

# US Opens and JNVC

Rocky Mountain Region USAV 2010

## Denver Volleyball National Champions

It's really unbelievable for our little club and these big dreams that Frank had so long ago. I knew that I wanted it but wasn't sure how to achieve it. ...*Leave it to the experts Trish.*

The first year our team went to Nationals we were awe struck. We felt like someone would find us out. We didn't belong here. Winning? Impossible. No way. We were satisfied with our 15<sup>th</sup> place finish. We beat the team that took second. Seemed fine until

Frank made us all sit and watch the finals. The music, introductions and the energy. I thought to myself. I want this. I asked my own daughter what she thought. She said we can do that Mom. Last year I believe that "I don't believe we deserve this" curse

came back. We were moving ahead until a team we had played and beat before showed up and wanted it all more. First place in Silver was fine.

Winning the PNQ was a highlight this year especially with one bid. I felt so happy we would get to spend 3 more months with these kids. I wanted to show those volleyball orphans that came from other clubs that the leap of faith would pay off. I wanted these special kids to have it these wins, these memories.

Our first day was rough and I thought to myself. This isn't how we are supposed to send these kids off. Not this team. Not after all the battles on the court. Second day was a bit better and I said. Priorities, we have done what we are supposed to do. All of our kids

have college waiting for them. The opportunity that wouldn't be so easy without volleyball. I watched their college coaches watch them and I felt really proud.

Winning the challenge match and making it into the Gold bracket was paralyzing for me. How can I get through this if they don't win? They were up against a team of giants with a 10-0 record. Semis...How can we be so close? A Bronze will do fine. Finals. Online. Text every one

outcome.

I sit and I watch these wonderful young people walk to their benches in their black uniforms, to the music of the Olympics. My own daughter among them. They are introduced and I am about to burst. The final game of their club careers, every single point is killing me inside. Not for the win or loss but for all the years of watching them I know this is the finale. The culmination of this group's many years of hard work and sacrifice.

Three games and we are Gold medal winners. I feel like I am in a Disney Movie. It is still unbelievable, this much happiness. The prayers and the deals I made with God. "Please give me strength to help them if they lose....Please help them win the gold." Flashes of my daughter in 3<sup>rd</sup>

of my relatives. Look at us. Find us pray for us. Our kids were really unafraid. Everyone was doing their job. I have never felt so much pride and so much fear in my heart. Silver hmmm we could be second in the Nation.

*Two kids couldn't afford to come to JO's. Find sponsors. One player was stuck in Brazil trying to get her visa approved. Write to every official we know that can help... Stuck in summer school and couldn't afford to fly back for Nationals...put it on a credit card. Our right side was waiting for her MRI results after falling off a horse. ...call Dr. Keirns. Checked the roster too late, kids are missing....Call Candace and Wendy....Waiting to get to Reno, the kids can't wait to play. I keep thinking of the*



### Congratulations to:

- *Leandra Dobson*  
15 American All Tournament
- *Kristina Lavrisha*  
MVP 18 National
- *Rachel Romansky*  
18 National All Tournament
- *Hannah Schmidt*  
16 Open All Tournament
- *Margaret Steward*  
15 American All Tournament
- *Rebecca Steward*  
18 National All Tournament
- *Sarah Tentschert*  
15 National All Tournament
- *Mary Bendsen*  
MVP Women's 60
- *Carol Hackett*  
Women's 60 All Tournament
- *Kate Pflaumer*  
Women's 60 All Tournament

### Inside this issue:

EAST	2
JWU-ALUMNI	2
COLORADO MASTERS	3
GO GREEN	4
US OPENS RESULTS	4
CLUBONE 15 GOLD	5
COLORADO UNITED 13-BLACK	5
COLORADO UNITED 14-BOOM	6
COLORADO PERFORMANCE	6
COLORADO JUNIORS	7
FRONT RANGE BOYS	8
SHINKARA	9
JUNIOR NATIONAL RESULTS	10

## EAST

The story of East starts with some volleyball players who formed an indoor team while playing sand volleyball at East Boulder Rec center. It isn't always easy to form or maintain a volleyball team, but with many well rounded players a team was formed in 2006. Although the team always finished well in the region, the team only went to nationals one other time before 2010. The difficulty of maintaining a volleyball team was most apparent during Regionals where East had to play pool play with only 5 players. East came out victorious in pool play with 5 players and won the tourney after a sub was able to show up.

While this was quite a challenge to overcome, East faced a plethora of challenges in every team they faced at nationals. Early in the tournament East was challenged by powerful jump serves of a caliber rarely seen in the RMR. It appeared as if every team had a server

who could rattle of 4 aces in a matter of seconds. After a loss in the 1st match of the tourney, East was able to beat the #1 seed resoundingly in a 2 game match.

