



**Lorenzo Romar**

### **Biographical Information**

Lorenzo Romar -- who has been a successful head coach for more than two decades and is known as one of the nation's top recruiters -- returned to Pepperdine and is his second stint in charge of the men's basketball program. The 2020-21 season will be his third since his return, and his sixth overall with the Waves.

In 23 seasons as a head coach at Pepperdine, Saint Louis and Washington, Romar's career record is 423-318 (74-78 in his five seasons with the Waves). He won a national championship as an assistant coach at UCLA in 1995.

Romar's first head coaching position was with the Waves for three seasons, as he took over in 1996-97 and stayed through 1998-99. After an initial rebuilding season, he led Pepperdine to 17 and 19 wins over his next two seasons, including a spot in the NIT in 1999. An 11-win improvement from season one to two ranked as one of the nation's top improvements.

He left after that year to become the head coach at Saint Louis University, but players that he recruited to Pepperdine would go on to make the NCAA Tournament in 2000 and 2002.

One of the players he recruited to Pepperdine was Brandon Armstrong, a 2001 NBA Draft first-round selection. He had five All-WCC first team selections in his three years, including Jelani Gardner (who received the honor twice) and Gerald Brown (who currently serves as the Waves' assistant director of operations).

He made an immediate impact in his return to Malibu ahead of the 2018-19 season, overseeing another one of the nation's top turnarounds by leading Pepperdine to 16 wins (a 10-win improvement over the



previous year). In fact, in Pepperdine's long history there have only been four occasions when the Waves have improved by 10 wins from one year to the next, and Romar has been the head coach for two of them.

Romar earned the 400th victory of his head coaching career on January 12, 2019, at San Diego.

"My comfort level with Steve Potts and President (Andrew) Benton played a huge role in my decision to return to Pepperdine," said Romar in March 2018 at the time of his hiring. "I grew up in Southern California, and at this point in my career it was my preference to stay on the West Coast. The Christian mission that Pepperdine stands for, its values, the fact that they are committed to putting forth the resources necessary to allow Pepperdine to get back to the highest level where they once were, all this is very exciting to me.

"Pepperdine was my first head coaching job, and I remember us not doing well our first year. When we took over there had been a couple of losing seasons before that, and in our first year we also had a losing season. Then in our second year, I think we were the second-most improved team in the country. To see the kids on that team experience a little more success was something that was really exciting."

Pepperdine Director of Athletics Dr. Steve Potts said: "Lorenzo Romar is one of the finest men that I know. I am extremely pleased and excited that he has agreed to rejoin our program as our men's basketball head coach. His commitment to our Christian mission, to the academic well-being of our student-athletes and to building a men's basketball program that will compete for West Coast Conference championships make him a perfect fit for Pepperdine."

Former Pepperdine University President Andrew K. Benton said: "I am delighted that Coach Romar is coming 'home' to Pepperdine. I admire his approach to the game of basketball and the way in which he leads his teams in preparation for the game of life. We open this new chapter with confidence, and, of course, with waves of enthusiasm."

Romar helped rebuild Washington into a perennial Pac-12 contender during his 15 seasons as head coach there (2002-03 through 2016-17). Fourteen of his Huskies were selected in the NBA Draft, including 11 first-round picks, such as Nate Robinson, Brandon Roy, Spencer Hawes, Terrence Ross, Marquese Chriss, Dejounte Murray and 2017 top overall pick Markelle Fultz. Future NBA All-Star Isaiah Thomas also played for Romar at Washington, one of 17 Huskies that went on to play in the NBA during his tenure.

Romar left his alma mater with the second-most wins in program history with 298, averaging nearly 20 victories a season. He amassed four of the seven largest single-season win totals in Washington history, including 29 in 2004-05, tying the school record. The Huskies received their first-ever No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament that year.

He led UW to a pair of conference regular-season (2009 and 2012) and three tournament championships (2005, 2010, 2011). The Huskies played in six NCAA Tournaments, three NITs and one CBI.

At Washington, he earned three Pac-10 or Pac-12 Coach of the Year honors (2005, 2009, 2012). The Black Coaches Association named him its National Coach of the Year in 2005. In 2006, he was honored



with the John Wooden “Keys to Life” Award. Pac-10 players once voted him as the opposing coach that they would most like to play for.

Prior to Washington, Romar spent three years at Saint Louis (1999-00 through 2001-02). He won 51 games, which included the 2000 Conference USA Tournament title and a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

After Washington and before returning to Pepperdine, Romar served as the associate head coach for one season (2017-18) at Arizona. He helped the Wildcats a 27-8 record, Pac-12 regular-season and tournament titles and a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

A native of Compton, California, Romar graduated from Pius X High School and earned an associate’s degree from Cerritos (Calif.) Community College in 1980. During his sophomore year, he set a school record for single-season assists and earned all-league first team honors.

He went on to Washington, where he would be a two-year starter at point guard and was the team captain as a senior in 1979-80. He led the Huskies in assists both seasons, and averaged 9.3 points as a senior as UW made the NIT. He was the recipient of the team’s Most Inspirational Award both years.

He was selected in the seventh round of the 1980 NBA Draft (141st overall) by the Golden State Warriors. He would go on to play five seasons in the NBA with Golden State, Milwaukee and Detroit. He had totals of 1,731 points (5.9 average) and 1,022 assists (3.5 average) during 291 career regular-season games.

