

US OPENS AND JOVC

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Mix, Beat & Serve-The Fixings of ClubOne 14 Red Diamonds

All recipes begin with a set of ingredients and then you mix, stir, fold, and modify to create a delectable treat; however, as with any new recipe or experience, you never know what to expect and WOW, did Coach and I have no idea the amazing concoction that we were in store for when tryouts began last October. So, let's begin:

Start with:

- 9 Parts Talent:
- 3 Setters (Brynn Eckhardt, Rebecca Mikkelsen, Taylor Pribble)
- 5 Hitters (Ciera Borho, Sarah Dannettell, Mallory Dill, Patty Esch, Lindsay Miller)
- 1 Libero (Danielle Rodriguez)

A couple of nuts (or Coaches, if you will):

- Head Coach Michelle Chacon
- Asst. Coach Jeff Oldham

Fold in an unlimited supply of supportive family & friends and a dash of knowledge from the Club Director and fellow coaches. Toss in a competitive region, mix well and you end up with a 65-6 season with a second place finish at Colorado Crossroads, a first place at the Northeast Qualifier and finally, one of the best desserts you'll ever have the opportunity to taste, a second place finish in the National Division of the Junior Olympic National Tournament!

After the first practice on December 1, 2008, we knew we had the makings of something wonderful and only hoped that with the right mix, all the ingredients would compliment each other. There were 7 regional tournaments that were utilized in preparation for our first national qualifying tournament, Colorado Crossroads in Denver, CO. The confection seemed to be rising to the occasion, having success the first two days culminating in a tough Gold Bracket crossover match against Front Range Royal with ClubOne Red Diamonds pulling out the win. Day 3 of Crossroads brought more great competition and each girl brought their own special ingredient into the mix. Having successfully navigated three great teams in bracket play, we saw ourselves across the net from Arizona Sky 14-N1. After a well-played match, the Arizona team was the "Selection of the Day" but we had secured an American bid to the Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (JO's).

The excitement from the second place finish was still cooling (ever so slightly) when we had one regional tournament to prepare us for our second national qualifying tour-

namment, the Northeast Qualifier in Baltimore, MD. Being an east coast event, the unknown factor was even more apparent. Would our confection hold up against the east coast? Turns out, it did. The girls showed up ready to play. Day one and two ended with success but we knew we had our work cut out for us on day three. Yet the ingredients, once again came together, topping off with a trip to the finals against Southwest 14 Asics out of Texas. After a grueling three-game match, we were the "Selection of the Day" on that warm afternoon in April with the result being a National bid to JO's.

After finishing out the Regional season, a much needed brief break was taken and the girls came back better than ever! After 6 months of such a rewarding season, the girls were ready to add a little Miami flavor to the mix. Not only did the girls earn the right to play in JO's but they got to do it in the wonderful destination of Miami, FL. Walking into the Miami

Convention Center on July 2nd, everyone knew that this was not going to be a piece of cake and each girl would need to play their best game every time they walked on the court. As expected, each day brought new flavors with great teams competing and the girls had to



play tough, earning each point, leading to a Gold Bracket challenge match and this match lived up to its title. Uno Girls 14 Elite brought everything to the table and our girls responded in kind, securing a top 8 finish.

The challenge match prepared the girls for what was to come and they were hungry. As we made that final journey to the convention center on July 5th, the girls were their usual selves. Little did the coaches know the treat that these girls had in store for them. The girls were able to take their first two matches of the day achieving the ultimate goal at JO's, the chance to be featured on Court 1! As we warmed up on the featured court, a parent mentioned to us that we needed to "soak it all in" and that we did. A distant dream which first appeared on December 1st, had become a reality. Both teams walked in from one corner with music blasting and we lined up on the sideline. Watching as each girls name was announced and seeing them step out and wave to the crowd, at all the family and friends who made this all possible, you realize your witnessing a special moment in time. Seeing Omaha Wave 14 ICE for the second time, after a tough three game loss two days prior, we would love to say that we were crowned the champion but not all recipes turn out exactly as you plan. Yet, the final delectable treat is a composite of all ingredients and the combination of each girl on this team, with all that they individually brought, created ClubOne 14 Red Diamonds recipe for success. On that day in July, a great team won the championship in the National Division but another great team from Northern Colorado provided a dessert just as sweet!

***Special congratulations to Shinkara Doom for their 1st place finish in Men's Division A and ClubOne 14 Red Diamond for their 2nd place finish in 14 National**

***Congratulations to Tony Weber, Robin Parker, MVP Ted Yurich from Shinkara Doom for being selected to the Men's A All Tournament Team.**

***Congratulations to Nicole Dalton from Front Range 16 Blue for being selected to the 16 Open All Tournament Team.**

Colorado Masters Compete at USAV Nationals By Ski Wagasky

Colorado Masters fielded two teams for this year's USA Volleyball Championships in Minneapolis this year; Colorado Masters 55s and for the first time Colorado Masters 60s. Wow, we are starting to get old, but you would never know it by the play of both teams!

One of the goals of the 55s this year was to improve on their 11th place finish from the 2008 Nationals. Since this was the first year in 60s, the first goal was to get into the Gold Bracket after pool play and the challenge matches, and if that didn't happen, to win the Silver Bracket.

However, that wasn't going to be easy for either team. The 55s found themselves in a 6-team pool with perennial powerhouse Kings Mountain Fog, Papakoa, and the 2007 50s Division Champion, Spike Force that moved up to play 55s with some of their championship team. Culver's Geezers from the Badger Region, Downeast from Boston, and Volley and Cia from Brazil rounded out the pool.

The 60s were paired with the 2008 2nd place finishers Sao Paulo Masters from Brasil, the 4th place Boomers playing on their home turf, and 2008 Silver Bracket Champion Silverbacks. Hometown Boomers (a.k.a. Northern Heat) and Spike Force 60s rounded out the 5 team pool.

The 55s got off to a good start and took eventual 7th place finisher Papakoa to three sets before losing 2-1. That is the first set Colorado Masters has taken from Papakoa in over 5 years. After losing 2-0 to eventual 3rd place finisher Spike Force, the 55s beat Culver's Geezers in two sets.

The second day opened with a 2 set loss to eventual 55s champion Kings Mountain Fog. After that, the 55s fell to Volley and Cia losing the first set 23-25, and the third 15-17. However, the 55s finished up strong with a 2 set victory over Downeast to finish 4th in pool.

The 55s met the #3 seed in Pool #1, Richmond, in the Challenge Matches the at 8:00 am next day. The 55s didn't get the wake up call and lost to Richmond in two sets.

However, the 55s played an inspired match against Wicked Old Guys in the first round of the Silver Bracket winning the deciding set 15-13. Then it was on to the hometown Northern Heat where the 55s came up a little short against a very tall Northern Heat team, losing in two sets, for a 12th place finish overall.

The 55s were led by solid play in the middle by 55s newcomer Dale Rupp and Doug

Thomas, strong outside hitting by another new 55er, Mike Nelson and Charlie Young, right-side hitting and blocking by Michael Platt and Charlie Strudavant, solid libero play



COLO MASTERS 55s

Back Row L-R: Charlie Strudavant, Michael Platt, Mike Nelson, Doug Thomas, George Egan

Front Row L-R: Jim Henthorn, Ski Wagasky, Mike Pickett, Charlie Young

by another National's rookie Jim Henthorn and consistent setting by George Egan and Mike Pickett. Well done guys!

