



2017-2018 Alliance Coach Bio

Name: **John Blair** aka "JB"

Personal:

Born in Oak Ridge, Tn. Grew up in Beardon, Tn. -Single
One sister living in the Knoxville area, Godson and his family in Brentwood

Education:

Graduate of the Univ. of Tenn. degree in Education with emphasis in Exercise Physiology,
graduate studies at both UT and BYU: biomechanics and skill acquisition.

Coaching Experience:

- Assistant at Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Assistant coach, University of Illinois, Urbana, 1979
- Head coach, University of Illinois, 1980-83
- First full time Assistant at UT, Knoxville, 1983-85.
- Head Coach, Ole Miss 16 seasons 1985-2002
- Tennessee Tech, Head Coach, 10 seasons
- 5th season with Alliance VBC,
- Coached, 181 Mizuno , 4 yrs. currently 16 Mizuno
- mentor coach for the club

Coaching Philosophy:

From my days as a player I always felt a need to give back; to my teammates, to my coaches, to the sport itself, and the volleyball community as a whole. As the college game grew, the opportunities to fulfill this desire become real and I embarked on this magnificent journey as a coach. All the people, teams, events, travel opportunities, physical challenges, and player relationships are the central influences that have shaped me as a coach and person. Other things being equal or close to, I strongly believe there are two variables that determine one's success in our sport: work ethic and commitment! This is reflected in the fact that I expect my group to show up prepared and committed to work and achieve every day at practice. I love the interaction between player and coach as they work together to discover common goals, devise a plan to achieve them and then set the plan into motion. Teammates that I have played with, as well as athletes that I have been fortunate enough to coach along the way make this extraordinary journey worth every step. So excited to continue the journey as part of the cadre of coaches that make Alliance Volleyball Club the premier organization that it has become.

Playing Experience:

- Tennessee Men's Club Team, BYU varsity club team,
- USAV regional travel teams (Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Alabama).
- 5-time USVBA regional MVP (3 different regions/states)
- Competed 1973 World University Games, Moscow, USSR.
- US Men's America Cup team vs. Canadian National team, 1974 Toronto, Ca.
- 3-time USVBA All-American
- Men's National Team Player pool, 3 years

Top Volleyball Highlights:

- Finishing 9th at Men's US Open with a bunch of guys from Tennessee.
- Playing against the USSR in Moscow at the World University Games with a team of great guys.
- Playing on 2 master level National Championship teams.
- As a first yr. head coach, taking my University of Illinois team to the AIAW Nationals (top 25 teams) and competing in our preliminary pool, UCLA, Santa Barbara, Stanford, and SW Missouri.
- While head coach at Tennessee Tech, winning the OVC regular season and the OVC Tournament, thus qualifying for the NCAA Championships, losing a close first round match to the no. 16 national seed.
- Coaching so many outstanding people at the 18 age level the past four years at Alliance!