

# 2024

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 Club



### **Daniel Velasquez Wilson**

Arizona Storm Elite VBC  
18s/16s Head Coach  
and  
Shadow Ridge HS (AZ)  
Varsity Head Coach

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

At Shadow Ridge High School, I led the boys' volleyball team to a 16-1 regular season record and an AIA 6A Regional Championship. The team earned 1 AVCA All American Honor, 5 AVCA All-American Watch List selections, 4 AVCA High Risers, and 11 All-Region honors, including Coach of the Year and Player of the Year. At Arizona Storm Elite, I guided the 16 Boltz to a silver medal at the Festival Championship and provided multimedia coverage at Nationals. At OUAZ, I spearheaded defensive strategies, leading to two All-Conference selections and a GSAC Libero of the Year.

#### **Coaching Roles:**

Shadow Ridge High School

- Head Coach, Boys Volleyball (January 2024 – Present)
- Head Coach Beach Volleyball January 2023 - June 2023
- Assistant Coach, Varsity Girls Volleyball (June 2022 – July 2023)
- Head Coach, Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball (June 2021 – July 2022)

Nicholls State University

- Assistant Coach, Indoor and Beach Volleyball (June 2024 – December 2024)  
Arizona Storm Elite Volleyball Club
- Head Coach, 18 Lightning (October 2024 – Present)
- Head Coach, 16 Boltz (December 2024 – Present)
- Assistant Coach, 17 Lightning (December 2022 – July 2023)  
Hanai Volleyball Club
- Head Coach, 17s- 1 (January 2021 – July 2023)  
Ottawa University Arizona
- Graduate Assistant Coach (May 2022 – May 2023)



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

Coaching volleyball was a natural fit for me because of my deep passion for the sport and my desire to positively impact young athletes. Playing volleyball throughout my life, I developed not only a love for the game but also an appreciation for the life lessons it teaches—teamwork, discipline, resilience, and leadership. I was inspired by the coaches who shaped my journey, and I wanted to give back by creating a supportive and challenging environment where athletes could grow, both on and off the court. Helping athletes reach their full potential and build lifelong connections drives my passion for coaching.

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

I eventually want to return to collegiate coaching, as I'm passionate about guiding athletes at that level and making an impact in their development. However, right now my focus is on being fully present and impactful with the teams and programs I'm currently

involved with. I believe in building strong foundations, fostering a culture of growth, and creating a positive environment where athletes can thrive. By dedicating myself to these efforts now, I know I'm making a meaningful difference in the lives of my community.

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

Growing up, I trained under April Chapple, whose strong yet nurturing guidance shaped me as both a player and a person. Her coaching philosophies deeply influence my own approach today. As I transitioned into coaching, I found inspiration in John Cook, whose effectiveness in building Nebraska volleyball into a powerhouse has been a model of success. His adaptability and leadership continue to resonate with me. Additionally, Terri Spann, the owner of Arizona Storm, has been a significant influence. Her ability to build a successful program and consistently bring out the best in athletes has inspired my commitment to athlete development.

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

What I enjoy most about coaching is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on athletes' lives both on and off the court. I love watching athletes grow, not just in their technical skills and game knowledge, but also in their confidence, resilience, and leadership abilities. Building relationships with my players and fostering a team culture where everyone feels valued is incredibly rewarding. Seeing athletes overcome challenges, achieve their goals, and form lifelong bonds with their teammates gives me fulfillment. Being a part of their journey and helping them realize their potential is what drives my passion for coaching.

