

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

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

Most of the teams arrived about 9:15am. The heavy favorite this year was H2O Disco and the Brain Wash. A few of the coaches and some of the players even ventured up onto the Bomb Bay big drop slide. The 15-2's & 15-White team even worked real hard getting the good looking male lifeguard's attention.

Some of the girls got temporary airbrush tatoo's, and some of them got blue lips and teeth from drinking slushies.

Lunch was served at the water park and the girls quickly ate all the hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and ice cream. Then it was back to the wave pool or the lazy river. Most of the teams headed back to the homes around 1:30pm where many of the girls took naps or relaxed in the air conditioning watching movies. Today's high was 95. Suprisingly, no rain the past two days!

Dinner tonight at most of the houses was Spaggeththti, or tacos.

The 14-1 & 14-2's got together and played some games that Michelle and Crystal had devised for them. They had a fun time, and apparently the 14-2s were the winner.

After the 14-1 team had dinner, we moved them back into their original house with the A/C now working. They loved it and spent the first 10 minutes running around checking out all the bedrooms.

Competition starts on Wednesday morning with the younger teams having 8/9am matches, and the 15's all playing in the afternoon. Check back tomorrow for pictures of some of the action.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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Another AAU National tournament is off and running, and so am I. Today I actually got to watch every team and get pictures of all of them except 152. Most of the teams I was able to spend a full match at.

The 121's were the first stop, playing at the Disney Wide World of Sports. The team was playing against Lions from the Chicago area and it was a close match. In the first set we had a solid lead, but let it dwindle down until we eventually won 25-23. The second set was also close and went into overtime....we lost it 27-25. The 3rd set did not go our way either and we lost it 15-12. This was a crucial match that we should have won, but didn't. We won the next match against Mavericks, and then lost the 3rd match to Wisconsin Jrs. This left us with a 1-2 record. Fortunately the top 3 teams are still in contention for the gold, but placing 3rd put us in a bad place for Wednesday.

The 121's started off the morning also at Disney Wide World of Sports. In their first match against a team named Marion County Jrs, they won the 1st set close 25-23, then like the 13-1's went into overtime on set 2 and lost 28-30. The 3rd set we got crushed 15-7. Once again like the 13's this was a crucial match that we should have won but didn't. We won the next match against a team named High Performance but it took 3 sets to do so. This left the team from Puerto Rico which was the #3 seed in the tournament. We lost that one in 2 straight sets. Fortunately the top 3 teams are still in contention for the gold, but placing 3rd put us in a bad place for Thursday. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center on Thursday

141's started out real well. They are in a 7 team pool and played 4 matches today. They beat MAVA which was the #2 team in their pool, in 3 sets. They then played Milwaukee Sting Gold and once again started out like an all world team according to Michelle. They won the first set quite easily, then rolled over and played dead for the second set. The third set was close but we lost 15-12. After an hour break, they played two more matches back to back. The third match against Team Indiana was a good match. They played well and so did Team Indiana, it went 3 sets and we won 15-11 in the third. Their final match of the day was against Dayton Jrs. Although the scores looked close, the 14-1's were pretty much in complete control of the match and they won it in 2 sets. This puts them at 3-1 in the pool and they have two more matches in the pool on Thursday. The top 4 advance, so they should be in a good position. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center on Thursday

The 14-2's were in the Convention Center with the 14-1's. They actually were at the court right behind the 14-1's which was great for me. By the time I got to the Convention Center they were already 2-0 winning both matches in 2. Their 3rd match was overlapping with the 14-1's match so I only got to see the 2nd game, but the 14-2's pretty easily handled the other team and finished 3-0 in the pool in 1st place. They are advancing toward the Gold and will play in the afternoon on Thursday in the Convention Center. They will play in the afternoon at the Convention Center on Thursday.

The 152's were at Disney Wide World of Sports. They played on the bad court on the upper gym, so I wasn't able to get any pictures of them. They started off their day by a team called Crescent City...we lost that match in 3 sets due to 11 service errors and 14 hitting errors. They then won their second match easily against Fusion and played their final match against Premier which they also easily won. They ended up 2nd in their pool but the loss moved them from the #1 seed in the tournament to the #71 seed in the tournament. This will make life more difficult for them on Thursday. They will be playing in the morning in the convention center.

The 15-Black team was at the convention center in the afternoon. Their first match was against East Columbus and I watched all of it. They didn't play one of their better games, in fact it was pretty ugly....but we won in 2 straight sets. Their second match was Kokoro which is a team from Woodbury....yep we went 1500 miles to Orlando, played in a tournament with over 150 teams in the 15's division in 35 pools, and only about 8 of them are from Minnesota, but the tournament schedulers weren't smart enough to keep us from playing another Minnesota team. Oh well, we beat them anyways. Their final match was against Alliance and the 15-Black team fairly easily beat them to end up 3-0 in the pool and taking 1st. This also moved them up to seed #25 from their original seed of 50. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center on Thursday.

