

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

The 121, 131, 141, 151, 152, 153, 154, & 155 teams had the day off of volleyball to go have some fun at Wet & Wild.

Most of the teams arrived about 9am, but there were a few stragglers who forgot their tickets back at the houses, or forgot to get coffee and had to make a detour....but eventually everyone arrived and headed off to the many water rides. The universal favorite was Disco H2O, but some of the girls got brave and did the big Bomb Bay drop where the floor drops out from under you and down you go about 150 feet on the water slide.

Lunch was served at the water park and the girls quickly snarfed down hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and ice cream. Then it was back to the wave pool or the lazy river. Most of the teams headed back to the homes around 1-1:30pm where many of the girls took naps or relaxed in the air conditioning watching movies. Today's high was 94, and it was sunny all day.

Dinner was a wide variety of things from Lasagna, to Spaggethiti, to individual custom pizza, and taco salads.

The 14-2's had a Marshmellow blowing contest, put the marshmellow in your nose and see how far you can make it fly, with Karlee the winner.

The 15-2's did their nails while having pizza on their patio.

The 15-1's stopped and did a few minutes of shopping on the way back from the water park.

The 14-1's retired to their home theatre for movies.

The 15-4's were making bracelets and watching movies at their home theater.

The 12's were having a pool (pool table) competition.

Last night Curt took the 15-5's out to dinner at Carrabbas as the prize for their excellent video skit. It was a lot of fun....until Curt got the bill.

For a few pictures of the 15-5's at dinner with Curt, and a couple of some the kids at Wet & Wild [Click here.](#)

Competition starts on Saturday morning with many of the teams having 8am matches.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

Pictures taken this entire year are now posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

Another AAU National tournament is off and running, and so am I. Without Jen to help take pictures and do the write ups, I'm going to have a hard time keeping up. Today I actually got to watch every team and get pictures of them. Most of the teams I was able to spend a full match at.

The 121's were the first stop, playing at the Disney Wide World of Sports. They were up on court 7, which is horrible for viewing and picture taking. I got a few shots of them, but they aren't great. The team did play well in the match I watched. They won it fairly easily in 2 game against Union. The 12's won their other two matches and they took first place in the pool. With most of the parents down here in Orlando, they came over and had a BBQ. They will play in the afternoon at the Convention Center.

The 131's started off the afternoon well at at the Disney Wide World of Sports. They won their first match against a team from Munciana. Unfortunately, the next two matches did not go as well. They lost the 2nd match to a team from Puerto Rico, and the third match to OVA. However, the format of the tournament is such that they are still not out of contention for the Gold Championship bracket. So tomorrow, their opponents will be more challenging but they will still have a chance to continue towards the Gold.

141's are playing in a 6 team pool over two days. Today they had 3 matches of that pool. They won all three matches which pretty much assures them of continuing on towards the Gold. The only bad thing is that they are going to play the top seed in the tournament, who is in their pool, on Sunday. The 141's will have their hands full in that match. Today after they finished playing they came back to the house, swam, and showered up, had dinner and then came running out when the ice cream truck came driving by. They finished off their evening with Curt's year end meeting and were going to watch a movie before going to bed.

The 142's were at the Convention Center in the afternoon. I watched them pretty much crush a team in 2 quick games. The games were so fast, I had a hard time getting even a few pictures. I left the Convention Center feeling pretty good about their pool and their chances of winning it. In the end, the 14-2's won 2 of the 3 matches in that pool, took 2nd in the pool and advanced toward the Gold Championships.

The 151's were at the Convention Center in the morning. They started off the tournament slowly against Team Z by going 3 games with them. In the end they won

game 3 fairly easily, but it was a bit tense for a little while there. Their second match of the day was much more convincing, they won that one 25-11, 25-11. The 151's are also in a 6 team pool like the 141's. They will finish their pool play on Sunday with 3 more matches at the Disney Wide World of Sports. The rest of today was spent by the pool for a while (limited time) and then watching TV and playing a new game Chad invented called "Smell this".

