


COACH ERNIE ZEIGLER

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"THINK TOUGH, BE TOUGH"

*By pushing ourselves mentally and physically daily,
we will enhance our ability to reach a
championship level of success.*



ZEIGLER BELIEVES IN

**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**

**DEVELOPING
CHAMPIONSHIP
PROGRAMS**



**MOTIVATING
STUDENT
ATHLETES**

ZEIGLER CREDENTIALS



University of Nebraska
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2022 - Present



Mississippi State University
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2015 - 2022



University of Detroit Mercy
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2013 - 2015



Central Michigan University
Head Men's Basketball Coach
2006 - 2012



University of California-Los Angeles
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2003 - 2006



University of Pittsburgh
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2001 - 2003



Bowling Green State University
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
2000 - 2001



Kansas State University
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
1999 - 2000



Al-Hilal Sports Club
Head Men's Basketball Coach
1997 - 1999



Henan Wildcats
Head Men's Basketball Coach
1996 - 1997



Cody High School
Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach
1990 - 1996



Team Detroit AAU
Head Boy's Basketball Coach
1992 - 1997

COACHING PHILOSOPHY

I believe the key to success is recruiting the right student athletes in terms of talent and character. My responsibility is to develop, enhance and nurture these student athletes to reach their ultimate level of success academically, athletically and socially. Building and enhancing relationships is a huge component of my program. Having genuine interest and care for my players and staff will enable me to connect with each member of

my program. By identifying the goals and aspirations of each member in my program will allow me to lead everyone to reach their individual goals while obtaining and establishing our program's goals. Our basketball program will be an active part of the campus and our local community, representing the university daily in a loyal and positive manner. This will allow us to strive towards and sustain a championship level of success.



ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

As a leader and mentor of young men, accessing knowledge through education is one of my primary goals. Learning how to think out solutions to problems is how you win in life and reach sustainable success. My student athletes will be in an environment where they will be challenged to communicate verbally and value the opinion of others.

They will be successful because of the joint effort of the Athletic Academic staff and my coaching staff. Each student athlete will understand his responsibility in pursuing and obtaining his degree by utilizing every resource available to him to ensure and enhance his learning experience. This will arm these young men to become successful husbands and fathers in our society.

RECRUITING PHILOSOPHY

Recruitment is a year-round effort. From sharing brand awareness of myself as a winning, personable coach to school awareness - it takes intentionality to strategically share the information needed to win over the right recruits - as well as support from their village, from parents, coaches and community members.

My experiences have allowed my recruiting ties to expand and reach every region of our country, as well as internationally. This will allow my staff and I to identify and recruit from an extremely large population of student athletes to establish and sustain a championship level of success.

RECRUITMENT GAME PLAN

Develop a comprehensive recruiting plan that:

- Is utilized daily
- Updated and revised as needed to ensure success

Identify student athletes who:

- Have talent, skill, attitude and maturity
- Possess good character
- Fit the University profile for academic standards

Narrow prospect list based on:

- Good academic standing
- Character (good people)
- Love for the game
- Heart (willing to push through challenges)
- Athletic ability, agility, skills

Involve:

- Entire staff (scouting; official visit meetings & workouts)
- Team (host recruits during official visits)

Host:

- Elite Camps
- Team Camps
- Individual Camps
- Recruits during official visits

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Being a former Head Coach, I have a great understanding of the importance and value of having the most experienced and knowledgeable people on staff to establish a successful program. My criteria for hiring assistant coaches and staff will be based on identifying high character individuals who possess the ability to teach and develop young men while being positive role models for our student athletes and university. My staff will consist of loyal, high integrity people who will embrace and effectively interact with the university and local communities. As I select coaches to fulfill their roles, ensuring each coach is strong in various areas, complementing one another's strengths and weaknesses, is essential to organizing a staff that will strive daily to establishing and sustaining a championship level of success. Each assistant coach's role is defined below.

Assistant Coach #1

- Recruiting Coordinator
- Compliance Liaison
- Scouting Coordinator for Game Preparation
- Academics Manager

Assistant Coach #2

- Recruiting and Scouting Coordinator
- Game Preparation Specialist
- Program Newsletter Editor
- Academics Management Assistant

Assistant Coach #3

- Recruiting and Scouting Coordinator
- Academics Management Assistant
- Study Hall Manager

Assistant Coach & Director of Player Development

- Organize Individual Workouts
- Graduate Assistant Coach Supervisor
- Academic Progress Assistant

Director of Basketball Operations

- Office Operations Manager
- Team Travel Coordinator
- Mail Manager
- Foreign Tour Coordinator
- Ticket Coordinator

Video & Analytics Coordinator

- Film Exchange and Video Editing Manager
- Organize Analytics and Statistical Data
- Practice Film Breakdown Organizer
- Camp Director

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and Fundraising Coordinator

- Competitive NIL Program Creator
- Booster and Alumni Relations Manager
- Fundraising Objectives Developer for NIL Program
- Identify Potential Business Partners, Alumni and Sponsors

Assistant to Head Coach

- Offensive and Defensive Strategy Developer
- Community Relations Liaison
- Staff Relations Cultivator and Organizer
- Public Relations and Events Coordinator

INITIAL 12-MONTH PLAN

April

- Meet with current student athletes
- Hire staff
- Contact recent signees
- Schedule recruitment
- Schedule summer camps

