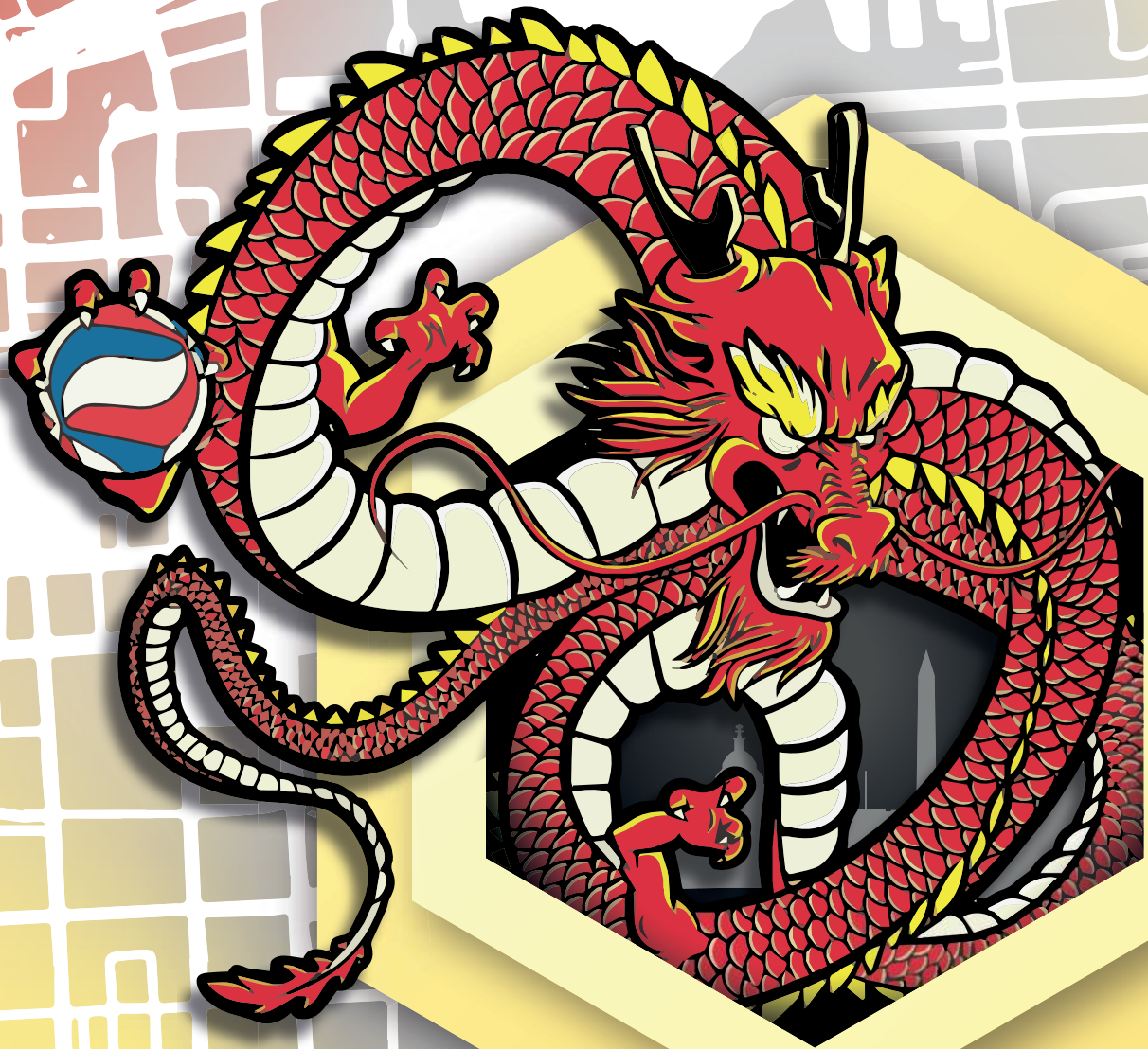


78TH

**ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN
CHINESE INVITATIONAL
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

第七十八屆北美華人排球邀請賽



**SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2023
BALTIMORE, MD**

**HOSTED BY CHINESE CONSOLIDATED BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, DC**

主辦單位：美京中華會館



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78th North American Chinese Invitational
Volleyball Tournament

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Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

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Rong Kuang Association
Sing Ping Musical Association
Wah Shing Social Club
Wing Wor Club
Wong Family Association
Yee Fung Toy Hung

Dear Friends:

Greetings! On behalf of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) of Washington, DC, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the 78th North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament.

As you know, volleyball is one of the most favorite team sports played by the overseas Chinese in North America. The NACIVT has been held annually since 1937. The playing rules, in general, has remained the same but the locations in the rotation circuit have increased in hosting these tournaments. We are excited and proud to host this year's tournament in Baltimore, Maryland.

This special event provides an excellent opportunity for you to exchange ideas, to establish a bond among the teams, and to enjoy your old friends and make new ones. We applaud your effort to come to Baltimore this year and hope you will take this opportunity to enjoy the city and have a great time at the games.

Our best wishes to everyone for a successful tournament.

Victor Quinto, Chairman

Jack Lee, First Vice Chairman

Benny Cheng, Second Vice Chairman



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR
*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

September 2, 2023

On behalf of the people of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our great city for the 78th North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament (NACIVT).

During your visit to Baltimore, we hope that you take the time to enjoy our city's wonderful attractions, eat plenty of delicious food (we recommend the Maryland crab cakes), and learn about what makes our city special. From the Baltimore Convention Center, you are steps away from historic Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles, and the birthplace of baseball legend Babe Ruth. From historic streets to our art museums and performance spaces, we are a city with impressive cultural attractions, and I am confident you will enjoy your stay here in Baltimore.

I also want to acknowledge the roots of the NACIVT, and how the tournament has continued to serve as a way for Chinese Americans to come together, visit with old friends, and create new community ties. If you have a moment to take a stroll along the 300 and 400 blocks of Park Avenue, you'll see the signs, murals, and remembrances of our historic Chinatown. Baltimore's Chinatown is closely linked to the Greater Washington area's 9MAN volleyball community and continues to serve as an inspiration and organizing center for Asian Americans in the region. Baltimore welcomes you and we hope you make many wonderful memories and friendships here at the 78th NACIVT. Thank you again, for choosing Baltimore!

