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VOLLEYBALL  
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Spring  
1992

# 304 TEAMS PLAYING THIS SEASON

*(An all-time record)*

*Over 7,000 teams have played in the IVL's 12 year history*

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## ODDSMAKERS PICK FAVORITES IN PLAYOFFS

*by Jimmy "The Industrial" Greek*

### B2 Leagues:

Just off the morning line out of Las Vegas, the **MONDAY** Santa Clara league has Ichiban/NEC and Safety Net/U.L. as co-favorites at 3-1 to win the league, followed by Quantum Mechanics at 5-1, and the Chip Sets as dark horse candidates at 8-1. UPI listed the Monday Cupertino league with Just Overhead getting most of the action at 4-1 followed closely by the Bull Hitters at 5-1 and Paradigm and Amdahl both coming in at 9-1. The Monday Del Mar League picked up some East Coast action favoring Quantum to win it all at 3-1 and Prometrix 6-1. Set Slaves and Mentor Graphics got some local play at 7-1 while No BSSS, VHDL and Local Motion slid in at 8-1. Out at the Turbo B2 at Foothill, Harrah's Tahoe jumped all over Shank U Very Much at 2-1 to be the champions, with Skinned Knees and Hasta La Vista at 4-1 and Cut Shots/Cypress 5-1. Reno oddsmakers listed the Monday Power B2 at Buchser favorites to be the HP Spectators at 3-1 followed by Spikin' Rebels at 5-1. The Golden Spikers from Sun were the local sentimental favorites at 6-1 with the Debuggers from Microtec and One For the Kipper dark horse teams at 8-1. **TUESDAY** Del Mar showed Zero Gravity at 4-1 to win the finals, according to the Las Vegas experts, Rolling Thunder/Super Mac followed closely at 5-1 and the Amdahl Slamfesters received some local play at 7-1. Reno oddsmakers had a tough time handicapping the hotly contested Tuesday Foothill league but finally settled on Acme Roofing and Point to Point as co-favorites at 5-1, Passing Strange/Fulcrum came in at 6-1 while Moose & Crew and Bolleyvall split the dark horse action at 8-1. Tuesday Prospect figures to be a 3 team race, according to Caesar's line out of Las Vegas with Over The Net and Integrated Systems at 4-1 and Opus 5-1. Rif/Raff and Fun Club were getting some local play at 7-1. Harrah's at Tahoe listed the Tuesday Turbo B2 Academy

*continued on page 2*



## ODDSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 1)

morning line at 3-1 for Bump & Grind to win it followed by Pressure's On at 4-1, while ESL got some attention at 7-1. Insiders from South Shore Tahoe leaked the news late last night for the Tuesday Power B2 Buchser: Dig It/ESL found themselves at 4-1, Cheap Sets and Wild Sets 5-1, and Tequila Poppers and Caliber 7-1.

**WEDNESDAY** Palo Alto YMCA had Spiksomatics and Spike@Sun as co-favorites at 4-1 according to the oddsmakers out of Atlantic City, with Volley Frogs/HP at 5-1 and Sun Blazers 7-1. The line out of Reno showed Wednesday Menlo-Atherton favorites to be the Gold Diggers from Sun at 3-1, with Floorplay and Tasmanian Devils 4-1, and Spike-o-Delics/HP being the dark horse team at 6-1. Wednesday Buchser's action came out of Atlantic City with Video Seven and Oak Technology at 5-1 to win it followed by Flaming Squids and Heeey Amdahl at 6-1 and Mindset local favorites at 8-1. Wednesday Turbo B2 at Foothill had the Sunsetters at 3-1 according to the odds posted by Harrah's at South Shore, Plays Without Passing/HP 4-1, and Not Ready and Sundowners at 6-1. UPI's betting line showed the Wednesday Power B2 at Del Mar with Groove Diggers and Rapid Runners as co-favorites at 3-1, Team We Dig just behind at 4-1 and Short Stuff the dark horse candidate at 6-1.