The 15-Red team was also at the Convention Center in the afternoon. They played their first match against Fusion from Illinois. It took them 3 sets, but we won in the 3rd set 15-9. Their second match was against a team not as strong as the first team, and we struggled. We ended up losing that match in 2 straight sets but the second set was very close at 26-24. In their 3rd match of the pool they lost 16-14 to KIVA (#20 overall seed) in a very close match, this set up a tie for 3rd place in their pool. They then had to play a tie breaker game. The tie breaker was against Ocean Breeze the team they lost to in their second match. The game was a close one, but in the end 15-Red lost 25-23. They ended up taking 4th in the pool and are officially no longer able to be in contention for the Gold. I only got a few pictures of this team today because every time I came over to their court they either weren't playing or they were just finishing a match. I'll have to get more of them on Thursday. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center on Thursday.

The 15-White team was also at the Convention Center in the afternoon. They had a tough first match against Fusion's top team in the Club division who were seeded #8 overall. We were pretty much beat up 25-11 in two quick sets. Their second match was against NC Elite...presumably from North Carolina. I thought the team played well taking some good swings at the ball. They were even in the lead most of the second set, but they ended up losing the match in 2 sets 25-20 in both sets. Their third match was against Willowbrook and the 15-White won that in 2 straight sets. They

ended up 3rd in their pool and are still in contention for the gold. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center on Thursday.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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The 12-1's played in the morning at the Convention Center. They were a completely different team today. They played very well. They were in a three team pool and played Skyline and a team from Puerto Rico. Both of them went 3 sets and in both of them we won the 3rd set fairly easily. They then had a crossover match with Gainesville 12's. This match also went 3 sets, but was very exciting. The 3rd set went 16-14 in a come from behind win for Northern Lights. This win put them as the #4 seed in the tournament and they are in a good position for Friday's play. After they were done playing they went back to the house, cleaned up and then went out for dinner at Downtown Disney with their coaches and parents. They play on Friday morning at the Convention Center.

The 13-1's played in the morning at the Convention Center. They were in a very difficult pool and they started off by playing the same team they just played yesterday. They went 3 sets, but lost 15-13 in the third set. They then had to immediately play Kiva (#3 overall seed) and we were pretty much crunched by them in two sets. Their 3rd match was against Alamo and NL won that 15-13 in the third. This set up a 3 way tie for 2nd in that pool and we had to play a tie breaker game. They 13's played hard according to Deanna, but they lost 26-24. This put them in 4th place in the pool and they are now out of contention for the Gold. They will be playing in the morning at the Wide World of Sports.

The 14-1's had a very good day. They started off by beating Woodlands Wave in 3 sets. They then played the final match in the pool against WV Wahine and beat them very easily in 2 straight sets. This gave the 14-1's a 1st place finish in their pool, and they went from overall seed #25 to now seed #5. This was huge and gives them a definite advantage on Friday. They headed home for an afternoon of swimming and were going to go down to Disney's Boardwalk and walk around this evening. They will be playing Friday morning at the Wide World of Sports.

The 14-2's played in the afternoon at the convention center and had a GREAT day. I was only around to watch one of their matches, but it was very clear that they were in control of the pool. They won their first match in 2 sets against Xtreme 14's fairly easily. After that they crunched Altitude 14's in two quick sets...one of them 25-3. Their 3rd match wasn't too much more exciting as they also won that one in two

straight sets. They finished 1st in their pool and are still in contention for the Gold Bracket in 14 Club. They will play at 9am on Friday in the Convention Center. They spent the afternoon swimming and watching movies.

The 15-2's were at the Convention Center in the morning. They had a pool with two Sports Performance teams and one Muncie team, both very good clubs. They won their first match against Sports Performance 15 Red in two straight sets, their second match was against Sports Performance 15 White and we took that one to 3 sets winning 15-10 in the third. They then finished off the pool against Munciana and won that one in two straight sets. They finished 1st in the pool, went from seed 71 up to seed 18, and they are still in contention for the Gold. They will play on Friday morning in the Convention Center. They spent the rest of the afternoon at home in the pool and had their parents over for a pot luck dinner.

15-Black played in the morning at the Convention Center. They are having a great tournament. Their first match of the day was against Illini Elite. We won the match in two relatively easy sets. The second match was a harder match against Tsunami 15 and we went 3 sets with them, but we won 15-9 in the 3rd set. The final match was against Lomanview and the 15 Black team fairly easily beat them in 2 straight sets. They currently holding the 25th overall seed in the tournament and still in contention for the Gold. They went to Cocco Beach in the afternoon, had dinner out there and got back about 9:30pm. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center.

