

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 3

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

The 14-1 team had already been playing for the last 3 days in the 14 National Division by the time I had arrived. They were 3-0 day 1, 3-0 day 2, 1-1 in pool play on day 3 and then had the all important Challenge Match that evening. Since they had lost one match in their pool play earlier in the day they were now matched up against the #1 seed in the tournament, Woodlands Wave. The match went 3 sets and the 14-1's won 15-13 in set 3 to advance to the Gold Championship Bracket. They will play in the Gold Bracket on Sunday starting at 8am.

The 15-1's started their tournament today in the 15 Open Division. They are in a pool of 8 teams and only played 3 of the possible 7 matches today. They started off very slowly and poorly losing in 3 sets to Austin Jrs. They had match point several times but were unable to convert it. Their 2nd match of the day was better, or at least the outcome was. They lost the first set 14-25 against Sky High. In set two they came back and won 25-19 after being down. They like playing 3 set matches and giving their coaches heart attacks, so they played set 3 and won 15-13. In their 3rd match of the day they played MAVS from Kansas City. They defeated them relatively easily in 2 straight sets. The 15-1's ended the day 2-1. They will play 3 more matches on Sunday in the afternoon.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 4

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1's place 3rd in the 14 National Division

The 14-1 team is in the Gold Championship Bracket today. If they win 1 match they medal, if they win the 2nd match they are in the finals. Their first match was against KC Extreme. The 14's pretty easily handled them in set 1, winning 25-20. In set 2 they had a huge lead but let KC Extreme come back to almost tie it up at 22 or 23. But then we got back on track and finished the match by defeating them 25-23. By winning this match the 14-1 team is assured of at least a Bronze medal and 3rd place. The semi final match was against a team from Hawaii. We started out badly, going down 1-7.

But then we got rolling and with Libby serving we racked up the points to about 18-7. They the Hawaiians got the ball back and they ran a string of serves to bring the score back to about 18-16. We finally got the ball back again and finished out the game 25-19. The second set started out with us scoring right away. The game went back and forth with each team matching the others score until about 18. At that point the Hawaii team took over and ending up scoring most of the rest of the points to win 25-20. This set up the deciding set to determine who was going to the finals. Unfortunately it didn't turn out well for Northern Lights. The Hawaiians took control of the game right from the start and before we knew it the set was over 3-15 and the 14-1 team was done with their tournament. They officially took 3rd place. The awards ceremony followed the finals match (which Hawaii won) and the 14-1's got their bronze medals. This was the 6th team that we have medaled in the year end National Championships in Orlando and Reno! The 14-1 team concluded their day by having Curt take them out for dinner and then they came back and had a special desert called a hamburger....you can ask the girls about it.

The 15-1's started their day off this afternoon by playing Sunshine 15-1 from California. The 15-1's pretty easily handled them and won in two straight sets. Their next match was against So Cal. They also won the first set easily, but the second set was much harder with NL winning 29-27. The final match of the day was against A5 15-1's. This team was a good team, but the 15-1's pretty much controlled the match the entire time even though the scores were 25-22, 25-22. They are now 5-1 in the pool and will play TAV the only undefeated team on Monday afternoon. Right now the 15-1 team will end up either 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the pool which means they will be playing at least one challenge match Monday evening to get into the Gold Championship bracket.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 5

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

This was a big day for the 15-1's. They played at 3pm their last match of the 8 team pool they were in. It was against TAV. The match was a tough one. We had a chance in the first set to win it, but in the end TAV came back and won set 1 and then won the second set. This put us 2nd in the pool with a 5-2 overall record. The 2nd place teams were then paired up against a 3rd place team from another pool in a challenge match. We were up against Long Beach 15-1's. This was a very good match. We were down in set 1 and came back to win it 27-25. Set 2 was neck and neck all the way up to about 18 and then Long Beach broke away and won it 25-19. This meant a 3rd

set...I thought it was over because the kids looked very tired after playing for basically 7 days. The 3rd set was once again point for point on each side until about 11-11 then we broke away for a few points and we ended up winning 15-12. This put us in the top 8 in the tournament, and we had to play one more match in an hour to get into the Final 4 Gold Bracket. The match was against OVA, the team we lost to in Orlando in the finals of the AAU Championships. The match started out in Northern Lights favor quickly with NL winning 25-14 and stunning OVA. However OVA did not roll over and play dead...in fact they came right back and won the 2nd set 13-25. This meant it was all coming down to the 3rd set for the right to be in the Gold Bracket. NL started out slow but the 15-1's fought back to take the lead at 8-6. Then with Kara serving we ran off about 6 points in a row. OVA was never able to recover from that run and Northern Lights won 15-8 and advanced to the Gold Semi Finals. They are now assured of at least a Bronze medal and at least a 3rd place finish. They are in the top 4 of the nation! They will play in the semi finals against St Louis CYC at noon on Tuesday.

