

## 2003 Beach Volleyball World Championships presented by Swatch



*Walsh-May (USA), take home the gold medal, Shelda-Adriana (BRA) the silver and, Cook-Sanderson (AUS) settle with bronze at the Women's Beach Volleyball World Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

### Walsh and May spoil the Brazilian party!

They came, they saw, and to their dismay they watched Americans Kerri Walsh and Misty May conquer their home grown heroes Adriana Brandao Behar and Shelda Kelly Bruno in a thrilling final at the 2003 Women's Beach Volleyball Championship presented by Swatch on Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro. Indeed, the Brazilian fans came out in force to display their passion for Beach Volleyball and their resilience when the weather Gods turned against them. It was a week of surprises and mixed fortunes at this, the most important event of the season and the culmination of the 2003 Swatch-FIVB World Tour.

Forty eight teams met here to contest the title and by the time the pool play was complete and the heavyweights were left to face the fiercely competitive single elimination, ominous clouds loomed.

Then a wafer thin band of bad weather settled across South America with its epicenter exactly over the world famous beach and the skies opened, dumping withering torrential rain on the players and the fans.

Both groups showed their resilience, one rewarding the other. The players, the world's elite, turned on fantastic performances on the court while the fans, in classic Brazilian carnival style, stayed on, prepared to express their joy, delight and support of a sport they truly love.

That Walsh and May took away the title came as no real surprise. Both this and last season they have been a dominant force on the World Tour. Walsh, tall, long-reaching and elegant, is the perfect compliment for partner May, agile, powerful and energetic. However, when the final ball fell their way, the crowd went silent before they recovered their composure and gave the champions the

applause they deserved. After all, they had faced the defending champions, the much loved Adriana and Shelda and the crowd had propped them up, alternatively chanting their names from opposite sides of the stadium, while the two diminutive players played with huge skill and a huge heart. Recognized also by Walsh and May as their own mentors, Brazil's mini power packs are among the most admired of all players. They are both short and require enormous energy and skill to cover the court and place the ball out of reach of lofty players like Walsh.

Australians Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson took the bronze medal to wrap up a season that has seen them rocket from 20th place as a new team into the Beach Volleyball stratosphere and make the prospects of Cook defending her Olympic gold next year with her new partner very realistic indeed. They deprived Jenny Jordan and Annette Davis of the bronze medal, but these two Americans both agreed that going this far in the World Championship was the highlight in their "second careers" after rejoining the circuit following maternity breaks in 2002.

Brazilians Anna Paula Connelly and Sandra Pires had to settle for fifth place after they were put out in the quarterfinals by Jordan and Davis. But they did leave the championship with the FIVB Golden Sands Top Team Trophy for topping the season's rankings and as many of their peer group agree, that represents a huge achievement.

2003 FIVB  
World Championships  
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BEACH VOLLEYBALL

## PHOTO GALLERY OF THE WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



*Centre court on Copacabana Beach, Brazil*



*(L-R): Shelda-Adriana (BRA), Walsh-May (USA), Cook-Sanderson (AUS)*



*Jordan (R) sets for Davis (USA)*



*Gold medalists Misty May (L) and Kerri Walsh of the USA*



*Victory for Adriana (L) and Shelda (BRA)*



*May (R) pokes past Adriana in the final*



*Jackie Silva from Brazil sets*



*Ribeiro blocks fellow Brazilian Minello*



*Packed centre court on Copacabana Beach*



*Italy rejoice in their European Championship triumph*

The euphoria was for all to see and that was only after France and Italy had won their semifinal matches at the Men's European Continental Championship in Germany in September.

The prize for making the final of the Continental Championship was qualification for the 2003 World Cup in Japan in November where the top three place getters will qualify for the Olympics, so Italy and France were justifiably ecstatic.

Italy went on to win the final 3-2, their fifth Continental title in a match that will not be forgotten for its sheer determination and competitive spirit, especially in the second set, which France won 42-40, a European Championship record, and it is these types of matches and competitions which have reflected the shared drive to qualify for the World Cup.