**THURSDAY** Buchser's Silver league listed Spectra Bashers and Wee Puppies at 4-1 according to the morning line out of Reno and Dat Beeek at 5-1. Gold league at Buchser was a tough call from the oddsmakers in Atlantic City; they finally settled on Dive Harder at 5-1 and Survivors and Cypress at 7-1. Caesar's in Las Vegas was listing the Thursday Power B2 at Del Mar with Sky Pig Pirates at 4-1 and Darryl's Friends at 5-1. DOA, Wild Things and Roof Rats were getting some action at 7-1 with Quick Sets and Lansharks dark horse candidates at 9-1.

### B1 Leagues:

**MONDAY** B1 at Prospect had Dixon's Escorts as favorites at 2-1 according to the betting line out of South Shore Tahoe, with Back To Basics at 4-1 and Aardvarks and Dig'em at 7-1. Ask and Bad Dogs were dark horse plays at 8-1.

**TUESDAY** For the Cupertino league, Reno experts listed both Amdahl and Way Bad as 3-1 favorites, while Just Up, Spike-o-paths, and Bump This all came in at 5-1. The Las Vegas morning line picked Rising Sun as the favorite at the Palo Alto YMCA league at 4-1, with B Dazzle 5-1 and Dink & Divers 7-1. The hotly contested Tuesday Wilcox league had Atlantic City's action showing Mish-Mash and Team Dump co-favorites at 3-1, Fun & Games 5-1, and Margie's Wallbangers and Fred's the dark horse teams at 8-1.

**WEDNESDAY** Harrah's at Tahoe picked the Wednesday B1 Wilcox (large gym) league to be won by the Spiking Spuds with odds of 4-1, Kommando's/KLA 5-1, Silicon Slammers and Vanishing Point 7-1, and the local sentimental favorites Thumpers at 9-1. The always competitive Power B1 at Wilcox (small gym) had Caesar's in Las Vegas come out this morning listing ESL the top pick at 3-1, the Aardvarks 4-1, Amdahl and Rinky Dinks 6-1 and Null Set 7-1.

**THURSDAY** Reno oddsmakers picked Bamboo 1 as the eventual winner at Wilcox at 4-1 odds, with Yougo's and Sideout Six both at 5-1 and Woof at 7-1. The Power B1 at Peterson was a real toss-up according to UPI's morning betting line but Bleacher Bangers got the nod at 3-1 and L7's and Volleybowlers both at 4-1.

### BB Challenge Leagues:

**MONDAY** The latest betting line out of Tahoe had They Call Us Fred at 3-1 to win the Monday league, followed closely by Del Fizzle at 4-1 and 2B Or Not 2B at 6-1.

**TUESDAY** Atlantic City listed B-CU at 5-1 to win it all, with Great Wall 6-1 and Tight Sets the dark horse play at 8-1.

### BB Leagues:

**MONDAY** Oddsmakers in Reno picked Top Flite as 4-1 favorites, Bold But Old and Hobbits at 5-1 and Duck Soup 7-1.

**WEDNESDAY** The Las Vegas morning line had Bamboo Walkers at 3-1 to win it, U Ref 4-1, and 501's & WYSIWYG 6-1.

### Wednesday BB1/A League:

Atlantic City came out late last night with Printmakers and KIMO's the co-favorites at 4-1 and Hit & Run and HFTS at 6-1.

### Monday Mens' B League:

South Shore Tahoe's betting line had Patchwork as 5-1 favorites, Attitude and Arakichat 6-1, NeXT, We Dig and Oracle at 8-1, and Image Setters and Flying Circus dark horse teams at 9-1. It's a wide-open league.

### Thursday Womens' BB League:

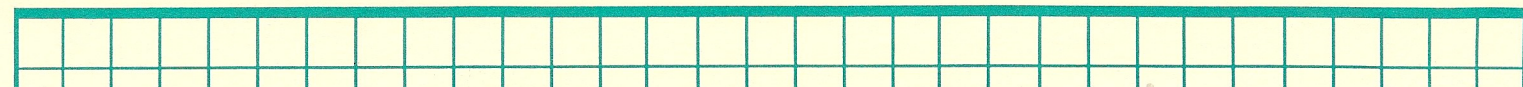
The Reno oddsmakers chose Off The Wall as the favorites to win it at 4-1 with Spinoffs 5-1, and Spring Fling 7-1.

### Thursday Mens' BB League:

According to the latest line out of Atlantic City, Frederick's was the early pick at 3-1, Blue Meanies 4-1, then Blues and Killer Elite 6-1, followed by dark horse picks Centurions and Toons 8-1.

