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Carolina Volleyball Review

USA Volleyball believes that volleyball has so many positive things to offer those who participate. First, and most importantly, whether one is a gifted athlete or a recreational player, volleyball is FUN!

From the Top—Mike Spillman, President



Happy New Year Carolina Region!!! Since our last newsletter we have officially rolled the calendar forward another year. Where has the time gone? This publication as always will be packed with useful information about the current season and our

ongoing regional projects. I would however, like to switch gears and share a few observations on comments I've heard during recent collegiate volleyball telecasts. The first conversation I found noteworthy came during the woman's national semi-final match. Seattle, Washington hosted the championships and all matches were played in front of a packed house. By all accounts the environment was electric. After describing this, the commentator suggested that this type of atmosphere was directly linked to the explosive growth of the sport. He went on to indicate that woman's volleyball is beginning to overtake women's basketball in most areas. What a wonderful time to be involved in this sport.

The other comment worth repeating I overheard late at night while watching Men's Volleyball on the PAC-10 Network. UCLA #1 in the country was playing #8 UC Irvine. UCLA had started

running away with the match so my overall interest was just beginning to fade when I was certain I heard the announcer mention something about Conference Carolinas? Intrigued I pressed rewind to replay his comments. There they were in the final set of a match pairing two nationally ranked opponents, discussing the rapid growth and expansion of Men's Volleyball in the Carolinas. They went on to state that the Conference Carolinas champion will start receiving an automatic bid into the NCAA 6-team playoff. What a wonderful time to be involved in this sport.

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU: Men's collegiate volleyball is alive and well in North Carolina. While our junior boys programs are gaining momentum I ask that we all try to do a little more to encourage boys to participate. Here locally, during our last tournament committee meeting for "The Bash" one of the goals set for this year was to have multiple junior boys divisions. Please help us spread the word because outdoor tournaments are a great way to introduce newcomers to the volleyball experience. What a wonderful time to be involved in this sport.

"The Bash" tournament information is available here

- <http://ymcanwnc.org/bash/>



Officials Corner

*Marilyn Thompson
Officials Program Director*



It is great getting ready for a new year. Major changes in clinics and registration has kept all of us busy.

I trust all players have learned a lot at the clinics which will make the officiating this year much easier. Remember if you have new girls or still inexperienced girls that they can review the scorekeeping at www.volleyballreftraining.org at any time.

Each team needs to be sure that the girls and coaches know how to keep score. I realize the first few tournaments will be new but remember if you took the online clinic to keep your completed scoresheets with you at tournaments. The adult refs are busy with the first and second referee so we are going to be

relying on coaches to help the scorekeepers. I have asked my officials to let me know of any teams that are having major trouble keeping score. You can let your players keep score at practice or scrimmages so they will know how to work at tournaments. We will get in touch with you if your team is having trouble to try to solve the problem.

I am hoping that your season is one of the best that you have had. I look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Regional Achievements



Here's some accomplishments that Deserve Regional Recognition!

- The following players were named to the 2013 AVCA Phenom List: **Payton Carter** (Fort Mill; Carolina Union); **Taylor Portland** (Charlotte; Carolina Juniors); **Karlie Redfern** (Harrisburg; Carolina Union); **Katie Smith** (Raleigh).
- The following players were named to the 2013 Under Armour Watch List: **Gabi Benda** (Raleigh, Triangle); **Julia Brown** (Davidson, Lake Norman); **Rebecca Hayes** (Boone, Club Synergy); **Rachel Hyatt** (Mills River, Xcel); **Darian Mack** (Raleigh, Triangle); **Christine Patterson** (Fayetteville, FAVA); **Cameron Pryor** (Hendersonville, Biltmore); **Kellie Williams** (Charlotte, Carolina Juniors).
- The following players were named to the 2013/2014 Under Armour Girls High School All-America Teams: Second Team Selection: **Maddie Plumlee** (Wake Forest; Triangle). Honorable Mention: **Gabrielle Benda** (Raleigh, Triangle); **Julia Brown** (Davidson, Lake Norman); **Darian Mack** (Raleigh, Triangle).

CONGRATULATIONS!

CEO Report

Kevin Wendelboe

I hope everyone has had a great start to the 2014 season! We are already one month into the season—it sure goes quickly!