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Scott
*Mayor
City of Baltimore*

phone: 410.396.3835 fax: 410.576.9425 e-mail: mayor@baltimorecity.gov



駐美國台北經濟文化代表處
Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office
in the United States

4201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016
Tel: (202) 895-1800

Greetings to everyone taking part in the 78th North America Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Washington, DC, for your hard work and efforts in hosting this competition, serving participants and friends from Washington, DC, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, Boston and Toronto.

This volleyball tournament is an opportunity to encourage a healthy lifestyle among our youth, as well as a platform for cultivating lifelong friendships. My country, the Republic of China (Taiwan), has a long history as a close friend of the American people, with shared values and interests. We are committed to working together to promote cultural exchanges, and I welcome all of you to visit my country.

Finally, I would like to welcome all of you to today's tournament, and I wish you a successful and cheerful event. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bi-khim Hsiao'. The signature is fluid and stylized.

Bi-khim Hsiao
Representative



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Dear Friends, Family, Supporters, and Guests:

Welcome to the 78th North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament 2023 (NACIVT). We feel extremely proud and privileged to be the directors of this year's event in Baltimore, Maryland. The NACIVT has a history of strong tradition which we have worked hard to uphold.

Throughout the weekend, we encourage you to take a moment to remember the roots of the NACIVT. We should all be proud that generations of Chinese immigrants and Asian Americans have come together year after year to build an event so rich in competition, culture, and tradition.

Thanks to the immense support from our local volleyball and Chinese communities, we can continue this tradition and hope to provide you with another memorable Labor Day weekend.

May your experiences (on and off the court) be shared with new and old friends alike. Good luck and have a wonderful weekend!

Executive Tournament Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '2E'.

Patrick "2e" Chin

Tournament Committee Leads

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Deng'.

Daniel Deng

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Lee'.

Kevin Lee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matt Cho'.

Matt Cho



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Schedule of Events
September 1st to 4th, 2023

Friday, September 1, 2023

2:00pm – 5:00pm	Team Registration Opens	Hilton Ballroom 1
4:00pm	Hotel Check-In	All Hotels
6:00pm – 6:30pm	Captain’s Meeting (Part 1) General Tournament Overview	Hilton Ballroom 1
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Captain’s Meeting (Part 2) Break-out: Men’s & Women’s	Hilton Ballroom 2
7:00pm	Welcome Party	Hilton Lobby

Saturday, September 2, 2023

8:00am – 8:30am	Opening Ceremony	Baltimore CC
8:30am	Pool Play Begins	Baltimore CC
9:00pm – midnight	After Party at Locals Only	25 E Cross St. Baltimore, MD

Sunday, September 3, 2023

8:00am	Pool Play Continues	Baltimore CC
6:00pm – 10:00pm	NACIVT Night Market	Oriole Park at Camden Yards
8:30pm – midnight	After Party at Horseshoe Casino	1525 Russell St. Baltimore, MD

Monday, September 4, 2023

8:00am – 7:00pm	Playoffs, Championship Finals And Award Ceremony	Baltimore CC
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Acknowledgments and Recognitions 2023 Tournament Committee

Executive Tournament Director	Patrick “2e” Chin
Tournament Committee Lead	Kevin Lee
Tournament Committee & Registration Lead	Daniel Deng
Tournament Committee & Sponsorship Lead	Matt Cho
Tournament Secretary	Emily Hallam
Tournament Registration Coordinator	Caitlin On
On-Site Tournament Advisor	Carol Hudson
Tournament Advisor	Wally Lee
Tournament Play Directors (Men)	Wally Lee, Patrick Chin, Daniel Deng, Matt Cho
Tournament Play Directors (Women)	Teresa Hoang, Lisa Yee
Play Site Coordinator	Art Goon
Play Format Directors	Daniel Deng, Kevin Yang
Equipment & Logistics Directors	Robert Lee, Kevin Yang, Lisa Yee, Art Goon
Court Layout & CAD Designer	Keefe Lee
CCBA Liaison	Susan Chin
Hotel/Team Runner Managers	Carol Hudson, Nancy Chin
Night Market Director	Robbin Lee
Night Market Coordinator	Stephanie Hsu
Volunteer Directors	Allison Robinson, Harry Guey-Lee, and Jack Lee
Social Media & Communications Manager	Mitchell Yam, Penny Lee
Tournament Book Production	Penny Lee
Tournament Book Cover Designer	Cindy Goh
Tournament Player Bags	Lisa Yee, Andy Chin
Website Design	Raymond Goh
PR & Entertainment	Robbin Lee, Marisa Dobson, and Jordan Lew
Awards & Trophies	Lorenzo Samin
SportWrench Management	Henry Tan

NATIONAL North American Chinese Volleyball Association (NACVA) Committee

Wally Lee – Washington, DC
 Dr. Robert Guen – Boston
 Harry Aue – Boston
 Edmund Chan – Toronto
 Danny Moy – New York
 Joseanna Tse – San Francisco
 Jenny Hui – Toronto
 Patrick “2e” Chin – Washington, DC
 Bick Ta – Los Angeles



9 MAN

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DIRECTED BY URSULA LIANG

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STORY ABOUT TRADITION
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-HUA HSU, VASSAR COLLEGE, AUTHOR
OF 'A FLOATING CHINAMAN'



A FILM BY URSULA LIANG EDITED BY MICHELLE CHANG CONSULTING EDITORS JEAN TSIEN, A.C.E. AND MARY MANHARDT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA AND CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MELANIE RILEY-GREEN CO-PRODUCER THERESA NAVARRO ORIGINAL MUSIC BY SCOTT "CHOPS" JUNG AND ADAM RUBENSTEIN

THE HISTORY ABOUT 9MAN

AVAILABLE ON THESE LINKS:

noncompliantfilms.com, 9-man.com, or 9-man.vhx.tv

NACIVT Background

The North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament (NACIVT) is held every Labor Day and features men's nine-man (9-man) and women's 6's volleyball teams. The tournament is generally held outdoors and played on pavement, with the courts typically set-up in a large parking lot or even on the streets. Due to changes in weather the tournament can also be held indoors (e.g., convention centers). It is very much a cultural phenomenon; All teams must have at least 2/3 of its players (6 players) on the court at all times who are of "Chinese descent" in order to participate in any of the games of the Tournament. Of the 6 players, five must be 100% Chinese and the sixth player can be part Chinese but no less than 50% Chinese. The remaining 1/3 of the players (3 players) on the court must be of Asian descent in whole or in part. (Asian: origins from: Myanmar (formerly Burma), Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam).