The 60s started play on Wednesday, but lost another opening match to eventual 4th place finisher Silverbacks from Tennessee. Next it was Sao Paulo Masters. After losing the first set 25-12, the 60s came back and dominated the second set 25-19. It was the first set Colorado Masters has ever taken from Sao Paulo. In the third set, Sao Paulo put in their other three starters and #1 libero, but the 60s battled the Boys from Brazil to a 13-13 tie, before a missed touch call and a long rally point gave Brazil a 15-13 victory.

The next day, the 60s took the much taller Boomers in two sets, before losing to the eventual 5th place finisher Spike Force in two.

Like the 55s, the 60s were unable to win the Gold Division Challenge match, losing to Volley and Cia.

However, that set up another run in the Silver Bracket where the 60s dispatched Schenectady and Boomers in two sets, bringing them to the finals in the Silver Bracket against Dinosaurs from the Northeast Region.

After falling behind 11-2, in the

first set, the 60s caught the Dinosaurs at 23-23. However, the rally came up a little short, and the 60s lost the set 25-27. The second set was another close match, with the 60s getting out to an early 5 point lead, but the Dinosaurs closed the gap, before losing 25-23. The third set, was much closer than the 15-10 score would indicate, with the Dinosaurs scoring the last three points on an overpass, a touch off the block and a long rally, leaving the 60s with a second place in the Silver Bracket and 10th place finish overall.

My thanks to all of the players on this year's Colorado Masters 60s, who adopted a new, international flavor with the addition of Jean Trottier and Didier Martel from France! Thanks guys. Jean's outside hitting and Didier's setting played a large part in the team's success. Larry Rickmann and national's newcomer Dave Conry were awesome in the middle. Charlie "Ironman" Young played 8 more matches to make his total 16 for the week. Not bad for a 60 year-old! Paco Pantajo did a nice job setting and playing libero, and big, 6'8" Dave Snyder from North Carolina and Doug Markham from Virginia played solid across the front row.

I hope all of you will join "Colorado Masters" next year for the nationals.

If you are interested in joining "Colorado Masters" next year contact Ski Wagasky at 719-487-8242. See you next season. RMR friendship tournaments start in October 2009.



COLO MASTERS 60s

Back Row L-R: Jean Trottier, Dave Snyder, Dave Conry, Larry Rickman, Dennis Dempsey

Shinkara Sends 11 Teams to Nationals By Tom Kawano

Our final standings @ Nationals, Minneapolis

Women's A Hot 7th Gold
 Women's A Red 13th Copper
 Women's BB Blue 7th Gold
 Women's BB Black 1st Bronze
 Women's 55's Friend 5th overall
 Women's 60's Friends 1st overall
 Men's A Doom 1st Gold
 Men's A Blue 2nd Silver
 Men's A Sapiens 5th Bronze
 Men's A Black 9th Copper
 Men's B White 2nd Copper

A player from NY requested our Shinkara Club logo for her photo book

Another player from Hawaii wanted a jersey with Kanji script, logo, etc as he has competed against us at every Nationals

We had three major ankle & 1 knee injury
 The women's (Friends-60's) & men's (Doom) were very inspirational as they won the Gold by coming up through the losers bracket

A girl friend player lost her wallet on the airport shuttle but we did recover it in time for the flight home

One player came with a "Mohawk" haircut
 A coach had their New Mexico women's team watch our first session's teams to learn the proper way to play Libero defense

Many of the Referees stated that ALL Colorado teams are a pleasure to officiate

United & Frontier Airlines made announcements that they are glad to have on their flight the Shinkara Volleyball team which is competing in the US Open Volleyball Championships in Minneapolis

Miami..... By DPR

Our adventures started off with a bang, just trying to get to Miami. Flights cancelled, kids flying into New York, Dallas, and Minnesota. Best laid plans, you know how the story goes.

Finally three trips to the Airport and we get the last group of players in to their hotel around 3:00am.

We walked into the convention center seeded 1st in American. I think the kids could feel the pressure. We saved telling them till the last minute. We needed them to focus on practice. Futile as that was.

1st day and 2nd were hard but positive. It all came to a head on the 3rd day. We met again teams we'd played and beat in the past. They were ready for us. It was hard losing to them, the kids weren't there. All during the tournament I watched as the girls made the oddest decisions. It was everyone. No one seemed to be able to focus. Then I turned around. I see what all the confusion is about. College coaches, more pressure. Finally my own

daughter came to me and broke down. This never happens. She was so afraid. It was heartbreaking.

I told her to do her best, that's all we can ask. Focus on making your team better. The coaches want you or they don't. There isn't anything you can do to change their opinion. If they're watching something has piqued their interest. I told her maybe they're just sitting because they need a break. Leave it out of your head.

It's impossible for these 17 year olds to get passed that, but it seemed that after that tough 3rd day and ending with a win in the challenge match they finally came together.

They finished with wins to take first in the Bronze flight. We had visions of them on a podium with their gold medals a month ago. But who wanted it more? Me the director of the club. Me the mom of the setter? I question my motives. I love flying under the radar. I like being the underdog. 1st

seed was too much for us mentally. I watched them play and they had the same faces as the 12 year olds. Wide eyes, tentative play, fear.

In the end there are so many lessons to learn. I hope I am open enough and smart enough to understand. We had an amazing year. 1st in the region, Omaha, Minnesota, and Miami, how fortunate we are and I am thankful.

So for now I am not a director or a coach or chaperone. I am pulling weeds in the garden, letting my kids sleep in, walking the dogs. It feels good to be in my home.

Thanks to the region. It was so great to see Candace working the front. She's always so positive and helpful.

Denver Parks and Rec volleyball. Another great year!!!!

Now back to the laundry...

Colorado Juniors Hit the Beach! By Bill & Judy Peer

In a record setting season for Colorado Juniors – we all headed down to Miami – 78 players (on 7 teams) with hopes of national glory, improved play, college visibility – and yes – some sun. The only thing we may have missed out on – the sun ----- didn't see too

much of it! But that didn't dampen our action – every held an



tor, played in the Atlantic Ocean, and had a great time!

The 16Peer team headed down first and rolled through pool play – sometimes – not a good thing! Their first match in the pool of three a super huge and talented Sixpack team from Iowa. After sweeping them – we looked unstoppable. Unfortunately, we ran into a desperate Dallas Premier team who played lights out, and won the pool on points. That left the playoff game vs Sixpack to advance – and Sixpack was ready this time and sent the contenders home from the gold 25-23. Although they did not achieve their main goal – 16Peer accomplished plenty this season and will be back for more in 2010.

Colorado Juniors 13M&M squad – the first for us to send to JO's at 13's - was a tremendously improved team throughout the season. An untimed injury/abnormal sub cost them a pool play match, which then turned into finishing 4th after an untimely 3-game loss to eventual bronze medalists – 18-16! They finished really strong and we are so proud of their progress and look forward to many more years with these girls.

The 17Meghan team was the next team to show in Miami. Fresh off three college commitments – the group was ready! They had a relatively easy time in pool play – winning all 5 matches. Primed for their three team pool – they did their job, and won that pool too. However, we all know it's about the path – well one of the tourney favorites did not win their pool – matching them (River City) up against CJ's for the challenge match. The ball did not bounce our way in that one – and we were bounced from the gold. [Ironically, the next team bouncing River City (and earning the bronze medal – Club West) was

one of 17Meghan's first opponents in pool play – which we won!] In the end – each girl left the tournament with their heads held high, and most receiving attention and offers from many college coaches.

