

Former AU lacrosse great Alberici named head coach at Army

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WEST POINT, NY Joe Alberici, a 1991 graduate of Alfred University and a former standout player for the Saxons, has been named head coach of men's lacrosse at the U.S. Military Academy. Alberici starred for the AU men's lacrosse team from 1988-91 and still holds the school's career, single-season and single-game records for points and assists. A two-time All-American who led the Saxons to the NCAA Division III championship tournament in 1990, Alberici was inducted to the AU Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. Alberici, whose appointment was announced Tuesday, becomes the 10th head coach in the history of Army lacrosse. He called the opportunity to coach at Army, a school steeped in men's lacrosse tradition, "humbling." "It's an awesome feeling because of this place (West Point)," Alberici said. "There have been only five coaches here since 1929. Two are in the (National Lacrosse) Hall of Fame and another (Alberici's predecessor, Jack Emmer) will be." Alberici comes to West Point after serving nine years as an assistant at Duke University, the last six as associate head coach. He served as Duke's defensive coordinator this season and the Blue Devils ranked second in the nation in scoring defense, advancing to the title game of the NCAA Division I championships (a 9-8 loss to Johns Hopkins). He has also served as recruiting coordinator during his tenure at Duke. Alberici has an impressive coaching resume that began 13 years ago at his alma mater. After graduating from AU in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, he served two years as a graduate assistant coach at AU before earning his master's in elementary education in 1993. He was appointed head coach at SUNY Oneonta in 1994, where he served one season before being hired as an assistant coach at Army. After two seasons at West Point, Alberici was appointed assistant coach at Duke. Alberici credits his time spent at Alfred as a player and graduate assistant under former AU coach Al Brown for preparing him to lead a major collegiate program. "Certainly, the experience I received at AU was great," he said. "I'm thankful to Coach Brown for getting me into the college coaching game. He was instrumental in getting me to Army the first time." A native of Auburn, NY, Alberici will be returning to New York, where much of his family still resides. "I wasn't seeking a position specifically with the idea of being closer to home, but it's great to be coming back," he said. "My parents and four of my five siblings still live in central New York. They're really excited." Alberici will try to continue the recent success at Army, which has competed in the NCAA Division I playoffs each of the last three seasons. "Our goal, of course, is to compete for a national championship," he said. Alberici will reside at West Point with his wife, Petra, and their 20-month-old son, Maximus.