

2025

AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



Tyler Zowaski

Bard College
Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

- During the 2025 season at Bard, the men's volleyball team reached the program's best overall record (12-16) since 2011 and appeared in their first postseason tournament appearance since 2012. In addition, Ansel Waisler and Sidney Stein were honored with All-Conference awards. Waisler was also named the New England Volleyball Conference Rookie of the Year. The team led the conference in service aces, was second in overall digs, and third in total kills.
- As an assistant for Vassar, the men's volleyball team earned their first UVC title in program history & made an Elite 8 run in the NCAA tournament (2021).

Coaching Roles:

- Bard College Men's Volleyball, Head Coach, 2022-Present
- Vassar College Men's Volleyball, Assistant Coach, 2020-2022
- New York Elite Volleyball, Club Coach, 2018-Present

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I always knew I'd be coaching in some form, in some sort of way since I first started playing the sport way back when. The opportunity to coach at the collegiate level was an unexpected turn in my life that I'm am extremely grateful for. Coaching is a commitment to being a lifelong learner and inspiring others to do the same. I think that's why I decided to coach... to keep learning and adapt to new challenges while inspiring others do the same.

What are your career goals in the sport?

One of my goals is to work on growing youth volleyball in the Hudson Valley area. Many players find the sport later on in high school. By providing opportunities for children to try volleyball through open gyms/clinics, there will be more athletes and increased competitiveness.

For the Bard program, my goal is to capture more memorable experiences for the student-athletes on and off the court. Fostering relationships with current and prospective players, advocating for all Bard student-athletes, and engaging our enthusiastic alumni network will progress Bard Men's Volleyball towards more sustainable success and more memorable moments.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

My mentor, Richard Gary, alongside John Mayer and Billy Allen of "Coach Your Brains Out" and Alan Knipe. The coaches who influence me the most are the ones who ask for feedback as much as any player would. They are constantly evaluating, adjusting, and trying to learn new things while nurturing relationships with their players and staff. These coaches find practical applications for new research to help their athletes reach peak performance and create innovation within the game.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I enjoy building relationships and helping student-athletes find success. Throughout the recruiting process a player might not end up attending our school for whatever reason, but sometimes a piece of feedback or story I share helps improve a part of their game which makes every conversation even worthwhile and an opportunity to build connection.