

THE OFFICIAL WORD NEWSLETTER

OUR TRIALS ARE TRIVIAL BY COMPARISON!



Presidents Message
Joan Powell – President PAVO

A few weeks ago, we experienced sewage back up in our high school locker room just prior to a volleyball match. Unsuccessful district workers called in a private company who finally solved the problem well after we completed our three levels of play. Although we were all inconvenienced, I had to remind my players that this was in fact temporary and not the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina. I had to remind myself after everyone had left the gym and the custodians and I were left to clean up the mess that there was no room for whining.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and more recently Rita, I am sure that our entire volleyball community has had relatives or friends impacted by the devastation. Our networking and financial outpouring have been heartfelt and helpful, but the ramifications of the enormity of the loss will continue for some time.

I was glued to the continuous news coverage (as I am sure many of you were) – constantly reminded how lucky I am. And as we go about our everyday tasks, taking simple things in life for granted, let us be mindful of our colleagues. Keep in touch with those afflicted by this tragedy, lest we forget.

NOTABLES

- Sept. 15 •
PAVO National Referees
Exam Scores Due
- Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 •
Voting Open For PAVO Election
- Nov. 1 •
USAV Officials Division
Dues Deadline
- Nov. 10-12 •
NCAA Division III Regionals
- Nov. 17-20 •
Final Date for Discounted PAVO
Convention Registration Fees
- Nov. 15 •
NCAA Division III
Championship
- Nov. 17-20 •
NCAA Division II Regionals
- Dec. 1-3 •
NCAA Division II Championship
- Dec. 1-4 •
NCAA Division I
Championships,
First / Second Round
- Dec. 8-11 •
NCAA Division I Regionals
(Omaha, Stanford, Penn St, Texas A&M)
- Dec. 15-17 •
NCAA Division I Championship
Semi-Finals & Finals and
PAVO Convention, San Antonio
- Dec. 16 •
USAV Referee Chair Assembly,
San Antonio
- Dec. 17 •
PAVO Board Chair Assembly,
San Antonio
- Feb. 15 •
USAV National & Jr National
Referees Exam Scores Due

New.s from Glenn Sapp,



USA Volleyball

Vice President,
USAV Officials Division

The heartfelt sympathy of the official's division goes out to all of our colleagues affected by the devastation of the hurricanes. Many have lost so much! Hopefully this tragedy will help us grow together and be stronger.

Congratulations to the new Beach Officials. As the AVP keeps expanding the number of events and as the AVP Next continues to grow, I am confident there will be opportunities for those of you who are certified for Beach to work more events. It is my understanding that the AVP and AVP Next will work in conjunction with the USAV for next year's Junior National event but more news to come on that later.

Hope all of you working the college season are having fun and traveling safe.

It is already time for the USAV season to begin and the Qualifier's will be on us before we know it! We are in the process of getting the information up on the USAV web site under the OFFICIALS button but you can also check the JUNIORS section in order to obtain when and where the events will be held and the best way to contact if you are interested in working. Many times these events are good opportunities to mentor and bring forward new officials so I hope we are all rising to the challenge I made and asked of you last season.

Please make sure the data on your Officials profile is correct and up to date. As we move to even more automation, this information being correct is even more critical to ensure proper communication and opportunities.

Finally, I want to thank you all in advance for the anticipated efforts and hard work for this upcoming season.



VOTE NOW!!

If you are a current PAVO member, you should have received either an e-mail or postcard announcing the PAVO election for the Director-at-Large position. If you have not yet voted, do it now! To vote electronically, you must use the voter-access-code that was provided to you via the e-mail or postcard. To vote, go to <http://www.campus-vote.com/elections/gen/PAVO>. If you'd prefer to not use the Internet, call Miki at the PAVO central office (888/791-2074).

There are four strong candidates nominated for this position. Please review the bios below (or on-line) to help make your decision.

Marcia Costley, Springfield, Ore.



Costley is a PAVO and USAV National referee. She is assigned in the Big Sky, West Coast, and Pac-10 conferences, and at all levels in the State of Oregon (DII, DIII, NAIA, and Jr. College). She is referee chair of the Columbia Empire Volleyball Association, and served in numerous leadership positions (board member, secretary, chair-elect and chair) for the Oregon Collegiate Volleyball Officials Association 1997-2002. According to Marcia, her passion for volleyball is derived from; 1) Meeting people/officials with the same driven passion for the sport of volleyball who are always trying to improve upon their skills; 2) Working with those very same people; 3) Accomplishing my personal goals one opportunity at a time." According to OCVOA Chair Susan Dubickas, "Marcia has a diverse background in business, is proficient in customer relations, and is regarded as an efficient, thorough, reliable and team-conscious professional who manages and prioritizes multiple tasks effectively."

Verna Klubnikin, Downey, Calif.



Klubnikin has officiated volleyball for more than 25 years at every level in the U.S. She has worked in seven NCAA Division I conferences, and has officiated in eight NCAA Division I final fours and 20 regional tournaments. She served as line judge at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and was officiating manager for referees and line judges for beach volleyball at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She has served eight years as chair of the Southern California Volleyball Officials Association Collegiate Council. She owns and operates Roof Sportswear. "I would like to see volleyball officiating become a career option, especially for those who come out of college and only see coaching as a choice within our sport. This means increasing pay for volleyball officials, and PAVO could possibly play a role in this direction by leveraging the numbers in its membership. With my experience and love of volleyball, I want to see our sport gain in popularity and attendance, along with more television coverage."

Ray Mink, Fremont, Calif.



Mink has been officiating volleyball since 1985. He has worked several NCAA Division I tournaments as a line judge or observer. He has been actively involved in the Northern California Board for several years. "It is important to continue the great communication with our members. I see this being accomplished by addressing the concerns that members have about the organization, its programs, and direction. Officials need more information about the benefits of becoming a PAVO member and the opportunities afforded with membership. I'd like to see the lines of communication with the DI conference assignors open, as well as including the DII, DIII, and NAIA conference assignors, thus providing a more structured way for our members to move into those conferences. I would especially like to see a closer relationship with NFHS and how we can provide training to a vast number of officials across the nation. This will contribute to an increase in the number of quality officials available at the collegiate and USAV levels. I want to continue to build upon the line judge training already provided."

Lisa Paull, Sandpoint, Idaho



Paull began officiating high school volleyball in 1992, and college volleyball in 2001. She is a USAV National and PAVO State rated official. She also serves as assigner and clinician for her North Idaho high school board. She has served as a Director-At-Large on the PAVO Board since 2002. "During my term of service, I have written many articles for "The Official Word," helped to develop the Line Judge Certification Program, served on the Convention Committee, and provided feedback to our staff and board on many issues. I have attended every convention and board meeting. My focus has been to represent the needs and concerns of the lesser-experienced PAVO member. As there is an argument to bring in new energy to the board, so is there the need to maintain the continuity necessary to continue us on our successful path in representing the membership. As the only "non-National" currently on the board, I would like the opportunity to continue to represent the concerns of the majority." Lisa also officiates softball and basketball



COMMON SENSE IS UNCOMMON

Knowledge is power. Thirst for knowledge. Learn everything there is to learn about officiating. This solid base, however, is only the start toward excellence. What looks black and white on paper is riddled with gray areas when applied.

