

Wet & Wild 12's, 13's, 14's, & 15's

Hello everyone. I'm Jen, Curt's niece. I will be your photographer and reporter for the week!

I'm sure most of you heard, but the teams arrived safely yesterday. The 13-1s, 14-2s, 14-1s, 15-4s, and 15-5s had an early morning. But we all got to the houses in one piece. The girls got settled in quickly and it didn't take any of them long to find the pool. [Click here](#) to see photos from yesterday.

Today the girls went to wet & wild.

Everyone had a great time! One of the favorite rides was The Disco. Others enjoyed playing sand volleyball. At noon the everyone was fed lunch by the park. It was a great "picnic lunch". They had hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. They also had pasta salad, potato chips and soft drinks. There are only a few girls who got slightly pink. Curt and I were very impressed that Erin from the 15-1s did not get burnt! [Click here](#) to see photos from the water park taken by Curt.

When the girls got back to the houses, some of them watched TV, some drank lots of water, some showered, but the 14s had an interesting time. They had a lip-syncing contest. I didn't hear a final vote, but I believe the Michelle, Amy and Kim won. Then, they had a marshmallow shooting contest - shooting marshmallows out of their noses. Leigh from the 141s won that contest. [Click here](#) to see photos from the various contests of the 14s.

15-5s also had an interesting time. Upon return from the water park, they found their house without any power. This meant no air conditioning, no hot showers, no TV or movies, and a fridge that was no longer doing its job. So, they got downgraded from a 6 bedroom house to a 5 bedroom house that happens to have 3 pools and a movie theater/game room! Some downgrade! The girls are all very happy with their new location. But then, what happens when you put dish soap in a dishwasher? Well, the 15-5s found out tonight.

As far as the rest of this evening goes, most of the teams are staying, watching movies and playing games, then going to bed to get enough rest for the first day of play tomorrow.

2008 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

Congratulations girls! All of our teams advanced today. This means that all of the teams are still in contention for the gold!

The 12-1s played at the Wide World of Sports today. They finished as seeded in their pool, second. The highlight of their day though was beating Kiva's top 12s team in their third match. You can see photos of the 12-1s playing today by [clicking here](#). After finishing off Kiva in a tiring match, the team went back to their house for the night to enjoy the pool and relax.

The 15-2s had a great morning at the Convention Center! They finished first in their pool, keeping their seed, winning all of their matches with enthusiasm and intensity. You can see photos from their final match (versus MAVA) by [clicking here](#). After once they finished playing the team was off to Cocoa Beach. On top of their great day at the gym, they had a great time in the beach (while Marlon slept in the car, in the air conditioning). Their ride home from the beach was a little interesting, as the team got lost. But, they did manage to make it home in time to go to T.G.I.Fridays for dinner. Overall, they had a great day!

The 15-3s also finished as seeded this morning at the Convention Center. While they went 1-2 for the day, they played with enormous energy and made it very entertaining to watch them. By coming in third in their pool, the 15-3s are now slated to play the 15-2s in their first match tomorrow - may the best team win! [Click here](#) to see photos of the 15-3s matches today.

The 15-4s also finished third in their pool at the Convention Center this morning. You can see photos from their matches by [clicking here](#). They overtook the team seeded third with a solid win in their last match where won 25-9 and 25-15. Like I said, solid.

Allison Adams from the 15-5s received a wonderful birthday gift today as her team had a great morning at the Convention Center as well. They went 2-1 for the day, finishing second in their pool, moving up two from their fourth place seed. They started off strong beating the number two seed in two games. Then they continued to play hard against Tsunami in their next match, but couldn't quite pull it out. They ended up losing 10-15 in the third game. But that didn't get these girls down. They came back in their last match to win, clinching second place for themselves. [Click here](#) to see photos from the 15-5s day. After the gym, they also headed out for Cocoa Beach. They stopped at Ron Jon's and then found a local pizza shop that had a capacity of about 20. However, this pizza shop served delicious 26" pizzas - they only needed two to feed the entire team, two coaches and two chaps. Then they hit the beach. Overall, another great day!

This afternoon, the 13-1s played at the Wide World of Sports. These girls had a strong first two matches, finishing one of them with both games at 25-13! The last match was a tough fight, but they ended up losing it 10-15 in the third game. They wound up finishing second in their pool. To see photos from the 13-1s match against Triangle today, [click here](#).

