate to contact any of us on the BODs to fill you in on what's happening and how you can join this **Incentive Committee**. I am sure that all of our Committee Chairs would be thrilled to get more member participation being that our review of most proposals requires some level of member input before the BOD can take a worthwhile vote on motions that come through. The list of committees open to members is as follows:

- **Adult/Eligibility Committee** – Chris Trombley
  - **Juniors Committee**- Hazel Goldstein
- **Communications Committee**- Karen Bauer
  - **IT Committee**- Matt Fuller
- **Event Management Committee**- TBA
- **Marketing Committee**- Kristen Gaudreau

I think it's important to recognize these and all of the hard working BODs and have provided an IREVA flowchart- posted on our website- to hopefully assist you in determining who is who and how we all work together in making IREVA the best that it can be for its members and our lifelong sport of volleyball.

Without a doubt, our national office (USAV) is more than capable and willing to assist us in any venture that will grow the game, but as is always the case with IREVA, we need people to get involved and work together in identifying what those ventures are and how we are going to get them started, keep them going strong, and make them easily transferable to other areas.

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## Schenectady 60's - Mens

Robert Lacerais

Sunny, 96; Sunny, 99; Sunny, 107; repeat; repeatPhoenix was beautiful, and hot.

But the indoor air conditioned volleyball on 40+ courts in the Conference Center was cool and awesome. The Schenectady 60's men played consistent solid ball throughout the tournament under the leadership of Mike Sardella, coach emeritus, and gave scares to teams from Venezuela, California, Brazil, and Pennsylvania.

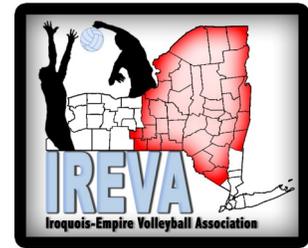
In the end, however, they played for the Copper Division title.....and won in convincing fashion!!!! Yeah, BEST OF THE WORST? Regardless, it was so much fun. Ken Shea played an amazing libero, while Paul Sander, Dave Reynolds, and Jim Webber controlled the middle. John Ray, Fred Chase, and Bob Lacerais were tooling the block outside after receiving beautiful sets from Jim Butler and Chris Lindquist.

Truly a team effort; leaving it all on the court.

Thanks, IREVA for your support again this year.

See you in Detroit in 2015.

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## Schenectady 50's - Mens

*Michael Kumpfan*

It was a dark and stormy night.... Well no, it was actually a cloudless sky with the blazing sun pushing temperatures into the 90's. We were in downtown Phoenix, Arizona on the first day of the 2014 USAV National Championships. That same sun in the sky would eventually drive the temperature as high as 107 degrees before the end of the 6 day tournament.

Phoenix was a great place to hold the tournament. The volleyball took place on 48 courts set up on a lower level of the Phoenix Convention Center. Our hotel, the Marriott Renaissance, was a short block away making it easy to get back for a quick shower after playing or if we realized we had forgotten our socks.

Also, adding to the convenience of downtown were a huge number of restaurants within easy walking distance. The city of Phoenix employs "Downtown Ambassadors" who are available to provide information on the area and could print out discount coupons for many of the restaurants. A few of the places we ate out at were Copper Blues (a "Rock Pub and Kitchen" with more than 60 beers on tap), The Canyon Café (southwestern/Mexican style with great chips/salsa and really good margaritas), Steve's Grill (simple bar and grill that also opened at 6 am for a buffet style breakfast), and Brick (a pizza, burger, and beer joint).

Every place we went to had a great selection of beers, a requirement for most of the Schenectady guys. But don't let them fool you, they don't drink nearly as much as the Open and A level players.

Our team was made up of 6 players from IREVA, Rich Chapin (L and team organizer), Jim Kramar (S), Ed Razz (OH), Tom Miebach (OH), Mike Aloï (S) from Syracuse and myself (M). 4 more players were on the roster who all saw playing time. . We had two guys from Atlanta, Eric Shipley (M) and Bernie Goldfine (L,S). My brother in law Rob Martin (OH) came in from Jacksonville, and his brother, Steve Martin, took the short flight over from San Diego.

## **CONTINUED- Schenectady 50's - Mens** - *Michael Kumpfan*

Now on to the competition. There were 22 teams playing in the Men's 50's, resulting in two pools of 6 and two pools of 5. We were all disappointed to be placed in a pool of 5 as that meant only 4 first round matches, and mostly we just wanted to play.