This quadrennial competition matches the continental champions and vice champions of Asia, Europe, Norceca (North and Central America) and South America, plus the African champion and hosts Japan to comprise 10 teams, with the wild cards completing the 12 team competition.

"We are very happy with this victory" Italian captain Andrea Giani said. "This European Championship demonstrated

impressively how strong the European teams are in the world of Volleyball."

Italy and France will compete with 10 other teams - hosts Japan, Korea, Brazil, Tunisia, USA, China, Venezuela, Canada, Serbia and Montenegro and Egypt - for World Cup glory and a ticket to Athens next year when the men's World Cup starts on November 16.

Korea and China qualified after contesting the Asian Continental Championship final with Korea prevailing after fighting back from 2-1 down to win 3-2. Brazil and Venezuela were the finalists in the South American Championship but it was the world champions and 2003 World League title holders who were crowned continental champions for the 24th time after claiming the final 3-0. Tunisia claimed the sole World Cup ticket available in the African Confederation after beating hosts Egypt in the final 3-0 while USA and Canada both booked their spots after making the Norceca Continental Championship final with USA claiming the title with a 3-1 win in the final. The two wild cards picked by the FIVB and the Japanese Volleyball Association went to Serbia and Montenegro and Egypt.

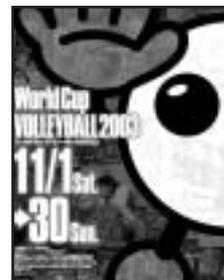
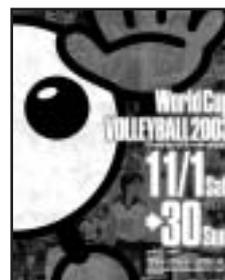
The Women's competition starts on November 1 and is all set for an exciting

tussle between hosts Japan and the five continental champions Brazil, Egypt, USA, China and Poland plus Argentina, Cuba, Korea, Turkey, the Dominican Republic and Italy.

Brazil claimed their spot as South American continental champions after beating Argentina 3-0 in the final while Egypt beat the hosts Kenya 3-1 in the final of the African Nations Championship. USA conquered Cuba 3-0 to take home the gold medal from the NORCECA Continental Women's Championship and title holder China clinched the gold medal at the 12th Asian Women's Volleyball championships by downing Japan in straight sets. Since Japan had already qualified for the World Cup as hosts, third placed Korea were handed the second World Cup qualification spot. The Dominican Republic and Italy were allocated the Wild Cards.

The 12 teams in the men's and women's tournaments play a round robin format in two groups in which all teams meet each other. The women's competition takes in Tokyo, Nagoya, Sendai, Sapporo and Toyama with both groups meeting in Osaka for the three day final round while the men's tournament takes in Hiroshima, Hamamatsu, Fukuoka and Okayama before finishing in Tokyo on November 30.

*Below: The Official World Cup Posters*



[www.fivb.org/](http://www.fivb.org/)

**For full calendar details (and much more World Cup news) go to [www.fivb.org](http://www.fivb.org)**

FIVB

## DRAWING OF LOTS COMPLETED FOR THE 2003 WORLD CUPS



### Qualified Women's Teams

	<b>Japan</b> - World Cup Hosts and Asian Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 11th in the world)</b>
	<b>Brazil</b> - South American Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 5th in the world)</b>
	<b>Argentina</b> - South American Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 13th in the world)</b>
	<b>Egypt</b> - African Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 23rd in the world)</b>
	<b>USA</b> - NORCECA Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 1st in the world)</b>
	<b>Cuba</b> - NORCECA Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 6th in the world)</b>
	<b>China</b> - Asian Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 2nd in the world)</b>
	<b>Korea</b> - Third at Asian Continental Championships behind Japan & China	<b>(Ranked 7th in the world)</b>
	<b>Poland</b> - European Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 10th in the world)</b>
	<b>Turkey</b> - European Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 15th in the world)</b>
	<b>Dominican Rep.</b> - Wild Card - Chosen by the FIVB and JVA/Fuji TV	<b>(Ranked 14th in the world)</b>
	<b>Italy</b> - Wild Card - Chosen by the FIVB and JVA/Fuji TV	<b>(Ranked 4th in the world)</b>