The 14-1s played at the Convention Center this afternoon. In their first match, the team dominated, only allowing a combined total of 19 points to be scored against them. The second match was a little closer, but they still came out on top. Their third match, against A5, proved to be their biggest challenge. They dropped the first game, but then came out swinging strong the second game, only allowing A5 8 points! The third game was a nail-biter that turned it a full game. They couldn't quite pull it out with the match ending at 23-25. To see photos of the 14-1s from today (taken by Curt)[click here](#). So, the 14-1s finished second in their pool, but as stated before, still advance.

The 14-2s had a great afternoon at the Convention Center! They swept their pool, finishing first, and not letting a single team score more the 19 points! Congrats girls! You can see photos of the 14-2s first match by [clicking here](#).

The 15-1s had a tough pool at the Convention Center this afternoon, but they held their seed and still advance by finishing third. In their first match, they drove A5 to three games, but dropped the third 10-15. Then in their third match, they dominated winning the first game 25-13 and the second 25-11. [Click here](#) to see photos by Curt and I from the 15-1s first match today.

2008 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

The 12-1s played this morning at the Convention Center. They wound up going 1-2 for the day, placing them third in their pool. The day was interesting as all of the teams in their pool were really closely matched - meaning every game was an intense, close game and each match went to three - which then means that the court was behind, and I mean really behind! It got so bad that the Championship Desk decided they needed to play both the 12:00pm (C vs D) and the 1:00pm (A vs B) matches at the same time! So, they found a bunch of referees and an unused court and they played both matches at the same time. You can see photos of the 12-1s from today by [clicking here](#). After their tiring day at the gym, the 12-1s headed off for Cocoa Beach.

The 14-1s played at the Convention Center this morning. When I asked the girls how they did, I got about 5 thumbs-down and this quote: "it was bad.... like beneath the surface of the Earth!" The wound up going 1-2 in their pool, leaving them third to

play a challenge match to stay in contention for the gold. After grabbing a quick bite to eat back at the house, they were ready to go, but just couldn't get it started. To see photos of the 14-1s from today [click here](#). Even though the girls felt their playing was not stellar today, they did make some new friends with one of the Puerto Rican teams which left them all excited - they even got to practice a little Spanish!

The 15-1s had an exciting first two matches this morning at the Convention Center before dropping the last match to Kiva (the reigning National Champions). Erin and Ashley were excited about their "switcheroo" they did in the last game. Erin played outside while Ashley tried her hand as a middle. They finished second in their pool which still leaves them in contention for the gold! You can see photos from the day by [clicking here](#). After their day at the gym the girls just hung out at the house. They played an intense game of Poop On Your Neighbor with candy bets, and then several of the girls decided to sit outside and wait for their "hot" neighbors to come outside as well. However, the chaps kept them on a short leash as they were not to go past the sidewalk line on the driveway - I was impressed with how well the girls actually listened!

The 15-4s and 15-5s each had tough pools at the Wide World of Sports this morning. They both finished 0-3 for the day, but played really well. All of the teams in the 15-4s pool were number one seeds their first day and the 15-5s held their own against A5 as they pushed them to 28-30 in the second game. You can see photos from the 15-4s matches, taken by both Curt and I, by [clicking here](#) and you can see photos from the 15-5s matches, taken by Curt and I, by [clicking here](#). This evening both teams just hung out and relaxed. The 15-4s made cookies to take with them to Cocoa Beach tomorrow and the 15-5s received Dilly Bars from Curt for all of the trouble they have had this trip.

The 13-1s played at the Convention Center this afternoon. They went 1-2 for the day, finishing up third in their pool. The last match they played was against OVA. The girls played really well and put up a good fight, but in the end they just couldn't pull it out and let the game go at 23-25. To see photo from their first match today [click here](#). The coaches told me that the girls were really smelly on the way home, so I suppose that means they worked pretty hard. Tomorrow they were going to be going shopping, but for tonight, they should all be fast asleep!

The 14-2s had another great afternoon at the Convention Center! They swept their pool, again, finishing first. They didn't even lose a game! So they are still in contention for the gold. When I went to talk to the girls tonight, they were still on a high from beating Union in their last match (the team with the nasty parents). You can see photos of the 14-2s from today by [clicking here](#). I asked the girls what the

highlight of the day was, besides beating Union. They all said they LOVED the "make your own pasta salad" dinner that they had - way to go chaps!

