



THE BADGER BEACON

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Milwaukee, Madison club volleyball open houses scheduled

Need more information on the Badger Region or playing club in your area of Wisconsin?

Then make sure to check out any of the Badger Region club volleyball open houses set up in the coming weeks.

The first open house will be Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 5:30pm-7:00pm at Marquette University's

Al McGuire Center.

All attendees will receive FREE admission to the Marquette vs UW-Green Bay match compliments of the Badger Region. Athletes (and parents) entering 6th grade or younger can claim their free tickets in advance [HERE](#). Athletes (and parents) entering 7th grade & above should see a Badger Region staff member on-site to receive

their free tickets. This is for the purpose of not violating NCAA recruiting rules. This event is for all girls clubs and boys 14-and-under.

A Madison area open house has been confirmed for 6 p.m. Thursday, September 22 from at Madison East High School. More information to come on this event. This event is for all boys

and girls clubs.

A boys high-school-age open house will be Nov. 1 at Pius XI High School. A date/site for a Fox Valley open house has yet to be set.

For more information on any or all of the open houses listed above, contact Program Director Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org.



BRYFVL player, coach clinic a huge success

With the start of the Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League starting this weekend, the Region chose to host a player and coach clinic on Sunday, Aug. 28, at the New Berlin SportsPlex.



The event was attended by 25 middle school athletes and 22 middle school coaches who came to learn from some top athletes and instructors in the Badger Region.

Some of those instructing the kids and coaches were members of the Milwaukee Dive men's semi-pro team

which competes in the Volleyball League of America (VLA) including Chandler North, Tyler Wills,



Patrick Bieser, Tyler Range and Matt Aussem.

Brian Sharkey and Sara Voigt from the Badger Region staff along with the Milwaukee Dive athletes led coaches and players from station to station covering all aspects of the game from serving, passing, attacking and setting.

After 1.5 hours of technique instruction, attendees were educated on various coaching skills based around service rotations and base defense, as well as higher level drills that could be modified to accommodate any skill level of athletes in any give gym.

The Badger Region looks forward to hosting more of these events in partnership with Milwaukee Dive in the near future. Questions? Email Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Middle school league begins Sunday; online store now open

We are just three days away from the return of the Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League. [For a link to the schedule, click here.](#)

This season, the Region welcomes dozens of boys and girls middle school volleyball athletes who are in their high school feeder programs to the New Berlin SportsPlex.

The league will take place Sundays over the next seven weeks (with the exception of Oct. 2).



The league differs from club in that it depends on the leadership of the school contacts and varsity coaches to make this happen. While schools can elect to make cuts and pick their teams as they choose, many schools do not make cuts.

New this year, Badger Region has partnered with WKP apparel to sell BRYFVL clothing on site and online.

[For a link to the online apparel store, which features lots of Frisco Mo-designs, click here.](#)

For more information about the new WKP Apparel, [click here.](#)

WISCONSIN BOYS HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

TOP 10

SPONSORED BY THE BADGER REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

About The Poll

All boys volleyball coaches in the state have the ability to vote in the weekly Boys High School Volleyball Top 10 Poll sponsored by the Badger Region Volleyball Association.

Coaches must submit their rankings to Cedarburg Boys Volleyball Head Coach Damien Evans (devans@cedarburg.k12.wi.us) via Google Form by 10 p.m. Monday night for consideration in the poll that will be released later in the week.

Results are made available to coaches in weekly emails and are available on the WisSports.net website for review prior to voting.

For the 2022 season, 58 programs in Wisconsin are eligible for post-season competition in the WIAA tournament. An additional six programs offer boys volleyball but are not sanctioned yet as full varsity sport at their school.

Have questions about boys volleyball in the state of Wisconsin? Contact Brian Sharkey (head boys coach at Kenosha Indian Trail High School) at brian@badgervolleyball.org.

- 1) Marquette (19)
- 2) Catholic Memorial (10)
- 3) Germantown
- 4) Arrowhead
- 5) Kettle Moraine
- 6) Middleton
- 7) Wauwatosa East
- 8) Appleton North
- 9) Waukesha West
- 10) Franklin

Others receiving votes: Cedarburg 14, Kenosha Indian Trail 5, Sussex Hamilton 5, Wauwatosa West 3, Brookfield East 1, Kaukauna 1, Kimberly 1, Mukwonago 1, Whitefish Bay 1

Week 2 Poll Sept. 6, 2022

Welcome to the Wisconsin Boys High School Volleyball Top 10 Poll sponsored by the Badger Region Volleyball Association.

The poll offers coaches the chance to vote for the top teams in the state and highlight some of the week's best matches that took place in Wisconsin.

This week, Marquette University High School comes out on top thanks to their tournament victory at the Brookfield Clash Invite on Sept. 3. There, the Hilltoppers defeated No. 2-ranked Catholic Memorial and No. 5-ranked Kettle Moraine en route to the championship.

Congrats to all the teams on a great start to the 2022 season!



ABOUT THE BADGER REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION



The Badger Region Volleyball Association promotes initiatives for safe, structured and fun life-long volleyball experiences. The vision of the Badger Region is to grow the number of players, coaches, officials, spectators and other volleyball enthusiasts; provide the highest quality volleyball experience in education, training, and competition; and to provide advocacy, support, recognition and administration to the volleyball community. Any high school in Wisconsin that adds boys volleyball will receive up to \$1,000 grant from the Badger Region to help offset first-year costs. Visit the Badger Region website at www.badgervolleyball.org. The Badger Region is not affiliated with the WIAA.

USAV Coach Academy offers unique learning opportunity

USA Volleyball has announced the launch of the USA Volleyball Coach Academy, an online, interactive learning platform for volleyball coaches.

The launch of the new platform comes on the first day of the 2022-2023 membership season and offers clubs and coaches new tools as they prepare for the season.

USA Volleyball Coach Academy was developed to give coaches the skills, knowledge and resources to be successful on and off the court. Each month, high-quality content will be added from top volleyball coaches, experts and educators including the coaches of the U.S. National Teams.

The curriculum for Coach Academy is based on USA Volleyball Education's newly established

USA Volleyball Development Model. It includes five pillars that provide the basis for a holistic approach to coaching volleyball. The five pillars are Craft, Mind, Body, Heart and Team, shaping coursework that includes topics such as nutrition, recovery, team culture and mental health along with more traditional skill and strategy-oriented topics.

"As we worked to create a common language for athletes and coaches, we created the USA Volleyball Development Model to cover the five pillars," USA Volleyball NTDP (National Team Development Program) Director Erin Virtue said. "Not only is this holistic approach important for our developing athletes, but it is also critical for

those who support our athletes."

"We are excited to launch the new USA Volleyball Coach Academy," Director of Education Services Dave McCann said. "It has been great working with our regions, clubs, coaches and USA Volleyball staff to develop one of the most innovative and engaging coach education programs in the country."

Coursework is available for all levels of experience, so novice coaches can build a solid foundation and experienced coaches can access world-class strategies and tactics. The Gold level allows coaches to access live virtual sessions. These sessions let coaches connect, ask questions and dive deeper into advanced topics with top volleyball experts. The first

two live sessions will be completely free.

Monthly and annual subscription plans are available to fit every budget, starting as low as \$5 per month. As a benefit of USA Volleyball membership, all member coaches get free, unlimited access to Bronze, a 50-percent discount on access to Silver, and a 33-percent discount on Gold subscriptions.

Coaches must be active members of USA Volleyball for 2022-2023 to take advantage of discounts. Contact your Region today to become a member and get access to USA Volleyball Coach Academy.

More information is available at go.usav.org/coachacademy.



Patrick Bieser from Milwaukee Dive leads kids and coaches through serving mechanics at the BRYFVL clinic.

Memberships now available for purchase for 22-23 season

Looking ahead to the upcoming club season? If so, memberships are now available for the 2022-23 season via Sports Engine.

Allowing members to sign up for 2022-23 memberships now allows coaches, officials and staff plenty of time to complete IMPACT training, SafeSport training and get a background screening processed as soon as the season starts.

Youth athletes will find the full membership as well as one-event and tryout memberships are now available for the upcoming season.

For a link to all junior memberships, [click here](#).

For a link to all adult memberships, [click here](#).

Have questions? Email membership@badgervolleyball.org BEFORE buying a membership.

Baltimore chosen to host G18s nationals in 2024

USA Volleyball will host the 2024 USA Volleyball Girls 18s Junior National Championship on April 26-28 in Baltimore, Md.

"I am thrilled that we will be bringing the Girls 18s Junior National Championship to Baltimore," said USA Volleyball President and CEO Jamie Davis. "It's culture, historical sites and love of sports make it a top destination for our volleyball teams and their family and friends. Thank you to the Chesapeake Region and Visit Baltimore for supporting the event."

It will be the first time the city has hosted a USA Volleyball national championship.

"It is an absolute honor that USA Volleyball has selected Baltimore as its host city for the 2024 Girls 18s Junior National Championship," said Al Hutchinson, President and CEO of Visit Baltimore. "USA Volleyball has a long-standing legacy of providing a supportive environment that empowers every athlete to reach



their fullest potential. This championship will bring athletes from across the country along with coaches, family and other spectators to Charm City to experience everything that makes Baltimore a major sports destination such as our world-class athletic facilities, dining and retail offerings, and cultural attractions."

