



## **OVR HP Select Team – My Experience**

### **Taylor Condon**

I gave up 10 days of summer. Why did I do this? What would my team be like? What would the coaches be like? Would I get to play? Would I have fun? These were all the thoughts I had on the drive to Toledo to attend Training Camp as a member of the OVR Select High Performance Team. After camp, I was to fly to Ft Lauderdale and compete in the HP Championships. Needless to say, I was a little nervous.

Camp was held at the University of Toledo. As soon as I arrived, I started meeting my teammates. Most of us had played across the net from each other and it was like we already knew each other. We talked about games we played, people we knew and our Club Teams. We were all friends' right from the start.

Training started the next day, 3 practices a day for 4 days. It was intense. The coaches did not have a lot of time to get know us and pull together a team, so they worked us hard. On the 3rd day, positions were being assigned. I was assigned Defensive Specialist and Outside. I was excited to learn and play a new position.

We flew right from camp to Ft Lauderdale to attend the HP Championships and were to start competing the next day. When I walked into the Convention Center for the first time and saw all the teams playing it looked like any other large tournament or Qualifier. But then I saw the Flags from other countries, heard the other languages and saw teams from all over the world. That was when I realized, it was not like

other tournaments. But I saw familiar faces, too. Girls from other regions I had competed against, girls from the same club and boys from local teams. I was going to be playing side by side with all of these people. It was exciting and scary.

Over the week, our team did really well. Games were close but we were winning. The level of competition was high in every match – no easy wins for any team. On the third day of competition at 9:00 at night, we lost a close match to Florida in five sets that knocked us out of Gold. At the end of the tournament, OVR Select placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Not what we came to do, but not bad.

As a team, we flew home together after the final match. We told stories, laughed and made plans to meet up at tournaments next season. We all promised to come back next year and play together again, but we knew that may not be the case. This was the last time we would all be together as a team. That part we did not talk about.

I gave up 10 days of summer. Why did I do this? I got college level coaching and training, competed and played at an international level, had a blast and made friends I will keep forever. Would I do it again?



Absolutely.