

ABSTRACT

DEVELOPMENTAL PATHS OF SUCCESSFUL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACHES

This study examines the developmental paths of successful National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I women's volleyball coaches. The researcher conducted in-depth, structured interviews with six successful coaches in an effort to map their athletic and coaching backgrounds and trace their participation in coach development activities. Qualitative data were collected and analyzed to determine if there were any patterns of coach development. The six coaches had several similarities in their athletic and coaching backgrounds. As athletes, each of the coaches played multiple sports; as coaches, each specialized in volleyball and spent the majority of their time personally reflecting, practicing, or competing. The results of this study were compared with a similar study performed on successful high school softball coaches. The information obtained from this study will lead to a greater understanding of the coach development process.

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