

2026

AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



Tyler Blank

Vassar College
Women's Head Coach

Career Accomplishments to Date:

Skyline Conference Coach of the Year 2023

Skyline Conference Champion 3x

Coached multiple all-conference selections, 2x POTY, ROTY, AVCA All-American Honorable Mention

Coaching Roles:

Nazareth University Men's/Women's Assistant Coach 2017-2022

Manhattanville University Men's/Women's Head Coach 2022-2025

Vassar College 2025-Current

What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?

From high-level competitor to dedicated coach, my passion for volleyball has always been driven by the sport's unique community. I transitioned into coaching because I find deep fulfillment in the grind of student athlete development. There is a specific kind of joy in helping athletes reach their potential and knowing your mentorship helped bridge that gap. The conversations that happen off the court are just as important as the ones in between the lines. As an educator, my 'why' is rooted in the opportunity to impart wisdom on our student athletes and speak on life lessons for after volleyball.

What are your career goals in the sport?

My ultimate competitive goal is to lead a program to a national championship, but I believe that journey is paved with the relationships we build along the way. I am dedicated to fostering an environment where student-athletes reach their highest

potential both on and off the court. By establishing a culture of excellence and positivity, I aim to leave behind a legacy of success that myself and my players can be proud of.



Which coaches have influenced you the most?

I am a product of the Rochester volleyball community, where I was fortunate enough to be guided by coaches like Cal Wickens and Steve England. Their influence was integral in setting me on this path. Through years of mentorship and deep-dive strategy sessions, they've helped me translate my passion as a player into a career as an educator. I carry the lessons they taught me everywhere I go. Craig Kolek was also someone that was crucial to my development as a college player and now head coach. He helped shape my understanding of the game and the leadership it requires to be successful.

What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is sharing a common passion for the game with student-athletes who truly love what they do. Coaching at the Division III level has provided me with deep insight into the delicate balance between academic excellence, athletic competition, and the overall college experience. I am a firm believer in knowing our athletes as people first. I find genuine joy in learning about their passions outside of volleyball and supporting their growth beyond the court.