

2025

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Madison Smith
Westwood High School
Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- 2020 Season- 3rd Place finish in District, Bi-District Champs
- 2021 Season- 3rd Place finish in District, Bi-District Champs
- 2022 Season- 1st Place finish in District, Interim head coach during playoffs and finished Area Champs

Coaching Roles:

- 2015-2018: St. Joseph's Catholic School Varsity Assistant/Head Middle School Volleyball Coach
- 2016: Texas A&M Summer Volleyball Camp Coach
- 2017-2020: Aggie Elite Volleyball 13 Black and 15 National Head Coach
- 2018-2020: Providence Classical School Head Volleyball Coach/Program Director
- 2020-2021: Austin Juniors Volleyball 12 Navy Head Coach
- 2020-Current: Austin Juniors Volleyball Beach Coach
- 2020-2023: Westwood High School Assistant Varsity/Head JV Coach
- 2023-Current: Westwood High School Head Varsity Coach

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

Volleyball has made a huge impact on my life and I wanted to be able to pass that on, to help young athletes grow not just as players, but as people. Coaching gives me the opportunity to give back to the sport I love and make a positive impact in others' lives.

What are your career goals in the sport?

My career goals in volleyball center around creating a balanced environment where a desire to succeed and a growth mindset is at the core. I aim to build teams that compete with heart, enthusiasm, and resilience. More importantly, I want to help young athletes grow into well-rounded individuals—leaders, teammates, and people—who carry the values they learn in volleyball into every part of their lives. My ultimate goal is to inspire and mentor players who will go on to do great things, not just in sports, but in whatever path they choose.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

The coach who has influenced me the most is Marie Bruce. She really helped me to play with confidence and had a holistic approach to coaching that really stuck with me—she didn't just focus on wins and losses, but on who we were becoming as people. Marie pushed us to be great competitors, but also made sure we had fun and stayed grounded in values like grit, respect, and integrity. That balance of high standards and genuine care really shaped the way I view coaching today.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I enjoy the growth—both on and off the court. Seeing athletes gain confidence, overcome challenges, and come together as a team is incredibly rewarding. I love being part of the journey, helping them discover their potential, and being able to play a small role in their development not just as players, but as people is such a blessing. The relationships, the energy, the lessons—it's all a part of why I love what I do!

