

TOPGUN

"To Be The Best"

Antonio G. Amador Jr.

TOPGUN Director/Head Coach/Personal Trainer

Antonio started his High School coaching career in the fall of 1992. He has basically lived in the gym ever since. Sometimes coaching two or three teams at a time Antonio has coached teams and players at all levels over his 18 year coaching career. While having both Assistant and Head Coaching positions at St. Bavo's Mishawaka High School, St. Joe High School, Northwood High School, Dowagiac High School, and Elkhart Christian Academy only to name a few, Antonio has also been active in College Camps as well such as Notre Dame and Purdue. Over the past 18 years Antonio has been a part of several Sectional, Regional, and Semi-State Championships. Even with a very successful winning percentage at the high school level Antonio is most known for his creation of the TOPGUN Volleyball Club.

In 1994 Antonio started the TOPGUN Volleyball Club to run volleyball camps and clinics to help develop players individual skills. A few years later he then expanded the club to enter teams in and compete in the USAV (Junior Olympic Volleyball). While TOPGUN only focused on having one or two teams, usually middle school kids that would play for Antonio in high school, the club could not stay small forever. In 2009 the club exploded to 137 participants from just 18 the previous year. With that kind of unplanned growth growing pains, hick-ups, and or bumps in the road would seem almost certain. While a lot people chimed in and told Antonio he would have to cut some kids, that there were just too many athletes and that TOPGUN couldn't handle this growth this fast. Antonio wouldn't hear it, saying, "I'm not cutting anyone. If a kid wants to play volleyball and work to get better, then we are going to give them a chance and opportunity TO BE THE BEST they can be". With that determination Antonio lead TOPGUN and his group of 137 players and coaches making up 13 TEAMS to 26 CHAMPIONSHIPS and 15 Runner-Up finishes. With that unbelievable growth and tremendous winning percentage, TOPGUN was named one of Indiana's most notable volleyball clubs by the Hoosier Region in Volleyball USA Magazine. When Antonio was asked about the explosion of TOPGUN and what he was going to do to draw more athletes next year his reply was simple, "I'm not interested in having the largest club around, only the best".

"TO BE THE BEST" is not only the TOPGUN tag line and Antonio's motto in life, it is truly a TOPGUN goal. The TOPGUN mission is to give EVERY kid the opportunity "To Be The Best" they can be regardless of what school they go to or plan on attending.

Here is what some of Antonio's athletes and parents of his past and present players had to say about him and TOPGUN:

"I was always pushed to my absolute limits when playing for Antonio, both mentally and physically. Not only did that make me a stronger, more precise player, but a stronger, tougher, more confident

person overall. I was more assertive on the court after playing for Antonio and more sure of my decisions as a setter. If I could, I'd still have him as my coach!" – Aly (Former TOPGUN and St. Joe Player)

"TOPGUN was the most organized club I have ever been involved with." – Dana (Former TOPGUN and Mishawaka Volleyball Player)

"Antonio is an exceptional coach because he not only teaches volleyball skills and fundamentals, but also life skills such as self determination, motivation, team spirit and the pursuit of excellence." – Georgia (parent of two TOPGUN players)

"As my coach, Antonio makes me work harder to reach my full potential. I now believe I can improve on anything because he taught me that can't is not a word in my vocabulary." – Taylor (TOPGUN and Mishawaka High School player)

"Antonio does a great job with running TOPGUN and always makes himself available at everyone's practice to help them on their individual skills" – Lorisa (TOPGUN and Mishawaka HS Player)

"Antonio has a great balance of intensity and encouragement. He is very easy to understand and always explains exactly what he wants out of each and every one of us." – Katie (Elkhart Christian Academy)

"Antonio is someone who is intense yet patient. He always pushed us TO BE THE BEST we could be. He taught me to have determination, never give up, and always believe that I could do anything. Looking back on this season without him, he was so right!" – Tess (Northwood HS Player)

"TOPGUN Volleyball Club is the best club I have ever played for. The competition is great, as are the coaches and athletes that play there. Antonio is the best coach I have ever had, he takes the time to work with us individually which has helped me immensely!"- Maria (TOPGUN and Mishawaka HS player)

"As a parent, I appreciate Antonio's dedication to provide kids with the opportunity to play volleyball in the off season. The girls look forward to club every year. He is the best!" – Jennifer (mother of two TOPGUN athletes)

"Antonio is a great coach because he respects his players and makes everyone better physically and mentally. He affects everyone's life he enters, Antonio is an amazing coach!" Gina (TOPGUN and Mishawaka HS Player)

In addition to being a very successful Volleyball Coach, Club Director and Business Owner, Antonio is an Assistant Vice President at PNC Bank. Antonio is also a father of two (soon to be three) as he and his wife Christy are expecting the birth of their third daughter. In addition to spending time with his family and coaching volleyball, Antonio has a black belt in three different forms of martial arts and enjoys tactical shooting, politics, reading, cooking and cheering on the Yankees and Steelers with his daughters.