

Mizuno Northern Lights 18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 14-1, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 11-1

2007 USAV National Championships - Day 1

14-1, 12-1, 11-1

The 14-1's had a good day today. They were 2-1 winning matches against Asics Rainbow (Hawaii) & Michigan Elite. This puts them in a good position for Saturday.

The 12-1's also had a good day today. They were 2-1 winning matches against Team Tulsa and Amarillo Elite. The match against Amarillo was very exciting going 3 games with NL winning 18-16 in game 3.

The 11's had a tough day today. They were 0-3 in pool play. They managed to get up to 15 points a few teams, but couldn't beat the bigger & stronger older girls. They are however having a fun time, and for the 11's that is what we want.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 2

14-1, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 11-1

The 14-1's started off the day with the #6 seed in their pool, Team Atlantis, who turned out to be very good. They lost that match in two games. This put them in a position of having to win the next match in 2 games in order to have a chance at advancing to the top half. They ended up winning the match, but unfortunately they won it in 3 games, which gave them a lower game percentage and thus they ended up 4th in the pool and did not advance to the top half. They will now be trying to win the bottom half of the tournament on Sunday & Monday.

The 13-1's started their tournament today. They were all fired up and ready to go, until they lost the first two matches of the day. After regrouping they went out and won a long 3 game match against Invasion, 17-15 in game 3. This keeps them alive for the top half, and they will need to win all of their matches on Sunday.

The 13-2's also started their tournament today. They went 1-2 today, losing to Alamo & TVC, but winning an impressive game against Long Beach 13 Elite. They are in the same position as the 13-1's, and will need to win all of their matches on Sunday to stay in the running for the top half.

The 12-1's lost their first match of the day, and knew they had to win the 2nd match to advance. They came out swinging and easily won their last match to get them 3rd place in the pool and advancing to the top half. They will be playing some tougher teams on Sunday and will need to win at least 1 match to keep advancing toward the Gold.

The 11-1's had another tough day. They lost both of their matches today and ended up ranked 6th in the pool. They are now in the lower half of the tournament and hopefully will be more successful on Sunday with teams that are more their own size. Curt had a talk with them and reminded them that our goal in this tournament was not to win against the bigger stronger girls, but to get lots of good experience for the future years.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 3

15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 14-1, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 11-1

The 15-1's started their tournament today. They are ranked #1 in the 15 Open Division, and they have lots of teams looking to knock them off. They started out the day by easily winning the first two matches. The 3rd match of the day was against SCVC, the team they beat in the finals at Colorado in March. It was good match, going 3 games and the 15-1's ended up winning 15-8 in game 3. They will continue in their pool play on Monday.

The 15-2's started their tournament today. They lost their first match of the day in two close games. Their second match of the day against Arizona Storm was much more exciting. They controlled game 1 from the start and won it easily. Game 2 they were never in control and at one point were down 7 points, but came back to lose 25-22. In game 3 they dominated winning the match. They will continue in their pool play on Monday.

The 15-3's also started their tournament today, and had 2 matches. In their first match against the #7 overall seed in the tournament Asics Munciana, the 15-3's won in 3 games. They then lost their 2nd match of the day against Attack. They will continue in their pool play on Monday.

The 14-1's started off their journey to win the bottom half today. But things didn't go as planned. They won their first match against United 14's, but then lost their 2nd match against Arizona Storm. This dropped them out of contention for winning the

bottom half. Their final match of the day was a challenge match which they easily won. They will now be playing on Monday for 33rd place.

The 13-1's continued their pool play today. They won their first game of the day in 3. This set them up for the last match of the day. The last match was a barn burner. Game 2 went to 34-32 with NL winning. But it was not to be as we lost Game 3. Andy said they played real well and he wasn't upset that they lost that match because they played well. They ended up 2-3 in the pool which ranked them 4th. They are now out of contention for the Gold but will be trying to win the bottom half of the tournament.

The 13-2's also continued their pool play today. They lost their first match closely to Circle City. Their second match wasn't as good of a match and they lost to Gold Cal in 2 quick games. They ended up 1-4 in the pool. They are now out of contention for the Gold but will be trying to win the bottom half of the tournament.

The 12-1's had some tough big teams against them today. They lost both matches in their pool play, and then in the Challenge match they lost 2 very close games 23-25, 26-28. They are no longer in contention for the Gold, and will be playing for 21st place on Monday.