Nine-man volleyball is a variation of volleyball utilizing nine players and a slightly larger court (10 by 20 m [33 by 66 ft]) originated in Asia in the 1920s when American missionaries introduced the game in China. The birthplace of 9man can be speculated to be the city of Tai-Shan, China where 9man tournaments are played regularly, sometimes even for prize money. The variant became popular within the Chinese American community's community in New York City and spread to Chinatowns in other large US and Canadian cities.

The inaugural tournament was held in Boston in 1944. Currently, the Annual NACIVT rotation include the following cities in this order: Washington, DC, San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, Montreal, Boston, and Toronto. Over the years, more cities across the county and Canada have sent teams to participate. There are teams from Boston, Calgary, Maryland, Los Angeles, Chicago, North Carolina, Houston, Montreal, New York City, New Jersey, Ottawa, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, Vancouver and Washington, DC.

Brief History of 9-Man Volleyball

By 2013 North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament Organizers

In the late 1930's, there was not much for young Chinese laundry workers to do other than work. Just about ten years earlier, the Immigration Act of 1924 had effectively shut the door on all immigration from Asia to the United States declaring that all Asians were "not eligible" for citizenship. It then went on to state that persons not eligible for citizenship were barred from entering the United States. Since Asians were not eligible for citizenship, this meant that any Asian who was not a citizen of the United States at the time the law was passed could not leave the country if he or she ever wished to return later.

The Immigration Act meant that most of the Chinese in Chinatown were essentially trapped there. They could not leave the country if they ever had a thought of returning to the US after their travels. Furthermore, discrimination and the language barrier made the world outside Chinatown a hostile place. While Chinese laundries existed throughout the city and state, the men and few women who worked there were not an integral part of the social life of their surrounding community. It was highly unlikely to have any inclusion in a social gathering. To retain their humanity and a semblance of society, they had to rely on their own resources.

Recreation for laundry workers was extremely limited. Laundry work usually meant 10 to 18-hour days, 6 days a week. Sunday was their only day off to do what they liked, but there was not much to do. The usual "American" entertainment was either prohibited or did not make much sense. Usually they "hung out," visiting Chinatown or other laundry workers.

Some of them wanted to spend the few free hours they had to themselves doing something which was not breaking the law or getting into trouble. But more than this, they wanted something that would promote friendship, as it was essential to society. One thing they found they could do was go to the Chinatown YMCA.

The facilities of the Chinatown YMCA were quite limited. There, the young men found a table tennis table and a backyard, and, in this backyard, they played volleyball.

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The first North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament was held in Boston in 1944. The tournament is traditionally held outdoors on cement pavement with courts set up in parking lots and the street. Two-thirds of the team must be 100% Chinese and the remaining team members must be of Asian descent. Since then, teams from all over the country and Canada have participated, including New York City, Maryland, Los Angeles, Montreal, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, Toronto, and Washington DC.

ORIGIN OF VOLLEYBALL/ 9-MAN VOLLEYBALL

It is ironic that a game so popular with poor laundry workers was invented to accommodate the desires of American Businessmen for a less strenuous sport. Volleyball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan, physical director of the Holyoke, Massachusetts YMCA. He designed it as an indoor sport for the businessmen who played there and who found basketball – the YMCA’s other game invented in 1891 – too “vigorous.” Morgan called his new game “mintonette,” perhaps to characterize the more refined play for which it was designed. A professor from Springfield College, however, noted the “volleying” nature of play, and so proposed “volleyball.”

The game soon gained wide popularity, with both sexes, in schools, playgrounds, the armed forces, and other organizations in the US. When volleyball finally went abroad, it went first to Asia with the first Far East Games in Manila, Philippines in 1913. It later made its way to China, one source says, where it was introduced by missionaries at a school in Toisan called Poi Yen. However, it may have gotten to Toisan, it became a very popular game there. In Asia, the rules of the game were slightly modified. Also, the dimensions of the court were enlarged, and the number of players on a team was expanded. This is the game which then made its way back to Chinatowns of the US and Canada, and is the games played in today’s men’s tournaments.

Volleyball made sense for Chinatown. Most of the laundry workers in Chinatown were very poor. Henry Oi remembers that his father’s laundry grossed only \$50 a week from which all expenses had to be paid. Volleyball was a game that was accessible and affordable for young men with limited means. It was a game which allowed many people to participate together. All one needed was some equipment. If you were lacking the special equipment, one could improvise: if there was no net, you could use a rope or even a piece of string; you could use stone markers to define the limits of the court or draw its boundaries on the ground with a stick; even if there was no ball, a ball could be made out of cloth. Since volleyball was already popular in China, it was a relatively simple matter to get a game together.

THE FIRST INTERCITY GAMES

The first games between cities were not tournaments. Henry Oi describes their purpose as “a social event.” When volleyball started in Boston, there were not enough players to make up two teams. Determined to play, the group split in half, and one half played the other half. Word of these games somehow got to the small Chinatown in Providence, Rhode Island. About 1935 the Providence Chinese decided to get a team together and the two groups, Boston, and Providence, met to play, though not in a tournament since the main reason they got together, was to get to know each other. The two groups played a variety of games – ping pong and basketball – as well as volleyball. The arrangement was that the Boston team would travel to Providence, or the Providence team would travel to Boston.

About 1937, people in New York heard about the games and joined in. The visits became an annual event over the Labor Day weekend because of a special Labor Day round trip excursion fare to New York which cost only two dollars. The three groups would socialize in the host city for the day, and then return home. After a while, however, Providence could not maintain a team and so, around 1939, the visits to Providence stopped.

In 1939 or 1940, a team from Newark, New Jersey joined the games. The three cities made up a group of five teams, three from New York and one each from New Jersey and Boston. Two of the New York teams are recalled to have had patriotic names: the Ching Nin Gou Kwok Tuan, or Ching Gou for short; and the Sham Man Chu Yi Ching Nin Tuan, or Sham Ching for short, in recognition of the struggle against the Japanese invasion of China. One of the New York teams was composed of Chinese students (called the “Chinese Students Team”). The Boston team was simply called the Bo Ching, the Boston Team.