I would like to thank everyone for their patience over the holidays while the Online Clinic system was down. The good news is that more and more people are utilizing the online clinics as a way to learn about officiating and get certified. The bad news was that all those people seemed to try to access the course site at one time! That overwhelmed the system and caused all the issues. USA Volleyball is aware of all the issues and is working with the software developer and their IT professionals to address the issues so they do not repeat in future seasons. It does appear that since they brought the system back online, we have not had a repeat of the problems. But we do appreciate everyone hanging in there with the system while USAV worked on it!

As of now, our Juniors program grown once again for the 2014 season. We have over 350 more junior girls playing this year and 43 more teams!

Our new 4-team assigning format appears to be working well. We have been fortunate that new tournament hosts are stepping forward to host and for the most part we are able to

accommodate all the new teams and additional site needs required of the new system. We have been re-programming the Points System to help us manage the new formats. We are updating it almost weekly. There are a lot of behind the scenes work done on the system in order for us to get the results and assignments out on a weekly basis. A big thank you to our Points System Developer and Programmer, Karl Owen, for his hard work in this area. We are continuing to add features to the system, so keep an eye out for them (and let us know if there are other things you would like to see there.).

If you have not done it yet, be sure to subscribe to our various social media channels below to stay up to date with the Carolina Region!

Have a great season!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarolinaRegionVB>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CarolinaRegion>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarolinaRegion1>



Official Indoor Volleyball of the Carolina Region

Carolina Region to Field a Women's PVL Team

The Carolina Region will be forming a Women's USAPVL team this season! Ken Murczek, Women's Head Coach at Wake Forest University, has agreed to coach the team. We are currently running a contest on our Facebook page to name the team. We will be announcing Tryout dates shortly. Current plans are to try to do one PVL competition in the Spring and play in the USAPVL Championships in Phoenix, AZ in May. Any

post-collegiate women that are interested in the try-out information should contact Chuck McCracken, Director of High Performance

(hp@carolinaregionvb.org) and let him know of your interest. We will have a PVL Team page linked from the ADULTS tab on our website shortly with more information as it is developed.



High Performance Update-Chuck McCracken



There are 3 levels in the process of making the Carolina Region High Performance Team.

- **Level 1** is the entry level and is open to anyone who wants to participate (no invitation needed). This includes:

Optional training clinics (general and position specific).

These clinics are teaching environments and there are no formal evaluations done at the clinic (so players trying new techniques are not afraid to make errors). Since it is a learning environment we expect you to make mistakes because you are trying new things. Errors will not be held against anyone; however, bad attitudes, lack of hustle, etc. will not help you get invited. Future Level 1 Clinic(s):

Sunday, February 9th (1-4 pm), Greensboro SportsPlex

Sunday, February 16th (1-4 pm) Xcel Sportsplex, Hendersonville

Sunday, February 23rd (1-4 pm), Greensboro SportsPlex

See our HP Clinic website for more information and registration information

<http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/hpclinics2014>

2014 Carolina Region High Performance TEAM Tryouts will be announced at above page soon!

- **Level 2** is a training group of approximately 36 players in each of the age groups:

Junior

Youth

USA Select

Future Select

This level is by invitation and will take place in May. A player may receive an invitation as a result of:

Performance at a Level 1 clinic (no formal evaluation is done here).

Performance at a Regional HP Tryout.

Performance at a National HP tryout (based on recommendation of evaluators to the National program).

Performance at prior year National High Performance or Carolina Region High Performance (based on recommendation of coaching staff).

- **Level 3** is a smaller training group selected from the Level 2 training group. It consists of the players selected for the Carolina Region High Performance team to the National HP Championships and their alternates. This group will be between 18-24 players (we train more than just the team since players may have injuries, become sick or encounter another reason that they are not able to go to the Championships and we need the player replacing them to be prepared).

USAV National HP Tryouts

There will be a National High Performance Tryout on Friday, March 7, 2014 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Girls - Registration begins at 4 pm. Tryouts last until 8 pm.

Boys—Registration begins at 5:30 pm. Tryouts last until 9 pm.

See the USA Volleyball HP website for more information:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/High-Performance/HP-Indoor>



December, 2013 HP Clinic Attendees