In 2024, the Girls 18s event will be in its ninth year as a stand-alone national championship. More than 350 teams are expected to compete in seven divisions, bringing thousands of players, staff, family and friends to the city.

The 2023 Girls 18s National Championship will be in Columbus, Ohio.

WHY BADGER REGION?

A RUNDOWN OF BENEFITS FOR BADGER REGION PARTICIPANTS

ATHLETE PERKS

* Ability to participate in the Badger Region Championships, Badger Region Qualifier, Badger Region Power League, Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League, Badger Boys Series, Dale Rohde Memorial Tournament

* Ability to participate in youth clinics, beach events, grass tournaments, etc.



* Participate in USA Volleyball's National Qualifiers, Bid Tournaments and National Championships

* Represent Badger Region through the National Team Development Program

* Represent Badger Region at the USA All-Star Championships

* Eligible for Badger Region / Frisco Mo Scholarships

- * Communication via the Badger Beacon newsletter
- * Free NTDP Academy access for athlete training
- * Free memberships for athletes 8-and-under
- * Player/club matching assistance at the start of the season
- * Directory of summer volleyball camp opportunities
- * Badger Region / AVCA Recruiting Tips of the Week, webinars
- * Chance to be on the Badger Region / Frisco Mo Watchlists



CLUB PERKS

* Policies and procedures for all clubs to be consistent

* Guidelines and handbooks for running tournaments

* Mentoring, training for club directors

* 24/7 service and help before, during and after your season

* Templates for club, parent handbooks and tryouts/club acceptance forms

* Personalized feedback to uniform and jersey questions

* Partnerships with sponsors such as Molten, Sports Imports, Art of Coaching, AVCA and others

* Advocacy at the National level

ATHLETE-SAFETY PROTOCOLS

SAFESPORT TRAINING

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Volleyball. Badger Region and USA Volleyball have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** for abuse and misconduct. This includes not only on-court safety, but also off-court safety in any part of USA Volleyball's programs.



USA Volleyball is committed to creating safe and fun environments for youth. This includes, but is not limited to, providing training, educational materials and resources for our regions, clubs, coaches and parents. ([Click for details](#))

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS

All adult staff members require a full background screening that includes the following:

- * Social Security Number validation;
- * Name and address history records;
- * Two independent Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Database searches covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- * Federal District Courts search for each name used and district where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable;
- * County Criminal Records for each name used and county where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable for each county searched;
- * National Sex Offender Registry database search of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- * Multiple National Watch Lists;
- * SafeSport Disciplinary Records;
- * Comprehensive International Records search for U.S. citizens who have lived outside of the United States for six consecutive months in any one country, during the past seven years;
- * Motor Vehicle Records of at least a 3-year history in the state of licensure; (if driving is required for position).

COACH PERKS

- * IMPACT certification
- * Coaches Coaching Coaches opportunities
- * High Performance coaching opportunities
- * Coaching vacancies list
- * Art of Coaching Volleyball membership (limited number available)
- * Badger Region / AVCA Coaching Tips of the Week
- * Eligible for Badger Region / AVCA awards

REFEREE PERKS

* Training opportunities exist in the classroom, scrimmages, Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League, Badger Boys Series etc.

* Mentoring and advancement opportunities throughout the year

* Dedicated full-time staff dedicated to assigning, training, recruiting and working with officials in the Badger Region office

* Communication via the Badger Region Ref Bulletin

* Once certified, officials can earn \$30 (or more per match)



* At Badger Region hosted events, rates are as follows:
* Provisional: \$30/match

* Regional: \$32/match

* Junior National: \$34/match

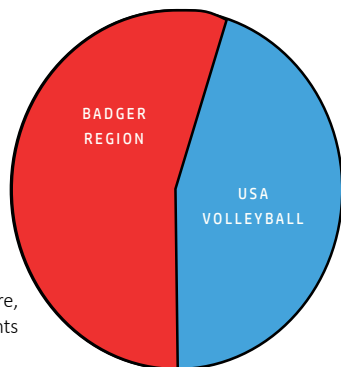
* National: \$35/match

MEMBERSHIP COSTS BREAKDOWN

\$30 of the full \$55 membership stays in the Badger Region to pay for coaching education, officials education, youth clinics, grants, scholarships, equipment, programs, services



(Sports Engine, rostering, eligibility), tournaments, clinics, High Performance, region infrastructure, staff and supplies for Region events and much more.



\$25 of the full \$55 membership goes to the USA Volleyball National office to pay for sport accident and liability insurance, training materials created for the purpose of national coaching/officiating, national database and membership services (Sports Engine) and National Office staff and office needs.



DATES RELEASED FOR '23 SEASON



BADGER REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- * MARCH 11-12 (G16, G17, G18)
- * MARCH 18-19 (G11, G12, G13, G14)
- * MARCH 25-26 (G15, BOYS)

DALE ROHDE MEMORIAL BOYS TOURNAMENT

- * MARCH 11 OR 12

BADGER REGION POWER LEAGUE

- * JAN. 7-8
- * FEB. 11-12
- * APRIL 1-2 (NO ELITE DIVISION ON FINAL WEEKEND)

REGION QUALIFIER

- * FEB. 25-26

BADGER BOYS SERIES
DATES COMING SOON



Salt Lake to host new boys qualifier for Boys Junior Nationals

USA Volleyball has announced a new boys junior national championship qualifier that will have teams competing to reach new heights.

The USA Volleyball Mountain Classic Junior National Qualifier is scheduled for Dec. 2-4, 2022, at the Calvin L. Rampton Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City in the Intermountain Region.

This is a new event and will

be the 10th boys junior national qualifier. The 2023 USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championship (BJNC) will also be in Salt Lake City on June 29-July 6.

"We are excited to be hosting a boys qualifier in Salt Lake City," said Kelsey Dolphin, USA Volleyball events manager. "Salt Lake has always rolled out the red carpet for volleyball. The city has something for everyone, and we expect ath-

letes, coaches and officials, as well as family and friends, will have a great experience."

The qualifier will be a great opportunity for boys teams to get to know the Salt Lake City area before the 2023 BJNC.

"Salt Lake is turning into a major volleyball destination, thanks in large part to our continued partnership with USA Volleyball, said Clay Partain,

executive director of Sports Salt Lake. "Sports Salt Lake is excited to support these events with our new volunteer and athlete experiences programs, as we continue to refine our efforts to better serve these incoming sports events. Our clean vibrant mountain city is a perfect fit for attendees looking to have a great experience both on and off the court."

USA Volleyball age-definition chart

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under ²	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ³	14 & Under ⁴	13 & Under ⁵	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Aug	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sept	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Oct	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nov	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dec	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Feb	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mar	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Apr	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
May	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
June	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete in 18 & under.

² **Female Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2004, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & under. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)

³ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division. This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.

⁴ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group.

⁵ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group.



BADGER REGION

HIGH PERFORMANCE SHINES IN TULSA



[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Tips for clubs as they plan for tryouts

At some point, you've probably witnessed chaotic tryouts that did not go as planned. Follow this checklist to learn how to hold volleyball tryouts that are thoughtful and well-organized.

1) Create a tryout plan.

Have a very detailed plan for what you want to accomplish with the players. Your volleyball tryout skills checklist should include:

- Specific skills
- Hustle drills
- Team situations
- Physical testing, etc.

If the space is available, separate players by position to more easily make comparisons during skill work. During team situations, move players up and down as evaluations are made.

2) Ask yourself: what are you looking for?

What is your tryout or club philosophy? Here are some questions to consider.

- Are you looking for volleyball players or athletes that can become volleyball players?
- Are you looking for players with the most skill or with the most potential?
- How are they right now vs. how good can they become with your coaching/training? What is their attitude, desire, effort – these are critical – how can you measure them?
- If you are looking for volleyball skills, make sure you test all six skills.
- If you are looking for athletes, have a combination of physical tests that can help you determine who is a good athlete and skill drills that tell you where they are at in their volleyball development.

3) Notify all staff members of their role.

- Split up experienced coaches to be paired with newer coaches. Make sure there are coaches that can toss accurately on the hitting courts and that can hit accurately on the digging courts.
- Have coaches that run drills and coaches that are evaluators only. Make sure that the evaluators either stay on one court and every player rotates to them, or



that they systematically rotate to each court. Random walking around is not the best plan.

- Have a system of evaluation which is consistent with the other coaches. Break every 45 minutes (take 5-7 minutes to compare notes).

4) Have a written down tryout procedure.

- Ask the question on all drills, "What do I want to see in this drill?"
- Types of drills to incorporate:
 - Ball Control – individual ball contacts; partners (setting, passing, pepper, etc)
 - Attacking drills – spiking from several positions on the net – minimum – Left and Right side
 - Serve and Serve receive;
 - Setting and digging – separate these to setters and liberos
 - Back Court exchange is a great tryout drill – since you hit, dig and set
 - Individual skill evaluation drills
 - Coleman-McKenzie test (alternate forearm pass and set – at least 6 feet above your head – see who can do 25 - 50 in row)
 - Sits Test – sit, set ball to self, stand up set ball, sit set ball – continuously – this is a great accuracy and agility test

5) Separate skill levels quickly.

You want the best players to see the other best players. This will help you get a better sense of individual players' skill levels as well.

6) Have head coaches involved in picking their own teams.

Volleyball tryouts can be hectic. You'll want to delegate responsibility to head coaches so they can determine the best fits for their teams.

7) Make sure that you have the right equipment and supplies.

