

KEKAILOA PALEA

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Playing Experience:

KK grew up in Kent, Washington and played club ball for Sports Performance of Tacoma for 5 years as an Outside Hitter. He then continued his volleyball career at Graceland University as a setter and libero. KK continues to compete at the adult level both indoor and beach.

Coaching/Advising Experience:

KK began his coaching career as an assistant on the top 14u and 16u teams at Club Wahine Volleyball club out of Burien, Washington. He was with that club for 4 years. During this time he was also the JV coach and Assistant Varsity coach at Highline High School also in Burien, Washington.

After making the move to Lamoni, Iowa to continue his playing career at Graceland, he started off working summer camps for a number of High Schools in the state of Iowa and Missouri. He then proceeded to be a head coach for one of Graceland's Women's JV program. For 5 years KK coached for Graceland University Women's Program and 1 year with the Men's program. KK then moved to Cedar Falls and was given the Volunteer Assistant position at the University of Northern Iowa. During his 2 years at UNI he was in charge of DS/Libero training and scouting of opposing teams. He was a part of 2 undefeated conference seasons and their highest AVCA ranking at #5 in the nation going into the NCAA tourney. In his second year at UNI he also became a recruiting coach for Northern Iowa.

KK finally decided to step away from college coaching and helped create a volleyball club called Club Iowa Juniors (CIA) based out of Cedar Falls. KK has been the lead trainer for ages 15-18 at the club since it's beginning in 2010. In the 2015 season KK



coached the 18 Black, 16 Black and 15 Silver for CIA and was able to get all 3 teams to the Girls Junior National Tournament. Over the course of 7 years his teams accrued 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medal finishes at National Qualifiers. He has 2 third place finishes at Nationals and a National Championship in the USA division.

KK has coached and helped kids get to programs like Illinois, UCLA, Nebraska, Mizzou, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Florida State, UNI, Drake, Denver, Iowa State, Georgia State, Winona State, Upper Iowa, UNO, Northern Illinois and Loyola. Personal: KK and his wife Candice are Waukee residents and are expecting a little pineapple mid November 2019.

KK is now the volleyball director and player rep for Next Step Sports. We look forward to him sharing his knowledge and expertise with our volleyball athletes. He comes to us with a lot of college connections and experience helping kids get to the next level.



NEXT STEP SPORTS