This afternoon the 15-2s played the 15-3s at the Wide World of Sports. The 15-2s won in an intense match. The 2s won their second match as well but then fell in a close match against Sky High. They wound up taking 2nd in the pool which leaves them in contention for the gold. You can see photos of the 15-2s, taken by Curt and I, by [clicking here](#). This morning, before playing, the girls were allowed to sleep in until 10:00am. They were all very pumped about that. After getting up, they celebrated Rachel's birthday while Michelle graced her with an impressive rendition of Happy Birthday. The 15-3s went 1-2, taking third in the pool. [Click here](#) to see photos of the 15-3s matches today. Then they had a very interesting time when they returned to the house. They opened the door to find a live lizard on their floor! In an attempt to shoo it back outside, this lizard's tail got "smushed-off" and this cut off tail continued to wiggle around - I'm sure you all can hear the squeals back in Minnesota! After the lizard incident, they all calmed down to watch TV and eat pizza.

That is all for me for today. Tomorrow the older girls get in, so travel safe everyone and have a good weekend.

2008 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

This morning the 15-2s played in a tough pool at the Convention Center. They did not do so hot. But, a couple of the girls and I did enjoy quite a show from one of the line judges at one of the 15-4s matches. You can [click here](#) to see photos from the 15-2s matches today. However, their evening was a lot of fun! They went to dinner at "Cassablancas" as Melissa called it (really the restaurant was Carrabba's) and had a delicious meal, with some surprising expensive soups and salads. Then their parents were all coming to have birthday cake and continue to celebrate Rachel's birthday. While I was waiting to talk to all the girls, I overheard a secret that I want to share with you - some of the girls were sneaking tanning oil at Wet N' Wild - don't tell Curt :)

The 15-5s started off the morning playing the 15-3s this morning at the Convention Center. They had a great time as they beat the 3s and then continued to win the rest of their matches, coming out first in their pool. The way the bracket is looking for tomorrow, depending on how all the other teams do, the 5s could meet both the 3s and the 4s tomorrow! You can see photos from the 15-5s matches by [clicking here](#). This evening they had their parents over for dinner. Together, they went through over 40 pieces of chicken! Then, they had a good chat with Chad and were heading out to Disney's Boardwalk for a scavenger hunt and some fireworks.

The 15-3s had a good morning as well at the Convention Center. They came in second in their pool by finishing 2-1 (however they weren't too keen to talk about the one loss). [Click here](#) to see photos of the 15-3s matches today. After their day at the gym some of the 15-3s purchased uniquely colored and patterned tri-shorts - hot pink, neon green and leopard print were the three that I was told about. Once the girls got back to the house they just hung out and soaked up some sun.

The 15-4s also had a great morning at the Convention Center, finishing 3-0 after an exciting third game of the final match. You can see photos of the girls by [clicking here](#). After the gym, the girls were headed out to Cocoa Beach with some freshly baked cookies they made yesterday. I have not seen or heard from them since, but I'm sure they had a great time!

The 12-1s played late this morning at the Convention Center. They went 1-1 for the day. You can see photos of the 12-1s from today by [clicking here](#).

The 15-1s had tough time late this morning at the Wide World of Sports. They came in last in their pool. You can see photos from their first match and their day by [clicking here](#). Even though their day at the gym wasn't too uplifting, the girls all had good spirits when I went to visit them. They had their parents over for hamburgers and beans. Natalie is a little nervous about sleeping tonight cause Macey ate a lot of beans! At dinner, the girls figured out that I am "Curt's brother-in-law's oldest child." I also learned that two days ago the girls ate 70 pieces of french toast for breakfast and today they tried to break that record with 50 pancakes and 50 pieces of french toast. They did not succeed, but you can see a photo of breakfast in the gallery mentioned earlier. In that gallery you can also see photos of the 1" gecko that the girls caught and Kelsey's three-year old brother that decided to join them for a swim (we would like to point out that Connor did not break the rule of skinny-dipping, he kept his underwear on).

The 14-1s played this afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 1-2 for the day. They lost their first match against Colorado Performance in two close games. [Click here](#) to see photos from that match. Then they dominated in their second match and then lost their third. Tonight, the girls went out for ice cream with Curt and I. They played a very interesting game of "dibs". I think Haley has about 75 future husbands now.

The 13-1s had a great day at the Convention Center this afternoon. They were in a 5-team pool and went 4-0 for the day, putting them in first place in the pool. Most of their matches were very close. But they clinched their final match in the third game 15-11 against A5. [Click here](#) to see photos of the girls from today.

This afternoon the 14-2s played at the Wide World of Sports. They won their first match pretty easily, but their second match was one of those "give-the-coach-a-heart-attack" matches. The first game they lost 31-33 and the second was 25-27. They lost their last match, putting them at 1-2 for the day and third overall in the pool. I was not able to get any photos of the girls playing - I am sorry to disappoint.

