



2025-26 NCVBCA PLAYER & COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

RALIEGH, NC (November 17, 2025) – 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 2025-26 NCVBCA Player and Coach of the Year Award recipients below.

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

- [DOWNLOAD](#) Player of the Year graphics to share on social media
- [DOWNLOAD](#) 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.



2025-26 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 2025-26 season. must be a NCVBCA/AVCA member, as well as have a successful record for the 2025-26 season.

Congratulations to the athletes recognized!!

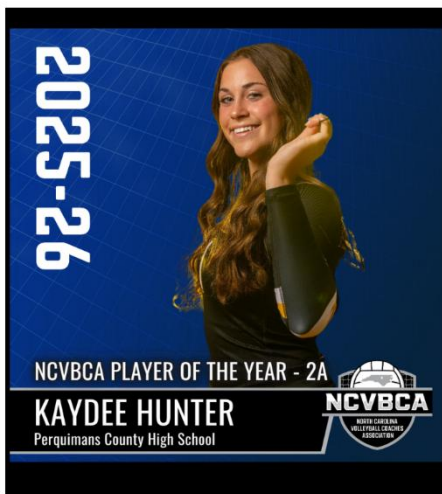
- **Class 1A – Maggie Penn, Falls Lake Academy**
- **Class 2A – Kaydee Hunter, Perquimans County High School**
- **Class 3A – Jansley Page, Wallace-Rose Hill High School**
- **Class 4A – Bailey Blackmon, Southwestern Randolph**
- **Class 5A – Emily Gambill, Hickory High School**
- **Class 6A – Emma Pastusic, Watauga High School**
- **Class 7A – Genevieve Harris, Cardinal Gibbons High School**
- **Class 8A – Lindley Miller, Green Level High School**

- **[DOWNLOAD](#) Player of the Year graphics to share on social media**



1A - Maggie Penn, Falls Lake Academy

- 5'5' Senior | L/DS
- College Commitment: University of South Carolina
- Honors: NCHSAA 1A State Champion and Sportsmanship Winner (2025), NCHSAA 1A State Championship Finalist (2023), NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2025), AVCA Phenom Watch list (2024), 3x VB Team Captain, 3x NCHSAA All-Conference
- High School Head Coach: Corrinna Sammon



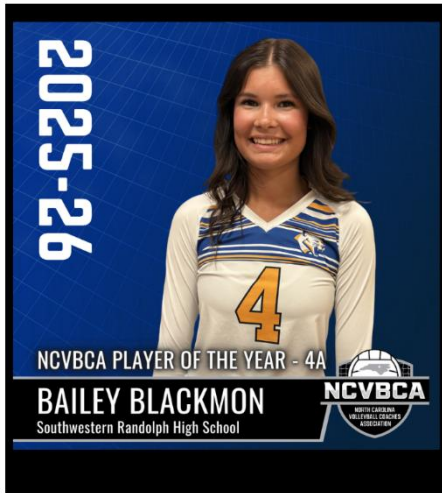
2A - Kaydee Hunter, Perquimans County High School

- 5'10" Senior | OH
- Honors: NCHSAA 2A State Championship Finalist (2025), NCHSAA 1A State Championship Finalist (2024), 2x NCHSAA All-Conference, NCVBCA All-State First Team and Watch List (2025), NCVBCA All-Region (2024, 2025), AVCA Best and Brightest Second Team (2025), AVCA All-America Watch List (2025, AVCA All-Region (2024)
- High School Head Coach: Kristie Thach



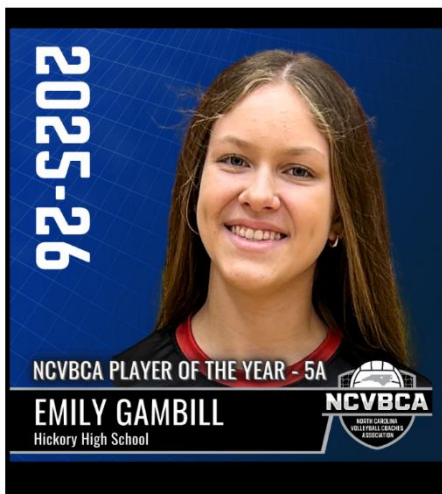
3A - Jansley Page, Wallace-Rose High School

- 5'11" Senior | OH
- College Commitment: Fayetteville Tech
- Honors: 3x NCHSAA All-Conference, 3x All-County, County Player of the Year, NCVBCA All-State First Team, All-Region and Watch List (2025), AVCA/MaxPreps NC Player of the Week (2025)
- High School Head Coach: Kevin Williams



