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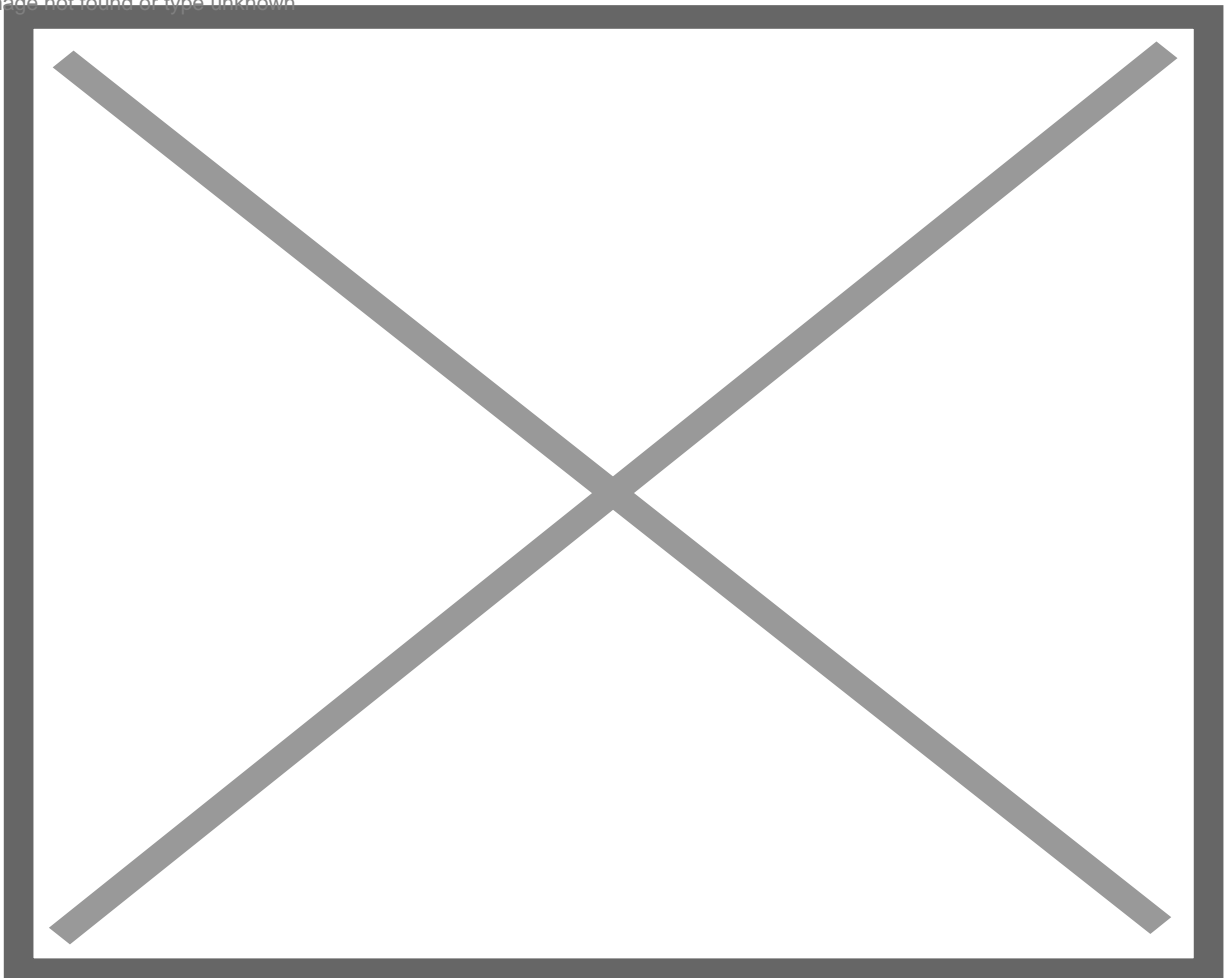
St. Thomas Volleyball Team Wins Silver in 28-Team Prez Day Invitational, Making History for U.S. Virgin Islands

The Island Mixx 15U Elite team from St. Thomas made history with a second-place finish at the Prez Day Invitational in Orlando, the highest ever for a VI team, competing against 28 teams and securing their second podium finish in a Florida tournament.

