

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

The 12-1's, 12-2's, 13-1's, 13-2's, 14-1's and 14-2's didn't let tropical storm Alberto slow them down today. They all went to the waterpark, Wet and Wild. Hey, if you're going to get wet, why not get wet in the rain?

Every girl I talked to had a great time. I didn't hear ANY complaints, even though it rained the entire time we were there!

Part of the 12-1's had a blast singing music on the way to the park. Although it may not have been in tune, it was very entertaining!

The 14-1's and 14-2's had a volleyball match at the sand courts at Wet and Wild. I'm not sure who won, we'll call it a tie.

The 12-2's had a great time playing on "The Bubble". It was a giant bubble-looking obstacle that had water falling from the top. They then used ropes to attempt to climb up to the top, they get to slide back down. They loved it! Unfortunately, I think they were the only team to experience it. It was restricted, so only people under 13 could get in. So, that took out all the 13 and 14 year olds. Then on top of that, there was a height restriction as well. I think most of the 12-1's were too tall. Oh well I guess.

At 1 o'clock we were fed lunch by the park. It was a great "picnic lunch". They offered hamburgers, hotdogs and chicken. They also had pasta salad, potato chips and soft drinks. We had perfect timing for lunch! A few minutes into it, they announced that they had closed down all the rides because of lightning in the area. Fortunately, we were eating, so it didn't matter. After lunch it was time to go home.

This afternoon and evening, I heard that the 12-2's went shopping, the 12-1's went bowling and the 14-2's went to sleep.

The 13's play tomorrow morning at the Wide World of Sports. The 12's and 14's will also play tomorrow morning, but they will be at the Orange County Convention Center.

Wet & Wild for the 15's - 18's

The 13-1's and 13-2's started off the tournament playing at Disney's Wide World of Sports. I wasn't at the Wide World of Sports, but fortunately, Curt was able to get some pictures of both of the teams.

The 13-2's won their first match easily. They played really well in their second match, however they lost it in three to OVA 13-1's. They also fell in their third match to COA 13 Red. However, it was another close one that went to three. After playing, they came back to the houses to just relax. They were watching movies and just hanging out all night.

The 13-1's started off by winning their first match very easily. They also won their second match, but it wasn't pretty. They ended up fighting hard, but losing their last match. After they were finished playing, the girls went back home and played ping pong with a blowup volleyball, swam and had an air hockey tournament. It was intense! Mackensie won, Emily took second, Andrea came in third and Hannah was last, but certainly not least. Tonight, the girls were going to be relaxing and watching movies.

The 12's and 14's all played at the Orange County Convention Center. The 12-2's had a rough day, going 0-3, we'll leave it at that.

The 12-1's also didn't have as great of a day they had hoped for. They fell in their first match to TOA Alta Queens 12 White, but then came back and beat the ASO Impact Hawaii team. However, they fell in their third match, placing them at 3rd in their pool. This evening, they went to the opening ceremony. As they returned to the house, I heard them rocking out again so Sheila's famous "Volleyball CD".

The 14-2's also had a tough day. They lost their first two matches, however both of them were close. They even came within a couple points of beating the "A" seed in the pool. They were able to win the second match fairly easily though, placing them at third in their pool. They had steak and potatoes for dinner tonight, and then they were heading to bed. I think they were all pretty exhausted.

14-1's had a great day at the Convention Center winning all 3 matches easily in 2 games.

Back while we were in Minnesota, the 14-1's and 14-2's had a little competition at practice. The deal was is that the losers served the winners icecream in Orlando.

The 15's, 16's, 17's and 18's headed Wet and Wild first thing this morning while the 12's, 13's and 14's headed into the gym for their first day of competition.

All of the teams that I talked to loved Wet and Wild, even though they got "pelted with rain", that is a direct quote from several of the players I talked to. However, the 17-2's felt that Wet and Wild was "lame", I guess they thought Islands of Adventure was better. Oh well.