To officiate a match requires study and training. To do it well takes an eye and feel for the game. This means technical skill laced with common sense. Every match is different. Is it competitive or informal? Are the players skilled or novice? The questions and nuances vary from contest to contest. Adapt.

We referees provide match structure and tone. So be a good cop on rules and procedures. Know when to enforce them and when to lighten up. We don't have to control everything. Be confident to stay out of the action, present when needed and calm under pressure. See that the competition is fair and safe using balanced judgment and a firm yet relaxed authority to keep our high profile low-key. Being bossy and full of ourselves just points us out and turns others off. Instead, be like chameleons. Blend in with finesse.

Remember, the sport is about the players and coaches. We merely provide a service. Like any business, the customers come first. What's best for them is good for us. Tend to their needs, which hopefully are their wants. The rules won't deal with every possibility. An unclear situation mustn't be forced to fit into an existing rule. No, don't break the rules. But they certainly can be bent to suit the situation. How? Think! Our biggest aid is our head, not the rule book.

A rules stickler dictates rather than facilitates. That's not us, is it? Going by the book word for word without reasoning wins no friends nor influences people. To waste our logical minds is to stagnate. Explore other options. If an alternative fulfills a rule's intent and spirit but not its exact terms, go with the flow. It's no big deal. Nothing is perfect in life. Exercise discretion to make a sage verdict of least damage overall. Pleased or not, is everyone okay? Let's play ball.

Some rules concern judgment. Oh, boy! Leeway. Understand what the coaches and players expect of the officiating. Adjust to gain an advantage. If a player chucks the ball on a second or third team contact, is it a violation? Yes. Should it be called? Yes and no. What?! Suppose it's a Special Olympics match. A hustling player executes proper technique but muffs. Show some heart. Did you "ooooo" or "oo"? This extreme example illustrates a point. Tweaking rules within their parameters to satisfy patrons is practical and prudent. The key is to be consistent for the entire match.

Rules smarts launches us whistle-blowers. Court smarts is our goal. It's theory versus practice, knowledge versus savvy. Making the right decisions for the right reasons involves thinking things through. Rules are guidelines. Common sense takes precedence.

OFFICIAL'S CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS Available For Spring 2006

By Julie Voeck
PAVO OTP Camp Director



The PAVO Officials' Training Camps have been highly successful in the past several years, helping develop the quantity and quality of the cadre of officials. For several years, scholarships have been funded by PAVO, NAGWS, and various Division I conferences, and a special scholarship has been funded for the past three years by former board member, Denise Izatt. These scholarships usually pay the camp registration fee, and some assist with travel expenses as well.

Last year, the following PAVO members were scholarship recipients:

*Felix Madera – USAV
Peri Miller – Izatt
Donna Robert – NAGWS
Paul Vanek – PAVO
Craig Werner – PAVO*

PAVO expects to be able to offer similar scholarships again this year. Applications for scholarships need to be processed well ahead of the camps. Any PAVO member in good standing may apply for the PAVO, Izatt or NAGWS scholarships. NAGWS members are given preference for that scholarship. The USAV scholarship is open to any USAV member in good standing.

See Camp Scholarship page 6

This Official Word Newsletter

is dedicated
In Memory
of:



**Dennis
Lafata**

August 18, 1958 – October 5, 2005

Born: St. Louis, MO

Project Manager-Gateway Region USAV

Dennis Address:

10622 Village of Lavinia Ct.
Saint Louis, MO 63123

Parents Address:

Sam and Mary Lafata
810 Penny Lane
St Peter's, MO 63376-7374

On Wednesday, October 5, 2005, the volleyball community lost a dear member and friend. For the past 20 years, Dennis had been involved in every aspect of volleyball and he touched many lives as an Official, Player, Coach and Clinician. His final battle with Leukemia brought his family and friends to his bedside in the Missouri Baptist Hospital. His parents, Sam and Mary Lafata, brother Don Lafata and two sisters Cathy and Vicky Lafata survive him. Dennis formerly worked at the Petrolite Chemical Company, but has been employed with the Gateway Region since 1993. Most of us remember Dennis as the smiling face behind the workroom table at our USAV National Tournament events. He will be remembered by us all for the wonderful and kind person that he was. Dennis was always there and willing to help no matter what the need.

He was a member of the USAV Heart of America Region, then when the region split he became a member of the Gateway Region and has numerous accomplishments.

- 1994-Secretary of the Gateway Region Gateway Office Project Manager
 - 1994-Gateway Meritorious Service
- See Dennis Lafata page 15

BALL HANDLING DECISIONS

"THE TOUGHEST CALL WE MAKE"



By Marcia Alterman
NCAA Rules Interpreter

In the OTP Clinics this summer, we spent a great deal of time talking about ball handling criteria and decisions. I know that not all of you can attend an OTP clinic, so I'd like to re-cap that information – even if you DID attend an OTP clinic, it never hurts to review the important points of the most visible part of our job.

APPLICABLE RULES

- Rule 14-2-3-a states that "During... the team's first hit successive contacts with various parts of the player's body are permitted in a single attempt to play the ball." That means that different criteria are used on a team's first contact than on the second or third contact. It's sometimes difficult to "switch gears" as the rules require, but it's a skill we must all develop.
- Rule 14-2-2 states that the ball must not be "held (including lifted, pushed, carried, caught or thrown). Prolonged contact with the ball is a fault." Notice the "rolling" is not specifically mentioned. Some balls that seem to be "rolling" up the arms are actually successive contacts, rather than prolonged contact. If so, that play would be legal on a team's first contact. On the other hand, a ball that is continuously in contact with a player's body for an extended time is still a lift, and should be called on any contact.
- Referring back to Rule 14-2-3, note that the rules do not say that a first team contact can be lifted. There is a feeling out there that virtually any play on a first team contact is allowable. And, it is true that some of the ugliest first contacts are simply multiple (successive) contacts, and should therefore be judged as legal. But it is simply not true that "anything goes" when determining whether or not the ball is lifted on first contact. You must consistently and fairly determine whether or not the duration of contact is unacceptable on a first contact, just as you do on the second and third contacts.

