

# 2025

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



**Derek Sullivan**  
Belmont Abbey College  
Head Men's Volleyball Coach

### Career Accomplishments to Date:

- Head Coach - Belmont Abbey College
  - 2024 1st ever regular season championship
  - 2024 Conference Championship
  - Coached All-American Honorable Mention
  - 2024 Coach of the Year
  - 2024 Freshmen of the Year
  - 34 All Conference Honors
  - 2024 NCAA Tournament appearance
  - 66-45 record
  - Coached Valedictorian
  - Coached Elite 23 Award Winner
- Assistant coach
  - 2021 Conference Championship
  - 2021 NCAA Tournament appearance
  - Coached 1 player of the year
  - Coached 13 All-conference honors

### Coaching Roles:

- K2 Volleyball Club - 2018 - 16 Open girls coach
- William & Mary - 2019 - Volunteer Coach - datavolley, offense/setter coach
- Carolina Union Volleyball Club - 2014- Present- Lead girls coach, Master Trainer for CUVC Boys
- Belmont Abbey College - 2020 -2021 - Men's Volleyball Assistant - Recruiting Coordinator, developed and implemented scout, offense/setter coach
- Belmont Abbey College - Head Men's Coach - 2021- Present

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

I got into coaching because I've always wanted to help people. Growing up, I knew I wasn't built for a desk job—I was drawn to being around others, building relationships, and finding ways to serve. Coaching is the blend of purpose and passion. It lets me invest in people, challenge them, support them, and watch them grow—not just as athletes, but as individuals.

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

I would like to coach at the highest level possible that allows me to cultivate an environment where others can learn to be themselves. I want to be in a position that will allow me to be a steward of the game and compete.



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

My biggest influences are Tim Doyle from VCU, Bill Ferguson from Catawba College, and Jay Hames, the director of K2 in Knoxville, TN.

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

I enjoy the relationships that come from coaching. Whether I am out recruiting and I meet other coaches I have not met before, or I recruit a new athlete and family to my school. Some of the best moments in coaching are seeing the ones around you succeed.