The 152's were at the Convention Center in the morning in a normal 4 team pool. They easily won the first match. In their second match of the day they lost game one in a close battle against a team from Puerto Rico. I had take quite a few pictures during that game so I left to go watch the other 15's team... figureing we were in trouble on this court. It turned out that the 152's pulled out the next two games, and then won their final match to go 3-0 and win the pool. They will play on Sunday morning at the Convention Center.

The 153's were at the Convention Center in the morning in a normal 4 team pool. I went over to watch them after 15-2's looked doomed to lose their match (which they ended up winning), and the 15-3's were cruising right along. They fairly easily won their match against Arkansas Juniors, and they even had time to wave at me while they were playing.....what a friendly group of players we have. They then had to play a second match immediately after that and they won that one also. They then snarfed down a quick lunch and played the third match of the day which they dominated. So for a team which was seeded at the bottom of their pool, they finished 1st in their pool. It just goes to show you how much the tournament committee looked at results for seeding.

The 154's were also at the Convention Center in the morning, and they two were also seeded last in their pool. So they went to work and by the time I got to their court they were 1-1 on the day beating Tampa in 3 games, and losing to Alamo in 3 games. The match I saw was good match, and it went 3 games after we dropped game two with too many errors, but in the end the 15-4's won the match against Sky and ended up taking 2nd in pool. Once again...great seeding tournament committee!

The 15-5's are last on my list. They were also seeded dead last in the tournament by the seeding people. They too played in the morning at the Convention Center. They started out great by winning against a team from Puerto Rico in two games. Their 2nd match was against the #1 seed in the tournament, and they lost that one. This set them up for their 3rd match of the day...the big photography match! I got to their match about 1/2 way through game 1 which they ended up winning easily. Game two was almost the same as they cruised to victory and a 2nd place finish in the pool. This moved them from Seed 76 to seed 38...once again our teams proved that they are way better than the seeding committee had originally placed them.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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The 12-1's played in the afternoon at the Convention Center. They started out with a tough match against a team from Puerto Rico. They won the first, lost the 2nd and then lost the 3rd set 16-14. Their next match against Mava they won in two sets. This left them with the final match of the pool against another team from Puerto Rico. They won that match in 2 sets also, so the 12's are still in contention for the Gold Championship bracket. They will play on Monday in another pool with the top 2 teams advancing to the final bracket on Tuesday.

The 13-1's played in the afternoon at the Convention Center. Their first match was against Gainesville 13's. They won the first set, lost the 2nd set and then lost the 3rd set 15-13. They then had to play right away again against Houston Jrs, which they beat in 3 sets. Their final match of the day was against A5 from Atlanta. This match also went 3 sets, but the 13's ended up losing the 3rd set 15-13 again. They finished 3rd in their pool and this puts them out of contention for the Gold. After getting lost on the way home for about 30 minutes, they have a short night ahead of them because they must be back in the gym for their next pool at 8am on Monday morning. They got home, quickly ate some food and headed off to bed.

The 14-1's didn't get any pictures taken of them today because they played at the Convention Center at the same time I was at the Disney complex. Then when I got to the Convention Center they played at 11am, which I thought was suppose to be 12, so I missed that match. Walt and Steve straightened me out and told me the story of their day. They played the number 1 seed in the tournament, Kiva, and actually got 12 & 16 points off of them. Kiva is a very good team, and will probably easily win the tournament. Their second match was against Fusion and the 14-1's easily won that match in 2 sets. So they finished their 6 team pool with a record of 4-1 which put them in 2nd place in the pool. They head home for an afternoon of swimming and then dressed up nicely and went out to walk around Downtown Disney.

