

**Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 17-1, 17-2, 16-1, 16-2, 15-1, 15-2, 14-1**

**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 1**

**14-1's, 15-1's and 15-2's**

Hello again everyone! It is Jen, your trusted reporter and photographer. I'm excited for a week of great volleyball! I have an internet connection here in the Georgia World Congress Center, so I will be able to update the pages throughout the day, when I have breaks between matches.

Today was the first day of play for the 14-1's. They ended up 2 and 1 for today. They're in a seven team pool, so they'll play three more matches tomorrow to determine where they end up in the pool. I wasn't able to get any pictures of the 14-1's because I flew in today with the 15-1's and 15-2's.

Tonight, all three of the teams had dinner at Jocks and Jills restaurant next to the Congress Center.

Tomorrow morning, the 15-2's and 14-1's play. Then the 15-1's play in the afternoon.

**Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 17-1, 17-2, 16-1, 16-2, 15-1, 15-2, 14-1**

**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 2**

**14-1's, 15-1's and 15-2's**

This morning the 14-1's came out fired up. They won their first match in a close three games and also won their second match against Front Range's top team in two games. In the first match, third game, Krisitin A. played all the way around, including front row! They won that game 17-15.

I read somewhere once that "revenge is an act of passion". Well, the 14-1's were full of passion and intensity as they took their revenge against Kiva 14-1's, whom they lost to in playoffs in Orlando. The first game was close, but the 14-1's took it. Then, they came out running and never looked back in the second game. They beat Kiva 25-11! All of the blockers did a great job shutting down Kiva's front row, but when one managed to slip by them, Mollie had back row covered. Danielle also had a huge run of serves towards the end of the game and Ashley was strong on the outside. Overall, it was a true team-effort. Way to go 14-1's! After their match, the 14-1's stuck around to cheer on the 15-1's in their first match of the day. Then, they were going to HardRock Cafe for dinner.

The 15-2's have had a rough start this morning, losing all of their matches. But, they have two more matches to go in their pool tomorrow. After their matches, they stuck around to cheer on the 14-1's team. Then they went back to the hotel to shower and get dolled up. Then, they came back to the convention center to cheer on the 15-1's! After they were done cheering, they were heading back to their rooms to have pizza delivered. While they were eating pizza, I ran into their parents having a "board meeting". It looked really serious :)

The 15-1's are here this morning cheering on our other teams. In the afternoon, the girls came out strong. They won their first match easily in two. Their second match was a different story. The girls suddenly forgot how to serve, which makes it difficult to win a match, but they did it, 18-16, in the third game. In their final match, they remembered how to serve. They won that match easily in two games. I arrived at the court after they were done and was told "it wasn't even worth taking pictures of." After they finish up reffing, they were going to grab some wraps from the CNN Center across the street and then head back to the hotel rooms.

**Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 17-1, 17-2, 16-1, 16-2, 15-1, 15-2, 14-1**

**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 3**

**14-1's, 15-1's, 15-2's, 16-1's and 16-2's**

It was a sad morning here at the Congress Center. Both the 15-2's and the 14-1's lost their first match. But now, it is a happy morning :)

The 14-1's came out slow in their first game against Long Beach 14 Elite. They pumped it up in the second game, but it just wasn't quite enough to pull ahead. They lost in two games, the second one, 24-26. Then, their second match, they came out fired up in the first game, but then lost the second game. They won the third game placing them second in their pool, which means they advance, which means... they're in the gold division! Top 8 baby!! Congrats 14-1's! After they finished playing, the 14-1's were taking the MARTA out to a mall that has a movie theater and bowling alley, stopping somewhere to eat and then heading back to the hotel to call it an early night. Keeping 'em busy, but not too busy.

The 15-2's also had a rough first match, losing in two games to San Gab 15 RoShamBo. But their second match was a different story. They fought hard in the first game, but fell 28-30. They rallied back to win the second game, and then finished off the third game 17-15. Christina had some GREAT hits and Lauren was really strong on her serves. After they finished up at the convention center today, the girls went to the famous aquarium here in Atlanta.