For more information on how the teams qualified visit:  
[www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/WorldCup/2003/Press/Press\\_pre\\_sea.asp](http://www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/WorldCup/2003/Press/Press_pre_sea.asp)

### Qualified Men's Teams

	<b>Japan</b> - World Cup Hosts	<b>(Ranked 19th in the world)</b>
	<b>Korea</b> - Asian Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 15th in the world)</b>
	<b>China</b> - Asian Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 17th in the world)</b>
	<b>Italy</b> - European Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 4th in the world)</b>
	<b>France</b> - European Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 5th in the world)</b>
	<b>Brazil</b> - South American Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 1st in the world)</b>
	<b>Venezuela</b> - South American Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 16th in the world)</b>
	<b>Tunisia</b> - African Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 24th in the world)</b>
	<b>USA</b> - NORCECA Continental Champions	<b>(Ranked 10th in the world)</b>
	<b>Canada</b> - NORCECA Continental Vice-Champions	<b>(Ranked 20th in the world)</b>
	<b>Serbia &amp; Montenegro</b> - Wild Card - Chosen by the FIVB and JVA/Fuji TV	<b>(Ranked 2nd in the world)</b>
	<b>Egypt</b> - Wild Card - Chosen by the FIVB and JVA/Fuji TV	<b>(Ranked 24th in the world)</b>

## RESTRUCTURING OF \$15 MILLION WORLD LEAGUE



*World Champions Brazil celebrate winning the 2003 World League*

The International Volleyball Federation's \$15 Million World League, the premier annual men's Volleyball competition has been restructured with a new format of twelve teams to contest Intercontinental Rounds and to create an independent Continental Round with European teams, which would be played at the same time. The new format was decided at the FIVB's World League Council meeting at the Swiss headquarters of the sport's governing body in September.

"These are essential reforms designed to further sharpen the competition, television, promotion and attendance," said FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta. "We must maintain a formula that reflects the meaning of the word 'World' and we must ensure that every aspect of the World League is absolutely professional in its management and presentation to the public." The World League Council agreed on a formula for 2004 of: Asia - two teams, South America - one team, Norceca (North and Central America) one team and Europe - eight teams, however as from 2005 there must be a mandatory two teams from South America and two from Norceca, the FIVB President said.

Because of the strength of European teams, it has been decided to hold - simultaneously to the Intercontinental Rounds - a special Continental Round in Europe where four teams would contest the right for the best two performances as per organization, entertainment and

professional standards as well as ranking, to advance into the Intercontinental Round in the following year. The two weakest European teams in the Intercontinental Round - and under the same standards - would be relegated to the lower group.

"The World League is our blue ribbon annual event. It has come to be recognized both by national teams and the millions who follow it as one of THE indicators of excellence in Volleyball," said the FIVB President. "We therefore must be vigilant in ensuring that we maintain the highest standards."



*2003 World League final in the Palacio Vistalegre in Madrid*

The twelve teams competing in the 2004 Intercontinental Round are: Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Poland, France, Japan, China, Portugal and Greece. One final berth is still to be decided.

## FIVB and Argentina come to an agreement

The FIVB decided to authorize a new representative body to enter Argentinean teams into international competition in August allowing Argentina, one of the strongest Volleyball countries in the world, back into the international arena.

The FIVB decision confirmed the continuing suspension of the FAV, which was suspended by the FIVB Board of Administration in May for persistent breaches of the world governing body's decisions and Code of Conduct, and is expected to be expelled definitively by next year's FIVB Congress in May 2004.

The solution followed months of negotiation between FIVB and representatives from a wide cross-section of Argentinean sport, including players and former players, officials, the Sports Ministry and National Olympic Committee, and specific requests for recognition by the Association of Clubs of the Argentine Volleyball League (ACLAV) and a group of provincial federations.

The FIVB has given provisional recognition as a "Federation of the FIVB" to a new Task Force comprising six members of provincial federations, three representatives of players and former players and one each of the coaching and refereeing corps and a full time executive secretary which are expected to form the core of the new federation.