The 14-2's played in the afternoon at the Disney Wide World of Sports in the new Jostons Center. Its a nice building, except for the sun that was shining right in the big window onto the court they were playing on and right in their eyes. Erin is sick today, so Michelle and Kim quickly made up a new line up with Shanotta setting. They lost their first set, but then I arrived in time to cheer them on and watch them win their 2nd match in 3 close sets. They then had to play right away again, and they won that final match. This gave them 2nd place in the pool and they are still in contention for the Gold Championship. Tori reported that she liked that site because the cute baseball

guys kept walking along the balcony right behind their court. Michelle and Kim were not impressed.

The 15-1's started off the day strong at Disney Wide World of Sports, beating their first opponent in two quick games. Their second match of the day was against Pinnellas Heat, and that one was more interesting. After easily beating them in game 1, the 15-1's dropped game two and had a close game 3 which they won. So going into the final match of pool play they were 4-0. The final match was against Sports Performance. After having lost to this team in Chicago the 15-1's were ready for them this time and they handily defeated them in 2 straight sets. The 15-1's won the pool and move on towards the Gold Championship.

The 15-2's were at the Convention Center in the morning. Olivia had flown in last night from the wedding she had to attend, so they were at full strength today. They easily won the first two matches in two games each. The third match was their toughest and they dropped the first set. The second set was a nail biter, but they pulled it out in the end 25-22. They then proceeded to crush the other team in the third set. So they once again won their pool and are that much closer to beach side rooms. Tonight they are going to head out for a team dinner and then just chill out watching movies.

The 15-3's also played in the morning at the Convention Center. They too won their first two matches relatively easily. This put them up against a big strong team called Union. The 15-3's tried hard and even pulled to old "grape on the court trick", but in the end the other team was just too strong for them and they lost the match. However they ended up 2nd in their pool and are still in contention for the Gold Championship bracket. After the match the 15-3's quickly packed up and headed for Coco Beach and a couple of hours in the surf. There they had a great time riding the waves and shopping at Ron Jons Beach Shop.

The 15-4's played at the Wide World of Sports at the same time as the 15-1's but in a different building. So I wasn't able to get over to their match quick enough to get any pictures. They did tell me that they had a good first match, and even though they lost they had played hard and had a fun time. After I left they had two more matches that day, which they also lost but said they worked hard and played well. They ended up 4th in their pool and will play in the afternoon on Monday. They too headed out for Coco Beach after their last match.

The 15-5's like the 15-4's had a tough day. They played in the Convention Center and lost all three matches today. They didn't do anything wrong, they were just plain beaten by better teams. This put them 4th in their pool and they will play in the afternoon on Monday. They also headed out for Coco Beach after their last match.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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Short summary today, and very few pictures. Only a few pictures of the 14-1's. I spent most of the day dealing with the houses for the 2nd group of teams which arrived tonight.

The 12-1's are in the Gold Championship Bracket. They won their pool today. They play at Disney Wide World of Sports on Tuesday. Go 12's!!!

The 13-1's after a dissappointing day yesterday, came back strong today and won all 3 of their matches. They then went out to Coco Beach and got back and had their parents over for some snacks. They said such sweet things to Curt (via Crystal) that he has indicated he might get them ice cream on Tuesday when he comes over to have his year end meeting with them. They are playing for 19th on Tuesday.

The 14-1's had a phenomenal day! They went 3-0 in pool play defeating Sky High, Triangle, and the number 2 seed in the tournament a team from Puerto Rico. The final match against Puerto Rico was a real thriller that they won 15-12 when Jocelyn pounded an overpass down for match point. They finished first in their pool and are in the Gold Championship Bracket. They play at Disney Wide World of Sports on Tuesday. Go 14's!!!

The 14-2's had a tough day today. They ended up losing all 3 matches in their pool, this put them 4th in the pool and they are no longer in contention for the Gold Championship. They will finish their tournament on Tuesday playing for 22nd.