The 15's headed to Open were the next arrivals to the Beach city. Underdogs from the beginning – who would have predicted they'd beat defending national champs Long Beach in game one of the tournament! Oops – woke the sleeping giant! 15Sherri got at least 20 points on every team but national champs TAV, won two matches in the end even, and went three several times ---- each time getting better and improving their play. They also had the most fun going to the beach at night, alligators by day and wave running plenty!

The 18's were up next – we sent two teams once again at this age – one in open and one in National. We are so proud of our seniors who will all head off to college in the next month – 21 in total. The 18Peer Open team was feeling they had a real shot off their great performance in Reno. Although they dropped the first two matches of pool in 4 games, they were playing better, and those were the top two in pool. The next morning they sent KJ packing in 4 games, and then downed Far Western and So Cal champs NCVC down in 3 games – one of the pre-tourney favorites. Things were looking up – especially after handing SWIL a loss the next morning. Love the 7 team pools – everyone is in it until the end – everyone! They had TCA remaining – defending 18Open champs. TCA was playing for their life at a 2-3 match record; CJ's playing for extra life at 3-2. TCA served as hard as humanly possible and downed the CJ squad. Meanwhile, NCVC was also losing – setting up the unpleasant 3-way JO Open tie. All three teams were tied for 3rd in pool in



match record at 3-3 (3 teams advance) – but not tied in games. Based on game percentage – NCVC got

3rd, TCA 4th and CJ 5th.

Ugh. Oh well, live to play another day not in the gold, but knowing they game the best teams in the nation a run for it. The final day at least the top teams in Colorado got to play (not getting to play in the region) – and Colorado Juniors was triumphant in three straight games ---- at least they are Colorado State Champions – officially!



18Brian also started pool play on the same day and lost two tough matches 18-16 in the third. This proved costly as although they won out on day two – lost the head to head tie break – and were out of the gold. They finished strong, won their flight, and had a great time. They can even claim they beat eventual 5th place Topeka Elite in pool, and avenged an early loss to Wisconsin Select for the flight championship. We look forward to watching all our seniors compete at the next level and wish them happiness – we're proud of you.

The 14's were the anchor squad – finishing up the tourney. Another interesting story as they were hanging in pool play with a 3-2 record but lost the head to head tie break – to knock them out! Interestingly, the 14American champs, NCVC – had only two losses on the tourney – one of them a 2-game blowout to CJ 14Smith on day two! But what are you gonna do – play hard the rest of the tourney and win your flight? That's exactly what they did – improving every match, scoring big wins and having a great time. This team too did the airboat rides and alligator “petting” – and enjoyed their first trip to the big event.

All in all – a great showing by our seven teams – a record for our club. We had wins and losses, but our focus of getting all our kids a place to play in college is still in great shape, sending 21 girls off to school. Also – at press time – another 11 girls in 2010 have given their verbal commitments as well – leading the

NORCO 18 Black goes to Miami By Glenn Sapp

We arrive at Miami Airport, delayed, in a torrential down pour. The weather report indicated that it was suppose to be this way the entire time we were visiting. Did we get lucky! Other than one other minor time period, the weather accommodated our team and we basically had good weather when we weren't playing. Bonus!

The NORCO 18 Black team consisted of Kelley Arnold, Mollie Jones, Bri Zimlich, Virginia Clay, Nikki De Salle, Rachel Weakland, Bailey Wise, Sage Martinson, Colleen King, Casey Bull, Kelsey Skaar and Meghan Sipe. The Coaches were Ryan Knoblock, Brett Anderson and myself, Glenn Sapp. We were also fortunate to have a number of parents and relatives in attendance to cheer and give the ladies moral support.

We met the first night and for our team the ladies had all voted that we wanted to stay and operate as a team the entire time at JO's. There are a lot of fun things to do in Miami and though we were there to take care of business, we didn't want it to be all business as for many of these ladies, it would be their last club tournament. With the schedule for the next day, we did not have to play until 5pm and then again at 7pm (only two matches for the whole day) with no officiating responsibilities! We asked the ladies what they wanted to do and the unanimous decision was to hang out on the beach and play in the ocean (this was actually Meghan's first time ever to the beach). Not exactly a recipe for success (sitting out in the sun and playing in the water) but the coaches agreed as long as the ladies were reasonable.

That night the coaches attended a club coaches meeting at a local establishment. I of course left at a reasonable hour but many stayed on and found out that the night life in South Beach Miami is vibrant until about 5am when they close down for an hour and reopen for business at 6am. We also found out why South beach is the playground for the rich and famous, because you have to be rich! Very expensive to say the least

Well the next morning the weather cooperated. After a two hour breakfast (I don't think "service" in South Beach means the same as in Denver) costing about \$12-\$14 a person (again the town of the rich & famous) we had a great time at the beach which was right next to our hotel. The ladies were super responsible staying out only about an hour and a half and all opting to go back and rest before we had to go to the convention center and play. We first played "Ultimate" out of the Great Lakes area and won in 2 sets. We next played A5 182 Chuck from the Southern Region and won in 3 sets though we probably played down to their level a bit and

even with the ladies being responsible, they might have been a bit dehydrated as it showed towards the end of this match. The ladies persevered and we got through the first day 2-0.

After such an easy day the first day, the second day was difficult with a schedule where we played, officiated, played, off, played and officiated! The ladies this morning opted for breakfast (this time only an hour but still \$12-\$14 a head) and then back to the hotel to rest. We started off by playing a team out of Southern California, Surf City. This was a good team and we played well and won in 3 sets. After officiating, we played the #2 team in the tournament (and the eventual silver medal winner) Golden Bear FF out of Northern California. This was the only match all tournament where the ladies didn't play their best and it showed with us loosing in 2 sets. Now 3-1 in matches, we played our last pool play match against Gainesville 18 Black out of Florida. After loosing the match against Golden Bear and not playing well in that match, the coaches were very concerned how the ladies would respond. We had seen Gainesville play earlier, they were also 3-1 in pool and we knew we would have a tough match. Well the ladies responded super. It was a great match and the ladies played some of the best ball all season. We lost in two (22-25; 35-37) but could have just as easily won in two. The coaches were extremely proud of the way the ladies finished pool play. Now we were 3-2 and needed some help.

Both Surf City and Golden Bear could eventually be tied with us and had that happened, we would not have broken up and still be eligible for the Gold Medal. Fortunately, Golden Bear prevailed in 3 so we beat Surf City on the tie breaker and advanced in the upper half for the third day.

On the third day, we did not have to play until 3pm but then we played, played & officiated. One of the coaches found a market/store close to the hotel so we decided to go there to buy what we wanted and bring it back to the hotel. It still cost about \$10 each. The

article only references breakfast as lunch wasn't too bad cost wise (though 45 minutes to order Subway is a bit long) and dinners were about triple breakfast costs!

In any event, we had breakfast and then a team scavenger hunt. Brett & Ryan were very talented in making things interesting and mentally challenging involving the finding rooms consisting of only prime numbers and stairways to floors that barely existed. The ladies are all very competitive with some ladies showing their displeasure by including some less than lady like jesters in some of the pictures (they had to take a picture with a team member included for the item on the list to count) on the more difficult items.

