

After graduating high school and receiving a scholarship in volleyball, Dain went on to earn his teaching credential in Physical Education, win a volleyball National Championship and graduate with degree in Public Relations while at Pepperdine University. Upon graduating he joined the Pro Beach Volleyball tour and became the first African American to win a major title when he won the Hermosa Beach Grand Slam in 1997. From there, Blanton directed his energy and attention toward a new goal of becoming one of the best players in the world. On September 26, 2000, Blanton and his volleyball partner Eric Fonoimoana struck gold at the [Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia](#). It was one of the biggest upsets in the history of the sport when they took down the world's top-seeded team from Brazil. More than 10,000 spectators cheered as Blanton and Fonoimoana played a near-perfect tournament and stunned the Brazilians to reach the pinnacle of the sport.

In 2007, [Blanton turned his focus to sports broadcasting](#). He began broadcasting beach volleyball games for a small cable station and then got an opportunity at Fox Sports West to cover high school football. From that start he has been climbing the ladder covering many sports including NBA, Beach Volleyball, NCAA College (Volleyball, Basketball and Football) and MLB while working for ABC, NBC, ESPN, Fox Sports Net and Universal Sports Network.

Blanton is currently the women's volleyball coach at The University of Southern California (USC). He also a broadcast analyst for NCAA women's college volleyball for ESPN as well as Pro Beach Volleyball worldwide (AVP and FIVB Tours). Dain accomplished another goal in 2016 when he earned the opportunity to be the Beach Volleyball broadcast analyst for NBC in the Rio Olympic Games, covering the sport that has given him so much. After achieving Gold in 2000, Dain found himself in a unique position to lead and inspire. He has found his passion in motivating, mentoring and being a role model to help others, by traveling to academic institutions and businesses nationwide conducting workshops and motivational speaking engagements.