The 15-1's had a scary day. They lost a match to Lions 15-2's, then they lost game one of the final match of the day but ended up winning the next 2 games to win the match against Sky High. However this put them in a 3 way tie for 1st, and they had to play another playoff game against Lions 15-2's. This time the outcome was different with Lights winning the playoff match and advancing to the Gold Championship Bracket. They play on Tuesday at Disney against Lions 15-1's at noon. Everyone is invited! Good luck to the 15-1's in the playoffs.

The 15-2's had another good day. They were 2-1 in pool play, finished 2nd in the pool and are now in the Gold Championship Bracket of the the 15 Club division! They will continue their quest for beach side rooms at 9am on Tuesday.

The 15-3's also had a tough day. They lost all three matches and ended up 4th in the pool. This put them out of contention for the Gold Championships and they will be playing for 22nd place on Tuesday.

The 15-4's were in a 4 team pool today, so they got lots of playing time! They end up 2-2 in the pool which ranked them 3rd in the pool. They will be playing for 43rd place on Tuesday.

The 15-5's were in a normal 4 team pool and went 1-2 on the day. They finished 3rd in the pool and will be in the same bracket at the 15-4's playing for 43rd place. If both the 4's and 5's win their first match they will play each other in the semi's of that bracket.

2009 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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**Mizuno Northern Lights 15-1's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 15
Open**

**Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 14
Open**

Today Northern Lights had 4 team of it's nine teams in the Gold Championship Brackets. Congratulations to 15-1, 15-2, 14-1, & 12-1 for great performances.

The 12-1 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They had a match against a team from Puerto Rico...of course. It looked like the 12's were going to win the first game, then Puerto Rico came back strong and won that game. In game two the team from Puerto Rico pretty much controlled the match, and they won it. This ended the 12's tournament. They officially placed 5th at the AAU National Championships. This was a great finish for this talented team! We are extremely proud of the team and the coaching staff for being the first Northern Lights 12's team to make it into the Gold Championship Bracket.

The 13-1 team won their first match and then lost their second match. They officially finished 24th. After they were done today, Curt had his year end meeting with them and then treated them to ice cream at Dairy Queen. They were going to spend the evening watching movies.

The 14-1 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They started off the day playing Munciana 14's, and they won that match in two. Unfortunately the tournament directors scheduled the semi finals of the 14 Open Division immediately after the Quarter finals were done, and the 14-1's had to play immediately against OVA who had just had a 1 hour break. The 14-1's were never able to recover and they ended up losing that match to OVA. This ended their tournament and they officially placed 3rd in the 14 Open Division. They attended the awards ceremony later that evening where they were awarded their Bronze medals. They also received 2 All American awards to Jocelyn Youngdahl and Alyssa Goehner. Congratulations to the 14-1's and Alyssa & Jocelyn. This is the highest our 14's team has ever placed at the AAU National Championships. We are extremely proud of them and their coaches for this great performance.

The 14-2 team was playing for 22nd today in the consolation division. They off slow losing game 1 to Sky High 14-2, but then won game 2 easily. It all came down to game 3, which was "intense" according to the players. However they ended up losing that one 18-16. They officially finished 26th.

The 15- 1 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They started off the day playing a very good Lions 15-1 team. The match was very intense and the 15-1's lost game 1, and then won games 2 & 3 to win the match. Once again, the tournament directors did a poor job scheduling the tournament and had the semi finals of the 15 Open Division being played immediately after our quarter final match. The 15-1's worked hard against a Munciana 15-1's who just came off an hour rest break. It went two games, and both of them were close but in the end the 15-1's were out of jumps and not able to pull it out. This ended their tournament and they officially placed 3rd in the 15 Open Division. They attended the awards ceremony later that evening where they were awarded their Bronze medals. They also received 2 All American awards to Haley Bodway and Leigh Pudwill. Congratulations to the 15-1's and Haley & Leigh. We are extremely proud of them and their coaches for this great performance.

