

= Don Zimmerman (lacrosse) =

Donald " Don " Zimmerman (born c . 1953) is an American lacrosse coach . He is currently serving as the head coach for the UMBC Retrievers at the University of Maryland , Baltimore County , a position he has held since 1994 . Between 1984 and 1987 , Zimmerman coached Johns Hopkins to three national championships . In 2009 , The Baltimore Sun called him " the best coach in college lacrosse . "

= = Early life = =

Zimmerman attended St. Paul 's School in Brooklandville , Maryland . While there , the lacrosse team on which he played won three Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) championships . Zimmerman then attended Randolph @-@ Macon College before he transferred to Johns Hopkins University . He played lacrosse as a midfielder for the Blue Jays in 1975 and 1976 . His senior year , he received honorable mention All @-@ American honors and the Turnbull @-@ Reynold Award for leadership and sportsmanship . He graduated in 1976 .

= = Coaching career = =

= = = Early coaching positions = = =

After graduating , Zimmerman remained at Hopkins for a season to coach the lacrosse program 's B squad in 1977 . He spent the following season as an assistant coach at Princeton University . From 1979 to 1982 , he served as an assistant under Willie Scroggs at the University of North Carolina . While there , the Tar Heels won the national championship in 1981 and 1982 .

= = = Johns Hopkins = = =

In 1983 , he returned to his alma mater , and became the head coach in 1984 after the retirement of Henry Ciccarone . That year , he led the Blue Jays to a perfect 14 ? 0 season and became the first head coach to win an NCAA championship in his first season . In 1985 , Hopkins again won the national title while suffering one loss . The following year , the Blue Jays compiled a 10 ? 2 record , and were eliminated in the semifinals in overtime by the eventual national champions , North Carolina . In 1987 , Zimmerman led the team to a 10 ? 3 record and a third title . Upon expiration of his contract , he left Hopkins after compiling a 6 ? 5 record in 1990 . The reason he cited was the pressure associated with the high @-@ profile position . In total , Zimmerman 's teams at Johns Hopkins posted a 73 ? 15 record .

Current Hopkins head coach Dave Pietramala spent his entire college playing career under Zimmerman , from 1986 to 1989 . Former North Carolina and Hopkins head coach John Haus played for the Tar Heels under Zimmerman and then served as his assistant at Johns Hopkins . Zimmerman was the United States national team 's assistant coach for the 1986 World Games .

= = = UMBC = = =

Zimmerman spent three years at Loyola as an assistant for the Greyhounds under Dave Cottle , before he was hired as head coach by the University of Maryland , Baltimore County (UMBC) . The Retrievers continued to struggle early in Zimmerman 's tenure , and during his first three seasons compiled a 14 ? 25 mark . After a 3 ? 9 campaign in 1996 , UMBC became the most improved team in the nation with a 9 ? 3 record for the 1997 season . In 1998 , the Retrievers delivered a major upset by beating , 12 ? 8 , then first @-@ ranked Maryland , the eventual national championship runners @-@ up . The victory helped UMBC secure its first ever berth in the NCAA tournament . In 1999 , the Retrievers again made an appearance in the tournament . Zimmerman coached the

South squad in the 2002 North @-@ South Senior All @-@ Star Game .

In 2005 , UMBC posted a 5 ? 1 conference mark to achieve the America East regular season conference championship . The following year , the Retrievers defeated Binghamton and Albany in the America East tournament for the conference championship , and Zimmerman made his tenth appearance as a head coach in the NCAA tournament . He was named the 2006 America East Coach of the Year . In 2007 , UMBC again advanced past Binghamton before falling to Albany in the America East championship game , and secured another berth in the NCAA tournament . There , they upset seventh @-@ seeded Maryland in the first round for the school 's first appearance in the NCAA quarterfinals .

In 2008 , UMBC again faced Albany in the America East championship game . Halfway through the second period , the Retrievers trailed 11 ? 2 , but rallied to edge their opponents , 14 ? 13 . Zimmerman was named the 2008 America East Coach of the Year . In June , he was considered the frontrunner to replace John Haus who had been fired as North Carolina 's head coach , but Zimmerman removed his name from consideration . He said , " The people at UMBC have been good to me , and this is my home ... these are my kids and I recruited them . I just didn 't think this was the right time to move . " UMBC granted Zimmerman a contract extension through the 2014 season .

In 2009 , UMBC captured its fifth consecutive outright or shared America East regular season title . In the conference semifinals , the Retrievers edged Binghamton , 9 ? 8 . In the final , however , UMBC jumped out to an early lead over Albany and never relinquished it , and won , 15 ? 7 . Zimmerman was named the 2009 America East Coach of the Year . In the first round of the NCAA tournament , the Retrievers faced sixth @-@ seeded North Carolina . UMBC entered the game with the number @-@ one ranked midfield in the nation , but it was lacking in depth , and the first @-@ string was thus forced to play most of the 90 ° F (32 ° C) game . The Retrievers led 8 ? 6 at halftime , but North Carolina assumed control during the third period and went on to win , 15 ? 13 . That season , The Baltimore Sun called Zimmerman " the best coach in college lacrosse . "

While coach at UMBC , Zimmerman has traveled to Japan , Argentina , and the United Kingdom in order to promote the sport of lacrosse . In 2002 , 2004 , and 2006 , UMBC hosted fall scrimmages against teams from Keio University . In the summer of 2005 , the Retrievers traveled to Japan . Regarding the possibility of the sport being a future Olympic event , Zimmerman said , " It ? s incumbent upon us to introduce and develop the game when opportunities occur in order to reach that goal . " The Greater Baltimore Chapter of the United States Lacrosse Hall of Fame inducted Zimmerman on January 25 , 2003 .

= = Personal life = =

Zimmerman lives in Towson , Maryland with his wife , Dorothy . They have two adult children , a son and a daughter .