

To add to the fun, "our teams actually got to watch each other quite a bit this weekend since we played at the same location," said 15 Molten coach **Heidi Johnson**, who also happens to be Jodie's sister and a former setter at North Texas. "Molten was able to watch Roshambo's finals and vice versa."

"Ironically, we both watched each other beat City Beach in the Finals for both the Open and Club Championships," said Roshambo coach **Kirk Perry**. "Déjà vu said one of the City Beach players off their team that we had played (in Open) as they also watched the (Club) finals. It was Pretty Cool!!!"

For 15 Roshambo, the tournament started slow but finished with a bang. The team was seeded second in the tournament and finished 3-0 in the first round of pool play but was pushed to the limit, twice.

"I'm still not sure what happen on Friday other than maybe a little jet lag or something because we got off to a slow start," said Perry, who decided to take drastic measures to motivate his team.

"I threatened to take away Lil' Dude privileges from them if they did not wake-up and play ball," said Perry.

Lil'Dude is Perry's two-year-old son, **Kade**, who travels with the team and has become a favorite of the players.

"It worked because they played phenomenal volleyball the rest of the weekend," said Perry.

That they did. Day 2 was completely different, as Skyline blew through its second pool without losing a set.

Day 3 brought the Gold pool and another perfect performance, including a sweep of top-seed City Beach Black 25-19, 25-22 for the championship. It also included a 25-22, 25-17 sweep of WVBA, a team that had taken Skyline to a third game on Day 1 before the Dallas girls survived 18-16 to hold their second seed.

"Our goal this weekend was to go in a play our game and try not to play our opponent's style of volleyball," said Perry. "We definitely played our opponent's style on Friday which caused us to lose the only two sets all weekend on the first day. We talked about our goals again and on Day 2 the team started executing our style which is a lot faster game than the teams we played over the weekend."

The coach said defense and serve/receive was the key to a successful weekend. **Lauren English** and **Shane Peters** led the back row both in passing and digs with 42 and 35 respectively. Leading the way offensively was **Andy Malloy**, a 6-1 OH from 3A state champion Lovejoy, with 50 kills and a hitting percentage of .430, and LoneStarVolleyball HS Newcomer of the Year **Matalee Reed**, the 6-2 MB from Lake Highlands, with 35 kills and a hitting percentage of .394 for the entire tournament. **Cailyn Straubel** led the team in serving with 16 aces.

"It was an overall team effort with different players coming through at different times when we needed them to," said Perry.

MOLTEN DOES IT, TOO

For Molten, "one of our goals for the season was to finish first in at least one tournament and we had yet to achieve that prior to the weekend," said coach Johnson.

Molten earned its berth in the finals with a dramatic 17-25, 25-22, 15-12 semifinal win over Texas Eclipse Green despite the fact that setter **Emily Hundt**, spent the entire match in the hallway sick.

That forced Molten to run a 5-1, but setter **Sarah Arnold** was up to the task, especially with **Hailey Wilson** on fire on the outside and libero **Kristen Dickerson** picking the back row clean. Hundt was back for the finals, "but immediately made a dash for the trash can when we were done," said Johnson.

It was Wilson who provided the final drama in the semifinal win for Molten.

Down 11-12, Wilson went to the service line and Skyline scored back-to-back to take a 13-12 lead. Each of Wilson's serves, however, was getting closer and closer to the sideline. The 5-9 OH from Plano Vines served again and this time it appeared the ball was clearly going out, but an opposing player followed the ball past the line where it hit her foot to give Skyline match point.

"The team and the crowd went wild," said Johnson.

Moments later Skyline closed out the match.

With only one Club bid being awarded at PNQ, that meant they would need to finish first to earn a bid. And a little later in the afternoon, with their Roshambo clubmates cheering them on, they did just that, blowing past City Beach Green 25-14, 25-20 to win the Gold and the bid.

"The girls were crying," said Johnson, whose team had only three players who had ever competed at the JOs. "They have never even been close to nationals before. So this is a huge accomplishment for us."

Quite an accomplishment for all the Skyline 15s, in fact.

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