The 15-2 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. Unfortunately they had a tough day. They were never really able to get going, and they lost their match in 2 close games. They officially placed 9th in the 15 Club Division. Once again, we are proud of this teams finish. They played without one of their outside hitters for part of the touranment, and had injuries on the final day....yet they still made it into the Gold Championship Brackets. Congratulations to all the members and their coaches.

The 15-3 team was playing for 22nd position today. They won their first match against Triangle, then defeated Oklahoma Charge 15-1, and headed into the finals of the consolation bracket. There they played a great match against Top Select Elite, and

lost it in 3 very close games the third one being 15-13. They officially finished 23rd out of 84.

The 15-4 team was playing for 43rd position today. They played an excellent match against Tampa Bay 15's, and ended up losing it in the third game 17-15. They officially finished 47th out of 84.

The 15-5 team was playing for 43rd position today. The girls said this was not one of their "on days" and they lost the match in two games. They officially finished 47th out of 84. The team did however make some nice bracelets tonight and presented Curt with a very nice card. Thanks to the 15-5's for being so thoughtful.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

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The 171 & 181 teams played at the Disney complex in the morning and I was at the Convention Center at that time, so I was unable to get any pictures of those teams today.

With so many teams here, it's going to be impossible to give details on each teams performances. Many of the teams I only saw one game of a match as I moved to another court to see our next team. So these summaries are going to be short.

16-1 won their 3 team pool, then won the crossover match. They were 3-0 on the day and are in great shape for Thursday.

16-2 went 3-0 in their pool today, winning it. They are still in contention for the Gold Championship. They will play again on Thursday morning at the Disney complex.

16-3 went 2-1 in their pool today and placed 2nd. They are still in contention for the Gold Championship. They even had one game go to 38-36, which they lost but they won the match in the next two games. They will play again on Thursday morning at the Disney complex. The 16-3 team went out to Downtown Disney this evening and dinner there at the House of Blues and then walked around a while. We did have one interesting mishap with Kaylee who hit her head on the floor pretty hard when going for a ball. She got checked out and cleared to play again by a Doctor at the hospital. They will play Thursday morning at the Disney Complex.

16-4's had probably the worse luck of any team we've had in this tournament. First they were in a pool that was very hard and poorly seeded. Then they went 1-2 in pool play

which normally would put them 3rd. But in this pool they ended up tied and had only one playoff game (normally 2) which they lost. This put them into 4th place and they are no longer in contention for the Gold Championship Bracket. They are now going to be in the bottom 1/4 of the tournament and will probably crush the rest of the teams they play. They will play Thursday morning at the Convention Center.

The 16-5's also went 1-2 in their pool, and they two had a playoff game. They won that game and they advanced to the upper bracket. They will play Thursday morning at the Disney Complex.

The 17-1 team had a three team pool which played 3 games to 25. They easily won all 6 games and were done early today. They will play Thursday afternoon at the Convention Center.

The 17-2 team won all three of their matches today and took first in pool. They will play Thursday afternoon at the Convention Center.

The 17-3 team started off great. I watched them easily win their first game of the pool, and I thought they were going to cruise right along in that pool. I was surprised to learn later in the evening that they had ended up 1-2 and in 3rd place in the pool. Fortunately the top 3 teams are moving towards the Gold, so they will have a chance to better their position on Thursday when they play in the afternoon at the Disney Complex.

The 17-4 team also started off strong. They won their first match playing great, then I left to go watch the other teams and apparently the wheels fell off. Marissa got hurt again and couldn't set, so they had to improvise. They ended up losing the next two matches so they finished 1-2 in the pool at 3rd place. They will still advance towards the Gold, but its going to be alot hard on Thursday if Marissa isn't able to set again.

I watched the 17-5 team play a great game in their first match of the day. Unfortunately they lost that match. Overall they were 1-2 on the day and finished 3rd in the pool. They are holding their own with their numerous injuries, but the players are toughing it out and having fun too. They are still in contention for the gold championships and will play Thursday afternoon at the Disney Complex.

