

2026

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Daniel Thews

Christopher Columbus High School
Varsity Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

High School:

2024: (17-11) record, ranked 22nd in the state of Florida and 122nd nationally. One player named First Team All-County.

2025: (26-4) record, GMAC Champions, ranked 5th in the state of Florida and 20th nationally. Three players named First Team All-County.

Club:

2023: Finished 5th at AAU Nationals coaching with Miami United Volleyball.

Coaching Roles:

St. Brendan High School: 2021 (Varsity Assistant Coach)

True North Classical Academy: 2022-2023 (Varsity Assistant Coach) (JV Head Coach)

Christopher Columbus High School: 2024-Current (Varsity Head Coach)

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I decided to coach volleyball because of the impact my high school experience had on me. Playing shaped me as an athlete, but more importantly, it shaped me as a person. My coach invested so much in us! His time, energy, and sacrifices that often went unseen. He believed in us beyond the court, and that belief stayed with me. His example inspired me to give back in the same way. Coaching allows me to invest in young athletes, support their growth, and hopefully make a lasting difference in their lives.

What are your career goals in the sport?

My career goals in coaching volleyball are to build a program that consistently competes at a high level, with the ultimate goal of winning a state championship. Competing for titles is important to me because it reflects the standard, discipline, and commitment within the program.

More importantly, I want to make the most out of every young man who comes through my program. That means helping them grow not only as athletes, but as leaders, teammates, and individuals prepared for life beyond volleyball. If they leave better than they arrived, on and off the court, then I've done my job.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

The coach who influenced me the most is the one who invested in me beyond the game, his name is Alfonso Alvarez. He shaped me through his leadership, accountability, and belief in me, constantly pushing me to grow as both an athlete and a person.

Much of who I am today, how I lead, respond to adversity, and support others comes from his example. I'm grateful for the time and effort he poured into me, and I strive to reflect those same values in the way I coach and mentor my players.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

What I enjoy most about coaching is seeing growth happen in real time. Those small moments when something clicks, confidence builds, and people start to believe in themselves a little more.

It's not just about performance or results; it's about helping someone recognize their own potential and watching them step into it. Being part of that journey, even in a small way, is incredibly rewarding.