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The Island Mixx 15U Elite volleyball team returns home after securing silver at the Prez Day Invitational in Orlando, Florida.

ST. THOMAS — The Island Mixx 15U Elite volleyball team from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands delivered an impressive performance at the prestigious Prez Day Invitational in Orlando,

Florida, securing a second-place finish in their division. Competing against 28 teams from across the nation from February 15-17, the team made history with the highest placement ever achieved by a Virgin Islands team at this tournament.

Under the leadership of Coach Scott Ozarski, who traveled with the team, and Coach Mark Daniel, the young athletes demonstrated remarkable determination, teamwork, and skill. Their exceptional performance in multiple matches propelled them to the championship game, marking their second podium finish in a Florida tournament this season. Their consistency in high-level competition continues to strengthen their reputation as a rising force in youth volleyball.

Coach Scott Ozarski expressed his pride in the team's efforts, stating, "I'm truly honored to be a part of this team and their story. They never gave up and, first and foremost, play for each other. To come in and make our mark here in such a big way is just the start of a legacy for these ladies. I'm so excited for them and the future of volleyball in the VI."

Coach Mark Daniel echoed these sentiments, recognizing the contributions of past coaching efforts and the players' dedication. "In the Zone Athletic Club, Inc. is extremely proud of the Island Mixx 15U Elite's accomplishment this weekend. This is the best showing of any Island Mixx team. We are proud of their process. This is a team effort. Coach Scott and I are reaping the harvest of Coach Myriam and Coach Carissa's foundation-building work in the 2024 club season. We are grateful for all the players within our volleyball program and look forward to their continued success."

Meet the Athletes

Island Mixx 15U Elite is composed of dedicated and talented athletes from across the Virgin Islands, each playing a key role in the team's success:

- Danielle Allen, 14 – Home School (Libero)
- Lindsey Allen, 13 – Home School (Setter)
- Chelsea Leonce, 14 – All Saints Cathedral School (Middle Blocker/Middle Hitter)
- Kiera McNally, 15 – Antilles School (Outside/Middle Hitter)
- Xade Richardson, 14 – Charlotte Amalie High School (Left Hitter)
- Taylor Spillane, 14 – Antilles School (Opposite Hitter)
- Kinsley Taylor, 14 – Antilles School (Outside Hitter)

Tournament Recap

Island Mixx dominated pool play, securing three consecutive wins:

- Set'em Up 15 – Won (25-9, 25-14)
- Jellys 15 Black (FL) – Won (25-12, 25-17)
- 15U Leaside Dragons (CA) – Won (25-19, 28-26)

Their momentum carried into bracket play, where they continued to excel:

- Tribe 15 Premier White (FL) – Won (25-27, 25-11, 15-9)
- Cape Coast 15 ATHENA (FL) – Won (25-17, 22-25, 19-17)

In the championship match, the team faced OVA 15 Blue (FL), ultimately falling short (21-25, 18-25) but securing a historic second-place finish. This achievement adds to their growing reputation on the national stage, following back-to-back podium placements in Florida tournaments.

With the season still in full swing, the Island Mixx 15U Elite team is preparing for two more major tournaments:

- March 20-23, 2025 – Caribbean Championship (Puerto Rico)
- June 25-28, 2025 – Nationals (Orlando, FL)

Supporting Island Mixx Volleyball

Island Mixx Volleyball operates under In the Zone Athletic Club, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to developing young athletes in the Virgin Islands. The club relies on community support to help fund travel, training, and competition expenses for its players.

Donations contribute to:

- Travel assistance for players competing in high-level tournaments
- Equipment and training resources to enhance skill development
- Opportunities for college recruitment and exposure for young athletes

Those interested in supporting Island Mixx Volleyball can contact Coach Mark Daniel at inthezonevi@gmail.com or (340) 626-4515. Every contribution, big or small, helps shape the

future of volleyball in the Virgin Islands.

Based in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Island Mixx Volleyball Club is committed to developing young athletes and preparing them for success at regional and national levels.

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