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Regardless of who won, the main purpose for the games was to develop friendship among Chinese. With the inclusion of the Chinese Students Team, this goal was furthered and expanded. Now, not only were laundry workers getting to know each other, but the tournament was also bringing them together with members of the “intelligentsia.”

The purpose that brought the first players together and the first cities together, then, was to promote understanding and friendship. Since Chinese in the US were few in number and their movements generally restricted to traveling to work and to Chinatown, the tournaments helped to relieve their isolation and that of their communities. In those days travel and communication were not as simple or convenient as they are today. Air travel was not accessible to a poor person; a cross-country flight took 15 ½ hours and cost \$149.50. Not everyone owned a telephone, and few people owned cars. The games broke down barriers of distance between cities and barriers of class between laundry workers and privileged students. At the conclusion of each tournament all the teams and players would go to a restaurant, eating together and mixing freely, regardless of what team they played for.

The 1939 games between Boston, New York, and Newark, some say, was the first tournament. Others say that the first true tournament was held in 1944. There does not seem to be a record of who won this first tournament, though Henry Oi says that there were champions in all the tournaments and that trophies were always awarded. One list of tournaments does not indicate a tournament winner until 1957, when the New York Lum Ying were the winners.

THE WAR YEARS

The tournament of 1941 added a second purpose to gathering. In addition to building community the players also added the patriotic goal of helping China. In US Chinatowns, conversations over dinner or at get togethers often included talk of the war in Asia, in which the US was still reluctant to become involved. There was great concern over the war since most of the Chinatown community had family – wives and children, parents and relatives – in China. During this time all the restaurants and laundries had pans on their counters for donations to help the Chinese resist the Japanese invasion. In the Chinatowns, everyone did their part. For the tournament in New York, the teams sold tickets at fifty cents a piece. The proceeds of the game went to a patriotic fund to help the Chinese government. As a result of selling tickets to the games, the tournament raised the remarkable sum of over \$1000. That year, fifty players participated in the tournament.

Shortly after the tournament, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and the US entered the duration of the war while everyone joined over the Labor Day weekend, but only on a limited basis. For many Chinese in the US, the war brought new work opportunities. Work in industries and in trades previously been barred to them, were now open because of the manpower shortage. Others, like Henry Oi, joined the service. Some fought, while others work in support capacities like that unit which serviced the Flying Tigers Squadron in Burma.

The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, and three months later the war in the Pacific ended, and with it, World War II. The first tournament after the war was in 1946. Many of the teams were composed of returned veterans who wanted to continue friendships developed during their service. One of the New York teams which played at that time was comprised entirely of veterans and called itself the “1157,” after the veteran’s unit which was attached to the 16th Air Force. This unit served in Asia and their job was to service the Flying Tiger Squadron.

Around 1946 or 1947, Washington D.C. joined the tournament. An old photo shows the Washington C.Y.C. and the New York Wah Ching together in a group portrait. At this time the tournament was called the “Annual East Coast Volleyball Tournament.” The participation of the Washington D.C. team initiated the three-city circuit which continued into the mid-1970’s, except for the 1965, when Chicago participated and hosted the tournament.

THE NEW GENERATION

In 1943, perhaps in reaction to Japanese propaganda accusing the US of racism, perhaps in consideration of the potential market China presented, Congress repealed the provisions of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Chinese were now no longer barred from entering the US, though the number of immigrant visas allowed was still quite

small. In early 1946, Congress passed the War Brides Act allowing service men to bring their foreign-born wives to the US without regard to the immigration quota. As a result of these Acts and subsequent changes to immigration law, the Chinese community in the US began to grow and take on a new character. Families began to become a more common sight in Chinatown, and a new generation of American-born Chinese arose.

By 1961 there were a sufficient number of American-born Chinese, who were old enough, to form the first “jook sing” team to participate in the tournament. This team was the Knights athletic club from Boston. Until that time the teams were comprised predominantly of immigrants. The entry of the Knights into the tournament was greeted enthusiastically. Subsequently, the Washington D.C. C.Y.C. And the New York Freemasons formed American-born teams to participate the following year.

The tournament and its participants changed with the times. The participation of Canadian teams was acknowledged by changing the name of the tournament to the “Annual North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament.” As the Chinese laundries declined in number, more players from other parts of Chinatown society began to participate. Restaurants began sponsoring and fielding teams. In some ways, these teams had a more difficult time since restaurant workers worked varying shifts and several restaurants. Nevertheless, they made an effort to participate, often coming to Chinatown early before their shift began to practice and then putting their shift vests and leather shoes to go to work.

A Milestone for 1976, the first time women played in the tournament. Earlier that year, Reggie Wong, a member of the Knights athletic club and tournament chairmen, received a call from Frank Gee of the New York Vikings. Frank said that the Vikings had put together a women’s team and wondered if Reggie had any plans to start a women’s team in Boston. By the 1976 tournament, “Reggie’s Angels,” Boston’s first women’s team, played an exhibition game with Viking’s team proving that women should participate too. Volleyball was a sport for all, and women demanded that they have the opportunity to compete. Tradition did not give as chairman of the the tournament, still had to persist in advocating their cause before opposition to women’s participation could be put to rest. Women’s participation became official the following year at the Toronto tournament. That year, six women’s teams competed for a women’s tournament championship. The first women’s tournament championship was finally won by the New York Skylarks.

Over the years the number of teams and players have grown, and the tournament has attracted wider interest. From a one-day affair, it expanded to two days in the late 1960s, and by the early 1980s, the number of teams and the complexity of competition required a three-day tournament. By the late 1950s, the tournament spanned the country. In 1959, the Kong Fung team from San Francisco won the tournament championship in New York, and in 1962, the Los Angeles Hung Fung won the championship at the Boston tournament. In 1974, San Francisco joined the list of cities hosting the tournament and three years after that, Toronto hosted its first tournament. Finally, in 1986, Montreal hosted the 42nd tournament, establishing the six-city rotation which exists today.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Over the years the tournament has grown and evolved, yet it still retains the central purposes of bringing communities closer together and providing a recreational opportunity for young people. These two purposes are not exclusive of each other and combine in ways that are not always obvious. Clearly, volleyball is one way of maintaining community. The young people play the game, while the older people who were once the young players now coach and watch.