4A - Bailey Blackmon, Southwest Randolph High School

- 6'1" Senior | MB
- Honors: NCHSAA All-Conference, NCVBCA All-State First Team, All-Region and Watch List
- High School Head Coach: Darby Kennedy



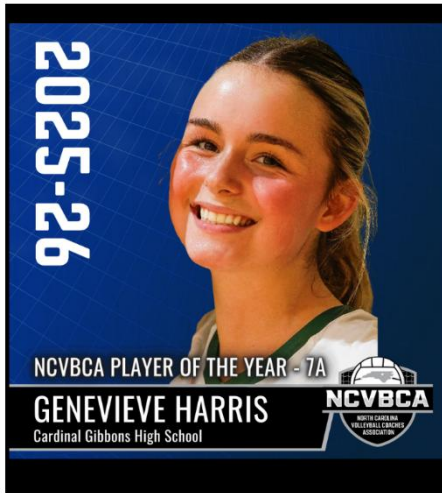
5A - Emily Gambill, Hickory High School

- 5'9" Junior | OH
- Honors: NCHSAA 5A State Champion and MVP (2025), Conference Player of the Year (2025), Team Player of the Year (2024), NCVBCA All-State, All-Region and Watch List (2025), AVCA Phenom Watch List (2025)
- High School Head Coach: Anthony Stephens



6A - Emma Pastusic, Watauga High School

- 6'0" Senior | OH
- College Commitment: Citadel Military College of South Carolina
- Honors: NCHSAA 6A State Championship Finalist (2025), Northwestern 6A/7A Player of the Year, All-Tournament Team and Conference Tournament MVP (2025), Northwestern 3A/4A Offensive Player of the Year (2024), Northwestern 3A/4A All-Conference Team (2023, 2024, 2025), NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2025), AVCA All-Region (2025)
- High School Head Coach: Kim Pryor



7A - Genevieve Harris, Cardinal Gibbons High School

- 5'11" Senior | S
- College Commitment: University of Texas at Austin
- Honors: NCHSAA 4A State Champion (2024), State Finals MVP (2024), 2x Conference Player of the Year, NCVBCA All-State First Team and All-Region (2023, 2024, 2025), NCVBCA Watch List (2025), AVCA All-America Watch List (2025) and First Team (2024), AVCA Phenom Watch List (2025, AVCA/MaxPreps NC Player of the Week (2025), AVCA All-Region (2024), Gatorade Player of the Year (2024-25)
- High School Head Coach: Logan Barber



8A - Lindley Miller, Green Level High School

- 6'4" Senior | OPP/RS, MB
- College Commitment: University of North Carolina
- Honors: NCHSAA 8A State Champion (2025), NDTP accolades, 4x NCHSAA All-Conference, NCVBCA All-State and All-Region (2023, 2024, 2025), NCVBCA Watch List (2024, 2025), NCVBCA All-Region (2022), AVCA All-America Watch List (2025), AVCA All-Region (2025), AVCA Best and Brightest First Team (2025), AVCA Phenom Watch List (2024), Prep Volleyball Watch List, Academic All-Conference
- High School Head Coach: Paige Cox



NCVBBCA COACH OF THE YEAR

This award signifies outstanding coaching excellence. It celebrates a 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 - Kristie Thach, Perquimans County High School**
 - **Class 3A - Nicole Waters, Ayden-Grifton High School**
 - **Class 4A - Lee Kennell, Uwharrie Charter Academy**
 - **Class 5A - Helen May, Cedar Ridge High School**
 - **Class 6A - Kim Pryor, Watauga High School**
 - **Class 7A - Jennifer Gillikin, D.H. Conley High School**
 - **Class 8A - Alston Godbold, Green Level High School**
- [DOWNLOAD](#) Coach of the Year graphics to share on social media



1A - Corrinna Sammons, Falls Lake Academy

Corrinna Sammons has led Falls Lake Academy Volleyball since 2014, transforming a new program into a perennial 1A powerhouse. With 21 years of coaching experience, including club roles at NC Volleyball Academy, Jammers, and Power Performance, she emphasizes fundamentals and volleyball IQ.

A former D3 player at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, her accolades include three NCHSAA 1A State Championships (2018, 2019, 2025), a 2023 finalist finish, and two NCAC Coach of the Year honors. In 2025, her team went undefeated in conference play, earned the #1 playoff seed, and saw 4 of 6 seniors commit to collegiate programs.