I know you're all curious about where everyone stands. So, here is the break-down of what all the teams are playing for tomorrow:

12-1: Consolation Bracket - going for 19th place (out of 47 teams)

13-1: Consolation Bracket - going for 17th place (out of 43 teams)

14-1: Red Bracket - going for 19th place in the Open Division (out of 24 teams)

14-2: Classic Bracket - going for 15th place (out of 72 teams)

15-1: Classic Bracket - going for 9th place in the Open Division (out of 30 teams)

15-2: Consolation Bracket - going for 19th place (out of 60 teams)

15-3: Red Bracket - going for 23rd place (out of 60 teams)

15-4: Red Bracket - going for 23rd place (out of 60 teams)

15-5: Red Bracket - going for 23rd place (out of 60 teams)

Arrival of 18's, 17's, 16's

All of the rest of the teams came in today. They all arrived safely. The 16-2s, 16-3s and 18-2s all wanted to go to the beach, but were shot down by Curt seeing as their going to be spending the day in the sun tomorrow at Sea World's new water park, Aquatica. The 18-2s managed to find a way to stay cool though by going for a swim at one of the parents' rented homes over in Formosa Gardens. All the teams that got in today were just relaxing at their houses tonight.

2008 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

The 12-1s took 23rd place out of 47 teams this tournament. They won their first match in three games. Then they lost their second match in a close two games. The second game finished 25-27. [Click here](#) to see photos of the girls from today.

The 13-1s took 21st place out of 43 teams this afternoon. The coaches said that the girls had a great season (and that what they did on the court in their final match did not reflect the season). [Click here](#) to see photos of the 13-1s match today. After the gym the girls enjoyed the pool, went shopping, had all the parents over for dinner and then enjoyed the pool again - with a friendly game of Marco Polo to boot! Crystal and Lindsey balled when they opened their gifts from the team. Overall, it was a fun tournament for the girls.

As Michelle puts it, the 14-1s won the "toilet bowl" division - they were the biggest turd in the bunch. Overall, they finished 19th place in the Open Division. I was not able to get any photos of these girls today as they were at the Wide World of Sports. However, I did find a neighbor today that I'm sure the girls would have called "dibs" on, too bad they weren't around.

The 14-2s won the silver bracket taking 9th place out of 72 teams this evening. Congratulations on a great tournament girls! [Click here](#) to see photos from their first match today. After the girls won the silver bracket, they went to have a night on the town with their new shiny medals. [Click here](#) to see photos of the girls around Orlando with their first place medals (photos courtesy of Ali Butler). They had dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. They did the YMCA with the waitresses and had an interesting time talking with their waiter Phillip, the guy with dreadlocks. As the girls were trying to take a photo with the giant shrimp at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., a grandma "snapped" them out of the way because HER grand-daughter was taking a picture. Lastly, earlier this trip, Lauren was attempting to find an apple in the dishwasher. Needless to say, she did not succeed in her quest to find an apple.

The 15-1s took 11th place in the Open Division out of 30 teams total. [Click here](#) to see photos from their first match today. I was told that they headed out to Cocoa Beach and were having a great time. They were still MIA when I went around to talk to all of the teams, so I'm sure they had a great day at the beach.

The 15-2s took 21st place out of 60 teams, however they like to say it was "roughly 3rd place". You can [click here](#) to see photos of their matches today. After the gym, for the second time this week the girls hit Cocoa Beach where they did not speak to a single boy. While they were there, they got Henna tattoos and the stylist thought they were all smokers because of their raspy voices. This evening the team was going to be "partying like sophomores", shopping, hanging out and then being in bed by 2:00am (per Marlon's orders).

The 15-3s lost the championship match of the Red Division this afternoon, meaning they took 24th place out of 60 teams. The girls played with so much excitement and

intensity today. It was really fun to watch. [Click here](#) to see photos from their matches today. After their last match, this team also went out to Cocoa Beach.

The 15-4s had the "best day of everyone" according to the team. They took 29th place out of 60 teams. You can see photos from their day by [clicking here](#). After their last match, they stuck around to cheer on the other 15s teams that were still playing. They were a great support base! Even one of the opponent's moms came over to tell them that they were being distracting and that they needed to move - Curt set her straight. After they had all of their cheering energy spent, they concentrated their energy on having fun! This evening, they jumped in the pool with all their clothes on (cause they were so disgusting), had a vegetable fight, had a market fight (that Ellen owned), watched Juno and "partied". They were playing Black Jack using Starbursts, gum sticks and pennies for gambling tools. Also, I need to point out that Kelly is cool, Ellen is cooler and Lauren is the coolest.

