

Marling “Newt” Engle, who is among the most respected rifle coaches in the nation, is in his 40th season as head coach of The University of Akron rifle team and has guided the Zips to several conference championships and national honors.

Moreover, the longest-tenured coach in UA history has made several trips to the NCAA National Championships as several members of the Zips squads have qualified for individual honors. On one such trip, Engle mentored Zips hotshot Jenna Compton to the NCAA individual national title in air rifle in 2009 also earning Compton a slot on the USA Shooting National Development Team. In 2016 Akron won the bid to host the 2016 NCAA rifle championships. Engle’s innovative approach to the 2016 championship is setting the trend to hold both smallbore and air rifle competitions in venues like the UA Fieldhouse. Success is nothing new to Engle’s UA teams. In fact, it has become a part of its tradition as the program has consistently been ranked as one of the top-20 teams in the nation for many years. .



Over the past 40-plus years, no name has become more synonymous with Akron rifle than Engle’s. During that time, he has had the opportunity to work with hundreds of exceptional student-athletes. Those athletes have helped the team gain national recognition, including a national ranking as high as No. 10, as well as several championships as prior members of the Lake Erie Intercollegiate Rifle Conference, the Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Rifle League, and the Summit County Rifle League, the Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference and the Mid-American Rifle Conference. In 2014 the Zips earned an invitation to join the prestigious Great America Rifle Conference giving Akron an opportunity to go head to head with many of the top Olympic Rifle schools in the nation.

After a short stint at Kent State, Newt Engle transferred to Akron and joined the UA varsity rifle team in the fall of 1974. He won the conference championship in 1975 as a sophomore and again in 1976 as a junior. He also finished in second place in his final season in 1977. Engle was appointed team captain in 1976 and 1977.

During Engle’s last year on the team, head coach Nancy Worsencroft suffered a serious injury and was unable to continue coaching. As team captain, Engle was asked to help the team complete the 1977 season. The following season, he was offered and accepted the position as the new head coach. With the introduction of athletic scholarships, the team entered the national arena, attracting athletes from across the nation, while continuing to bring in and develop local talent.

The late 1970s, was a busy time for Engle. He not only became head coach in 1977, but also joined the UA Police Department in 1979. Over his 34 year law enforcement career, Engle worked his way up to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, and retired in the summer of 2011. Also in 1979, Newt married his best friend, Sandy Barco Engle.

In 2012 Engle developed and started teaching a physical education class titled "Beginning Rifle." His classes have served to introduce hundreds of novice participants to the sport of rifle. Additionally in 2012 Engle became the faculty advisor and assistant coach for the newly formed Zips rifle club team. Engle works closely with his daughter April Engle who is the head coach for the Zips Rifle Club. The club is earning national accolades by being ranked as one of the top 5 club teams in the nation.

Engle's daughters, Angie and April have both followed in their father's footsteps entering the Olympic sport of rifle by joining the Ashland Eagles junior rifle club where their father served as an assistant coach. With help of the three Engle's, the Eagles earned many junior national championship titles and national records. Both of Engle's daughters earned degrees from UA and each lettered four years with the Zips rifle team under their father's watch. From then, through today, coach Engle still volunteers to work with junior shooters in Ohio as a trustee with the Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association assisting with many of the state association junior teams who continue to win national titles. Engle also holds the title of Collegiate Director for the Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association.

Engle was born and raised on a farm in Perry Township near Canton, Ohio, and graduated from Perry High School in 1973. In 1984, Engle finished his bachelor's degree in political science at UA.

Engle was appointed in 2007 as a member of the prestigious NCAA Rifle Committee charged with the responsibility of overseeing NCAA rifle competitions nationwide. Serving a four-year term, Engle finished his tenure on the committee in 2011 with his last two years as chairperson. Since then, Engle has served as the NCAA Rifle Committee Secretary/Rules Interpreter. Additionally Engle serves as a member of the NRA Smallbore rifle committee and the NRA Collegiate committee.

In March 2006, Engle was given the National Rifle Association's Outstanding Service to Collegiate Shooting Sports award at the national collegiate banquet held in Colorado Spring, Colo., after leading the Zips to their second-straight WIRC championship, a top finish in the NCAA sectionals and a second-place finish in the MAC championships in 2005-06. The award is given to a collegiate coach or instructor who has worked toward the growth and development of a collegiate shooting sports program, whether it be for physical education classes, recreation/leisure, club or varsity, or any combination.

In February 2011, Engle was inducted into the 36th class of The University of Akron Sports Hall of Fame recognizing him for his championship teams and as the longest serving athletics coach in the University's history.