*Teams may be interested in knowing that in the last newsletter  
Jimmy "The Industrial" Greek's favorites made it to the finals  
or won the playoffs almost 75% of the time.*





## WE RANK THE TOP TEAMS

### WHO'S THE BEST B2 TEAM? B1? BB CHALLENGE? BB?

#### THE TOP B2 TEAMS (out of 169 total)

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 HP Spectators    | 9 Cheap Sets   |
| 2 Sky Pig Pirates  | 10 Wild Sets   |
| 3 Dig It/ESL       | 11 Wild Things |
| 4 Rapid Runners    | 12 DOA         |
| 5 Groove Diggers   | 13 Roof Rats   |
| 6 Darryl's Friends | 14 Sunsetters  |
| 7 Team We Dig      | 15 Short Stuff |
| 8 Spikin' Rebels   | 16 Quick Sets  |

(Other teams receiving votes from our impartial "panel of expert": (In no particular order) Lansharks, Plays Without Passing/HP, Shank U Very Much, Tequila Poppers, Debuggers, Golden Spikers, One For The Kipper, Caliber, Contract Kills, Biervergnugen/Tandem, Cypress, Skinned Knees, Hasta La Vista, Bump & Grind, Pressure's On, Not Ready and Sundowners.

#### THE TOP B1 TEAMS (70 total)

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Dixon's Escorts  | 9 Dink & Divers    |
| 2 ESL              | 10 Team Dump       |
| 3 Bleacher Bangers | 11 Mish-Mash       |
| 4 Rising Sun       | 12 Rinky Dinks     |
| 5 Aardvarks (Wed)  | 13 Back To Basics  |
| 6 L7's             | 14 Aardvarks (Mon) |
| 7 B Dazzle         | 15 Fun & Games     |
| 8 Volleybowlers    |                    |

(Other teams receiving votes from our impartial "panel of expert": (In no particular order) Null Set, Margie's Wallbangers, Bamboo 1, Way Bad, Amdahl (Wed), Spiking Spuds, Kommando's/KLA, Dig'em, Yougo's, Sideout Six, Amdahl (Tues), Freds Does Coed, and Stumbling Blocks.

#### THE TOP BB CHALLENGE TEAMS (18 total)

- 1 They Call Us Fred
- 2 B-CU
- 3 Del Fizzle
- 4 2B or Not 2B
- 5 Great Wall
- 6 Tight Sets
- 7 Aardvarks (Mon)

#### THE TOP BB TEAMS (15 total)

- 1 Top Flite
- 2 Bamboo Walkers
- 3 Bold But Old
- 4 Hobbits
- 5 U Ref
- 6 Duck Soup
- 7 501's

*Rankings based upon Winter WAVE season, past records, current season, and the whims of the editor.*

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## ADULT VOLLEYBALL CAMP

On Saturday, May 16 at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara the IVL will sponsor a volleyball camp for adults. Session I will be from 9:30am-12:30pm and will feature setting, serving and digging. Session II will be from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and will concentrate on hitting and blocking. Both sessions will feature drills and scrimmaging (games).

The fee is \$20 per session or \$35 for both. Participants will be split up into appropriate levels for the drills and games.

The camp will be run by the IVL staff. Head instructor will be Phil Coyle.

Here's a chance to improve your skills and have some fun in a clinic format. Sign up now -- space is limited.

To sign up for the camp:

1) Send a check (payable to Kirk Anderson) to the IVL office along with your name, address and daytime phone number.

2) Also indicate what team or league you're playing in currently and whether you want Session I or II or both.

For further information, call the IVL Office 10am-5pm M-F (415) 365-2666.

FOR FUTURE ADULT CAMPS: GET ON THE MAILING LIST BY CALLING THE IVL OFFICE

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## EXPLAINING THE LEVELS IN THE IVL OR, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH 304 TEAMS?

**For those of you curious about how the IVL is broken down into the various levels:**

The IVL is split up into 3 main levels: B, BB and A. The B league is broken down into B2 (for the new entry teams and returning teams of that level) and B1, which is the next step up. BB is for the very experienced player; you'll start to see some USVBA background here. A is for our top players; mostly made up of USVBA "A" and "AA" players. The Just Volleyball team from our A league won the national coed championship in 1986 and 1989.

