



Newsletter

August, 2008

Commissioner's Notes

Efforts are under way to close out the 2007/08 season. But, before we can do that, we have to take the time to recognize a few of our outstanding members for their many contributions to the Lone Star Region and USA Volleyball. For the 2008 Season, I had the pleasure of nominating five of our hard working members for the **2008 Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award**. Each year USA Volleyball recognizes a maximum of five members from each region for contributing outstanding participation, motivation, and other services, in the promotion of volleyball. I am happy to announce our 2008 recipients are: **Shafonia Bolanos**, Club Director, player, and coach, with Club Kaboom; **Jeff Ham**, Coach, Director, and Tournament Host with Texas Tornados; **Virgie Mallett**, Austin Area Representative with the Lone Star Region Board of Directors; **Thang Nguyen**, National Referee, National Scorekeeper, and Coach with Gulf Coast Volleyball Club; **Karen Tarmon**, Club Director with San Antonio Volleyball Association.

In addition to the above members, there were many other who made outstanding contributions the Region, throughout the 2008 Season. Among these were the many members, players, coaches, administrators, and officials, who actively participated in each of the USA Volleyball National Championships. Again this season, the Region was well represented at each of championships. And, I'm sure there were many of our members who were appropriately recognized at these events. However, I must rely on our team and club representatives, coaches, and officials' chairs to provide us with the names of those individuals. But, I would like to offer my congratulations to our Regional teams, that I'm aware of, who won a National Championship. Their pictures are displayed on the home page of the Region Web Site, www.lsvolleyball.org. First, was **Texas Seniors**, they won the National Championship in the Men's 75 & Older Division. Additionally, **Willowbrook Stars** won the National Championship in the Women's AA Division. Both of these events were played at the 2008 USA Volleyball Open National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. At the 2008 Girls Junior Olympic National Championships, in Dallas, were equally successful. **Austin Juniors - 17 Mizuno** won their National Championship in the 17 Open, Gold Division. And, the **Woodlands Stars - 17G** were successful in winning their National Championship in the 17 American, Gold Division. In addition to these, and other team pictures, you can get the complete results for each of the national championships by going to the USA Volleyball Web Site, www.usavolleyball.org.

For the most part, we have finished our registrations for the 2008 Season. Our records indicate that we now have 11,063 members registered for this season. As we stand, right now, we have 419 members currently listed on our UNPAID LIST. I'm sure a few of these are new members who have gone on-line and tried to register for the 2009 Season. Unfortunately, all of these names will be deleted from the system, within the next few weeks. These are all individuals who have registered on-line, but their registration fees have never been paid, to the Regional Office. If you are one of the individuals whose name gets deleted, you can contact your club director and see why your fee was never paid. Others who were not members of a club, it was your responsibility to get your fees to the Region Office.

Registrations for the 2009 Season will start on September 1st. Registration instructions are on our web site, www.lsbolleyball.org. This is an individual on-line registration system, and has been designed for each member to complete their own registration. Club directors should not be registering their members. These individuals should have their individual User Name and Password. If they do not remember it, they should use the FORGOT PASSWORD option on our web site. The Region does not have the staff to continuously provide members with this information. It is each member's responsibility to keep their record current. This includes keeping the mailing and email addresses up to date, at all times. You should also be aware that you must have an email address with which the USA Volleyball System can communicate. Many of the systems, such as schools and employers, cannot be contacted by the Webpoint System. Without email communications, you are not going to be able to retrieve your contact information from USA Volleyball, or the Region Office.

Background Screening requirements have changed for the 2009 Season. Anyone working with the Junior Program, who does not have a current screening, will be required to complete the Background Screening Application portion or the on-line registration. This includes directors, coaches, trainers, officials, and others who are to be listed on the team rosters. All referees who plan on working any of the junior events are going to be required to complete the Background Screening Application when registering on-line. Finally, the screening fees will be increased for the 2009 Season. The fee for each screening applicant will be \$18.

For those of you **starting new clubs or teams** you will need to email the Region Office. Instructions for creating a new club are listed on our web site, immediately following the registration instructions. Just scroll down through the registration instructions and you will see exactly what you need to sent to the Region Office. You will need to provide the **CLUB NAME; CLUB ADDRESS; NAME OF THE CLUB DIRECTOR; CLUB PHONE NUMBER; CLUB EMAIL; and is it an Adult or Junior Club**. Once the club has been created and listed in the On-Line System, you will be notified and the club members may start their registrations. All club names must be approved by the Region prior to any registrations. Please, tell your members not to start their registrations until the club has been created.