The 15-1's first match was closer than the coaches and parents would have liked, but they won in three games. In their second match, the girls came out yelling, I think they scared the Texas Tornados, but soon the Tornados found their bearings. They won the first game, but then lost the second game. The third game, they came out holding their own, and then it went downhill. They started to stage a comeback but it wasn't soon enough. They lost that match, but still ended up taking second in the pool! Shannon had a great game with some really strong hits. There were a lot of great serves, Karlee, Shannon and Stephanie all did a great job serving! Kelsey had some great blocks and Maddie's set were right on the money. Bevy and Sophie both played great defense and Cat had some great digs while Catherine's serves were strong. Overall, the team played very well today. After their matches, the girls went back to the hotel, swam for a little while, then settled into their rooms for Chinese food and a movie.

The 16-1's and 16-2's will be arriving in Atlanta tonight. The 16-1's had an interesting ride on the MARTA. Both of the teams just got settled into the hotel tonight and just hung-out.

A bunch of the coaches went out to the Braves game and had a good time. However, Sean left his camera in the front seat of their cab... so, he is currently trying to track that down.

### **Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 17-1, 17-2, 16-1, 16-2, 15-1, 15-2, 14-1**

#### **2006 USAV Nationals Championships - Day 4**

#### **14-1's, 15-1's, 15-2's, 16-1's, 16-2's, 17-1's, 17-2's and 18-1's**

The 14-1's have officially finished 5th in the nation! This morning, they lost the first match of bracket play to Arsel 14.. The girls had a great season and we look forward to seeing them at tryouts next November.

The 15-2's lounged around the hotel this morning. Then, they went to the CNN Center for lunch. They won both of their matches this afternoon. Unfortunately, I received some bad intel. I was told that their court was an hour and a half behind (most of the courts are running behind this evening). Well, after I headed over there, I discovered that was not the case. They were finished! They played a challenge match this evening that I was able to get some shots of, unfortunately, they lost it in two games.

This morning, the 16-1's also lounged around the hotel. Then, before their first game started, there was an issue with the roster. So, to pass the time, they played Obotionotentoten on the end line. They came out sleeping in their first game, but

Chad quickly woke them up. They ended up winning their first match in 3 games. Then, they kicked butt in their second match, winning it in two. Their third match was a close one, but they beat Force 16-1's in three games.

The 16-2's also came out sleeping in their first game and couldn't quite make up the lost ground. They lost the second game 26-28 to finish off the match. They were more awake in their second match, but lost it to the number one team in their pool in three close games. They play Nike Six Pack in their third match of the day. At first, Six Pack had jumped to the lead, but then Laura had a run of great serves to bring the team back into the game. They won it in two fun games.

The 15-1's began their day at the gym at 5:00 this evening! They came all the way to Atlanta to play Minnesota Select. It was a stressful nail-biter! They ended up winning the first game 25-23. The second game was really exciting, but again it was a nail-biter! Karlee ended up finishing off Select with two ace serves to win the game 28-26. Bevy had some amazing hits and the entire team showed great hustle! Way to go 15-1's! Their second match was another hard fought match, unfortunately, it didn't end the same. They lost in three. Then, in their challenge match, they lost in two. This puts them in the silver division.

The 17-1's, 17-2's and 18-1's will be arriving later today.

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**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 5**

**15-1's, 15-2's, 16-1's, 16-2's, 17-1's, 17-2's, 18-1's**

The 15-1's have officially finished 10th in the nation! Way to go girls!

This morning, the 15-1's beat Invasion 15-2's in two games to advance to the semi-finals in the Silver Division. Next, they faced the Texas Tornados, the only team that they lost to in their first pool. The girls had fun in this match! In the first game, they were down 11-18 and 17-22 at points. Then, with some big swings from Karlee, strong serves from Shannon and amazing defense from Bevy and Sophie, the girls won that game 25-23. In game two, they came out strong. Shannon had a run of six serves to start off the game and then Karlee had another run of six serves shortly after that. The grudge match ended up finishing 25-15 with Lights on top! This put them in the finals match of the Silver Division. Unfortunately, they couldn't pull that one out as they lost to Munci WildKats. However, 10th in the nation, I say that isn't too bad! Congratulations on a great season girls and we look forward to seeing you in November!

The 15-2's worked hard this morning, but lost their match against Lions 15 Red in three really close games. After that match, the girls went back to the hotel and showered. Then, came back to the Congress Center to cheer on the 15-1's. Congratulations on a great season girls and we're excited to see you all at tryouts this fall.

The 16-1's started off a little shaky this morning. They lost their first match in three really close games against CO Juniors Kaepa 16 Peer. However, their day quickly got better as they shut-down TAV 16 Molten in two games. This put them 4-1 for pool play and into a three-way tie for first. The tie ended breaking through game percentage, which put Lights 3rd in the pool. That's okay though, they still advance up into the upper half of the tournament.