**For more information, read on:** Within the B2 level, we have rookie leagues (for brand new teams that haven't played a lot of organized volleyball), returning leagues (for returning teams above the rookie stage), and power B2 leagues for the top B2 teams (the top teams from the Power B2 leagues move up into B1). As we move up to the B1 level, we generally break it down into two levels: regular B1 and power B1 (with the top teams being grouped into the power B1). We also have a BB Challenge league (for the top power B1 teams and weaker BB teams) which is a "challenge" to get into the regular BB. BB is grouped into BB and BB1. We will be merging the BB1

and A leagues in the future so the BB1 name will be dropped.

**Why don't we call it D, C, B, A, AA, AAA, etc.?** People would have a hard time recruiting at the companies for players willing to play in a "D" league. Also, we don't want to cheapen the AA and AAA names. AAA is really only out on the Beach and there are barely more than 100 AA indoor players in the entire area. And you shouldn't call a league an "A" league unless 75% of the players are USVBA "A" players or above.

**In the IVL, BB and above players are not allowed to play in the single B leagues.** BB Challenge is an interim league and players may play either up or down; it doesn't affect your status. (BB and B players can play together in the Challenge leagues.) Both B and BB can play in the mens' and womens' leagues without affecting your status either.

With 304 teams playing each week, we really do need 7 or 8 levels of play. What we attempt to do is place the teams in a league where they don't walk all over everyone, and where everyone doesn't walk all over them. And if that does happen, we move you up or down accordingly.

## THURSDAY VOLLEYBALL CLUB IS YOU A SMART VOLLEYBALL PLAYER?

We've talked about the Burgess Volleyball Club in the past. If you're ever around on a Thursday night at Burgess Gym in Menlo Park, you'll see a group of players who cover a whole range of experience.

There are the USVBA "AA" and "A" players from Redenblocker's and the Kings Mountain Fog along with some of the young "A" players on their way up the ladder. Gary Redenbacher (yes, Grandson Gary from the Redenbacher popcorn commercials) is a member and was getting some heat from some of the players about there being no volleyball in any of the commercials. Gary said to have some patience and wait and see. A few months later, a new commercial came on featuring several members of the mens' and womens' USA Olympic teams. Good job, Gary -- way to give volleyball a nice plug. Milt McColl (former linebacker and special teams standout from the SF 49ers) also recently joined the Club. Yes, he can hit the ball high and hard (and when he calls for the ball, it's funny how no one ever gets in his way).

Mixed in with these young bucks (and not so young) is the Just Volleyball Golden Masters' team (45 and over). Although you'll find the occasional former Collegiate or USVBA All-American at the Club, the masters can hold their own pretty well. Why? They can still hit the ball well (perhaps not quite like in their prime) and perform the other skills in volleyball, but they have one trait that helps them out on the court more than anything else -- their volleyball

smarts. Ask the young "A" teams who go out and lose or have to work very hard to beat these guys at the weekend USVBA tournaments. The young team walks off the court afterwards saying "We should have killed these guys!" but they didn't. They didn't because the younger guys didn't make sure they served in after their teammate missed their serve earlier. They made their third hitting error in a row while the masters' team took a little off on their third attempt and made sure it was in, thus giving their defense a chance to win the point. Maybe the veteran player hit the ball deliberately right at the setter to take him out of the offense. Then the younger team has a non-setter step in and make a ball-handling error or use poor judgment on who to set.

Don't get us wrong, the masters' team is not a bunch of stiff. Several of these guys have made All-American in the past. But nowadays they beat you with skill and smarts. There was a team who was double-blocking against the big middle hitter on Just Volleyball and he continued to dink to the opening vacated by the outside blocker who came over to help; he knew not to dink the other direction because the off-blocker not helping block would have picked it up. Would the younger team have noticed that if the roles were reversed? Be less concerned about who hits the ball harder in warmups and have your setters go to the person who's hot or work on the weakest blocker. **Play smart.**



