

Happy New Year!!! We look forward to a great start of 2012. It is time to get back into our regular routines, get back to work, and for the girls to get back in the gym. Regular practice schedules resume THIS WEEK!

January is a big month for KVA. We will have at least one team playing in a tournament each weekend. All teams have 2 events. Be sure and check the tournament schedule on the website to know where your team plays.

January 7th ~ 12's and 15's (possibly a 14's team)

January 8th ~ 13's and 14's (possibly a 14's team will play Saturday)

Jan 14th ~ 17's

Jan 21 & 22 ~ 13B, 14B, 15B, 17B

Jan 28th ~ 13G, 13P, 14G, 14P

Aggieland Classic ~ For those teams playing in the Aggieland Classic, Tawanna will be sending an email with an A&M participation release form. This form is exclusive only to A&M and must be returned and submitted to the tournament host BEFORE any player is allowed to compete. We ask that once you receive that form, that you send with your player to her practice. Each individual team coach will be collecting those forms (Jeff, Jyoti, Amanda, and Shannon)

Looking ahead ~ Cross Court Classic will be held at the GR Brown Convention Center and outlying gyms. This is the first weekend of Spring Break, March 10 & 11. Please remember this event when planning an out of town trip.

Lone Star Dallas ~ Reminder that hotel information is posted on our Hotels Information page of the website. There are step by step instructions on how to secure your room out of our room block for Dallas. This is a Stay and Play event. Deadline for booking your room is February 15th.

Spirit Wear ~ All items ordered should be arriving this week. We will try our best to get the items you ordered to your player at her practice so you will have it for next weekends tournament.

CAPS!!! ~ We have had numerous request for baseball caps, so we have placed an order for a black cap with our KVA logo embroidered on. Hopefully, we will have those in the gym this week and you can purchase one. We have only ordered 50, so first come/first serve. The cost for those will be \$10.

Payments ~ Several accounts have fallen behind in your monthly dues. Tawanna will be sending account balances to EVERY family so you will know where you stand. All accounts must be paid in full with the February 1st payment, unless you were awarded a roster position after Oct 1st. (those families are aware of their payment schedule)

Finally, we've had the opportunity to watch our teams and to evaluate their placement and progress. A tendency that sometimes happens at this time is to become complacent about practices and tournament focus. We ask for your help in keeping your player motivated. Remind them that hard work and practice, asking questions of their coaches, and pushing themselves will result in personal progress and, more importantly, team progress. Below are some excerpts from an article written by one of our coaches, Jeff Fenton.

Playing Tip of the Month

It's about this time every season when the teams have a bunch of practices under their belts and have been to at least one or two tournaments, that players get concerned about playing time and/or whether their team is competitive or not. These are both valid issues but here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

The “Club” environment is competitive. Sometimes VERY competitive. There is some tough competition out there and some (very) tall teams. Sometimes this translates into “L’s” and not many “W’s”.

Helpful hints for players:

- Keep in mind that even with a “L” you are gaining valuable experience if from nothing more than seeing what other ladies and teams are capable of.**

- **Hard work and focus on improving can overcome many current weaknesses.**
- **Listen to your coaches and what they are trying to tell you. If you don't understand, ASK them! If you want to know how to improve your skills, ASK them!**
- **Discuss with your coach, either individually, or (even better) as a team what it is they could do better to stand a better chance against those teams they lost to. Did your team get beat or beat themselves? Did the other team communicate better, serve better, receive serve better, hit better, etc?**
- **If you are concerned about your playing time, YOU (the players only) are responsible to talk to your coach.**

God bless you all, and we wish you an incredible 2012!!!!!!