PHILOSOPHY

- If you truly have to decide whether or not to make a call, the call should not be made. But, we must disallow blatant ball handling faults. If you only make the calls that you are absolutely certain are faults, you'll be just as comfortable making that call when the score is 28-28 as you are when the score is 5-3.
- Concrete standards are sorely lacking

when it comes to ball handling decisions. We can't say "Middle blockers mishandle the ball virtually all the time", or "A player who isn't square to the flight of the ball can't set the ball legally", or (my favorite) "A ball that comes out spinning **MUST** be a double-hit". There simply are no absolutes! Instead, we have to judge each ball contact by focusing only on the body part that contacts the ball. One-hand sets must be judged using the same criteria as two-hand sets. Non-setters must be judged the same as setters. It should not matter what the score is, what reaction your last call got, or what body position the player is using. All you look at is the fingers/hand(s)/body part contacting the ball. Then, you judge the duration of contact and the number of contacts, and apply the rules as stated above. "Automatic" calls based on other criteria have no place in volleyball.

- Spin is not a criterion for double hits! Forearm passes spin, and are virtually never called double hits. Yet a set with a small amount of spin is sometimes expected to be called a double hit. If you see balls coming out of a set with a significant amount of spin on it, you should be reminding yourself to focus on the ball-hand interface. There is certainly a probability that a significantly spinning ball might have been double hit – but if you don't actually see the double contact, you shouldn't call it. Instead, remind yourself to focus on the hands as they contact the ball, and judge accordingly.
- Utilize the philosophy of "over control" versus "under control" when judging whether contacts are legal or not, and then make the correct fault signal. "Over control" means that the duration of contact was too long, or the player changed the direction of the ball after initiating contact, or otherwise controlled the ball too much to be in line with the rules. Over control is illegal on all plays, and should result in a "lift" signal being used to indicate the fault. "Under control" means that the person playing the ball did not send the ball where she intended and was not able to contact the ball simultaneously with all body parts. Under control is illegal on second and third contacts, and the "two hits" signal should be used. A ball that rolls off of the top of the extended fingers of a player who is trying to save it is under controlled, and should not be signaled as a lift, or called as a fault on first contact.

Ball handling decisions tend to be the primary ruler coaches use when judging our work. We must work to make those decisions more consistently from game to game and player to player. It's a tough task, and one that requires constant practice and review. The players continue to get better and better – we must strive to do the same.

PAVO Member Profile



**John
Cline**

RISING FROM THE RUBBLE

By Fono Fisaga
PAVO Director-at-Large

John Cline is not unlike Hurricane Katrina in some ways. The New Orleans resident is strong and has pushed his life's obstacles aside to move onward.

The massive hurricane forced John's house off of its foundation, but it could not shake John's family foundation and his love for his parents, sister and her husband.

John and his family members were all left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. John lost almost everything that was in that house, except for some clothes, including his officiating uniforms. John counts himself as one of the few lucky ones in this wave of devastation. He developed a lot of solid relationships through his volleyball accomplishments; he actively referees NCAA Division I volleyball, and is a PAVO and USAV National referee. He is also the commissioner of the Bayou region. His volleyball family has reached out to him with loving hearts and open arms.

Because of the turmoil that uprooted John, he had to give up half of his collegiate officiating schedule and the income that went with it. But John is not down. He is planning to build a new home nearer his sister in an area on higher ground once the city gets back on

its feet. John is absolutely sure that when everything settles down he and his family will be together, and as strong as ever. John will be around to help with the family oyster fishing business.

John puts everything in perspective. He only became a home owner in January 2005, so his emotional loss was not as great as it was for his parents, sister and her husband. They had owned their homes for many years. They have lost everything, including the most memorable family photos .

I saw John in Omaha Oct. 4 and 5, 2005. He has an indomitable spirit and positive attitude, but that's not unusual for John. He was on his way to the University of Missouri to officiate a match between the Tigers and the University of Nebraska on Oct. 5. The match was televised, and a reliable source estimated a crowd of over 7,000. After this game, John went back to his temporary home for now in Lafayette, La.

Through this all John hasn't lost his love of volleyball. In fact, volleyball helps take his mind off of his plight for short periods of time. But when his matches are done, his thoughts rapidly return to his parents and sister and the devastation they have endured.

"It's impossible for people to understand what so many have been through unless you have been a victim yourself," he said. "I couldn't have survived this without the love and support of great friends and my family members."

He has received assistance from USA Volleyball, PAVO, volleyball referees, and friends. John's plans are on hold temporarily until his family decides what they are going to do.

San Antonio Convention Has Something For Everyone

By Dale Goodwin
Interim Board Member



Convention 2005/Remember the Alamo in San Antonio has something for everyone. For the up-and-coming official there will be video clips of officials in action, with volleyball guru Marcia Alterman analyzing their actions. For the veteran officials, sports psychologist



Paul Salitsky will delve into what we do and why we do it as volleyball officials. For PAVO board chairs we have a special session planned Saturday afternoon, Dec. 17, to address common problems and major issues facing local board leadership. And for USAV regional chairs, a special Friday, Dec. 16 session is planned to address regional programs.

The 2005 Convention is scheduled Dec. 15-17 in San Antonio, Texas, as part of the NCAA Division I women's championship weekend. The semifinal matches will be played Thursday evening, Dec. 15, with the championship final set for 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

San Antonio provides a perfect winter backdrop for the festivities with its Riverwalk and Festival of Lights. Convention 2005 is geared for both new and veteran officials. It provides a chance to meet some of volleyball's top officials and administrators, like Alterman, PAVO President Joan

See San Antonio on page 14



From Camp Scholarship Pg 3

Camp Scholarship Application Process:

- Submit a letter of interest, with name, address, home/work phones, e-mail address, and the name of the PAVO board of which you are a member.
- Write a short personal essay explaining your officiating goals, your personal motivation for officiating and why you feel you would be a good scholarship recipient.
- Include one letter of recommendation from your Board Chair, a PAVO National official or a conference supervisor.
- Visit us at www.pavo.org for update on the scholarships and camps.
- Submit the above information by February 15, 2006, to be considered for a scholarship.
- Submit to:
Julie Voeck
6905 Wellauer Drive
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
Or via email:
<OTP.camp.director@pavo.org>

Watch the PAVO web site after the first of the year for the announcement of the camp locations for 2006.

www.PAVO.org



VIDEO CLIPS POPULAR IN OTP CLINICS

By Anne Pufahl
PAVO OTP Clinics Director

Almost 1,600 officials, coaches and observers attended one of 27 Officials Training Program summer clinics, with overwhelmingly positive reviews.

The added video clips certainly enhanced the actual clinic content. A huge thanks to Mary Faragher for putting the PowerPoint presentation together along with Marcia Alterman who spent hundreds of hours reviewing and editing video footage to come up the clips used in the clinic. This was the most popular piece of the clinic.

Thanks to all the attendees both this year and in the past who have taken the time to complete the evaluations. The clinic is modeled based on suggestions and comments that the participants submit. Your suggestions helped make the 2005 clinics such a success.

