

# 2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



## Jonathan Paulk

Shaw University  
NCAA Division II  
Head Coach

### Career Accomplishments to Date:

- 2023 NCAA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year
- 2023 CIAA Coach of the Year
- 2023 CIAA Champion
- 2021-23 CIAA Regular Season Champion
- 2021-23 NCAA Aces/Set Leader
- 4 CIAA Setter of the Year awards
- 2 CIAA Offensive Player of the Year awards
- 1 CIAA Rookie of the Year award
- 14 CIAA All First Team awards
- 7 CIAA All Second Team awards
- 3 CIAA All Rookie Team awards

### Coaching Roles:

- Shaw University - Head Coach 2019-present
- Louisburg College - Head Coach 2018
- North Carolina Central University - Assistant Coach 2016-17
- Carolina Advantage Volleyball - present

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

Initially, I was a broke college kid who needed to pay rent. From there, my love for playing evolved into a passion for coaching and solving the puzzle that each opponent posed. I continue to coach because of the relationships built with these athletes and the thrill of recruiting future hall of famers.

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

I want to build a legacy program where athletes feel pride in their development and achievements and alumni return to give back to the next generation. I also want to contribute to volleyball development through creativity, innovation, and fearless implementation.



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

I have taken bits and pieces from many coaches over the years. Most importantly, my Co-Founder at Carolina Advantage Volleyball and head coach at the University of Mount Olive, Emma Celentano, has helped me experiment with new ideas and been a constant round-table participant. Also, Jon Garner has been a great source of knowledge and keeps me on the leading edge of player development and strategy.

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

Winning. A close second is preparing my athletes for the real world in ways school doesn't. My players learn the pros and cons of different debt instruments, different income types and the tax consequences of each, vehicle purchasing strategies, interview skills, etc. I instill a culture of responsibility, accountability, delayed gratification, and self-control. Their volleyball career will eventually end and I want them to carry personal habits and plans that lead to a successful future.