The 11-1's were in a much more "competitive" pool today, but were still out sized by the bigger 12 year olds. They lost their first two matches in their pool, but both matches were much closer than the first two days of play.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 4

15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 14-1, 13-1, 13-2, 12-1, 11-1

The 15-1's finished out their pool by winning all 3 matches today. They beat Austin Jrs, MAVS, & KIVA all in 2 straight games. They finished #1 in their pool. They are in a pool of 3 on Tuesday and will need to be 1st or 2nd to continue on towards the Gold.

The 15-2's had a great match today that I watched. They won game 1, and then were down 19-24 in game 2 and came back to win it! It was an a great comeback. They ended up losing their last match of the day going 2-1 today, which put them 3rd in their pool. They advance to the top half of the tournament and are still in contention

for the Gold. They will have a 3 team pool followed by a challenge match on Tuesday.

The 15-3's were 1-2 today and finished their pool ranked 4th. They narrowly missed being 3rd in their pool. They are now out of contention for the Gold and will be trying to win the bottom half of the tournament. They will continue with a 3 team pool and a challenge match on Tuesday.

The 14-1's had a great day. They won both of their matches. Their 2nd match was an exciting 30-28, 25-23 heart stopper! They ended up winning Flight 4 which puts them in 33rd place out of 48 teams.

The 13-1's won their first match in pool play and then lost their 2nd match. Their second match was almost exactly like the 15-2's incredible match, except we were the team with 24 and the other team had 18 and came back to win the match. They then played and won their challenge match in 3 games. They will be playing for 33rd place on Tuesday. Devon said I didn't have enough pictures of her yesterday, so I fixed that today.

The 13-2's lost both of their matches in their 3 team pool today. They then played an exciting 3 game challenge match at 9pm! They ended up losing the match 16-14 in game 3. They will be playing for 45th place on Tuesday against another Minnesota team!

The 12-1's finished their tournament today. They lost in a 3 game match to "Mad Frogs", a unique team name. They officially finished 23rd in the Nation!

The 11-1's won their first game today against Chaska 12's! Unfortunately it wasn't enough to win the match, and they lost in 3 games. They officially finished 23rd in the tournament. This was a great learning experience for the girls, and as Club Director I am proud of how well they kept working even in those tough games.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 5

18-1, 18-2, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3, 13-1, 13-2

The 18-1's won both of their matches today. In fact they were so efficient at it, by the time I got over to their court each time, they were already done. Maybe on Wednesday I can get some pictures of them.

The 18-2's started their pool play today. They went 1-1 on the day losing to Long Beach 18 Elite, but beating Maryland. They will finish their six team pool on Wednesday morning.

The 15-1's won their 3 team pool today by beating KC Extreme and Cincinnati. They are now in the top 8 in the Gold Championship Bracket. On Wednesday they will need to win 3 matches to win the tournament.

The 15-2's did not have a good day today. They started off by losing both matches in their 3 team pool. This knocked them out of contention for the Gold Championship bracket. They then played a Challenge match against Fort Wayne 15-1's and lost that in a hard fought 3 game battle. They will be playing for 21st place on Wednesday.

The 15-3's went 1-1 in their 3 team pool today. The second match they took to 3 games, but lost in the third. They ended up 2nd in the pool and played a challenge match against A5 from Atlanta. They lost that match in 3 games and on Wednesday they will be playing for 37th place.

The 13-1's had a great day today. They finished their season on a winning note by defeating Laguna Beach in the finals of their bracket. It was a close and exciting match, with NL winning game three 15-13. They officially finished 33rd in the Nation.

The 13-2's won the first match of the bracket they were in against the Panthers. They then lost the finals of that bracket to Chaska in a close 26-24, 27-25 match. They officially finished 46th.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 6

18-1, 18-2, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 15-1, 15-2, 15-3

Thanks to my niece Jennifer VanBenthuisen for taking quite a few of these pictures today.

The 18-1's won both of their matches today. They defeated Golden Bears in 3 straight games and Munciana in 3 straight games. This time I was able to get over to their court and get a few pictures.

The 18-2's had not such a good day today. They ended up going 0-3, so they finished 5th overall in their pool. They are now out of contention for the Gold, and will be playing to win the top of the bottom half of the tournament. With all of the other teams in the building and the 15-1's getting their awards neither I or my niece were able to get any pictures of the 18-2's. By the time I started walking to their court this evening, Katy meets me and tells me its all over.

The 15-1's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They started off their day be beating TAV in the quarter finals in two games. This set them up for a rematch against SCVC in the semi finals. NL won game one, lost game 2, and it came down to game 3. It was a long hard game, and in the end SCVC won the match 15-13. This ended the 15-1's tournament and they are officially 3rd in the Nation! We are very proud of their performance at this event. Tori Dixon and Ashley Wittman were selected for the USAV All Tournament Team.