After the scavenger hunt the ladies rested for the 3 team pool play to be followed by a cross over match. We first played Boomers out of Florida and played well the first set but not so well the second and lost in 2 sets. Again the coaching staff was concerned on how we would respond for the next match against A5 Bob who we had played and lost to at Cross Roads. The ladies responded well. We did loose in 3 but the coach from A5 Bob remembered us and was very impressed with our teams improvement since we played them at Cross Roads. With those two losses, we knew we no longer had a shot at the Gold or Silver division but would be playing for Bronze of Flight One. The next team we played was Capital City. This was the only team we had lost to in Far Westerns in Reno. Those games were very close and this one proved to be the same though neither team had a lot of energy with the wind having been taken out of both teams sails, so to speak, with the prior losses in pool play earlier that evening. Capital City won in 3 sets.

The final day we had to officiate at 8am and play at 9am and if we won we would play at 11am for the Flight One Championship. Number 21 of 48 in the Division. The ladies decided they wanted to go out winners in the final matches of their final day (for all but 3 of them) as club players for NORCO. They won the first match against a tough Dallas Premier out of North Texas in 2 sets and then handled the CC Wave team out of Texas.

Of course at the end there was both jubilation that the season was over and also tears as I think this was bitter sweet for the ladies. They had come a long way this season with some great successes (winning the President's Day tournament in Omaha) some lows (Cross Roads) and then recovering and playing great in Reno, the RMR JNQ and then going 5-5 in Miami, a good finish with everyone staying healthy and having a good (though expensive) time.

Special thanks to Cathy Mahaffey the NORCO club director and Cheryl Zimlich, team mom extraordinaire who helped make our season so successful.



NORCO 13 Black at the Junior Olympics By Krista Schwartz

After two months of practice and anticipation the day has finally arrived. It is 5:00pm June 26 2009 in Miami Florida and the NORCO 13 Black team is having their first official team meeting in the garden area of the Royal Palms. Head Coach Krista Schwartz and her assistant coach Karen Guthrie had a short and simple message for their team, "you have practiced well and worked hard, you deserve to be here so go play NORCO volleyball". After the team meeting the players, coaches and parents headed off to a South Beach restaurant for a nice relaxing meal on the patio. Some late afternoon rain showers gave way to a very nice Miami evening and gave everyone a chance to unwind from the long day of travel. We play in the morning session so after dinner it was off to bed for the players and coaches. The morning session meant that the ladies had to be up bright and early each morning and ready to play but it was very nice to have the afternoon and evenings free to enjoy the sun, ocean and the beach.

Since we played early, breakfast and lunch could have been a problem, but thanks to several of our wonderful parents that was not the case. Moms (and Dads) volunteered to make a run to the local grocery store and bought a wide variety of food for the ladies so that they could eat a hassle free breakfast each morning before they played. We also had help at lunch as parents made sandwiches for the girls and brought them to the convention center so they could eat between matches instead of having to purchase food at the convention center. Thank you to all of the parents who took the time to do this for the kids.

We started day one very optimistic and with our traditional BOOM before the first serve. The team had had a month and a half of very good practices and the coaches felt like they had improved, both individually and as a team. In our first match of the tournament we played COA 13 Red. Game one went as planned and we won 25-15. Not so for games two or three. We ended up losing the match 1-2, game two 24-26 and game three 11-15. In match two against Triangle 13 Black once again we won game one 25-23 and dropped the next two 21-25 and 13-15. We felt like we let these two matches slip away from us and should have been 2-0 at this point instead of 0-2. Match three was a bit of a struggle, the team seemed to have lost a little bit of their spark which is understandable having dropped two very hard fought matches earlier. We ended up losing that final match of day one to TAV 13 Asics 19-25 and 16-25. Next it was on to the beach. For

several of the girls who had never been to the ocean or the beach before, the beach was the highlight of the trip and luckily they had several opportunities to spend time in the water, looking for shells or just laying in the sun, something that has been in short supply this spring in Colorado. Dinner was pretty simple as the team decided to just stay in the motel, have pizza delivered, relax and get ready for another day of volleyball.



Day two we once again made the morning walk to the convention center, which really was a great way for the ladies to stretch their legs and wake up before we got to our court. We were staying only about a 10 minute walk from the convention center so it was very convenient. Our first match of day two was against Premier 13 Gold from Omaha. This was a good team and our ladies rose to the challenge winning their first match of the tournament in two games 25-23 and 25-22. It was nice to see the team come back and put day one behind them and play like the NORCO team we watched all season. Our second match of day two was against A5 131 Suzanne from Atlanta. This was a very talented team and we played well at times but ended up losing in two 17-25 and 24-26. The girls had lunch at the diner across the street from the Royal Palms then it was off to spend the afternoon relaxing. The team had dinner at Johnny Rockets that night and this turned out to be the dining experience of the trip. The food and service was great. Johnny Rockets is a 50's themed burger joint with a wait staff that makes sure you enjoy yourself while you are there. The girls ended up singing along with the waiters with a favorite song of the night being "Shout" which as I understand some of the girls sang well into the night after returning to their rooms.

Day 3 we opened with Gainesville 13 Black and lost in 2 18-25 and 14-25. This match was a struggle and the ladies did not play like themselves, but we had two more matches to play and the coaches reassured the team that they were good enough to play with these teams that they belonged here. Match two we came out and beat Xtreme 13 Black 2-1, 21-25, 25-16 and 15-13. It was nice to see the girls come back after the loss in the first match and show their heart by fighting back to get a win. To end the day we played Brandywine Bam. This was another good team that we played tough but ended up losing 1-2, 22-25, 25-21 and 9-15. The schedule today was a little bit of a change for us. We played our first two matches in the morning then after a break in the afternoon we had to

prepare ourselves mentally to come back and play Brandywine at 9:00 at night. That meant that beach time was cut short and the rest of their schedule was altered a little.

The final day of our JO's experience was here, and our team had some fight left in them. We played KIDS 13 and won 2-0, 25-16 and 25-9. We live to play another match, this time against Skyline 13 Molten who proved to be a little too much for us and we lost our final match 0-2, 17-25 and 20-25. It was tough as I'm sure it was for every team there competing when they were finally done. We had a record of 3-7 and finished 38th in the National Division. This was a first class event held in a great venue. The tournament was well run with things almost always on time and a quality staff on hand at all times. The officiating at least in our matches was up to the quality that you would expect to see at a national tournament like this.

The girls have so many things that they will take away from this experience. As is a custom the teams all exchanged gifts prior to each match. Our NORCO team gave our opponents Chapsticks with our team logo and colors. Some of the things we received were, pins shaped like their state with a team name on them from Gainesville, Delaware and A-5 from Georgia, a lanyard from Premier in Omaha, an Apple from a team out of Washington and a CD from Brandywine that has an assortment of music that I assume are the favorites of the kids on that team and finally a volleyball drinking cup from COA 13 Red. Lets not forget the gift shop with the infinite number of shirts, shorts, sweats and many other things to purchase all bearing the coveted Junior Olympics logo. I hope everyone got their JO's bag pins early because they sold out the first day we were there. Last but not least the team

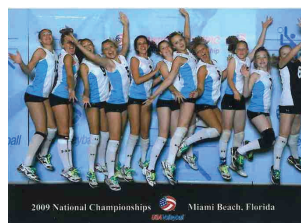


photo that will serve as a reminder of what great things this team achieved this year for decades to come.