The 15-5s took 25th place out of 60 teams. These girls also played with great intensity and excitement today. You can see photos from their matches by [clicking here](#). Tonight, the girls headed out to Downtown Disney. When they get back they were going to stay up late watching movies, as long as they were all packed.

Aquatica - 18's, 17's, 16's

All of the rest of the teams went to Sea World's new water park, Aquatica, today. The 17-2s gave me their memory card from the day, so you can see some photos of them by [clicking here](#). The favorite rides of the day were the Rapid River, which is a fast lazy river, and then the "mat ride". No one could tell me the name of the "mat ride" but apparently you lie on your stomach on a mat and go down a slide that twists around a couple times and then has a large drop. After the park, most of the teams came home and slept. The 16-s and 17-1s had a taco bar for dinner while the 16-3s went to Carrabbas and the 18-2s went to Olive Garden. The 16-3, 16-4 and 16-5 all visited Downtown Disney and a couple other teams went shopping. Otherwise, everyone was just taking it easy tonight, preparing for their first day of competition tomorrow. Good luck girls!

2008 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

The 16-1s had a great time this morning at the Convention Center. They went 3-0 for the day, not dropping a single game, not even letting a team score more than 14 points on them. This puts them first in their pool and keeps them in contention for the gold. [Click here](#) to see photos of the girls from today.

The 17-1s also had a great day this morning at the Convention Center. They too went 3-0, taking first in their pool and keeping themselves in contention for the gold. Their first two matches flew by. In fact, I wasn't able to get photos of them because they were done so quickly. However, MAVA proved to be a bit more of a challenge in their third match. But, even though MAVA wanted it really bad, the team wouldn't let them have it - they pulled it off, 15-13 in the third game. [Click here](#) to see photos of the 17-1s from today.

The 17-2s also had an amazing morning at the Convention Center, going 3-0 for the day and not losing a single game! This puts them first in their pool and keeps them in contention for the gold. [Click here](#) to see photos from their matches today.

The 17-3s had a good morning at the Convention Center, taking second in their pool, keeping themselves in contention for the gold. They lost their final match to Illini Elite in a close, 3-game match. [Click here](#) to see photos of the girls from today. After the gym today, the girls headed right out to Cocoa Beach.

The 18-1s also finished second in their pool this morning at the Wide World of Sports. Going 2-1 for the day does keep them in contention for the gold. I did not get a chance to catch an photos of the girls because I was at the Convention Center all day, but I heard they started off the day in an interesting manner, having to talk their way into the fieldhouse due to some lost passes. No worries though, all worked out just fine.

The 16-2s had an amazing afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 3-0 for the day, coming in first in their pool and keeping themselves in contention for the gold. The girls were all full of energy and intensity. They did not lose a single game, in fact, they gave up no more than 19 points to any team in any game. [Click here](#) to see photos from their matches today. This morning, before their matches, the girls hung out at the house and some of the girls crimped their hair. They were going for the "intimidation factor". I guess it worked.

The 16-3s maintained their seed this afternoon at the Convention Center, coming in third in their pool, keeping them in contention for the gold. The girls played in intense matches all day and in the end wound up 1-2. You can see photos from their day by [clicking here](#). Before the girls came to the gym this afternoon they spent their morning sleeping and watching movies - just like true teenage girls.

The 16-4s took second in their pool this afternoon at the Convention Center, keeping themselves in contention for the gold. They went 2-1 today beating A5 in a great match! You can see photos from their matches by [clicking here](#). This morning the girls played slap jack, hung out at the house and watched *Made*.

The 16-5s also maintained their seed this afternoon at the Convention Center, coming in fourth in their pool. The girls played in hard-fought matches all day. You can see a whole load of photos from their matches by [clicking here](#). This morning the team "did nothing" except eat, sleep and braided each others' hair.

The 18-2s had a great time this afternoon at the Convention Center. They finished first in their pool, not losing a single match for the day! This keeps the team in contention for the gold. [Click here](#) to see photos from their matches. This morning the girls just laid low and hung out.

The 18-3s superceded their seed this afternoon at the Wide World of Sports, coming in third in their pool, keeping them in contention for the gold. Their last match of the day was against A5. It was a close, intense match that the team wound up winning in two. Unfortunately I did not get any photos of the team today because I was at the Convention Center.

2008 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

The 18-1s had a good morning at the Convention Center. Going 2-1 for the day and finishing second in their pool keeps them in contention for the gold. They played Sports Performance in their last match. They lost, but managed to push them to 23-25. Curt said that is the furthest we've had any team push them in a long time. Since I missed the girls yesterday, I have plenty of photos of the team from today! [Click here](#) to see them. This afternoon the girls went back to the house to hang out and decorate some shirts. Tonight, they went to T.G.I.Fridays for dinner.