Finally, last season we were using the **Electronic Signature** for the Waiver and Release of Liability. This reduced the workload for the club, and the Region, considerably. This season we are planning on using the **Electronic Signature** for the Background Screening Applications. This means that the clubs will only need send a copy of their UNPAID LIST and the appropriate fees to the Region Office. Individuals who wish to send in their fees, should include a copy of their Registration Confirmation, along with the check. **There will be no electronic means for making payments to the Region Office.**

FROM THE REFEREE STAND

It is that time of year to congratulate all of the referees that made a tremendous effort to get certified or re-certified this season. Because of your work this season it means we have more participants that are knowledgeable of the rules and we have people that were evaluated as they put the regulations into practice. We need to keep this up and keep getting certified at higher levels. It was a pleasure to observe on the last day of USAV Opens in Atlanta that our Lone Star referees were working on four of five of the most important matches of that part of the tournament. We are known as having well-prepared referees and it shows at playoff time. Also, thanks to all the referee raters and clinicians that spent hundreds of hours watching, preparing, presenting and reviewing the work of referee candidates so that they would do well in the certification process.

I certainly want to congratulate **Harvey Madrigal, Matt Storm, Inez Gutierrez, David Plaisance** and **Jack Zaldivar** for completing their certification as Junior National Referees at the GirlsJO tournament in Dallas. It was not easy! Also, congratulations to **Luis Ramos** for getting certified this season as a National Referee at the BoysJO tournament in Utah. The referee family is proud of our accomplishments, but we have to re-double our efforts because we are dedicated to getting better and improving the game of volleyball. Be a part of this effort and referee for your team next season!

Thomas Hoy, Referee Chair

FROM THE SCOREKEEPERS' CHAIR

Once again I ask a little indulgence from those who spend their hard earned spare time running tournaments. Once scores are officially tallied on a central board there is no need to retain the scoresheets. Please allow those trying to achieve certification to take these sheets. It is difficult enough for the clubs to deal with the mountains of paperwork and details of keeping up with the players. We don't need to add to that by unnecessarily hindering the persons working toward certification by not letting them have the scoresheets.

As an alternative, you could have some policy where the scorekeepers mark them in a certain way to identify them as rating scoresheets, you could then send those to me after the tournament. Thanks in advance.

There is another way to get your ratings done this season. On the web site you will find a Scorekeeper Rating Sheet. Any Regional or above rated **Scorekeeper** that is **not** associated with your team or club can rate you while you are scorekeeping a match. They will complete the rating part of the form and review the rating with you. Then you just mail me two of those and you are done with the rating part. No more trying to talk the tournament directors out of their scoresheets.

Now, for all those who are working toward that certification....get all the requirements done as early in the season as you can. Don't wait 'til three days before Regionals! **Your team is counting on you, don't let them down.**

Don't forget, the latest forms and scoresheets are available at <http://lsvolleyball.org> in the Reference section.

Have fun, get to a clinic early and don't forget to send in your scoresheets to complete your certification!

--Steve Crane
Scorekeeper Chair

Use the Lone Star Region web site (<http://lsvolleyball.org>) to always get the most up to date information on anything relating to your Region.

Junior News from Dick Kappel

2008 Junior Nationals

Congratulations to all the teams that represented the Lone Star Region at Junior Nationals. Among the 62 girls teams from the Lone Star Region at Dallas,

Top finishers in the Gold Division were:

AUSTIN JRS - 17 Mizuno	1 st 17 Open
Woodlands Stars -17G	1 st 17 American
TX ELITE - 18 Black	3 rd 18 American
TRV - 15 Elite	3 rd 15 American

Girl's 2008 Jr Nationals – Dallas

All Tournament Team Selections were:

Elly Barrett; Austin Jrs 17 Mizuno (**MVP**)
Jessica O'Shoney; Austin Jr's 17 Mizuno
Emily Danks; Austin Jr's 17 Mizuno
Taylor Bustamento; Woodlands Stars 17-G (**MVP**)
Ali Insell; Woodlands Stars 17-G
Breane Matula; Woodlands Stars 17-G
Emily Beardmore; Texas Elite 18 Black
Jamie Kaleh; Texas Elite 18 Black
Siobhan O'Neill; TRV 15 Elite
Alicia Dittrich; TRV 15 Elite
Megan Pendergast; South Shore 18 Mizuno

2009 Junior Volleyball National Qualifier Schedule

Lone Star Classic (Dallas), April 10-12 (16, 17, 18)
Lone Star Classic (Dallas), April 17-19 (12, 13, 14, 15)

2009 Lone Star Junior Regionals, May 2-3

12's - 18's Houston, George R Brown Convention Center

2008-09 USA Volleyball Season

Begins, Saturday, November 1

Adults and Juniors!

Check the website for the
upcoming tournament season!

www.lsvolleyball.org

Start putting your teams together
& working on getting your members, teams and
Clubs developed and registered.

Reference the Lone Star Region

Players Handbook for

Assistance.

(Junior news cont)

2007 -2008 Team Registration Packages and On-Line Registration

The Lone Star Region will be using the USA on-line registration system and registrations for the 2009 season will begin 9/1/08. Refer to the Commissioner Notes and the Lone Star Website for more details.

Austin Juniors 17 Mizuno Wins Girls' Junior Volleyball National Championship

by Tim Taliaferro

In a fitting end to a nearly perfect season, Austin Juniors 17 Mizuno won the National Championship July 1 at the Junior Olympics in Dallas. The team went 9-0 in the tournament and beat Dallas Skyline in the first all-Texas national championship final in 17 and under junior volleyball history.

