2025
AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Taylor Preston

Wisconsin Dells High School
Head Volleyball Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- McHenry High School: Assistant Varsity (2015-2017)
  - Implemented summer youth camp
  - Increased program success; 5-14 (2015), 17-16 (2016), and 23-10 (2017)
- Prairie Ridge High School: Volunteer Assistant Varsity (2018-2019)
  - 2018 Fox Valley Conference Championship
  - 2018 IHSA State Appearance, 4th place finish
- Verona Area High School: Freshman (2020-2021)
  - Setter training for the whole program freshman through varsity
- Wisconsin Dells High School (2022-Present)
  - Volunteer Coach for 2022 season
  - Head JV Coach for 2023 season
  - Hired as head coach in 2024
  - Started Summer Youth Camp in 2024
  - Won the Ripon Invitational and LaCrosse Logan Invitational
  - Finished first season 25-11, 2nd place in South Central Conference



Coaching Roles:

- 2014-2017 Head Club Coach at Club Fusion Volleyball
- 2015-2017 Assistant Varsity Coach at McHenry High School
- 2018-2019 Volunteer Assistant Varsity Coach at Prairie Ridge High School
- 2020-2021 Freshman Coach and Varsity Setter Coach at Verona Area High School
- 2022 Volunteer JVR coach at Wisconsin Dells High School
- 2023 Head JV Coach at Wisconsin Dells High School
- 2024-Present Head Varsity Coach at Wisconsin Dells High School

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I was raised in the gym. Both of my parents were head coaches (volleyball and basketball), so I was constantly in the gym either playing or watching my parents coach. From a young age I knew I wanted to be an athlete, then teach and coach at the high school level. Volleyball became my passion as an athlete in high school and I spent most summers coaching at youth camps. After one season of playing collegiately, I gave up playing and I started coaching club volleyball at 18 years old and got my first HS coaching job at 19. I just completed my 10th season of coaching this past Fall.

What are your career goals in the sport?

My primary career goal was to become a head coach, a milestone I achieved in my 10th season by accepting the head coach position at Wisconsin Dells High School in 2024. Now, my goals include building a program that is successful year after year, that competes at the highest level in the state, and develops strong student-athletes. While a state championship is a goal of almost every coach, including me, in the end, my ultimate goal is for our program to be remembered for the character, commitment, and heart of our players.





Which coaches have influenced you the most?

My parents, Stefanie and Dave Otto, taught me a lot about being a coach and how to run a successful program. I learned so much about volleyball from my mom by watching her coach, playing for her in high school and coaching with her in 2018. I am still learning from them today as they are my JV coaches currently. My middle school basketball coach, Dennis Jackson, showed me how to care about people and support them in ways beyond just the skill of the sport. My husband, Jim, who coaches girls basketball, has been so supportive and has given sound advice throughout my career. Finally, Lexi Algrim and Barry Burmeister at McHenry High School for taking a chance on me as a 19 year old, giving me the opportunity to start my coaching career at such a young age. I would not be the coach or person I am today without all of these wonderful people.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I love the relationships you get to build with your players and the growth you get to witness year after year. As a teacher at our school, I get to see these girls almost everyday during the school year and most days in the summer. You see them at their best and at their worst (physically, mentally, and emotionally). You get to be there for them in those best and worst moments, too. You can really have an impact on their character development and growth. I love competition and winning, creating energy and encouraging the girls to support their dreams and believe in themselves. I love helping with recruiting, too. It's a cool process to be part of.

