

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FIESTA ON SIESTA KEY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

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**Field Set for the Third-Annual Fiesta on Siesta Key, April 16, 2011**

**SIESTA KEY, Fla.** – The third annual *Fiesta on Siesta Key*, returns on April 16, 2011 in Siesta Key, Fla. Over the course of the last two years the *Fiesta* has been one of the largest collegiate volleyball competitions ever held. Sponsored in part by the Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau, the *Fiesta* this Spring will feature student-athletes representing nineteen colleges/universities.

“The overall numbers are down just a bit, but with the budget challenges everyone is facing, and travel restrictions on Spring play, we still have a fantastic field of teams set to participate” *Fiesta* Co-Director David Carstenson said. “With Sand volleyball now an NCAA Emerging Sport for women at the Division I level, the growth trend is upward.” Carstenson added: “we’re proud to have two of the first three student-athletes to be awarded sand volleyball scholarships set to compete at our event.”

The format for the 2011 *Fiesta on Siesta Key* will differ from years past. “The *Fiesta* will be one-day event with all the participating schools competing against each other” said Carstenson. “In previous years the SEC contested its own unofficial beach championship within the framework of the *Fiesta*, but now with the travel restrictions that is not possible this spring.” One thing that has not changed from last year is the Seniors Only division.

The Seniors Only division is a separate competition open to female athletes who have exhausted their indoor NCAA or NAIA eligibility and will not play NCAA sand. All the participants must currently be enrolled in the institution they are representing or have completed their final playing season in Fall 2009 or Fall 2010. The winners of the "Seniors Only" competition at the *Fiesta* earn an automatic berth into the CBS Sports ALT Games Collegiate Beach Championships. The fifth annual event, May 13-14 at The Wave House on Mission Beach, California, is produced by USA Volleyball and the CBS Sports Network, in association with the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

“Our Seniors Only division competition should be quite entertaining” said Carstenson. “We’re thrilled to have Callie Rivers and Lauren Bledsoe of the 2010 SEC Volleyball Champion (indoor) Florida Gators scheduled to compete. After their indoor season, they played in Puerto Rico and Finland respectively.”

Schools that have committed to play at the *Fiesta on Siesta Key*: (as of April 7, 2011)

- Ave Maria
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Christian College
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida State University
- Jacksonville University
- Lake Sumter Community College
- Louisiana State University
- Savannah College of Art & Design
- St. Petersburg College
- St. Thomas University
- State College of Florida
- Trinity College of Florida
- University of Central Florida
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of North Florida
- Warner University
- Webber International University

**FIESTA ON SIESTA KEY ♦ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (ALL TIMES EASTERN)**

**Friday, April 15, 2011**

Team Practices: 12noon-Dusk

Individual Team Practices: Times T.B.D.

**Saturday, April 16, 2011**

*Fiesta on Siesta Key*

Play begins at 9am

--www.fiestaonsiestakey.com--