### This provisional recognition allows the Task Force to:

1. Present itself in Argentina as the body recognized by the FIVB with the same rights and obligations granted to FIVB members;
2. Enter national teams representing Argentina in all FIVB international competitions;
3. Attend meetings of national federations as an observer until the World Congress decides on its definitive affiliation.

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## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

### BEACH VOLLEYBALL STARS MAKE ESPN HISTORY



(l to r) Jeff Nygaard, Dain Blanton, Misty May and Sinjin Smith with ESPN host

A special International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) panel featuring Beach Volleyball stars past and present Sinjin Smith, Misty May, who recently took home the gold medal with partner Kerri Walsh at the FIVB Women's World Championship, Olympic Champion Dain Blanton and Jeff Nygaard made history when they became the first Beach Volleyball athletes to be apart of the ESPN Club show at the ESPN Club in Orlando, Florida.

The event provided a perfect opportunity for viewers and the audience to hear the views of the stars through videos of the athletes and live, on-stage discussion and also ask questions themselves.

The show's format featured two hosts, one on-stage with the athletes, and one in the audience fielding questions of the athletes, who were candid and offered tips and insight into Beach Volleyball and what it is like to compete on an international level.

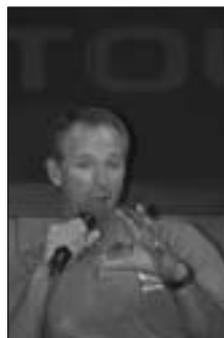
All the players involved the crowd in their excitement and love of the sport, explaining all about the FIVB and how the tour events are qualifiers to the Olympic Games. FIVB giveaways also went down a treat, including an official volleyball signed by the four athletes.

Earlier in the day all the athletes had the chance to practice on sand courts at Walt Disney World where a possible future partnership could develop with the FIVB.

In an effort to explore further opportunities of expanding Beach Volleyball in America, possible partnership opportunities were discussed, including developing a Volleyball program in Disney's Spring Training series, which is an 11-week training session that draws

athletes from a variety of sports to Disney for training and conditioning and adding several youth Volleyball events to the Sports Complex. The possibility of hosting a Beach Volleyball tour event in the future, involving the promoter in the US having the exclusivity, was also raised.

"It is very encouraging to see the first steps have been made to help broaden the appeal of Beach Volleyball through Walt Disney and the United States," FIVB President Dr Rubén Acosta said. "USA is one of the homes of Beach Volleyball and it is the aim of the FIVB to build on that by helping give the sport more exposure in the country."



Above: (Top to bottom) Jeff Nygaard, Dain Blanton, Sinjin Smith and Misty May

### SWATCH Service Award for Ana Paula



Ana Paula (BRA) receives the SWATCH award for the season's fastest serve

Brazilian ace Ana Paula Connolly secured her second award in the space of two days at the FIVB Women's Beach Volleyball World Championship presented by SWATCH in Rio de Janeiro when it was announced that she had recorded the fastest service of the 2003 season in her team's quarterfinal loss in the Championship.

The 31-year-old from Leblon fired a service timed at 81.7 km/h during her quarterfinal loss against Americans Jenny Jordan and Annett Davis and was awarded the SWATCH Fastest Service Award for 2003 at a special ceremony following the women's final.

"I had to try and force my service game because we were losing and I was trying to change it around," said Ana Paula, who won four FIVB titles this season with Sandra Pires. "Unfortunately we were unable to do that, but overall I'm very happy with our season. We're a new partnership this year but we're getting better and better all the time."

The Brazilian and her partner Sandra Pires Tavares were also presented with the Golden Sands Top Team Trophy for finishing the season as the top-ranked team on the 2003 SWATCH-FIVB World Tour after recording eight podium finishes all season.

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**VOLLEYBALL**

**BOOM YEAR FOR BRAZIL...!**



*Brazil celebrate their fourth world title with their coaches at the Women's U20 World Championship in Thailand*

There are still a couple of months left in 2003 but this year is already being seen as a green and gold benefit in many eyes, and none more so than those in Brazil.