The 17-1s had another good morning at the Convention Center. They went 2-1, taking second in their pool. This still leaves them in contention for the gold. Their third match was the toughest - they faced Kiva. The girls played with great intensity, determination, and excitement. They had phenomenal blocks, amazing digs and some hard kills. In the end they lost 26-28 in the second game. [Click here](#) to see photos of their matches from today. This afternoon the team took advantage of their one hour allotment of pool & sun time. Then, later this evening Curt took the girls out to dinner at Carrabbas for Maddie's award winning video. At dinner, Greta learned how to mix balsamic vinegar with olive oil, Maddie showed off her burnt shoulders, Kelsey showed us her napkin folding skills and Steph eat a ton of bread! It was a good evening.

The 17-2s also had another amazing morning at the Convention Center, going 3-0 for the day, finishing first in their pool. This also keeps them in contention for the gold. Their last match was against A5. The girls played with tremendous passion and energy. Josianne had some great runs of real strong serves. [Click here](#) to see photos

from their matches today. After playing the team was talking about going shopping and maybe even playing some mini-golf.

The 17-3s had another good morning at the Convention Center as well. At the end of the day, they took second in their pool, went 2-1 for the day and in doing so kept themselves in contention for the gold. The girls all played very well today. It was exciting to watch them. [Click here](#) to see a whole ton of photos of the team from today. Yesterday, the team lied to me. The team did not go to Cocoa Beach. They're went to Cocoa Beach this afternoon. Last night, the team went to Downtown Disney.

The 16-1s had a great time this morning at the Wide World of Sports. They went 2-0 for the day. This puts them first in their three team pool and keeps them in contention for the gold. The girls didn't drop a single game, no team scored more than 17 points against them! Because they were over at the Milkhouse today, I was not able to get any photos. After the gym today, this is the report I got from the team: swimming, lunch, outlet mall, dinner, games or movie, snack, bed - 9:00pm.

The 16-3s played some great volleyball this afternoon at the Convention Center. They finished first in their pool, going 3-0 for the day, keeping themselves in contention for the gold. Their first match today, against the A-seed in their pool (Club South, who happened to be seeded 13th overall in the tournament), the girls played amazing. It was a nail-biter the entire way through. They lost the first game, then barely pulled out the second game 27-25. Then in the third game, the teams kept matching each other point for point. In the end, the 16-3s came out victorious, 18-16. Congrats on the great win girls! You can see photos from their day by [clicking here](#). This morning, before coming to the gym, the girls "did nothing". They told me they "never do anything in the morning". Well, I find that hard to believe - maybe they just don't do anything exciting.

The 16-4s took fourth in their pool this afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 1-2 today, playing some really great, tough matches! You can see photos from their matches by [clicking here](#). Before coming to the gym, the girls "chilled out" and played their routine game of slap jack.

The 16-5s also had a great afternoon at the Convention Center. The team finished first in their pool, going 3-0 for the day. In the first match, all of the girls served really tough. [Click here](#) to see photos from their matches today. Before coming to the gym this morning the girls swam, "but only for one hour" they told me. Then they watched *She's the Man*. After winning all three of their matches today, the team went to Cici's for pizza. After pizza the girls went to play Mini-Golf where Haley got three hold in ones!

The 18-2s had an awesome time this afternoon at the Convention Center. They finished first in their pool, going 3-0 for the day. This still keeps the team in contention for the gold. Their last match was the "best we've played" according to the coaches. They played Top Ten Elite in an intense match. The games went 31-29 and 25-22. Congrats girls on a great match! [Click here](#) to see photos from their day. This morning the team had fun in the sun and in the pool, along with eating lots of cereal that Curt gave them. Oh yes, and at 10:15, Melissa tried to bend her finger that she dislocated yesterday.

The 18-3s also played afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 1-2 for the day, placing third in their pool. You can see photos from the 18-3s matches today by [clicking here](#).

The 16-2s had a great afternoon at the Wide World of Sports. They went 3-0 for the day, coming in first in their pool and keeping themselves in contention for the gold. Because these girls were at the Wide World of Sports today, I was not able to get any photos of the team as I was at the Convention Center all day.

2008 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

The 17-2s had a good morning at the Convention Center, going 2-1 for the day, finishing second in their pool. This means that this team will also be playing for the gold tomorrow. Their last match was against a Louisiana team that has been waiting to play them again since the AAU finals last year. It was a tough match and in the end, we just couldn't pull it out. You can see photos from the 17-2s matches (taken by Curt and I) by [clicking here](#).