Our first match, at 9 am on Friday, was against Blaine Labs, the 2010, 2012 and 2013 National Champions. Great experience to get to play these mostly former Division I college players! Although I think we played one of our better matches of the tournament, it wasn't enough, as we lost 25-15, 25-17. An hour later, at 11am, we played the team we matched up best against, Venezuela Centro. After losing a lackluster first set, we had a 22-19 lead in the second. A calf injury to our weak side hitter at that point (requiring an exceptional substitution) may have interrupted our momentum and we ultimately lost 26-24. So that was it for day one. The afternoon was spent watching some of the top level matches in Men's and Women's divisions and getting groceries and drinks for the days ahead.

Saturday, day two, was a busier day. We were to play at 8 am, work on the same court at 9 and 10 am, and then play our last pool play match at 11am. Not being a morning person, I didn't find that an ideal setup, but at least most of us were still on east coast time, so it wasn't so bad.

Our 8 am match was versus Hunter Douglas, a Brazilian team that because they hadn't played Nationals before, were seeded below our team. But just because they hadn't played US Nationals before, didn't mean they weren't a really good team. Nothing went well for us as we were crushed 25-12, 25-11. (Maybe they were all morning people?) In our defense, they went on to place 4<sup>th</sup> in the Gold division.

Then after working two matches, we had our last chance for a pool play victory against Minnesota Masters. Again we couldn't quite get it working, and lost 25-18, 25-18. Even though they don't look like much, that marks the third year in a row that they beat us in pool play.

So we ended pool play 0-8, and yet still had a chance to make the Silver division by winning one challenge match at 2:30 pm. Well, the Dead Beats from the Great Lakes region beat us in two 25-14, 25-21. No, I'm not putting them down, that was their name, "Dead Beats".

## **CONTINUED- Schenectady 50's - Mens - *Michael Kumpan***

The loss meant Bronze division, where due to seeding, we had a first round bye on Sunday. So our first match wasn't until noon against the Nittany Legends, a pretty good team that had won the Bronze a year earlier in Louisville. We put up a good fight, but still lost 25-17, 25-20. I've got lots of excuses, but normally I don't blame the officiating. For this match, I'll make an exception. Both sets would have been a lot closer if not for flurries of exceptionally bad calls, all against our team. It was by far the worst refereed match I had ever been a part of. Regardless, this loss ended our tournament play. As losers of the semifinals, we earned the right to work the finals, and we watched the Nittany Legends roll over their opponent 25-13, 25-19.

Despite a disappointing result, I think we all had a pretty good time. A couple of us stayed around Arizona to do some hiking in the nearby mountains and visit the Grand Canyon and other attractions.

In 2015, the tournament is closer, in Detroit, so we'll see what team we can put together. As it is said, "Hope springs eternal".



# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona

## Boomers 40 & BB - Mens

Mike Shorkey



For the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row a Boomers (40 & BB) team participated in the USAV Championships. This was my second year building an age group team. However, it was my first year creating and running teams for *both* halves. Oy 'vey! I was unsure of expectations around the 40s team due to the competition that we saw in 45s and dropping a full age group only meant more solid players and teams. Being able to play such good competition (internationally & domestic) ended up being an absolute blast. The 40s team was put together from different teams & regions that Boomers competes against. We of course had never played with each other but we competed very hard and well as a team with no practice. This was truly a fun and easy team to run as most of these guys have done nationals many years and they know what to expect and how to make things flow.

Roster for the 40s included: Marc Agel, Matt Anderson, Jim Sculley, George Matthews, Rob Gray, Rony Gilot, Sean Clements & Michael Shorkey. In our first pool, we started in a 3 way tie (2-1) for first but dropped to 3<sup>rd</sup> on tiebreakers. That put us in a much tougher pool the next day and we came out 3<sup>rd</sup> there as well to drop us to silver. We played well and lost in the silver semis. We played and fought hard and ended up in 8<sup>th</sup>. I feel very good about how we finished and I thoroughly enjoyed playing with these guys. We also had a great time off the court.

For mens BB things started out a bit rocky when we found out that a player was going to be a no-show only hours before expecting him to arrive. Fortunately, I had Clements on our roster who happened to be staying the second week after already playing the first half. The roster for BB included FK's Steve Sisson, Andy & Jared Fishman, Alex Sadler & Jon Chesnick as well as journeymen Ben Rutt, Clements & Shorkey. This team consisted of only 4 guys from previous Boomers squads.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this team at nationals but on paper I felt comfortable that we should compete well and possibly have a shot at getting into the Gold division. The format for this year was very different than in past years for me. We were in an 8 team pool and only the pool winner got to advance directly to Gold. We had 2 matches that could've gone either way that went 3-0. In one match we lost a game 34-36 but then won 28-26, 15-11 and in another we won 20-18 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. If we had lost either of those two matches would not have won the pool at 7-0 and advanced directly to double elim Gold while avoiding a 1 game play-in. We lost the 1<sup>st</sup> round in 3, won the 2<sup>nd</sup> and then lost a heartbreaker with one score of 31-33 to get eliminated. We ended up 5<sup>th</sup> out of 43 teams and had solid chances for a top 3 finish.

