

2026

AVCA Thirty Under 30 High School



Michaela Godwin

St. Louis High School
Girls Varsity Volleyball Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

In my first year as a varsity head coach, our team earned its first winning season since 2018. We also captured our first home tournament championship since 2015 and made our first district final appearance since 2018. I'm especially proud to be only the second coach in school history to achieve a winning record in their first season.

Coaching Roles:

St. Louis High School Varsity Volleyball Assistant Coach - Fall 2023
Valley Volleyball 13U Head Coach - Spring 2024
St. Louis High School JV Volleyball Head Coach - Fall 2024
St. Louis High School Varsity Volleyball Head Coach - Fall 2025 to Present

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

I've been around sports, especially volleyball, almost my entire life. The game has shaped who I am, teaching me invaluable life lessons and developing qualities I hope to pass on to other young women. Coaching gives me the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with athletes and mentor them to become confident, motivated, and impactful members of society.

What are your career goals in the sport?

I want to help restore the traditions of our program while building a legacy that future teams are proud to uphold. I want to develop a culture of excellence, one that competes for championships and celebrates success along the way, whether that's conference titles or post season runs. But my greatest goal is to help shape well-rounded young women who grow in confidence, leadership, and character through the sport. I hope

they not only leave our program with a love for the game but also feel inspired to give back to it someday, as coaches, officials, or role models.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

My high school volleyball coach, Gary Stanglewicz, and my basketball coach, Walt Berry, have influenced me most as a coach. Though their styles differed, they were both invested, dedicated, and organized. They pushed us to work hard and maintain high standards while still enjoying the game. That balance of discipline and fun shapes my coaching philosophy today. I focus on building mental toughness and strong team chemistry, because I believe true success comes from athletes who are resilient competitors and supportive, connected teammates both on and off the court.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

I love watching athletes grow and improve, both in their skills and in their confidence. There's nothing better than seeing their faces light up when they achieve something they've worked so hard for. Building relationships that extend beyond the gym and last well past high school is one of the most rewarding parts of coaching for me, as well. I value creating meaningful memories and moments that these young women will one day look back on with pride.