



Team of Distinction: 1986 Soccer

Ken McDonald

In 1986, Head Coach Steve Parker would direct The University of Akron further than any previous team in the school's thirty-two-year soccer history while compiling a 17-4-3 record. Led by senior striker Derek Gaffney, who earned first team All-America and Academic All-America honors, Akron earned its fifteenth NCAA tournament bid and had to beat Evansville, Penn State, and Fresno State to reach the NCAA Tournament Championship with Duke. Unfortunately, the Zips finished as national runner-up as the Blue Devils prevailed with a score of 1-0, however, Parker was accorded National Coach of the Year.