## B2 & B1 TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, May 16 at Wilcox High School there will be a tournament for IVL B2 and B1 teams. Fee is \$55/team and prizes will be awarded to winning teams (t-shirts) with dinner/pizza coupons for runners-up. The B2 format will be seeded pools in the morning; afternoon pools will be based upon performance in the morning. Stronger teams will play other strong teams in the afternoon, and teams that didn't fare well in the morning pools will play other teams that did the same. Prizes will be awarded to winners of the afternoon pools. It's a self-equalizing format for B2 teams and also an opportunity to play teams from other nights you normally wouldn't see. The B1 tournament will also be pool play with playoffs determining the champion and runners-up. Both tournaments will be held at Wilcox High School in Santa Clara in the large gym and will run from 9:30am-5pm. (Wilcox H.S. is on Monroe, off of Lawrence Expy. Monroe is one of the stoplights on Lawrence between Central Expy. and El Camino.) **Just Volleyball** will have a display. Remember, first-come first-served on entries! Call the IVL Office (415) 365-2666 (M-F 10am to 5pm) for more details. This tournament is being run as a fund-raiser for the traveling Just Volleyball teams.

## FRIDAY NIGHT DROP-IN

The IVL sponsors a drop-in volleyball program on Fridays at Wilcox High School in the city of Santa Clara from 7pm-10pm every week (school holidays excepted). There are 3 courts and the fee is \$3/person. Play is limited to the first 9 teams of people who show up. You can show up as an individual or come as a team. If you show up late, you may be turned away.

Play encompasses several levels, but it is not recommended for the beginning player. Nicola Hayler and Fleming Oliver do a fine job of organizing and making sure some of the usual abuses you find at other drop-in sites do not occur at Wilcox. They have concocted a 'very fair system of play where all the teams play 2 games and then sit 1, win or lose. This keeps the situation from being "life and death" out on the court. Whether you win or not, all the teams end up playing basically the same number of games. The IVL runs Friday Wilcox as a service for its players. Take advantage of it. Games are held in the auxiliary gym at the back of the campus. Wilcox H.S. is on Monroe, off of Lawrence Expressway. Monroe is one of the stoplights on Lawrence between Central Expressway and El Camino.

## Friends for Youth

### OUTDOOR GRASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Everyone is encouraged to put this date on his or her calendar: Saturday, August 1 at Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton. At 9:30 that morning, the 9th Annual Friends For Youth Charity Volleyball Tournament will take place. This is a six-person coed (IVL format: 4 men, 2 women) tournament on grass with all different levels of play: B (there will be upper and lower levels for B2 and B1 IVL teams), BB (for the BB IVL teams) and Open for the top IVL and USVBA teams. Fee is \$60/team and it's tax-deductible. Breakfast and lunch items are on sale all day. The IVL and Just Volleyball underwrite all expenses, so every bit of money that comes in goes directly to the charity. It's pool play format where all the teams play at least 9 games during the day. (Morning pools are seeded and then teams are placed in afternoon pools based upon how they did in the morning; prizes awarded to winners of afternoon pools). There's a great party afterwards at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park for all the participants. Friends For Youth is a non-profit charity that matches up troubled children with adult volunteers. Friends for Youth was the Bay Area recipient of the 1990 Award for Management Excellence among non profit organizations (sponsored by Chevron and The Management Center). Here's a chance to contribute to a worthy cause and enjoy a day of volleyball at the same time. Application forms will be available at the league sites during the summer, or call the IVL Office. **Attention companies:** Friends For Youth is looking for companies or businesses to sponsor a court (\$100) at the tournament. With over 60 six-person teams there, it should be a fun day for all.

**Over 400 people  
participate  
each year  
in the annual  
Friends  
for Youth  
Volleyball  
Tournament**





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### OBSERVATIONS AROUND THE IVL

**Q) Do I need to call the captains together before the start of a game?**

A) From past experience, the best way in the IVL to start a match is to blow your whistle and say "Last hit". (Get the setters' attention and it works easier -- with no setter it doesn't matter whether the hitters want to continue hitting or not.) After the last hit, tell the teams to line up and while they are lining up, ask if anyone has a game ball. When one is offered, show it to the other team and if both sides agree, toss the ball to the linesperson near the server (he or she will give the ball to the server). After both teams are lined up, look at the serving team and ask "Captain, are you ready?" and then look at the receiving team and ask the same thing. Then blow the whistle and have at it.