The 15-Red team went out and pretty much crushed everyone in their pool today. They won all three of their matches in 2 straight sets and only let one team get more than 15 points against them. Due to their loss on Day 1, they are in the lower half of the tournament and they stand a good chance of winning the rest of their matches in the next two days. I believe they also headed for the beach after finishing play today. They will be playing in the afternoon at Disney Wide World of Sports on Friday. Unfortunately with 10 of our older teams arriving on Friday afternoon I will be unable to see them and get any pictures on Friday.

The 15-White team had a good day today, unfortunately they were in a 5 team pool and the tournament for some unknown reason only took the top 2 teams out of that pool to advance. This is not normal, in fact its rather unfair to the teams in that pool. The 15-White team played in the Convention Center and won 2 and lost 2 matches in that 5 team pool. This gave them 3rd place in the pool. Since only two teams advanced to the Gold the White team is now out of contention for the Gold, even though they had a great day solidly beating those other teams! After watching a bit of the 15-Black team match, they packed up and headed for Cocco Beach and there they met up again with the 15 Black team while having dinner at the same place. Joy

reported that they had a great time. They will be playing in the morning on Friday at the Convention Center.

Editors Note: The 15-1 & 18-1 teams arrived today. After starting off with a 20 minute delay in Minneapolis, some of the coaches were wondering if they were going to have a repeat performance of last year's 27 hour ordeal. Fortunately the flight departed and they made it safely to Orlando. The 15-1 team went out for dinner with Curt (their reward for winning the Denver Qualifier) and the 18-1's went to Buffet and just about closed them down by eating all their food! Then 4 hours later I was at the 18's house and they were hungry again.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's

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What an awesome day today!

I'll was only able to see basically one match for about 6 of the teams because I had to go deal with the incoming 10 older teams who arrived today. But some of the matches I saw were great ones!

First off, Northern Lights has put 4 of its 8 younger teams into the Gold Championship Brackets! Now if we can just convert a few of those into National Championships on Saturday.

The 12-1's won their first match of the day against the Martin County team who had beaten them on the first day of the competition. They then lost to MAVA. This set them up for their challenge match against Gainsville Jrs who they had played yesterday and beat. The 12's once again went out and beat them. This was good because it gave us a bye into the final 8 round. They will be playing the team from Puerto Rico on Saturday morning who they lost to two days ago....maybe we can pull this one out. I have a few pictures of the 12's from today.

The 13-1's were at the Wide World of Sports. They were playing on a court in the Josten's center that is impossible to get good pictures from. So I only took 2 shots and then decided to go sit on their bench for the rest of the match. The 13's pretty much clobbered the first team they played in the first set, and then they squeaked out a win in the 2nd set. They also won their next two matches taking 1st in their pool. They will be playing for 15th place in the Consolation Division. Deanna likes to call it the Gold Plated Division.

The 14-1's had a very good and exciting day. They started off the day with a match that was pretty incredible. They played A5 and were pretty much crunched in the first set. I arrived just as that set ended, and they were starting set two. I looked like the 2nd set was going to be a repeat of the first set and at 24-17 against us, I was packing up and getting ready to go watch the 13's. But then the 14-1's started battling back. They served a few aces, then scored on a block or two and hit a couple of kills and in just a few minutes time it was 24-24. We then proceeded to win the next two points on a hit out by A5 and a kill by McKenzie...and we won the set 26-24. The 14-1's then pretty much buried A5 in the 3rd set. After that the 14-1's went on to beat MN Select in two straight and IVA in another close match 18-16. This gave the 14-1's 1st place in the pool and a bye into the final round of 8 teams. They will be playing a team that they played yesterday in the Gold bracket on Saturday.

The 14-2's had another fantastic day. They won all their matches in two straight sets in their pool. When I watched them they were running real smooth and with a lot of energy. They had a challenge match in the evening, and they quickly won that one in two sets also. They are now in the top 16 in the Gold Championship Bracket. They are currently seeded 9th in the bracket, but at this point it doesn't matter....they just need to keep playing like they are and win a few more matches to medal. Their first match in the Gold Bracket will be against a team called Top Select.

The 15-2's were like the 14-2's..except they had to work a bit harder to win all of their matches today. They had a particularly exciting match against Munciana which went 3 games and the 15-2's pulled it out 15-13 to win the pool. This set them up for their Challenge match to get into the Gold and the 15-2's pulled a come from behind win in set 1 25-23, and then fairly easily won the 2nd set against Columbus VBA to put them into the Gold Championship Bracket. Like the 14-2's they are seeded 9th, but at this point it doesn't matter....they just need to keep playing like they are and win a few more matches to medal. The first match in the Gold Bracket will be against a team called Union.

