

2024

AVCA Thirty Under 30 Beach



Makayla Holcombe
Spartanburg Methodist College
NJCAA/NAIA
Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- Keiser: 2019-programs first ever regular season sun conference
- 2020-21: programs second regular season title, first ever conference tournament championship title, first and only national tournament appearance ranked as #6, finished season most wins in program history 36-2
- CIU: 2021-22: programs first ever regular season Appalachian Athletics conference title, NCCAA National Champions, most wins in program history 34-9; first-ever NAIA National Championship Tournament appearance opening round
- 2022-23: programs second regular season title, first ever AAC conference tournament championship title, NCCAA runner-up; Finished the season with program-best record 38-9
- SMC: 2023: undefeated in NJCAA Region 10-Coach of the Year

Coaching Roles:

- Chowan University, Volunteer Assistant, 2018-19
- Keiser University, Graduate Assistant, 2019-21
- Columbia International University, Assistant Coach, 2021-23
- Spartanburg Methodist College 2023-present

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I knew from a very young age that I wanted volleyball to be a part of my life forever. Knowing that I couldn't play forever and had such a passion for teaching the sport, coaching was a no brainer. I love being able to not only teach the game of volleyball to young women, but to also help them grow and mature into kind, amazing women in their future. Being able to teach them life lessons, values, and help them grow in their faith through volleyball has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life.



What are your career goals in the sport?

My career goals in volleyball are to continue to build up SMC as a winning program now in the NAIA, ultimately making our way to the NAIA National Tournament final site in Sioux City, Iowa with the culture and mindset of servant leadership, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, and responsibility.

Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Being a native from Nebraska, John Cook has had an impact on my coaching style, along with Russ Rose. Additionally, every coach that I had playing from high school all the way to coaching at the collegiate level have helped shape the type of coach I am today. Without their influence, I wouldn't be able to have any success in my own program.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

What I enjoy most about coaching is being able to see the growth and maturity in my athletes, both on and off the court. Yes, their physical skills improving within the game are also rewarding, but it's more about how I have been able to impact them in their day-to-day lives, demonstrating the importance of faith, values, and being the light for people in such a dark world.



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