There are numerous materials you'll need to run a great tryout. Here are a few you can't afford to forget:

- At least one ball per tryout player or at least 15-20 per court, and ball carts if needed
- Measuring devices for physical testing: height, reach, jump
- Enough evaluation forms
- Clipboards, pens and pencils
- A clock or timer
- A camera, video camera,

or phone so you can document footage and have data to back up your decisions

- A whistle
- Plenty of water

8) Minimize standing around.

This refers back to creating a tryout plan. Avoid having a long line of athletes waiting to touch a ball. Keep drills fast paced and rotate players in an efficient manner.

9) Have a way to identify athletes.

Consider bringing nametags or t-shirts with numbers on the back so you can identify players quickly. This will also be helpful when you're re-watching footage to get a second look at specific players.

10) Have a way to do jump testing.

When making roster decisions it might be helpful to know how "high" a player hits, if the skill level is comparative but one player touches 4" higher than another, it might make decisions easier. It's also helpful to track progress throughout the season.

- Vertical jump is not only a measure of jumping ability, it is a good measure of overall athletic ability (strength, power, coordination, etc.).

11) Schedule an alternate tryout method.

If players cannot make the original tryout, have a backup method to evaluate. Watch a high school game, require an individ-

ual session, have two tryout dates to choose from.

12) Schedule parent meetings separately but at the same time as tryouts.

It's a good idea to run this by your club director first, but having parent meetings at the same time gives you the opportunity to explain the tryout format, go over criteria for selection, and detail club costs and payment options.

13) Devise a method for notifying players and parents about the roster.

Email, phone, post online? Brief it prior to tryout, and prior to leaving.

- Prepare for parents of the "unchosen ones" to contact you with questions/comments/complaints.

14) Make time for questions and follow-up.

Meeting with parents before or after tryouts? Consider outlining key talking points ahead of time, including an explanation of the tryout format, criteria for selection and other important logistics, like fees, payment options, potential schedules and guidelines. It might help to have a printed handout ready, too.

And if you're meeting players right after tryouts make sure that the club director, plus a coach, are both present for those that didn't make the team to answer questions or provide comfort. Have other tryout info available so they may turn out for other clubs that day.

15) Start and end tryouts at their designated times.

A successful volleyball tryout plan begins with having your resources ready. Mark off the items on this checklist and you'll be prepared for a smooth road ahead. If you're looking for additional ideas, see our post on tryout drills that you can incorporate into your next volleyball tryout.

Story courtesy of The Art of Coaching Volleyball



TRYOUTS: BEST PRACTICES

The Badger Region receives numerous calls and emails from athletes, parents and clubs about what can be done to improve the tryout process. While the Region cannot mandate most of what is listed below, the Region’s Board of Directors and the Region Staff recommend the following as best practices:

Before tryouts

1. Retention Period

- a. Communicate with the Badger Region office if your club plans to utilize the Retention Period via the pre-tryout survey that will be sent out.
- b. Make offers Aug. 1-10, 2022, to athletes who played for your club during the 2021-22 club season. Make sure all paperwork is signed and filed and held by the club director until needed at a later time. (<http://badgervolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Retention-Document-for-Clubs-2019-20.pdf>)
- c. Publicize on your website, social media, tryout flyers, etc., whether your club made Region Period offers
- d. Publicize on your website, social media, tryout flyers, etc., if only limited spots are available in your club for the 2022-23 club season



2. Communication

- a. Communicate with nearby clubs, or clubs who draw from the same pool of athletes, on dates/times to host tryouts. This will prevent athletes and families from having to pick one or the other when it comes to the first tryouts.
- b. Communicate your 2022-23 tryout times, dates and location to current/former families and the general public. (You can’t do this enough.)
- c. Communicate open houses, tune-up clinics or other pre-season club events to current/former families and the general public.
- d. Communicate upcoming deadlines (pre-registration deadlines, commitment deadlines, other club-specific deadlines such as when a determination will be made if a team is going to “fold” or when first payments and contracts are due).



SPOTS IN YOUR PROGRAM BEFORE THE TRYOUT PERIOD BEGINS.

e. DO NOT MAKE OFFERS OR PROMISE PLAYERS

3. Other

- a. Examine the Badger Region’s “delinquent payment” list maintained at the Region office.
- b. Be realistic. Seriously look at how many teams you can field (based on number of coaches available, gym time available, athletes in your area, other clubs in your area).
- c. As you consider the number of teams you can field, have a tentative plan for how many teams you expect to offer at each age division as well as your club philosophy on moving players to older age divisions if a player’s skill level warrants or if needed to fill teams. Consider the trickle-down effect of moving players to older age groups and your club’s subsequent ability to field teams at younger age levels.
- d. The Region recommends a pre-registration process to make sure all payment, paperwork, payments and membership card numbers are filed before arriving on site.
- e. Review all other Badger Region policies, procedures and dates as it pertains to tryouts.

During tryouts

1. Paperwork

- a. Make sure all players have a membership, medical release form and concussion form
- b. Ask all athletes if they have accepted a Retention Offer to another club. If they have and show a club listed in their membership account, you might want to ask that athlete to kindly not participate in the tryout.
- c. Do birth date checks on all athletes. Make sure that each athlete is trying out for the proper age level. Remember: Not all age waivers are granted. And under certain circumstances (teams who participate in Qualifiers/Nationals/Out-of-Region events), no age waivers are allowed.
- d. Collect other payment and club-specific paperwork. State if tryout fees can be refunded.



2. While on the court

- a. Coaches and directors should go into tryouts with an open mind.



TRYOUTS: BEST PRACTICES

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b. Give each athlete who walks through the door a fair shot. And put them in positions that will give them the best chance to succeed (i.e. Put the 4-foot-6 athlete in more passing drills than blocking drills).

c. Come with a plan. Hitting lines or kings/queens of the court for two hours is not a good plan.

d. Have a group of coaches running the drills/tryout plan and a different group of coaches evaluating. The two groups could chat on a regular basis throughout the tryout.

e. Be discrete when talking with other evaluators and/or coaches about the athletes, and/or have a place where you can discuss that is not within earshot of participants.

f. Take lots of notes. Rate them according to a scale that all directors and coaches in your club can use and understand. Athletes (and parents) want feedback as to why they didn't make a team.

3. Making offers and beyond

a. Communicate with all athletes whether they are getting an offer, if they are in line to get an offer, or if they are not getting an offer.

b. Remind athletes about the Badger Region Commitment Deadline (7 p.m. Monday after the start of the tryout period)

c. Explain your club's trickle-down process

d. Remind athletes how to make a commitment to a club in the member management system that will be discussed more at a later time.

e. Remind all athletes that if they pick a different club, it is OK. Tell them to let your club know right away so athletes in line for an offer will be able to get a spot sooner rather than later.



After tryouts

1. Filling teams

a. Have a deadline of when your club will determine if a team will fold or come to fruition

b. Have a plan in place if you get lots of athletes at one gender/age level and not a lot at another.

c. Utilize the Badger Region website page dedicated to players looking for teams.

d. Advertise on the Badger Region site if you have a team looking for players

e. Contact nearby clubs to see if they have similar situation, and work together to combine those two small groups of athletes into one team at one of the clubs.

f. Announce on your website/social media when a team is filled and that no more offers will be going out for that specific team

g. Alert athletes on the "waiting list" for that team that no more offers will be made

2. Finalizing your roster

a. Make sure your "committed" athletes have selected your club in the member management system. It is not official until this is done.

b. Make sure (again) that they meet the age requirements for this age group.

c. Make sure all paperwork is in for this athlete



3. Looking ahead

a. Take notes on what worked and what did not.

b. Offer refunds where applicable in a timely manner.

c. Update online listing where applicable.

d. Shred any paperwork from athletes not needed for the upcoming season

CONTACT THE BADGER REGION

General Information	General questions	membership@badgervolleyball.org	262-349-9785
Jennifer Armson-Dyer	Executive Director	jarmsondyer@badgervolleyball.org	414-507-1124
Brian Sharkey	Program Director	brian@badgervolleyball.org	414-313-9055
Scott Spiess	Operations Manager	scott@badgervolleyball.org	414-303-5624
Kelly Lehman	Tournament Director	kelly@badgervolleyball.org	262-470-0837
Sara Voiet	Program Specialist	sara@badgervolleyball.org	262-349-9785

2023: Nationals here we go!

GIRLS 18S



USAVolleyball.

Girls Junior Nationals

April 28-30
Columbus, Ohio

2024: Baltimore, Maryland

ADULTS



USAVolleyball.

Open National Championships

May 26-31
Dallas, Texas

2024: TBA

GIRLS



USAVolleyball.

Girls Junior Nationals

G11-13s: June 14-17
Minneapolis, Mn.
G14-17s: June 28-July 6
Chicago, Ill.

2024: TBA

BOYS



USAVolleyball.

Boys Junior Nationals

June 29-July 6
Salt Lake City, Utah

2024: Dallas, Texas
2025: Minneapolis



USA All-Star Championships

July 19-23
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

2024: TBA

Dates and locations for a majority of the 2023 and 2024 Boys Bid Tournaments and Girls National Qualifiers can also be found on the events page at www.usavolleyball.org.