I'd like to give a big thank you to those clinicians chosen to spread the gospel. These people are true professionals who give up their precious summer weekends to present the clinics; Marcia Alterman, Mary Blalock, Mike Carter, Brian Hemelgarn, Joan Powell, Anne Pufahl and Steve Thorpe.

I'd like to also thank all the hosts who have helped up improve the OTP clinics by finding suitable conference centers and media rooms to help enhance the quality of the presentation.

"We are looking forward to seeing you in 2006!"



By Ben Jordan
PAVO Exams Director

Exams Made Easier, We Hope!

By now, many of you have taken one of this year's examinations, either on-line or on paper. A memo sent earlier via email to all PAVO members detailed some of the changes made this year in an effort to improve the testing process. We wanted to get local boards more involved in the process by allowing them to control when the exams are available and by providing down-loadable files so that the boards can print the paper exams when it is convenient. For online test takers, individual exam-specific passwords were eliminated and officials' current information will appear without it having to be typed in.

We feel these changes are positive steps. However, we need your feedback to know if we are heading in the right direction. Please send me your comments regarding the changes and the process in general. For instance, did doing away with individual passwords for online access make logging on easier? If you took the printed exam, do you have any comments on the slightly revised format? Please remember that your comments are always encouraged. Continued improvement in the exam process relies on your input. Please send your comments via email to <exam.director@PAVO.org>.

Thanks to the people who helped review and edit the exams this year. A special thanks to Marcia Alterman, Joel Reinford, and Tom Sweeney for the long hours spent upgrading and streamlining the exam process.

UNIFORM Do's AND Don'TS

By Marcia Alterman
PAVO Executive Director

I have been asked several times recently about uniform issues, and what is appropriate (or "preferred"). I hope these bits of information will help you make good choices about your appearance as you work this season:

- There are only five approved vendors at this point who have permission to sell the "Volleyball Certified Official" uniform shirt. Those vendors are listed on the PAVO website under "Resources". Please use them to obtain your uniform, to ensure that it meets specifications.

- The uniform shirt is now available in a long-sleeved style as well as the traditional short-sleeved. Each referee may wear the style they prefer; it is not required that referees assigned to a match wear the same style. Unless the conference or school that employs you instructs otherwise, your PAVO certification patch should be worn at all collegiate matches, and is worn on the right chest.

- The slacks that you wear should be truly navy (dark) blue. Cotton slacks tend to fade with washing. Dry cleaning and purchasing new slacks frequently will help avoid that problem.

- The approved vendors sell sweaters that may be worn over the uniform shirt during the match. The sweaters sold by the approved vendors meet the specifications outlined by PAVO/USAV, and are the only sweaters that should be worn. Each referee may wear the sweater or not, as they prefer. It is not required for both referees to wear the sweater if one does. If the PAVO patch

is used, it should be worn on the right chest of the sweater.

- The newly approved sweater-vest is also sold by the approved vendors. The vest is worn over a uniform shirt (either long- or short-sleeved), and may be worn during the match. Each referee may wear the vest or not, as they prefer. It is not required for both referees to wear the vest if one does. If the PAVO patch is used, it should be worn on the right chest of the sweater vest.

- Jackets that are worn to the court should be solid navy blue or white. Jackets should not be worn during the match.

Be sure you always look the part of a professional as you go to work a match. Your first appearance on the court will establish your credibility and image for the rest of the evening.

RULES SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE

By Marcia Alterman,
NCAA Rules Interpreter

The NCAA Rules Committee wants your opinion! Each fall, the committee surveys NCAA coaches about certain rules topics to gather information that will be used when the rules committee meets in the winter. This year, input is being solicited from officials as well.

To participate in this survey, go to <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224NREZGCDV>. You'll note that there is a question involving the signal sequence issue, so input from the officials is vital. The survey will only be up until the first week of November, so respond today!

Why Attend a PAVO Advanced Camp?

By: Julie Voeck,
PAVO OTP Camps Director



The PAVO Camp Program has been offering on-court training opportunities for officials for several years. The Officials Training Program (OTP) coordinates the camps primarily with NCAA Division I volleyball programs at spring tournaments. Each year PAVO offers several camps throughout the country, with at least one Advanced Camp.

Officials that attend the Advanced Camp will receive on-court training and feedback from some of the most experienced officials and evaluators in the country. Campers will attend classroom training, participate in on-court video-taping and receive feedback from staff during the camp. The camp structure is normally a classroom session during the evening prior to the tournament followed by on-court training the following day. In the Advanced Camp, campers will be video-taped while officiating two matches as R1 and two matches as R2. Campers then participate in a feedback session with camp staff after each match.

The Advanced Camp is intended for experienced referees who are seeking the next level of skills and expertise. What types of officials should consider attending an Advanced Camp?

- Experienced officials seeking guidance and training from top level referees from throughout the country
- Officials that have extensive collegiate experience and would like to fine-tune their skills
- Experienced PAVO State or USAV Jr. National officials seeking feedback and training before seeking a National certification
- National officials who are working on honing their skills in pursuit of more challenging assignments

See Why Attend page 15

2005 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #1

September 23, 2005



NOTE: Use the following code to analyze these situations:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| R = RECEIVING TEAM | S = SERVING TEAM |
| R1 = RIGHT BACK | S1 = RIGHT BACK |
| R2 = RIGHT FRONT | S2 = RIGHT FRONT |
| R3 = CENTER FRONT | S3 = CENTER FRONT |
| R4 = LEFT FRONT | S4 = LEFT FRONT |
| R5 = LEFT BACK | S5 = LEFT BACK |
| R6 = CENTER BACK | S6 = CENTER BACK |

1. The Team R libero is in the attack zone, and makes Team R's first contact by using finger action (a setting motion). However, the ball falls quickly through her fingers, contacts her forehead, and rebounds upward. A teammate contacts the ball while it is completely above the height of the net and sends the ball to the opponent's side.

Ruling: No attack fault has occurred. The successive contacts by the libero (hands and then forehead) are legal because it was the team's first contact, and the final contact by the libero was not using finger action (setting). Therefore, a teammate can attack the ball after the libero's contact.

2. Team R is on the court for their 5-minutes of exclusive use of the court. Team S is doing a ball-handling drill behind (a) the Team S bench, or (b) the Team R bench.

Ruling: Both (a) and (b) are legal. Team S is allowed to warm-up in non-playable areas, including behind the benches. However, the referees should remain alert to safety issues during the warm-up period and prevent actions that are unsafe.

3. The Team S libero (No. 1) has served in the current game in position three (in replacement of starting player No.5). Later in the same game, the libero returns to the court from the bench, and is prepared to serve in position six (in replacement of starting player No.7). The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but what action should they take?

Ruling: Since the libero replacement was legal, treat this situation as any other potential wrong server. The scorekeeper and referees should wait until the service contact is made before assessing the rotation order fault (Rule 18-4-4-b). Once the fault is assessed, the libero can remain on the court in replacement of No.7 if the team desires, as a rally has occurred.