2A - Kristie Thach, Perquimans County High School

Kristie Thach has led Perquimans County High School Volleyball since 2009, building a legacy of excellence and character. A four-time NCVBCA Coach of the Year (2021–2023, 2025), she guided her team to back-to-back state finals appearances in 2024 (1A) and 2025 (2A). Honored with the NCHSAA Homer Thompson Award in 2020 and named Perquimans County's winningest coach in 2023, Thach is known for her integrity, leadership, and consistent success. She was the 2025 Four Rivers Conference Coach of the Year, an honor she has earned many times, and a finalist for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. Her impact reaches far beyond the court through mentorship and lasting relationships.



3A - Nicole Waters, Ayden-Grifton High School

Nicole Waters has served as Head Volleyball Coach at Ayden-Grifton High School since 2020, guiding the program to five consecutive Eastern Plains Conference titles and tournament championships. In 2025, she led her team to the NCHSAA 3A State Championship, earning recognition for consistent postseason success and multiple Coach of the Year honors. Waters also directs Top Caliber Volleyball Club and previously coached with Capital City Volleyball Club. A former MVP volleyball player and record-holding outside hitter at Peace College, she holds a degree in Hispanic Studies Education from ECU and teaches Spanish at Ayden-Grifton. She's a proud wife and mom, coffee enthusiast, and passionate supporter of Nebraska and Louisville Volleyball.



4A - Lee Kennell, Uwharrie Charter Academy

Lee Kennell has led Uwharrie Charter Academy Volleyball as head coach for 10 years, building a dominant program with three straight 20+ win seasons and back-to-back 24-win campaigns. In 2025, his team reached the NCHSAA 4A State Championship Finals, finishing 28-4 with 20 straight wins and 60 consecutive sets won—undefeated in conference play.

A two-time Conference Coach of the Year, Kennell has guided his teams to four straight third-round playoff appearances and developed numerous all-conference athletes. With 19 years of coaching experience, he mentors coaches at Market City Volleyball Club and fosters community engagement through service events like Run 5/Feed 5.



5A - Helen May, Cedar Ridge High School

Volleyball Head Coach Hellen May is the epitome of what it means to be a well-rounded and impactful coach. Her understanding of every aspect of the game: technique, strategy, teamwork, and mental toughness, sets her apart. She knows exactly what her athletes need not just to succeed, but to thrive both on and off the court. What truly distinguishes her is her composure under pressure. In the moments that matter most, she remains calm, cool, and collected. She has taught her athletes the same poise and confidence. Cedar Ridge has developed into a state title contender in Helen May's first season winning the Red Wolves' tournament championship and finishing the season 24-2.

Athletic Director Emily Parker writes, "Coach May doesn't just coach volleyball; she builds character, discipline, and leadership."



6A - Kim Pryor, Watauga High School

Watauga High School Volleyball Head Coach Kim Pryor has built a legacy of excellence and opportunity. In 2025, she led WHS to a 27-2 record and the NCHSAA 6A State Championship Finals. During her earlier tenure at WHS (2001–2010), her teams won five Northwestern Conference titles, made eight playoff appearances, and reached the state quarterfinals twice. A multi-time Conference Coach of the Year (2006, 2007, 2023), she's expanded volleyball access by founding the App State Volleyball Club, WHS boy's volleyball program and a freshmen team. Her impact reaches beyond the court, inspiring young coaches and athletes. She is a featured guest at the 2025 Watauga Women in Leadership Gala, honoring her legacy in sport and community.



7A - Jennifer Gillikin, D.H. Conley High School

Jennifer Gillikin has spent 27 years cultivating a culture of excellence at D.H. Conley High School, where she has led the volleyball program with integrity, consistency, and heart. Her milestone of 600 career wins places her among an elite group—she is the fifth active coach in North Carolina history to reach that mark, a testament to her enduring commitment to the sport and her athletes.

Under her leadership, Conley captured NCHSAA 3A State Championships in 2007 and 2020, and advanced to the 7A State Finals in 2025.

Her influence reaches far beyond the court. As a teacher, parent, mentor, and community leader, she embodies the values she instills in her players.



8A - Alston Godbold, Green Level High School

Coach Alston Godbold, the 2025-26 NCVBCA Coach of the Year, led Green Level High School to a perfect 28-0 season and the NCHSAA 8A State Championship—adding to her 2020-21 4A title. A former Apex High and NC State standout, she captained her high school team to a 27-0 record, a 4A state title, and a No. 9 ESPN national ranking. At Triangle Volleyball Club, she's coached nationally ranked teams and mentored athletes with excellence. Off the court, she's raised nearly \$50,000 through the Orange Out Game for a player battling leukemia. Her program thrives on discipline, player development, and team culture where athletes grow on and off the court. As one coach noted, "She leads with purpose, developing athletes who compete with heart and serve something bigger than the game."