

Bob Bowman
US Olympic Swim Coach

Bob Bowman has become one of the most well-known and successful swim coaches in the United States. Born in Charleston, South Carolina on April 6, 1964, he began a highly successful coaching career at his alma mater, Florida State, in 1989.

In 1996, Bowman began coaching at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club (NBAC). During his nine-year tenure at NBAC, Bowman worked with swimming superstar Michael Phelps. Although Phelps was only 11 years old when the two first met, Bowman recognized the youngster's talent and took him under his wing. Under Bowman's tutelage, Phelps emerged as arguably the world's greatest swimmer ever.

Most notable for his successful development of Phelps, Bowman has coached many other world-class swimmers such as Peter Vanderkaay, Eric Vendt, Kaitlan Sandeno, Chris DeJong, Davis Tarwater, Chris Thompson, and Klete Keller. He has also served as an assistant coach for the US Olympic Team in both 2004 and 2008, and in September of 2011 he was named as an assistant coach for the 2012 Olympics in London.

Bowman's strategic development of Phelps led to the greatest individual swimming performance of all-time as Phelps set the Olympic record for gold medals won at a single Olympic Games with eight gold medals and seven world records at the 2008 Beijing Games. Bowman also coached Phelps to seven gold medals and five world records at the 2007 World Championships in Melbourne, Australia. Bowman's comprehensive training program has spanned over 12 years, and included a carefully scripted training program with specific goals for the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Games, as well as the upcoming 2012 Olympic Games.

Bowman was named the head swim coach at the University of Michigan in 2005, and subsequently led them to the Big Ten Championship and a sixth place finish in the 2007-2008 NCAA Championship. He also led the Wolverines to a second place Big Ten finish in 2007 and two third place finishes in 2005 and 2006. He compiled a 30-8-1 record in dual meets, and was a remarkable 21-1-1 within the Big Ten during his time in Ann Arbor.

Bowman has received many accolades in his career, including the Golden Goggles Coach of the Year award three times (2006-2008), Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year twice (2007-2008), USA Swimming and American Swimming Coaches Association Coach of the Year twice (2001 and 2003), and USA Swimming's Developmental Coach of the Year in 2002. He has also served as both an assistant and head coach for four US World Championship teams.

Bowman is a highly sought-after inspirational and motivational speaker, whose topics include goal-setting, mental toughness and achieving excellence. In his personal life, Bowman runs a thoroughbred racing, breeding, and sales company, and is also a gifted musician as a pianist; his background in music is something that he has incorporated into his coaching style.