

2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



Will Craft

Pepperdine University
NCAA Division I
Assistant Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- 2021-2022 DIII National Champions
- 2022-2023 DIII NAAC Conference Coaching Staff of the year
- 2024 National Team Development Program Coach

Coaching Roles:

- 2021-2022 Graduate Assistant - Carthage College
- 2022-2023 Head Coach - Dominican University
- 2023-2024 Assistant Coach - Pepperdine University
- 2024-2025 Assistant Coach - Pepperdine University

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

Volleyball, relationship building, and learning are three passions of mine. I value the relationships I get to build as a coach and the theories, mindsets, and skills needed to learn to compete at a high level. Working with young athletes as they learn how to become better athletes, students, and human beings can be tough, but I found my calling as a coach who can help collegiate athletes be the best versions of themselves.

What are your career goals in the sport?

I thoroughly enjoy developing athletes in all aspects of their game, so working on developing young athletes in the Pepperdine gym is a goal of mine. Eventually, I would also love to work within our National Team program to continue to develop athletes at the highest level. Far down the road, coaching professionally in Europe. Also, I am looking to attend graduate school to study learning and how we can get athletes to learn more efficiently.

Which coaches have influenced you the most?

The first coaches that come to mind are Brendan Garlick and JW Kieckhefer. Both of them have influenced my coaching style immensely in that they were also very relational coaches like myself. They were passionate about building solid, positive relationships with each player on the team and that directly translated into my coaching style. They taught me to love the process of learning, and I cannot thank them enough.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I enjoy working with athletes to be the best versions of themselves, whether that be on the court, in the classroom, or in their daily lives. Building relationships with players and coaches in order to get the best out of each other is incredibly rewarding and a feeling that I will forever cherish.

