

# 2026

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



### **McKenna Bennett**

Brimfield High School  
Head Varsity Volleyball Coach

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

In four years at Brimfield High School, we have an overall record of 85-42-4. Two athletes in these four years have displayed their talents to be recognized by AVCA on the Phenom Watchlist in 2024, along with naming several athletes to the IVCA All-State list. We have won our conference tournament for the past two seasons, won the Prairieland Conference all four years, and for the first time in school history, won back-to-back regional titles. Our second regional title this past season came without a second team all-state, 6 rotation outside hitter.

#### **Coaching Roles:**

Bartonville Area Volleyball Club (BAVC) Coach- 2012 to 2016  
Central Illinois Elite (CIE) Club Coach- 2023  
Brimfield High School Varsity Volleyball Coach- 2022-Current

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

Athletics has a transformative impact on student-athletes. Coaching allows me to combine leadership, mentorship, and strategy in a way that positively shapes both performance and personal growth. Volleyball specifically demands communication, accountability, resilience, and trust- all are qualities that extend beyond the court. It is a privilege to contribute to the development of athletes in a sport that has given me so much.

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

I would like to continue to build a sustainable, competitive program between all levels, expanding into our junior high programs, while prioritizing academic success alongside athletic achievement. Professionally, serving in leadership roles within state coaching associations.



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

Shelly Stoner had the largest influence on my volleyball career as an athlete, and provided many attributes as a coach I hope to share with my athletes. She provided a fun, competitive atmosphere that allowed athletes to bond in practice, travel, and tournaments while sharing a common goal.

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

The opportunity to watch athletes grow into confident, resilient young women understanding the value of camaraderie, leadership, and teamwork. Showing up each day with a positive attitude, good energy, and valiant effort and taking pride in something larger than ourselves. Watching athletes come together with a variety of personalities and life goals for a common goal is joyful to witness.

**HIGH SCHOOL**