We all came to Miami with high expectations, maybe we didn't win as many matches as we all would have liked but we will soon forget how many wins we had and what will

remain will be the great memories of this season, JO's and the many friends we all made along the way. The NORCO 13 black team: Coaches Krista Schwartz, Karen Guthrie, Players, Kaili Brazell, Miranda Geist, Nicole Goddard, Kennedy Lynn, Ashton Mares, Becca Mau, Jordan Moore, Katelyn Schwartz, Terra Seyler, Karen Sigg, Mishayla Stephenson.

I would like to say thank you to all of the NORCO staff, the coaches, parents and players who gave so much of themselves to help

NORCO 17-Black in South Beach By John Forster

The Rocky Mountain Region was very well represented again this year with the number of teams we had qualified for competition, and NORCO 17-1 was very much honored to be in attendance. We were met in South Beach with a little bit of rain (something we were use to), and a tremendous amount of humidity (something we were not used to), but the Royal Palm Hotel was located on the beach and in an ideal location for the team to really experience South Beach. The warmth of the Ocean, softness of the sand & cultural diversity of the City are all things that many of our athletes have never experienced, and certainly treasured the opportunity to take in what the venue

had offered.

When we began play during the tournament we were the 3rd seed in a very balanced pool. After winning our first match against Arrowhead we were defeated in straight sets by Northern Lights, in an uncharacteristic loss. After finishing the first day 1-1 we started the second day facing a very talented San Gabriel team, and after battling to end the match we had lost our second match of the pool. The next match of the day we took care of ALCiS but fell in straight sets to Pinellas to finish the pool. SG Elite as well as Pinellas Heat both finished in the top 5 of the tournament & Northern Lights 17-2 finished

11th respectively. Our next pool had us facing Nebraska Elite as well as Treasure Coast, and after feeling like we had missed opportunity in our first pool our athletes played extremely well in both Wins. After a very well played match in which we lost to a tough Central Cal team we rounded out the Junior Olympic tournament by defeating both TESL & 900 to win our flight.

At the end of the day NORCO 17-1 was extremely pleased with the growth made during the course of the season & also very proud to represent our Club and Region while at the Junior Olympics.

ClubOne 14 Red Diamonds

We had a great experience at this years Junior Olympics. We played teams from 9 different regions and were challenged in each match. The teams that we competed against were from the following regions: Great Plains, Delta, Arizona, Palmetto, Aloha, Ohio Valley, Heart of America, Great Lakes and the Southern region. We finished with a 9 - 2 overall record and placed 2nd in the 14 National tournament. Our two losses came to the same team, the Omaha Wave out of the Great Plains region. The girls also enjoyed their time away from the convention center as they were able to spend time at the beach and also visited the Holocaust Memorial. We had a great time in Miami.

Michelle Chacon

ClubOne 15 Black Diamonds; JO's Miami

This year the competition was tough from the get go. We started the tournament seeded 6th out of 48 in the American Division. We were in a 6 team pool, playing 2 matches on Tuesday and 3 on Wednesday. By the end of the pool we secured the 3rd seed. Thursday we played some great ball and finished 1 and 2 for the day. Friday morning we were in the Silver bracket, the team finished 11th overall. We played numerous 3 set matches where the players worked hard to fight back. They never gave up, just kept pushing on, not worried what the score was. It was great to be a part of this team and watch them play at this level. It was a great experience to visit Miami and the surrounding area.

Mark Lauridsen

ClubOne 16's

Our 16's competed in the American Division and finished in 13th place, which was a huge accomplishment for this team. Our 3rd day into JO's our team suffered a couple of injuries. Unfortunately this had a significant impact on our team. However, we were very proud of the team for continuing to compete and battle in every match! We thoroughly enjoyed our experience and the city of Miami.

Lindsey Stinson

ClubOne is extremely proud of our teams' accomplishments and we were honored to represent the Rocky Mountain Region!

Sincerely, LaVerne Huston

Colorado Performance Rocks Their Hot Miami Nights By Rob Reynard

Colorado Performance sent 5 teams to the tropical wonderland of Miami, Florida in July for the 30th Annual USA Junior Olympic Girls' Volleyball Championships, and the Performance girls made the most of the hot, rainy weather.

181UA, 171UA, 151UA, 131UA and 121UA all made the trip thanks to their performances throughout the national qualifier season and the Regional JNQ. And while every team wants to win their final match of the season, and hopes for that to be a National Championship match, Performance is very proud of their collective efforts and results.

121UA, which hadn't lost an age-group match inside the RMR all season, found themselves in a sticky situation at the conclusion of Round 1 in Miami; a three-way tie for 3rd and a disappointing drop into the bottom-half of the bracket.

Their championship dreams dashed, the girls displayed their mettle and determination, reeling off 3 straight wins before dropping their season's final match to Advanced Volleyball – Amarillo, and ending the event with an impressive 6-3 record and a 27th place national finish.

121UA was comprised of Meghan Beer, Paxton Beresford, Nikelle Bronson, Emily Christian, Mackenzie Ellison, Mad-die Freiwald, Erin McCarthy, Haley McLaren, Sydney Schaap, Madison Vogt and Sidney Wicks.

131UA punched their summer ticket to Miami when there was still snow on the ground in Colorado. A finals loss to Vision in the 13's division at Colorado Crossroads secured their spot early on and allowed for the team to relax and focus on being their best some 3 months later.

The girls of 131UA, Julia and Laura Cole, Sydney Ederhoff, Claire Gordon, Tasha Habert, Merry Hammack, Sarah Hellman, Gabby Miranda, Morgan Montgomery, Audrey Penland, Amanda Waterman and Madison Wolf did not disappoint when their moment arrived in the steam of June.

Ticking off win after win in pool play, Performance 131 found themselves at 7-0 and facing perennial national power Austin Juniors in the Gold Medal Challenge Match. For the first time all tournament, the CP squad found themselves on the short end of the scoreboard, suffering a tough 13-15 game 3 loss and sending their National Championship hopes into the hopper. A tremendous match, featuring great effort from both sides, it was one of those matches where there's a loser on the scoreboard but the game is better for that match being played.

A match split on the final day put 131UA in 11th place with an impressive 8-2 record for the event and an experience worthy of great pride and expectation for the future.

The Colorado Performance 171UA squad entered Junior

Olympics with a high seed and even higher expectations. Ranked 2nd going into the 17 National event, medal hopes were high for the team and program.

The event began with 6 straight wins before a day-3 loss to Spiral VBC out of Phoenix, positioning Performance in a tough Gold Medal Challenge Match against Sports Shack out of Southern California.

Controversy aside, an 11-15 loss in the rubber game left Performance with a sick stomach and their high expectations cast aside. A quick exit for an exhausted team put a cap on an impressive season and a fantastic Championship event with a 7-2 record and an 11th place finish.

Looking ahead to their Senior season and another shot at a title, Colorado Performance 171UA was composed of Megan Buckingham, Kayla Collier-Vigil, Hannah Ellison, Kelsey Freeman, Allie Freiwald, Hannah George, Kendall Howard, Kaleigh Humphrey, Katie Jackson, Sarah Mueller, Olivia Shuss and Kelsey Thompson.