Unfortunately, I was at the gym all day, so I wasn't able to get any pictures of the older girls at the water park. Most for the teams came back from the water park, laid out in the sun for the few hours it was shining, swam in the pool and just relaxed.

The 17-1's LOVED the Hydra Fighter. They were just going to be sitting around and relaxing tonight.

Both the 17-2's and the 18-1's looked absolutely exhausted! The 18-1's were having a marathon of the television show "Lost" and the 17-2's were hanging around watching TV.

The 15-1's were extremely excited about their 9:45 bedtime!

The 16-2's had A LOT of visitors when I got to their house. They had had pizza for dinner and were making their third batch of chocolate chip cookies.

The 17-3's love their movie theater! They were going to be hanging out in it all night.

The 15-2's went to Carrabbas for dinner, Marlon's treat.

The 16-3's were hanging out in their game room when I got to their house. They had pizza for dinner and were going to be having a pool tournament later tonight.

I didn't get to the 16-4's house and the 18-2's, 12-2's and 12-1's were not around when I came by.

After Wet and Wild, the 16-1's went back to the house to get ready for the dinner they won by having the highest bid on their basket at the banquet. After dinner, they were going to be watching a movie, belly dancing and "having a talk". I'm sure they had a great night! I got yelled at for not having any photos up of them from the banquet.

The 15-3's were busy decorating cars this afternoon. They created the "Curtis Cruiser" and also decorated a bunch of the coaches cars as well as their own.

Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 14-1, 14-2, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 12-2

2006 AAU Trip - Day 2

I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Jen, Curt's niece. I will be your photographer and reporter for this week in Orlando and for Nationals in Atlanta.

This morning, the 12's, 13's, 14's, 15-1's, 15-3's, 15-4's and 17's played. It was an intense morning in the gym. Many of the teams went to three games in their matches. There were a lot of big hits, strong aces and key blocks. It was really exciting! I imagine that most of the girls, after playing, went back to the houses to swim and sleep.

The 12-2's had a better day today, although they were all wiped out by the end as all of their matches went three games! They lost their first match, although it was close. But then they were able to step it up and win the next to matches, coming in 2nd in their pool. They had a million aces, Sam had six in a row against the Puerto Rico team, and Lauren had some great blocks throughout the day. Way to go 12-2's!

The 12-1's won two of their matches today and lost one. However, it ended up in a three-way tie for 1st. They came out on top! This evening, they were having a great time rocking out to that same "volleyball CD". I could hear them all the way across the street!

The 13-1's had a hard fought day that ended not so good. They won one match and lost the other two, including some really close 3-game matches. But then, it was a three-way tie for first. They had to play 2 tie-breaker matches. They won the first and then let the second one slip away, putting them at 3rd in the pool.

The 13-2's had a great day! They played people in different positions, which worked out a lot better than yesterday. They ended up beating both of the teams in their 3-team pool, putting them at first in their pool. The last match they played was another hard fought match, but they pulled it out winning 25-20 in both games.

The 14-2's also had a great day! They won all three of their matches.

The 14-1's took second in their pool, losing in 3 games to Club Cincinnati.

The 15-1's day was not that exciting. They won all three of their matches very easily. Hopefully tomorrow will present a little more of a challenge.

The 15-3's and 15-4's had very similar days. They both won one match and lost the other two, coming in third in both of their pools.

The 17-1's cleaned up house today, only letting one team score more than 12 points on them. The 17-2's won a hard fought match against the Leon Lions, but lost the other two, coming in 3rd in their pool. The 17-3's were also 1 and 2, coming in 3rd in their pool. All of the 17's teams were at the Disney Wide World of Sports today. So, unfortunately, I do not have any pictures of them.

The afternoon was not as intense as the morning pools. Most of the teams had a fairly easy time within their pools. The 15-2's, 16's and 18's were all the teams that played this afternoon. I was told that this morning they slept in and then laid out in the sun. Lucky ducks!

The 15-2's won their first two matches from today and lost their last match.