At the tournaments, old men continue to attend making shrewd comments and becoming excited over a good match or play. The coaches are the businessmen and professionals of the community, and so the young people have role models who are not just guides to a profession but also serve as examples of caring adults.

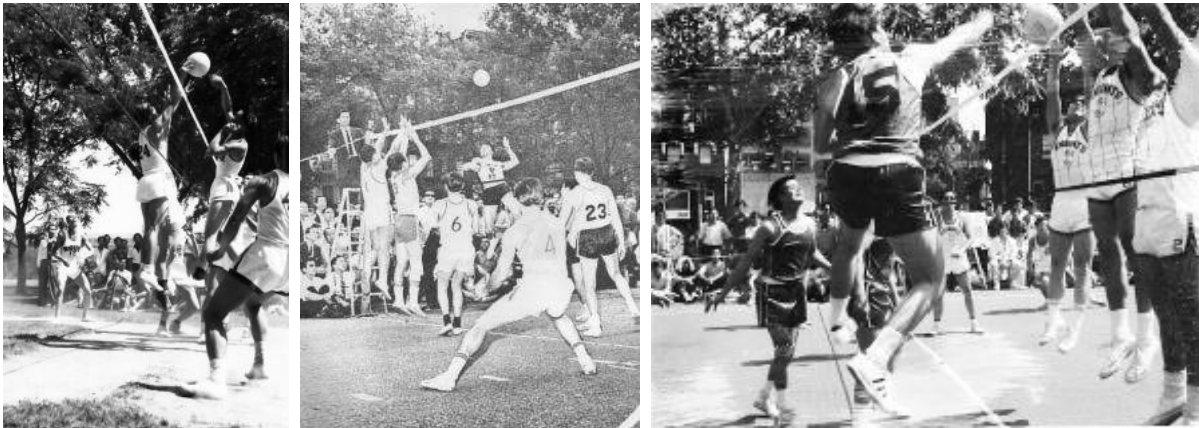
Volleyball is part of the history of Chinatown. The generations of players pass down not only their skills and culture, but also continue that part of the community’s history. More than mere history, it is continuity and the building of ties between the generations.

This year, the tournament is organizing, what is affectionately known as “lo chai” (old wood) teams. In earlier years, these teams were composed of members of the original teams. There are too few of the original lo chai left, and so the tournament is allowing “younger” men, 45-year olds, to play. Each team, however, must take on the name of one of the original teams. In this way, the original players and teams will be honored.

Another way that these tournaments build community is to serve as a common ground of communication and as a way that culture can be exchanged and spread. All culture does not have to be “high culture.” Culture is also the way that people conduct their lives, manage, and enjoy themselves. Many spectators drive up to Boston from Washington DC, and it was pointed out that some of these people were the first ones to set up their deck chairs, umbrellas, and coolers so that they could enjoy the games in comfort. While, perhaps a minor innovation, it made people in Boston feel freer to enjoy themselves also.

Finally, volleyball builds the community by bringing young people back into Chinatown from the suburbs. Asian youth, growing up in the suburbs are in some ways as isolated as the laundry workers of an earlier generation. Though youth today may be more integrated into the surrounding culture, they may be cut off from their Chinese heritage and the people who make that heritage come alive.

Playing on a volleyball team is sometimes the first chance these young people have to really learn about Chinatown and its culture, and as important, to meet other young people from Chinatown. Thus, the bringing together of laundry worker and Chinese students in the 1930s has a modern counterpart in the meeting of young people from the suburbs and the city. The young people meet around a common purpose, and yet, they can also learn about and from their differences in a friendly atmosphere. As Henry Oi said, “friendship is essential for society.”



Reference: 55th North American Chinese Invitational Volleyball Tournament (Boston, 1999) Program Book.



When I started 9man...

By Wallace Lee (Washington DC Chinese Youth Club)

The summer of 1964 was my first involvement with 9man volleyball. CYC's older generation felt that it was the right time to bring along the next generation of players. Their sons and other youths in the club were now in their teens, many of whom, like me, were already active in CYC's lion dance team. None of us knew anything about volleyball. Flash back to Labor Day weekend 1963, my dad drove me to Chinatown where Washington DC's CCBA was hosting the 19th annual Chinese (Inter-City) volleyball tournament. I remembered my interest level was zero because my love at that time was basketball.

During the summer of 1964, I found myself learning 9man volleyball from our older generation of players. Sunday afternoons were spent playing in the heat at the Ellipse, not far from the Washington Monument. I was amazed that there was an actual volleyball court comprised of eighty percent dirt and twenty percent grass. I came to find out that this court was CYC's home court and the site of past 9man volleyball competitions. Anyway, breathing in the dust, having gnats drown in one's sweat, and shaking off all the dirt after practices became a regular Sunday ritual. I found myself starting to like this game called volleyball.

Because of my height I got to play the front row which made me quite happy. In those days 9man was played with the setter in the middle of the front row and the players on the left and right of him were the 9man Fast. I was a true lefty, so I got to play on the right-side position which in Chinese was called, Thlay Gawk. The English translation, "Dead Corner". The player on the left-side was the Fie Gawk, "Fast Corner". Most teams didn't have a true lefty to use for offense thus the name Dead Corner. But he was important for blocking, always up against the opponent's best Spiker and best Fast. I really liked the fact that I could be active on offense as well as having the challenge to block the opponent's best Fast and best Spiker. I loved all the jumping (of course that's why my knees are what they are today). Front row was so much better than being in the back row or the dreaded second row middle which years later was nicknamed the "Suicide" position. I have so much respect for anyone who ever played Suicide because it was a very demanding position.

Our CYC team made our debut in 1964 in NYC's Columbus Park. Back then the tournament was only two days, with eight teams participating. One court was set up and every match was best 3 out of 5. The format was what we referred to as quasi double elimination. If a team lost its first match, it could continue until it lost a second match whereby the team was eliminated from the competition. Once you lost a match in the first round, the best one could achieve was third or fourth place. The winners of the semifinals would play for first and second place, best 3 out of 5. No coming back for a one game playoff for the loser. Our young team lost both of its matches on Sunday which gave us a free



day on Monday. Not the start that we were hoping for but then again, we had no idea of what to expect. It took a few years before we were able to advance into Monday. To play on Monday was the goal and driving force for our team each summer. We were the youngest team in New York, but we had high hopes for our future because just ahead of us was another young team made up of Jook Sings like us, the Boston Knights.