Not only has the South American country seen their senior men's team add the 2003 World League title to their World Championship triumph of last year and qualify for the World Cup after winning the South American Continental Championship in September but their underage group teams won two of the four world championship titles on offer.

International underage group Volleyball is becoming stronger year by year and illustrates the pure values of the sport where the young and fearless can unleash their unbridled talent on the world stage.

So it certainly bodes well for the future of Brazilian Volleyball when their Boy's U19 and Women's U20 teams both became World Champions, while their Men's U21 claimed the silver medal after being upset in the final by Poland.

Boy's U19 World Championship	
1. Brazil	6. Thailand
2. India	7. Puerto Rico
3. Iran	8. Australia
4. Czech Republic	9. CHN, EGY, ITA, NED
5. Russia	13. VEN, SVK, POL, MAR

In July, Brazil became the 2003 Boy's U19 World Champions for the sixth time after a stunning 25-22 26-24 25-19 victory in

Suphan Buri, Thailand over Asian champions India in the final. "I'm very happy to see Brazil win the world title again," Brazilian head coach Oncken Percy said after the match. "It's the greatest moment since we not only avenged out 3-1 loss to them in the group round-robin preliminaries, but it is also our sixth world crown. I'm very appreciative of everyone's dedication ranging from the hard training to the tough competitions. It's a memorable success for our team."

Women's U20 World Championship	
1. Brazil	6. Ukraine
2. China	7. Belarus
3. Poland	8. Russia
4. Netherlands	9. KOR, THA, TUR, VEN
5. Germany	10. ALG, CUB, PUR, TAI

Suphan Buri in Thailand must be one of Brazil's favorite haunts as they followed up their Boy's U19 triumph with victory in the Women's U20 tournament at the same venue. Brazil stormed past Asian champions China in a heart-pounding tie-breaker when they came from behind to seal the match 3-2 (22-25 25-22 25-17 21-25 15-10) before a capacity crowd.

It was Brazilian head coach Wadson Lima's second world title on Thai soil. He also steered his country's U18 squad to the title in Thailand in 1997.

Brazil were in line for a third underage group title when they made the final of the Men's U21 World Championship in

Tehran, Iran in August only to be upset by Poland, as this time Brazil's five-set magic failed them.

Men's U21 World Championship	
1. Poland	5. Russia
2. Brazil	6. Iran
3. Bulgaria	7. Serbia & Monenegro
4. South Korea	8. Germany

Poland, who lost to Brazil in their preliminary Pool match 3-0, sealed the victory 25-23, 20-25, 25-23, 22-25, 15-11 to win the cup for only the second time in their history.

Finally, China retained their Girl's U18 World Championship title after coming from behind to defeat Italy 3-2 (17-25, 15-25, 25-23, 25-16, 15-8) in Pila, Poland.

Girls' U18 World Championship		
1. China	4. USA	7. Russia
2. Italy	5. Croatia	8. Poland
3. Brazil	6. Thailand	

"We are naturally extremely happy to win the final and defend the title," China's head coach Nan Lin said after the final.



*Chul-Woo Park (Korea) blocking against Davoud Moghbeli and Mersaeed Maroof (Iran) at the men's U21 World Championship in Iran*

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## VOLLEYBALL OBITUARIES

### USA Volleyball Mourns Loss of Former President



Wilbur Herbert Peck, a long-time member of the United States Volleyball Association and president of the organization from 1971-79, passed away on August 27 in Indianapolis, Ind.,

after a long illness. He was 73.

"For more than 50 years, Wilbur Peck provided leadership to the USVBA and – second only to Harold Frierhood – may be the person most responsible for the decisions that led the sport out of the antiquated walls of the YMCA and into the modern Olympic family.

"Wil Peck was president of the USVBA when I first became involved," recalled USA Volleyball Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Howard. "I was so impressed with Wil's professionalism and positive image that my first experience became a lasting experience."

