

OREGON RUSTYS 65's

2011 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

An undermanned Rustys team competed exceptionally well in the volleyball National Championships held in Dallas, Texas. The core group of the Rustys squad including Tom Swanson, Gary Pfingsten, Surg Sanghera, Squier Smith and Dennis Horn were joined by John Spitzer and Garry Morris. Those seven faced teams with 13 or 14 players every match. That manpower difference ultimately made a significant difference in the final outcome.

Rustys was seeded 5th in the nine-team tournament. On the first day of pool play the results were. Rustys beat Dinosaurs two straight 25- 10 and 25 – 18. Rustys lost to Legends in 3 games 25 – 8, 21 – 25 and 12 – 25. The first game was the only game Legends lost in the entire tournament.

On the second day of pool play the results were: Rustys beat SEC two straight 25 – 20 and 25 – 20. Rustys lost to Brazil two straight 24 – 26 and 14 – 25.

In the double elimination tournament play the results were: Rustys beat Boomers two straight 25 – 21 and 25 – 20. Rustys lost to Brazil two straight 23 – 25 and 13 – 25. Rustys beat SEC two straight 25 – 18 and 25 – 12

On the Championship day the results were: Rustys beat Boomers in three games 28 – 30, 25 – 19 and 15 – 6. Rustys lost to Brazil two straight 14 – 25 and 15 – 25

Rustys earned the Bronze metal for their third place finish. Equally important, Gary Pfingsten was named to the All Tournament Team becoming an All American. He has earned that honor multiple times. Rustys represented the Columbia Empire exceptionally well and are proud of their continued high level of success in volleyball national competitions.

Submitted by Squire Smith

Report on the 75s division from Dallas – Rustys wins the Bronze Medal

The Columbia Empire was well represented by the Rusty-Highlander team in the 75s division of the USAV Open National Championships. The Rusty-Highlanders 75's team was formed of players from the Rustys and Colorado (it's tough to find players in this age group! The team played well at Nationals and ended up in third place, but nearly won the whole shebang. In double elimination we played against Spikeforce and split the first two 25-point games. In the third (15 point) game we were ahead 14 to 8 and needed but one point. As everyone knows, volleyball is a "psych" game - it is easy to play to keep from losing rather than playing to win. We lost when Spikeforce ran off 8 straight points. The game scores were 6-25, 25-12, 16-14). Spikeforce went on to win the gold (it should have been Rustys!!!). In the game that put Rustys

in third place rather than second, Mac won 25-20, 21-25, 15-11. The top three teams were very close.

Three of the players (Ken Bleasdell, Shel Kaiser, and Norm MacLeod) have been with the Rustys since the team formed 28 years ago at the time when the oldest age division at Nationals was 45!! One the original Rustys, Larry Surrurier, passed away shortly before the tournament. Very few of our teammates have had major medical problems largely because they have stayed active playing volleyball and other sports.

Submitted by Norm Macleod and Tom Swanson

RUSTY'S 60'S RESULTS AT 2011 VOLLEYBALL NATIONALS IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Perhaps General Macarthur was right-old warriors never die, they just fade away. Rusty's 60 team at the volleyball nationals in Dallas, Texas had the old warrior spirit and many close matches, but when the dust cleared the results were not what we had hoped for. The team consisted of four veteran Rusty players (Gary Pfingsten, Dave Koenig, John Bowman and their indomitable captain Surj Sanghera) and three new additions (Hank Kappert, Harry Sieman, and John Nellems).

On Saturday May 28th their first matches were with Sao Paulo Masters 60 (Brazil) and Living on the Edge. Brazil, one of the tournaments top seeds defeated Rusty's 25-12 the first game, but the second was a close shoot out with our team losing by only 5 points. We lost mostly due to some unforced errors. Rusty's rallied in their next match with Living on the Edge and beat them 25 to 22 the second game but, alas, barely lost in the final match by two points (15-13). We were ahead and had the opportunity to win but eventually lost to a team that had a roster of 12 to 13 players. Rusty's did well in spite of having only six players (John Bowman mixed up his days and arrived at nationals a day late).

On Sunday the 29th Rusty's had a grueling day playing five matches and 11 games. The first was with France Masters where we took the second game 25-22 but barely lost in the third (15-13). Rusty's then lost to Boomers, Downeast in two highly contested games (25 to 21 in both games), and Reno dinosaurs by a hair (25-21 and 25-23). The final match of the day was a hotly contested battle with Venezuela. Rusty's took Venezuela to the mat the first game 25-17 but lost the next two (25-16 and 15-8).

Our final match was on Monday the 30th where we played Texas Yahoos. The first game we let down a little and lost 25 to 18 but we rallied the second game and played a close match only to loose at the bell 25 to 23. The division consisted of 21 teams and we finished 18th.

Our team was handicapped with only seven players and the need to integrate three new players into our lineup. In spite of this I think we made a brave and respectable showing against some very tough national and international teams. We had many close games in which our old

warrior spirits never abandoned us. Macarthur was wrong, old warriors don't fade away, they keep on fighting.

John Bowman

