

# 2026

## AVCA Thirty Under 30 Club



### **Sarah Rinehart (Cranek)**

Valley Volleyball Academy  
Club Director

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

Coaching Career Accomplishments

2022 Lone Star Regional Finals: Finished 5th out of 64 teams after entering the tournament as the lowest-ranked team, competing with an 8-player roster

2025 Far Western National Qualifier: Finished 9th out of 165 teams

#### **Coaching Roles:**

Coaching Career

2018–2022 | Huntsville, TX

Club Head Coach & Assistant Coach – East Texas Ultra Volleyball

Head coached 12U–15U club teams

Assisted across multiple age groups

Organized and led youth volleyball clinics

2022–2024 | Fresno, California

Club Coach – Valley Volleyball Academy (VVA)

Head Coach, 12U (2022–2023 season)

Head Coach, 11U (2023–2024 season)

Assistant Coach, 17 National (2023–2024 season)

2023–2024 | Fresno, California

High School Coach – Clovis East High School

Head Coach, Freshman Team (Fall 2023)

Varsity Assistant Coach (Fall 2024)

2024–Present | Fresno, California

Club Director – Valley Volleyball Academy (VVA)

Lead and manage a 30-team boys and girls volleyball program

Oversee coaching staff, player development, and program operations

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

Volleyball has been a constant in my life since I began playing club in eighth grade. I was always drawn to teaching the game and helping others learn. After a challenging college experience, coaching brought me back to volleyball with a renewed purpose. From my first club practice, I knew this was where I belonged. I coach to create a supportive environment where players feel valued, confident, and developed as individuals, always prioritizing growth and love for the game over ego or wins.

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

My career goal is to own and operate a volleyball club in a small to mid-size town in Texas. I am passionate about developing athletes who may not have access to large clubs or resources and helping them gain the exposure, confidence, and opportunities needed to play at the next level.



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

My high school coach, Tracie Bendele, is my biggest influence; her passion and guidance gave me the opportunity to compete at the D1 level. My college coach, Brenda Gray, shaped my character by showing the challenging, uncomfortable side of the game, teaching me to find motivation and support within myself. Professionally, my boss Jonathan Winder has been a major influence, serving as a mentor in the truest sense, much like Mr. Miyagi in *The Karate Kid*. Each of them shaped how I coach, lead, and support players today.

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

What I love most about coaching are the quiet “aha” moments, when a player finally grasps something and you see their confidence spark. I treasure the trust we build, the small victories, and the memories from both wins and losses. While winning is part of the game, the deeper reward comes from the growth, confidence, and connections that develop as players strive toward that goal.