15-Black had a tough day today losing the first two matches to two very good teams. This left them with one final match against Milwaukee Sting 15-2's who are seeded #2 overall. It turned out that the Milwaukee Sting team's coaches had not been with their team during several previous ref duties, so the tournament decided to penalize them with a 1 game forfeit and the 15- Black team was automatically up 1-0 in the match. The 2nd set of the match was a barn burner. The 15-Black team played a great game, and won 27-25! This gave them the match win, but it really didn't matter because the way the pool worked out we were going to be 4th no matter what we did in that match against Sting. But at least we had a great match and a good moral victory! The 15-Black team is now out of contention for the Gold and they will be playing for 40th

place out of 141. This is actually quite good considering the teams they played today were all very good teams.

The 15-Red team played in the afternoon and I was unable to see them because of the incoming older teams who I had to get settled. The 15-Red team went 2-1 today beating Carolina Storm and Kokoro 15-1, and losing to Union 15. They will be playing on Saturday in the Purple Division for 106 out of 141. If they win their first match they will then have to play another Minnesota team (M1 15-2's).....can't these guys figure out how to separate the 8 MN teams so they won't play each other??

The 15-White team had a pretty good day today. They went 2-1 defeating Juggernaut 15-1 & Fusion 15 Orange. I watched them in one of their matches and they still have a huge amount of energy....they are fun to watch and they are having a good time. They will be playing on Saturday in the Blue Division for 66th place out of 141. Their first match will be against Toledo 15-1's.

Editors Note: The 16's - 18's all made it down to Orlando with only a minor flight delay. The 18-2 team went out for dinner with Curt (their reward for winning the video contest) and we even sent Rachel's Grandmother (the star in the video) a picture of the team toasting her for her participation. Todd Schultz & I shopped and prepared potato bars for 5 of the teams who were on the late flights while the early flight teams all stayed in and had dinner at their houses. 20 Northern Lights teams are here now....the most we have ever had at this event. It would be great fun to have all of them cheering on one of our teams in the finals on Saturday if we can get a team there.

2011 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's, First day for 151 & 181.

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**Mizuno Northern Lights 12-1's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 12
Open**

**Mizuno Northern Lights 14-1's place 5th at the AAU National Championships 14
Open**

**Mizuno Northern Lights 14-2's place 5th at the AAU National Championships 14
Club**

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

The 12-1 team played at 9:00am in their quarter final match. They played a team from Puerto Rico that they had lost to in the first day of pool play. This time they won the match in 2 straight sets. Their second match was the semi finals, and they once again were up against a team from Puerto Rico. Unfortunately this match did not go as well and the 12-1's lost in two straight sets to a pretty good team. They officially finished 3rd in the 12 Open Division. Payton Nutter and Gabrielle Orr received All American awards.

The 13-1 team was in the Consolation Division today. They played their one and only match against Bravos Valley and lost in 3 sets 15-13. They officially finished in 17th place in the 13 Open Division. This was a pretty good finish for this team considering half of the team was new to these large National Championship Tournaments. The team came back to the house and played a bunch of games in the pool for the rest of the afternoon. We are happy to say that we made it through a complete trip without Lara getting hurt!

The 14-1 team was in the Gold Championship bracket today. Their quarter final match was against Team Indiana who they played previously and beat. This was not a good situation to be in...Team Indiana came out strong and we never were really in the match. We lost in two straight sets. The 14-1's officially finished 5th in the 14 Open Division. Kaylea Ahrens received an All American award.

The 14-2 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. They started off the day as seed #9 playing seed #8 Top Select, which the 14-2's finished off fairly quickly in 2 straight sets. The second match of the day was against KIVA 14-2's the #1 seed in the tournament. We lost the first set 25-16, and then almost won the second set, but lost 27-25. The 14-2's officially finished 5th in the 14 Club Division. Mira Grinsfelder received an All American award.

The 15-1 team started their tournament today. They had an afternoon pool, and I was unable to watch them since I was having dinner with the 17-2's (reward for their Denver win) and also at the 12's award ceremony. They ended up 2-1 today winning their first two matches and losing the third one. They are in a 7 team pool and will play the remaining 3 matches on Sunday afternoon.

The 15-2 team was in the Gold Championship Bracket today. Their first and last match of the day was against Union in the round of 16. The 15-2's crushed them game one and then lost the next two to lose the match and be knocked out of the tournament. They officially finished 9th in the 15 Club Division.

The 15-Black team was playing for 40th position today. When I went to visit them this evening, they told me that they had an awesome day. They played 4 matches today. The first three matches they played were long matches, going 3 sets in each. But they won all three of them against Team Indiana, Woodlands Wave, and NVA. Their final match of the day was against a team from Hawaii and they won that match in 2 sets. They were the Red Division champions and officially finished 40th out of 141.