We were fortunate to have the AM wave in both halves which allowed us our full evenings for Phoenix activities. Of all the years of nationals this happened to be one of the top 2 overall restaurant and food experiences.

Here are the frequented places and activities:

Restaurants, Night Life and extracurriculars – Strand Urban Italian, Arrogant Butcher, Hard Rock, Tilted Kilt Pub, Kincaid's (Thanks Marc), Squid Ink, Phoenix Zoo, Arizona Diamondbacks (won), Players party and Supporting other teams.

\*Special appreciation to my friend Sean for which a large chunk of the nationals experience for Boomers & myself would not be possible without his support. Also, it was great to have everyone on Boomers play hard and have no team issues. Thank you to Khaleesi and other friends and teams for their support of my teams.

Thanks to Boomers for another great season. Playing both sessions was challenging but I am hoping to build a club team and another age group squad next year in Detroit

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## UVA - Mens

Sean Porta

For the many years that team UVVA has gone to nationals, this year has got to be the most challenging. Due to injuries during the regular season or financial issues, we couldn't bring enough players from our region. Luckily a member from a former rival Hawaiian team contacted us to see if we needed some players because their Iowa team was not going to put a team together this year. The UVVA squad this year consisted of Chip Lynch (the veteran), Sean Porta (Stickboy), Brandon Lee (not related), Nick Budlong (new guy), Andy Mink (Beer hat guy) and from the Prolifik team we had Samuel Kalingo (Sammy), Gavin Vestal (Buff Daddy) and Stephen Moore (Stephen).

We started the tourny in a pool of 5 which meant we had to play 4 matches on day 1 and with 3 new players that we hadn't played with yet, we did well. The day ended with a 3-1 record and a 1st place finish out of the pool. Day 2 was a reseeding pool of 4 teams but we didn't fare as well, ending the day with a 1-2 record giving us 3rd place out of our pool and securing a spot in the Bronze bracket. Every one of our pool days we had the PM schedule and then we had to play the AM schedule for playoffs which could have been the reason we went 1 and done in Bronze. The UVVA did put up a fight on game 2 (29-27) but that's all we could do against a good NE team that ended up losing in the finals of Bronze.

All in all it was a good showing for team UVVA - to come out 17<sup>th</sup> of 43 with 3 new guys is pretty good. There was no drama, just a lot of requests to buy Andy's beer hat but I think he sent it off to the volleyball hall of fame! Phoenix was a great host city with good food and hot weather.

Hope to see  
you in

Detroit!!!



you all next  
beautiful

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## Legion Black - Mens

*James Hosley*

Every single year I look forward to nationals, and it never disappoints. This year in Phoenix marked the eighth time I have gone to Nationals to compete, and I am already looking forward to 2015 in Detroit. Legion Black competed in the Men's A division in Phoenix. Our team had a total of 9 players, 5 of whom are IREVA regulars. The locals on our roster were myself (James), two of my roommates (Ryan Carty and Jon Brady), Kinderhook native Alex Potts and Delmar native Mike Marshman. We had two guys who played at Springfield College (Ryan Quesenberry and Jordan Robinson), one of my teammates from my college days in East Stroudsburg (Chris Holden) and our setter was from Virginia Beach (Aaron Ahloe). I originally was planning to set but Aaron was a late addition to our squad. I have competed against Aaron several times in tournaments outside the IREVA region, but had never actually played WITH him. We knew that we had a lot of talent going into the tournament but team chemistry was definitely a big question. We had a great setter on board but nobody had time to connect with him.

After a great practice session on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>, we felt great going into our first day in Men's A. We had the #6 overall seed in the tournament (field of 31) due to our top ten finish last year in Louisville. We were also the #1 seed in our pool of 4. We played Riverview Men's from the Northwest in our first match and lost 2-0 (25-21, 25-18) despite playing relatively well. Our second match we won 2-0 pretty easily (25-13, 25-21) against Service Error from the Chesapeake Region. Going into our third match, we were currently in third place and we knew we had to win in straight sets (2-0) or our hopes of making the higher pools on day 2 would be gone. We played some of our best volleyball in this match winning 2-0 against CCVC Alum and we were on our way to the top three playoff brackets based on how we did in day #2.