HARD WORKING. DECISIVE. CONFIDENT. CONSISTENT. DEDICATED

REFEREES WANTED

REWARDS:

TRAINING OFFERED
GOOD COMPENSATION
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

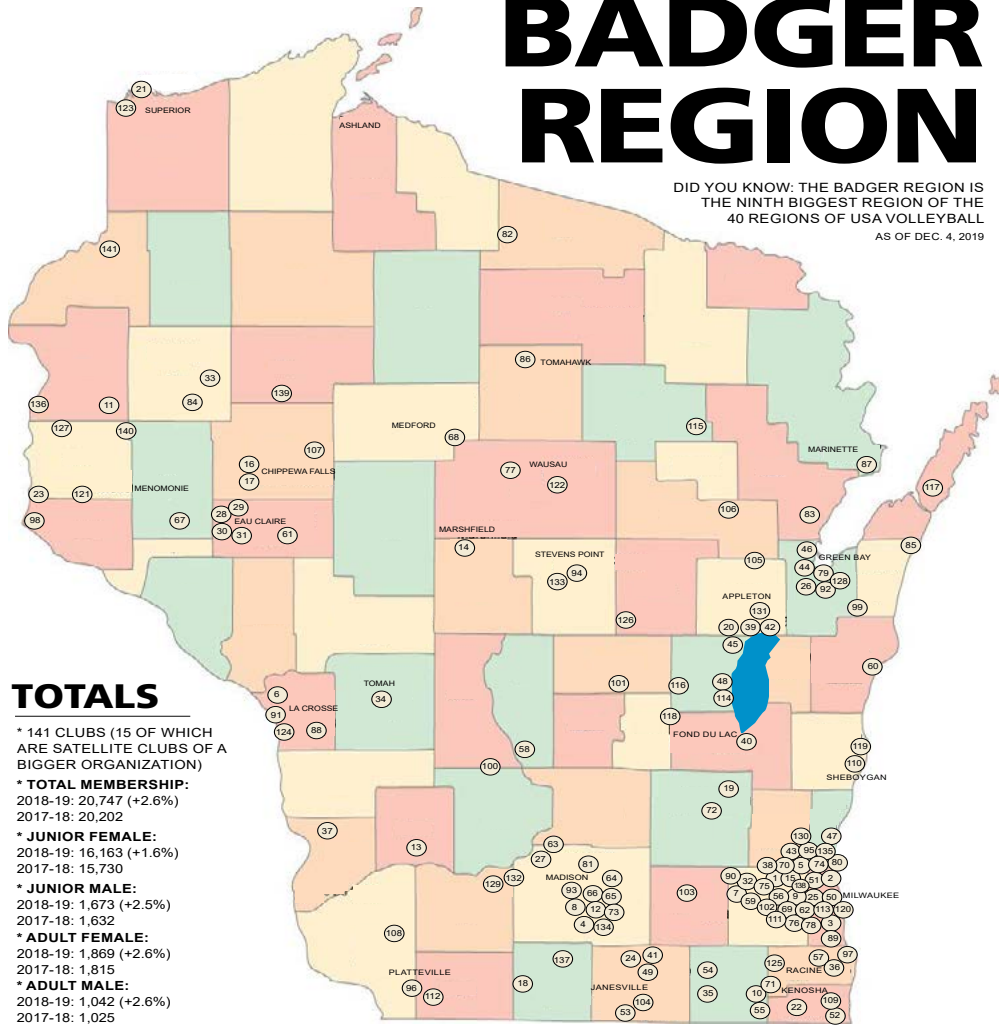


GIVE BACK TO THE GAME

BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG
(CLICK HERE FOR MORE)

BADGER REGION

DID YOU KNOW: THE BADGER REGION IS THE NINTH BIGGEST REGION OF THE 40 REGIONS OF USA VOLLEYBALL AS OF DEC. 4, 2019



TOTALS

- * 141 CLUBS (15 OF WHICH ARE SATELLITE CLUBS OF A BIGGER ORGANIZATION)
- * **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:**
2018-19: 20,747 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 20,202
- * **JUNIOR FEMALE:**
2018-19: 16,163 (+1.6%)
2017-18: 15,730
- * **JUNIOR MALE:**
2018-19: 1,673 (+2.5%)
2017-18: 1,632
- * **ADULT FEMALE:**
2018-19: 1,869 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 1,815
- * **ADULT MALE:**
2018-19: 1,042 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 1,025

FOR LINKS TO ALL CLUBS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

Get your jersey questions answered

The Badger Region Volleyball Association wants to make sure your team's jerseys are compliant with all rule sets and changes that have gone into effect starting in the 2020-21 season regarding uniforms.

To do so, the Region's Ref Chair is encouraging club directors or coaches to upload images to this link (below) if there is any concern that numbers are not contrasting enough with the dominant color of the jersey or if a jersey is not contrasting for libero purposes.

UPLOAD HERE: <http://badger-volleyball.org/jerseys/>

Reminder: All numbers must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey, regardless of the color of the outline of the number.

Have questions? Email badgerref-chair@yahoo.com.

Buy through Amazon Smile and support Badger Region

Do you shop on Amazon? Do you want to support the growth of volleyball in the state of Wisconsin?

Then you need to make your purchases on the popular online shopping website via the Badger Region Charity Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1802573>

When you purchase through the link listed above, a percent of your purchase comes back to the Badger Region Volleyball Association each month.



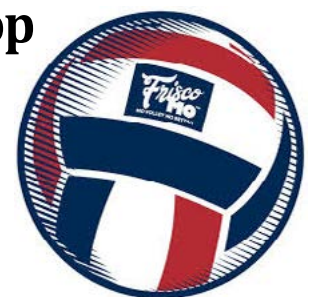
Badger Region, Frisco Mo partner for unique Wisconsin-themed volleyball shop

How do I get fun, Badger Region apparel all year round? Now you can thanks to a recent partnership between the Badger Region and Frisco Mo.

The online-only shop offers everything from pillows and posters to stickers and mugs to the more traditional hoodies and t-shirts.

A permanent link to the store now sits on www.badgervolleyball.org.

A portion of the proceeds benefits future Badger Region programming in the state of Wisconsin. For a link to the shop, click here.



How is the Badger Region Board structured?

The Badger Region Volleyball Association is governed by a Board of Directors that must be elected by members on a regular basis. Area reps serve three-year terms, while members of the executive board serve four-year terms.

Members, whether they are players, coaches, parents, directors, athletic trainers or officials, are encouraged to communicate with their respective representative if they

think policies or financial decision in the Region need to be changed.

Some policies enforced by Badger Region come from USA Volleyball, our sport's national governing body, so those can't be changed. But many others can.

The Board is advised by a 11 chairpersons (or experts) in various parts of the game, and five staff members (some of which have multiple responsibilities).

The state is divided into five parts geographically for representation. Plus, there are two at-large board members who you can approach if you don't feel comfortable with your current rep. And there is a rep dedicated just to issues that surround our Junior volleyball clubs and athletes.

You'll be hearing from each Board member twice a year in the form of a column in the Badger Beacon. Now, let's meet them:

Jim Momsen
(President)
Elected in 2020
Email: jkmomsen@yahoo.com

Scott Blackmon
(Vice President)
Elected in 2019
Email: Scottblackmon@gmail.com

Beau Rath
(Treasurer)
Appointed in 2022
Email: beau.rath@gmail.com

Kim Wudi
(Secretary)
Elected in 2021
Email: wudikm@uwec.edu

Breit Nelson
(Northwest Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email address:
Spikeitdown@hotmail.com

Amy Daley
(Northeast Rep)
Elected 2022
Email: amyreaves@yahoo.com

Mark Rushton
(Southwest Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email address:
mark.rushton@cvamadison.net

Holly Jablonowski
(Southeast Rep)
Elected in 2022
Email: hvogelsang15@gmail.com

Curtis Madson
(Metro Milwaukee Rep)
Elected in 2020
Email: Curtis.Madson@cuw.edu

Susan Peterson
(At-Large Rep)
Elected in 2020
Email: susanpeterson2005@gmail.com

Josh Price
(At-Large Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email: wijrs.josh.price@gmail.com

Brian Rushmer
(Junior Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email: brushmer@gmail.com

Angie Lubach
(Independent Rep)
Appointed in 2015
Email: Angela.lubach@yahoo.com

Individual chairs and advisors who offer input to the Board of Directors but don't have authority to vote at meetings:

Grassroots Chair: Alexis Middleton
 Officials Rating/Training: Teague Prichard
 Scorer Rating/Training: Lexi Sheldon
 Junior Girls Chair: Heather Curley
 Junior Boys Chair: Damien Evans
 Adult Chair: TJ Abshire
 Past President: Julie Voeck

REGION STAFF

Executive Director/Commissioner:
 Jennifer Armson-Dyer
 Program Director: Brian Sharkey
 Operations Manager: Scott Spiess
 Tournament Director: Kelly Lehman
 Program Specialist: Sara Voigt

Elections for the Badger Region Board of Directors occur. Nominations take place in April and the election is for adult members May 1-10.

Badger Region Volleyball Association

2831 N. Grandview Blvd.
Suite 105
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Staff

Jennifer Armson-Dyer

Executive Director/
Commissioner
jen@badgervolleyball.org
414-507-1124

Brian Sharkey

Program Director
brian@badgervolleyball.org
414-313-9055 (cell)
262-349-9785 (office)

Scott Spiess

Operations Manager
scott@badgervolleyball.org
414-303-5624 (cell)
262-349-9785 (office)

Kelly Lehman

Tournament Director
kelly@badgervolleyball.org
262-470-0837

Sara Voigt

Program Specialist
sara@badgervolleyball.org
262-349-9785 (office)

Fax: 262-349-9971

The Badger Region Volleyball Association promotes initiatives for safe, structured and fun life-long volleyball experiences!

