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National Volleyball League Crowns First Malibu Open Champions in Tour History

NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE CROWNS FIRST MALIBU OPEN CHAMPIONS IN TOUR HISTORY

Women's Team of Whitney Pavlik and Jenny Kropp and Men's Team of Adam Roberts and Braidy Halverson Claim Titles; Celebrities and Beach Volleyball Legends Played Friendly Exhibition Match in Support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative

July 25, 2011 (Los Angeles, CA) - The National Volleyball League took over Zuma Beach this past weekend in Malibu as thousands of fans gathered to watch elite beach volleyball with some exciting upsets and dominating play by both the men and women who were all competing for their share of the $75,000 purse.

On the women's side, number one seed Jenny Kropp and Whitney Pavlik steamrolled through the winners' bracket, eventually defeating Olaya Pazo and Kendra Van Zwieten in the final, 21-15, 21-16. Kropp/Pavlik reached the finals after a 21-11, 21-18 victory over Emily Day and Heather Hughes while Pazo and Van Zwieten took down the team of Erin Gray and Paige Jensen in a close three game match, 17-21, 21-16, 15-12, in the other semifinal.

On Saturday, Kropp/Pavlik saw victories over Mbebui Chafeh/Geena Urango (21-8, 21-13), Tarin Keith/Kathrin Winkler (21-13, 21-14) and Meri-de Boyer/Juliana Evans (21-15, 21-13). The pair faced Angela Bryan/Kelly Schumacher in the first quarterfinal of the winners' bracket, emerging victorious at 21-11, 26-24.

The ninth seeded men's team of Adam Roberts and Braidy Halverson claimed its first championship after defeating the eighth seeded team of Ty Tramblie and Joaquin Acosta in a three-game thriller, dropping the first set 14-21 and coming back to win 21-14, 15-13. This was the second time Roberts/Halverson topped Tramblie/Acosta in the tournament, also winning a second round match-up, 21-16, 21-18. It was the first appearance in an Open final for both teams.

In the men's semifinals, Halverson/Roberts defeated number one seed team of Matt Prosser/John Mayer, 21-11, 21-18. In the other semifinal after emerging from the contenders' bracket, Tramblie/Acosta took down Adrian Carambula/Steven Grotowski, 21-13, 21- 17. On day one, Halverson/Roberts advanced to the quarterfinals of the winners' bracket with three straight victories, beginning with a first round, 21-19, 21-17 defeat of Daniel Dalhanese/Ed Lunnen. In their second match of the day, the pair took down Tramblie/Acosta and continued to secure their spot in the quarterfinals with a 19-21, 21-16, 15-11 win over Montgomery/Tillie.

In between the men's and women's finals, celebrities and volleyball legends came out to play in a friendly six-on-six exhibition match in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative to end childhood obesity and encourage young people to get active and be healthy. Actress Josie Loren from ABC Family's Make It or Break It played along with actor Geoff Stults, who stars in Fox's upcoming series, The Finder. In addition, two-time NCAA Champion, Olympian and World Champion volleyball legend Sinjin Smith played and led the opposing team while NVL founder and CEO Albert Hannemann made an appearance on the court after retiring from an 18-year professional career last year to start the NVL.

The National Volleyball League heads to Virginia Beach from Aug. 26-28 to compete in conjunction with the East Coast Surfing Championship. For more information, visit www.thenvl.com.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The National Volleyball League is the premiere professional beach volleyball association in the U.S. Founded in 2010 by 18-year professional beach volleyball veteran Albert Hannemann, The NVL has been created and designed to fully support the needs of the players, fans and sponsors. In 2011, The NVL will host six professional beach volleyball tournaments. The best players in the world will compete in NVL events in beautiful and exciting settings such as Baltimore, Md.; Malibu, Calif.; Virginia Beach, VA.; Aspen, Colo.; Miami, Fla.; and Long Beach, Calif.

The league's partners include Wilson, Australian Gold, The ONE Group, Grand Touring Vodka, and EFX.

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