For every Senior in club volleyball, their final event is always bittersweet. The excitement of what lies ahead on each of their respective college campuses is countered with the long goodbye to a juniors career that has spanned years and taught them everything they know about the game.

The Seniors on Colorado Performance 181UA were no different. A wonderful, eclectic group of girls, their leadership, ability and friendships will be impossible to replace and difficult to replicate.

Junior setter Gracie Howe gets one more run at it all next season, but for Seniors Logan Boyer-Hayse, Kat Davis, Cally Fensten, Cali Lemay, Kelly Miller, Sam Peters, Allyson Porter, Devon Rice, Bethany Shepard and Andi Weber, Junior Olympics 2009 was their final event.

As always, the team did not disappoint. A 7-4 record, featuring timely wins and stellar play capped a tremendous event (10th place final finish) and a glorious finish to a Performance career that has made all of us so very proud to have been associated with such a quality group of young women.

Colorado 15UA at JO's By Kirk Rowland

Colorado Performance 15UA headed to Miami not knowing what to expect. Only a couple of players had ever been to JO's and it is really hard to tell someone what the atmosphere and the competition would be like. After arriving we got the opportunity to go cheer on our 12's and 13's and hopefully get ourselves ready for a good first day. Well the team struggled. Losing to C4 in 2 and Extec in 3 and it looked like we had not played since May. The 2nd day was much better and we went 2-1. 15UA opened the day beating Gainsville 27-25, 25-23 in a very tough fight. The tables were turned on us against Raiders and they beat us 25-27, 23-25 and we lead but just could not close it out. We closed down the convention center by playing TCA starting at around 10:15. It was a funny match in that we beat them very bad the first set, they kicked our butt the 2nd set and in the third they had

us down 13-9, but we somehow managed to come back and win 15-13 by just stepping it up and putting tons of pressure on them. Hey we weren't the ones who folded this time!

So after the 1st pool we stood at 2-3 and tied for third in our pool, but we unfortunately lost the tiebreaker which put us in the bottom half. That put us in a 3 team pool with Hoosierland and Premier. First up was Hoosierland and we played pretty sloppy but managed to win in three sets. It just seemed like we could not put a whole match together. That was really the story against Premier. We dominated set one and were up big in set 2, but then the ball control went south and never came back. That lead to a 3 set loss which put us in the cross bracket that night against M1. Surprise, surprise we had the best serve receive match a coach could ever hope for and we cruised to the win. Funny how that works!

The final day ended with a thud as we lost to TVC in a quick 2 sets. The serve receive had left the building and we were showing the wear and tear of a 4 day tournament. Overall it was a great year with a great bunch of players. They had a goal in mind and they accomplished it by going to JO's. I think now that they have a taste of it they will do anything and everything to go back. I would like to thank: Basia Dann, Grace Gordon, Mikaela Heble, Victoria Kirkemo, Sabin Laughlin, Sammy Miletich, Ginny Mulder, Jeffri Mulder, Nicole Nitu, Alex Reid, Maggie Sherrill, Tori Yelken and Kristin Thompson for their hard work, dedication and passion they brought to the court on a regular basis. Good luck to all of you in your future endeavors!

Dog Pile by Tarah Sponenberg

In January 2009 a group of individuals set out on a mission to discover a common goal. Something they can sniff and chase every day, something tough and challenging but sweet to accomplish. After just a week of practice the team had decided that their team goal was, to end in a dog pile.

Juggernaut Elite 15-1 had a group of girls who had been playing together since the start of Juggernaut and the start of their careers in 1996. Nicole Edelman, Tyler Graham, Leigh Stonerook, Courtney Cantwell and recently added, Lauren Knox had all started playing volleyball in the family of champions when they were just 12 years old. With a few new members added to this team, and couple months of Juggernaut training, this well oiled machine took shape to their creed and headed to the top. Staying in Division I all season in the 15's age group, and working their way up into Division I after just one Power tournament in the 16's age group, spectators could see the transformation of a true Juggernaut team.

On May 3rd, 2009 Juggernaut Elite

15-1 defeated Colorado Performance 15UA in the third game, 27-25/21-25/15-11, to qualify for the Junior Olympics. As the girls crippled to the ground and crawled towards each other forming a sweaty yet glorious dog pile, they realized that not only did they accomplish their team goal, but they had just become the first team in Juggernaut to qualify for the Junior Olympics. Aubrey Havlichek filling in for the injured RS Leigh Stonerook, did everything in her power to make sure the team did not skip a beat. Lauren Knox over powered the front row defeating any sort of defense or blockers thrown at her. Lauren Carpenter, a first year club player, became a dominant middle by out smarting and out hustling Colorado Performance with her witty combos and non-stop desire to score a point. Allison Aafedt earned her way into the libero jersey mid-season, and with the combination of Tyler, Allison and Courtney in the back row, defensive plays was undoubtedly a reason for the big win. The second they qualified they

spoke of getting another dog pile, this time they wanted a gold medal around their neck.

That team went off to Miami Florida placing 17th of 48 in the National division; 45th overall. Taking first in their six team pool, with the huge help of Kristen Leenerman, Nicole Edelman, and Aubrey Havlichek, unleashing their blocking skills giving her team plenty of opportunity to celebrate and keep energy up. Upsetting Circle City and Austin Performance, after day two they saw another opportunity for that pile of tears and sweat. With challenge day arriving on day three they fell short of their last team goal. Now with a bitter-sweet loss and a taste of Miami Beach, Juggernaut came back into Denver with plenty to talk about and to a gym so proud of them, covering white boards with updates, quotes and best wishes, as they represented Juggernauts Family of Champions.

Five Star 13's at JO's in Miami by Holly Kidd

The Five Star 13 Black team had a wonderful experience at the U.S. Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships that took place in Miami, Florida back in June. For all of our athletes this was their first Junior Olympic experience and I couldn't have been more proud of the way they represented our program and the Rocky Mountain Region.

Our team played in the 13 American Division and was seeded 39th overall. We went 4-6 in the tournament, finishing 34th out of 48. The first two days in pool play was pretty rough but also very competitive. We went 1-4 but battled with every single opponent. Two of our toughest losses were to Madfrog Elite and Impact 13's. We went back and forth and had some amazing runs in both matches. Both of these squads were much bigger and more experienced than our team, but we gave them more than they wanted in pool play. They had to leave everything they had on the court to take care of us. Impact went on to take 2nd in the tournament. Their coach had complimented our kids stating that they were the scrappiest team that they had played all year. That was a great compliment for our girls going into their last match in pool. We went in against IPV 13 Black and took care of business in two straight games.

Going into day three and coming off a win we were excited to get back on the court and it showed. We went 2-1 on the

day with huge wins over IPVA 13 Black and Absolute 13 Black. On the final day we went 1-1 but played a very similar defensive minded team like us, PVP 13 Plastic and prevailed to victory taking the match in 3. 29-31 28-26 15-9.

I just want to finish up by saying thanks to all the players and parents and who made this experience possible. Go Five Star!!