The 15-2's did not have a good day today. They started off their bracket match by losing the first game 16-24, they then easily won game 2, but in game 3 they came up short. They officially finished 23rd.

The 15-3's (the non-colorful team) had a great day today! They won both of their bracket matches to win Flight 5 and officially place 37th. Good job ladies!

The 16-1's started their tournament this afternoon. They lost the first match in 3 games, but then easily won the next two matches finishing 2-1 on the day. They will finish their first round pool on Thursday.

The 16-2's started their tournament this afternoon. They also went 2-1 today, winning their first match, losing the 2nd match, and then easily winning the third match. They will finish their first round pool on Thursday.

The 16-3's started their tournament this afternoon and it wasn't such a good start. They went 0-3 in pool play. They did however have very close matches, taking one of them to 3 games and the others were 27-25, 25-22, etc. So even though they lost, they were all good matches. They will finish their first round pool on Thursday.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 7

18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3

The pictures today are compliments of my niece Jennifer VanBenthuyzen who spent most of the day going from court to court tracking down each of the teams and getting a few shots of them.

The 18-1's won their first match of the day against Sunshine. They then had their final match of the pool against TCA. It was an awesome match. The 18-1's lost the first two games and with their backs against the wall they rallied to win games 3 & 4. By this time there were several hundred people standing around the court, on chairs, water barrels, etc, trying to watch this great match. Game five went the distance, with NL at one point being down 14-9 and coming back to 14-13 before TCA put down the final point to win the match. This put the 18-1's 2nd in their pool and they had to play a challenge match at 5pm. They easily won the challenge match against Circle Cirty. They are now in the Gold Championship Bracket and will be playing Vision at 8am on Friday morning in the quarterfinals.

The 18-2's went 1-1 today in their pool play. They then had a challenge match against GI Select. It was a good match and went 3 games, but in the end we lost 15-13. This means the 18-2's will be playing their final JO matches on Friday in Flight 5, going for 37th place.

The 17-1's started their tournament play today. They had two matches today in the 17 Open division, and they took both of them to 5 games. In both matches they lost by just 2 or 3 points in game 5! They are still not out of it, it is just going to be harder for them now as they will need to win virtually all of their matches from here on out.

The 17-2's had a great day today. In their first half of pool play they have gone 3-0. Sean said the team is really clicking well today. They will be completing their initial pool play on Friday.

The 17-3's, my favorite team today.....maybe because I got to sit on the bench and be assistant coach! We started off the day well by defeating Attack in two fairly easy games. Our 2nd match was against TAV. It was a much tougher match, and in the end it came down to us not being as strong at serve receive as we needed to be. We lost that match in two games. At 1-1 on the day, the 17-3 team is still in contention for the Gold. We just need to win at least 2 of our 3 matches on Friday.

The 16-1's finished their initial pool play today. It was a day of "ups and downs" according to Jordan. They had two protests on their court and they won both of them. They ended up winning their last match of the day against 1st Alliance in a close exciting 28-26, 25-23 match. This cinched 3rd in the pool and advances them toward the gold. They will have a 3 team pool on Friday followed by a challenge match.

The 16-2's also finished their initial pool play today. They went 3-2 in their pool, but ended up 4th due to a head to head tie break. This put them out of contention for the Gold, but they will be playing to win the bottom half of the tournament starting with a three team pool on Friday.

The 16-3's had a tough day today. They lost both of their matches and ended up 6th in the pool. They are out of contention for the Gold, but will be playing to win the bottom half of the tournament starting with a three team pool on Friday. They told me even though they hadn't won any matches the first two days, they were still happy that they were here and playing these good teams. And that is what we like to hear.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 8

18-1, 18-2, 17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3

The pictures today are compliments of my niece Jennifer VanBenthuisen who spent most of the day going from court to court tracking down each of the teams and getting a few shots of them.

The 18-1's were in the Gold Championship Bracket for the 2nd year in a row. They started their trek to win the tournament by playing Vision. It went 4 games, but the 18-1's won in game 4. Unfortunately during this match Brook's right hand collided with Lauren's shoe and she ended up with a broken hand. The semifinal match was against Sports Performance. The 18-1's put up a valiant fight, but in the end without Brook it just wasn't going to happen and they lost in 3 games. This ended their tournament with a 3rd Place finish in the 18 Open Division. Brook Dieter and Lauren Gibbemeyer were named to the All-Tournament Team. It has been an incredible 3 years with this group and we at Northern Lights are extremely proud of each of them.