The 16-2's went 3 and 0 as well today, beating A5 16-1's in their final match. The 16-3's also went 3 and 0 today, beating A5 16-2's in their final match!

The 16-4's had a rough day. They lost their matches.

The 16-1's ended up in a three-team pool because of a last minute drop-out. They won both of their matches relatively easily, putting them at first in the pool.

The 18-2's had a great day! They were also in a 3-team pool. They played really well against Sports Performance 18-1's, but ended up losing that match. However, they were able to overcome their defeat and win their second match of the day, allowing them to place second in their pool.

The 18-1's had an easy day. They easily took first in their pool by winning all three of their matches. It was difficult to get pictures of them because all they did was serve! But, I managed to get some.

Overall, it was a good day! I think most of the teams were just going to head back to their houses and relax for the evening. The 18-1's were continuing their "Lost" marathon, while the 12-2's were heading out to explore Downtown Disney.

Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 14-1, 14-2, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 12-2

2006 AAU Trip - Day 3

Okay, I'm sorry this took so long. Here is the more detailed summary of what each team did yesterday.

This morning, the 13's, 15's and 17-1's played at the Orange County Convention Center. It was an exciting morning. Most of the teams either won with intensity, or lost in really close, hard-played matches.

The 13-1's court was an hour and twenty minutes behind today! Their first match went three games. They lost the first one, but then game back to win the second game. The

third game was really close, but they came out on top. Emmy had some great serves and Erin added with a bunch of nice kills. Overall, the team played together really well. The second match, they won easily. Then in third match, they won in two games, but the last one was a close one. All in all, they took first in their pool.

The 13-2's also took first in their pool, winning all three of their matches. The first two they easily won in two games each. However, the third match was a little more challenging! They lost a close first game, then came out dominated in the second game and then managed to win a close third game. It was exciting!

The 15-1's ALSO took first in their pool, like all the rest of them, winning all three of their matches. They won all of their games in two, making them 12-0 for the tournament. Way to go girls! They won their first match easily. Then, the girls said that even though the scores didn't show it, the second match was really tough. They said it was a lot of long hard rallies, they just came out on top for most of them.

The 15-2's took third in their pool. They lost the first two matches. The second match was a really great game though! The team was full of determination with some really long rallies, nice passes and big hits. Then pulled it out, winning the last one with two close games.

The 15-3's lost their first match in three. The last game was really close, 15-17! They came out strong and won the second match in two, and then lost the third one in a close two games. So, they went 1 and 2 for the day, putting them at third in the pool. Throughout the day, Leah had some great runs of serves! I talked to the girls this afternoon. They were heading out to their vans and they said, "we're going to get food." They weren't sure if that meant they were going to a grocery store or out to a restaurant or what, but they were going to go get food.

The 15-4's took fourth in their pool. They lost the first match in two. In the second match, the girls played really well with a lot of tough volleys. They won that match in three games. Then they lost their third match in two games.

Last night, the 17-1's went to Carrabba's for dinner, so tonight they were just going to be hanging around the house. They took first in their pool today. Again, they kept the first two teams they played to low point scores, allowing the two first teams to score more than thirteen points on them in a game. However, the Puerto Rican team gave them a run for their money. Their third match was an extremely close and very exciting one! They came out in the first game and lost 18-25, then they rallied back and won the second game 25-23. Lastly, in a neck and neck third game, they finished it off 15-13. The Puerto Rican team could not stop Allie Oelke. She had to have had at least a million kills!

The 12's and 14's played this morning and this afternoon at Disney's Wide World of Sports. Again, there were too many teams at the convention center for me to get over there, so there are no pictures. However, I do have results.

The 12-1's did not have a great day. Enough said. Tonight, they were going to cheer on the 14-1's at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

The 12-2's went 0-3 today, however they took each team to three games. Tonight, the girls were heading to a house of a relative of one of the girls on the team. They live on a lake, so the team was going to go boating and then have a bbq.

The 14-1's took second in their pool today. Losing a close first game in two, both games ended 21-25. Then winning another close match in three games. This puts them into the championship/gold bracket for playoffs tomorrow. Way to go 14-1's!

