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Volleyball's Rich History Celebrated at Inventor's Namesake Tournament

The IVHF's Morgan Classic is the premier annual men's collegiate tournament held at Springfield College, featuring the top NCAA Division III teams in the country.

HOLYOKE, MASS. - The top teams in NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball will visit Western Massachusetts this weekend for the annual International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) Morgan Classic on Feb. 10-11 at Springfield College. The event is named in honor of William G. Morgan, the inventor of volleyball at the Holyoke YMCA in 1895, with the first public exhibition of the sport held at Judd Gymnasium on what is now the campus of Springfield College.

This year's event features men's Division III volleyball powerhouses, including No. 3 Springfield College, No. 11 NYU, No. 15 Rutgers-Newark and MIT. Matches are 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday, with the winners from each match battling for the title on Saturday night. Match tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for youth and students and can be purchased at the door or at volleyhall.org.

The Morgan Classic weekend features events in addition to the matches, including a team luncheon and clinics run by the teams for coaches and players of all ages. Registration for the clinics is open through February 10th. The International Volleyball Hall of Fame will be open 11am - 3pm on February 10 & 11 for fans to stop by and visit. All match attendees get into the Hall for free with their match tickets.

This action-packed weekend commemorates volleyball's heritage by celebrating its founder and recognizing the talent of some of the top college athletes in the country.

"The Morgan Classic is a special event for the Hall of Fame and Western Massachusetts," said IVHF Executive Director **George Mulry**. "It is one of those not-to-be-missed events in our area where you can see the power and fun of top level collegiate men's volleyball during the matches, and then learn from those same players and coaches at the clinics on Saturday morning."

Notable past participants of the Morgan Classic have included three future IVHF Inductees, 18 Olympians, and 12 professional beach volleyball players.

"It is always such an honor to partner with the Hall of Fame to host the Morgan Classic," said Springfield College head coach **Charlie Sullivan**. "It is great to celebrate volleyball's past and present."

The tournament's history and the sport isn't lost on the participating teams either.

“Participating in the Morgan Classic is always a highlight and an honor for it represents what the game of volleyball was, is and will be,” said NYU head coach **Jose Pina**.

Aidan Albrecht, the head coach for the Scarlet Raiders, couldn't agree more.

“The Rutgers-Newark Men’s Volleyball Team is grateful for the opportunity to compete at the Morgan Classic. We are excited to celebrate volleyball's history alongside some of the top teams in the country.”

MIT Head Coach **Todd Elwell** feels the event and its history is a good learning opportunity for his team.

“After all these years of watching the Morgan Classic, it is a huge honor and privilege to have the MIT program participate in such an amazing event. This is a great way to honor the process of volleyball development on a regional and national level.”

William G. Morgan invented the game of volleyball at the Holyoke YMCA in 1895. While he first named the game “Mintonette,” it was given its official and more familiar name during its first public exhibition in July of 1896 at a conference of YMCA Physical Directors held at Judd Gymnasia on the campus of the International YMCA Training School – now Springfield College. It was at this conference that a professor of the YMCA Training School called attention to the volleying action of the ball and suggested a two-word version of its present name “Volley Ball”. And it stuck.

For coverage of the IVHF Morgan Classic and related events, be sure to follow @ivhf_events on social media and visit <https://www.volleyhall.org/morgan-classic.html>.

Some notable players and coaches who have participated in the Morgan Classic:

Players:

Lloy Ball - IPFW 1993 (IVHF Inductee & 2008 Olympic Gold Medal)
Scott Touzinsky - 2001 Long Beach (USMNT & 2008 Olympic Gold Medal)
David Lee - 2001 Long Beach (USMNT, 2008 Olympic Gold Medal & 2016 Olympic Bronze Medal)
David McKenzie - 2001 Long Beach (USMNT)
Casey Patterson - 2005 BYU (Pro Beach Player & 2016 Olympian)
Matt Anderson - 2006 Penn State (USMNT & 2016 Olympic Bronze Medal)
Max Holt - 2006 Penn State (USMNT & 2016 Olympic Bronze Medal)
AJ Nally - 2010 Springfield (D3 Player of the Year & USMNT)
Jeff Menzel - 2010 UCSB (USMNT)
Thomas Jaeschke - 2013 Loyola (USMNT & 2016 Olympic Bronze Medal)
Cody Kessel - 2014 Princeton (Professional Indoor Player & 2020/2021 German Bundesliga Champion)

Coaches:

Arnie Ball, Al Scates, Don Shondell, Mark Pavlik, Tom Tait, Pete Hanson, Bill Ferguson, Alan Knipe, Charlie Sullivan, Aldis Berzins

About the IVHF

Located in Holyoke, Massachusetts - the birthplace of volleyball - the International Volleyball Hall of Fame is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring the legends, recognizing the greats, and

preserving the history of volleyball worldwide. The Hall of Fame museum is home to more than 160 inductees from 25 countries and over 5,000 square feet of volleyball history. Thousands of people visit the Hall of Fame museum each year to learn about the game and experience the exhibits. Best known for its annual Induction Celebration honoring the game's elite, the IVHF also operates over a dozen youth, high school, and collegiate competitions and programs annually. You can be a part of honoring and preserving the history of volleyball by joining the IVHF Membership Program. To learn more, visit <https://www.volleyhall.org/membership.html> .

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