



**Keith Dambrot is the University' Winningest
Basketball Coach**

Ken MacDonald

Keith Dambrot built The University of Akron's basketball program into one of the most successful and most respected programs in the Mid-American Conference over thirteen seasons from 2004–2017. After three seasons as an assistant coach, Dambrot was elevated to the school's twenty-first head basketball coach on March 10, 2004, the fourth University of Akron alumnus to take the job. The former three-year starter on the Zips' baseball team earned his bachelor's degree from the University in 1982 and his MBA in 1984. He launched his University of Akron coaching career in 2004–2005 with a team

that went 19–10, the most wins since 1988–1989. Twelve consecutive seasons later of twenty-one plus wins in each, he became the all-time winningest basketball coach with a record of 305–139, surpassing the legendary Russ Beichly, who had accumulated a 288–144 record over nineteen seasons from 1940–59. Dambrot averaged 23.5 wins a season and went 26–7 in 2006–2007 and 2012–2013, 26–9 in 2015–2016, and, the most all-time season wins, 27–9 mark in 2016–2017. His teams captured five Mid-American Conference titles and MAC Tournament Championships in 2009, 2011, and 2013 to earn NCAA I Tournament berths. In addition, the Zips had five National Invitational Tournament berths and two other lesser-known postseason tournament bids. Twenty-nine of his players received All-MAC honors and, two, Romeo Travis (2006–2007) and Isaiah Johnson (2016–2017), were MAC Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-Americans. Dambrot was named MAC Coach of the Year in 2013, 2016, and 2017.