The 14-2's took first in their pool today. They won their first two matches in two games and then won an intense, close third match to finish off the day.

The 16's, 17-2's, 17-3's and 18's played in the afternoon at the Convention Center today.

The 17-3's took first in their 3-team pool. They had lost their first match in three games and then won their second match in two. Then, they went on to win the tie-breaker match.

The 17-2's won all of their matches, in two games, taking first in their pool. They dominated in their second match. Katy Oelke had a great day!

The 18-2 one their first match in three really close games. However, they lost the next two and ended up 4th in the pool.

The 18-1's took second in their pool today. They won the first two matches relatively easily. However, their last match was lost in the final seconds of game three, 16-18. It was a great game to watch though!

The 16-2's came all the way to Orlando to play Chaska today! They lost that match in two really close games. They won their next match in three close games and then finally closed out the day with two easier games to win the third match.

The 16-1's have also lost no games this tournament. Way to go girls!! Even though the last match they played today was extremely close, they won all of their matches in two games, taking 1st in their pool.

The 16-3's lost the first match in two games. They also lost the second match, but it was in two really close games. Finally, they won their third match, also in two really close games.

The 16-4's ended up losing a really close, three-game first match. But, they won the next two matches and took second in the pool.

Parents, coaches and friends... again, I'm sorry.

Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 14-1, 14-2, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 12-2

2006 AAU Trip - Day 4

This was the final day of the tournament for the 12's, 13's, & 14's. Everyone except for the 14-1's played at the Orange County Convention Center, in the morning brackets.

First thing this morning, the 12-2's started off with another close three game match. They were excited when they won it, advancing to the finals of the "White Division". They were even more excited when they found out that our 12-1's had also won their first match in a close three, also advancing to the finals of the "White Division". That's right, it was KNL 12-1's versus KNL 12-2's in the championship match of the "White Division". The 12-2's came out fighting, taking the 12-1's all the way to 21-25. However, the 12-2's then came out sleeping in the last match allowing the 12-1's an extremely early lead of 1-12. It ended 4-25. Sheila said, "We finally showed up to play the last day, to beat MAVA 13s and advance to the finals." Officially, the 12-1's placed 27th and the 12-2's placed right behind them in the tournament, 28th, out of 40 teams. After watching the 14-2's play today, the 12-1's were going to head back to their house, clean up, and then go to Hard Rock Cafe for dinner. After dinner, they just went back to their house and played in the pool. After the 12-2's were done playing, they headed out to Cocoa Beach since they have a 7:00 flight tomorrow morning.

The 13-1's won their first match of the bracket this morning. They were down 20-24 in the first game of the second match of the bracket, but came back to win it 29-27. Then they won the second game. They lost the last bracket match in two games. They finished 2nd in the "Consolation Division", officially 14th out of 45 teams. After playing today, the 13-2's also headed out to Cocoa Beach, as they are also on the 7:00 flight tomorrow morning.

The 13-2's had a great day today, becoming the champions of the "White Division". They won their first match in three really close games. Mel had some great serves and Lisa had a lot of nice ups to help contribute to their win. After that match, the 13-2's won the final match in two games. They officially finished 24th out of 45 teams.

The 14-2's fought extremely hard today and kept fighting down to the last point! They won their first match in a close three games. I thought Suzi was going to have a heart attack! Then, they won their next match in two games. Elly had some great serves! After the 12-1's were finished with their match, they headed over to the 14-2's court to cheer on their sisters. In the final match of the "White Division", they lost the first game, won the second game and then let the third game slip away. Overall, they took second in the "White Division", 31st out of 57 teams! Way to go girls! After playing they went down and spent the day at Cocoa Beach. They had talked about going out to lunch with the parents tomorrow and then having a bowling tournament before their flight leaves.

The 14-1's won their first match of bracket play today. But then they lost their next match to KIVA's top team. They finished 5th out of 57 teams overall. Great job 14-1's!