In the 60s, New York, Boston, and DC were the sites for the East coast tournaments. Chicago managed to host in 1966 and that tournament was where our young CYC team won our very first match. The opposing team whom we were looking forward to beating, forfeited at game time.

Parking lots were the primary tournament sites in any city except for NY which had the Columbus Park playground. Even our team practices migrated from the dirt court at the Ellipse to the parking lots in Chinatown. San Francisco joined the circuit as a host in 1974; Toronto joined in 1977; Montreal in 1986 (the first city to host indoors); and LA in 2009. Thus, the current seven city rotation was established. Tournament matches remained 3 out of 5 well into the 1980's but that changed with the increase in the number of participating teams and the format migrating to Pool play. However, the championship Final was still played 3 out of 5 for many years.

In addition to the competition, I realized early on that the tournament was a gathering for renewing friendships and acquaintances each year. Imagine your friends from the same village emigrating to the US but living in different cities. Today friendships are renewed each year between people who reside all over North America. Another aspect of the 9man tournament during our early years was that we were representing Washington DC's Chinese community. Every Chinese owned business in and outside of Chinatown knew about 9man volleyball. The most popular question leading up to Labor Day weekend was "are you going to win this year?"

I have been blessed to be surrounded by great teammates from the very beginning and will always be grateful to the elders who took the time to mentor me. I lost my dad in September 2020 at age 106. I am forever grateful to him for introducing me to this game of 9man and always supporting our teams. He like so many of our fathers and relatives, followed us to every tournament for so many years. On a final note, one of my mentors from the very beginning, who is a CYC volleyball alum and tournament coordinator for many years, just celebrated his 95th birthday. I think that makes him the oldest CYC player alum still with us today! HAPPY BIRTHDAY Sam Wong, elder, mentor and teammate!!

MEN'S PAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEAR	ANNUAL	LOCATION	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
2023	78th	Baltimore, MD hosted by Washington	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	Toronto Qilin
2022	77th	Providence, RI hosted by Boston	San Francisco Tien Lung Dragon Fire	Toronto Connex A
2021	76th	Oakland (hosted by San Francisco)	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	San Francisco Xiao Long Pow
2020	---	Cancelled due to COVID pandemic	N/A	N/A
2019	75th	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash
2018	74th	Montreal hosted by Toronto	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	Toronto Connex A
2017	73rd	Ft. Lauderdale hosted by Boston	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	Toronto Connex A
2016	72nd	Los Angeles	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	Toronto Connex A
2015	71st	New York	Toronto Connex A	Toronto Zhen Qi Black
2014	70th	Las Vegas hosted by San Francisco	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC CYC A
2013	69th	Washington, DC	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash	Toronto Ngun Lam Red
2012	68th	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	San Francisco Paai Kau Smash
2011	67th	Montreal	San Francisco Westcoast	Los Angeles Midwest Mad Dogs
2010	66th	Boston	San Francisco Westcoast	Toronto Connex A
2009	65th	Los Angeles	San Francisco Westcoast	Washington DC CYC A
2008	64th	New York	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Midwest Mad Dogs
2007	63rd	San Francisco	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A	Toronto Connex A
2006	62nd	Washington, DC	San Francisco Westcoast	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A
2005	61st	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Midwest Mad Dogs
2004	60th	Boston	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Midwest Mad Dogs
2003	59th	New York	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A
2002	58th	San Francisco	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A
2001	57th	Washington, DC	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A
2000	56th	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC MVP/SixPak A
1999	55th	Boston	Toronto Connex A	Boston Knights A
1998	54th	Montreal	Toronto Connex A	Washington DC Hip Sing/MVP/SixPak A
1997	53rd	New York	Toronto Connex A	Toronto Ngun Lam
1996	52nd	San Francisco	Toronto Connex A	Toronto Ngun Lam
1995	51st	Washington, DC	San Francisco Mei Mei	Toronto Ngun Lam
1994	50th	Boston	San Francisco Mei Mei	Toronto Connex A
1993	49th	Toronto	San Francisco Mei Mei	Toronto Connex A
1992	48th	Montreal	San Francisco Mei Mei	Toronto Ngun Lam
1991	47th	New York	Toronto Ngun Lam	San Francisco Mei Mei
1990	46th	San Francisco	Toronto Ngun Lam	New York Vikings Gold
1989	45th	Washington, DC	Toronto Ngun Lam	Record Not Found
1988	44th	Toronto	Toronto Ngun Lam	Record Not Found
1987	43rd	Boston	Toronto Ngun Lam	Montreal Hung Ying
1986	42nd	Montreal	Toronto Ngun Lam	Record Not Found
1985	41st	New York	Toronto Flying Tigers	Record Not Found
1984	40th	San Francisco	Toronto Ngun Lam	Record Not Found
1983	39th	Washington, DC	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1982	38th	Toronto	Toronto Flying Tigers A	San Francisco Chung Sing
1981	37th	Boston	Toronto Flying Tigers A	Record Not Found
1980	36th	New York	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1979	35th	San Francisco	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1978	34th	Washington, DC	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1977	33rd	Toronto	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1976	32nd	Boston	New York Freemason	Record Not Found
1975	31st	New York	Washington DC CYC A	Record Not Found
1974	30th	San Francisco	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1973	29th	Washington, DC	San Francisco Wor Mei	Record Not Found
1972	28th	Boston	Washington DC CYC A	Record Not Found
1971	27th	New York	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1970	26th	Washington, DC	Boston Chun Lin	Record Not Found
1969	25th	Boston	New York Freemason	Record Not Found
1968	24th	New York	Boston Knights	Record Not Found
1967	23rd	Washington, DC	New York Vikings	Record Not Found
1966	22nd	Chicago	New York Freemason	Record Not Found
1965	21st	Boston	Boston Vikings	Record Not Found
1964	20th	New York	New York Wah Hung	Record Not Found
1963	19th	Washington, DC	New York Vikings	Record Not Found
1962	18th	Boston	San Francisco Kong Fung	Record Not Found
1961	17th	New York	New York Vikings	Record Not Found
1960	16th	Washington, DC	New York Vikings	Record Not Found
1959	15th	Boston	San Francisco Kong Fung	Record Not Found
1958	14th	New York	New York Hung Fung	Record Not Found
1957	13th	Washington, DC	New York Lum Ying	Record Not Found
1956	12th	Boston	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1955	11th	New York	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1954	10th	Washington, DC	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1953	9th	Boston	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1952	8th	New York	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1951	7th	Washington, DC	New York Poy-Ting	Record Not Found
1950	6th	Boston	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1949	5th	New York	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1948	4th	Washington, DC	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1947	3rd	Boston	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1946	2nd	New York	Record Not Found	Record Not Found
1945	1st	Boston	Record Not Found	Record Not Found

