2026-27 NCVBCA PLAYER & COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

RALIEGH, NC (November 16, 2026) – The North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association (NCVBCA) is proud to announce two of the most prestigious recognitions in North Carolina high school volleyball—by school classification. Read more about each 2026-27 NCVBCA Player and Coach of the Year Award recipients below.

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

- DOWNLOAD Player and Coach of the Year graphics to share on social media.

ABOUT THE NCVBCA

The North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association (NCVBCA) is an association for high school volleyball coaches with the vision to foster community, advocacy, and recognition for student-athletes and coaches across the state.

The NCVBCA is a proud Signature Affiliate Partner of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.



2026-27 NCVBCA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This award represents the pinnacle of individual achievement for a student-athlete in North Carolina high school volleyball. It honors exceptional leadership, sportsmanship, superior volleyball skills, academic achievement, and a strong work ethic—nominated and selected by NCVBCA varsity head coaches.

To qualify for consideration, a student-athlete must be nominated by a NCVBCA/AVCA varsity member head coach and have received NCVBCA All-Region and All-State honors for the 2026-27 season.

Congratulations to the athletes recognized!!

- **Class 1A – Devanee Wampler, Falls Lake Academy**
- **Class 2A – Joscelyn Stamper, Cherokee High School**
- **Class 3A – Olivia Dancy, North Wilkes High School**
- **Class 4A – Riley Caruso, Lake Norman Charter School**
- **Class 5A – Emily Gambill, Hickory High School**
- **Class 6A – Reagan Pierce, Alexander Central High School**
- **Class 7A – Ellyson Randolph, Ronald W. Reagan High School**
- **Class 8A – Chloe Burbage, Green Hope High School**

- **DOWNLOAD Player of the Year graphics to share on social media**

2026-27 NCVBCA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS *(CONTINUED…)*



1A – Devanee Wampler, Falls Lake Academy

6’0” Sophomore | OH

Honors: 1A State Champion (2025, 2026) and MVP (2026); NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2026); AVCA Phenom Watch List (2026); RTDP All-Star U17 Team; and All-Conference Team

HS Head Coach: Corrinna Sammons



2A – Joscelyn Stamper, Cherokee HS

6’2” Senior | MB

Honors: 2A State Champion and MVP (2026); NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2023-2026), and Watch List (2025-2026); 4-Time Smoky Mountain Conference Player of the Year; First Player in Program History to Reach 1,000 Career Kills and 1,000 Career Digs; and Top 10 in Class

HS Head Coach: Pam Price

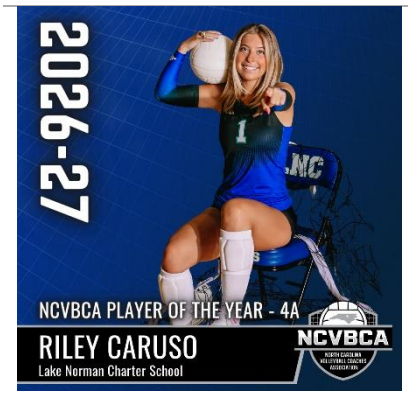


3A – Olivia Dancy, North Wilkes HS

5’11” Junior | MB

Honors: NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2026); Mountain Valley All-Conference; Mountain Valley All-Tournament Team; and North Wilkes Female Athlete of the Month

HS Head Coach: Samantha Adams



4A – Riley Caruso, Lake Norman Charter School

5’10” Senior | S

Honors: 4A State Champion (2025, 2026); NCVBCA All-State First Team, All-Region and Watch List (2026); AVCA All-America Watch List (2026) and Phenom Watch List (2025); Catawba Shores Athletic Conference Player of the Year (2025); All-Conference (2024, 2025); and Team MVP (2024, 2025)

