

2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



Heather Feldman

University at Albany
NCAA Division I
Assistant Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- Primary setter trainer when Zosia Szczotkiewicz (UAlbany) was named the 2023 America East Setter of the Year and 2nd Team All-Conference, and when Ivana Blazevic (UMES) broke the school record in assists and was a two time All-MEAC Second Team selection
- Coached a total of 6 All Conference selections and 4 All Rookie selections
- Implemented the serving scheme that allowed UMES to be ranked #1 in Division 1 for aces per set in 2019

Coaching Roles:

- Assistant Volleyball Coach at University at Albany (2023-present)
- Associate Head Volleyball Coach at University of Maryland Eastern Shore (2022-2023)
- Assistant Volleyball Coach at University of Maryland Eastern Shore (2018-2022)
- Graduate Assistant Volleyball Coach at Gardner-Webb University (2016-2018)

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

Volleyball has been such a large part of my life since I was 10 years old. After my collegiate playing career was over, I just knew that I couldn't be done with the sport. Since becoming a GA at my alma mater, I've fallen in love with the process of helping players achieve their full potential and watching them grow on and off the court from their freshman to senior year. The sport has given me so much, and I'm honored to give back even a little piece of that to the athletes I coach.

What are your career goals in the sport?

To inspire the next generation of female volleyball players and provide them with an excellent example of how women can be strong, courageous, emotionally intelligent, and fearless in their leadership of others.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

In terms of my playing career, Stephen Pierce - my high school and club coach who was my first example of great coaching and helped set me on the path to playing and coaching high level volleyball. In terms of those I look up to and try and emulate - any of the amazing, trailblazing women coaching at a high level, especially Kirsten Bernthal Booth and Dani Busboom Kelly. And finally, my former players who have gone into coaching, they make me so incredibly proud - Mauri Carver, Stella Johnson, and Sophia Chacon to name a few.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

The relationships I've built with the players I've coached, the colleagues I've worked with that have become friends and family, and the communities I've become involved in at the three different institutions I've worked at. I also love the matches that stick with you: winning as a true underdog, watching your team execute a well thought out scout

perfectly, coaching in front of a large, rowdy crowd, playing for something bigger than yourself, or watching your team that's worked so hard in practice finally get the big win to reward that work.