If you (or you or your organization) would like to advertise in a future Badger Beacon, contact Brian Sharkey at the phone number or email address above.

More online:

www.badgervolleyball.org

Twitter: @BadgerRegionVB

Facebook:

Badger Region Volleyball

Pinterest: BadgerRegionVol

Instagram: BadgerRegionVB

Badger Region Volleyball Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 11: First day of the Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League at the New Berlin SportsPlex

Sept. 11: Southwest Wisconsin Club Directors Meeting from 11 a.m. to noon (online)

Sept. 15: Metro Milwaukee Club Directors Meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. (online)

Sept. 13: Badger Region Open House from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Marquette University's Al McGuire Center prior to the 7 p.m. Marquette/UW-Green Bay match.

Oct. 1: Tryouts in the Badger Region for athletes (boys and girls) who are 14-and-under

Nov. 3-5: WIAA State Volleyball Tournament at the Resch Center in Green Bay

Nov. 12: Badger Region tryouts for athletes (boys and girls) who are 15-and-older



Dec. 14-17: AVCA Convention in conjunction with the NCAA women's Final Four in Omaha, Neb.

March 11-12: Badger Region Championships Weekend No. 1 at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee

March 18-19: Badger Region Championships Weekend No. 2 at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee

March 25-26: Badger Region Championships Weekend

No. 3 at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee

April 28-30: Girls 18-and-under Junior National Championships in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by USA Volleyball at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

May 26-31: Adult Open National Championships in Dallas, Texas, hosted by USA Volleyball at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center

June 14-17: Girls 11-13s Junior National Championships hosted by USA Volleyball in Minneapolis, Minn., at the Minneapolis Convention Center

June 28-July 6: Girls 14-17s Junior National Championships hosted by USA Volleyball in Chicago, Ill., at McCormick Place

June 29-July 6: Boys Junior National Championships hosted by USA Volleyball in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Calvin L. Rampton Salt Palace

July 20-23: USA All-Star Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Have a great story idea or person you want featured in the Badger Beacon?
Email Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org.



THE BADGER BEACON

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

~ SPECIAL EDITION ~

GOOD AS GOLD

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE EDITION OF THE BADGER BEACON DEDICATED TO THE MANY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS THE BADGER REGION CELEBRATED IN RECENT MONTHS

NATIONAL CHAMPS

USA ALL-STAR CHAMPIONS:

- * 2022 BADGER BOYS NATIONAL YOUTH
- * 2022 BADGER GIRLS NATIONAL YOUTH

COLLEGE CHAMPIONS:

- * UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
2021 WOMEN'S NCAA DIV. 1
- * UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
2021 WOMEN'S NCAA DIV. 3
- * UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
2022 MEN'S NCVF DIV. 2 CLUB
- * UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
2022 WOMEN'S NCVF DIV. 2 CLUB
- * CARTHAGE COLLEGE MEN'S NCAA DIV. 3
IN BOTH 2021 AND 2022

2022 CLUB CHAMPIONS:

- * FC ELITE 16-NAVY (GJNC 16-NATIONAL)
- * MKE STING 14-WHITE (GJNC 14-PATRIOT)
- * MKE STING 16-LIGHTNING (AAU BOYS 16-CLUB)
- * MKE STING 17-GOLD (GJNC 17-NATIONAL)



At the 2022 Badger Region Championships in March and April of this year, we celebrated the “Year of the Champion” to honor three schools in the Badger Region who won national collegiate championships.

Little did we know that a few months later we would have nine more national titles here in Wisconsin for a total of 12 national titles over the course of the past 14 months.

Talk about success — especially in a state whose professional and elite college programs in other sports are notorious for coming up just short of winning championships.

This winning tradition that has been brought to the Badger Region will be a great opportunity for success to breed success.

“Hopefully this gives future athletes and coaches in the Badger Region something to aspire to,” said FC Elite 16-Navy head coach Jeff Van Lannen, whose team won the 16-National Division at the Girls Junior National Championships.

MKE Sting club director Dave Bayer said the same.

“We hope this raises the level of all competition in Wisconsin,” he said.

It’s not every year that a Region, let alone one the size of Wisconsin, wins 12 national championships.

That’s why, as a way to put a bow on the 2021-22 club volleyball season, we offer you this special edition of the Badger Beacon highlighting all the national champions from our state. While we wish we had the time and staff to highlight all our medalists and top finishers, we hope this inspires all our teams to reach the next level in their 2022-23 seasons.

Go Badger Region!

JULY 2022

ALL-STAR CHAMPS: BADGER BOYS NATIONAL YOUTH

Athlete buy-in brings boys team to title

Last minute coaching changes? No problem for the Badger Region Boys National Youth team who came home with the gold medal at the 2022 USA All-Star Championships in Tulsa, Okla.

With head coach Brian Rushmer sidelined the week before leaving for Tulsa, assistant coach JW Kieckhefer stepped into the lead spot – a role the back-to-back NCAA Div. 3 men's national champion coach at Carthage College felt comfortable with.

"It was a total team effort," Kieckhefer said about the collaboration between coaches in preparing the team for the four-day tournament in Oklahoma. "We did a good job of getting them to train a system and everyone bought in."

Assisting Kieckhefer throughout the week were assistant coaches Curtis Madson (Concordia University-Wisconsin), Mike Stevens (Southport VBC/Carthage College volunteer assistant), BJ Bryant (St. Norbert College) and Brian Sharkey (Southport VBC/Badger Region Staff).

"Our athletes believed in their coaches and our system. I felt a lot like I was coaching my college team," Kieckhefer said "We gave high-level feedback, and they would try and go do it. There were a lot of in-game strategies being thrown their way like flipping our block, and they did it. There was no questioning what was going on -- just doing. They trusted all of the coaches and executed."

In addition to having the five coaches listed above on the bench throughout most of the week, the team benefited greatly from having Rushmer at home scouting future opponents and doing video sessions for the athletes during downtime, much like the college experience requires for the athletes headed to the next level.

While having an army of coaches was surely unique and helpful, the success of the athletes still came down to executing on the court.

The team worked heavily on being efficient in out-of-system situations, changing from a traditional off-the-net mentality to setting out of system



balls high, inside and tight.

"We did a good job of scoring in these situations, better than our opponents, and that's a huge part of why we won," Kieckhefer said.

Not only did many of the athletes who played on the Badger Region Boys National Youth team play together during the club season at Milwaukee Sting and Milwaukee Volleyball Club, they also made up the majority of the Badger Region Boys Select team that earned the bronze medal at the 2021 USA All-Star Championships in Orlando.

In addition, five of the 11 athletes on the Boys Youth team this season participated in the National Team Development Training Program's summer series that took place in Tulsa before the team competed in the USA All-Star Championships.

"Our group played so much volleyball together. They were used to playing with each other," Kieckhefer said. "This group played like a team. It's not a coincidence that we did as well as we did thanks to how much time these boys spent together"

Results for Boys National Youth:

Match 1: Def. Oklahoma, 3-0
 Match 2: Def. Great Lakes, 3-2
 Match 3: Lost to Southern, 1-3
 Match 4: Def. Iowa, 3-0
 Match 5: Def. OVR, 3-2
 Match 6: Def. Florida, 3-0
 Match 7: Def. Arizona, 3-1
 Gold Medal Match: Def. Southern, 3-2

All-Tournament Team: Ben Heise (MVP), Nathan Higgins and Vinny Coello

Unique note No. 1: Five boys were in Tulsa prior to the USA All-Star Championships for the USA Volleyball National Team Development Program series. Those athletes who spent 11 days in Tulsa included Ben Heise, Vinny Coello, Ambrose Engling, Charlie Andorfer and Owen Otto.

Unique note No. 2: JW Kieckhefer stepped in for Brian Rushmer as head coach of the Boys National Youth team and in doing so won his THIRD national championship in the past year. In 2021 and 2022, Kieckhefer led the Carthage Firebirds (NCAA Men's Div. III) to the National Championship the last two years.

JULY 2022

ALL-STAR CHAMPS: BADGER GIRLS NATIONAL YOUTH

‘Person over player’ mentality pays off for Girls Youth team



How do you build a successful team in less than two weeks? Just ask Abbey Sutherland.

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay head women's volleyball coach and leader of the Badger Region's Girls Youth High Performance team will tell you it's not easy.

“In HP, you're with the athletes for such a short amount of time, it's important to create a language that we can all speak together,” she said. “It needs to be meaningful and impactful.”

If meaningful and impactful means bringing home the Girls National Youth Championship at the 2022 USA All-Star Championship in Tulsa, then Sutherland and her coaching staff of BJ Bryant (St. Norbert College) and Scott Spiess (Badger Region Staff) met their goals.

After selecting the team from the tryout and three days at selection camp at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh earlier in July, the coaches asked the athletes what the definition of being a good teammate was all about.

“We went over the definition of leadership. We went through the list of what it means to be a good teammate. They picked the words that meant the most to them,” Sutherland said. “And as coaches, we wanted to emphasize the person over the player.”

At the USA All-Star Championships, the Girls National Select team faced fierce competition from all over the country including a North Texas Region team with multiple NCAA Div. I recruits on its roster and bitter rival Florida who is a powerhouse year in and year out at the tournament.