After adjusting to the elevation and battling with very strong competition, East came out 3rd in pool. Even after seeing one strong team after another, the 3rd day of the tournament proved to be even more challenging. East was able to win an intense match to make it into the gold bracket and proceeded to play 5 matches on the day. One of the highlights of the tournament was a win over Cat Attack, a team who had beaten East earlier in the tournament and finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the pool. This victory was made possible after more consistent play along with some huge blocks against some of Cat Attacks strongest hitters. Eventually, however, East began to run out of gas and had to sub out players who had become exhausted from such a long tourna-

ment. East lost to Slamwich in their final match of the tournament, but would have gone on the play a sixth match that day if they had won. Although the teams' goal was to win a gold medal in AA, East was still happy with their performance. With a strong finish at 7th place, East hopes to bring an even more stacked team next year with enough subs to make it through the finals.



## JWU-ALUMNI by Brad Larsen

If you enjoy the game of volleyball, having fun with some of your best friends, and meeting new people who enjoy the same, the Adult Volleyball Nationals is the place to be. For the JWU Alumni team, the trip to Adult National in Phoenix, AZ was amazing. The team roster was Cody Dunston (Setter), Kris Hartwell and Curtis Oliver (Outside Hitters), Ben Davies and Ty Schraufnagel (Middle Blockers), Sean Bartosewcz and Blake Walden (Opposites), Brad Larsen (Libero), and Josh Crosier (Float Serving Machine). Even though most of the players are only a couple years removed from playing for JWU, it was a nostalgic feeling and brought the team back to the "olden" days. The team chemistry and camaraderie was enjoyed by all.

Playing at the A division, JWU Alumni started out with a 2-1 (22-25, 25-16, 15-13) loss to Just The Tip to open pool play. After the stumble in the opening match, the team won the remainder of its pool play matches 2-0 to take 2<sup>nd</sup> in the pool with a 4-1 match record and a 9-2 game record.

Starting the third day of competition, JWU Alumni defeated Graywater

VBC 2-0 in the first round of the Gold Challenge Bracket before losing to eventual 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers Street Legends 2-1 (17-25, 25-21, 15-13) in the finals of the challenge bracket.

With that loss, JWU Alumni was placed in the single elimination Silver Division for the final day of the tournament. During the Quarterfinals and Semifinals of the Silver Division, the team was back to its winning ways, picking up 2-0 victories. In the finals, JWU Alumni faced off against the same team they played in the first match of the tournament, Just The Tip. Unfortunately for the former Wildcats, this result was the same, with Just The Tip persevering 2-0 to win the Silver Division. This earned JWU Alumni 14<sup>th</sup> place out of the 72 teams competing in the A division. While the team had hoped for a better result, it was a good showing for a team in its first trip to Adult Nationals. Everyone enjoyed getting back in a competitive situation and playing "real" matches again.

Off the court was a great time also. Being downtown and meeting players from other teams across the

country made for some good conversation. It was also great to see competition from outside of the region and how our region stacked up against others. With several players having friends and family in the area, it was a great chance for them to come watch during the day.

Being able to play volleyball with former teammates was a great experience. JWU Alumni looks forward to what upcoming seasons will bring as "new" alumni join the "old" alumni.



For the first time in our 15 plus year history, Colorado Masters fielded three different age division teams for this year's USA Volleyball Championships held in Phoenix; Colorado Masters 60s and 55s were joined by the "young guy" 50s. Wow, we are starting to get old, but you would never know it by the play of all of the teams!

This year the Colorado Masters 60s had an international flare with five players from France, five from Colorado and one from Nevada. The 60s overcame some language challenges, and with the help of the "French Connection", won the Silver Division Championship after 4 days of competition. The 60s started slowly on Saturday morning losing to Kick Ass VBC from St. Louis in three sets. However, the 60s got going in the second match against perennial opponents Downeast from Boston, dispatching the #8 seed in three sets.

The next day, the 60s opened against the defending 60s Champs, Quicksilver Legends. Even though the 60s lost in two sets, they scored more points against the Legends than anyone else in pool, which would turn out to be critical later that day. The 60's finished pool play against the Dinosaurs from Nevada on Sunday knowing that they needed to win in two sets and by big margins to finish second in pool. The 60s did just that, avenging their Silver Division Championship loss of 2009, by winning in two sets 25-12 and 25-14.

That gave the 60s the tie breaker over Kick Ass and Downeast which also finished with identical 2-2 in matches, 5-5 in sets, but the 60s had the edge over both with a 1.04 points for-against ratio.

The next morning the 60s lost a hard fought 3 set match to Papakoa 16-25, 26-24, and 14-16, and were dispatched to the Silver Division. After a 10 hour wait, the 60s played a tough Canada Fog team that already had won two matches that day. The 60s played a great match winning in three sets, 25-23, 20-25, and 16-14.

That set up the semifinals the next morning against Outback who had already won three matches in the Silver Division playoffs. However, the 60s played what was undoubtedly their best match of the tournament dominating Outback in every phase of the match 25-10 and 25-21.



COLORADO MASTERS 55  
Back Row L-R: Tom Logan, Troy Stump, Chuck Serrurier, Charlie Sturdavant, Bruce Emo  
Front Row L-R: Jim Henthorn, Mike Pickett, Charlie Young, Mike Friesz

This year the 60s were finally able to "gitt-er-done," beating their old rivals Downeast to win the Silver Division Championship, 25-20 and 25-15.

