

Zimmerman Nets First International Goal

Written by Hunter Reid
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Furman's Walker Zimmerman netted his first goal as a member of the United States U-20 National Team in his side's 4-3 loss to Chile in the third place match of the 2012 MILK Cup in Northern Ireland on Thursday. Zimmerman, a rising sophomore for head coach Doug Allison's Paladins, opened the scoring in the first minute. Midfielder Benji Joya took a

free kick from 30 yards out along the left side. Joya served the ball to the far right corner for a crashing Zimmerman, who lofted his header over Chile goalkeeper Dario Melo. The Lawrenceville, Ga., native started all three matches for the U.S. at the MILK Cup, including a 1-0 loss to Denmark and 1-0 victory over Turkey. He also scored for his country in a friendly versus Liverpool FC's youth team prior to the start of the tournament. Zimmerman earned Southern Conference Freshman of the Year honors, National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-America Third Team honors and Soccer America All-Freshman First Team accolades after helping the Paladins to a 14-4-4 record and at-large NCAA Tournament bid in 2011. The 6-foot-3 defender paced all SoCon defenders with five goals and anchored a defense that surrendered just 20 goals in 22 matches during his freshman campaign.

Last summer, Zimmerman guided the U.S. U-18 squad to a third place finish in Northern Ireland and earned a call-up to Ramos' U.S. U-20 team in January. He is one of 10 returning starters for the Furman Paladins, who open the 2012 season with an exhibition match versus Atlantic Coast Conference power Wake Forest on August 18, at Stone Soccer Stadium. Furman opens its 2012 regular season home schedule when it hosts UNC Wilmington in the opening round of the Diadora/Spinx Furman Invitational on September 7, at 7 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy: Walker Zimmerman, Furman Athletics