

2009 Mid-Season National 15s National Rankings



Written by John Tawa

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Shelby DeHenning has Toledo Volleyball Club on the cusp of the top 25. Photo by www.arcticferret.us

Still trying to figure the 15s out. Here's our best guess midway through the season:

2009 Mid-Season National 15s National Rankings

1. Texas Tornados Equis (Texas)

February ranking: 2

Only **A5** and **Michigan Elite** gave them trouble at MEQ. A formidable offensive bunch, Tornados, which has middle schoolers playing prominent roles, could win a second qualifier this weekend at Lone Star.

2. Lions Pride (Illinois)

February ranking: 1

Why did I swap the top two teams even though Lions has yet to lose in its age group this year? Only

because Tornados seem to be winning more convincingly. Maybe these powerhouses can play at AAUs and settle the debate.

3. **Northern Lights Up My Life** (Minnesota)

February ranking: 8

Lights won Omaha then topped a very fine field in Denver. Setter **Ashley Hinsch** keeps Lights' high-powered teams happy.

4. **Long Beach Tree** (California)

February ranking: 3

The defending national champs in this age group have won two of the three SCVA region Mandatory tournaments this year and defeated **Encinitas Wave** Sunday to win NEQ. The additional size picked up on the outside and in the middle could make Long Beach formidable in its quest to repeat. No team has ever won national championships in successive years.

5. **KiVA Lee Under the Mat** (Kentucky)

February ranking: 7

Chelsea Bowles is a player KiVA can't spare.

6. **MAVS and Mav Nots** (Kansas)

February ranking: 11

After placing second in Denver, MAVS overcame spirited challenges from **Sunshine** and **Premier** to win Show Me. **Annie Reilly** continued her great play as a six rotation player. She's small but bangs. **Jessie Thorup's** improvement has helped her grow into a major contributor on the team.

7. **Santa Barbara Eden** (California)

February ranking: not ranked

Though I have yet to see this team, I can vouch that its win at the SCVA qualifier was no fluke. One week before, it won a Mandatory tournament in the region. And one week after, it reached the semifinals of the next Mandatory before losing.

8. **Texas Advantage Rent-a-Car** (Texas)

February ranking: 5

After qualifying at Crossroads, TAV double qualified in Baltimore by besting **Skyline** for third place. The team is 18-2 in its two qualifiers. Arthur Stanfield cited the play of middles **Shelby Sullivan, Emily**

Ehrle and **Kaitlyn Cole** as a strength at NEQ.

9. **Skyline Item Veto** (Texas)

February ranking: 6

The PNQ champs checked in fourth at Baltimore without **Abby Curry**, who sprained an ankle on Day 1. Skyline, which has only three losses to 15s teams on the season, has three 8th graders on the roster, including outstanding defenders **Shane Peters** and **Lauren English**.

10. **Austin Man** (Texas)

February ranking: 4

After an uneven Crossroads, AJ focused on playing fast and romped through Big South, outlasting **A5** in two deuce games in the final.

11. **A5 Five Dollar Five Dollar Foot Long** (Georgia)

February ranking: 14

12. **Encinitas Wave Goodbye** (California)

February ranking: 13

13. **Sunshine on My Shoulder** (California)

February ranking: 20

14. **Coast is Clear** (California)

February ranking: not ranked

15. **Borinquen Coqui Roberts** (Puerto Rico)

February ranking: not ranked

16. **Premier Ache** (Nebraska)

February ranking: 10

Random note: When the players of Premier 15 Gold get a manicure the morning of a few big qualifier games, not only do their hands and nails look beautiful, they seem to hit harder and play together as a team and have a lot more fun on the court as their hands do the talking! All the 15 Gold players got their nails done by some of their parents while they were in Kansas City for the Show Me Qualifier! Lots of laughing took place as the girls just relaxed and enjoyed being girls! Their focus was on having fun and they definitely took that fun out on the court and had a successful tournament, qualifying for JOs!

17. **Sports Performance Anxiety** (Illinois)

February ranking: High HM

18. **Team Z U Later** (Ohio)

February ranking: High HM

19. **Munciana Pacquin** (Indiana)

February ranking: 17

20. **Victory Is Mine Sayeth the Lord** (Texas)

February ranking: High HM

21. **Vision Chart** (California)

February ranking: High HM

22. **NKYVC Seniorita** (Kentucky)

February ranking: High HM

23. **Sky High Treason** (Illinois)

February ranking: 18

24. **MAVA Va Voom** (Kentucky)

February ranking: 12

25. **Team Indiana Wants Me** (Indiana)

February ranking: High HM

Random note: A team that continues to fly "under the radar" despite top five finishes at the Team Indiana Showcase event and Bluegrass Pre-Qualifier. Said head coach Rich Coleman: "Moving **Mackinzie Kitchell** to the outside has been a big boost to the team as it allowed **Ashley Shiedler** to crack the lineup and add to the powerful RS attack of **Jenna Amundson** and tremendous backrow play led by **Hanna Bartram**."

High Honorable Mention

Circle City (Indiana)

Club Fusion (Illinois)
Club West (California)
Colorado Juniors (Colorado)
Dayton Juniors (Ohio)
Michigan Elite (Michigan)
SCVC (California)
St. Louis CYC (Missouri)
Team St. Louis (Missouri)
Toledo Volleyball Club (Ohio)

Honorable Mention

Advanced Volleyball Amarillo (Ohio)
Beach Elite (Virginia)
Boomers (Florida)
Cincy Classics (Ohio)
City Beach (California)
Club Florida (Florida)
Club ONE (Oklahoma)
Coastal Virginia (Virginia)
CVC (Ohio)
Dallas Premier (Texas)
Eastside Cleveland (Ohio)
Extec (Texas)
Front Range (Colorado)
Illini Elite (Illinois)
Impact (Tennessee)
Invasion (Missouri)
Jammers (Hawaii)
KC Extreme (Missouri)
KC Power (Kansas)
KiVA White (Kentucky)
Laguna (California)
Legacy (Michigan)
Louisiana Volleyball (Louisiana)
Maunalani (Hawaii)
Minnesota Select (Minnesota)
Nebraska Juniors (Nebraska)
Niagara Frontier (New York)
Northern Lights 152 (Minnesota)
OVA (Florida)
Pinellas Heat (Florida)
Puget Sound (Washington)
PVC 15-Kaepa (California)
Rocket City (Alabama)

Rancho Valley (California)

San Gabriel (California)

Santa Monica (California)

Skyline Molten (Texas)

Springfield (Missouri)

Surf City (California)

Synergy (Pennsylvania)

TCA (California)

Texas Titans (Texas)

Triangle (North Carolina)

Woodlands Wave (Texas)

WVBA (Washington)

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