

2025

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Nicole Ciari

Los Gatos High School

Girls and Boys Volleyball Head Coach and Program Director

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- Girls Varsity Volleyball
 - 2024 NorCal Quarterfinalist
 - 2024 At-large Bid Recipient CCS Open Division
 - 2024 SCVAL League Co-Champions
 - 2024 SCVAL Sportsmanship Team of the Year
 - 2023 NorCal Regional First Round
 - 2023 CCS Finalist
- Boys Varsity Volleyball
 - 2023 first CCS Playoff Appearance since 2020
 - 2023 Advancement to A League Status

Coaching Roles:

- 2023-Present Los Gatos HS Boys and Girls Volleyball Program Director
- 2020 - Present City Beach Volleyball Club Head Coach
- 2022 - 2023 Santa Clara University Volunteer Assistant Coach

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

Throughout my volleyball career as a player, the coaches that I worked with helped shape me into the person that I am today and helped to grow my love for the sport. When I was done playing, I wanted to give back to the community that gave so much to me, and be that same type of coach for other athletes.

What are your career goals in the sport?

I want to create a high school program that is highly competitive but also a space where my athletes can learn other life skills and grow into well rounded people. I want each athlete who comes into our program to feel like they made a difference not only on the court but off it.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Some coaches who have influenced me the most are my former college coach, Jeff Meeker (Cornell College), Erin Lindsey (Santa Clara University), and my former high school coaches Sue Dvorack and Lexie Soria. Having watched them be successful in their own careers has helped me find my own coaching style and learn how to be a true leader to my athletes. I will always appreciate the example they set and all the advice they have given me.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I enjoy watching my players problem solve and be able to accomplish hard things. Being a role model and guide to help them reach their goals is something that makes this job so rewarding.