

2026

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Caleb Francis

Uniontown Lake High School
Varsity Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

Stark County Coach of the Year x2
District Coach of the Year x1
Coached District Player of the Year x1
Coached County Player of Year x2
Coached All County Selections x12

Coaching Roles:

Academy Volleyball Cleveland - 2023 - Current
Uniontown Lake High School - 2023 - Current
NOVA Juniors - Head Coach - 2019 - 2023
Cuyahoga Falls High School - 2019 - 2023

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I fell in love with the sport as a young adult. Playing almost any chance I could and that quickly turned into coaching and giving back to the younger kids. Walking into a gym for the first time and getting to see athletes compete, I knew I wanted to be involved. I became a sponge and started listening and learning from anyone that would speak, wanting to pour back what I was learning into the athletes.

What are your career goals in the sport?

I would love to compete for a state title with Lake. The community has really embraced my style and coming into a school with a need for competition and success, I've really enjoyed the challenge. Being the only D3 school in our conference filled D2 and D1 schools has been very challenging but exciting.

I would love to continue to grow in the sport and always looking for ways to improve.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

Meredith Rice at Academy Volleyball Cleveland (AVC) has without a doubt been one of the most influential mentors I've had. Her commitment to growth and depth of knowledge of the game has made it so easy to learn at AVC

Jeff Reaser at AVC has SO much drill and gameplay knowledge and being able to implement in game adjustments and preparing kids for those adjustments is incredible.

Tracy Makan is another coach who helped so much early in my career with the logistics side of coaching. She was a HUGE influence on how I navigate the admin side today.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I enjoy the moments. The relationships we get to build and work on with kids that LOVE the game. We have the opportunity to really influence the next great minds of our sport.

Getting to encourage kids to do amazing things and when they accomplish those skills or moments that they did not think they would achieve is one of the most rewarding experiences. The community and support you get to build has led me to some of my closest friendships I have and I would not have that without coaching.