The 60s had 8 team members back from the 2009 Silver Division runner-up team including George Egan (setter), Paco Pantoja (setter and libero), Dennis "Money" Dempsey (right side), Dave Conry (middle and right side) and Ski Wagasky (libero) from Colorado, Larry Rickmann (middle) from Nevada, and Jean "the Assassin" Trottier (left side) and Didier Martel (setter) from France. The rest of the 2010 "French Connection" was made up of, Bernard Vignon (left side), Dommee Yannick (setter),



COLORADO MASTERS 50  
Back Row L-R: Steve Regan, Norvin Morrow, Tom Logan, Bob Lageman, Bruce Bacon  
Front Row L-R: Fred Logan, Ralph Langevain (Not shown: Mike Nelson)

and the big man in the middle, Wladimir Znatchkovsky. Well done 60s! Next year the gold division! Joining the 60s in the first session 'afternoon wave' was Colorado Masters 50s, led by Bruce Bacon at setter, middles Bob Lageman and Fred Logan, outside hitters, Tom Logan, Steve Regan and Mike Nelson, opposite, Norvin Morrow and libero, Ralph Langevain.

The 50s is without question the toughest age division, with quality teams from top to bottom. On Saturday, the 50s opened with 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher from 2009, Edmonton Canada. The 50s played two competitive sets, losing 25-20 and 25-22. It was a match that went on to define pool play for the 50s, woulda-coulda-shoulda. Later that day, the 50s played 2009 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher, Spike Force, losing again in two sets. The big loss for the 50s was losing Mike Nelson for the rest of the tournament when he broke his foot on a back row attack.

The next day, the 50s came close to winning both matches, losing in three sets to first the home town Relics, and then to the Wicked Old Guys from New England. But

things were starting to come together for the 50s. Bruce Bacon, renowned for his lineup changes, moved Tom "Stork" Logan from opposite to left side, and Norvin Morrow from left to opposite, and the 50s were playing a lot better which was manifest the next day when the 50s began their charge through the Silver Division.

On Monday, the 50s dispatched a solid Mad City team from Milwaukee winning the third set 15-11.

Next it was another three set nail biter with Schenectady, with the 50s winning the third set again by a score of 15-11.

The 50s ended the day (night, very late night) by beating 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher from 2009, Idiot #1 from Minneapolis in two sets to end a very long

day.

The next day started early for the 50s with the semi-finals match against the Outsiders from the Bayou Region. Possibly still

recovering from the long day on Monday, the 50s lost the first set, 19-25, before storming back to win the last two sets 25-18 and then 15-9.

That set up the title match with perennial powerhouse, Sao Paulo Masters. The 50s just plain ran out of gas against a talented team with a long roster, losing in two sets. If it was any consolation to the 50s, Sao Paulo only lost two matches the entire tournament, one in pool play to the eventual Gold division champion, RBC Under Armor, and the a three set gold challenge match to eventual gold division 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher, Adams Maxwell.

But overall, I know the 50s are satisfied with their performance, and showed they can hold their own against any 50s team in the country.

Colorado Masters 55 had strong play and success at Nationals filling the ranks from pool players throughout the country. The 55s "hometown" expertise came from Mike Pickett and Jim Henthorn setting, Charlie Studavant right side hitter, Bruce Emo and Tom Logan left side hitter. The "out of town" help was Charlie Young (Washington DC) libero, Troy Stump (Hershey, PA) and Mike Friesz (Omaha NE) middles, Chuck Serrurier (Hinkley IL) right side.

Only four of the team's players had played together before. Nevertheless, the "new" team jelled from the start with a first day pool play record of 2 wins 1 loss, beating the Texas Yahoos and the eventual Silver Division Champion Outsiders from Louisiana in two sets, while losing a three set squeaker to overall 6<sup>th</sup> place finisher Spike Force.



COLORADO MASTERS 60  
Back Row L-R: George Egan, Dennis Dempsey, Wladimir Znatchkovsky, Dave Conry, Larry Rickmann  
Front Row L-R: Bernard Vignon, Didier Martel, Paco Pantoja, Ski Wagasky, Jean Trottier, Dommee Yannick

The next day despite strong play and close matches, the 55s lost to the eventual Gold Division Teams Zilla (5<sup>th</sup> place) from Maryland and Venezuela (8<sup>th</sup> place).

Entering the Silver Bracket, confidence remained high and play remained strong as evidenced by wins over Cryptozoic from Albuquerque and Divers from Chesapeake VA.

However, the run would end in the next morning in semi-finals with injury requiring a complete line-up reshuffle and a two set loss to Papakoa.

The 55s walked away disappointed with the loss but collectively pleased with a team essentially playing together for the first time and, to the man, a willingness to do whatever was necessary to make it work. Thanks to all for a great run!

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 2010.