4. The Team S libero (No. 1) has served in the current game in position three (in replacement of starting player No.5). Later in the same game, the Team S libero is on the court in replacement of No. 7. No. 7 returns to the game, No. 4 leaves the game, and the libero moves into the serving area. No. 4 is the next legal server. The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but what action should they take?

Ruling: The exchange of players was not legal, as the libero cannot be the next legal server and therefore must sit out a rally before replacing No. 4. Therefore, this situation is treated like any other improper libero replacement. The referees can correct the situation and charge a team delay to Team S.

5. Team R has used No. 3 as libero in games one and two. However, no libero is listed on the lineup sheet for game 3, and the R2 fails to confirm that the coach does not intend to use a libero. But, No. 3 still enters the game as libero, plays several rallies and then is replaced (these entries are not identified as faults by the referees or scorekeepers at the time). At that point, No. 3 changes to a regular team jersey, returns to the bench, and later the coach wants to substitute No. 3 into the game as a non-libero player. The scorekeepers and second referee then realize the problem, and discover that no libero is on the current game's line-up sheet.

Ruling: Player No. 3 is NOT the libero for game three, based on the fact that she wasn't designated as such on the line-up sheet. No. 3 was in the game illegally before, but that fault was not dealt with in a timely fashion, so no fault can be charged at this point for that illegality. And, that fault has no affect on her ability to now enter the game as a non-libero.

6. Team S has used No. 5 as a libero in the first game. In the second game, the coach puts No. 5 on the lineup sheet as the libero. However, No. 2 has on the libero jersey. No. 5 does not start the game. Player No. 2 enters the game as libero several times without being identified as the wrong player by either the referees or the scorekeepers. With the score 12-12, the Team S coach requests a substitution, No. 5 for No. 8, and at that point the scorekeepers identify the problem.

Ruling: No. 2 is NOT the Team S libero for game two, based on the fact that she wasn't designated as such on the lineup sheet. No. 5 is the only libero allowed for game two. If No. 2 is on the court as libero when the problem is identified (or has just left the court and a subsequent serve has not occurred), a position fault

See Rules Interp page 9

From Rules Interp page 8

by Team S has occurred and should be ruled accordingly. If No. 2 has been on the bench for at least one rally when the problem is identified, then no position fault can be ruled on, even though she was in the game illegally before. No. 5 can only enter this game as the libero. No. 2 will be allowed to enter as a non-libero player.

7. When the second referee checks the starting line-ups on the court for game two, he notices that player No. 7 is listed as the Team S libero and is also one of the six players entered in the Team S starting line-up. Can the Team S coach choose to have player No. 7 as either the libero or a non-libero starter?

Ruling: No. Once a player is designated as the libero on the line-up submitted to the scorekeeper, the libero cannot be changed for that game. The Team S libero for the current game will be player No. 7. A substitution must be made for player No. 7 in the starting position where she is listed, just as if a “phantom” number had been entered in the starting line-up.

Note: Preventive officiating would have prevented the three situations above. It is vital that the second referee and scorekeepers check the lineup sheet when it is submitted to see if a libero number is entered and, if no libero is listed, confirm that the team has no intention of using a libero. Also, the second referee must ensure that no player is listed twice on the lineup sheet in any capacity. The second referee and scorekeepers should also confirm that the correct player is in the libero uniform as the lineups are checked at the start of the game.

8. One Team R player is wearing a black, long-sleeved shirt under the team jersey, which is sleeveless. Do all Team R players have to wear the same shirt under their jerseys?

Ruling: No. If another teammate wants to wear a visible shirt underneath her team jersey, it must be a black long-sleeved one. However, it is permissible for some but not all teammates to wear a visible undergarment, as long as those who do are all alike.

9. R6 makes the team's first contact. R5 is in the attack zone, and contacts the ball next while it is completely above the height of the net. The ball then enters the plane of the net, and is contacted by both R3 and S2.

Ruling: If the contact by R3 occurs before the contact by S2, no fault has occurred. If the contact by R3 and S2 is simultaneous, or if S2 contacts the ball before R3, then R5 has committed an illegal (back-row) attack fault.

2005 Rule Book Corrections

1. Preface (Page VR-9). The final paragraph should be corrected to read “The administrative rules that cannot be modified are: 1-4-3, 1-4-5, 1-5-1, 9-1-1 (except 9-1-1-b), 9-2-1, 11-2-67-b-1, 1617-2-3 and 1718-5-2. Administrative rules that can be changed by mutual consent of the institutions are: 1-1-1-a, 1-1-2, 1-2-2-c, 1-3-1, 1-4-3, 8-5-2-a-1 and 9-1-2 9-1-1-b. All other rules...”

2. Rule 6, Table 1 (Page 32). “Individual Sanctions”: For each entry of “Disqualification” under the “Sanction” column, the “Consequence” column should read “Loss of rally, plus team member leaves playing, warm-up and spectator areas for remainder of current match and team's entire next match.”

3. Rule 7-1-3-b (Page 35). The rule notation in this paragraph should be 12-1-3-a instead of 12-4.

4. Rule 17 (page 75), “Protested Game”. A second sentence should be added for clarification, as noted: “....there is no basis for protest because the team won the protested game. If the team loses the protested game but wins the match, the protested game will still be considered by the NCAA Rules Interpreter if all appropriate information is submitted. Regardless of the outcome of the match, the facts.....”

5. Rule 18-4-3-b (Page 83). The rule reference in this paragraph should be 12-3-1-a-3 instead of 12-1-5-a-3.

Examination Corrections

1. Practice Exam in 2005 PAVO Volleyball Official's Guidebook - #46: Answer should be “IR”.

PAVO/USAV INAUGURAL REFEREE TRAINING CAMP MERITS ENCORE



By Julie Voeck
(PAVO OTP-Camps Director)
and Brian Hemelgarn
(USA Volleyball Director -
RVA Referee Development)



This year PAVO and USAV joined forces to offer a Referee Training Camp (RTC) from June 29-July 2 during the USAV Girls' Invitational Tournament held in Louisville, Ky.

Campers first attended a classroom session on Wednesday night where topics such as second referee responsibilities, match management and professionalism were covered. The campers also attended a thorough clinic and pre-tournament meetings that evening, making for a long first night at camp. The on-court sessions were held over the next three days. Campers received training and feedback during two matches as first referee and two matches as second referee. Before and after their training matches, campers officiated other matches as paid referees at the tournament.