The 17-1's continued on their quest for gold today. They won both of the matches in their three-team pool. The first match they won in two games. They also won the second match in two games. Brooke was excited, she got to jump serve game-point of the last game, and she made it! By winning both matches they ended up with a good seed in the Gold Championship playoff bracket.

The 15-1's played an overlapping timeframe today. They were in a three-team pool that started at noon. The girls won their first match in two, but then let their perfect record slip away losing the second match in three extremely close games! Karlee had some great serves and they all played really hard. This gets them second in their pool, allowing them to still advance to the Gold Bracket, it'll just be a slightly more difficult road to the championship match, but they can pull it off.

This afternoon, the 15-3's, 16's, 17-2's, 17-'s and 18's played at the Convention Center. The 15-2's and 15-4's also played in the afternoon, but they played at Disney Wide World of Sports, so I do not have any pictures of them.

The 15-2's lost their first match in a close three-game match. Then they lost the second match in two close games. Then, they lost their third match, again, in two close games. They ended up finishing in 4th in their pool, but all the games were really close.

The 15-4's also lost their first match in three games. They won their second match in two really close games. Then, they lost their third match in two really close games. They finished 3rd in their pool.

The 15-3's had a great day today! They won their first two matches easily in two games and then they won their third match in a close two-games. This puts them at first in the pool.

Today, the 17-2's were in a three-team pool. They won both of their matches in two games each. However, they lost their crossover match in two games. They still took first in their pool, which puts them in good standing for their bracket play tomorrow.

The 17-3's also had a great day today! They won their first match in two games. They also won their second match in two games. And they won their third match in two games, allowing them to finish first in their pool.

The 16-1's were very excited when they arrived at the convention center, Chad allowed them to lay out in the sun for 30 minutes this morning! On the court, they did not continue their winning streak, but that is okay. They won the first two matches in two games each. But then, Sports Performance 16 Elite gave them a wake up call in the third match. They ended up coming in 2nd in their pool. They will continue aiming for first in the Gold Division tomorrow morning.

The 16-2's also finished 1st in their pool today. They won their first match in a close three. Then, they won their second match in two games. Lastly, they won their third match. This puts them in great standing to do well in their bracket tomorrow.

The 16-3's won their first match in a close three games. They lost their second and third matches in three really close games. They ended up finishing third in their pool.

The 16-4's lost their first two matches in two games each. Then, they also lost their third match in two. This led them to finish last in their pool.

The 18-2's lost their first match in two really close games. They played hard. Then, they continued to play hard in their second game, but again, lost it in two really close games. In the third game they lost in two. This left them at 4th in their pool.

The 18-1's had a great day! They were in a three team pool that didn't start until 5:30, so they were well-rested and ready to go. They came out strong in their first match, winning in two games easily. They also won in two games in their second match. And finished first in their pool. This gives them great standing in the Gold Bracket tomorrow morning. Good Luck Girls!

To all the older girls, good luck tomorrow! And to all the younger girls, you had a great tournament, congratulations!

Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 14-1, 14-2, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 12-2

2006 AAU Trip - Day 5

The 17-1's are the Champions of the AAU 2006 17 and under Volleyball Tournament.

Congratulations girls!

They played Kiva tonight in the finals match at 7:00.

The first game was neck and neck the entire way. Lights ended up on top 31 to 29. The second game was the same exact way! Every single point was matched, 9-9, 16-16. Towards the end of the match, the 17-1's caught a small three or four point lead, but Kiva quickly crept back in. Finally, Lights ended in 30-28. It was a really exciting match!

Naomi Johnson, Allie Oelke and Lauren Gibbemeyer were chosen for the 2006 17 & Under All-American Team. Kresson Vreeman was named the MVP of the tournament! Congratulations girls! You all had a great tournament! We're excited to see what you can do in Atlanta.

Thank-you very much to everyone who showed up to cheer on our 17-1's! We had every team that was left in the state in that gym! It was a great help.

