



2017-2018 Alliance Coach Bio

Name: Grant Harford

Professional Background: I have worked for Alliance for going on 8 years. The last 7 seasons with Alliance, I have coached with the satellite program, Alliance North, based out of Hendersonville. These last 3 years, I have served as the North coordinator, organizing practice space, finding and training coaches, and helping plan practices. I have also been an assistant coach in Sumner County for 6 years at Beech High School, Station Camp High School, and Pope John Paul. The last 2 years I was the head coach for Beech High School. The last 3 seasons, I have been a volunteer assistant coach for Cumberland University and working full time with CU this year. I have coached club from the age range of 13-18.

Personal: I am originally from Tampa, FL. I moved up to Gallatin, TN at the age of 10 and have lived around there since. I played soccer growing up and in high school. In college, I was dating a girl who played volleyball and I thought "this looks easy". It wasn't. I quickly grew to love the sport and have played pickup, tournaments, leagues ever since.

Education: TN Tech University, unfinished. Cumberland University, Bachelors in Sports Management

Coaching Philosophy: I demand and expect my players to communicate on the court. That is a skill that every player should be able to practice and perfect, regardless of age or skill. I also coach my players to be aggressive at every chance they get, whether is a swing, serve, or free ball. I put the athlete first before winning. Instilling valuable life lessons like punctuality, teamwork, discipline, resiliency, and consistently are ideals I want my players to have. Lastly, I love the technical side of volleyball. The little details that make a skill perfect are what I enjoy coaching in players, regardless of position.

Playing Experience: At TN Tech, I helped start the men's club volleyball team, and I played for 3 years there. I played nearly every position but fell in love with playing middle and setter.

Top Volleyball Highlights: Playing men's club with Tech, I was voted captain for all 3 years I was there. I also was voted as "Best All-around" and "Best Offensive Player". While coaching for Beech High School, I guided the team to their most successful season in school history, winning both the district and region tournaments for the first time ever. I have coached a number of players who went on to play in college including: UT Martin, Christian Brothers University, Maryville College, Air Force Academy, and Cumberland University.