The 17-3s played some great matches this morning at the Convention Center. When it was all said and done though, the girls came out 0-3 for the day. [Click here](#) to see photos of their matches from today. This afternoon the girls hung out for a while, then went to Giordanos for some pizza and then over to the outlet mall.

The 16-1s had a great time this morning at the Convention Center. They went 3-0 for the day. This puts them first in their pool and means they too will be playing for the gold tomorrow. Once again, the girls didn't drop a single game with no team scoring more than 18 points against them in any given game! You can see photos, taken by Curt and I, from their day by [clicking here](#). I won't lie though, there aren't many as the girls mainly served all day! Tonight, the girls were just hanging out at their house, doing dinner and a movie.

The 18-1s had a good morning at the Convention Center. Anneka received a great birthday present - getting into the gold bracket for tomorrow! The team went 1-1 in

their three-team pool today. That puts them in second and means that they will be playing for the gold tomorrow! [Click here](#) to see photos of this team from today. This afternoon the girls went back to the house to hang out and celebrate Anneka's birthday. This evening, the team was at the parents' house watching a movie in their movie theater when the power went off. That is right - I am currently writing this journal article to you in a pitch black house. About 3/4 of our block is out. Fortunately for the 18-1s, their house is in the 1/4 block that still has power. So, they meandered back to their house to continue hanging out for the evening.

The 17-1s had an amazing morning at Wide World of Sports. They went 3-0, taking first in their pool. Their first match was against the current (at that time) number one seed in the tournament, Texas Tornados. This was a great match that the team pulled out in three exciting games. This means that tomorrow the 17-1s are playing for the gold! [Click here](#) to see photos, taken by Curt and I, of their first match today (there are a lot of them - what can I say? I like shooting in the upper-level of the Milkhouse).

The 16-2s had a great afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 3-0 for the day, coming in first in their pool and meaning they will be playing for the gold tomorrow. In their first match, Brittney had a run of aces that were very impressive. You can see photos from their matches today by [clicking here](#). The entire day was just full of competition for these girls. Besides braiding and crimping their hair, the girls had a Guitar Hero Competition and a dance contest (which Brittney won).

The 16-3s played this afternoon at the Convention Center. They finished second in their pool, going 2-1 for the day, putting them also in the gold bracket tomorrow. Their first match was extremely close. They dropped the game match 27-29. You can see photos from their day by [clicking here](#). Today is Josie's birthday - Happy Birthday Josie! This morning, to celebrate, the girls all got up and did her hair and makeup.

The 18-2s had yet ANOTHER great time at the Convention Center. They finished first in their three-team pool, once again going undefeated, 2-0, for the day. This means the girls will be playing for the gold tomorrow. These girls had a late start today. Their pool did not begin until 5:30pm and they reffed the first match, so they did not begin playing until 6:30pm. But it did not phase them. However, it phased me. I was not able to make it back to the Convention Center this evening to get photos of the girls.

The 18-3s also played afternoon at the Convention Center. They went 2-1 for the day, placing second in their pool. You can see photos from their matches today by [clicking here](#). This morning the girls were treated to a gourmet breakfast compliments of the chaps. Then, they hit the outlet mall before heading to the gym.

The 16-4s played this afternoon at the Wide World of Sports. They went 1-2 today, taking third in their pool. Curt stopped at the Milkhouse for a little while, so he was able to photograph one of the matches. [Click here](#) to see those photos. This morning the girls had a delicious pancake breakfast and then braided eachothers hair before getting ready for playing.

The 16-5s also played this afternoon at the Wide World of Sports. The team finished second in their pool, going 2-1 for the day. Unfortunately, we managed to get their for the very last point of their match. I was told "quick, you have one point!" So, there is only one photograph and you can [click here](#) to see it.

2008 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

Mizuno Northern Lights [16-1s place 1st](#) at AAU National Championships

Mizuno Northern Lights [16-2s place 1st](#) at AAU National Championships

Mizuno Northern Lights [18-1s place 3rd](#) at AAU National Championships

Mizuno Northern Lights [18-2s place 3rd](#) at AAU National Championships

For the first time in Northern Lights history, we have swept an age division at AAUs. Andy says that we should get Adam and Sunny a broom! Congratulations 16-1 and 16-2 for an outstanding performance this evening in their championship matches! The two teams also went undefeated in games for the tournament as well. And congratulations to the entire club for a great tournament!