HS Head Coach: Bethany Kiley



5A – Emily Gambill, Hickory HS

5’9” Senior | OH

Honors: 5A State Champion and MVP (2025, 2026); NCVBCA 5A Player of the Year, All-State First Team and All-Region (2025-2026), and Watch List (2026); AVCA Phenom Watch List (2025); Western Foothills Athletic Conference Player of the Year (2025-2026); West Henderson Falcon Bash MVP; and Team Player of the Year (2024)

HS Head Coach: Anthony Stephens



6A – Reagan Pierce, Alexander Central High School

5’10” Junior | OH

Honors: NCVBCA All-State First Team (2026), All-Region (2025-2026), and Watch List (2026); AVCA Phenom Watch List (2025-2026); Northwestern Conference Offensive Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference; First Player in Alexander Central History to Reach 1,000 Career Kills and 1,000 Career Digs; 2-Time AAU All-American; and 4.0+ GPA

HS Head Coach: Kalee Peter

2026-27 NCVBCA PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS *(CONTINUED…)*



7A – Ellyson Randolph, Ronald W. Reagan High School

6’2” Senior | OH

Honors: 7A State Runner-Up (2026); NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2024-2026), and Watch List (2026); AVCA All-American Watch List (2026), Phenom Watch List (2025), All-America Third Team (2024-2025), Best & Brightest Third Team (2026), and All-Region (2024-2026); Under Armour All-American Game Selection; 3x Conference Player of the Year (2024-2026); 4x All-Conference (2023-2026); 3-Years as Team Captain; 1,900+ Career Kills; and 1,000+ Career Digs

HS Head Coach: Douglas Balser

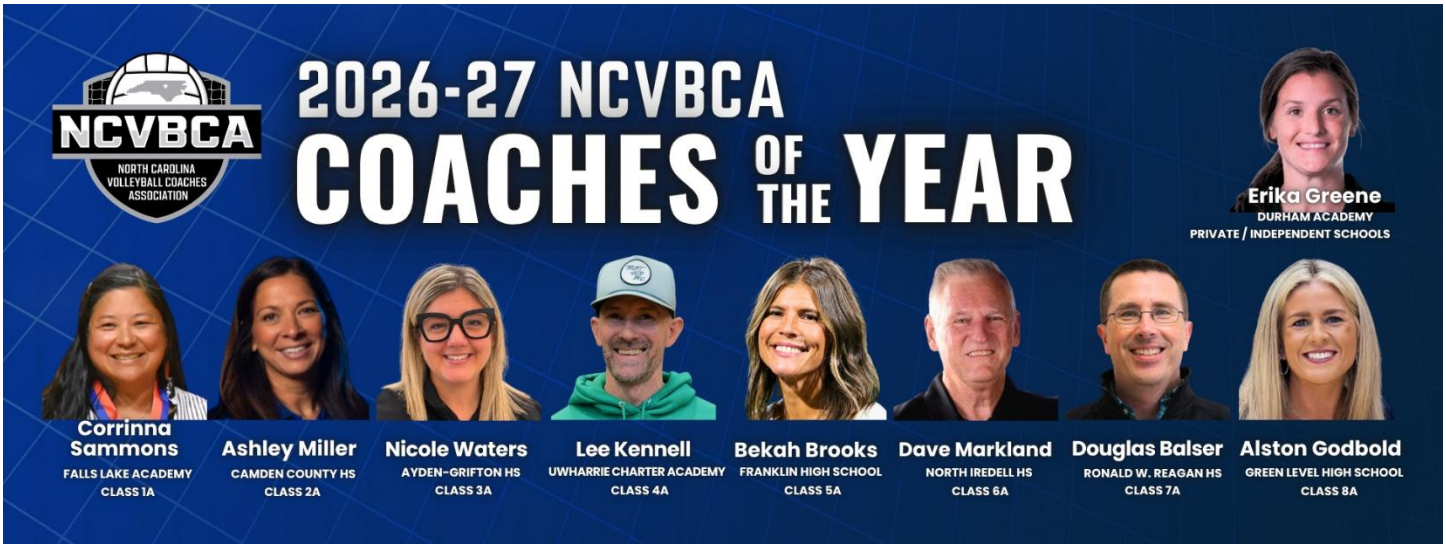


8A – Chloe Burbage, Green Hope High School

6’1” Junior | S

Honors: NCVBCA All-State First Team, All-Region and Watch List (2025-2026); AVCA Phenom Watch List (2025-2026), All-America Third Team (2025), and All-Region (2025-2026); Quad City 7 Conference Player of the Year; and is committed to play at the University of Louisville