The 18-1 team played the first 3 matches of a 6 team pool today. They went 2-1. They will complete their pool play on Thursday.

The 18-2 team went 2-1 on their first day of play. They finished 2nd in their pool and are advancing nicely towards the Gold Championships. They will play at the Convention Center on Thursday morning.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

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Today I was only able to get picture of the 161, 171, 181, 162, 163, & 165 teams. The other teams were playing in different places at the same times. I hope to be able to get more of the 17's on Friday.

A quick summary follows.

161 - went 2-1 today. I watched them pretty much destroy Dunes in their first match, and then they had a great match against Tampa which they lost. I thought the Tampa match was some of their best play I have seen from this team yet. Their final match was against Mava and they won that in 3 games. They are still in the hunt for Gold and play on Friday afternoon in the Convention Center.

162 - They won all 3 of their matches today. I believe they went to Coco Beach afterwards. They are still in the hunt for Gold and play on Friday morning at the Disney complex.

163 - They went 1-2 today. They lost the first two matches of the day, both close, and easily won the 3rd match of the day. They are no longer in contention for the Gold Championship Bracket. After they finished playing they headed over to Coco Beach to play in the surf, go to Ron Jons, watch the space shuttle take off, and have some huge pizzas. They said it was a fun afternoon, and the toll collectors still don't know how so much gas was passed. They will play again on Friday morning at the Disney Complex.

164 - They went 2-1 today and finished 2nd in their pool. They spent the afternoon in the pool and then headed out for dinner and an evening of shopping. They will be playing on Friday morning in the convention center.

165 - They also went 1-2 today, finishing 3rd in their pool. They felt as though they had an excellent day and played well. At one point they were even up in score on the top team in their pool. After they finished playing they headed over to Coco Beach to play in the surf, go to Ron Jons, watch the space shuttle take off, and have some huge pizzas.....sounds just like the 16-3's but no gas passing. They will play on Friday morning at the Disney Complex in a short 3 team pool.

171 - They rocked again today. At one point I watched them beat a team 25-4. They also started their warm ups, and played an entire match during the same amount of

time that our 161 team played about 3/4 of their match against Tampa. Yep, the 17-1's were definitely on a roll today. They ended up 3-0 and will play on Friday afternoon as they head towards the Gold Championship Bracket.

172 - They were in a 3 team pool that played only 2 matches. They won both of them, even though they had a slight line up error that had 2 of the middle blockers playing next to each other. But they figured it out on the court and still won that game. They will play on Friday morning at the Convention Center, still in contention for the Gold Championship Bracket.

173 - They had a great day today according to Jackie. They went 3-0, finished first in their pool and captured the 5th seed overall. This was a great rebound after yesterday's performance. They are now in a good position to make it into the Gold Championship Bracket if they do their job on Friday. They will be playing in the morning at the Convention Center.

174 - They went 1-2 today with Marissa once again able to set 2 of the matches but forced to sit out the 3rd match due too much pain. They played well according to Jason, they just weren't strong enough to beat some of the bigger teams. Jason also started his collection of colored cards today. They are now out of contention for the Gold, and will play on Friday morning at the Convention Center.

175 - This team was almost a carbon copy of the 17-4 team. The only difference was that Gene didn't collect any colored cards today. They went 1-2 finished 3rd in their pool and are now out of contention for the Gold. They will play on Friday morning at the Convention Center.

181 - They only had 2 matches this morning. They lost the first match in 3 games to Munciana, but then pretty much crushed Absolute Volleyball in two quick games. They ended up 3-2 in their pool, which ranked them 3rd. They are still in contention for the Gold and will play on Friday morning at the Convention Center.

182 - They went 1-2 today and finished 3rd in the pool. In the afternoon they headed off to Coco Beach just like the 163 team did. They spent most of the evening there and had dinner on Pier. They will play on Friday afternoon at the Disney Complex.