The 18-1s made it to the semi-finals of the 18 Open Division. They played Munciana in the finals. It was a tough match. Unfortunately Northern Lights lost the match, ending up in 3rd place. Megan Plourde and Ashley Suapaia were selected as [AAU All Americans](#) in the 18 Open Division. As Pam put it, "it isn't too bad to be in the company of Munci, Sports Performance 1 and Sports Performance 2." To see photos of the 18-1s from today [click here](#).

The 18-2s also made it to the semi-finals of the Gold Championship Bracket in their division. They lost their last match in three very close games and ended up finishing 3rd in the 18 Club Division. Danielle Haley and Katie Vohnoutka were selected as [AAU All Stars](#) in the 18 Club Division. You can see photos of the 18-2s matches today by [clicking here](#).

The 18-3s started off the morning at the Convention Center very well by taking out A5 in the "Consolation" or Bronze Bracket. Then they faced MAVA in their second

match and just couldn't stand up to them. This means they placed 23rd overall. Since these girls were at the Convention Center while I was at the Wide World of Sports, I do not have any photos of them for today.

The 17-1s were in the Gold Championship Bracket this morning. They took on MAVA first thing and had a rough time. They dropped the first game 22-25 and then came together in the second to pull ahead 25-21. Finally, the third game - they played hard, but in the end the 17-1s lost 14-16. This puts the team at 5th place in the Open Division. Chelsea Fogarty was selected as an [AAU All American](#) in the 17 Open Division. You can see photos of the girls from today by [clicking here](#).

The 17-2s came out on fire today. They won their first match pretty easily which set them up for a grudge match. The second team they faced, Vaqueras, is the same team they lost to in the finals at AAUs last year. They played two really close games, but just like last year, the girls couldn't knock them down. This placed the team at 5th overall. Shannon Byers was selected as an [AAU All Star](#) in the 17 Club Division. To see photos from the girls matches today [click here](#).

The 17-3s were playing in the "Consolation" or Bronze Bracket this afternoon. They fell in their first match against Colorado Performance. These girls were at the Convention Center all day and unfortunately I was not. Therefore, I do not have any photos of the 17-3s for today.

The 16-1s, once again, had an amazing day! They finished their first match in only 20 minutes (which really helped out their court considering it was an hour behind to start!) To see photos of from their first two matches today, [click here](#). Off to the championships they went where they would face Young Guns in an intense match. The team still managed to keep their record of ZERO losses, as they finished the championship match in two games: 25-22, 25-19. The match got done JUST in the nick of time for the girls to run over and catch the final few points of the 16-2s match. You can see photos from their championship match by [clicking here](#). Tori Dixon, Molly Kreklow, and Ashley Wittman were selected as [AAU All Americans](#) in the 16 Open Division. Ashley was named the tournament MVP for their division.

The 16-2s also had an amazing day. They won all three of their matches this morning at the Convention Center, in the Gold Championship Bracket, not letting any team take a single game from them. Then, the team made the trek over to the Wide World of Sports for the championship match. They started off their match against Sports Performance neck-and-neck and continued that way throughout the entire match. They finished SPVB off in two games: 25-21, 27-25. The entire match was full of energy along with some great volleyball. [Click here](#) to see a whole bunch of photos from their exciting Championship match. Paige Petersen, Christine Bielski, and Elly

Braaten were selected as [AAU All Stars](#) in the 16 Club Division. Elly was named the tournament MVP for their division.

The 16-3s were also in the Gold Championship Bracket this morning at the Convention Center. They lost in the Quarter finals to Sports Performance's Sophomore team in three close games. Getting to the quarter-finals means that even with a loss, the girls finished 5th. Kelli Earp was selected as an [AAU All Star](#) in the 16 Club Division. Cause the girls were at the Convention Center this morning, I was not able to get any photos of them today.

The 16-4s also had an amazing day at the Convention Center. They won their first three matches in two games each, putting them in the championship match for White Bracket. It was a great match against the South Florida Flyers that the 16-4s won in two games flat. It was a fantastic finish to the day! Once again, since they were at the Convention Center, I did not get any photos of these girls playing, however, I was able to snap a shot of a couple of them at the championship matches in their new tri-shorts. [Click here](#) to see it!

The 16-5s had a good morning at the Convention Center as well. The team beat Indiana Volleyball Academy to start of their day. Then they crushed Colorado NuSky, taking them out 25-8 on game! This put them in the championship match for Yellow Bracket. It was a great match with a lot of heart. In the end, the 16-5s dropped, in three games. As with the 16-4s, since the team was at the Convention Center, I did not get any photos of these girls playing.