## GO GREEN

The 2010 USA Open National Volleyball Championships was a chance at redemption for the Go Green volleyball team from Denver, Colorado. After a handful of very close losses in the women's A division at the 2009 championships, we had a lot to prove – not just to our competitors, but more importantly to ourselves. It was incredibly difficult to come so close to winning so many games and a challenge to direct our energies toward rising above it. With the taste of defeat still lingering, we entered the 2010 championships with a new attitude and a competitive fire burning within each of us. With the help of new additions to our team, we competed very well during regular season in the Rocky Mountain Region, and had gained a renewed confidence to carry into the championships. When registration for the 2010 championships was due, we decided that we would again compete in women's A division. Armed with the experience of last year's competition, and fired up to earn some wins, we finished third in pool, making it to the copper bracket and finishing 41<sup>st</sup> of out 62 teams. Our experience at the 2010 championships had not only proven to ourselves that we could compete and be

successful in women's A division, but a new light has now been shed on Go Green as a team of true competitors and a team that is well on their way to becoming a legitimate force to be reckoned with.

Reflecting back on our 2010 championship experience, much of our success was also due to the bond that our team shares. Whether it was organizing fundraisers for our trip to the championships, or collectively dressing up in animal print while out in Phoenix, we did it all as a team. Everyone was 100% committed to everything thing that we did, which then transferred onto the court and contributed to our success. Our bond and chemistry as a team is now stronger than ever.

Competing on the court was only part of the experience at the championships. The Open National Volleyball Championships fosters a strong sense of community among players and teams, and the

bond between Colorado men's and women's volleyball teams is especially strong. Go Green spent a vast majority of our time off of the court supporting other Colorado teams, including all of the Shinkara teams. Colorado volleyball is largely represented at the championships, and we were proud to be a part of and to support that volleyball family abroad.

Having made great progress in the Rocky Mountain Region, and at the championships, Go Green is eager to get another season underway. After experiencing the joys of winning and the fuel it provides a team that had once doubted itself,

we have set even higher expectations for ourselves this upcoming season. At the rate that we are going, the possibilities of the upcoming season are endless, and we look forward to representing the Rocky Mountain Region at the 2011 US Open National Volleyball Championships.



## US OPENS RESULTS 2010

### ADULTS FINISH DIVISION

BOHICA 17TH COED REVERSE BB/  
 COLORADO HIGHLANDERS 5TH MEN'S 70  
 COLORADO MASTERS 50S 12TH MEN'S 50  
 COLORADO MASTERS 55S 11TH MEN'S 55  
 COLORADO MASTERS 60S 9TH MEN'S 60  
 EAST 7TH MEN'S AA  
 FLOORPLAY 60 4TH WOMEN'S 60  
 GO GREEN 41ST WOMEN'S A  
 JWU-ALUMNI 14TH MEN'S A  
 LEGACY 1ST WOMEN'S 65  
 SHINKARA 60'S 3RD WOMEN'S 60  
 SHINKARA BLUE 26TH MEN'S A  
 SHINKARA RED 39TH WOMEN'S A  
 SHINKARA AYP 64TH MEN'S A  
 SHINKARA BLACK 29TH MEN'S A  
 SHINKARA BLACK 10TH WOMEN'S BB  
 SHINKARA DOOM 28TH MEN'S AA  
 SHINKARA MASTERS 15TH MEN'S 50  
 SHINKARA SAPIENS 59TH MEN'S A  
 SHINKARA SPIKE GIRLS 7TH WOMEN'S 55  
 SHINKARA WHITE 37TH MEN'S BB  
 WWCONNECT 6TH WOMEN'S 55

## CLUBONE 15 GOLD

ClubOne 15 Gold had a goal this season to attend the GJNC in Reno. We earned the privilege to attend the event when we won an American bid at the Crossroads National Qualifier. We were honored to represent the Rocky Mountain Region at this tournament. The atmosphere along with the tough competition was a great experience for any athlete to compete in. This tournament allowed this team to understand what it needs to bring to the table when com-

peting at such an elite level. We had our ups and downs, won some good matches and lost some great matches. For some of the girls on the team, this was their first experience at this level of competition and it opened their eyes to a new type of volleyball. The experience also allowed some of our veteran players' leadership skills to shine. We found ourselves in some difficult situations and were fortunate enough to be able to call upon all nine players. Each

girl brought something to the floor and fulfilled the role they were assigned. We were proud of them all for stepping up to the challenge. Finally, this tournament allowed us to enjoy the local sights and activities, and gave the girls some time to build their relationships off the court. Overall, the experience will greatly benefit the players in their volleyball careers and will be a great memory to look back on.

## COLORADO UNITED 13-BLACK SAVES THEIR BEST FOR RENO

The club season for the renewed Colorado United and the 13-Black team proved exciting and memorable. The team came together in October with high expectations and eager players and the season provided great competition with gold bracket finishes in three qualifiers and an RMR Championship. The high level of play experienced through the RMR and qualifier season left 13-Black well prepared for their Junior National Championship effort after earning the 13-American bid at the RMR JNQ.