"For 30 years he was 'Volleyball' with the U.S. Olympic Committee, playing a significant role in the organization of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis," Monaco added. "It was one of my greatest joys the day that I participated in his induction into the Volleyball Hall of Fame. He will be missed by all of his Volleyball family, especially by me."

Peck, who was born on April 9, 1930 in Amsterdam, N.Y., embraced Volleyball as a part of his life forever, or so it seems. Joining the "Seniors" at the Amsterdam, N.Y., YMCA in 1942 was only the beginning.

In 1958 he began his 39-year career as a YMCA Director. He began that career as an Associate Physical Director at the Central Queens YMCA in New York City. Peck coached YMCA teams at the Central Queens and Grand Central YMCA's, and his teams enjoyed success in USVBA competition.

In 1960, Peck attended the USVBA Nationals in Duluth, Minn., and was called upon to referee the men's open finals between Hollywood YMCA and

the Westside JCC. Hollywood was coached by Harry E. Wilson. At the conclusion of the championship, then-USVBA present Doug Boyden appointed Peck as National Officials Chairman to inaugurate his USVBA "career."

Soon after, Peck was elected Secretary of the USVBA. In 1970, he was elected the sixth president of the organization and held that office until 1979.

During his terms as president, the USVBA moved on a mission to grow. A full-time paid staff leader was hired, Executive Director Al Monaco. The organization adopted a long-range plan aimed at the development of the USA as a world power in Volleyball. The National Team concept was initiated, became functional and the rest is history.

The selection of Wil Peck to succeed Dr. Harold Frierhood as the USVBA representative to the USOC was a distinct honor. A "highlight of my life," Peck once said. Serving for 25 years in that capacity, Peck became a power in the USOC. He served on two nominating committees, became chairman of the Membership Committee and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

### French actor and former Volleyball player Michel Constantin dead at 79



French actor and former international Volleyball player Michel Constantin died in August at Draguignan Hospital in the south of France. He was 79.

Michel Constantin made 80 appearances between 1955-1958 as captain of the French national team.

He then worked as a Volleyball writer for the French sports daily *L'Equipe* before becoming a successful actor in about 40 films along with stars such as Alain Delon, Lino Ventura, Mireille Darc and others. He was often cast in the role of villain or played the part of a gangster. Constantin was named in France's All Stars team of the 20th Century.

### Volleyball Legend Lt. Col. Edward B. "Burt" DeGroot, Jr., Passes Away at 96

The USA Volleyball family lost another member when Lt. Col. Edward B. "Burt" DeGroot, Jr. passed away in Santa Maria, Calif. He was 96.

Earlier this year, Richard "Cappy" Caplan, who played in 52 consecutive national open championships also passed away.

"Burt is really one of the icons at the national team level in this country," said Doug Beal, head coach of the USA men's national Volleyball team. "Like Jim Coleman, like Wil Peck...it will be pretty hard to replace Burt's commitment to the game, his experience, his knowledge. That leaves a great void."

DeGroot, a member of the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Mass., was born in Kenilworth, Ill., on Dec. 17, 1906 and at the age of 35 entered active duty as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Air Corps. While stationed in San Francisco early in his military career, DeGroot - who was already an active player - saw top-level competitive Volleyball in local YMCA's and became actively involved in the sport.

Recognizing the game's potential for physical training as well as for recreation, he included Volleyball as a major activity in the P.T. program of the 4th Air Force. This initiated thousands of Air Corps personnel as active participants in the highly skilled, competitive game of Volleyball.

When DeGroot served as athletic officer for the U.S. Air Forces Europe from 1946-48, he established Volleyball as a major competitive sport. For his own recreation, he played and coached his USAFE team to three consecutive European and Mediterranean Theatre Championships.

In 1947, DeGroot, as a USVBA delegate, played an integral part in the USVBA becoming one of the 14 charter members of the FIVB.

DeGroot was also a highly decorated member of the USVBA. He was recognized as a "Leader in Volleyball" in 1950, presented with the USVBA's top honor, the "Frier Award," in 1978 and selected as an "All-Time Great Coach" in the Pioneer Division in 1995. In 1990 he was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame.