

Jim Dennison - Head Football Coach



Jim Dennison, the dean of Ohio coaches, returns for his 17th season as Walsh's head football coach and 30th at the collegiate level. This season also marks his 50th year as a football coach and athletic administrator. The veteran coach returns in 2011 with the challenge of leading the Walsh football program into NCAA II status. He has directed Walsh to 14 winning seasons and a Mid-States Football Mideast

Championship in 2001. After guiding Walsh to one of the finest turnarounds of any level in the Nation, (8-3 in 2009, Walsh notched another winning season in 2010 (7-4) which was highlighted by his 200th career coaching victory. His overall record (111-63) at Walsh ranks in the top six in the NAIA in wins among all NAIA active coaches. In 2006, after leading the Cavs to five straight 8-3 seasons, the Cavs finished 9-3 and made their first-ever NAIA Playoff appearance.



Dennison was named Director of Athletics at Walsh in June of 1993. The university announced on February 11, 1994, that it would institute football as a varsity sport in the fall of 1995 and named Dennison as head coach. Dennison stepped down from his role as athletic director in 2007 to devote all of his time to football.

Dennison retired from his post as Director of Athletics at the University of Akron in June of 1993.

He served 28 years at Akron, including 13 years as the head football coach and seven as director of athletics.

Dennison graduated from Wadsworth High School where he earned All-Metro League honors in football, basketball and baseball. He continued his athletic prowess at the College of Wooster in football and baseball and was voted the school's Most Valuable Senior Athlete in 1960. That same year, Dennison graduated with honors with a B.A. degree.

Dennison's coaching career spans three sports and began in 1960 at his alma mater, Wadsworth High School. The following year he moved to Elyria High School as head baseball coach and an assistant in football. During his three-year stay at Elyria, his baseball teams compiled an excellent



54-16 record. Copley High School then found use for his talents by naming Jim its head football coach in 1964. He promptly guided the Indians to an

undefeated 9-0 season.

His rapid climb through the coaching ranks was accelerated the following year when Akron Head Coach Gordon Larson picked him for the UA staff. Dennison served as an assistant coach and then associate head coach for eight years before being named the Zips' head coach on January 1, 1973.

As head coach of the Zips, Dennison established himself as the winningest coach in Akron football history, with a 13 year record of 80 wins, 62 losses and two ties. He was the first Zip gridiron coach to win ten games in a season, and the first to play for a national championship. He also became the first and only Zip Football Coach to be named Ohio Coach of the Year and Kodak National College Coach of the Year in 1976. In 1982, Dennison added the Ohio Valley Coach of the Year Award to his list of accomplishments.

During his tenure as the Zips Head Coach, he produced three of the six best records in Akron football history, 10-3 in 1976, 8-3 in 1983 and 8-4 in 1985. The '85 team, his last, finished ranked 10th nationally and earned an NCAA I-AA playoff berth. Dennison has recruited or coached countless All-Americans, and numerous all-conference players. He is also proud of his 82% graduation rate at Akron.



In 2002 and 2005, he was named NAIA Northeast Region Sports-Turf NACDA Athletic Director of the Year and was named NAIA Region IX Athletic Director of the Year in 2004 and 2005. In 2003

he became a charter member of the University of Akron Ring of Honor and in 2007 he received the University of Akron Alumni Honor Award.

A passionate believer in positive mental attitude (PMA), Dennison is called upon to deliver his message about motivation and goal setting. Jim and his wife Sue are parents of a daughter, Mrs. Denise Morrow, and three sons, Jim, Greg and Matt and have ten grandchildren. The Dennisons reside in Norton.

The Dennison File

DEGREES AND HONORS:

- 1956 Wadsworth High School (National Honor Society)
- 1960 College of Wooster, B.A. (Honors)
- 1968 University of Akron, M.A.

- Winningest Football Coach in University of Akron history (80-62-2)
- 1976 Kodak National Coach of the Year
- 1976 U of A Zips NCAA II National Runner-up
- Athletic and Coaching Experience, 50 years
- 200 Career Coaching Victories
- 50 years as a head coach and administrator
- 1995 Initiated Walsh University Football Program

All in the Family... Did you know that Jim Dennison has two sons that are extremely successful high school head football coaches. Greg, is the winningest coach in Wadsworth High School football history, and Matt, a Walsh graduate, is 61-22 at New Philadelphia High School. Both have been honored as all-conference coaches of the year and both have coached in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game. In 2010, Matt was named head coach of the Ohio All-Star Team in the Big 33 Game in Pennsylvania, won 50-14 by Ohio. All three coaches (father and sons) have had undefeated teams at some point in their careers.