The 15-Red team went 1-1 today. They won their first match against North Shore Assault in 3 sets. They then had to immediately play M1 15-Navy and they lost that one in two sets. When I asked what their finish was Mackenzie said they were 3rd in the Purple Division. So we will leave it at that, knowing that out of 141 teams there were 33 that finished lower. On a side note, I had a great conversation with them tonight and helped judge their scavenger hunt pictures.

The 15-White team was playing for 66th position today. They also went 1-1. They won their first match against Toledo in 3 sets. Their second match was against DVA and they lost that in a very close 3 set match 18-16. They officially finished 70th out of 141. This was a great showing for them!!! I also spent about 20 minutes with the team tonight and had a fun time talking with them. They are still full of energy and ready to play more volleyball.

The 18-1 team started their tournament today. But with all the quarter finals and semi final matches going on with the younger teams I was only able to watch one of their matches. They ended up not having a decent day. They are in a 7 team pool and played 4 matches today. Their record was 3-1 for the day. They are in a pretty good position for tomorrow.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 1 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's, Day 2 for 151 & 181

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The 151 & 181 teams played at the Disney complex in the afternoon and I was at the Convention Center at that time, so I was unable to get any pictures of those teams today.

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

The 15-1 team is in their 2nd day of play. They were at the Disney Complex in the afternoon and they went 2-1 today. They finished 2nd in their pool and they are still advancing toward the Gold Championship Bracket. They will play again on Monday morning in the Convention Center in a 4 team pool.

16-1 is playing in a 7 team pool, 3 matches today and 3 matches on Monday. Today they went 3-0. This evening I took them out for dinner as their reward for winning Big South. When we got back we moved the team from the house they were in to a new house because the A/C still was not working properly in their original house and the temperature was hovering around 84 inside the house. The new house was a nice cool 73. They will be playing again on Monday morning in the Convention Center.

16-2 went 3-0 in their pool today, winning it. I went to watch them in the morning, but by the time I finished watching 16-Black on another court they were finished. In the afternoon they went to Cocco Beach & had dinner out there. They are still in contention for the Gold Championship. They will play again on Monday afternoon in the Convention Center. Unfortunately they will be playing two Minnesota teams.

16-Black went 2-1 in their pool today and placed 2nd. They originally started as seed #2 in the tournament, however their loss dropped them to seed 87 and they will now have to fight their way back to the top. They are still in contention for the Gold Championship. They will play Monday afternoon at the Convention Center.

16-Red team had probably the worse day of any team we've had in this tournament. They were in a tough pool and they went 0-3. They are no longer in contention for the Gold. They will play Monday afternoon at the Convention Center. They spent the afternoon at home and had their parents over for dinner and then they found out the pool really wasn't broken so they jumped in it.

The 16-White team had a very good day. They played 3 great matches and they won 2 of them. Even though they lost the 3rd match, it was still a very good match. They ended up 2nd in their pool and are still in contention for the Gold. They will play Monday afternoon at the Convention Center. After they finished play for the day they went home and hung out around their pool. They didn't want to go to the beach because it was too hot and some of them were already sunburned from the water park day.

The 17-1 team is in a 7 team pool. They played 3 matches today and will play 3 matches on Monday. Today they went 3-0 winning all of the matches in 2 straight sets. They will play Monday morning at the Convention Center.

The 17-2 team won all three of their matches today and took first in pool. They will play Monday afternoon at the Wide World of Sports in a 4 team pool.

The 17-Black team won all three of their matches today and took first in pool. They will play Monday afternoon at the Convention Center in a 4 team pool. They came back home and had a pasta meal before meeting with Curt and then heading off to bed.

The 17-Red team won all three of their matches today and took first in pool. They will play Monday afternoon at the Convention Center in a 4 team pool.

The 18-1 team played the last 3 matches of a 7 team pool today. They went 3-0 today for a combined record of 5-1 in that pool. This put them in 2nd place and they are still in contention for the Gold Bracket. They will play again on Monday morning in the Convention Center.

The 18-2 team went 3-0 on their first day of play. They finished 1st in their pool. They had a pretty easy pool today which was fairly uneventful except for the shot to Megan's head that dropped her in her tracks. She was ok, but everyone got a great laugh out of it. They will play at the Convention Center on Monday morning.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 2 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's, 15-1 & 18-1 Day 3

Pictures taken this entire year are now posted on our new photo website
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Today I was at the convention center the entire day. Unfortunately the 17-2 was at the Disney complex, so I have no pictures of them.

A quick summary follows.

