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Volleyball Celebrates Thirty Years of Safe Net Systems

Columbus, Ohio — Thirty years ago, volleyball players had to dodge dangerous guide wires that anchored volleyball net systems to the floor. In 1976, Ken Dunlap formed Sports Imports and brought the simple and safe Senoh floor sleeve system to America, revolutionizing the safety of volleyball net systems.

As a former player and Ohio State University Division I Men’s Volleyball coach, Ken Dunlap experienced first hand the dangerous guide wire systems. During rigorous play, it was possible for a player to get tangled in the wires and, potentially, experience serious injury. Ken had seen the unique new design of the Senoh Net System and resolved to make it available in the US. He formed Sports Imports and became the exclusive distributor of Senoh Volleyball Net Systems. His vision was to provide a truly safe net system backed by the best level of knowledge and service to help coaches and teams in the US achieve a higher level of competition play. Senoh Net Systems quickly became the industry standard and the only net system ever used by the Olympic Games. It is the only system currently used by the NCAA™ Championships and the only net system ever endorsed by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB.)

Thirty years later, Ken’s vision is alive and well — and much is still the same: Sports Imports still offers direct support from their own volleyball experts and the Senoh design has remained relatively unchanged. What has changed is that safe floor sleeve systems have become the industry standard and Senoh systems are now in more than 17,000 gyms and arenas across the country, ranging from recreation centers and elementary schools to high schools and 90% of all Division I college programs. And recently, availability of the new Stealth™ Carbon Upright was announced. This system offers the same safe design and superior performance as the classic steel system, but in a lightweight carbon fiber format.

“We are proud to carry on the Sports Imports legacy,” said Brad Underwood, president, “As the industry leader in volleyball net systems, we continue to uphold the tradition of safety, the highest quality products and expert service. And, we are always looking for ways to improve the game. Just like Ken Dunlap, we love volleyball and we enjoy helping others achieve the highest level of play.”

About Sports Imports

Sports Imports is the recognized leader in volleyball net support systems in the United States and continues in its 30th year as exclusive distributor of Senoh Volleyball Net Systems in North America. Senoh is the ONLY net system ever endorsed by the NCAA Championships, the Olympic Games via the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA.)

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