

# NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## RAY BIRMINGHAM



**R**ay Birmingham: University of New Mexico head baseball coach Ray Birmingham is being inducted tonight into a hall of fame for the third time. In his 29 years, he has won his 1100th win vs. Grand Canyon on March 16, 2106 vs. Grand Canyon University. His overall record as of March 21, 2016 is 1103-536-3.

Prior to the 2011 baseball season, he was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame following his 18 years as the head coach at New Mexico Junior College, where he led the Thunderbirds to 765 wins and two trips to the NJCAA World Series, including the 2005 National Championship.

In 2012, the Lea County Hall of Fame honored him with induction. Lea County is home to Hobbs, home to NMJC and College of the Southwest, where Birmingham began his collegiate coaching career, leading the Mustangs to a No. 23 national ranking and 53 wins in two seasons.

"I'm humbled by the honor, I really am," Birmingham said after being informed he'd completed the trifecta. "I'm proud to represent the great state of New Mexico. People from every corner of this state have helped me with baseball for over five decades."

"Not only is he a great ambassador for our state, but he is also one of the premier college baseball coaches in the country," said UNM Vice President for Athletics Paul Krebs.

In his ninth season at UNM, Birmingham has led the Lobos to four NCAA Tournament appearances, including the first for the program since 1962. UNM has also won three regular-season Mountain West titles and two Mountain West Tournament championships.

Known as one of the best hitting minds in the game, Birmingham consistently leads the Lobos to top 10 NCAA batting averages. For four straight years, and in six of seven, the Lobos have placed inside the top 10 in the nation.

His final destination this spring, he hopes again, is Omaha for the College World Series.