151 had an unusual and very long day. They went 2-1 in their first pool, and there was a three way tie for 1st. Because of the tie breaking rules they were scheduled to play a tie breaking game against the Puerto Rico team they had played earlier that morning. However the Puerto Rico team was not at the court for the tie breaker game, which is an automatic forfeit. However the referees had the tournament desk make an announcement for the team to come and play. About 10 minutes later the team showed up (now 20 minutes after the tie breaker game should have started). After some discussion with the tournament officials it was determined that the Puerto Rico team was not in compliance with the tie breaking rules and that they actually forfeited the tie breaking game. This gave the 15-1 team 2nd in the pool and they had a challenge match at 5:30 pm. Since there wasn't enough time to go home, they just

relaxed in the convention center and then they had a very tough 3 game match against Cleveland Volleyball Academy. It was close, but in the end we lost in the 3rd set. This put us out of contention for the Gold and now playing for 11th place on Tuesday morning at the Disney Complex.

161 - went 3-0 today. This gave them an overall pool record of 6-0 and they finished 1st in their pool. This advances them to the 2nd round of play towards the Gold Championships. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center in a 4 team pool, if they are 1st or 2nd they will then have a challenge match in the evening. It could be a very long day for them.

162 - They went 2-1 today. They finished 2nd in their pool and are still advancing toward the Gold Bracket. They play in the morning at the convention center in a pool of 4 teams followed by a challenge match in the evening if they are 1st or 2nd in their pool.

16 Black - They went 2-1 today. They finished 2nd in their pool and are still advancing toward the Gold Bracket. They play in the morning at the convention center in a pool of 4 teams followed by a challenge match in the evening if they are 1st or 2nd in their pool.

16 Red - They went 3-0 today and finished 1st in their pool. They are on target to win the bottom half of the tournament. They will play in the afternoon at the Convention Center in a pool of 3 followed by a crossover match.

16 White - They also went 1-2 today, causing their pool to have a 3 way tie for 2nd. They had to play two playoff games, and they won both of them! This gave them 2nd place in the pool and they are still advancing toward the Gold. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center in a pool of 4 followed by challenge matches in the evening if they are 1st or 2nd in their pool. Curt also owes them 2 ice creams for winning those tie breaker games.

171 - They went 3-0 today which gave them an overall record of 6-0 for the pool and they were 1st. This advances them to the 2nd round of play towards the Gold Championships. Their last match of the day against Alliance was a great match that they won in 3 sets. They will play in the morning at the Convention Center in a 4 team pool, if they are 1st or 2nd they will then have a challenge match in the evening. It could be a very long day for them.

172 - They went 3-0 today and finished 1st in their pool. They are now 6-0 in the tournament and advancing toward the Gold Championships still. They will play a pool of 4 tomorrow morning at the Convention Center. If they are first in their pool they

will advance into the Gold Bracket, if they are 2nd they will have to play a challenge match in the evening.

17 Black - They went 3-0 today and finished 1st in their pool. They are now 6-0 in the tournament and advancing toward the Gold Championships still. They will play a pool of 3 tomorrow, followed by a crossover match, and then have a challenge match in the evening if they are 1st in the pool or win their crossover match. They will start play in the morning at the Convention Center but they will end up having a very long day.

17 Red - They went 1-2 today and finished 3rd in their pool. They are no longer in contention for the Gold. They will play a pool of 3 tomorrow afternoon, followed by a crossover match, all at the Convention Center. After they were done today they all took ice baths.

181 - They went 1-2 today, winning their final match against Fort Wayne, but then losing to Metro American and a very good Munciana team. This put them in 3rd place in the pool and they are now out of contention for the Gold. They will play their final matches of their Junior career tomorrow morning in the Disney Complex in the Consolation Division.

182 - They went 3-0 today and finished 1st in their pool. They are now 6-0 in the tournament and advancing toward the Gold Championships still. They will play a pool of 4 tomorrow morning at the Convention Center and then have a challenge match in the evening if they are 1st or 2nd in the pool.

2011 AAU Trip - Day 3 of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's, Final Day for 15-1 & 18-1

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

There are no pictures today of any teams except the 18-1 teams. The 18-1's were playing their final matches at the Disney Complex while everyone else was at the Convention Center.

First off, Northern Lights has put 6 of its 10 older teams into the Gold Championship Brackets! We now are going to try to convert a few of those into National Championships on Wednesday.

Overall Northern Lights has put 10 of its 20 teams that attended the tournament, into the Gold Championship Brackets...and 2 more lost in the challenge match to get in. That's a great showing for the club.

The 15-1's started off the day with a ref assignment, and ended the day with a ref assignment. In between they played MAVA. The first set started out slowly but turned out to be a very good game. The 15-1's came back from 17-23 to tie it up, however they couldn't get the final two points and MAVA ended up winning set 1. Set 2 started out like the first and we were down 11-4 before we started our comeback.

