

**2010 AAU  
NATIONALS**



- Almost 700 teams in from all over the world in attendance
- Raptor All Star team made it to the Semi-Finals of the Silver Round
- Three Raptors attended the College Recruitment Panel discussion

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# Raptor Reader



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## Raptors Partner with Blake High

The Tampa Bay Raptors were approached by the Head Volleyball Coach of Blake High School and asked to help with their volleyball program. Blake's volleyball program is young and still in a growth mode and were looking to have a new perspective come in to work with their girls.



Setting Drill

The coaching staff at Blake heard about the Mitchells through girls who play at TTRC, girls who play club ball and through their coaching High School Volleyball at Alonso during the 2009 season. They wanted to have the Raptors conduct their conditioning in a two day setting.

The Mitchells along with Coach Sejla and six Raptor players spent 14 very intense hours with the Yellow Jackets working on a variety of different volleyball conditioning skills and drills.

The end result was a renewed sense of confidence for the girls from both groups. The Yellow Jackets are looking forward to implementing new skills and

techniques for their upcoming season. The two groups had a chance to get to know each other and formed new friendships. Some of the Yellow Jackets even expressed interest in trying out for the Tampa Bay Raptors in the Fall.



The Mitchells are looking forward to conducting other camps and conditioning sessions in the future.

## New Coaches To Join the Tampa Bay Raptors

The Tampa Bay Raptors are very proud to announce the addition of two new coaches for the upcoming season.

Sejla Sutkovic is a recent graduate from Virginia Tech. She played Middle Blocker and Middle/Outside Hitter. She is 6'2"

and a native of Croatia. She came to the US in 1998 when her family fled the war. She is now a US Citizen and very excited about joining the Raptors.

Keisha Plowden is the current Head Volleyball Coach at Blake High School. She attended St.

Francis College in Brooklyn, NY on a Softball Scholarship. Keisha also played Volleyball and has coached Volleyball both in Texas as well as at the Middle School level here in the Hillsborough County School System.

We are excited to welcome them both to the Raptor Nation.

**Raptor Pool Party!**  
**Saturday, August 21st**  
**10:00**  
**Temple Terrace Rec Center**  
**BYOF**  
**or**  
**We will order Pizza!**

## 14 & Under Try Outs

USAV has moved up the date that try outs can be held for teams 14 and under. The Raptors will be holding the first of 14U try outs on Saturday, September 4th at the Temple Terrace Recreation Center.

The try out fee will be \$25. The try outs will be USAV Sanctioned so that all girls are covered by their insurance policy in case of injury. As a result, all participants are required to have a current USAV member-

ship. Memberships can be renewed or purchased at: [www.floridavolleyball.org/](http://www.floridavolleyball.org/)

Make up try outs for 14U will be held in November when the older girls try out.

## 15 & Over Try Outs

Try outs for girls ages 15 and over will be held in November once the High School Volleyball season has ended. Dates, times and locations will be announced once we get closer to the date.

*“Remember to give your child the gift of a Full Emotional Tank every day.”*

PCA

## Sports Community Grants

Last season we asked the Raptor Nation to go on line and complete a short survey that would put us in line to receive a grant from Responsible Sports. Very few people actually did the survey. As a result, we were not one of the recipients of the grants. PLEASE take 10 minutes of your time to complete the survey as the Grant period has opened up again. [http://www.responsiblesports.com/community\\_grants](http://www.responsiblesports.com/community_grants).

## Raptors To Add More Teams

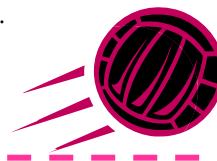
The 2010 Club Volleyball Season was a very exciting one for the Raptors. We experienced tremendous growth from one team to four. We added coaches and made the Tampa Bay Raptor name one that people recognized. Teams that played the Raptors learned that although we were new, we packed a mighty punch when challenged.

We have received many inquiries about girls joining our club. There

were a number of new girls that attended our summer sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. Many of those girls are planning to try out for the Raptors. As a result, we see the need to add between one and three teams for the 2011 Club Volleyball Season.

The anticipated teams for this season are 17, 16, 15, 13, 11 and possibly an 18's and 16-2 team. However, the only way we would have the 18's team

would be if we are able to recruit some height for that team. Once clubs get to 18's, the girls are seriously working towards scholarships and we would want to have a team that could realistically compete on that level. That is hard to do if your team does not have at least two tall players. So.....18's, keep your eyes open. If you see a tall girl, grab her and drag her to try outs.



## Sponsors

The Tampa Bay Raptors are very proud to say that we have already had two of our sponsors from last year already renew their sponsorships. Sponsorships are a crucial part of organizations like ours.

This season we will be urging every girls to obtain at least one sponsor for the team.

**The Raptors will continue their practice or league sessions during the fall for girls 14 and under. More information on the dates and times will be available soon.**



## New Facilities

Since the Tampa Bay Raptors is growing, we will probably need to add another practice facility. We have formed a new relationship that might shape up to be a perfect fit for us.

More information to come.

*“And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope.....”*

Job 11:18