HS Head Coach: Karl Redelfs



2026-27 NCVBCA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

This award celebrates a North Carolina high school volleyball coach who guided their team to a successful season while demonstrating deep knowledge of the game, developing talent, and contributing to the volleyball community through leadership, mentorship, and volunteerism—chosen by fellow NCVBCA coaches.

Congratulations to the coaches recognized!!

- **Class 1A - Corrinna Sammons, Falls Lake Academy**
- **Class 2A – Ashley Miller, Camden County High School**
- **Class 3A - Nicole Waters, Ayden-Grifton High School**
- **Class 4A - Lee Kennell, Uwharrie Charter Academy**
- **Class 5A - Bekah Brooks, Franklin High School**
- **Class 6A - Dave Markland, North Iredell High School**
- **Class 7A - Douglas Balser, Ronald W. Reagan High School**
- **Class 8A - Alston Godbold, Green Level High School**
- **Private/Independent Schools - Erika Greene, Durham Academy**

- **DOWNLOAD Coach of the Year graphics to share on social media.**



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 1A - Corrinna Sammons, Falls Lake Academy High School

Corrinna Sammons led Falls Lake Academy to another championship season in 2026, following the program's 2025 title. In 10 years at Falls Lake, Sammons has built a program grounded in player development, positive team culture, and consistent success against strong competition. She is a three-time state champion, seven-time Conference Coach of the Year, and previously earned NCVBCA Class 1A Coach of the Year honors in 2025. Her teams have also made five state semifinal appearances and four Final Four appearances. Sammons has helped 12 athletes continue their volleyball careers at the collegiate level, further reflecting the strength and consistency of the program she has developed.

2026-27 NCVBCA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS *(CONTINUED…)*



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 2A – Ashley Miller, Camden County High School

Ashley Miller has established Camden County as one of North Carolina's consistently successful volleyball programs. Miller guided Camden County to a 26-2 record in 2026, including an undefeated run through the Albemarle Athletic Conference. She has led her alma mater for 12 seasons, building a program that consistently competes at a high level, including three consecutive NCHSAA 2A State Championship appearances beginning in 2021. Miller previously earned NCVBCA Class 2A Coach of the Year honors in 2023. A former three-sport athlete at Camden County, she went on to compete in volleyball and basketball at Chowan College, now Chowan University, where she was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2023.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 3A - Nicole Waters, Ayden-Grifton High School

Nicole Waters has achieved sustained success at Ayden-Grifton through player development and championship-level competition. In eight years with the program, including seven as head coach, Waters has compiled a 149-39 career record. Her accomplishments include the 2025 NCHSAA 3A State Championship, an Eastern Regional Championship, six conference championships, and six Eastern Plains Conference Coach of the Year honors. She previously earned NCVBCA Class 3A Coach of the Year honors in 2025 and coached the 2024 NCVBCA All-Star Team. With more than 20 years of coaching experience, Waters also serves as Director of Top Caliber Volleyball Club and on the Carolina Region Volleyball Board of Directors.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 4A – Lee Kennell, Uwharrie Charter Academy

Lee Kennell has led Uwharrie Charter Academy to back-to-back outstanding seasons, highlighted by a 2025 NCHSAA State Runner-Up finish and the 2026 NCHSAA 4A State Championship. The title capped the program's third consecutive season with at least 25 victories, with Uwharrie Charter entering the postseason as the No. 1 seed in its classification. Kennell has spent 11 years building the program and brings 20 years of volleyball coaching experience overall. He previously earned NCVBCA Class 4A Coach of the Year honors in 2025, along with conference Coach of the Year recognition in 2024 and 2025, while helping multiple athletes advance to collegiate volleyball.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 5A - Bekah Brooks, Franklin High School