The 17-1's started their tournament today in the 17 National Division. They had a rough day. They started out very poorly by losing to Pinellas Heat in 3 sets. Their second set wasn't much better....they lost that one in 2 straight sets to Impact from Southern California. This put them in position of having to win every remaining match in their 6 team pool if they want to advance. Their 3rd match of the day was against Cincinnati and we knew what was at stake. The 17-1's went to work and beat them in two straight sets without every really being in danger of losing. They will now have 2 more matches on Tuesday and they need to win them in order to advance out of the pool.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 6

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

Mizuno Northern Lights [15-1's](#) place 2nd in the 15 Open Division

This was a huge day for the 15-1's. They are playing at the highest level possible in the nation against other teams who are very good. They started their march to the finals at noon today against St. Louis CYC 15-1's. They won the first set 25-20 after being close most of the game. The second set started out badly with NL going down 1-6 very quickly. But the 15-1's battled back and eventually it was all even again at 18-18. The match then went back and forth but St. Louis always managed to keep the lead and in the end they won it 25-23. This meant everything was riding on set 3 now.

The game went back and forth with both teams hitting the ball hard and making some great defensive plays. At the turn it was St Louis up 8-7. But then NL took over for a few points brought the score up to 9-8 us. From there it was a battle to end...back and forth..9-9, 10-10, 11-11...all the way into overtime. Sarah had a huge hit at 17-17 to bring us up 18-17. St Louis then attacked and hit the last ball out to give us a 19-17 win and a berth in the Championship match. The Championship match was against Invasion from Kansas City. The match started out with a great rally on the very first point which Invasion won, but that didn't stop the 15-1's. They put a good battle against a very talented team. The 15-1's hung with them point for point until about 19 and then Invasion broke away and won it 25-20. The second set was not as good for Northern Lights. We lost that set 25-14. This put the 15-1 team 2nd in the 15 Open Division of the US Junior National Championships! All American Awards were given to [Alyssa Goehner, Jazzmyn Tingelhoff, and Sarah Wilhite](#). Congratulations to the 15-1 team for a great tournament and a great season....they finished 2nd at both AAU's and US Jr National Championships.

The 17-1's had to win both of their matches today in order to have any chance at all of advancing. They won both of them, but that did not automatically get them out of their pool. Their fate was decided by another match between two teams in their pool. Fortunately the right team one and the 17-1's finished 3rd in the pool and are advancing toward the Gold Championship. They will play at 8am on Wednesday.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 7

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

The 16-1's and 16-2's started their tournament today, while the 17-1's were in day 3 of their tournament.

161 started off on rocky footing and against a tough team. They lost their first match of the day to A5 in two straight sets. They then rebounded to win the next match against City Beach in two straight sets. Their third match of the day was against MAVA and they won that in two straight sets. They finished the 2-1 and in good shape for tomorrow. They will play again in the morning and have the afternoon free. To keep advancing they really need to win at least 2 if not all 3 of their matches tomorrow.

162 was seeded #2 in the 16 National Division. Unfortunately after today they are no longer seed #2. They went 0-3 today. Their first match was against Absolute and

although the scores were very close, 29-27 & 26-24, we lost that match. Their second match was against Club One and they went 3 sets with them but lost in the third 15-12. Their final match was against Premier and they once again went 3 sets only to lose in the last set 15-13. The way the pool will rank out it is pretty much a given that they will not advance towards the Gold after tomorrow, unless something really strange happens.

The 17-1's had a great day today. They started the day as seed #20 and finished it as seed #1! Here's how they did it. They won their two pool play matches against Willowbrook and WestBend Power. Both of them they won in two sets but in both they had one set that was very close at 29-27 and 27-25. By winning the pool they took over seed #1. They then had to play a challenge match in the afternoon against Force Volleyball. Force is a very physically big team, but the 17-1's defeated them in two sets 25-20 and 25-15. By winning this Challenge match they are in the Gold Championship Bracket of 8 teams. They are the third team we have placed in the Gold Brackets at this Championship! If they win their first match on Thursday at 8am they will medal.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 8

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

Mizuno Northern Lights [17-1's](#) place 2nd in the 17 National Division

The 17-1's were in the Gold Championship bracket today. They are the third Northern Lights team to be in the Gold Championship Bracket at this tournament out of a possible 3 teams so far. (2 more are still playing.) The 17-1's started their day on the Championship court playing San Francisco Jrs in the round of 8 teams. This was a big match, because the winner moves into the semi finals and medals. NL pretty easily handled San Francisco Jrs even though the 2nd set got a little exciting towards the end and finished 27-25. This assured the team of at least a 3rd place finish and a Bronze medal. Their next match was the semi finals and it was against TAV 17-2's. NL 171 wanted to be in the finals so badly that they pretty much crushed TAV 17-2's in two quick sets. This put the 17-1's in the Finals against Michigan Elite. This was our 5th team in a finals competition in the year end National Tournaments. Unfortunately like the other 4 finals, we were denied a Gold medal by a very good Michigan Elite team....in fact they pretty much thumped us in two quick sets. This left the 17-1's with a 2nd place finish in the 17 National Division. All American Awards were given to [Lisa Atkinson, Katie Habeck, and Taylor Voss](#). After the awards ceremony the

team went out for its traditional Medaling dinner with Curt at Outback. They then came back went swimming, cleaned up and were treated to unique desert served at this hotel called a "Hamburger". The girls loved it. This was a super way to end a fun season.