Forty-eight campers from throughout the United States participated in the 2005 Louisville RTC:

Pete Acampora - NY
Wayne Albert - LA
Rudy Alegria - AL
Elaine Almond - FL
Larry Baker - WV
Aaron Baum - NY
Roy Benasaraf - PA
Zack Bird - IN
Mark Booker - KY
John Butshlick - WI
Russell Combs - CA
Jose Deanda - CA
Ben Elder - LA
Chuck Erbe - MI
Jesse Freeman - TX
Kim Gollin - KS
Mark Goodson - WA
Kim Harrell - TN
Hank Hartz - VA
Beryl Hedrick - AL
David Henry - TN
Denise Jett - KS
Gil Kreul - NE
Robert Kyle - VA
Dave Lambert - NY
Tom Lands - FL
Martha Leshine - LA
Mike Marassa - IL
Marlin McNeal - NC
Debbie Morris - NC

Bette Norman-Nakamura - MI
Tom O'Connor - VA
Gary Ostkar - OH
Mike Pangborn - WI
Kim Patik - IA
Mo Price - AL
Nancy Price - AL
Jimmy Ruiz - NC
Seth Runatz - PA
Tim Schlieder - WI
Trina Sharpe - NC
Stephen Shepherd - NC
Richard Shultz - KS
Ashley Smith - NC
Brad Tafoya - GA
Bob Teague - IL
John Vena - VA
Ernie Venta - WI

Camp staff members in Louisville included:

Crystal Lewis - FL
Hansen Leong - NY
Clark Radcliffe - NE
Julie Voeck - WI
Steve Webster - MA

The success of the joint RTC has PAVO and USAV already planning additional joint camps in the future. Stay tuned for more information!

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EXPECTATIONS CLARIFIED

For PAVO National Referees

By Mike Carter, NRT Director



We have had a very busy year with several changes that affect National Rating Team policy and PAVO National Referees.

Please carefully review the three main changes that affect PAVO National referees.

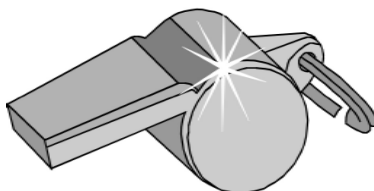
1. There is now an annual requirement for all PAVO National referees to attend an Officials Training Program Clinic. The clinic serves as the foundation for the coming year. It enables you to hear information about the new rules and interpretations, points of emphasis and NCAA directives directly. As a PAVO National you will gain a better understanding of the new information. Failure to meet this requirement will have an effect on your ability to submit points toward renewal of your National certification. Discretionary exceptions may be allowed, but those will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

2. Test results must be submitted to me no later than Sept. 15 each year. The Board of Directors shared my concern that there may have been too many referees working matches without having taken the current year's test. The importance of the test has been discussed in previous correspondence. If the clinic is the foundation of our work, then the test is the structure; a reinforcement that you are starting the season off knowing the rules. As I have said previously, the test should not be seen as a roadblock or a square to fill. It is an integral part of the preparation for a successful season. I am very happy to report that over 97 percent of the 2005 test results were received prior to the deadline. Of the other 3 percent, most had taken the test but the results had not been received. Of course, this task would be simplified if everyone took

the test online, because the results are then sent to me automatically. A minor clarification for board chairs and other test proctors - it is imperative that I receive an actual copy of the test answer sheet. An email containing the score is not sufficient. In the future, please email or regular mail answer sheets to me.

3. Finally, the biggest and greatest (and initially, most time consuming for me) change is the PAVO National Referee Point Survey. As most of you know the process is now totally online. This is a great change and I owe many thanks to Joel Reinford for making this technically possible. The future savings in time, paper and effort is significant. All National referees now just go to www.pavo.org, access your personal database record, select Point Survey and enter your points through a series of drop down boxes. I then approve those points online, and you can check your status at your convenience. The setup of this system created the initial time consuming task. I had to enter every point each National referee earned (230 referees with an average of 5 or 6 points each) prior to this year. It took me quite a while but going forward it will be a great system.

We are always looking for PAVO National referees who may be interested in serving as raters at NRT sites. If this interests you, please let me know. The first step usually is to participate as a camp staff member at an OTP spring camp. Let me know of your interest, and have a great season.



2005-06 USAV REFEREE TRAINING CAMPS



Brian Hemelgarn
USA Volleyball Director –
RVA Referee Development
<bhemelgarn@buckeye-express.com>

Last season the USAV Officials' Division began a new program – Referee Training Camps ("RTC's"). Training sites included a regional camp in the North Texas Region, as well as national training camps at three Qualifiers (Lone Star, Mid East and NorthEast). The USAV Girls' Invitational Tournament in Louisville also hosted a joint USAV/PAVO training camp. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.) More than 100 referees participated at an RTC during the season!

The goal of the RTC's is to provide officials of all experience levels with valuable on-court training and education. Members of the USAV National Training and/or Rating Teams and other Officials' Division administrators will staff the RTCs and provide both classroom and on-court practical sessions.

With the success of last year's events, we're busy organizing the RTC schedule for the coming season, and we will again work with PAVO to provide joint training opportunities.

Details about the RTC schedule, including dates and sites, will be available in an upcoming Official Word. If you're interested in participating, contact your regional referee chair to express your interest!



USA / International Scorekeeper Commission

By Janet Blue, AVP

Newly Qualified Scorekeepers

Congratulations go to those who received their international scorekeeper qualification at this year's national tournament. We had ten candidates and five of those completed the two practice matches necessary to become qualified. I would like to welcome Kent Haggard, Rocky Mountain; Bill Jones, Keystone; Roger Jamison, Evergreen; Margo Juergens, Oklahoma; and Scott Master, Chesapeake, to our ranks. If you attended the IRTC Clinic and completed your two matches but do not find your name here, please contact me at <JBB4vbirtc@aol.com>.

Officials Database and Scorekeeper Listing

As many of you have noticed in the Officials Database at the USA Volleyball web-site, your information regarding scorekeeper certification is incorrect. Some information included on the list of national/international scorekeepers also is incorrect. I have made an attempt the last three years to get the latter updated, but I do not have access to either of these sites to make corrections. I will continue to work with this on your behalf. What I need from each of you who received your international qualification prior to 1997 is an e-mail telling me (if you know) the year in which that occurred. I have records for all the years beginning with 1997. Please try to send this by the beginning of November, and I will make every attempt to get all of this in order prior to the New Year.

Scorekeeping in Canada

I had the unique opportunity last month of keeping score at the NORCECA Men's Championships

in Winnipeg, Canada. As most of you know, we usually do not get such an opportunity outside of the U.S. I met and worked with some very good Canadian scorekeepers and had a terrific time making new friends as well as seeing some old Canadian International Referee friends. Without waving the Stars and Stripes or tooting those old, germ, wrong-server horns, I must report that the USA scorekeepers are the BEST in North America. We have an absolutely top-notch training system built through the years starting with Nancy Sharpless in the 1980s and then continuing for eight years under the guidance of Pat Reese and then again into the past nine years. I am so proud of each of you who have put so much effort into this program. Keep up the good work!