Unfortunately our comeback stalled at 13 and MAVA won the match. The 15-1's had a good run at this tournament. They were only 2 points away from being in the Gold Championship bracket. They officially finished 15th. After they finished their ref assignment they went out to Cocco Beach for the afternoon.

16-1's won their first match and lost Samantha to a sprained ankle in the 2nd match. They then won the 2nd & 3rd match in 3 sets. This put them in 1st place in their pool and in a good position for their evening Challenge match against Front Range. They won the first set relatively easily, the second set they lost. This meant they had to win the 3rd set in order to make it into the Gold Bracket, and they did. They will play KIVA at 11am at the Convention Center.

16-2's went 2-1 in their pool today. They then had a challenge match against a team from Puerto Rico which they narrowly won in 3. They are now in the Gold Championship Bracket and will play at 9am at the Wide World of Sports against the 16-Black team. Congratulations to the 16-2 team for making it to the Gold!

16-Black went 3-0 in their pool taking first. After that they had to wait until 5:30 to play their Challenge match against COA 16's which they won in two straight sets. They were the only team in the Challenge matches that won in 2 sets.....I'm sure the parents appreciated that. They are now in the Gold Championship Bracket and will play at 9am at the Wide World of Sports against the 16-2 team. Congratulations to the 16-3 team for making it to the Gold!

16-Red had another good day today. They went 2-0 and finished 1st in their 3 team pool. Then they had a crossover match which they also won and they were out of the convention center early tonight! When I last saw them they were heading off to the outlet mall for some shopping. They will play an 8:00 am match in the Convention Center tomorrow morning.

16-White had not such a good day. They went 0-3 today in play and finished 4th in the pool. This ended their quest for the Gold Bracket. They are now playing for about position 50 out of 176 teams. They had the entire afternoon off and they spent some time in the pool. They play at 9:00 am match in the Convention Center.

17-1's went 2-1 today in their first pool. This put them in 2nd place and they played a Challenge match in the evening against Munciana a very good team. The match went

3 sets and in the end 17-1's won 15-13. They are now in the Gold Championship Bracket and will play at 8am at the Convention Center. Congratulations to the 17-1 team for making it to the Gold!

17-2's went 3-0 today winning their pool. They are one of the few teams that didn't have a challenge match as they were byed into the Gold Championship Bracket as the #2 seed. They will play at 8am at the Wide World of Sports. Congratulations to the 17-2 team for making it to the Gold!

17-Black had a great day today. They went 2-0 in their 3 team pool and then won their crossover match. This set the up for their Challenge match in the evening against Rockford Fusion which they lost in 2. They are now in the Premier Bracket and will play at 10am at the Convention Center.

17-Red had a great day today. They started out by winning a 3 set cliff hanger 22-20 in the third. They then lost the 2nd match. By this time their pool was more than 1 hour behind, and they had to ref and then play their crossover match. They won that in 2 sets. They will be playing for approximately 65th position out of 141 teams.

18-1's played their final matches of their Junior career today in the Jostens Center at the Disney Complex and I (Curt) watched them all. The first match was against OVA. It went 3 sets with the 18-1's winning an intense 3rd set 17-15. They then played against MAVA 18's in the next match. This two was a very intense match that went 3 sets with NL winning 15-13 in a nail biting 3rd set. Their last match of their careers was against Dead Frogs. Once again this was a great match. I watched years of training as they played a very high level match. It went 3 sets and unfortunately NL lost in the 3rd set, 15-13 but their was nothing to be ashamed about in that match. They officially finished 16th. After their last match they packed up and went out to Cocco Beach for a couple of hours. Thanks to the 18-1's for the many fun filled years and best wishes in your college careers.

18-2's went 2-1 today in their pool which ended up with a 3 way tie for 1st. They had to play a tie breaking game against Milwaukee Sting 18 Black who they had just finished playing. The parents reported to me that it was a real intense match and the 18-2's won it 26-24 to give them 2nd in the pool, still in contention for the gold and playing a Challenge match against 1st Alliance. They won the Challenge match in 3. They are now in the Gold Championship Bracket and will play at 8am at the Wide World of Sports. Congratulations to the 18-2 team for making it to the Gold!

2011 AAU Trip - Final Day of Competition 16's, 17's, 18's

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Mizuno Northern Lights 17-2's win the AAU National Championships 17 Club

Mizuno Northern Lights 17-1's place 3rd at the AAU National Championships 17 Open

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

Mizuno Northern Lights 16-2's place 5th at the AAU National Championships 16 Club

Today was our final day of play for the remaining teams.

I got some pictures today of the 18-2's, 17-2's, 16-1's, 16-2's, 16-Black & 17-Black in competition and all of the teams who received awards.

