



MY FAVORITE COACH

By John Kessel, USA Volleyball Director of Membership Development and Disabled Programs

- He knows that kids don't care how much he knows about this sport, until they know how much he cares about them.
- She understands that it is even when a paycheck is included, that it is more than just winning games that she is doing with her players, and focuses on team building through off court activities.
- He builds players who look inside themselves for the answers, not to him for the answers, always teaching us how to best teach ourselves.
- She knows how to balance fun - smiles and humor abound in training, competition and team travel - with focused competitive fury.
- He stays calm through every storm of competition, so the players can play through every challenge.
- She is consistent, so the players can rely on who she is, never having to worry about "which coach" they might be talking to.
- He understands the science of the game, - the laws of teaching and motor skill learning included - taking advantage of what other research and teachers have learned and shared.
- She uses substitutes as tools for the team, not punishment of a player.
- She knows my favorite candy bar, uniform number, food, color, music, book and of course, my birthday.
- He only gives us players powerful nicknames, never demeaning us.
- She is a great role model, not a critic.
- He teaches life's lessons more often than sport techniques.
- She lets us play....A LOT, and teaches us technique awareness and fundamentals within the fun of the game.
- She catches me doing things right, rather than nagging me about the inevitable errors.