NATIONAL SCOREKEEPER APPLICATION

By Nancy Funk

I know that each of us is thinking of all our volleyball friends who have been struck by the recent hurricanes and hope they are safe.

The National scorekeeper application for the 2006 season will be available on the website by December 1, 2005. At present we are waiting on final confirmation of the playing venue. Candidates need to plan to begin their candidacy with the meetings on Tuesday May 30, 2006, being at the site by 1:00 PM, and not leaving until late on Saturday June 3, 2006.

If you are in need of any information you may contact me. Nancy Funk, Director Scorekeeping Certification & Evaluation
<NFunk@insightbb.com>.

2005 USAV REFEREE CHAIR ASSEMBLY

By Brian Hemelgarn,
USA Volleyball Director –
RVA Referee Development
<bhemelgarn@buckeye-express.com>

With the outstanding response from last year's inaugural Referee Chair Assembly (RCA), the USAV Officials' Division will again host the RCA at the site of the 2005 PAVO Convention and the NCAA Women's Division I Volleyball Championship – San Antonio, Texas.

Each region is invited to send the regional Referee Chair or a designate to the RCA, which is held at the site of the annual PAVO Convention. This year's convention takes place from December 15-17 at the Marriott-Riverwalk in the heart of San Antonio's entertainment district. Specifically, the RCA will take place on Friday, December 16.

The RCA will provide regional referee chairs with the most current, up-to-date rule interpretations, techniques and training materials to get started on the coming season. Since many PAVO local board chairs are also in attendance, this allows board chairs and referee chairs to network. In addition to the RCA, attendees may also choose to participate in the PAVO convention activities.

The RCA agenda will be covered on Friday morning, allowing participants to attend PAVO's popular Social/Semi-Final Analysis on Friday evening, as well as the Saturday PAVO convention sessions. RCA attendees must register through the PAVO national office, and may attend either the entire PAVO convention with the RCA, or they may opt for a "mini" registration, which includes the RCA, the Friday night Semi-Final Analysis and the Saturday convention sessions. Match tickets are available separately.

Please contact Brian Hemelgarn <bhemelgarn@buckeye-express.com> for further information about the RCA.

PAVO ADDS 10 NEW NATIONAL REFEREES

By Mike Carter, NRT Director



It was an interesting year for the PAVO National Rating Team and candidates. We lost one rating site due to Hurricane Katrina (University of New Orleans) and almost lost the UNC-Charlotte site to a hurricane as well. Of course, losing a rating site is nothing compared to the impact on UNO, who cancelled their whole season, or on the victims in the area. We will make arrangements for those UNO candidates to attend an NRT next year as long as they remain PAVO members in good standing. We are budgeting to add at least one rating site to accommodate the candidates who were cancelled and still invite our normal 20 candidates.

We have added 10 new PAVO National Referees this year. They are:

U. of San Francisco Rating Site

John Bryant – Washington
Lydia Godshall – California
Michelle Furlong – Texas

UNC-Charlotte Rating Site

Scott Scragg – New Jersey
Malcolm Grimes - Alabama
Tad Watson – North Carolina

Bradley University Rating Site

Bill Stanley – Nebraska
Doug Darling – Florida
Tom Joseph – Ohio
Bob Poyer – Illinois

Thanks to the head raters (Kathy Ferraraccio and Peggy Schaefer); the time and effort they gave to our program was invaluable. Thanks also to the raters (Mara Wager, Michael Hertz, Tracie Brinkley, Julie Voeck, Margie Ray and the rookie of the year, Larry Schwartz) for jobs well done.

USAV Officials Division Dues for 2006



By Kathy Ferraraccio,
AVP Referee Commission
USA Volleyball <kferrac@comcast.net>

This is the final notice for the payment of dues to the Officials Division of USA Volleyball. As each of you surely knows, November 1, 2005 is the deadline for all National and Junior National officials to submit yearly dues. Each official owes \$40 for the new season, regardless of which national-level ratings are held in USAV, i.e., a person with both a Junior National/National referee rating AND a National scorekeeper rating pay the flat fee of \$40.

If the dues are not received by December 1, 2005, a late fee of \$20 will be assessed. If the dues have not been received by March 1, 2006, your national rating(s) with USA Volleyball will be revoked.

The dues can be sent to the USA Volleyball office at:
USA Volleyball
National Official Dues
715 South Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

You can also find a form on the USA Volleyball web site, www.usavolleyball.org, that needs to be filled out and mailed with your dues. This will assist us in making sure that the dues are credited to the correct person. When your dues have been received and logged in, you should receive an email that states your dues have been received and that you are up-to-date for the new season.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so immediately. If you have any problems paying your dues, please let me know and we will work out a plan to accommodate you. Contact me at kferrac@comcast.net, with any concerns.

The next deadline that I will be harping about is the deadline for taking the USA Volleyball exam. Please note that I must RECEIVE your graded exam answer sheet by the deadline of February 15, 2006. If your exam is not in on or before that date, with a passing grade, you will not be confirmed for any tournaments during the summer. You will only be accepted, meaning you are not guaranteed any matches beyond those needed to retain your certification(s). When you take the exam online, your results are automatically sent to me, saving you the trouble of having to remember to mail them.

Thanks to all of you have already paid your dues and/or taken your exam. Have a great end to your collegiate season, and I will see all of you in the USA Volleyball season.

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From San Antonio on page 5

Powell, and officiating coordinators from most of the country's top Division I conferences, and many from the small-college conferences.

This single event many have described as the best professional development workshop available to volleyball officials anywhere. PAVO members may register for the Convention by Nov. 15 for \$125. Non-PAVO members may register for \$150. All registrations after Nov. 15 are \$150. A special convention rate for PAVO board chairs is being offered at \$62.50. Registration includes admittance to all sessions, a Saturday morning continental breakfast, a goodie bag, and free admission to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Trade Show. A special \$75 rate is available for a mini convention package, which includes Friday night's semi-final analysis and social, and Saturday morning's sessions. Tickets to the NCAA semifinals and finals are available for purchase in a PAVO block. Hotel registration can be made at the Marriott Riverwalk for \$105/night for a single, plus \$5 for each additional guest. The hotel is right in the center of the entertainment district, and a short walk from the playing site. For more information and a direct link to the hotel reservations page, check out the PAVO web site at www.PAVO.org.

Ten workshop sessions are tentatively planned as follows:

- Thursday, Dec. 15 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm – session plans include an on-court discussion of ball handling judgment led by Joan Powell, and a presentation by Paul Salitsky, the popular sport psychologist.
- Friday, Dec. 16 from noon-4 pm – Friday's session highlight will be the coach's panel, plus an interactive dialog about the roles of

referees versus assignors. The social and semifinal analysis will be Friday from 6:00-9:00 pm. The USAV Board Chair Assembly will be held from 9:00 am-noon.

