

# 2026

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



### **Evan Larson**

Grand Canyon University  
Assistant Coach

#### **Career Accomplishments to Date:**

2023 WAC Championship (First ever GCU history)

2023 NCAA Tournament Appearance (First ever GCU history)

2024 - 17 Open National Championship (assistant coach) - Arizona Storm Elite 17 Thunder

2025 Mountain West Tournament appearance in teams first year in conference

2025 - 18 Open National Championship (head coach) - Arizona Storm Elite 18 Thunder

2025 - 15 International Championship (head coach) - Arizona Region High Performance U15

#### **Coaching Roles:**

Grand Canyon University - Assistant Coach - 2023 - Present

Santa Clara University - Volunteer Assistant Coach - 2020

Santa Clara University - Graduate Assistant Coach/Director of Operations - 2021 - 2022

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

Competitive by nature, I wasn't sure what was next for me after my collegiate career was over. While at Santa Clara, I was also working to get my Masters in Counseling Psychology, and fell in love with the job. I had a passion for the mental side of this sport and realized that being a coach was in fact just being a therapist while also getting to coach the sport that I love. I loved developing the athletes on the court and helping them navigate their lives off the court.

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

I want to continue to coach volleyball at the highest level, while also staying true to the reason I began in the first place; the athletes. Regardless of the ever-changing landscape of collegiate athletics, I want to continue to grow and develop these young athletes both on and off of the court. I believe that in order to be the best at our craft, we must maintain a certain level of fun and love for this game. My goal is to operate with those at the forefront of my coaching.



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

Kendra Potts (GCU)! She's the epitome of a servant leader and pushes me to be my best every single day. Her authentic care for those around her is felt in everything she does, and I consider myself so lucky to work for her!

Erin Lindsey (SCU). Erin is one of the brightest minds in the sport. She taught me more than I thought I would ever know about the analytical side of this sport and helped me to view the game in a way I never thought I would. She helped me realize that I want to do this forever.

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

I enjoy working with the athletes and the "ah-ha" moments we have together while training. Watching them set goals and helping them reach them is the most rewarding part of this job. Like I said, if we're not having fun while we're doing this, we're doing something wrong. I love to laugh with my athletes and coaches each and every day. Also winning. I enjoy winning.