

# 2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



**Robert Poole**  
University of Charleston  
NCAA Division I/II  
Men's Head Coach

#### **Career Accomplishments to Date:**

- First EIVA post season win for the University of Charleston 2023-24
- University of Charleston - 22-7 program record in 2022-23
- Coaches 4 Coaches Recipient 2022
- Wolfdogs Nagoya - Japanese VLeague Regular Season Champions 2021-22
- Wolfdogs Nagoya - Japanese V-League Tournament Runners Up 2021-22
- Wolfdogs Nagoya - Emperors Cup Champions 2022

#### **Coaching Roles:**

- Head Coach - University of Charleston -Men's Volleyball Program May 2024-present
- Assistant Coach - University of Charleston - Men's NCAA Volleyball Division I/II August 2022-May 2024
- Assistant Coach - Wolfdogs Nagoya - Japanese Men's V-League - August 2021-May 2022

**What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?**

Playing Men's Division I/II Volleyball was my best volleyball playing experience, and where I grew most as a person and a player. After finishing up my pro career without finding as much enjoyment in the playing side but still obsessed with the sport, I wanted to be able to compete and help others achieve their highest level. I spoke to some college coaches about Assistant positions before Chris took a chance on me and I haven't looked back since. Why College? Well David Heller gave me a great college experience, and ever since I have always wanted to return.

### **What are your career goals in the sport?**

To help any individual that I cross paths with on or off the court, being able to share a vision of how to play the game with athletes and continuing to have the same drive and passion for the sport every year I coach.

Firstly it would be to take Charleston to the EIVA championship and beyond. Down the line, I could see myself continuing to develop and add value in a Power 5 Women's or continuing to work at the top level of the Men's NCAA game as either an Assistant or Head Coach. Pro or National Team also.



### **Which coaches have influenced you the most?**

Chris McGown took a chance on me in Nagoya, showed me how to communicate and share a vision for a style of play and the technical nuances required to develop elite athletes. Luke Reynolds in Charleston showed me the organization, structure and attention to detail in the game at the highest level, and that having a passion for the sport is something to share with athletes. Both coaches encouraged growth in their own

way. Others include David Heller, Rob Holley, Mike Wall, Luka Slabe, Linda Hampton-Keith, Bre Henry and Jason Watson, all who have helped along the way

**What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?**

It's a shared family passion, my dad was my first coach, my brother still plays professionally, and my parents effectively showed me the best way to foster growth is to care about the individual and listen before presenting solutions. Not only do you get to see young athletes learn more about the game, but they also are figuring out who they are as people, and trying to guide them through this process. Its special when they finally bring that version of themselves to the court and play with expression! Being part of a team is always special also.

