

## **A History of the Central Ohio Volleyball Club**

The Central Ohio Volleyball Club was formed in the spring of 1988 by Vince Speciale as the Central Ohio Volleyball All-Stars with the purpose of taking a Central Ohio High School volleyball Players to California to compete against high school/club players on the west coast. A group of ten athletes from Bexley, Bloom-Carrol, Lakewood, Olentangy and Teays Valley accompanied by coaches Vince Speciale of Bexley and Dave Holtsberry of Reynoldsburg competed and traveled for ten days in Southern California and Nevada playing some of the top club programs in those areas.

In 1989, the organization became known as the Central Ohio Volleyball Club and competed for the first time in the Nike Volleyball Festival in Davis/Sacramento, California. The club continued to grow and started to compete regionally as well as continuing to participate in the Volleyball Festival. During the early and mid 90's the Central Ohio Volleyball Club reached its maximum size with over 400 athletes trying out for 22 teams in those years. As more clubs formed in Central Ohio area, the Central Ohio Volleyball Club began selecting the better players to represent the club in interregional and national competition. The Central Ohio Volleyball Club became extremely competitive in tournaments in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan as well as continuing competition at the Volleyball festival in California and the AAUs in Florida.

In 1995 alone, 77 former players from the Central Ohio Volleyball Club have gone on to play at the collegiate level. The Central Ohio Volleyball Club has had a total of 31 All-State players, 134 All-District players and numerous All-League or Conference players on our rosters. Some of our coaches have gone on to become college coaches and some of our former players have now returned to coach both high school and with our club.

In 1997, the Central Ohio Volleyball Club celebrated its tenth year as a club. In 1999, the Central Ohio Volleyball Club changed its competitive name to Columbus Juniors. After two years, the name was changed back to Central Ohio Volleyball Club to avoid confusion with other clubs using the name Columbus in the central Ohio area.

The 21st century has seen some changes to COVBC. Some are new and some are renewed. Starting in 2007 COVBC will be under the direction of Dave Holtsberry and Doug Mace. To continue what Vince started in 1988.

Central Ohio Volleyball Club has also reconnected with California to bring to Central Ohio the latest in volleyball techniques used by the top pro players in the world.

As we start this season, the coaches and staff of the Central Ohio Volleyball Club will continue to strive to provide the best possible junior experience for the players in the club.