Against Florida, the Badger



Region team was up two sets to none with the chance to finish out the match.

“We had match point against Florida,” Sutherland said. “But they're a very good team and responded well. What showed that we were high level as well as we had a response to their response and only lost by two points in sets three and four. That's not easy to do, and we weren't going to hang our heads after that match.”

While suffering the tough loss to Florida was not what the Badger Region team had hoped for, it meant a chance at fresh start on the final day in the Girls National Youth division.

And with that clean slate, the

Badger Region swept both the Ohio Valley Region and the Puget Sound Region to earn the title in the Girls National Youth Division.

According to the coaching staff, the athletes bought in to everything they asked them to do.

“They took care of the little thing and the details,” Sutherland said. “They made sure to get warmed up on time, they spent time cheering on other teams from Badger Region and did things as a team. This group truly wanted to be together and spend time together. That's unique and important. There was so much maturity in this group across the board.”

Results for Girls National Youth:

Match 1: Def. Great Plains, 3-1

Match 2: Lost to North Texas, 0-3
Match 3: Def. Garden Empire, 3-2
Match 4: Def. Gulf Coast, 3-0
Match 5: Lost to Florida, 2-3
Match 6: Def. Ohio Valley, 3-0
Gold Final: Def. Puget Sound, 3-0
All-Tournament Team: Andi Spiess (MVP), Rebecca Ring and Alexis Gardner

Unique note No. 1: Andi Spiess and Gillian Koenig were part of the team that earned the bronze medal last year in the Girls National Select division in Orlando.

Unique note No. 2: Asst. Coach BJ Bryant (the head men's and women's coach at St. Norbert College) earned two gold medals this week in Tulsa working as an assistant coach on both the boys and girls teams.

DECEMBER 2021

NCAA DIV. 1 WOMEN'S CHAMPS: WISCONSIN

Badgers put Wisconsin in national spotlight

We always knew Wisconsin was the center of the volleyball universe. And the University of Wisconsin women's volleyball team helped us solidify that.

It took athletes Dana Rettke, Sydney Hilley, Lauren Barnes and Grace Loberg using an extra year of eligibility brought on by the pandemic after deciding they couldn't leave Wisconsin without winning the program's first national title.

And they didn't have to.

The No. 4-seeded Badgers volleyball team took down Big Ten foe No. 10 University Nebraska in a dramatic five sets — 22-25, 31-29, 25-23, 23-25, 15-12 — in the NCAA Women's Volleyball national championship game in Columbus, Ohio, in December of 2022.

Wisconsin won its first title behind a block that tormented the Huskers. The Badgers began the fifth set on a 7-0 run that was punctuated by a kill and two blocks on three straight points by Rettke, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Year. The Badgers thought they won when outside hitter Madi Kubik hit the ball out, but a successful challenge



from Nebraska coach John Cook overturned the call as officials ruled there was a touch at the net.

The next play, after a couple of tremendous defensive plays by Nebraska, Rettke terminated the championship point.

"I honestly don't think it's set in yet," Rettke said in a USA Today article. "I mean, I kind of imagined, like, dropping to the floor and crying and I kind of just stood there in shock."

The Huskers were all over the Badgers in the first set and led most of the way in the second set. Trail- ing 13-8 at one point, the Badgers tied the game at 20 on a monster block by Loberg and Rettke, and took the lead on the next point, which was only Rettke's second kill.

But behind what Wisconsin coach Kelly Sheffield called the best

defense in the country, Nebraska gave itself numerous opportunities with some incredible digs, and battled the Badgers to an epic conclusion of a second set that was tied at 23 through 29.

Like she had done so many times before, with Wisconsin down 29-28, Rettke got a solo block on Nebraska middle blocker Lauren Stivrins, followed by a kill and another block on Stivrins to win the set.

Middle blocker Devyn Robinson had back-to-back kills to seal the third set and put the Badgers one set away from a championship. But the drama was far from over.

Nebraska had a 24-20 lead in the fourth set before the Badgers won three straight points. It took an incredible diving save by Nebraska outside hitter Madi Kubik to keep the point alive, which was finished emphatically by Ally Batenhorst to send the match to a final set.

The Badgers had 24 blocks to Nebraska's 10. Neither team hit above .200. Middle blocker Anna Smrek led the Badgers hitting .500 with 14 kills while Rettke hit .290 with 11 kills.

"Epic weekend. Just an epic weekend," Sheffield said in the article. "I'm so happy for these guys

and the other seniors. They came back for a goal and a dream and had some adversity along the way and were rewarded."

On the first championship point, Barnes, the libero, took a long exhale to calm herself and possibly make the final pass of her college career. But the Badgers had to endure four of them, plus a timeout at 14-11, then a painstaking challenge after believing they won.

"During the challenge we kind of just kept making eye contact with each other, looking at each other in the eye, saying, 'All right, if this doesn't go our way, we're still playing volleyball,'" Barnes said to USA Today. "We haven't done anything yet. The game isn't over."

The second celebration was just as historic as the first.

"I think most of it was just shock," Hilley said in the USA Today article. "You look around, everyone's crying. You could see how much love there is with every single person on this team. And the fans were incredible. And it's an amazing moment I'll never forget just seeing how happy my teammates were. And that's the best feeling."

DECEMBER 2021

NCAA DIV. 3 WOMEN'S CHAMPS: UW-EAU CLAIRE

UW-EC basks in historic winning season

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Women's Volleyball team made history with its first NCAA Division III National championship victory in early December of 2021 in St. Louis, Mo. Coaches and players say the win put the team on the map and will strengthen the program moving forward.

The championship title also marked the first time the UW-Eau Claire women's volleyball team made it to the NCAA Division III quarterfinals. After defeating Tufts University, the fourth-ranked Blugolds swept top-ranked Juniata College in the semifinals to advance to the title match..

UW-Eau Claire faced sixth-ranked and traditional Division III powerhouse Calvin College in the championship match. It was a



rematch of sorts — Calvin defeated Eau Claire in the 2018 NCAA Division III semifinals.

But the 2021 championship was all about UW-Eau Claire as the team swept Calvin in

three sets.

Head coach Kim Wudi, also a longtime member of the Badger Region Board of Directors, said at the time that the gravity of the situation "hasn't really sunk in yet."

"We're just really, really proud to bring home a national championship," Wudi said in an NPR article posted following the event. "There's really only been a couple of other sports at the university who have been able to win the team championship and to be able to do it for women's volleyball for the first time is really, really special."

Wudi said clinching the championship follows a historic winning season for the team. She

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

MAY 2021 & APRIL 2022

NCAA DIV. 3 MEN'S CHAMPS: CARTHAGE COLLEGE

Firebirds win back-to-back men's titles

Carthage men's volleyball won its second-straight NCAA Division III national title with a 25-21, 25-22, 18-25, 25-22 victory over top-ranked Springfield on April 23, 2022, at Carthage's Tarble Arena in front of standing-room only crowd in Kenosha.

"It was a storybook the way last year ended," head coach JW Kieckhefer said in an interview with the Badger Region. "The fans. Doing it at home. And validating it by doing again in 2022 when they wanted to take away of what we did in 2021 because some teams didn't compete due to COVID or didn't make the tournament. I feel accomplished about validating that first national championship."

The Firebirds claimed their second-straight national title behind defensive efforts from Peyton Wieter (16 digs) and All-American libero Kyle Cohan (12 digs). All-Americans Matt Slivinski (18 kills) and Germantown native and former Badger Region member Carter Schmidt (11 kills) led the offensive effort, while All-American setter Gene McNulty had 43 assists.

This was also the second-straight national title under the direction of Kieckhefer, who is a Badger Region member (coach at Milwaukee Volleyball Club) and was named the



College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin's (CCIW) Coach of the Year.

Slivinski, McNulty and Cohan were named to the NCAA all-tournament team, while Slivinski was named the tournament MVP for the second-straight year.

"I think the excitement, the happiness, the accomplishment has finally sunk in for all of us," Kieckhefer said. "I think we love battling for each other. That's what makes the practice gym so much fun. But when you enjoy being around this group as much this group does, the accomplishment feels amazing."

In the match, each team traded points early in the first until an

attack error for Springfield (29-2) and a block from McNulty put Carthage (24-3) up 4-2. Slivinski put in a kill which extended the Firebird lead to 10-5 forcing a timeout. Springfield rallied getting within one with two straight kills but an 8-3 run for the Firebirds made it 20-15. Another rally from Springfield got it to three until a service error for the Pride made it set point. Carthage won the set with a closing kill from another current Badger Region member David Markes (a coach at Milwaukee Volleyball Club and former player at the club).

The second began similar to the first with each team trading points until a Springfield service error and a block from Wieter put the Firebirds ahead 10-7. The Pride got within three with a kill then an ace made it 14-12 before Markes connected on another kill. After Carthage scored the next three of five points, Springfield got within two with a kill. Slivinski registered another kill extending the Carthage lead to 20-17. Later, Schmidt tallied a kill moving the score ahead to 23-20. Another Slivinski strike gave Carthage the set 25-22.

In the third, the Pride scored the first three with a pair of kills and an ace, before an attack error for Springfield tied it at six. After back-to-back attack errors for the Pride put Carthage in front 11-8,

Springfield tied it at 11 with an ace. The Pride later went up three with a kill 18-14 as a kill widened the margin to five. Springfield won the third 25-18.