- Saturday, Dec. 17 from 8:30 am - noon – Chuck Erbe will join us Saturday to describe the transition from Division I coach to referee, and Marcia Alterman will review video clips of interesting plays, interaction with coaches, and rule interpretations. The PAVO Board Chair Assembly from 1:00 -4:00 pm

Questions about the convention? Please contact Dale Goodwin at [<past.president@pavo.org>](mailto:past.president@pavo.org), or by phone at 509-323-6133.



SCOREKEEPING TIPS IN SPANISH

If you work in an area where many Puerto Rican teams participate, you might be interested in the Spanish translation Scorekeeping Tips sheet. It is located on the USAV website under the Rules/officials section – in the Scorekeeping tab.

Many thanks go to Cathleen Rivera of the Evergreen Region and Jimmy Ruiz of the Carolina Region for taking the time to put this together.



NATIONAL SCOREKEEPER N•E•W•S

Scorekeeping procedures that are used only at the National tournaments are listed on the USAV website in the Rules/officials section/ Scorekeepers. These procedures are only used at the Open National Championship and are not used regularly in the region.

The Scorekeeper Administrative Council approved the continuation of rating scorekeepers during the second session of the Open National Tournament, however, up to three

candidates may apply to be rated during the first session. These candidates must show cause that a hardship prevents them from attending during the second session, ie, teacher, etc. The application for 2006 National Scorekeeper Candidate will be posted shortly.



RULEBOOK CORRECTIONS AND NEW PROCEDURES

Check the USAV website for corrections to the scorekeeping procedures in the 2005-2006 Domestic Competition Regulations.

When an exceptional substitution occurs, the number of the player that is replaced by the exceptional sub, will be circled in the lineup on the score sheet. The number of the exceptional sub will be written directly to the right of the circled number. An exceptional substitution no longer counts as a normal substitution, so a substitution number will be not be slashed in the Substitutions row. A comment is written in the REMARKS section, listing the name of the team with the exceptional sub, the two numbers of the substitution and the score at the time of the sub.

Look for the new line under the results section on the score sheet for an optional referee signature. The referee is not required to sign the score sheet unless it is required by the region or a tournament.



SCOREKEEPING POWERPOINT

Don't forget to utilize (and share with others) the excellent scorekeeping power point presentation that is available in the scorekeeper section of the USAV website. It is an excellent tool to use in teaching new scorekeepers and is very helpful as a refresher for experienced scorekeepers as we begin the new season.

A Lesson Well Learned



Editor's Note: *Following is a letter written by referee Tom Joseph to PAVO National Rating Team Director Mike Carter following Joseph's national floor trial. We*

are reprinting this letter with permission of both Joseph and Carter, with some editing for length.

I would like to share a short father/son story I hope you enjoy and some feedback from the NRT site at Bradley this past weekend.

When my son Brad was an eighth grader, he played CYO Basketball. One Sunday he was having a really good game and his team was down by one point. He took the last shot at the buzzer and the ball rolled around the rim and out but he was fouled. He needed to make one foul shot to tie and two to win. He missed both shots off the back of the rim and his team lost. After everyone else left the locker room, it was evident that he was not coming out soon. As I went in to get him, I found him sitting at the end of a bench with tears running down his cheeks and snot on the top of his lip. He was devastated that he lost the game for his team. I handed him a Kleenex, sat down beside him and put my arm around him and told him it was okay and that we loved him anyway. When that didn't seem to faze him, I tried another approach. I told him that because he was such a good athlete that there would be many times that he was going to have to deal with his failures as well as his successes. That success alone was not measured in wins and losses but how he would learn to deal with them. That seemed to calm him down and life went on.

Last year when I failed my PAVO rating, I was just as devastated. I moped around the house for several days and finally one evening I was lying on my bed contemplating my future with volleyball. Brad came in and sat on the edge of my bed and said, "Dad don't you think it is time to get over it. I know you gave it your best and I know you are a good referee. I remember one time after I missed some foul shots at the end of a game you told me success was not measured by wins and losses but how you dealt with your successes

and failures. Remember that 3-pointer I made at the buzzer last winter to tie the Upper Sandusky game. That was because I always remember what you said and that gave me the courage to make that shot. (Brad scored all eight points in overtime to win.) I think all you need is courage to continue refereeing.

I made a conscious decision that night to continue trying to be the best National caliber referee I could be, with a generic patch. Also, I decided not to apply to be evaluated ever again.

This spring when I received your invitation to attend another NRT site my first reaction was "no". After discussing it with my wife, Brian Hemelgarn and Linda Hamernik, I still wasn't sure I wanted to try it again. Finally, my son Brad said to me, "Dad, how can you ever expect to be successful if you don't have the courage to try?" I sent you the application the next day and I am very proud to be a PAVO National Referee! Linda and Brian have been such good role models to follow.

As for you Mike, your concern and confidence in me to invite me to be rated again is almost overwhelming. Words alone cannot describe what that has meant to me. The rating team of Peggy Schaefer, Margie Ray and Julie Voeck were fabulous! Peggy said right from the start that she wanted this to be a positive experience for us all. They were firm but fair with their ratings. Yet they acted with some compassion for what we were going through. They talked to us as mentors who were trying to help us succeed. They did not talk down to us or treat us as though we weren't worthy of passing. They acted as a team of professionals who wanted only the best for us! Their teamwork was exceptional. Wally Hendricks once told me after a USA National rating that I looked like a National Referee and from Wally that was the best compliment I could have ever received. But this rating team did one better; they actually made me feel like a PAVO National Referee!!! The only thing that I am more proud of is being a father to Brad. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!!

From Why Attend on page 7

In order to participate in an Advanced Camp, officials must apply in advance and are selected based on their current level of experience and recommendations.

In addition to the Advanced Camps, PAVO will continue to offer traditional camps that use the same basic format as the Advanced Camp, with the ability to receive three on-court, video-taped training sessions plus feedback.

The information for the spring camps will begin to become available right after the first of the year. As camp logistics are confirmed, information will be posted on the PAVO website (www.pavo.org). Camp sites are normally not confirmed until well after the end of the fall season as many schools do not plan their spring tournaments until after the first of the year.

For further information about the camp program, please contact:

Julie Voeck
(414) 607-9918 or

<OTP.camp.director@pavo.org>

From Dennis Lafata on page 4

- ♦1994-present Associate Commissioner
- ♦1994-present Centerline editor in
- ♦1994-present USAV Nat'l Scorekeeper
- ♦1999-JOV Outstanding
Scorekeeper Award
- ♦2000-present USAV Regional Referee
- ♦2002-present USAV
International Scorekeeper
- ♦2002-PAVO Meritorious
Service Award
- ♦2004-Edward P Lauten
Scorekeeper Award

The family has requested in lieu of flowers to send all contributions to the Leukemia Society.

*The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
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