18-2's started out their day very strong by winning the first set in their first match of the Gold Bracket. They then took a turn for the worse and ended up losing the 2nd and then the 3rd set, knocking them out of the tournament. They finished their Northern Lights Junior Olympic careers at 9th in AAU National Club Championships. They spent the rest of the day at home in the pool.

17-1's played at 8:00am against Sports Performance 17's and won it in 3 sets. This put them in the round of 8. Their second match was against High Performance and they beat them in 2 straight sets which put them in the Semi Finals and automatically guaranteed them of a Medal and at least a 3rd place finish. Their 3rd match of the day was against Sky High and we lost that match in 2 sets. Lynne & Chad said we didn't do anything wrong, we played very well, Sky High just beat us. This was a great tournament for the 17-1's. Hopefully they can have as good of a tournament USJNC's in Atlanta. They officially finished 3rd in the 17 Open Division. Monica Turner and Leigh Pudwill received All American Awards. Congratulations to the Northern Lights 17-1 team for their 3rd place finish.

17-2's played their first match at 8am against Maunalani from Hawaii. We lost the first set 24-26, then easily won the 2nd set. The 3rd set was a real barn burner and went 18-16 with the 17-2's winning it. Their next match was against Ocean Breeze and was another scary one...the first set was 30-28 and the second set was 25-22, both close but 17-2 pulled them both out. This put them in the semi finals and guaranteed them of at least a 3rd place finish and medals. But the girls were not interested in 3rd

place, they wanted 1st and the dinner bet. In the semi final match the 17-2's were up against OVA. In both sets OVA was in the lead until around 17 when we put a few unanswered points on the scoreboard and eventually won both sets 25-21 to advance to the Championship match. The Championship match was held at the Disney Complex and was against Premier from Ohio. The 17-2's started out slow losing the first few points, but that was it and they came back and won set 1 25-16. In the 2nd set it was all Northern Lights. I don't think Premier ever knew what hit them. NL was up 8-0 in about 3 minutes. It only took another 10 or 12 to finish off the match with NL 17-2 winning the AAU 17 Club National Championship in the 2nd set 25-9. The team played incredibly well and they were firing on all cylinders. Ashley Dahly, Kelsey Chambers were named All American and Kelley Wollack was named All American/MVP for the tournament. Congratulations to the Northern Lights 17-2 team for winning the 2011 AAU National Championship!

The 17-Black played 3 matches today. They were in the Premier division which is the division just below the Gold. They won the first two matches in 3 sets and then lost the final match of the bracket in 2 sets. They officially finished 18th out of 141 teams in the 17 Club Division. This was an excellent tournament for this team and a great end to their season.

17-Red lost their first match of the day in the Blue bracket against Kiva White. They officially finished 73 out of 141 teams in the 17 Club Division.

16-1's were in the Gold Championship Bracket. Their first match of the day was against KIVA. It was tough match and went 3 sets. In the end NL 16-1 won the match 15-13 in the third. This put them in the Semi Finals and automatically guaranteed them of a Medal and at least a 3rd place finish. Their second match was against a very physical TAV team. TAV was huge and had a couple of kids that jumped out of the gym and hammered the ball. We fought hard but we lost the first set 25-19. The second set was a beating against us, we lost 25-9. So the 16-1's officially finished 3rd. Sarah Wilhite and Alyssa Goehner received All American awards. Congratulations to the 16-1 team for a great finish in an extremely tough field. After the awards ceremony Curt took them out for their surprise.

16-2's were in the Gold Championship Bracket today playing against our 16-Black team in the first match of the day. 16-2 lost the first set to a very spirited 16-Black team, then came back and easily won the 2nd set. This forced a 3rd set to decide who would continue. 16-Black was in control of much of the match until about 13-10 when 16-2 started to come back. In the end 16-2 won the match 17-15. Their second match of the day was against Costal Virginia. They 16-2's lost that match in 2 straight sets, never really in it. However since they finished in the round of 8, officially 5th, they

were rewarded with one All American. Congratulations to Taylor Goar for being named All American.

16-Black was in the Gold Championship Bracket, playing against our 16-2 team. They won the first set 25-21 and were playing with a ton of spirit. They then lost the 2nd set 15-25. This forced a 3rd set to decide who would continue. 16-Black was in control of much of the match until about 13-10 when 16-2 started to come back. In the end 16-2 won the match 17-15 and 16 Black was out of the tournament. They officially finished 9th out of 175 teams in the 16 Club Division.

16-Red lost their first match of the day in 2 straight sets. They officially finished 137th out of 175 in the 16 Club Division.

16-White lost their first match of the day in 3 sets. They officially finished 60th out of 175 in the 16 Club Division.

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