WOMEN'S PAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEAR	ANNUAL	LOCATION	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
2023	78th	Baltimore hosted by Washington	San Francisco AIM	Toronto Connex A
2022	77th	Providence hosted by Boston	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Ivball
2021	76th	Oakland, CA	San Francisco AIM	Los Angeles Ivball
2020	----	Cancelled due to COVID pandemic	N/A	N/A
2019	75th	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Ivball
2018	74th	Montreal hosted by Toronto	Los Angeles Raki	SF Tien Lung Dragon Ice
2017	73rd	Ft. Lauderdale hosted by Boston	Los Angeles Green	SF Tien Lung Dragon Ice
2016	72nd	Los Angeles	Los Angeles Green	SF Tien Lung Dragon Ice
2015	71st	New York	SF Tien Lung Dragons Ice	SF AIM
2014	70th	Las Vegas hosted by San Francisco	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Ivball
2013	69th	Washington, DC	Los Angeles Ivball	Toronto Connex A
2012	68th	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	Los Angeles Ivball
2011	67th	Montreal	Toronto Connex A	San Francisco AIM
2010	66th	Boston	New York Strangers	Washington DC Slackers
2009	65th	Los Angeles	Toronto Connex A	nw York Strangers
2008	64th	New York	New York MIG	San Francisco AIM
2007	63rd	San Francisco	San Diego ivball	Record Not Found
2006	62nd	Washington, DC	Washington DC Slackers	Record Not Found
2005	61st	Toronto	Toronto Connex A	Toronto Flying Tigers
2004	60th	Boston	San Francisco AIM	Record Not Found
2003	59th	New York	Toronto Flying Tigers A	Record Not Found
2002	58th	San Francisco	Toronto Flying Tigers A	SF Just For Fun/AsianAvenue.com
2001	57th	Washington, DC	SF Just For Fun/AsianAvenue.com	Record Not Found
2000	56th	Toronto	Toronto Flying Tigers A	Record Not Found
1999	55th	Boston	SF Just For Fun/AsianAvenue.com	Record Not Found
1998	54th	Montreal	Toronto Flying Tigers A	Record Not Found
1997	53rd	New York	New York New York	Record Not Found
1996	52nd	San Francisco	San Francisco Divas	Record Not Found
1995	51st	Washington, DC	San Francisco Vector	Record Not Found
1994	50th	Boston	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Montreal Freemason
1993	49th	Toronto	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Record Not Found
1992	48th	Montreal	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Record Not Found
1991	47th	New York	New York Vikings Won Fung Red	San Francisco Just Volleyball
1990	46th	San Francisco	San Francisco Just Volleyball	New York Vikings Won Fung Red
1989	45th	Washington, DC	New York Vikings Won Fung Red	San Francisco Just Volleyball
1988	44th	Toronto	New York Vikings Won Fung Red	San Francisco Just Volleyball
1987	43rd	Boston	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Record Not Found
1986	42nd	Montreal	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Record Not Found
1985	41st	New York	San Francisco Just Volleyball	Record Not Found
1984	40th	San Francisco	San Francisco Mei Mei	Record Not Found
1983	39th	Washington, DC	San Francisco New Horizon	Record Not Found
1982	38th	Toronto	San Francisco Reggie's Angels	Record Not Found
1981	37th	Boston	San Francisco Reggie's Angels	Record Not Found
1980	36th	New York	San Francisco Reggie's Angels	Record Not Found
1979	35th	San Francisco	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1978	34th	Washington, DC	San Francisco Chung Sing	Record Not Found
1977	33rd	Toronto	New York Skylarks	Record Not Found

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023

9MAN TEAMS = TOTAL 93



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club A



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Jrs



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Boomin'

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023

Photo Credits: Thanks to the Individual Club Teams & Kevin Chin (NY Strangers) for the photos!



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Red



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Blue



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Rebels

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Washington DC MVP A



Washington DC MVP B



Washington DC Jin Long



Washington DC Yee Fung Toy Thunder A



Boston Freemason Black

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Boston Hurricanes Black



Boston Hurricanes Blue



Boston Knights A



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GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE TEAMS!



Shue Pon Lee, Senior Advisor
In memoriam (2022)

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Boston Knights B



Boston Knights C



Boston Knights Alumni

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Boston Rising Tide



Boston Rip Tide



Boston Low Tide

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Brooklyn Taishan Friends Union



Calgary Dynasty ABBs



Chicago United 773

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Los Angeles Fresh 35+



Los Angeles Fresh Coast



Los Angeles Mad Dogs

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Los Angeles Sam's Club



Maryland Blazers



Montreal Freemason M & M2

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New Jersey Ronin



New York CASCSA Kirin



New York Freemasons

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New York Long Island Black Tortoises



New York Horizon Alpha



New York Horizon Omega

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York City Impact Booming 9



New York Strangers Alumni



New York Strangers Alumni Tiger Balm

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Strangers A



New York Strangers B



New York Strangers Z

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Vikings Blue



New York Vikings Red



PHICIA A

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



PHICIA C



PHICIA Kusshi



PHICIA Red



Philadelphia SuperCIA



Philadelphia Suns A



San Francisco Tall Ones

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



San Francisco Sky



San Francisco Dynasty Gee Lick Impact



San Francisco Tien Lung Dragons Dynasty

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Connex A



Toronto Connex B



Toronto Connex C

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Flying Tigers Black



Toronto Flying Tigers Gold



Toronto Flying Tigers Red

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Flying Tigers Orange



Toronto Legacy Athletics Black



Toronto Legacy Athletics Bounce

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Legacy Athletics Horizon



Toronto Legacy Uprising



Toronto Ngun Lam Volleyball Blue

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Ngun Lam Volleyball White



Toronto Phoenix A



Toronto Phoenix B

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Qilin Volleyball Club



Toronto Shen Long Volleyball



Toronto United Volleyball Bold

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto United Volleyball Brave



Toronto United Volleyball Courage



Toronto United Volleyball Might

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC



Toronto United Volleyball Valor



Toronto Zodiac Monkeys



Toronto Tyrants

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC



Montreal Sunbirds A



Montreal Sunbirds B

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023

WOMEN TEAMS - TOTAL 72



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Black



Washington DC Chinese Youth Club Red



Washington DC MVP Bolt

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023

Photo Credits: Thanks to the Individual Teams/Clubs & Kevin Chin (NY Strangers) for the photos!



