



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM FLORIDA ALL-STAR SITTING VOLLEYBALL ROSTER RELEASED, TEAM HEADING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USA Volleyball Adult Open National Championships will be held May 22nd – 27th in Detroit, Michigan. The Florida Region is sending their first ever all-star sitting volleyball team to compete in the annual event.

Eustis, FL – May 18th, 2015 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is proud to announce their Team Florida All-Star sitting volleyball team roster for the 2015 USAV Adult National Championships. The team includes athletes with a connection to Florida, including six current and past USA Volleyball National Sitting Team players. These athletes were selected after multiple team evaluations and the 2015 Florida Region All-Star Sitting Volleyball Exhibition Match which took place May 2nd in Orlando:

Athletes

Eric Duda, Setter* (Ft. Myers, FL)
Nicky Nieves, MB* (Kissimmee, FL)
Dan Regan, MB* (Edmond, OK)
Brent Rasmussen, Setter** (Omaha, NE)
Chris Seilkop, MB** (Deland, FL)
Jose Zabala, Setter** (Orlando, FL)
Brett Parks, OH (Jacksonville, FL)
Javier Rodriguez, DS (St. Cloud, FL)
Erik Stordahl, OH (Jacksonville, FL)
Scott Trinler, OH (St. Petersburg, FL)
Steve Bishop, OPP/MB (Eustis, FL)

Coaches

Jose Zabala, Head Coach**
Linda Gomez, Assoc. Head Coach

Staff

Heather Belden, Team Manager
Steve Bishop, General Manager
Mary Andrew, Commissioner

*Current National Team athletes
**Past National Team athletes

The Florida Region launched an initiative late last year to bring sitting volleyball to the state of Florida. The goal was to grow the game and to reach out to volleyball enthusiasts with physical limitations, as well as those without. Multiple sitting volleyball open houses and clinics took place across Florida to introduce and enhance the sport. These events raised awareness of the need for adaptive sports programs in our communities. They also provided a chance for everyone in attendance to play a game of sitting volleyball.

Steve Bishop, Executive Director and President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, commented on the Florida Region fielding their first-ever all-star sitting volleyball team. “This is truly an exciting initiative for the Florida Region and our first Team Florida All-Star Sitting Volleyball team,” said Bishop. “I want to thank our Commissioner, Mary Andrew for her leadership on this project.”

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Additionally, Bishop appreciates the effort of his coaches and staff. "Our coaches (Jose and Linda) have worked tirelessly to host clinics, run practices, and recruit talent for our team." Bishop said. "Behind the scenes our staff members, Heather (Team Manager) and Ashley (Marketing) have devoted a considerable amount of time to keep everything organized and moving forward. ROX Volleyball has once again stepped up to be the Official Outfitter of the first Team Florida All-Star Sitting Volleyball program. What an amazing support team we have in place. As the first USA Volleyball Region to field a regional all-star team, we are paving the way for another great programming option for volleyball athletes of all skill levels. We look forward to a great competition in Detroit!"

Sitting volleyball, as defined by USA Volleyball, is played from a sitting position on the floor. The sport is governed by the same set of rules as the able-bodied game, with a few minor rule modifications. Players are allowed to block serves, but one "cheek" must be in contact with the floor whenever they make contact with the ball.

For more information on the Florida Region Sitting Volleyball initiative, please visit <http://www.floridavolleyball.org/florida-sitting-volleyball.html>.

About USA Sitting Volleyball:

USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of sitting volleyball in the United States and is recognized by World ParaVolley and U.S. Paralympics (a division of the United States Olympic Committee - USOC). Additional information on USA Sitting Volleyball can be found at: www.USAVolleyball.org.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501 c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves over 13,000 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

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