The 16-2's won their first match against Downstate 16-1's. They also won their second match against Nike Six Pack. That put them in a three-way tie for second place, which they win by game percentage. They end up finishing off 2nd in their pool, which means they advance to the top half. Way to go 16-2's! After they finished their last reffing assignment, they headed over to the 18-1's court to cheer them on.

The 17-1's came out strong today. They are in the open division, so they play best out of five games instead of best out of three. They won both of their matches today in three games. Naomi had some great serves and Lauren put the ball away as usual. After their matches, they went back to the hotel and decorated shorts. Then, they came back to the Congress Center to cheer on the 18-1's.

The 17-2's were here this afternoon cheering on the 17-1's. Then, they started their pool play at 3:00. They have only played one match so far this evening. They did a great job! They swept up the Maryland Juniors in two games. The team showed great hustle... and in the second game, Jess started out with seven serves in a row. Their second match wasn't as pretty. They lost in two games to Iowa Rockets 17R. They have three more matches tomorrow evening to improve their standing in the pool.

The 18-1's won their first match relatively easily in two games. The 18-1's finished up with an intense match against OVA 18-1. OVA jumped to a quick lead, which soon turned into a huge lead, 11-21 to be exact. Well, the 18-1's weren't going to give up quite that easily. They clawed their way back, but it wasn't enough. They lost the first game 20-25. Then in the second game, at 3-6, Steph Mason had a HUGE kill, ran into the huddle and did what I describe as a "bear growl" type cheer. This ignited the entire team! Smiles all the way around. Soon, after every major play, the girls were screaming and acting crazy, but most importantly, having fun. It was a point-for-point match all the way until the end. Lights lost it, 26-28. Throughout the match, Abby had amazing serves, Laura and Mary had incredible ups and Steph, Amanda, Liz and

Leslie pounded the ball! (Not to mention Maggie's sets were phenomenal as usual) It was an exciting game though.

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**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 6**

**16-1's, 16-2's, 17-1's, 17-2's, 18-1's**

The 16-1's won their first match against Milwaukee Sting in two really close games: 26-24 and 25-21. Their middles did an amazing job, putting the ball away. Then they lost their second match to T Atlantis Black Sheep in three close games. However, there was a three-way tie for first and Lights came out on top.

The 16-2's lost their first match in three really close games. Then, they pulled themselves up and with some great defense by Sammie, they won their second match in three close games. This put them in a two-way tie for second with the team that they lost to. So, they had a tie-breaker match against the team they lost to first, Yahoos 16s. They came out fighting. It was a close game the entire way. With some great hitting by Malia, they won it. That means, they will be playing our 16-1's tonight in a challenge match to see who gets into the Gold Division and who goes down to the Silver Division. The girls are all excited to play, but it really is a bummer that they had to meet here because now only one of them can get into the Gold. Good luck to both of the teams tonight!

Well, here is the summary of the 16-1's versus 16-2's challenge match. Both teams came out pumped up and ready to play. Unfortunately, shortly into the first game, Maggie (16-1) came down on a foot and did something to her ankle. I'm told it was a sprain, but we are not sure how severe. Either way, she didn't return to the game and it is unsure if she'll be able to play tomorrow. \*\*Get well soon Maggie\*\* Anyways, the game continued. It was a point for point game until the end when the 16-2's pulled ahead to win it 25-19. Then the 16-1's got mad. They came out hard and fast. It almost seemed like they put the 16-2's into shell-shock! The 16-1's won it, 25-13. It all came down to the third game. It was neck and neck the ENTIRE way! 16-2's made it to 8 first, but the 16-1's weren't giving up yet as they made it 8 only one point later. The game ended 16-14..... in favor of the 16-2's! Congratulations 16-2's and 16-1's! It was a great match!

Every Northern Lights team that was available at 7:00 came to cheer on their clubmates, only problem was, they didn't know who to cheer for. So, we had a court full of fans, but virtually all of them were silent!

The 17-1's won their first match this morning in three games. Then, in their second match, the Mavs took them for a ride. They lost the first game 26-24. Then, they came out running in the second game and won that. The third and fourth games were stressful but exciting! Lights pulled them out 27-25 and 25-23.