13-Black traveled to Reno with a sense of comfort as the team had attended the Far Western qualifier earlier in the season. The first day of competition started with convincing straight-set victories over Arizona Sky and Premier. Feeling confident, 13-Black found themselves in a bit more of a battle against Blue Crab from the Bayou Region. A sluggish start resulted in a 24-26 first set loss. However, a regrouping and new team focus generated wins in the next two sets, 25-16 and 15-9. Day one at the JNC ended with a 3-0 record. Day 2 started as Day 1 had ended as 13-Black rolled to an easy straight set victory over New York Jrs. (25-9, 25-12). With a first or second place pool finish secure, 13-Black waited for the deciding match against Northern Kentucky Volleyball Club. Both Colorado United and NKYVC had easily rolled through the pool thus far and met each other with similar 4-0 records and a 1<sup>st</sup> place pool finish on the line. An intensely competitive match ensued with both teams playing their best match thus far in the tournament. Though both sets were tied late, NKYVC made the closing run in both sets to win

the match. Although United had to settle for a second place pool finish, all players and parents were excited by the team's level of play against NKYVC. The team came away from the match feeling stronger from the experience and talking about the great things they felt they could do tomorrow...

On day three, United found themselves in a three team pool with Laguna Beach, and Miami Elite - a team that had defeated United in three sets at the North East Qualifier when United was down two players. The day started with the rematch against Miami Elite. 13-Black simply could not find their game and was never in the first set as Miami prevailed 25-13. However, United knew they could play MUCH better and the team was determined that this rematch would end differently than the Baltimore meeting. 13-Black rode their determination and renewed solid play to victories in the next two sets, 25-21 and 15-9. Next up was Laguna Beach - a great team from southern California who had easily handled Miami Elite in their first match off the day. United took their game to a new level of excellence both offensively and defensively, as stunned Laguna Beach onlookers watched United cruise to a straight set victory (25-20, 25-21), and the first place pool finish. In the Match United tallied their best kills and digs thus far in the tournament, and completely dominated the net with their blocking. This level of play looked to bode well for the pending challenge match to get into the gold bracket.

With the other pools lagging behind, United could only sit and wait for the team they would face in that

afternoon's challenge match. That team proved to be Victory from the North Texas region. United continued the exceptional level of play they had shown against Laguna Beach, and converted that play into another convincing straight triumph. 13-Black had just completed their best day of competition for the entire season. The result left United at 3-0 for day three, 7-1 for the tournament and put the team into the Gold Bracket as the number four seed. Spirits were high as the team realized they were one victory away from a podium finish and a medal.

Day four and the first round of the Gold Bracket found Colorado United matched up against Iowa Rockets. Like United, Iowa Rockets came into the Gold Bracket with a 7-1 record, including some impressive victories over some well known clubs. During the match, United could not find the same level of play that they had show the previous day and fell to Iowa Rockets in straight sets. A disappointed 13-Black left the court feeling they had let an opportunity slip away, yet still excited about their experience that resulted in a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish and a 7-2 over all tournament record.

13-Black consisted of Meghan Beer, Nikelle Bronson, Mackenzie Ellison, Erin McCarthy, Haley MaLaren, Kara Ozgen, Kayla Parson, Madison Vogt, and Sidney Wicks. Each player can look back with a sense of accomplishment at a season that resulted in three top-10 qualifier finishes, a RMR 13s Championships, and a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 13-American division at the Girls Junior National Championships.

## COLORADO UNITED 14-BOOM EXTENDS THEIR SEASON IN RENO

Colorado United 14-Boom formed in October with nervous excitement as players and families with experience at four previous clubs took a risk with the re-vamped organization that was Colorado United (Colorado United previously competed for one year in 2003 culminating with an 11<sup>th</sup> place finish in 18 Open). The risk paid off as 14-Boom battled in 14s Division 1 throughout the RMR season, had strong showings at three Qualifiers, and punched their ticket to the Junior National Championships in Reno by winning the RMR JNQ.

14-Boom arrived in Reno with a tough challenge before them, as they started the tournament as the 5<sup>th</sup> seed in Pool #1 (33<sup>rd</sup> seed overall). First up for United was City Beach (the number one seed in the tournament). 14-Boom battled point-for-point before City Beach pulled out the first set 25-23 and closed out the match with a win in the second set. Despite the loss, United was encouraged by their effort and felt a future upset was in the air. A determined team took the court for their next match against Club West. Each team tallied a one-sided victory during the first two sets, but the third set would not be similar as the teams traded points until

United was able to put away the third set 17-15 and secure the upset. 14-Boom dropped the last match of Day 1 against Woodlands Wave as they were unable to bring the same intensity that they showed during the Club West match. However, the day had shown promise and resulted in the one upset that the team needed if they were going to beat their initial seeding and break into the top half.

On Day 2 United knew the task at hand – upset A5 and beat Snake River and they would break into the top half. 14-Boom was up to the task as they ended the day with straight set victories over A5 (27-25, 25-21) and Snake River (25-14, 25-12). The wins resulted in a third place pool finish and an improvement in their seeding by at least 10 positions.