**Q) Can an umpire make a ball-handling call?**

A) No, only the referee can. However, when a ref is screened and can't see an obvious double-hit or lift, the umpire can discreetly give

an appropriate hand signal to the ref and then the ref has the choice of blowing the whistle and making the call.

**What's the best way to approach a referee when I disagree with a call?**

A) Pick your spots. If you question every call, that gets real old real fast and it's a distraction to everyone involved. A hand signal (two fingers showing a double-hit, for instance) and a questioning look on the face of the captain can tell the referee that the captain felt a double-hit should have been called. That's a lot more effective than ranting and raving. A player who is knowledgeable realizes there are "gray areas" in the rules. If, for example, there is a questionable set or lift by Team A: If it's called, then Team A is unhappy, but if it's not, then Team B is unhappy. Remember that a good percentage of a referee's calls cannot please everyone; someone's going to be unhappy. Good players should have some common sense and keep in mind that quite often it is a "no win"

"no win" situation for the referee. Have you ever played a perfect game of volleyball? Then don't expect an official to call a perfect game.

**Q) What's the worst serve you've ever seen?**

A) Although we did see someone swing and miss once, a few weeks ago at one of the schools a player on court 3 served it "in" on court 2.

We had a teammate a number of years ago during a big tournament in Monterey against some L.A. teams who served the ball under the net. Matter of fact, a long time ago one of the rulebooks came out saying a serve only had to land within the confines of the opposing court. It didn't state the ball had to cross the net; that was quickly re-written.

At a San Jose State tournament a while back, someone had a difficult time passing and was served for a number of points one game. The second game, this player sat out and was sitting in the bleachers about 20 feet away from the court. Well, the server served the ball right at the player in the bleachers (as a joke). Everyone in the gym thought it was pretty funny except for the receiving team. They got all fired up and came back and won the match. Moral of this story: Be careful about ever giving your opponents any extra ammunition.

**Q) What is the correct height of a volleyball net and why do so many people disagree about it?**

A) If you said 8 ft. for a mens' height net, you're incorrect. When they went metric a few seasons ago, the height became 7' 11 5/8". But 8 ft. is close enough for our purposes. The womens' went from 7' 4 1/4" to 7' 4 1/8".

People sometimes walk up in their sandals or street shoes and forget that they're a different height compared to their volleyball shoes. Also people forget that whether they're warmed up or not is probably a difference of where they're going to reach on a net as well.

Most of the courts we play on have rope cable. The net is not going to be the same height all the way across so which section of the net people measure is also going to be a factor. If you touch the net near the sidelines and it's 8' you have to figure it's going to be lower in the middle. The IVL feels it's better to have regulation height nets at the ends of the net where most of the plays occur and have a slightly lower net in the middle rather than an 8' net in the middle and too high outside. The rules do allow for a 3/4" sag.

Just remember, contrary to the opinions of some of the losing captains, it's the same height on both sides of the net.



*Spectators are thinking:*

**"These guys need  
new uniforms  
from  
Just Volleyball"**



## BITS & PIECES

### SUMMER SEASON . . . WAVE WINNERS . . . DOUBLES INFO . . . ETC.

**Start dates for the IVL summer season** will be in June; the exact week will depend upon the facility you play in (due to different floor refinishing schedules at the various sites). We'll be mailing out applications in early May. Call the IVL Office to get on the mailing list if you have a team that wishes to enter. The Fall season starts in September, then our invitational WAVE (Winter Accelerated Volleyball Event) in January for the Fall playoff teams, then back to March (Spring).

**The WAVE season** is an invitational season for our playoff teams from the Fall. Most of the gyms during Jan/Feb are taken up with high school basketball, so we cannot invite everyone to play as we do the other 3 seasons. Winners of the WAVE season are invited to move up to the next level. Some of the B2 teams that moved up to B1 this season include Dig'em, Monday Aardvarks, Bump This, Spiked Apples and Vanishing Point. Volley Vermin jumped from B1 to BB Challenge while WYSIWYG moved up from BB Challenge to BB.

**The IVL sponsors mens' B and BB leagues.** George Skrivanek of the mens' B tells us that more and more the mens' B is gravitating towards the B1 level and away from the B2. Steve Silverman from the mens' BB informs us that while there is quite a range of talent in the BB league, the playoff teams continue to be those teams also playing USVBA "A" or the equivalent.

