

2nd Intra Cup Volleyball Tournament

(Summarized by Sharad Acharya)

Everest Volleyball Club of North Carolina(EVCNC) participated in the 2nd Intra Cup Volleyball tournament on 15th of Oct, 2022. This tournament was organized by [Intra Foundation](#), Columbus, Ohio, USA. It was the first time EVCNC has participated in this tournament and also the first time in any out of state tournament post COVID-19 pandemic.

Team Entry

This was the second edition of the tournament. Because of the high demand in the first tournament, the organizers have set a limit to the number of teams. It was told that top 10 teams from last year would get automatic entry and they will accept only 10 new teams. We were initially told that our team did not make the cut, however because of earlier communication they allowed us as a default(at large) team.

Roster

Jersey	Player(Role)	Position
01	Kalidas (Raju) Bhandari	Middle Blocker/Passing Specialist
02	Robin Regmi	Opposite Hitter
04	Arjun Ghimire(Manager)	Middle Blocker
07	Mahesh Bhatt	Outside Hitter
10	Deependra Bist	Setter
11	Yogesh Parajuli	Setter
14	Utkrista Nepal	Middle Blocker
19	Ocean KC	Middle Blocker
21	Kamal Kafle	Outside Hitter
22	Sharad Acharya(Captain)	Opposite Hitter
29	Laxman Roka	Setter



EVCNC roster for 2nd Intra Cup Volleyball tournament. Pictured back row(L-R) are Arjun, Laxman, Robin, Mahesh, Ocean, Kamal, Deependra and Sharad. Front row(L-R) are Yogesh, UT and Raju

Travel

NC to OH(460 miles): Oct 14, 2022: 12:30PM -9:30PM

OH to NC: Oct 16, 2022: 11:00AM -9:00PM

Notable locations:

- Welcome Center(Friday) , Dinner(Saturday): Himali Heritage Cuisine & Event Center, 7679 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
- Sports venue- Big Run Athletic Complex, 4205 Clime Rd, Columbus, OH 43228
- Hotel: Comfort Suites East Broad at 270, 40 Chris Perry Ln, Columbus OH 43213

Mode of transportation:

- 1 rental minivan - 7
- 1 personal car - 4
- 1 member(Laxman) flew in late Friday, returned with the team on Sunday.

Tournament

The tournament was well organized. The gym was good quality. The judges, score keepers were good. Organizers provided 3 rooms for our team free of charge for 2 nights. They also provided all 3 meals, on-site free of charge on Saturday. A wonderful experience.

There were few things that could be improved. First and foremost, the schedule was not enforced. Organizers asked to get teams by 8AM, however the games did not start not until 11:00 AM. Also the result of the initial and final round would have been made public via appropriate channels, at least to the captains.



Tournaments like this are not only for new experiences, but also to reset our relationships. While some of us smiled for picture (L) with 'Nepali Topi' present from the organizers, we also encountered one of our own—Dhruba Shrestha (R), ex EVCNCian, currently playing from MN.



Team EVCNC warming up before the first games

Format

There were 21 teams put in 4 groups.

2nd INTRA-CUP VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT 2022 COLUMBUS OH			
GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
NYC	YOUNG BLOOD	RISING STAR	INTRA-YELLOW
ROANOKE UNITED	YOUNG STAR LOUISVILLE	FWNS TX (B)	KENTUCKY ANKA 1
BAGLUNG	INTRA-BLUE	RIDGEWOOD NS	GURKHAS
EVCNC	UNITED (MN)	LEXINGTON ANKA	BYSC (MN)
FWNS TX (A)	BELMONT (MD)	BUFFALO TEAM	CINC VOLLEYBALL CLUB
50 STAR YUVA CLUB			
QUARTER FINALS :			
GAME 2 : WINNER A VS RUNNER B			
GAME 3 : WINNER B VS RUNNER A			
GAME 4 : WINNER C VS RUNNER D			
GAME 5 : WINNER D VS RUNNER C			
SEMI FINAL :			
GAME 6 : WINNER OF GAME 2 VS WINNER OF GAME 4			
GAME 7 : WINNER OF GAME 3 VS WINNER OF GAME 5			
FINAL :			
GAME 8 : WINNER OF GAME 6 VS WINNER OF GAME 7			

A team in the group played against each other team's best of one set to 35 points. Teams would rank based on their set wins. In case if the set wins were equal, the tie would be broken by total points scored. Top 2 ranked teams would move to the playoffs(quarter finals).

In addition, there were 8 women's teams across several states of the US.

Following are the group games and the result.

Game	Matchup	Score	Result
1	EVCNC vs Baglung	25-35	Lost
2	EVCNC vs 50 Star Yuva Club	35-19	Won
3	EVCNC vs NYC	30-35	Lost
4	EVCNC vs Roanoke United	35-28	Won
5	EVCNC vs FWNS Texas A	22-35	Lost

With 2 wins and 3 losses our team did not advance to the quarter finals.

As the saying goes, 'you go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you wish to have.' I think we tried our best based on our skills and experiences we have. In addition, our performance in the tournament was lower than what we could have been. The team mostly has been playing together for a while but the performance was impacted by the fact that it was a remote location and our players were tired because of travel.

Observations

Roster distribution: 4MB, 4OH, 3S

What should be -> 3MB, 3S, 1L/DS, 4OH

Ideal -> 2S, 2MB, 1L, 1DS, 5OH,

What worked

1. We were able to bring max no of players(11) to participate and observe, first hand, the play, not only our pool but all 21 teams, plus 8 women's teams from different states
2. Individual commitments from players who agreed to drive or even fly in(Laxman). The trip concluded without any incident, you all make a great team.

What did not work

1. Not able to play to our potential
2. Not able to move to the playoff round
3. Lack of defensive players, especially libero. Our roster contained 4MB, 4OH, 3S. We should have 3MB, 3S, 1L/DS, 4OH or ideally 2S, 2MB, 1L, 1DS, 5OH,
4. Unable to sub for outside. 2 Starting OH had to play all the games.

How to improve

1. Practice
2. Dedicated team

Summary

Participating in the 2nd Intra cup tournament was a great experience. It has shown our strengths, weaknesses and also shown the level of play needed to compete and win this tournament. For the third edition, we should keep eye on the opening announcement and register as early as possible. This is the one out of state tournament that definitely is worth participating in.