May

- Meet with my staff
- Meet with administrators and other head coaches
- Schedule practice times
- Monitor student classroom progress
- Host summer camps

June

- Staff meetings
- Update recruitment database
- Monitor student classroom progress
- Finalize team travel

July

- Recruit and organized unofficial visits
- Meet with team
- Staff meetings
- Analyze previous season film
- Meet with academic support

August

- Meet with team
- Finalize study hall schedule
- Begin student athlete individual meetings
- Official visits

September

- Home visits
- Staff meetings
- Begin practice
- Film exchange
- Meet with media

October

- Staff meetings
- Prep for early signees
- Cover local high school tournaments
- Practice
- Preseason games
- Thanksgiving break plans solidified for all student athletes

November

- Staff meetings
- Recruiting
- Practice
- Obtain exam schedules
- Winter break plans solidified for all student athletes

December

- Begin conference play
- Review recruiting schedule
- Staff meetings
- Practice

January

- Staff meetings
- Practice
- Plan for Conference Tournament
- Plan for post-season workouts

February

- Conference Tournament
- Prepare for NCAA Tournament
- Recruit

March

- Late signing period
- Post season workouts
- Meet with academic support
- End of season report and evaluations
- End of season banquet



Ernie Zeigler

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EDUCATION

Cleary College

Bachelor of Art in Business Management

Howell, MI
1994

COACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nebraska

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

- 2024 NCAA Tournament First Round
- Finished regular season with 2nd highest win total in school history
- 12 Big Ten wins - ties for 2nd highest total in school history
- Undefeated at home in Big Ten play - 1st time in school history

Lincoln, NE
2022 - Present

Mississippi State University

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

- 2022 NIT First Round
- 2021 NIT Championship Game Finalist
- 2020 Won 20 games or more for the 3rd consecutive season
- 2019 NCAA Tournament First Round
- 2018 NIT Final Four
- Top 5 ranked recruiting class in nation 2016 by Scout.com
- Top 10 ranked recruiting class in nation 2016 by ESPN.com
- Top 15 ranked recruiting class in nation 2017 by Scout.com
- Top 25 ranked recruiting class in nation 2017 by ESPN.com
- Top 25 ranked recruiting class in nation 2018 by ESPN.com
- Top 40 ranked recruiting class in nation by Rivals.com

Starkville, MS
2015 - 2022

University of Detroit Mercy

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

- Assisted in all facets of the program to create a culture of winning

Detroit, MI
2013 - 2015

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Central Michigan University

Mount Pleasant, MI

Head Men's Basketball Coach

2006 - 2012

- Graduated 18 of 21 student athletes who finished their playing career
- 2nd Coach in program's Division I history to reach 10 or more wins each year of his tenure
- 4th Most overall (75) and conference (47) wins in program's Division I history
- 2 MAC West Division Championships (2009 & 2010)
- 2 Michigan MAC Championships - best head to head record among Michigan schools (2010 & 2012)
- Advanced to MAC Tournament Quarterfinals 5 of 6 seasons
- Coached 8 MAC All Conference Player selections
- Coached 4 MAC All Freshman team selections
- Coached 4 1,000 point career scorers
- 1 ranked recruiting class in MAC 2007 & 2010 by Rivals.com
- Overall Record 75-111

University of California-Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

2003 - 2006

- 2006 NCAA Tournament National Runner Up, Final Four
- 2006 PAC 10 Regular Season & Conference Tournament Champions
- 2006 32-7 record tied school record for most wins program history
- 2006 National Ranking No.2 in Associated Press & USA Today polls
- 2005 NCAA Tournament First Round
- Top 5 ranked recruiting class in nation 2004 by Rivals.com
- Top 15 ranked recruiting class in nation 2005 by Scout.com

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

2001 - 2003

- 2002 & 2003 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16
- 2003 Big East West Division & Big East Tournament Champions
- 2003 National Top 10 ranking No. 8 USA Today & Associated Press polls
- 2002 Big East West Division Champions
- 2002 29-5 record most wins in program history
- 2002 National Top 10 ranking No. 7 USA Today, No. 9 Associated Press

Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, OH

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

2000 - 2001

- Assisted in all areas of the program to establish a championship culture

Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

1999 - 2000

- Assisted in all facets of the program to create a winning culture

Ernie Zeigler ³

Al-Hilal Sports Club

Head Men's Basketball Coach

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

1997 - 1999

- 1999 Saudi Arabian Federation Champions
- 1998 Arab Championship Games Final Four
- 1998 Saudi Arabian Federation Final Four
- Overall Record 51-13

Henan Wildcats

Head Men's Basketball Coach

Zhengshou, China

1996 - 1997

- 1997 Chinese Basketball Alliance(CBA) Coach of the Year
- 1997 CBA Final Four
- Led team to its first winning season and CBA playoff appearance
- Overall Record 23-17

Cody High School

Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach

Detroit, MI

1990 - 1996

- Ranked Top 10 in state 4 of 6 seasons in Class A
- 1993 Public school league West Division Champions
- 1992 State Quarterfinals

Team Detroit AAU

Head Boy's Basketball Coach

Detroit, MI

1992 - 1997

- 1997, 1995 Adidas Big Time Tournament Quarterfinals
- 1994 National AAU Quarterfinals
- Michigan AAU Final Four 6 consecutive seasons

Ernie Zeigler

REFERENCES

Fred Hoiberg

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