2009 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

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There are no pictures today of the 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, or 16-5 teams. They played at the same times, but different site.

16-1's went 2-1 today beating OVA and Kiva, and losing to Team Z. They finished 2nd in the pool and are in the Gold Championship Bracket on Saturday. They will play at noon at the Disney Complex. Congratulations to the 16-1 team for making it to the Gold!

16-2's went 2-1 today. They also are in the Gold Championship Bracket on Saturday. They will play at 9am at the Disney Complex. Congratulations to the 16-2 team for making it to the Gold!

16-3's went 3-0 today winning their pool. They will be playing on Saturday at the Convention Center at 9am. Tonight the 16-3 team had a BBQ with their parents and then Curt took them out for DQ as a thanks for helping him with some shirt folding earlier this year. They even tried to teach Curt how to move with the beat in the van. It didn't work.

16-4's went 2-1 today and finished 2nd in their pool. After they finished pool play they headed off to the beach for an afternoon of surf, sand, Ron Jons, and Pizza. They had a good time, even if they did get back just a little late. They will be playing on Saturday at the Convention Center at 8am.

16-5's had a great day. They won their pool sweeping all 6 games. They spent the afternoon in the pool and then had their parents over for a BBQ in the evening. They will be playing on Saturday at the Convention Center at 10am.

17-1's went 3-0 today in their pool, but not before having a little scare thrown at them. They lost one game of a match, and were very close to losing the 3rd game of that match but they came back from 9-4 to win it 15-13. They are in the Gold Championship Bracket on Saturday and will play at 9am at the Disney Complex. Congratulations to the 17-1 team for making it to the Gold!

17-2's went 3-0 today in their pool. They are in the Gold Championship Bracket on Saturday and will play at 10am at the Disney Complex. Congratulations to the 17-2 team for making it to the Gold!

17-3's are the "little" team that just keeps right on chugging along. They went 3-0 today beating at team from Puerto Rico, Club South, and Willowbrook. They also got a compliment from one of the opposing coaches who said they were the best blocking team they had seen this year. That's quite a compliment considering the size of the players (or should we say giants) we were up against today! They are in the Gold

Championship Bracket on Saturday and will play at 8am at the Disney Complex. Congratulations to the 17-3 team for making it to the Gold!

17-4's went 1-2 today running a completely new line up and new setters. Marissa is out for the rest of the event, so the 17-4's were creative and made it work. After they finished play they went swimming in the afternoon and then had their parents over for dinner followed by a round of mini golf. They will play their final bracket play starting at 8am in the Convention Center on Saturday. If both the 17-4's and 17-5's win their first match they will play each other.

17-5's also went 1-2 today. Plagued by sore backs, sore shoulders, and sore knees they are hanging in there. They will play their final bracket play starting at 9am in the Convention Center on Saturday. If both the 17-4's and 17-5's win their first match they will play each other.

18-1's had a tough pool today. They started off by winning the first game in their match against Sports Performance, but then lost the next 2 games and the match. They then played a good MAVA team and lost to them in 2 games on a very controversial call by the ref. Their third match was against OVA, and they lost that one also. So they were 0-3 on the day and knocked out of the Gold. They will be playing for 9th place on Saturday starting at 9am at the Disney Complex. They have 2 matches left in their Northern Lights careers. I hope they can win both of them and leave with some great memories.

18-2's went 3-0 today and according to Rachel played very well. Unfortunately they were playing on one of the rotten courts at the Disney Complex where getting any sort of decent picture is impossible. So the pictures I did get aren't the greatest. This team just was in the wrong place at the wrong time in this entire tournament and I got very few pictures of them....I'm sorry about that 18-2's. They too will play their final Northern Lights career matches on Saturday at the Convention Center starting at 9am. Good luck to the 18-2's.