## **CONTINUED- Legion Black - Mens** - *James Hosley*

In true Legion fashion, we laid an egg in our 8am match on day #2, losing in straight sets 2-0 to the eventual runner up in Men's A – Shinkara White. Faced with back-to-back matches at 11am and 12pm, we knew we just had to finish in the top 3 out of 4 in our pool for a shot at the gold playoff bracket. Our 11am match was against Jim Beam LV. This was also the team that beat us in the silver playoff finals last year in Louisville, so we both knew each other pretty well. Out for revenge from last year, we came out with fire and won the first set 25-15. We dropped the second set 20-25 and the third set took extra volleyball to finish just like last year's silver finals. But this time, we came out on top (winning 18-16). Having no time to celebrate, we had to play Navy Men immediately after the win. They gave us a scare taking us to three sets, but we won 2-1 (25-20, 19-25, 15-12). Our day was still far from over. We had a 3:30pm game against last year's third place finisher Island Style. This was one game to 25; winner goes to gold, loser to silver. Playing some of our absolute best volleyball all tournament, we won easily 25-15. Next up was our last match of the day at 5pm, the first round of gold playoffs. At this point we are all exhausted from being up at 7am, after an afternoon schedule on day #1. We played the eventual winners of Men's A – Team Youth from Texas. Giving them everything they could handle, we stole one set but eventually lost 2-1 (25-14, 22-25, 15-9). In the gold playoff bracket it is double elimination, so we now moved to the loser's part of the bracket. We were ultimately very satisfied with our day and needed some serious rest before a 9am match on day #3.

Day #3 was very special to us because we had the opportunity to play on court #1 as long as we kept winning. This was one of four courts that was live streaming the matches on the Internet. We got hot at just the right time and won three straight matches 2-0. This guaranteed us a medal as there were only three teams left in Men's A. Fighting some serious fatigue and probably starvation, we saw ourselves matched up against Shinkara White, the team that smoked us to start off day #2. Determined to give them a much better match, we split the first two sets 25-20 and 18-25. However, we dropped a hard fought third set 15-12, ending our tournament with a bronze medal. We hadn't eaten since breakfast and had now played 4 matches in 5 hours. So after the match we all immediately went to Five Guys and consumed as many calories as physically possible before the awards ceremony.

When it was all said and done, we took a look back to reflect on our tournament and found two hilarious statistics. First off, we played more total sets of volleyball than any other team in Men's A. Secondly, we lost our first match in all three pools/brackets we started in. As Mike Marshman said somewhere in day #2 after a loss, "It's fine guys, we came here to play volleyball so let's play as much volleyball as humanly possible." We definitely got our money's worth in Phoenix.

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## RPI - Womens

Rita Hidalgo

Phoenix was just a city in Southwestern US to most of us, and one that we would have never pictured ourselves visiting. It was too hot – although not humid, still hot – far away, and too expensive to visit. Even though the plane tickets were more than we would have liked, we still made the trip out – the Nationals trip was always a good time. Because Phoenix was a lot further for most of us than Kentucky, and definitely not as convenient or cheap to get to, it was difficult to get enough team members to head out to nationals with us. Fortunately, we were able to find two players to make the trip with us.

The five of the six players attending RPI had been to Nationals before, so we knew the competition would be tough. The first game was a bit rough. We played against a team that was definitely better than us, and would have challenged even the best team we could put together, not to mention that

the team we never played most of us did any experience. However poorly went, we were together to win though not any issues getting to play as a help that our were coaching much more



had for the trip had together before and not have much or with our setter. the first match able to pull it to a couple games, all matches. We had our team together whole, and it didn't coach was not able trip with us, so we ourselves. It is difficult to coach

from the court than to be able to sit on the side and watch every person's movements. However poorly we may have done, we were able to have some fun with it. Sure, it would have been nice to win more than a couple of games, and maybe even win a match or two, but we were able to have a good time (and wound up winning a match – due to a team forfeiting).

Overall, we had an amazing time, learning a lot about ourselves and the game of volleyball, while gaining valuable tournament experience. We had some good moments and some not so great moments, but there a lot great plays. Regardless how the record turned out, our team had a blast at Nationals, and we can't wait to give it another go in Detroit next year. We also had fun watching and supporting other IREVA teams, as well as having the opportunity to watch the RPI Men's team play at Nationals for the first time in a couple years. Detroit better be ready in 2015, because a much more experienced and prepared RPI team will be there next year to play our hearts out!