The 17-2's won their first match in three close games. Katy Oelke played an amazing game! They went on to lose their second match in two games. They won their third match in two games easily, putting them third in their pool. This means they advance into the top half of their division! Way to go girls!

The 18-1's had fun in all of their matches today! First, they beat Arizona Juniors 18-1's in two games. Then they beat Union 18 Purple in two games. And lastly they beat Mem Juniors 18 Elite in two games! The team came out of the pool with a 4-1 record, but the pool ended up in a three-way tie for first. It had to go all the way down to point percentage and they came out of it 3rd. So, they still advance into the top half, they just are taking a little harder road.

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**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 7**

**16-1's, 16-2's, 17-1's, 17-2's, 18-1's**

Happy Fourth of July EVERYONE!

The 16-1's have officially finished 13th in the nation! Congratulations girls!

They lost their first match this morning against Asics Kiva 16 White. It was a close match that went three games. Dani and Ali both they great matches! Thanks 16-1's for a great season! Hope to see you all in November.

The 16-2's have officially finished 5th in the nation! That is the highest that any Lights "2's team" has ever finished at Nationals! Way to go girls!

They also lost their first match this morning. They played great defense against Rainbows G 161, but they just couldn't finish off the third game. It was a fun game to watch. Congratulations on a great season and a great tournament 16-2's! We look forward to seeing all of you in the fall.

The 17-1's won their first match of the day easily in three games. The Maunalani's (known to the 17-1's as the Maui Wowi team) gave the girls a little bit of a scare today as the 17-1's lost their first game in their second match. No worries though, they came

back to win the next three games, winning the match and winning their pool. This means they advance into the gold bracket. Good luck tomorrow 17-1's!

The 17-2's lost their first match against Texas Tornados in three games. Then, they lost their second match against Munciana in three games. This puts them at third in their pool. The 17-2's were down in the second game and came back to win it to win the match, which means that they advance to the Bronze Division.

The 18-1's lost their first match in three close games. Then, they won their second match in two more close games. The parents are overwhelmed with stress! They finish 2nd in their pool. They lost their challenge match tonight, which puts them into the Silver Division. But, they have a chance to get 9th, and they were seeded 11th. So, if they win all their matches tomorrow, they will overcome their seed.

**Kaepa Northern Lights 18-1, 17-1, 17-2, 16-1, 16-2, 15-1, 15-2, 14-1**

**2006 USAV National Championships - Day 8**

**17-1's, 17-2's, 18-1's**

The Championship Match:

Game one ~ Lauren was UNSTOPPABLE in game one! Lights won it 19-25.

Game two ~ The girls came out fired up. They all had really tough serves! It seemed like either they were aces or they were out. Lights won it 14-25.

Game three ~ Hailey and Allie had AMAZING hits this game. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to pull them through. Lights lost it 23-25.

Game four ~ Tawny and Susan played TOUGH defense this game. Lights won it 25-23.

**KAEPA NORTHERN LIGHTS 17-1'S ARE THE NEW NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!**

The first Lights team EVER to take home a national championship!

Lauren was the only player I saw crying... although I heard Adam say, "I can't look at the girls."

Hailey Cowles, Lauren Gibbemeyer and Allie Oelke were selected to the All-Tournament Team. Brook Dieter was named Most Valueable Player in the tournament. Congratulations girls!

17-1's... you girls had an awesome year and we all look forward to seeing what you can do next year as seniors. Have fun on your limo-ride (their deal with Curtis if they won Nationals) and have a great summer everyone!

Curt took the girls to Ruth's Chris. They were sticker-shocked. They were awarded, at dinner, a championship ball, which was brought out in a silver bowl (the closest thing they had to a silver platter).

The 17-1's have won their first match on the road to the finals. They beat Circle City in three games. The re-match against Kiva (the team they beat in the finals at AAUs), was not a struggle for the 17-1's. They beat Kiva in three games, Hailey had a great match! CONGRATULATIONS 17-1's! To

The 17-2's were in rough shape this morning. They had one girl sick, a hurt hip flexor, a pulled quad and a possibly broken toe. Ouch! They lost their first match today. That means that they took 18th out of 48 teams. Not too shabby! Congratulations on a great season girls. We'll see you in the fall!

The 18-1's won their first match this morning against A5. That put them into the semi-finals for the Silver Division. They ended up losing to TVC 18-1 in two games, but Liz and Laura both had a great match! This places them 11th over all, they held their seed. Congratulations on a great tournament and a great season 18-1's! Good luck in your college careers.