Day three provided still greater challenges as United was now competing in the top half of the 14-National Division. 14-Boom found themselves in a three team pool with Texas Titans and Highlands. Though the team played inspired volleyball, victory was not meant to be as 14-Boom dropped both matches. An afternoon challenge match awaited against River City with the winner

going on to the Bronze bracket. Day 3 proved to be much tougher than the previous two as 14-Boom was defeated by River City in straight sets.

Day four found Colorado United 14-Boom matched up against Triangle. There was added drama as this was also a match up of former college teammates – now opposing coaches. The match provided the exciting experience that every player looks for as the teams battled through three tight sets before Triangle pulled out the victory (23-25, 25-21, 16-14). Although they dropped some tough matches to finish the tournament, 14-Boom met their goal of breaking into the top half and significantly outperforming their initial seed with a 23<sup>rd</sup> place finish.

14-Boom consisted of Jaylen Adams, Brooke Alexander, Sydney Ederhoff, Carli McNeily, Gabrielle Miranda, Elise Neff, Constance, Olson, Taylor Phillips, and Amanda Waterman. Each player can look back with a sense of accomplishment at a competitive season that exceeded expectations.

## COLORADO PERFORMANCE

The Colorado Performance Volleyball Club continued to quietly continue their move into the national spotlight with another year of consistent play featuring our seventh-straight season of winning a bid at a Junior National Qualifier. And with five teams representing the Rocky Mountain Region, Performance teams carried their banner high and proud into the National Championships.

Reno saw CP 131UA finish up their season with a 5-5 record and a 37<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 13 National Division. Sean Daly's charges rebounded from a disappointing tie-break scenario after the first round of play to win their division and take great satisfaction at their strong play into the summer months. This solid group of athletes, many who had no previous club experience prior to their inaugural season at Performance, showcase a promising and winning group of young athletes within the Performance program.

The Performance 141UA squad, led by head coach Lisa Huggins, garnered one of the greatest honors that can ever be bestowed upon a team; the #1 seed in the National Championships! Try as they might, this dynamic group of players fell just short in a difficult loss to So-Cal Elite in the quarter-finals and finished their National Championship event with a record of 8-1 and a 5<sup>th</sup>

place finish.

With tremendous play in all facets of the game, Performance 141UA justified their seeding and backed up their 2<sup>nd</sup>-place finish in the Southern California Qualifier. That finish in the SoCal event placed them in the American Division at Nationals and made them the 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance squad to medal and bid at a National Qualifier in 2010.

The first Performance team to qualify for the Junior National Championships in 2010 was CP 161UA; winners of the Club Division at the Colorado Crossroads Junior National Qualifier. The 3-Outside offense utilized by Head Coach Kirk Rowland, so effective throughout the season, took a big hit with the loss of #1 Outside Hitter Alex Reid to a shoulder injury. Unable to play in Reno, Reid watched proudly along with a tremendous group of parents and coaches as CP 161UA battled their way to a 3-6 record and a 23<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 48-team field.

Performance 171UA, winners of the RMR-JNQ 17's National bid, sauntered into Reno feeling positive about what they had accomplished over the course of the 2010 season. Overcoming a couple of chemistry issues and persevering through injuries, Head Coach Jenny Frank finished a solid 18<sup>th</sup> in Reno, theoretically finishing the sea-

son as the 50<sup>th</sup> best team in the country! Their final event record of 3-6 epitomized the teams ability to win tough matches at difficult times with total team play.

In the 18 National Division, Head Coach Michelle Buckner's outfit of returning athletes and key, new-additions battled to a 5-5 event record and a 21<sup>st</sup> place final finish. And while not what they wanted or worked for so hard for so many years, the team's work ethic and demonstrated leadership was a thing of beauty to witness and a proud and fitting culmination to a season that is hard to play and harder to finish.

Overall, the 2010 Junior National Championships saw the five Performance squads compile a competitive record of 24-23. A winning record, coupled with winning attitudes, coaching and support from players, coaches and parents alike.

It's difficult to play at the level necessary to win at the National Championships. The season is long and many teams suffer from players quitting and dealing with injuries. The 2010 Performance representatives at the Junior National Championships overcame all of these obstacles and more with great class, pride in their work and a commitment to their own personal and team level of excellence and performance.

Job well done, ladies!

## A RECORD 9 ATTACK RENO-COLORADO JUNIORS

An amazing feat – Nine Colorado Juniors teams headed to Reno – both a region and club record! 94 athletes trained hard in June and pursued the National championship season.

The **14Matt** team was first up – and CJ's first ever 14 Open team. While the pressure is incredible, these girls adjusted and finally played their best volleyball. Finishing up winning 4 of their last 5, and flight 4

champs! The **14Fiene** team was playing on the similar dates and had



an amazing run and tournament. Winning third games, coming from behind, lots of excitement – ultimately losing in three to the eventual champion and finishing 5th in 14American. Well done – 14's teams!

The 15's were up next. After a terrific regular season, with huge wins over several top 10 teams – they set out to win a medal at JO's. They won pool and their challenge match in exciting fashion. The morning medal match was exciting as well, as we came out strong winning game one over a strong City Beach team – but fell in three games – once again, to the eventual tournament champion. Sarah Tentschurt was named All-tournament and **15Sherri** proudly finished 5th.