Top Row: Asst Coach Carol Arthofer, Kayla Michel, Emma Gustafson, Cassie Hernandez, Sierra Ries, Amelia Spicer, Head Coach Holly Kidd

Bottom Row: Team Chaperone Samantha Collins, TyLynn Nelson, Megan Page, Sydney Weaver, Tori Arthofer, Shelby Martinez

Front Range Granite faces long odds with young squad in Atlanta By Brett Ammerman

This year at the US Junior Olympics, the Front Range Boys 18 Granite qualified for one of the last 18 Open bids and with only 4 seniors (Dalton Ammerman, Travis Gann, Josh Slone & Josh Sullivan, all going on to play Men's College Volleyball on Scholarships this fall) on the roster of 10 boys, knew they had their work cut out for them. The first day started out with a win against a seasoned California team, Bay to Bay, 25-15, 22-25, 15-11. Granite looked to have a good first day, but after losing their next two matches and forcing tie breakers across their pool, the only team they beat ended up winning the pool and Front Range finished 4th in their pool. On the second day, Front Range Granite went 1-2 again in their pool as they faced additional seasoned competition from around the country. Day 3 was more of the same as the finished 3rd in a 3 team pool where the boys from Front Range faced stiff



Day 3, Dalton Ammerman (3) stuffs an opponent from Diablo

competition to set up the final day of the tournament. On days 2 & 3 the boys played hard, but couldn't overcome the odds in front of them.

The last day of the tournament the team started to come together to play some great volleyball. Their first match on day 4 started slow, but after being down 5 early in the first game against a tough team from the Great Lakes Region, they hit their stride with good passing, great defense and strong serving, they pulled off the win 25-17, 25-18. Their next match was against Canadian team that looked more seasoned and could be the end of

their run, but Granite built on their success in the first match and added even better passing against tough jump serves to win a very tight match after losing the first set, 23-25, 25-23, 15-12.

This set up Granite's last match of the day against a very physical team from Long Island. Long Island started fast, but Granite came back after being 6 points down to tie the first set at 23, but end up losing 23-25. The second set looked like a carbon copy of the first, tough serving by Front Range allowed them to come back from 7 down this time, but the damage was done and they lost 22-25. Granite finished with a record of 4-7, 30th out of 36 teams, in the biggest tournament of the year.

Granite finished strong and capped off a successful tournament by improving their seed and the underclassmen this year, (Mitch Beal, Connor Bohl, Matiss Kaugars, Alex Lopez, Cody Kessel & Zach Thomas) now know what it will take to advance further into the tournament next year. Everyone contributed to our success this year and we look to be very competitive next year with a seasoned core group of players that have already seen what it takes to compete at 18 Open, the highest level for Boys volleyball in the nation.

US Boys Volleyball Nationals and the real Power of Court 1 By Greg Remakulus

Before I tell you of the incredible journey I need to explain the power of Court 1. I want you to envision a volleyball sport court that is surrounded by grand stands that goes up to the ceiling (hypothetically). Now these stands are on all three sides of the court but at the other end is the medal stand. Behind the medal stand is the very large USA logo with all the sponsors and it gives you the feeling that it is calling to you, like the sirens that used to call to ships by the paradise islands. It calls you to play at another level if you want to stand on me! The worst part is when you are playing on the other side it beckons to you which adds to the pressure of playing at a high level. I guess you could say it's a temptress. But, to players attending this National Event there is no better court to play on and you want to play on this court the last day which means that you are playing for a National Title. The 18 NOS team had a mission and a dream to play on this court and the following is their story of this dream.



The Flatout Boys Volleyball program ventured to Nationals in Atlanta this year via a road of not only twists and turns, but the preverbal ups and downs of this boys volleyball season. Our journey started in August of last year as the boys wanted to improve on their National finish last year in 18 Club in position 59th. Basically the "thanks for coming bracket," and the one thing we all learned was the fact that we were not as physical as the rest of the teams playing, especially the teams from the west coast. So we decided to really make a huge effort in becoming more physical by doing different styles of push ups, numerous reps of core work, quick bursts of speed training and enough jumping to make a kangaroo tired. The first day of Nationals is very important. We had Bay to Bay from Northern Cal, Irish Juniors, and the Puerto Rican team, Guaynabo Mets who were ranked 3rd in the tournament. Well after playing real well the first two matches, the wins went the way of Flatout and we had secured our way into the top half. So now it was just a match for 1st place against the Mets. We won the first game 26-24 and lost the second 27-25, the third was just as exciting and it ended in a loss 16-14. On the second day at Nationals we had Impact VBC from Atlanta and Nashville, MAVS from Texas. (I think, I mean with a name like that they have to be, right?). Then we had Fresno Red from San Fran who made it to the 18 club final last year. Needless to say, we needed to come out with fire. They did things that rules prohibited, like endless pursuit of balls, it showed everyone on our court that we were going to play Flatout, and that we would play the ball anywhere and to every whistle! I believe that this told everyone on our court that they were going to have to be ready to play us and not overlook us. After beating Impact and the MAVS in 2, we knew that the Fresno team would be ready for us. Again we were playing for first. We lost the first game 25-23 and the second 25-21, but, we were still in the top half and then we found out that on the 3rd day

we were going to be on the number 1 court against the top seed Epic and the 4 seed Pro Molton and we were still in the hunt for the Gold bracket. What a great opportunity to play on Court 1, hopefully twice.

Later that night all the players watched Epic play before we went to our hotel. We talked about it and we wanted to come out strong and upset Epic. We played Epic last year and they spanked us in two and it wasn't even close, so the need to play tougher was in our minds. The players got up the next day and met at the hotel where we watched a little more video and made some changes to our system because we believed that if we made these changes we would have a better chance of competing with them, and we were right. Now you may have seen the movie Hoosiers and the scene at the end of the movie where they measure the hoop and the foul line right. Well I had

thought about doing this because we were on court 1 and the nervousness of performing was there. I forgot the tape measure, so I was thinking of how I was going to do this to settle the boys down. Then my college coach from Ohio, Ron Rescek, who came to this tournament to support me and the team, stated that these same measurements will be found back at our practice facility and that the temptress was more beauty than bite. I couldn't believe it, he took my line! But, that is why I was thrilled and thankful for him being there because my assistant coach and best friend from San Diego, Mark Smith, could not make the trip, and he helps keep me calm (if that's possible). But, to no avail my Coach Ron helped with that. Back to the start of the match with Epic! As we were warming up they started to play on the sound system ACDC: Thunderstruck! Now anyone that doesn't get chicken skin when this song comes on and you're hitting in warm ups has to look in the mirror and go whaaaa! The match starts and we are battling back and forth. We lost game one 25-23! They made plays in the last 2 points to earn the win and we did not execute like they did. The start of game 2 did not go well for us. We were completely out of rhythm and it took half of the game for us to get back into it. It was too late, though we were down 24 to 19 when Skylar went back to serve. He looked at me and said I am going after it, I returned with thumbs up and to go for it! His first serve was to zone 1 and it bounced off the player and headed for the grand stands, 24-20. His second serve hit between zone 1 and 6 in the hubby wife area for the ace! 24-21! As he was going back for his third I gave him the zone 3 signal, he looked at me and with a big bright smile said I'm way ahead of you coach! I put up both hands and said you're the man! Believe it or not he dropped his jump serve in front of them for yet another ace! 24-22! His forth serve caused a free ball back to us and Carter crushed a juicy set from Scottie 24-23! Timeout Epic! In the timeout I didn't even need to say anything they were having so much fun

and I thought we really had a chance at winning this game! We tied it up on a ball that was hit way out by there outside! 24-24!! This was one of the best come backs I have ever seen. The next serve was controlled and we went back and forth with both teams playing incredible defense which ended in a campfire defense on us! NO! They went up 25-24! On the next serve we made an aggressive hitting error and it cost us the game. As a coach, you dream of playing this way and having your players figure out how to compete and go to another level. I witnessed that and I can't thank the 7 players enough for playing beyond their best. I really don't want to bore you anymore with more great details of our match with Molton because I don't know how much room I have to write. But, I must tell you it was as exciting as the Epic match. We lost 25-23 and 25-21 and with that the Gold Bracket! Our match against Spectrum went great and we won in 2 but, it did not help because of the effort that we put in and just came up 2 points short.

