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Wednesday, March 5, 2008

UDM basketball coach Watson resigns

Tom Markowski / The Detroit News

Perry Watson announced his retirement Wednesday morning as head coach of the men's [basketball](#) program at Detroit Mercy.

Watson coached the Titans for 14 full seasons, plus 14 games this season before taking a medical leave of absence on Jan. 7. Associate head coach Kevin Mondro took over as interim coach, and Watson continued to oversee the program in an administrative role.

UDM was 7-23 this season following its season-ending 60-37 loss at Wright State on Tuesday in the opening round of the [Horizon League](#) tournament.

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Watson, 57, leaves as the second-winningest head coach in [school](#) history with a career record of 261-198. Legendary coach Bob Calihan (1948-69) is first with a record of 306-237.

In a prepared statement released by the sports information department, Watson gave thanks to those who gave him the opportunity to coach at a Division I school in his hometown.

"We had some very good years, and a couple of disappointing ones," said Watson. "The challenges were great, but it was certainly rewarding to have great assistant coaches and so many appreciative players. I wish the Titans success as they move forward."

Athletic director Keri Gaither praised Watson's contributions to the program.

"We are very appreciative of coach Watson's efforts over the past 15 years," Gaither said. "Coach Watson's former players have gone on to successful careers in professional basketball and in other various vocations."

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Perry Watson is stepping down as head coach of the men's basketball program at Detroit Mercy. (Steve Perez / The Detroit News)



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