The score was locked at 11 in the fourth as the Pride connected on a kill. Once again, both teams traded points until Slivinski recorded another kill moving the score to 18-17. Springfield went on to tie it at 22 however, a bad set for the Pride gave the Firebirds set point. Carthage won the game off an attacking error for the 25-22 set win.

With the graduation of Slivinski and Cohan, the question becomes do the Firebirds have enough in them to make a run in 2023?

"I think we have the team to do it," Kieckhefer said. "I am very excited for this group of young men. But it's going to be different. It's tough to lose guys who have been leaders for us the last three years. We'll combat matches differently. But we're excited for the guys who have been behind Matt and Kyle."

Winning back to back titles in any sport or competition is never easy, let alone going for three.

"It's going to be hard. But we're going to battle," Kieckhefer said. "Think about how hard it was going back to back. Now triple that."

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

said they've gotten support from fellow coaches, former players and other alumni excited about the future of the volleyball program.

"That's our goal, is to win championships," Wudi said to NPR. "And so to have that not just be something we're striving toward, but something that we've done, is really great in terms of the ability to recruit high-level players and high-level student athletes from really across the country."

Abby Volk was a senior at UW-Eau Claire and the team's middle hitter.

"It was surreal," Volk said to NPR. "We still

talk about it today even, we just don't believe that it's real."

Volk said beating the best-ranked teams in the nation the year after all fall sports on campus were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic was special. She said defeating Calvin College, with some members of the 2018 Eau Claire team in attendance, was an added bonus.

"So, I mean, it was kind of a revenge match, but we also wanted to continue making history," Volk said.

Arianna Barrett, Kendra Baiert, and Charlie Nelson were named to the NCAA Championship All-Tournament team. Barrett was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

The American Volleyball Coaches Association announced Jodi Risen of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire volleyball team as the AVCA Division III Assistant Coach of the Year.

Risen, a former Blugold volleyball athlete herself, is in her 13th year with the UWEC coaching staff and has helped Eau Claire reachover 300 wins while on staff.

As a player, she led the team to a share of the WIAC Conference title in 2006 and to the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA tournament in 2005 and 2006.

Risen is the first WIAC Assistant Coach to receive the award since the award started in 2009.

APRIL 2022

NCVF DIV. 2 MENS & WOMEN'S CHAMPS: UW-EAU CLAIRE



UW-EC men & women win club titles

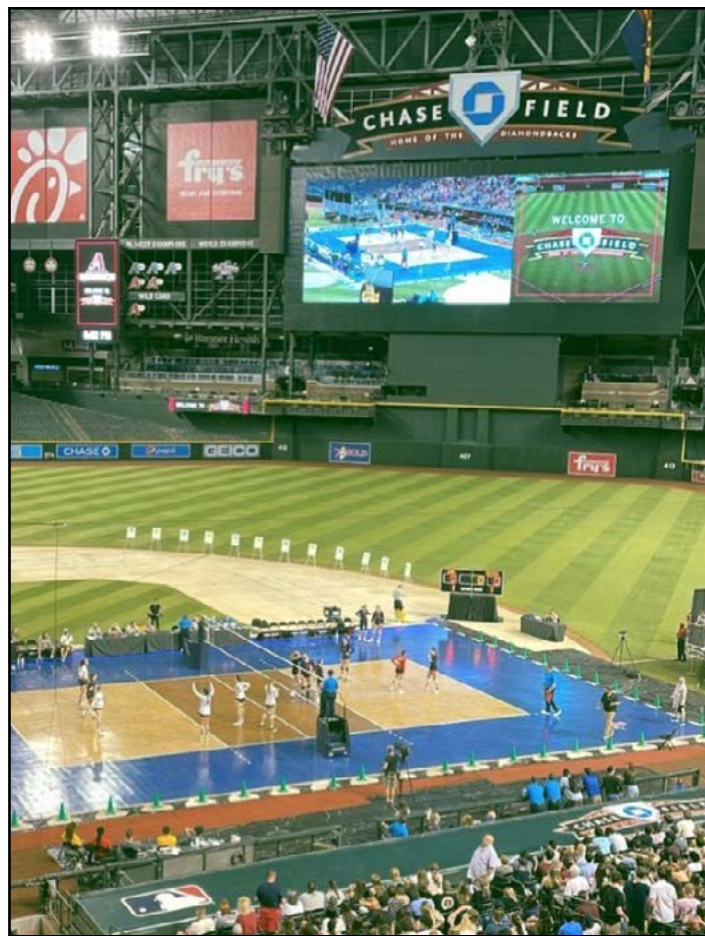
The University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire wasn't just the top team in the NCAA Women's Div. 3 Volleyball Tournament this past season, the Blugolds also came home with two championships at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation Championships held in Phoenix.

The three-day tournament brought together hundreds of collegiate club teams from around the country, including close to 20 from the Badger Region including the men's and women's club teams from UW-Eau Claire who played at the Div. 2 level designed for colleges and universities around the same size.

On the women's side, No. 3-ranked UW-Eau Claire went undefeated on the week, dropping only one set along the way. The Blugolds were forced to face off against one of their rivals, UW-La Crosse in the championship, which was place on Chase Field, the home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Results for the UW-Eau Claire women's team:

- Def. Colorado School of Mines, 2-0
- Def. Missouri S&T, 2-0
- Def. Dartmouth, 2-0
- Def. Sonoma State, 2-0
- Def. Xavier, 2-0
- Def. Colorado Christian, 2-0
- Def. Dartmouth, 2-1
- Def. North Dakota State, 2-0



- Def. UW-La Crosse, 2-0
- On the men's side, the road to the championship came with lots of bumps in the road for UW-Eau Claire, who was the No. 1-seed

heading into the tournament. In Day 1 pool play, the team dropped a close match to Cal State-San Marcos. And in the power pool on Day 2, the Blugolds dropped an

even closer match to Case Western Reserve University 19-17 in set three. Thanks to the tiebreaker procedures, UW-Eau Claire escaped as the top seed from that pool.

The ending was much the same as the women's team -- a match against rival UW-La Crosse on Chase Field. The rest of the week went as such:

- Def. Butler, 2-0
- Def. North Dakota State, 2-0
- Lost to CSU-San Marcos, 2-1
- Def. Carnegie Mellon, 2-0
- Def. Army, 2-0
- Lost to Case Western Reserve, 2-1
- Def. Gonzaga, 2-0
- Def. University of San Diego, 2-1
- Def. St. Thomas, 2-0
- Def. UW-La Crosse, 2-0

UW-Eau Claire and UW-La Crosse among the many schools who play under in the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference (WVC), which requires its members to be Badger Region / USA Volleyball members.

The WVC has had a long partnership with the Badger Region and offers services that include event management, Sports Engine access and assistance, referee assigning for events and other services and aid.

The NCVF Championships return to Kansas City, Mo., in mid April in the spring of 2023.

JUNE 2022

GJNC 16-NATIONAL CHAMPS: FC ELITE 16-NAVY

'We got this' says FC Elite 16-Navy

The greatest feeling a coach can have is when their team says during a timeout, "Don't worry coach, we got this."

Truer words were never spoken by the FC Elite 16-Navy team to their head coach Jeff Van Lannen en route to winning the 16-National Division at the 2022 Girls Junior National Championship in Indianapolis.

And even with their backs up against the proverbial wall, the 16-Navy team fought their way out of near-elimination multiple times in ways that only Hollywood could have scripted.

On the final day of competition, the team was the 8-seed having to play the No. 1 overall seed in the quarterfinals in Absolute from the Northern California Region.

The first set was a nail biter, with FC falling 30-32. But the second set was not as close, as Absolute pulled ahead and managed to be serving up 24-18 for the match. But 16-Navy was not done.

They ran the score all the way up to 24-24 before allowing Absolute to sideout. And before you know it, FC won set two, 27-25.

The roller coaster continued in set three as FC fell behind again and faced elimination down 9-14. But the comeback kids showed zero worry.

"We always had that feeling that this could be the end," said head coach Jeff Van Lannen. "But we weren't going to show it."

Point by point, FC Elite chipped away and came out on top in one of the best matches of the tournament.

"Two coaches came up to me after the match and said we staved off 11 elimination points," Van Lannen said. "It was almost statistically impossible for us to win that match, but we did."

That was only the first match of the day.

FC Elite 16-Navy had another three-set match in the semifinals against Maverick Elite from the Ohio Valley Region.

"Maybe they sort of liked that feeling of playing from behind,"



Van Lannen said.

In the finals, 16-Navy fell to Iowa Six Pack in the first set and was down 22-23 in set two – but the team wouldn't have had it any other way.

As the story goes, FC Elite battled back, took control of set three and let out a sigh of relief – along with screams of joy – when victory was officially theirs.

"When the last point landed, you saw it in their eyes, 'We did what?' It was pretty great," Van Lannen said. "From there it was podium, celebration and so much more."

Outside hitter Peyton Carlson, who was only 14-years-old at the time of the tournament, was named the Most Valuable Player event.

Heading into the tournament, 16-Navy was ranked 10th in the National Division after earning their bid at the Badger Region Qualifier in late February. The team had a good Day 1 and a good Day 2, losing only to Houston Juniors on a missed served.

"After losing on a missed serve early in the tournament, I stopped saying the word 'serve,' stopped looking at the endline and just let them go. I trusted them," Van

Lannen said. "Anything I wanted to say, I wrote it down and then I didn't say the first three things I wanted to say. I stood back and let them do it on their own."