Jim Dennison's Coaching Record

YEAR	SCHOOL	WON	LOST	TIED
1964	Copley High School	9	0	0
1973	University of Akron	6	5	0
1974	University of Akron	5	5	0
1975	University of Akron	7	4	0
1976	University of Akron	10	3	0
1977	University of Akron	6	4	1
1978	University of Akron	6	5	0
1979	University of Akron	6	5	0
1980	University of Akron	3	7	1
1981	University of Akron	5	5	0
1982	University of Akron	6	5	0
1983	University of Akron	8	3	0
1984	University of Akron	4	7	0
1985	University of Akron	8	4	0
1995	WALSH UNIVERSITY	7	3	0
1996	WALSH UNIVERSITY	6	5	0
1997	WALSH UNIVERSITY	7	3	0
1998	WALSH UNIVERSITY	6	5	0
1999	WALSH UNIVERSITY	7	3	0
2000	WALSH UNIVERSITY	6	5	0
2001	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2002	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2003	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2004	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2005	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2006	WALSH UNIVERSITY	9	3	0
2007	WALSH UNIVERSITY	5	6	0
2008	WALSH UNIVERSITY	3	8	0
2009	WALSH UNIVERSITY	8	3	0
2010	WALSH UNIVERSITY	7	4	0
30 YRS. TOTALS		200	125	2
29 YRS. COLLEGIATE TOTALS		191	125	2

Did You Know... Jim Dennison earned his 100th career coaching win 10/5/97 vs. Urbana (35-6) at the Akron Rubber Bowl, where he led the UA Zips from 1973 to 1985. Dennison earned his 100th collegiate win against arch-rival Malone College (14-6) on 11/15/98 and win number 150 against Geneva (14-7) on 10/23/04. He won his 100th game at Walsh, 10/3/2009, 63-12 vs. Olivet Nazarene and last season notched his 200th career against Trinity on November 6..

Jim Dennison's 1,000 Yard Rushers

YR.	PLAYER	ATT	YDS	AVG.	TD
1979	Paul Winters	318	1,298	4.1	2
1980	Dennis Brumfield	254	1,000	3.9	5
1981	Dennis Brumfield	273	1,041	3.8	7
1982	James Black	306	1,188	3.9	6
1983	James Black	351	1,568	4.5	9
1984	Mike Clark	258	1,229	4.5	4
1985	Mike Clark	334	1,471	4.4	13
1995	Damont Skanes	196	1,002	5.1	13
1996	Damont Skanes	268	1,215	4.5	8
1997	Damont Skanes	178	1,229	6.9	8
1998	Damont Skanes	234	1,221	5.2	11
1999	Demetrius Harris	246	1,333	5.4	12
2000	Derek Besgrove	235	1,235	5.5	21
2002	Derek Besgrove	322	1,679	5.2	18
2003	Derek Besgrove	333	1,781	5.3	21
2004	Chase Hostetler	312	1,202	3.9	15
2005	Antwain Reine'	207	1,094	5.3	10
2006	Antwain Reine'	227	1,098	4.8	6
2007	C. Blossomgame	348	1,487	4.3	11
2009	C. Blossomgame	258	1,315	5.1	14
2010	Dominic Williams	225	1,340	6.0	10

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- First Athletic Director in the nation to move program from Division I-AA to I-A status (University of Akron)
- Established MAC affiliation for the University of Akron
- **Walsh University**
- NACDA, NAIA Northeast Athletic Director of the Year 2002-03, 2005-06, NAIA Region IX Athletic Director of the Year 2004-05 & 2005-06.
- Academic achievement and support emphasis (+50% over 3.00)
- Implemented new organizational chart, goal setting policy, department manuals, computerization of the department, marketing and promotion strategies, new award system, new fund raising philosophy, academic awards banquet and a gender equity plan
- Improved athletic facilities, established Captains' Council, Cavalier Community Awareness Program and Drug Education Seminar
- Hired the first full-time trainer, strength coach, athletic secretary, senior women's administrator, compliance officer, athletic academic advisor, and athletic fund raiser

INDUCTED INTO SEVEN HALLS OF FAME:

- Charter Member, Wadsworth Sports Hall of Fame (1978)
- Summit County Hall of Fame (1983)
- Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame (1986)
- College of Wooster Hall of Fame (1986)
- University of Akron Hall of Fame (1987)
- Medina County Hall of Fame (1987)
- Wadsworth High School Distinguished Alumni (2006)
- Akron Dapper Dan Man of the Year (1977)
- University of Akron Alumni Award (2007)
- Ohio Valley Conference Co-Coach of the Year (1982)
- Ohio College Coach of the Year (1976)
- District V Coach of the Year (1976)
- Ohio Shrine Bowl Coach (1974)
- Copley High School 9-0 (1964)
- University of Akron "Ring of Honor" (2004)



Dennison receives the NACDA, NAIA Northeast Athletic Director of the Year Award (2002).