The 17's were next up – as we sent two teams again at this age – one in open, one in American. As per the season – **17Peer** could beat anyone, and lose to anyone.....but 17Open there are no gimmees! Two first day three game 2 pt losses were tough on the team, but a third match win in two versus Vision (an eventual medal team) was amazing. Same day two – two three-game losses and a win. They played hard, learned about open – and had a great experience, most of them playing for their future college coaches! **17Brian** got off to a great start and pooled up – always good! A tough second pool left them out of the gold with two three-game losses – heartbreaking when you know the difference between losing and

winning isn't that big! They too were mostly playing in front of their college coaches to be – as all but three of this team has verbally committed to college as well.

Up next – the seniors – 18's! This is Colorado Juniors third consecutive year of sending two 18's teams to nationals – and this group of seniors is also our largest – 33 seniors off to play college ball in August! The **18Kevin** squad did a great

job in first two-day pool finishing second, and then winning their second pool. However, they ran into the same team from their first day pool loss in their challenge match – and struggled in a tight two game loss. Ultimately they finished 13th, which was great considering they had 9 girls playing the whole time. Congrats to region rival DPR for winning the

division – just a few points shy of an all-RMR final! **18Reilly** went to Reno with intentions of preparing hard, but having some fun. This unlikely qualifier (our 3rd 18's team) went without one player and with another severely battling injury. They had a terrific time – all but one it was their first JO's appearance – finished 31st, and are ready to take on the challenges of college ball! Congrats class of 2010 – all 33 of you – best of luck at the next level!

Finally – the 16's had their shot at the big dance – two teams again – one in



national, one in American. The **16Peer** team headed to JO's with sites on a national title, of course, being seeded first is flattering –

but you'd better be ready for every opponent – not going to sneak up on anyone! After winning their first pool, and winning their very tough second pool – it was time for challenge match. Sometimes winning game one 25-12 is great, this time – it wasn't to be. And **16Peer** fell to a scrappy Jammers



team in three, and national title hopes dashed. Last day – all you can do is win silver and call it a tournament – which is exactly what this tough group did – rebounded and beat two very good teams – Rockwood Thunder and OVA for 9th place and the silver title. **16Hiza** descended upon Reno excited to be there and see what they could do! And do they did – moving on from their first pool and headed to second pools. They beat the top team Austin Jrs in a thrilling 3-gamer, and then dropped their next match in another 3-game heartbreak. As the story often goes at JO's – tie break in pool – all teams 1-1. So Hiza had to play a one game playoff to stay alive and advance with national title hopes. Crazy game, Hiza had two set points, but could not seal the deal and lost 27-29. Ugh. The best news, they came back and won all their matches on the last day to bring home some hardware – even with 3 players hustling to the airport prior to the final game!

A great and long trip to Reno culminated a great season at Colorado Juniors – with many successes and great college visibility. Best of luck to our 33 seniors who head onto the next chapters of their volleyball careers.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION BRINGS HOME BRONZE FROM BOYS JUNIOR NATIONALS

**Austin, TX, July 9, 2010:** Front Range Volleyball Club's 14 Boys capped a successful season by defeating Puerto Rico's Club Criollos 14s to win the bronze medal in the Boys 14 Club Division at the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships in Austin, TX. Front Range 14 entered the tournament seeded 27<sup>th</sup> and rose to 4<sup>th</sup> seed by the start of the third day of competition. As 4<sup>th</sup> seed, they broke into the Gold Medal round with a match record of 7-2. Interestingly, their two losses were to the same Puerto Rican team Club Criollos that they eventually defeated in the bronze medal match.



The bronze medal winning 14 team started their season in September and played mainly in the Girls' 16s Power tournaments. They won 3 of the 5 Power tournaments and they were the runner-up in another. In addition to the Power tournaments, the boys played in the mixed age high school tournament division at Crossroads to sharpen their skills, facing teams of 16s, 17s and 18s there.

Once in Austin, the boys faced teams of their own age from California, Florida, Texas, Illinois and Puerto Rico and started their steady march toward center court and the medal stand. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to have the boys play against our girls' teams during the season," said Bruce Decker, Front Range Boys Program Director and assistant coach on the 14 squad. Decker added "We want to thank all of the girls' teams we played this year. They were so supportive of the boys and they really helped us prepare to play at the high level we needed to reach in order to be successful at the JNCs. The girls played an important part in helping the boys bring a medal back to the region."

Front Range Boys Take Bronze at USA Volleyball Junior National Cham-

pionships Because of a small number of boys' teams in the RMR, it is not possible to have separate boys' tournament schedule, RMR boys teams, up to 14s, play as part of the Girls' Power League. After 14s, the boys must play on the higher men's net in the adult men's tournaments.