2009 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

Pictures taken this entire year are now posted on our new photo website
by [CrossCourt Images](#)

Mizuno Northern Lights 17-1's win the AAU National Championships 17 Open

Mizuno Northern Lights 17-3's win the AAU National Championships 17 Club

Mizuno Northern Lights 16-1's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 16 Open

Mizuno Northern Lights 17-2's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 17 Club

Today Northern Lights placed 5 of its 12 teams in the Gold Championship Brackets and Medaled 4 of those teams! Congratulations to 16-1, 17-1, 17-2, & 17-3.

Pictures today were only taken of the teams in the Gold Championship Brackets.

18-1's won both of their final matches in their Northern Lights Junior Olympic career. They finished 9th overall in the 18 Open Division.

18-2's won their first 2 matches in the bracket and then lost in the finals of that bracket in 3 games. They finished their Northern Lights Junior Olympic careers at 22nd in AAU National Club Championships.

17-1's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They won their first match against Kiva in 3 games. Their 2nd match was against Mava which they won in 2 games. This put them in the final Championship match against Alamo. They won that match in 2 games and are the 2009 AAU National 17 Open National Champions. Tori Dixon was named MVP, Ashley Wittman and Molly Kreklow were also All Americans.

17-2's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They won their first match against OVA in 3 games. They were then up against our 17-3 team in the semi finals. It was a good match between the two teams, and the 17-3 team won in 2 games. The 17-2's officially finished 3rd in the 17 Club AAU National Championships. Ellen Krueger and Elly Braaten were named All American.. Congratulations to the 17-2 team for a great tournament and your 3rd place finish.

The 17-3's had one plan for today....to win it all, and that's exactly what they did. They started off their day against Sports Performance 17's who they quickly dispatched. Their next match was immediately after their first match (bad scheduling by the tournament staff) and they played Tsunami. This match was a tough one and they went 3 games winning it in the third. They then had to immediately play the 17-2 team, yes it was their 3rd match in a row....very poor tournament scheduling. However this was not going to block the 17-3's from their goal and they beat the 17-2's in two very good games. This put them in the finals against Kiva White. They started off slow, down 6-1 very quickly, but they came back and won game 1 and never stopped after that. Game two they continued on their roll and won that one 25-

14 and they are now the 2009 AAU 17 Club National Champions. Kaley Melville was named MVP, Britteny Baaren and Kathryn Gaydos were named All American. Congratulations to the 17-3 team for an outstanding tournament and some of the funnest matches I have ever watched.

17-4's had a great day finishing their tournament by winning all three matches today and winning the Blue Division. They finished 45th overall.

17-5' were also in the Blue Division and they won their first match and then lost their second match. They finished 47th overall.

16-1's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They played their first match against A5 and won it in two very close games 25-23, 25-23. They then had to immediately play again in the semifinals against a well-rested Sky High team. Unfortunately Sky High was just too strong for us and we lost that match in two games. The 16-1's officially finished 3rd in the 16 Open AAU National Championships. Katie Habeck and Ashley Murtha were named All American.. Congratulations to the 16-1 team for a great tournament and your 3rd place finish. (Editor's note: Hallie, yes it is bigger than Mankato here.)

16-2's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They easily won their first match in the Gold Bracket. Their second match was against Sports Performance and they lost that match in 2 games. The 16-2's officially finished 5th out of 93 teams in the 16 Club AAU National Championships. Congratulations girls on an excellent tournament. Melissa Racz was named All American.

16-3's won all three of their matches today and finished 36th losing in the finals of the Red division.

16-4's won their first match and then lost their 2nd match of the day. They officially finished 72nd.

16-5's won their first match of the day and then lost their 2nd match of the day. They officially finished 39th.

It's been another fun year in Orlando at the AAU National Championships. All of the teams represented Northern Lights well, and I received numerous compliments about how nice our players were and how well trained they are. Thanks everyone for another fun trip.