
Veteran soccer coach Mitchell tapped to lead UAH programs

Contributed by Jamie Gilliam
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HUNTSVILLE, Ala. - Bringing over 14 years of collegiate coaching experience to the table, the University of Alabama in Huntsville announces Mike Mitchell as the new head coach of the Charger men's and women's soccer teams.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity for me and my family," remarked Mitchell. "The Chargers soccer programs are sleeping giants here in a great soccer community in Huntsville and Madison. The local youth programs have top-notch coaching and always produce soccer players that can play at the highest level."

Having worked with local youth programs for more than 20 years, Mitchell also brings a wealth of experience having coached previously at Clayton State University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Brewton-Parker College, Oglethorpe University, LaGrange College and Dekalb Community College.

"We are extremely thrilled to bring Mike aboard to lead both our men's and women's soccer programs here at UAH," noted Director of Athletics Jim Harris. "His vast knowledge of the collegiate game and soccer around the southeast will be a vital part of the continued success of our programs. His excitement and fire to grow soccer not only here at UAH but around the area will be a tremendous asset for the entire soccer community."

A three-time Georgia Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, the Atlanta native has coached 23 collegiate All-America players, six national team players and Hjortur Hjartarson, who was a two-time NAIA Player of the Year. Mitchell holds a USSF B, NSCAA National Soccer license and is a member of the US Soccer Association and the Georgia State Soccer Association.

"I'm really looking forward to being a part of the soccer community in the Huntsville area," said Mitchell. "My family and I are delighted about becoming part of the UAH family."

An all-conference standout for Division I Georgia Southern, Mitchell eventually graduated from Georgia State with a bachelor's degree in marketing before earning his master's of business administration from Mercer University.

Married to the former Kristi Skipper of Montgomery, the couple has one daughter, Cameron (18) and two sons, Thomas (20) and Evan (12).

Becoming just the fourth men's head coach in over 30 years of soccer and the third women's head coach since the program's inception, Mitchell succeeds Tafadzwa "Lincoln" Ziyenge, who resigned to take over at Division I Arkansas State.