

Bayou Regional Volleyball Association Represented
by Two Teams in the National Volleyball
Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, May 29th - June 1st,
2004.

The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association sent two teams to the Adult National Volleyball Championships, held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The BB team consisted of players from the Court Jesters Volleyball Club and Tulane Volleyball Club. Players include: Benji Toups, Tyler Rhodus, Kippy Rome, Jeff Nuss, Jim Schoen, Preston Smith, (all from CJVBC), Brian Witkin, and Juan Torres, (from Tulane VBC). The B team included: Bryan Dardar, Eric Poree, Doug Phelps, Danny Davis, Paul Smith, Shawn Hima, and Vinh Nguyen, (all from CJVBC).

The BB team played in the AM session. They dropped the first match on day one, (due to lack of unity and most likely sleep). After the first match, they played like a finely tuned machine. They seemed unstoppable. Their record for the two-day pool play was 5-1. This put them into match play on the third day. They lost the first match on day three, (it must have been lack of sleep). This loss put them into the single elimination Silver Bracket. They won the next two matches to advance them into the Semi-Finals. Anyone, who was present, can testify that it was the 8th man, the fans, who carried them to the next level. Their road to success ended in the Semi-Finals with a gut-wrenching, 19-17 loss, in the third game. They finished tied for 19th overall out of 68 teams, (not bad for the first attempt).

The B team played in the PM session. They too dropped the first match of the day, and the second, (definitely not from lack of sleep). The second day started off promising. They won the first match in two games. But, the rest of the day looked grim. Their two-day pool play record was a dismal 1-4. The first match on the third day was much like the rest, a few highlights, but ended up a little short in the third game. This loss dropped

them into the single elimination Copper Bracket. With this last chance at playoff contention, they played like a totally different team. They won the first two matches, decisively. But the success was shortly lived, as they lost in the Semi-Final match of the Copper Bracket. This team ended up 48th overall out of 61 total teams.

On the last day, after the two teams were knocked out of contention, a few of us stayed to watch the Women's and Men's Open Finals. The level of competition was remarkable. We watched in awe as the Men's Open players were warming up, bouncing balls into the rafters off their spikes. It got even better once the matches started, watching their liberos, with extraordinary defensive plays. The blocks and back-row attacks were phenomenal. Our players were getting pumped up just watching these athletes perform at a level we all strive to reach. It was an experience all volleyball players should partake in.

Until next season, practice . . . , practice . . . , practice . . . ,

Bryan Dardar
Male Adult Player Representative
Bayou Regional Volleyball Association

P.S. A special thanks to our Regional Commissioner, John Cline, not only for the support at the National Championships, but for all you do for us throughout the year.