Overall on the last day we ended up playing Highline Red who was the 2nd seed in the tourney and ended up winning the Silver Bracket! Of course it went 3 games, 18-25, 27-25, and again coming from behind 13-9 we lost 17-15 and the end of our season for 18 NOS! Overall this team has fought through adversity for the past 2 years and we

came close to fulfilling our dream of winning a national championship with a 13th place finish out of 56 teams.

On a side note, Flatout VBC also added a second team to its program, Nitro 17s. Now this team was made up of a wide range of players in ability and age, and after 3 weeks of practice the team came together in California for their first tournament. Team Nitro played well and competed in every match and I believe that the one thing that they learned is that for them to last in a 4 day tournament they need to focus on their conditioning. A week and a half passed and Nitro headed to Nationals in the 17 club bracket. Now, any boys team that wishes to play only has to register, there is no qualifying process to play club because of the number of boys teams that play in the US is

small. The first day the boys had the number 1 seed Las Vegas in their pool, I have to say that they played tough all day and did not give up. That was probably the message throughout the whole tournament, no matter what the score was, these 7 boys who never played club before, came together and continued to fight. Believe me they had plenty of moments of greatness and due to the lack of time to prepare for this tournament it meant that our consistency in scoring points was against us. You may say that these players should have played in an age division near their age but, due to the lack of players that wish to play boys club volleyball everyone had to play up, and play up they did! On day three of the tournament, the boys had a few games go into overtime and they played really hard but, again it was the consistency that hurt us. Then on the last day of the tournament, Team Nitro got its first match win by bettering their seed by 1. It's a start and I am very proud of how hard the boys played every day and still kept their spirits up!



Colorado Performance Boys 14U By Bruce Decker

Our 14U consisted of boys ranging in age from ten to fourteen. As an exceptionally young team, this was the first time many of our players had ever competed in a boys-only competition. Our wise veterans held the fort while keeping our young players focused and calm. The training and conditioning showed as we hung tough with the top seeds in all but one of the early round matches. Grit and determination was on display for day three as we went undefeated besting some tall and talented teams such as Bay to Bay and found that all important on-court swagger. The boys learned how to put

away fear and uncertainty and to play the game with ferocity. Watching the faces of our players as it all came together was the cap on an exciting season for our boys, coaches and parent. Our young development pipeline continues to grow and we're already stoked about building on this success for next year. The players this year were Jack Battumer, Kyle Bolton, Spencer Buted, Mitchell Decker, Lane Dickey, Kyle Diethorn, Matthew Fracassini, Grey Holle, Matthew McLaren, Nikitas, Medrano, Jared Meyer, Jake Reed, and Logan Wishart.



Colorado Performance Boys 16U by Mark Rich

The season started with ten very talented 16U boys athletes. We played in the RMR Men's Division, getting better each tournament, and proudly ending by taking a strong 3rd place in the USAV Men's Division II. From there it was off to Junior Olympics in Atlanta Georgia, where our athletes did an amazing job, although the over all record didn't show it, we played every match tough. The games we lost were

only lost by 2-5 pts. Its rewarding and satisfying as a coach and parent to see the boys improve not only in volleyball, but sportsmanship and personal growth. We were honored and proud of our four boys who tried out and made the USAV A3 program this year, they all got to experience volleyball training at its highest level by attending the USAV high performance camps. Although the boys program is about volleyball, encouraging our young

men to compete at their highest level, it's also about making friends, and developing skills that will last them a life time. The players were Cameron Aris, Eric Arriaga, Brandon Barbour, Marquis Debenion, Joe Kennedy, Ryan Lownsberry, Chris Monark, Jordan Rich, Damon Sichler, and Brandon Ward

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FINISHES AT GIRLS JOVC

GIRLS TEAMS	DIV	FINISH
CO JUNIORS 18 BRIAN	NAT	33
CO JUNIORS 18 PEER	OPEN	18
CO PERFORMANCE 18UA	NAT	10
FRONT RANGE 18 BLACK	OPEN	19
NORCO 18 BLACK	AMER	21
CO JUNIORS 17 MEGHAN	NAT	T-13
CO PERFORMANCE 17UA	NAT	T-13
DENVER PARKS & REC 17	AMER	17
NORCO 17 BLACK	AMER	29
CLUBONE 16 WHITE HEARTS	AMER	T-13
CO JUNIORS 16 PEER	NAT	22
FRONT RANGE 16 BLUE	OPEN	T-5
CLUBONE 15 BLACK DIAMONDS	AMER	T-11
CO JUNIORS 15 SHERRI	OPEN	26
CO PERFORMANCE 15UA	AMER	T-35
FRONT RANGE 15 WHITE	OPEN	T-19
JUGGERNAUT ELITE 15-1	NAT	T-19
CLUB STELLAR 14 NATIONAL	NAT	34
CLUBONE 14 RED DIAMONDS	NAT	2
CO JUNIORS 14 SMITH	AMER	29
FRONT RANGE 14 AMBER	OPEN	18
LAKEWOOD PERFORMANCE 14	NAT	37
CO JUNIORS 13 M&M	AMER	26
CO PERFORMANCE 13UA	AMER	T-11
FIVE STAR 13 BLACK	AMER	34
NORCO 13 BLACK	NAT	38
CO PERFORMANCE 12UA	NAT	T-27
FRONT RANGE 12 PINK	NAT	T-13

FINISHES AT US OPENS

ADULT TEAMS	DIV	FINISH
SHINKARA DOOM	M-A	1
SHINKARA BLACK	M-A	49
SHINKARA BLUE	M-A	10
SHINKARA SAPIENS	M-A	30
SHINKARA WHITE	M-BB	38
SHINKARA BLACK	W-BB	21
SHINKARA BLUE	W-BB	8
SHINKARA HOT	W-A	7
SHINKARA RED	W-A	49
GO GREEN	W-A	54
BEST FRIENDS 60	W-60	4
BEST FRIENDS 65	W-65	2
COOL	M-75	3
COOL 2	M-75	4
CO MASTERS 55	M-55	12
CO MASTERS 60	M-60	10
WWCONNECT	W-55	4
SHINKARA FRIENDS 55	W-55	5
SHINKARA FRIENDS 60	W-60	1
FLOORPLAY 60	W-60	3

FINISHES AT BOYS JOVC

BOYS TEAMS	DIV	FINISH
FRONT RANGE 18 GRANITE	OPEN	30
FLATOUT 18 NOTIRO	CLUB	T-13
FLATOUT 17 NITRO	CLUB	T-51
CO PERFORMANCE BOYS 16UA	CLUB	T-41
CO PERFORMANCE BOYS 15UA	CLUB	13
CO PERFORMANCE BOYS 14UA	CLUB	T-31