

# 2024

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



**Dakota Fickes**  
Kiski Area High School  
Head Coach

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

- Started Boys Program at Armstrong
- Section Champs 2022- Hampton
- Undefeated Season 2022 - Hampton
- USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award 2024 - Kiski Area
- 1st Place Steel City Freeze - Pitt United
- Qualified for USAV Girls Nationals 2023 - Revolution
- Set School Record for most wins in a season 2024 - Kiski Area
- Never Misses Playoffs in all 11 Years

### **Coaching Roles:**

Armstrong High School- Varsity Assistant Coach/Boys Volleyball (2015-2021)

- Pitt United Volleyball Club - u17 Head Coach/Girls Volleyball (2021-2022)
- Hampton High School - Varsity Assistant Coach/Girls Volleyball (2022-2023)
- Revolution Volleyball Club - u17 Head Coach/Girls Volleyball (2022-20223)
- A10 Volleyball Club- u15 Head Coach/Boys Volleyball (2023-2024)
- Kiski Area High School- Varsity Head Coach/Girls Volleyball (2023- Current)
- A10 Volleyball Club- Club Director/u17 coach/Girls Volleyball (2024-Current)
- Level Up Volleyball- Owner/Founder (2021-Current)

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

Sports have always been a big part of my life so I looked at it as a way to give back but also to teach the sport that I love that has done so much for me. I've found some of my best friends through volleyball.

I've played and still play at various levels indoor and outdoor so it just felt right that I should coach.

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

What separates good and great coaches are how much did you win. So winning a District Championship and State Championship is definitely high up there.

The most import goal is the impact I can have on an athlete and to help them grow not only as a player but as a person.

I also would like to start coaching college volleyball at some point.

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

The guy who got me into playing volleyball was Casey Cousins. As a player he taught me a lot of different skills but most



importantly he gave me the freedom to learn and fall in love with volleyball. After I graduated High School he reached out to me about coaching with him. He took me under his wing.

The most important thing he gave me was that he let me fail because with that I was able to learn from it and find success. It has made me stronger and more prepared. Any success I have is because of him.

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

The most rewarding thing is seeing how far an athlete has grown from season to season as a player and person. I'm also now at the point where I have athletes who played in college and graduated college and I love seeing them have success knowing I had an impact on them big or small.

Coaching has also made me a more confident person and more organized. I have become more social and I'm able to grow as a person. The relationships I have made through coaching is something that means a lot to me as well.