**The Womens' BB League** continues to flourish on Thursdays capably run by Jan Dresser, Carlmont High School volleyball coach and long-time juniors' coordinator on the Mid-Peninsula. The Spring season seems to have brought a real mix to the womens' league with half the teams leaning towards the B1 level and the other half towards the BB. We'll be interested in seeing if the league goes back to being basically a BB level (USVBA "A" and "B" players) or if this is a permanent trend towards a slightly more recreational bent.

**All of you grass doubles players** out there: We hope you'll get some friends together and play six-person grass on August 1 in the Friends For Youth tournament (see accompanying article) but for all those other weekends you might want to call Max or Vicky at the NCVA office 10am-2pm M-F (408) 736-4353. They can mail you the latest doubles schedule and answer questions about USVBA.

**Drop-in sites.** For a list of drop-in sites, call the IVL Office (10am-5pm M-F) and we'll be happy to mail you one.

**We would like to welcome** some of the new teams to the IVL this season, and hope you'll all be with us for a long time. Integrated Systems, Shank U Very Much, Mixed Vegetables, JFF, One For the Kipper, Let's Get Dangerous, Top Flite, Image Setters/Adobe, SRI, Oracle, Hak Pak, Aptix, Novell Too, Biosys, Barking Spiders, Teradyne, Pressure's On, LISC, Tiny Bubbles, Twisters, Volley Frogs/HP, Ross Systems, Sunny The Bunny, D3, Conner's Wildcats, 501's, The Posse, Think Again, Gang of Six, Roof Rats, Short & Sweet, Femmes Fatales, Off The Wall, Spiking Belles, Spinoffs, Long Shots, Homenetmen and Toons are some of the new faces.

**Want to play for free?** As usual, the IVL is always looking for a few good supervisors, especially in the B2 leagues. Your team can play for free or if you prefer, pay the team fee and be paid a salary each night. You can keep costs down for you and your teammates as well as be able to run the league as you see fit. The Aardvarks clan, behind mentor Marvin Cooper, run 9 leagues in the IVL. Give the IVL Office a call if you're interested. We are also always looking for non-playing supervisors. If someone is in the market to pick up a few extra dollars, or just share some volleyball expertise with some of the newer teams, call us.

## PLAYING TECHNIQUES

### WHAT KIND OF BALL CONTROL DO YOU HAVE?

We spoke about being a smart player in the article about the Thursday Volleyball Club. When you and your teammates play in the IVL, what kind of ball control does your team exhibit? Does your setter make unforced errors? How often does your setter set the ball out of bounds, or over the net, or trapset a hitter (setting a ball too low/close to the net)? Does your setter get called for "throws" or mishandled balls? Maybe your setter should think about bumpsetting more often. When they do bumpset, do they aim the set 4 or 5 feet off the net to make sure the ball stays on your side? A setter should make as few unforced errors as possible.

When one of your non-setting players has to step in and set during a broken play, do they think about bumpsetting with a safe target as mentioned above? Do your backrow players pass a free ball to the target? You should pass a minimum of 4 out of 5 near-perfect balls when you pass a free ball (and you should feel badly about the one you messed up, too). A free ball means a free opportunity to run your offense -- don't make your setter move to get to a free ball pass.

When your backrow player digs a ball, what kind of ball control is there? For our beginning leagues, just to touch the ball is an accomplishment for some. For others, just to keep the dig in the same gym is good, too. Move up another step, and people are happy anytime you dig the ball, even if it goes over the net. However, if you do dig the ball back over the net, you might as well just catch the ball and hand it to the other team and say "Here's a free ball, have a good time with it". You must keep the ball on your side of the net. You move up to say, a B1 league, and you expect the diggers to dig the ball up on your side. A good B1 digger digs the ball so the setter can get to it. The good BB player will dig the ball well enough so the setter can not only get to it, but the setter can also use his/her hands in setting it. The excellent backrow player in the "A" league will dig a ball not only so the setter can use his/her hands, but also so that it is in close proximity to the net so the setter can have a choice of setting any of their hitters, or possibly even running a play.