Washington DC MVP Sky



Washington DC Yee Fung Toy Thunder A



Washington DC NYC Fusion

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Boston Ghotane Black



Boston Ghotane White



Boston Hurricanes Gold

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Boston Hurricanes Orange



Boston Lady Knights A



Boston Lady Knights B

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Calgary Dynasty Volleyball Club ABGs



Houston Cowgirls



Los Angeles Fresh Pineapples

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Los Angeles IVBALL



Los Angeles IVBALL Mini

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Los Angeles Underdogs



Los Angeles Spice LA

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Montreal Freemason W



Montreal Freemason W2



New Jersey Ronin

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York AAFE Voltage



New York CASC SA Lady Kirin



New York Freemason A

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Freemason B



New York Freemason C



New York Fresh Taimei

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Horizon Comet



New York Horizon Storm



New York Impact Booming

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Strangers Lunar



New York Strangers Solar



New York Vikings Storm

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



New York Vikings Ice



Philadelphia Lady Suns A



PHICIA Phoenix

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



PHICIA Women



San Francisco AIM



San Francisco BATS



San Francisco Crush



San Francisco JD

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



San Francisco Lady Smash



San Francisco Tien Lung Dragon Lady Dynasty



Toronto Connex A

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Connex B



Toronto Connex C



Toronto Flying Tigers Cyclos

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Flying Tigers Fire



Toronto Flying Tigers Ice



Toronto Legacy UpRising

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Legacy UpSurge



Toronto Legacy Chaos



Toronto Phoenix A

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Storm X



Toronto Storm Y



Toronto Storm Z

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Thunder Black



Toronto United Volleyball Strong



Toronto United Volleyball Fierce

78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC 2023



Toronto Thunder Blue



Toronto Westside A

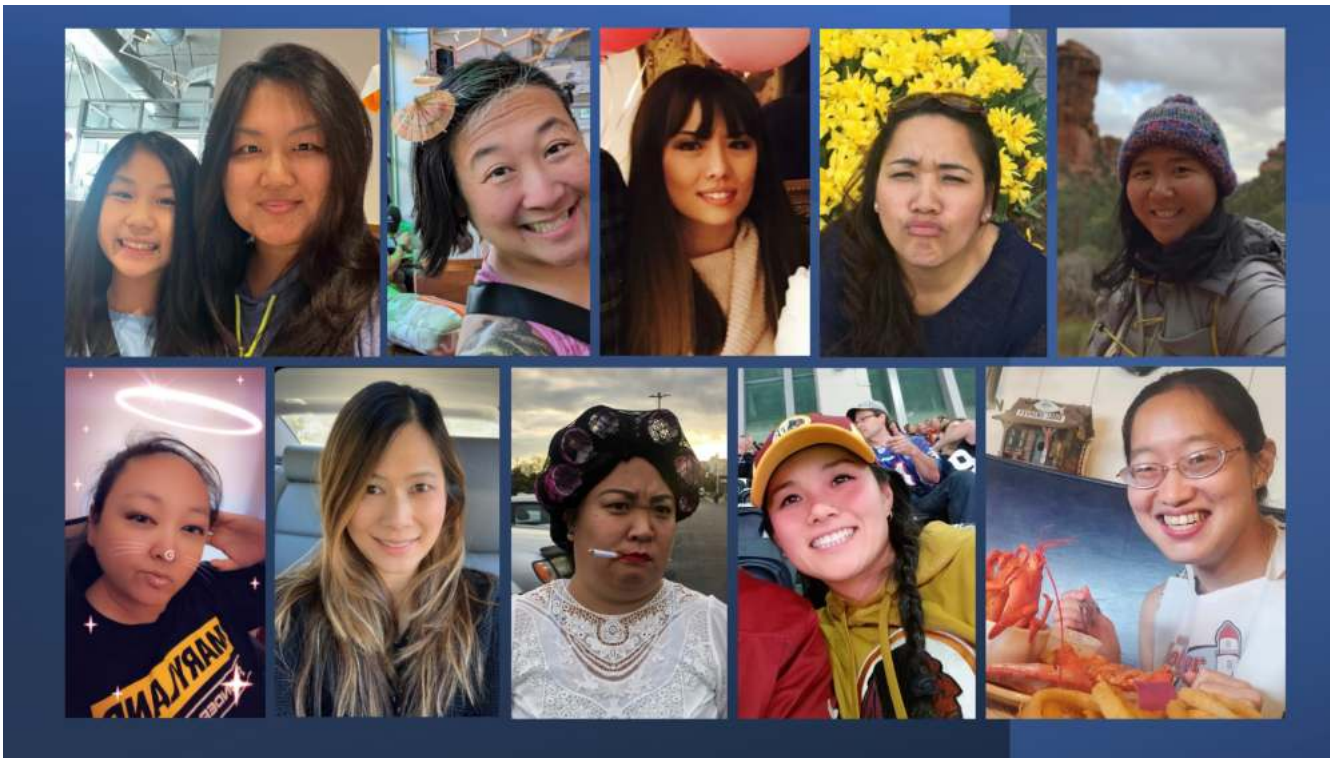


Toronto Westside B

2023 78th NACIVT - HOSTED BY WASHINGTON, DC



Toronto Valkyries



Washington DC Supagurtz

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2023 NACIVT CHAMPIONS



Men's 1st Place Gold - San Francisco Paai Kau Smash



Women's 1st Place Gold - San Francisco AIM

CONGRATULATIONS!



Men's 2nd Place Gold - Toronto Qilin



Women's 2nd Place Gold - Toronto Connex A



Silver Champions - LA Mad Dogs



Silver Champions - SF Dragon Lady Dynasty



Bronze Champions - NY Impact Booming 9



Bronze Champions - NY Freemason C

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