Westlake setter Elly Barrett was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Right side Emily Danks and middle blocker Jessica O'Shoney made the All-Tournament Team. 17 Mizuno finished with an overall season record of 67-6, including tournament wins at the Northeast Qualifier in Baltimore, the Lone Star Classic in Houston, the Las Vegas Invitational, the Southwest National Championships in San Antonio, and the Tour of Texas.

Based on their phenomenal record, the team earned the top seed in the 17 and under Open division. In the first three days of competition they dropped only one game, winning in each of their first five matches in straight sets and winning the sixth in four. On the fourth and final day, the team twice faced elimination but managed to pull out victories in grueling fifth-game finales.

Last year, as 16-year-olds, the team lost in the quarterfinals by two points in the final game of the match. This year the tables turned, and it was Austin who beat Epic Volleyball Club of San Diego 18-16 in the deciding fifth game of the quarterfinals.

Barrett, a highly touted setter committed to play at the University of California Berkeley, ran a fast attacking offense. Outside hitter Sara Shaw, who in May committed to the University of Southern California, led the team in kills. Danks, committed to Ohio State, led the team in aces and kill percentage. O'Shoney, committed to the University of Virginia, registered the team's most blocks.

In the championship match, 17 Mizuno won the first game against Skyline, then lost the second. Austin trailed 20-24 in the third game before Shaw served six straight points to complete the comeback and swing the momentum strongly in Austin's favor. "I told them to focus on one point at a time," says Coach Glen Lietzke. "Once they got to 23-24, they were pretty driven to finish the job."

The team jumped out to an early lead in the fourth game before Skyline went on its own late run, clawing back from 18-24 to pull within two points at 22-24. A service error by Skyline then gave the game, the match, and the National Championship to Austin. It was Austin Juniors' first-ever national championship in the Open division for any age group and only the second by any Texas team ever.

"I was happy for the kids most of all," says Lietzke. "It was an exceptional accomplishment. It's even harder for a team to win when ranked No. 1."

The win capped an astonishing run that began shortly after their loss in the quarterfinals in last year's Junior Olympics. Last July the girls traveled to Pula, Croatia, to compete in the Global Challenge Tour featuring 16 of the best teams from across Europe and the United States.

They overcame the departure of their head coach, Ted Wade, in March, who took an assistant coaching job at the University of Virginia. Then in late March, assistant coach Sara Kidd also left to become director of operations for the University of Southern California women's volleyball team.

Junior news article cont...

“It was such a sense of accomplishment,” says Michael Garcia, upon seeing that final serve sail out. Garcia replaced Kidd as assistant coach in March. “The kids did what they intended to do, and we did what we intended to do. It was a great feeling.”

Also on the team Michelle Miller, Becky Swann, Hannah Tucci, Sarabeth Bratton, Abby Howden, and Amber Tatsch. The University of San Diego offered Tatsch a scholarship after the final, and she committed the next day.

Note: Tim Taliaferro served as team representative for 17 Mizuno at the Junior Olympics.

***Deadline for November newsletter
October 15, 2008***

. A Cinderella Story, If Ever There Was One

The Woodlands Stars 17 Gold team had an incredible journey this past season, one which ended in their winning the American Division National Championship. This was a team that received the sixth and final bid in the 17's division at the Lone Star Regional Championships. They left the tournament unsure if they had even qualified. I overheard some wondering if they should even accept the bid as the last team to qualify. There is no question this was a good team, they battled some late season injuries yet ended the regular season short of expectations.

They started JO's seeded 30th of 48 teams and 4th in their 6 team pool. They finished 2nd in the pool with a 3-2 match record. Four of the five pool play matches went to 3 games. They won the fifth match 26-24 and 28-26. Nothing comes easy at JO's.

On day two they finished 2nd in a three team pool forcing them to a crossover match with 1st place pool winner, neighbor and rival Willowbrook. They were in a must win situation to stay in gold. Willowbrook beat them soundly in game one, 25-17. The Stars rallied back strong to win game two, 25-13. Down 13-9 in the deciding game, the Stars rallied to win the game 16-14 and win the match.

The Woodlands Stars 17 Gold team carried their tremendous confidence, momentum and heart into the Gold Championship bracket and never looked back. They ended up beating IPVA in two games in the finals, the team that had beaten them on day one.

The championship run was a total team effort. With a very capable and deep bench, every player contributed significantly. Three Stars players received All Tournament Honors, Taylor Bustamento – Outside Hitter Tournament Most Valuable Player, Breane Matula - Middle and Ali Insell-Libero. This is truly a special team, it was an incredible experience and a real lesson in what can happen with character, heart and desire.

Article by Bill Graves, Club Director, Woodlands Stars Volleyball Club



Left to right – Back row; Coach Kalani Tonga, Katie Henry, Meagan Little, Breane Matula, Club Director Bill Graves, Chaperone Peggy Henry Front row; Taylor Bustamento, Morgan Wallace, Hannah Davies, Ali Insell, Dani Griffith, Dana Wiesmann, Abby Tipton

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Newsletter

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