# Adult Nationals Phoenix, Arizona



## Volleybombs - Womens

*Diane Nichols*

Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona was a whirlwind of experiences for our team. More than half our team had never competed at Nationals before and leading up to the tournament, we never had our full team to compete in tournaments with. After deciding to make the commitment to the 2014 Nationals, our team dug deep with fundraising, playing in tournaments, and hosting practices (big shout out to SUNY Morrisville for letting us utilize their facility). Our team consisted of players from Oneida, Rome, Utica, and a former Mount Markham resident residing in Kentucky. This posed a small hurdle considering we knew we weren't going to be able to play with her as a team until we actually got to Phoenix. But we were glad to have her on board! Thanks to group messaging, we were all able to keep in touch.

We were all arriving into Phoenix at different days and times. Most of our team flew in early to have time to enjoy the city and its surroundings and also to avoid conflicts with traveling. We also coordinated being there by Thursday to sign up and utilize a practice time so we would finally all have a chance to play together. Another women's team (that I had recognized well from previous years) had offered to scrimmage with us. It was a great opportunity to get to know another team better and also get used to the wonderment of the convention center. With a grueling schedule ahead consisting of 4 matches our first day at 3, 4, 6 and 7. Our first day would prove to get the better of us. Switching rotations, learning to play together and getting the nerves out were all hurdles we tried to overcome that first day. Causing us to just fall short. Our second day would be an even longer one with our first match of the day starting at 12pm followed by 3 more matches finally coming to an end at 7pm. A whole new VolleyBombs team had emerged the second day with a fire in our eyes fighting for 4 straight victories that day. Our third day brought us to the semi-final match for our flight. All extremely close games, we left defeated after going to a full 3 sets to a team who we had lost 2 straight to in the first day. Defeated, but not at all disappointed!

Days where it seemed as though the convention center was our home; between the playing and cheering on our other local teams (mostly consisting of significant others to our group), we did still manage to enjoy the beautiful weather that Phoenix had to offer. The Marriott Renaissance (two thumbs up!) where we stayed was only 2 blocks from the convention center and right in downtown. It made it easy and convenient to get to great restaurants, bars, and other attractions of which we took full advantage of. It was even walking distance to the Player's Party that was held on Sunday. We all ditched the spandex for the night and got dolled up to mix, mingle, dance and let loose with other great volleyball players. It was a great shared experience for all of the girls and the buzz has already begun for our plans for next year! Detroit, here we come!



# Juniors High Performance Overview!

Tryouts - 222 attended -

5 Future Select, 51 Select, 112 Youth, 54 Junior

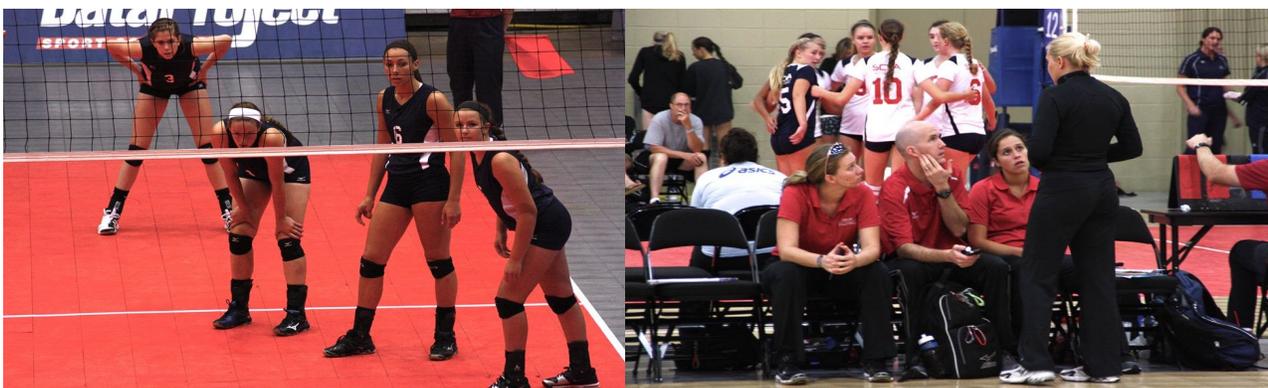
Camps - Training Camp, SUNY Potsdam - 80 athletes attended

Travel Camp, SUNY Oneonta - 62 athletes attended



## USAV High Performance Championships - Tulsa, OK

- Junior International Team - 12 Members, All Junior
  - Finished 11 out of 12 teams
- Youth International Team - 12 Members. 2 Juniors & 11 Youth
  - Finished 12 out of 14 teams
- Youth National Team - 12 Members, 3 Select & 9 Youth
  - Finished 18 out of 18 teams





Congratulations to all the Juniors who participated in High Performance!