Tonight, a bunch of the teams were going out dancing at Downtown Disney. The 18-1's had their dinner with Curt. They had made a deal with different rewards for the different finishes. Well, a third place finish earned them dinner at Carrabbas paid for by dear old Curt. Oh yeah, and Amanda hit her head on the light three times!

Maddie from the 15-1's was selected to the All-American Team for the 15's division. Congratulations Maddie!

This was the final day of the tournament for the 15's-18's. The 15-1's, 16-1's, 17-1's and 18-1's were playing in the Gold Championship Brackets at Disney Wide World of Sports.

The 16-1's lost their first bracket match this morning. They lost it in two games Illini Elite 16-1's. They played too early for me, so I didn't get any pictures of them. They ended up 9th out of 79. Congratulations on a great tournament!

The 18-1's beat Cincy Bullets in two games. They blew them out the second game to advance to the semi-finals. They played Asics Munciana in that match. The first game, they got beat, but they rallied back in the second game and won it. Then, they came out strong in the third game, but Munciana jumped ahead. They lost 10-15. The 18-1's ended up taking third in the 18's division! Congratulations girls! Maggie McNamara and Leslie Bielski were chosen for the All American Team.

The 17-1's are in the Gold Championship Match. They started the day playing familiar faces. The Puerto Rican team, St. Francis, that they went to three games with the other day was the team that had to beat this morning. Fortunately, they did it easier than the other day with a good two game win. This put them in the semi finals and they had to play Illini Elite. It was not the toughest of matches. They won in two games. Now, we are anxiously waiting for their 7:00 p.m. championship match against Kiva 17-1.

The 15-1's were in the Gold Championship Division. They started the day with a tough three game win. Their next match was against MAVA 15-1's. They lost this match in two. Overall, they finished 6th. Congratulations to the 15-1's for a great tournament!

The 18-2's are also here at the Wide World of Sports today. They won their first match in three games, the second game was really close. They also won their second match against Sports Performance 18 Blue. Then, they went on to win the final match of the Red Division. There are some pictures from the their first match of the day. Good luck next year girls!

I do not have any pictures of the teams at the Convention Center, too many girls playing at the exact same times!

The 16-2's won their first match of bracket play against OVA 16 National in three really close games! Then, they went on to beat AZ Foothills in two games to advance to the finals of the Consolation Division. Unfortunately, they lost the finals. They officially places 22nd. They had a good tournament! We're excited to see how they do in Atlanta.

The 16-3's lost their first match against OVA 16 Adidas. The rest of the day they just hung around in the sun and in the pool. Officially they placed 31st in the tournament.

The 16-4's won their first match in three games. Then they lost their second match in the bracket in two close games to Gainesville.

The 17-2's had a difficult morning, losing in two to Pinnacle VBC. The 17-3's won their first match and continued on to also play Pinnacle VBC. The 17-3's took them to three really close games, but in the end, after having no subs the entire week, they were just too tired. Perry said, "They had great attitudes, but you could just see that their legs were just too tired." Overall, the 17-2's placed 37th and the 17-3's placed 35th out of 66 teams.

The 15-2's made it to the finals of the Red Division today. They beat OVA 15 Adidas in three close games in their first bracket match. Then they won their next match against Front Range 15 Cardinal. This got them into the finals. However, they lost the finals to Torrimar 15's in two close games. They ended up officially taking 28th in the tournament.

The 15-3's played really hard in their first bracket match today, however, they couldn't quite pull it out. They lost to Front Range 15M in three close games.

The 15-4's won their first match relatively easily. Then, they lost in the semi-finals of the Green Division, in three close games, to PSOV 15 Black.

Most of the younger teams headed to Cocoa Beach this morning, except the 12-2's and 13-2's, who had a really early flight this morning!

Congratulations to all of the teams for a great tournament and fun games! I wish all of you who are going to Nationals good luck, and I'll see you there. For the teams that are playing at the Invitational in Minneapolis, good luck. And lastly, for everyone for whom this is the last tournament, have a great rest of the summer and we hope to see you at try-outs next year!