The Front Range 18 boys earned their way to Division One in local RMR tournaments and then received an open division bid to the USA Volleyball

Junior National Championships as a result of their performance at the East Coast Championships in Richmond, VA. The young squad consisted of some of the top 17 and 18 year old players from Colorado and

as far away as Cheyenne, WY. Facing powerhouse teams from California, Illinois, New Jersey and Puerto Rico, the 18s struggled to maintain their original seed, finishing with a rank of 33 in open division.

The Front Range 17s consisted of veteran 17 year olds and included members as young as 15. The team used their Junior Nationals bid to play gritty ball against solid competition California, Florida, Chicago and Puerto Rico They finished the tournament with a record of 3 and 8 in 39<sup>th</sup> place at the end of the competition.

The second best finish for Front Range was earned by 16s who finished with a silver division 13<sup>th</sup> finish. The final match was a hard-fought 3 set loss to Beachbones 16 Black from Conejo, California (25-23, 25-27, 15-11). Beach Bones went on to a tenth place finish.

"We are seeing increased interest in boys' competitive volleyball in all age groups. Multi-sport athletes such as basketball players are finding that their skills translate quickly to volleyball and

that they can quickly become a powerful presence on the volleyball court. Several basketball players who took up volleyball this year are now wearing national championship bronze medals around their necks," said Decker. Tryouts for 2010 teams begin in mid September. Front Range will field teams for boys age 9 through 18. Interested athletes and parents may register now at [www.frvbc.com](http://www.frvbc.com) to receive information about open gyms, clinics and tryouts for the upcoming season.

**Front Range Volleyball Club, serving the Denver metro area since 1981, is a nationally acclaimed junior National training club. Its impact is evident in Rocky Mountain Region, collegiate and national volleyball programs.**



# SHINKARA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AT USAV OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shinkara VBC sponsored 11 volleyball teams at the recent 2010 USA Volleyball Open National Championships held May 29-June 5 at Phoenix. The club, part of the Rocky Mountain Region, was started by Tom Kawano back in 1985. This club consists of only adult teams. Kawano created the name by going to the library and looked up different words. He found that "Shin" meant from the heart and "Kara" was into or within.

Kawano gives so much back to the game he loves. Shinkara VBC is not only active in the Rocky Mountain Region, but has participated at the USA Volleyball Open National Championships for several years now.

If Kawano is not busy playing or officiating indoors, you will see him at the park playing doubles. He even finds time to be an advisor for a Junior Club called Denver Volleyball.

The Rocky Mountain Region congratulates Shinkara VBC on 25 years!

Shinkara teams participating at the 2010 USA Volleyball Open National Championships

- SHINKARA 60'S WOMEN
- SHINKARA BLUE MEN'S A
- SHINKARA RED WOMEN'S A
- SHINKARA AYP MEN'S A
- SHINKARA BLACK MEN'S A
- SHINKARA BLACK WOMENS BB
- SHINKARA DOOM MEN'S AA
- SHINKARA MASTERS 50'S MEN
- SHINKARA SAPIENS MEN'S A
- SHINKARA SPIKE GIRLS 55 WOMEN'S
- SHINKARA WHITE MEN'S BB





## JUNIOR NATIONAL RESULTS

<b>JUNIOR BOYS</b>	<b>FINISH</b>	<b>DIVISION</b>
FLATOUT NITRO 18S	51ST	CLUB
FRVBC B141 CLEAR	3RD	CLUB
FRVBC B161	13TH	CLUB
FRVBC B171	39TH	CLUB
FRVBC B181	33RD	OPEN

<b>JUNIORS GIRLS</b>	<b>FINISH</b>	<b>DIVISION</b>
DENVER VOLLEYBALL 18	1ST	NATIONAL
COLO JUNIORS 18 KEVIN	13TH	NATIONAL
COLO JUNIORS 18 REY	31ST	AMERICAN
COLO PERFORMANCE 18UA	21ST	NATIONAL
COLO JUNIORS 17 BRIAN	18TH	AMERICAN
COLO JUNIORS 17 PEER	31ST	OPEN
COLO PERFORMANCE 17UA	18TH	NATIONAL
COLO JUNIORS 16 HIZA	21ST	AMERICAN
COLO JUNIORS 16 PEER	9TH	NATIONAL
FRONT RANGE 16 BLUE	17TH	OPEN
FRONT RANGE 16 RED	5TH	AMERICAN
COLO PERFORMANCE 16UA	23RD	NATIONAL
LAKEWOOD PERFORMANCE 15	3RD	AMERICAN
COLO JUNIORS 15 SHERRI	5TH	NATIONAL
FRONT RANGE 15 WHITE	23RD	OPEN
PIKES PEAK 15 ELITE	34TH	NATIONAL
CLUBONE 15 GOLD	35TH	AMERICAN
COLO JUNIORS 14 FIENE	5TH	AMERICAN
COLO JUNIORS 14 MATT	25TH	OPEN
COLO PERFORMANCE 14UA	5TH	AMERICAN
COLO UNITED 14 BOOM	23RD	NATIONAL
COLO PERFORMANCE 13UA	37TH	NATIONAL
COLO UNITED 13 BLACK	5TH	AMERICAN
PIKES PEAK 12 ELITE	10TH	NATIONAL