

2025

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Laine Marler

Brandon High School

Head Junior Varsity Coach, Assistant Varsity Coach, Assistant Middle School Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- State Champion (2022)
- South State Champion (2022,2023)
- Region 5 7A Champion (2022,2023,2024)
- Undefeated Junior Varsity Season (2022,2023)
- Mississippi Tomorrow's 25 2024-2025 Cohort

Coaching Roles:

Brandon High School - Head Junior Varsity Coach, Assistant Varsity Coach, Assistant Middle School Coach (2022-Present)

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

Growing up as an athlete myself, I found that some of the most influential people in my life were my coaches. I know what these specific adults did for me, and I wanted to be able to do the same for someone else. Coaching is a way to pour into young athletes to be both successful on the court and off the court. One word that comes to mind when thinking about influential coaches, I think of the word mentor. Mentoring is one of the most important action of a coach, and I wanted to be that.

What are your career goals in the sport?

While winning is one of the most rewarding experiences as a coach, I know that coaching brings a path to be able to impact and mentor athletes in a way more than just winning on the court. As a coach, I want to be able to show athletes how to win in life. I want them to see how to deal with wins in life and adversity in life. Life may not always go the way you want it to, but how you respond is the most important.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Kelsa Walker was my coach as a player at Brandon Middle School and Brandon High School. I am so thankful to have been able to play for her, but now being able to coach beside her. Coach Walker has a talent for being able to coach athletes in a way that shapes and prepares girls for a successful life after school. Coach Walker has taught me so many valuable lessons throughout my time with her, but now I can say that she has molded me to be the coach I am today.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

If I had to pick one thing I enjoy most about coaching, it's seeing that "aha!" moment—when someone suddenly gets it, whether it's a mindset shift, a new skill, or clarity on a tough decision. That spark of realization is super rewarding because it means progress, growth, and often a boost in confidence too. It's like watching someone level up in real time.