Do your hitters think ahead of time which blocker they want to challenge? Of course, it depends upon the set, but you have to think ahead of time. Can your hitters hit the ball in consistently if the blockers give them the line shot? Do your hitters even look to see what's open? We used to play with a hitter who not only watched the block, but on his approach to the net, would look and see where the diggers were playing, and hit to the open spots on the court. That's a lot to ask of your average hitter, but at least you should get in the habit of realizing there's more to the game than the hitting line. One mark of a good hitter is not so much what he/she does with a good set, but what they do with a bad set. Do they still manage to keep it in? Can they hit it at the setter in the backrow and help make things more difficult for the other team's transition from defense to offense? Can they occasionally score off that bad set? Or do they try to do more with that set and make an error and cost their team a point immediately? Keep the ball in; let your defense have a chance to win the point for you. So, where do your hitters, passers and setters fit into the above equation?

## THE IVL THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



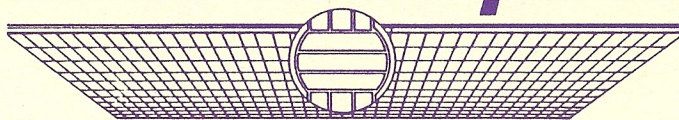
## VOLLEYBALL CLASSES

The Menlo Park Rec. Dept. offers adult, coed volleyball classes four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (June) and Fall (September). Each class runs for 9 weeks, an hour and a half each night. Fee is \$38 for Menlo Park residents, \$45 for all others. On Tuesdays, there is a combined elementary-intermediate class from 7pm-8:30pm. Basic techniques are stressed. The class starts off with bumping, setting, hitting, blocking and serving, then speeds up to more of an intermediate theme with backsets, playsets, where and how to play defense, different types of serves, etc. This class would be appropriate for anyone wishing to polish their game or work on basic skills -- designed for the IVL B2 player. On Thursday nights from 6pm-7:30pm is the intermediate class. Improving your technique and learning the 6-0 offense are two of the main subjects emphasized. IVL B1 and upper B2 players are the normal levels appropriate for this class. On Tuesdays, from 8:30pm-10pm is the advanced class. Some of the topics covered include the 5-1 offense, diving, playsets, 10 ft. attack, strategy, improved ball control and just becoming a smarter player. BB and above players from the IVL plus the very strong B1 player are appropriate for the advanced class. In the Fall advanced class, there is an emphasis placed on conditioning specific to volleyball. Drills make up most of the classes, with some time allotted to games. You can pre-register for the elementary-intermediate class by calling the Rec. Dept. (415) 858-3470. The class fills up and pre-registration is encouraged to guarantee a spot. There are tryouts for both the intermediate and advanced classes. You must contact the instructor prior to the first meeting. For the advanced class, call Kirk Anderson at the IVL Office, (415) 365-2666 10am-5pm M-F or call for more information about the elementary class. For those interested in trying out for the intermediate, contact Phil Coyle (408) 243-3399. All classes are held at Burgess Gymnasium in Menlo Park on Laurel Ave. From 101 take Willow Rd. west, right on Laurel, the gym is on your left next to the Burgess Theater.

## PAID OFFICIALS NEEDED FOR PLAYOFFS

*The IVL is now hiring officials to work the various IVL playoff nights. If you have had some officiating experience (USVBA, collegiate, high school, or feel very comfortable reffing in the IVL leagues) give the office a call. Officials choose the night or nights they wish to work and are paid at the site. Several of our long-time officials have moved, retired, been shot, whatever. We would like to add some more officials. If you're interested, give us a call.*

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229 POLARIS AVE. No. 12, MOUNTAIN VIEW 94043 CALL DAVID HIROSE (415) 969-8221

FROM 101 TAKE SHORELINE BLVD. (MTN. VIEW EXIT) TOWARDS EL CAMINO, RIGHT ON WRIGHT AVE. (LAST STREET BEFORE CENTRAL XPWY. OVERPASS), LEFT ON GEMINI, RIGHT INTO THE FIRST PARKING LOT.  
David Hirose is also at the Academy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 6:30pm-9pm. Call ahead, then come pick up.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE IVL, INC.  
KIRK ANDERSON, LEAGUE DIRECTOR**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-5PM (415) 365-2666**