The hardships and hurdles the team overcame didn't just stop with a missed serve.

Throughout the tournament, the team was without Kam Kaminski, who had torn her ACL just weeks prior to leaving for Indianapolis for the national tournament.

On top of that, one outside hitter and one right side hitter suffered minor injuries throughout the week in Indiana but were able to return by week's end.

The team knew it had the ability to win, and Van Lannen knew that as well.

"When we were making our final run on Day 4, I was like, 'What am I going to say at this point?'" Van Lannen said. "There were some points you tell the kids 'you got this.' And you say that over and over. And then after a while, they started telling that to me. It was so heartwarming."

The official celebration for the team did not happen until they returned home and could unite in full, with Kaminski, back in the

Fox Cities

At a team gathering, Van Lannen was able to enjoy highlighting the success of all the players and hear all the other "little stories" that you find out about after the fact. The team (and the entire club) were also honored by the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers at a minor league baseball game in late summer.

You hear about the teams that are forever linked, and this is one of them, Van Lannen said.

"Coaches have asked 'what's the secret sauce?' I tell them that every day, we ask the players what their job is," Van Lannen said. "And every day they say 'love each other,' and the coaches job is to love them, too."

Results for FC Elite 16-Navy

- Def. Michio Chicago 16-National, 2-0

- Def. PGH Elite 16-Elite, 2-0
- Def. Coast 16-Davis, 2-0
- Def. Spiral 16UA, 2-0
- Lost to HJV 16-Elite, 1-2
- Def. Dakine Warriors 16-Surf, 2-0
- Def. Excel 16-National Red, 2-1
- Def. Forza1 North 16UA, 2-0
- Def. Absolute 16-Black, 2-1
- Def. Maverick 16-Elite, 2-1
- Def. Six Pack, 2-1

JUNE 2022

GJNC 14-PATRIOT CHAMPS: MKE STING 14-WHITE

Waiting game pays off for Sting 14-White

Leading off the week at the 2022 USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championship in Indianapolis was MKE Sting 14-White. The team had high expectations coming into the 14-Patriot Division of the tournament as the group was seeded No. 2 in the 39-team field.

They proved they were deserving of their high ranking by going 11-0 in matches and 22-2 in sets at the four-day event.

A few months after winning the title, head coach Liz Heidenrich says the feeling is still unreal.

"We knew these girls were capable of winning the whole thing, but it actually becoming a reality was one of the best feelings. It's indescribable," she said. "

Like with most national championship teams, it was a total team effort that helped the Sting 14-White team bring home the gold.

"The best part about our run at nationals was the 100% contribution from every single girl on the team. Without all 10 kids out there on, we would not have made it to that podium on day four," Heidenrich said. "We had so much confidence in our lineup and how they had been working together so seamlessly that it was a no brainer to run the lineup we did. The girls should be so proud of what they accomplished."

But it wasn't an easy road during the season to get them to where they ended in June.

"This group has improved drastically since day one. Occasionally, I will look back at



videos we took during those first few weeks of practice. We were taking a lot of their mechanics they had come in with and completely re-learning skills. It was a rough start that first month of practice," she said. "We weren't sure what this group was going to look like. But holy moly. These girls turned into a well-oiled machine come nationals. We had so many girls who could play different positions that our lineups rarely – if ever – looked the same."

MKE Sting club director said the 14-White team, which finished one place out of earning a spot in a bid division at the Windy City Qualifier, was one of his favorite teams to watch all season.

"The team was hoping to earn a bid. We spent the weeks leading up to nationals waiting and wanting," Bayer said. "It's surreal, because this team was the last team to be accepted into

the tournament in the Patriot Division. But the kids never gave up and they always stayed positive about their situation."

Hiedenrich added that being able to step back onto the court in Indianapolis was a fresh start for the 14-White crew.

"Our team had to completely shift our mindset in a matter of weeks," she said. "When they stepped into the gym in Indianapolis, it was a completely different team. Third place wasn't going to be enough anymore. They wanted first. They wanted to prove that they were better than anyone could have imagined."

The results for MKE Sting 14-White throughout the weekend included:

- Def. BVC 14-2, 2-0
- Def. ACT VBC 14-Quon, 2-0
- Def. Superior 14-Adidas 2-0
- Def. Mintonette Sports – m.4, 2-0
- Def. EVA 14-National, 2-0
- Def. SG Elite 14-Elite, 2-0
- Def. I AM VBC, 2-1
- Def. Brazos Valley 14-National, 2-0
- Def. TAV Houston 14-Molten, 2-0
- Def. 14E Mash, 2-1
- Def. T-Street 14-Alicia, 2-0

Hiedenrich has a special place for her gold medal in her new home. And assistant coach Ari Cohen said the same.

"My medal is proudly on my mantle in my living room," Cohen said. "It has its own shelf and everything!"

JUNE 2022

GJNC GIRLS 17-NATIONAL CHAMPS: MKE STING 17-GOLD

Sting 17-Gold raises its bar to new heights

Over the years, the MKE Sting 17-Gold team has been on the rise.

And that couldn't have been more evident than by the way the group played at the 2022 USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships where the team won the gold medal in 17-National Division in convincing fashion.

MKE Sting 17-Gold dropped only one match and three sets in route to the championship in Indianapolis after qualifying in



the national division at the Badger Region Qualifier on Feb. 27.

"Each year, this team has gotten better since they have been together at 14s," said club director Dave Bayer.

The team won the bronze medal in the 16-National Division of GJNCs.

"Now this team is determined to qualify for Open as 18s," Bayer said. "They are a

very motivated group"

Within the organization, Bayer said that the 17-Gold team this year strived to meet all the standards at all times while chasing championships along the way.

"They trusted the process and Coach Bruce and Coach Ali were great for this group," Bayer said. "It takes a lot of trust and dedication, and these coaches and athletes built the relationships they needed to help this team succeed."

Results:

- Def. MN Select 17-2, 2-0
- Def. Arizona Storm 17-Thunder, 2-0
- Def. Spike and Serve G17-1, 2-0
- Def. Tejas 17-Black, 2-0
- Def. PVA 17-Elite, 2-0
- Lost to Premier Nebraska 17-Black, 1-2
- Def. Topeka Impact, 2-0
- Def. AVA TX 17-Adidas, 2-1
- Def. OJVA 17-1 Gold, 2-0
- Def. Union 17-1 UA, 2-0
- Def. 1st Alliance 17-Silver, 2-0

JUNE 2022

BOYS 16-CLUB CHAMPS: MKE STING 16-LIGHTNING

Sting 16-Lightning continues to impress

Badger Region teams, athletes and coaches who competed at the 2022 Boys National Championships held in Orlando, Fla., also had a great showing this summer

There, the MKE Sting 16-Lightning (boys team) came home with the crown in the 16 Club division after going 11-2 on the week.

And for head coach Skylar “Choppy” Czaplewski, he finally overcame the podium hurdle that had eluded him over the years.

It still feels unreal. I’ve been lucky enough to have coached several podium finishing teams at nationals but couldn’t quite get over that hump to take home the gold,” he said. “It was great to see the look on my players’ faces on that final point, and it’s an image I’ll never forget because it was such an overwhelming rush of emotions. And also because it’s the wallpaper on my phone.”

When asked where his gold medal is currently, the West Allis-native had this to say:

“I had some different ideas on where to put the medal. My original thought was to just wear it for the rest of my life but that didn’t seem practical. Another thought was to hang it in my doorway like mistletoe so whoever walks into my home can see it,” had said. “But for now it’s displayed proudly on my bedroom wall above my bed.”

Czaplewski knew this team was going to be something special from the start, he said.

“We played our first tournament (AAU 3rd Coast) after two practices and managed to take 3rd place against teams that had been together for a few months already,” he said. “The players worked so hard all year. Putting in the work at practice and even at private lessons to get even better.”

MKE Sting club director Dave Bayer



echoed that sentiment.

“The 16-Lightning team was one of the most underrated teams in our area,” he said. “Throughout the years they showed flashes of greatness and showed amazing improvement. They committed to each other so much. And it all came together for them at nationals.”

The group knew how to have fun, too.

“They were all super supportive of each other and that’s a big part of success,” Czaplewski said. “It doesn’t matter how good you are if you don’t have any chemistry with your teammates.”

Results:

- Def. AJAX 16-Gold
- Lost to Miami United, 0-2
- Def. Sky High Adidas 16-1, 2-0
- Def. Exile Big Blue, 2-0

- Def. CVA, 2-1
 - Lost to Coast 16-2, 0-2
 - Def. MVP FL 16-Black, 2-0
 - Def. Borinquen 16M Piro, 2-0
 - Def. SG Elite 16-Elite, 2-0
 - Def. Ultimate 160Blue, 2-0
 - Def. HPSTL 16-Orange, 2-1
 - Def. Bay to Bay 16-Premier, 2-0
 - Def. Louisville Fury 16-Orange, 2-1
- Czaplewski pointed out that in the championship match, the team lost set one 13-25, but the team never gave up.
- “Honestly our biggest obstacle was ourselves,” he said. “When we are playing at our absolute best, no one can beat us. Every team is going to have some down games/matches and it’s how they responded to that adversity that defined this team.”

**Congratulations to all of our national champions.
And good luck to everyone in the 2022-23 season!**



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