The 18-2's were in Flight 5 of the playoff brackets. They played FC Elite and lost in 2 games. They officially finished 39th in the American Division.

The 17-1's have made it a habit to play 5 game matches in this tournament. After losing 2 five game matches yesterday, they started off the day with another 5 game match against Gold Bear, and they won it. In their second match of the day they played 4 games against Amarillo Elite and lost the match. They still have 2 more matches in their pool on Saturday and it is possible that if they win both they still have a chance at advancing to the Gold.

The 17-2's lost both of their remaining matches in the first round pool. This left them with a 3-2 record which was good enough for a 3rd place finish in the pool and they advance on towards the Gold. There are no pictures of the 17-2's today.

The 17-3's had a tough day today. They started out in a close match against Willowbrook which they lost, they then played CVA and once again had a great first game but still lost the match. In their 3rd match of the day they played Sky High. It went 3 exciting games, but in the end they lost in game 3. They are playing in a 3 team pool on Saturday and trying to win the bottom half of the tournament. There are no pictures of the 17-3's today.

The 16-1's won their 3 team pool today and were in a challenge match to determine if they went into the Gold or Silver. The challenge match went 3 games, but in the end the 16-1's lost 15-13 in game 3. They are now playing in the Silver bracket for 9th place.

The 16-2's finished 2nd in their 3 team pool today and then lost in their challenge match in 3 close games. They will be in flight 5 and playing for 37th place on Saturday.

The 16-3's have kept their match record perfect still going 0-3 on the day. It was a hard day, but they are still happy to be here. They will be playing in flight 7 on Saturday and trying to win that bracket for a 45th place finish. Good luck to them.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 9

17-1, 17-2, 17-3, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3

The pictures today are again compliments of my niece Jennifer VanBenthuisen.

The 17-1's finished their pool play today. They were 0-2 today, losing both matches. This put them in 6th place in the pool. They will be playing for 21st place on Sunday.

The 17-2's lost both of their matches in their 3 team pool today. This dropped them out of contention for the Gold Championship. They then played their evening challenge match and won. They will now be playing for 21st place in Flight 1 on Sunday.

The 17-3's played 9 games today! Every match they played in went 3 games, and all of them were close 15-13 finishes. They lost the first two matches, but won match 3 on a brilliant coaching move by Mr. Weaver. They will now be playing for 41st place in Flight 6 on Sunday.

The 16-1's were in the Silver bracket today, playing for 9th place. They won their first match in two close games, then had a close 3 game match against Nor Cal which they won in 3. This put them up against Texas Tornados in the finals of the Silver bracket. It went 3 games and was 15-13 in game three, but unfortunately NL 16-1's were on the wrong side of the 15-13 score and they lost the match. They officially finished 10th.

The 16-2's lost their first match of the day in Flight 5 in 3 close games. They officially finished 39th in the National Division.

The 16-3's won their first of the tournament today against Pinellas 16 Elite. They then played in the finals of Flight 7 against Nike Six Pack. This was their day to win, and they did in two straight games. They officially finished 45th in the American Division.

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2007 USAV National Championships - Day 10

17-1, 17-2, 17-3

The last day!!!

The 17-1's finished their tournament today on a down note. Ashley was sick, Taylor started getting sick, and Virginia was just recovering from being sick. All of this combined to produce a bad day. They lost in their first round bracket match against MAVS. They officially finished 23rd in the 17 Open Division.

The 17-2's did not fare much better than the 17-1's. They lost their first round bracket match in two straight games against Synergy. They officially finished 23rd in the 17 National Division.

The 17-3's represented the club well today. First they didn't break their 6 match in a row tradition of playing 3 games. Secondly they were the last Northern Lights team to play this season, and they went out winning! They won their first match of the day

against Attack, then played Arizona in the finals of Flight 6. The 17-3's won that match and officially finished 41st in the 17 American Division.

Overall this year's USJO Championships have been both great and disappointing. We took 3rd in two Open Divisions, a feat never before accomplished by any other club in Minnesota. We lost Brook (18-1's) to a broken hand on the last day, and narrowly missed having our 16-1's in the Gold Championship Bracket. However we have done what nobody else has ever done, and that is qualify 16 teams for this event. That in itself is a huge accomplishment, since just getting to JO's is tough.

Congratulations to all Mizuno Northern Lights players and coaches. It's been a great year. Have a fun summer, and we'll see you on the court this fall.