**Chicago Kairali Lions sweep New York Spikers in 8th N.K. Lukose Memorial Volleyball Finale.**

**A spectacular volleyball show during the Labor-day weekend in Coral Springs:**

It was a great gift to the sports and games lovers of South Florida what Coral Spring Gymnasium presented on Saturday, in front of 600 South Indian fans from different regions of the nation. Hollywood Challengers volleyball club, mainly run by South Indian Kerala community, hosted the 8th Lukose Memorial volleyball tournament. The tournament held every year in different cities of the US and Canada remembers Mr. Lukose Naduparambil a renowned volleyball player from India. Teams from Boston, New York, Tampa, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Dallas, Chicago, Washington, Tampa and S. Florida displayed spectacular volleyball with some spikes flying at 80 miles speed.

The mayor of the city of Coral Springs Mr. Vince Boccard inaugurated the tournament with throwing his ceremonial first ball. The tournament started with the US National Anthem sung by Rosy Vadaparampil. Mr. Thomas Kuruvilla of Bill Daley Insurance, Dr. Thomas Panavelil, the president of Hollywood Challengers club and Mr. George Naduparambil, the president of Lukose foundation welcomed the guests.

An Indian drums entertainment by about 20 drummers under Joseman Karedan’s leadership could be heard several hundred feet away. Chantings, clapping and the party mood rattled the gymnasium throughout the day.

Hollywood challengers club represented by Mohan Oommen, Jose Ouseph, Mathewkutty Thumpamon, Jose Vempala, Mathai Vempala, Sanjay Naduparampil, and Sunil Jacob Thaimattom & the Lukose foundation office bearers Piusten Alappat, Bijoy Mani, James Madarunchery, George Koshy, and George Kanattu helped with the running of the event. Mr. Samuel Thomas of Pembroke Pines gave relentless commentary in Kerala style. Harry Gist, Danny, Todd, Kent and Kevin umpired the matches throughout the day.

While the host team Hollywood challengers represented by captain Gijo John, Tinu, Oommens, Jerry & Josh, Destin, Sajan, Anish, Vinu, Jino displayed great kills and teamed-up blocks, they succumbed to the momentum and pace of the guest teams. While New York Spikers beat Dallas Strikers in pool 1 semi finals, Chicago Kairali Lions beat Philadelphia Philly stars in pool 2 semifinals. Both semi-finals were long three set matches. Chicago Kairali lions won the finals against New York Spikers with stunning back to back kills by Rintu Philip who became the MVP of the tournament. While Merril from Chicago Kairali Lions was selected as the best defensive player, Avinash of Spikers was awarded the trophy for the lightning defense. Sanal Thomas of Chicago was chosen as the best setter of the game.

The trophies for the winners were awarded by Mr. Jose Thomas, CPA of Thomas and company, Inc. South Indian Connection & Sounds by DJ Mrinal made the event very lively.