161 played in the morning today and needed to win at least 2 of the 3 matches today to stay in the hunt for the Gold. They managed to do that by going 2-1 today. They started off by beating Coast 16-1 from Southern California in two quick sets. Their second match was against Sunshine also from Southern California and the 16-1's defeated them in two straight sets without any major problems. Their 3rd match of the day was against Team VB Rags from Puerto Rico. This was a much harder match and the 16-1's lost it in 2 sets. This puts them at 4-2 in this pool with one more match to go on Friday morning. If they win the match they will be second in the pool, if they lose the match it will come down to game % to see who advances.

162 played their last two matches in their initial pool today. Due to the timing of the matches I was unable to see them or take any pictures of them because I was with the 171 team. However according to Andy they played very well today and they won both matches. The second match they went 3 sets with, but pretty much crushed the team in the 3rd set. There was a slim chance for them to advance toward the gold, but another team had to win a match that they didn't so the 16-2's ended up 4th in the pool. They are no longer in contention for the Gold Bracket and will now be playing for 25th place over the next two days. After they finished play today they went out to a movie because they won't be playing until Friday afternoon again.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 9

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

The 16-1's needed to win their final pool match to assure that they would advance out of their pool towards the Gold. The match was against Texas Tornados and NL easily won set 1. Set two was a battle all the way to about 18-18 and then Texas pulled away to win 25-20. The third set was a close game. It started out with Texas scoring the first 6 points and NL being down 6-1. NL came back to even it up at 6-6 and then Texas scored 2 quick ones to make it 6-8 Texas as we changed sides. The 16-1's once again came back to 8-8 and from there it was back and forth with the teams until the end when NL pulled out the win 15-13. This put them 2nd in their pool with an overall 5-2 record. They advanced to a Challenge match which was scheduled to play at 11am and we had just finished playing at 10:40am! So they marched over to the next court

and started the next match against Wave from Southern California. The first rally was a great one with the ball going back and forth about 10 times before Wave terminated it. From that point on Wave was pretty much in control of the match. The 16-1's kept it close, but in the end Wave won the match in 2 sets. This puts the 16-1 team out of contention for the Gold. They will be playing in the Bronze bracket for 9th place starting on Saturday morning. This evening the 16-1's had a fun time in the Arcade winning lots of tickets that they converted to various prizes.

The 16-2's had a 3 team pool today with a crossover match afterwards. Their first match was against a team name Krewe. It was a match that afterwards Curt called "boring". The 16-2's easily won it in 2 sets. The second match of the 3 team pool was against a team from Puerto Rico Mava VB Rags. This match was a bit closer, but the 16-2's won it in two straight games also. This put them in 1st place in the pool and they would play a challenge match later in the evening to determine which final bracket they would end up in tomorrow. Their challenge match was against 951 Elite a team from Southern California. The first set was somewhat close at 25-22, but you never really felt that the 16-2's were going to lose it. In the second set the 16-2's dominated and won it 25-17. This puts the 16-2's in Flight 2 which will be playing for 25th position (the top of the bottom half). After the 16-2's finished play they went back to the hotel, cleaned up and went down to the Arcade to join the 16-1's playing some of the video games. They will play their final matches of the year on Saturday starting at 9am. Editors note: while the girls were having sandwiches for dinner, Curt, Andy & Jessica had a superb meal in the Napa Bistro.

2010 US Junior National Championships - Day 10

Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 17-1

All of the pictures taken this year are posted on our new photo website by [CrossCourt Images](#)

The 16-1's were playing in the Bronze bracket for 9th place today. Their first match was against Nike Six Pack from Iowa, a team that had pretty much crushed us in the Northern Lights Qualifier. However this match was different. The 16-1's jumped out to a quick lead in set 1 and held onto it for the entire set winning 25-23. Set 2 was similar to set 1, back and forth the entire set. In the end NL won it 28-26. This put the 16-1 team into the finals of the Bronze bracket against TAV. The final match of the season for 16-1 was a good one. TAV is a good team and the match was very well played with lots of long rallies and great digs. NL 16-1 won the match in two straight sets. 25-23 and 25-19. They officially finished 9th in the nation by winning the [Bronze Division](#). Now it's on to Europe with this team leaving in 2 days!

The 16-2's were playing in Flight 2 for 25th place today. Their first match was against Renaissance from South Carolina. The 16-2's controlled the first set up until the end when Renaissance came back and won it 25-23. The second set wasn't very pretty with Renaissance winning it 25-16. This ended the tournament for the 16-2 team. They officially finished 27th.

This concludes the 2010 US Junior National Championships for Northern Lights.

The club had 3 medals at this tournament and put two teams in the Championship matches. Overall for the 2010 Summer events Northern Lights won 8 medals and put 5 teams in the Championship matches.