



THE BLUELINE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE UK VOLLEYBALL 2026

University of Kentucky Women's Volleyball • 2026

A Blue Line unofficial fan guide

SEC preseason No. 1 • AVCA preseason No. 3 • Record through Sep 6: **5–1** • Wrigley Field walk-off over No. 13 Penn State

Photos: UK Athletics roster pages. Not affiliated with UK Athletics. Entertainment / analysis only.

Cold open

Big Blue Nation already knows football and basketball. If you haven't lived inside Memorial Coliseum on a Friday night in October, welcome to the other dynasty in Lexington.

Craig Skinner's Kentucky Wildcats are the **SEC preseason No. 1**, **AVCA preseason No. 3**, and — as of September 6 — the team that just walked off **Wrigley Field** with a 3–1 win over No. 13 Penn State in the first collegiate volleyball match ever played at the Friendly Confines.

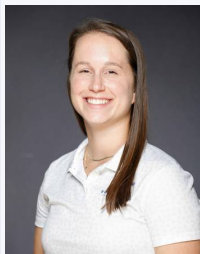
This is the BlueLine unofficial guide: coaches, every player on the 2026 roster, the Wrigley report, and our season card.

The staff



Craig Skinner — Head Coach (22nd season)

UK's all-time wins leader. Entered 2026 at 497–157; earned career win No. 500 on Aug 29 vs. South Florida. 2020 NCAA champion. 2020–21 AVCA National Coach of the Year. Nine-time SEC champion (2017–2025). Twenty-one straight NCAA Tournament berths. Final Fours in 2020 and 2025. The architect.



Merideth Jewell Frey — Associate Head Coach

Fifth season on staff; second as associate HC. Former UK player (2017–18 SEC titles). Defensive coordinator, recruiting, practice planning. Mercy Academy legend.



Kyle Luongo — Associate Head Coach

Second season as associate HC. Owns the offense and setters — helped Kassie O'Brien to 2025 AVCA National Freshman of the Year and the 2025 NCAA title-match run.



Amaya Tillman — Assistant Coach

Second season. Middles, recruiting, daily ops. Former Louisville All-American middle; two-time ACC Defensive Player of the Year.

**Kristen Vicini — Director of Volleyball Operations**

11th season running the machine: travel, camps, visits, home events.

The 2026 roster — Stars & Preseason All-SEC



#17 Brooklyn DeLeye — OH · 6-2 · Sr. · Topeka, Kan.

2024 SEC Player of the Year. 2025 AVCA First Team All-America. USA National Team. Dropped **21 kills** on Penn State at Wrigley. The alpha.



#6 Kassie O'Brien — S · 6-1 · So. · Katy, Texas

2025 AVCA National Freshman of the Year. SEC Freshman of the Year. Preseason All-SEC. Season-high **48 assists** at Wrigley. The engine.



#12 Molly Tuozzo — L · 5-7 · Sr. · The Woodlands, Texas

2025 AVCA Third Team All-America. SEC Tournament MVP. Preseason All-SEC. **19 digs** at Wrigley. Floor general in the back row.



#18 Morgan Gaerte — OH · 6-5 · Jr. · Angola, Ind. (via Notre Dame)

First Team All-ACC at Notre Dame; 497 kills (ND rally-era record). Preseason All-SEC. Instant UK firepower — **15 kills** at Wrigley.



#15 Lizzie Carr — MB · 6-6 · R-Sr. · West Chester, Pa. (via Purdue)

Second Team All-SEC in 2025. Led UK at 1.29 B/S. Preseason All-SEC. The wall.

Supporting cast



#20 Asia Thigpen — OH · 5-10 · Jr. · Chapel Hill, N.C.

Versatile swing; 12 kills at Wrigley. Dad Tommy: former UNC football co-DC.



#9 Georgia Watson — OH · 6-3 · So. · Huntley, Ill.

Chicagoland kid. Closed Penn State with the final two kills, including match point.



#10 Kennedy Washington — MB · 6-0 · Jr. · Glenn Heights, Texas

Can play OH or MB; 0.95 B/S in 2025.



#11 Molly Berezowitz — DS · 5-7 · Sr. · Burlington, Wisc. (via Marquette)

Dig machine; sister Maddie won the 2020 title at UK.



#1 Trinity Ward — DS · 5-7 · So. · Louisville, Ky.

Local KIVA product; dream-school UK.



#3 Gracison Saylor — MB · 6-3 · Fr. · Calhoun, Ga.

Georgia 3A Co-POY; Skinner's "incredible point scorer."



#4 Bellamie Beus — OH · 5-10 · Fr. · Nampa, Idaho

Idaho Gatorade POY; 595 kills last HS season.



#13 Hannah Benjamin — OH · 6-1 · R-So. · Atlanta, Ga.

ACL rehab path; USA Youth NT experience.



#14 Bryah Breaux — OPP · 6-4 · Fr. · Baltimore, Md.

Skinner: among the best athletes in the 2026 class.



#21 Caroline Prihoda — S · 5-9 · Fr. · The Woodlands, Texas

Depth behind O'Brien; school assists record at College Park.



#24 Sidney Burley — DS · 5-8 · Fr. · Prior Lake, Minn.

Fits the UK libero pipeline.



#27 Brynn Covell — S · 6-0 · Jr. · Wilmington, N.C. (via Arizona State)

Transfer with Sweet 16 experience; setter/DS flexibility.

Eva Hudson is the big 2025 departure after the NCAA title-match run — not on the 2026 roster.

Wrigley Field — September 6, 2026

No. 3 Kentucky 3, No. 13 Penn State 1 (25–23, 25–21, 23–25, 25–15)

Allstate Big Ten/SEC Volleyball Challenge · First collegiate volleyball match at Wrigley Field.

Brooklyn DeLeye led with **21 kills**. Kassie O'Brien posted a season-high **48 assists**. Morgan Gaerte added **15 kills**, Asia Thigpen **12**. Molly Tuozzo dug **19**. UK blocked 12–8 and hit .281 to Penn State's .173. After dropping set three, Kentucky hit **.394** in a dominant fourth. Huntley, Illinois native **Georgia Watson** sealed it — final two kills, including match point, in front of a Chicagoland crowd Skinner said sits "at the top" for the sport.

Record through Sep 6: **5–1** (W Wisconsin, L Pittsburgh, W Utah State, W South Florida, W UCLA, W Penn State). Still **No. 3** AVCA. Next after that snapshot: North Carolina, Memorial Coliseum.

BlueLine season card (locked Sep 7, 2026)

Overall record	28–4
SEC finish	1st — SEC champions
NCAA	Final Four (title match in play)

Why: Preseason No. 1 in the SEC coaches' poll (10th straight). Five Preseason All-SEC picks. Nearly the entire 2025 title-match roster returns, plus Gaerte. Non-conference already stress-tested (Wisconsin, Pitt, Penn State, UCLA). The gauntlet is Texas at home, Florida/Auburn on the road, and Savannah in November — but this roster is built to survive it.

Ceiling: national championship. Floor: Sweet 16. BlueLine number: **Final Four, SEC banner No. 10.**

Home: Memorial Coliseum · ukathletics.com/sports/vvball

Go Cats.

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