After the 1984-85 season, Romar joined Athletes in Action and played with the organization for seven seasons. He started 224 of 233 games during this time, and set AIA single-game records for points (54) and assists (21) and the career record for assists (1,689). He eventually became a player-coach with the organization.

That eventually led him to becoming an assistant coach at UCLA under former Pepperdine head coach Jim Harrick. During his four seasons (1992-93 through 1995-96), in which he was the top assistant and lead recruiter, the Bruins won the 1995 NCAA title and had a 98-27 record. He went from UCLA to becoming Pepperdine’s head coach.

Romar has also long been involved with USA Basketball. He served as an assistant coach for both the U-22 team that competed at the 1997 World Championships, and for the Pan American Games team in 2003. He was the head coach of the U.S. U-18 National Team, which won a gold medal at the 2006 FIBA Americas. USA Basketball named him to its competition committee in February 2013 for a four-year term.

Romar earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from University of Cincinnati in 1992. He and his wife Leona have three daughters – Terra, Tavia and Taylor – and they also have three grandchildren.



### Lorenzo Romar's Collegiate Coaching Record

Year	School	Position	Overall	Conf.	Finish	Postseason
1992-93 of 32	UCLA	Assistant Coach	22-11	11-7	T-3rd	NCAA Round
1993-94 of 64	UCLA	Assistant Coach	21-7	13-5	T-2nd	NCAA Round
1994-95 Champions	UCLA	Assistant Coach	32-1	17-1	1st	NCAA
1995-96 of 64	UCLA	Assistant Coach	23-8	16-2	1st	NCAA Round
		<b>4 seasons</b>	<b>98-27</b>			
1996-97	Pepperdine	Head Coach	6-21	4-10	T-6th	--
1997-98	Pepperdine	Head Coach	17-10	9-5	2nd	--
1998-99	Pepperdine	Head Coach	19-13	9-5	T-2nd	NIT
		<b>3 seasons</b>	<b>42-44</b>			
1999-00 of 64	Saint Louis	Head Coach	19-14	7-9	T-7th	NCAA Round
2000-01	Saint Louis	Head Coach	17-14	8-8	7th	--
2001-02	Saint Louis	Head Coach	15-16	9-7	5th	--
		<b>3 seasons</b>	<b>51-44</b>			
2002-03	Washington	Head Coach	10-17	5-13	9th	--
2003-04 of 64	Washington	Head Coach	19-12	12-6	2nd	NCAA Round
2004-05 16	Washington	Head Coach	29-6	14-4	2nd	NCAA Sweet
2005-06 16	Washington	Head Coach	26-7	13-5	2nd	NCAA Sweet
2006-07	Washington	Head Coach	19-13	8-10	7th	--
2007-08	Washington	Head Coach	16-17	7-11	8th	CBI
2008-09 of 32	Washington	Head Coach	26-9	14-4	1st	NCAA Round
2009-10 16	Washington	Head Coach	26-10	11-7	3rd	NCAA Sweet
2010-11 of 32	Washington	Head Coach	24-11	11-7	3rd	NCAA Round
2011-12	Washington	Head Coach	24-11	14-4	1st	NIT
2012-13	Washington	Head Coach	18-16	9-9	T-6th	NIT
2013-14	Washington	Head Coach	17-15	9-9	T-8th	--
2014-15	Washington	Head Coach	16-15	5-13	11th	--
2015-16	Washington	Head Coach	19-15	9-9	T-6th	NIT
2016-17	Washington	Head Coach	9-22	2-16	11th	--
		<b>15 seasons</b>	<b>298-196</b>			



2017-18 of 64	Arizona	Associate Head Coach	27-8	14-4	1st	NCAA Round
2018-19	Pepperdine	Head Coach	16-18	6-10	8th	--
2019-20	Pepperdine	Head Coach	16-16	8-8	6th	--
		<b>2 seasons</b>	<b>32-34</b>			

**23 Years as a College Head Coach: 423-318 (.571)**

**5 Years as the Head Coach at Pepperdine: 74-78 (.487)**

**28 Years as a College Coach: 548-353 (.608)**

#### **NBA DRAFT PICKS COACHED**

1993 Richard Petruska 2/46

**1995 Ed O'Bannon 1/9**

1995 George Zidek 1/22

1995 Tyus Edney 2/47

1997 Charles O'Bannon 2/31

1998 Jelani McCoy 2/33

1998 Toby Bailey 2/45

1998 J.R. Henderson 2/56

2001 Brandon Armstrong 1/23

2001 Maurice Jeffers 2/54

2005 Nate Robinson 1/21

**2006 Brandon Roy 1/6**

2006 Bobby Jones 2/37

**2007 Spencer Hawes 1/10**

2009 Jon Brockman 2/38

2010 Quincy Pondexter 1/26

2011 Isaiah Thomas 2/60

**2012 Terrence Ross 1/8**

2012 Tony Wroten 1/25

2014 C.J. Wilcox 1/28

**2016 Marquese Chriss 1/8**

2016 DeJounte Murray 1/29

**2017 Markelle Fultz 1/1**

2019 Matisse Thybulle 1/20

**2018 DeAndre Ayton 1/1**