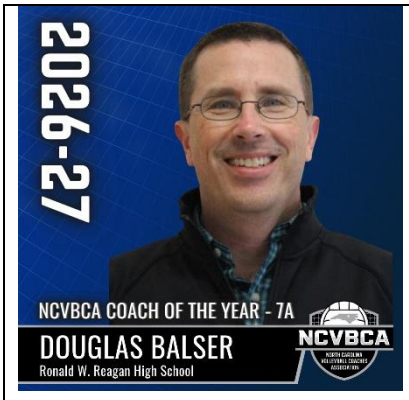
Bekah Brooks has dedicated 20 years to Franklin High School volleyball, including nine seasons as head coach, building a program rooted in commitment, enthusiasm, and strong leadership. In 2026, Brooks guided Franklin to an outstanding 27-3 season and was named Mountain 8 Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year. While Brooks is quick to credit her coaching staff for the knowledge, time, and energy they bring to the program, that gratitude reflects her own leadership and the culture she has cultivated at Franklin. Her ability to bring coaches and athletes together around a shared commitment to the program has been a defining part of Franklin volleyball's success.

2026-27 NCVBCA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS *(CONTINUED…)*



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 6A – Dave Markland, North Iredell High School

Dave Markland has continued a remarkable coaching career at North Iredell, leading the Raiders to a 27-3 season and 2026 NCHSAA 6A State Runner-Up finish after capturing state championships in 2022 and 2023. In six seasons at North Iredell, Markland has added to a legacy spanning 36 years in volleyball. He previously spent 24 years as a collegiate head coach at Appalachian State and Lenoir-Rhyne, earning more than 450 victories. Markland was the 2022 NCVBCA Class 3A Coach of the Year, 2023 Charlotte Observer High School Sports Girls Coach of the Year, and 2024 WFAC Volleyball Coach of the Year.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 7A - Douglas Balser, Ronald Reagan High School

For nearly three decades, Douglas Balser has made an impact on North Carolina volleyball as a coach, mentor, club director, and leader in the sport. This year, he guided Ronald Reagan High School to a 34-4 record and the NCHSAA 7A State Finals, adding to five Final Four appearances during his 11 years at Reagan. Balser previously earned NCVBCA Coach of the Year honors in 2022. He founded Champion Volleyball Club in 2007, growing it from one team to more than 30 while expanding affordable opportunities for athletes. Balser also supports area programs through clinics, tournaments, training and gym access and serves as President of the USAV Carolina Region.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year Class 8A – Alston Godbold, Green Level High School

Alston Godbold led Green Level to its second consecutive state championship in 2026, completing a 29-2 season that also included a conference title and victories over three top-five opponents. In eight seasons at Green Level, Godbold has established a championship-level program centered on player development, discipline, confidence, and team culture. Her success has earned multiple NCVBCA honors, including Class 4A Coach of the Year in 2021 and Class 8A Coach of the Year in 2025. With 10 years of volleyball coaching experience, Godbold continues to develop athletes and teams that compete at the highest level while sustaining a culture of excellence at Green Level.



NCVBCA Coach of the Year, Private/ Independent Schools - Erika Greene, Durham Academy

Erika Greene developed Durham Academy into a consistent postseason contender during her five seasons as head coach, recording 61 victories while leading the program to a Final Four appearance and three state quarterfinals. With 17 years of volleyball coaching experience, Greene brings a depth of knowledge and leadership that has helped strengthen the program and create sustained success on the court. Her influence at Durham Academy extends beyond volleyball. Greene also serves as an Upper School Math and Computer Science teacher and an Academy Leader for the Mathematics Department, reflecting a commitment to developing students in both athletics and academics.