

Contact: Ryan Maurer
Office of University Communications
(937) 327-6114
rmaurer@wittenberg.edu

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Amy Cox Chooses Wittenberg University To Continue Athletic/Academic Career

Springfield, Ohio — Former Newark Catholic High School volleyball standout Amy Cox of Newark, Ohio, has decided to continue her athletic and academic careers at Wittenberg University, Tiger Head Coach Paco Labrador announced. Cox will be a member of Wittenberg's Class of 2011 that will start school in August 2007.

Cox, a 6-0 left-handed hitter brings some big game playing experience to the Tiger line-up. "Amy has played in two state championships," Labrador said. "I like recruiting players who have the drive to win championships."

This is clearly the case as Labrador's teams are coming off back-to-back NCAA Final Four appearances in 2005 and 2006. Cox isn't just a big hitter, though. As a senior she split time hitting and setting.

"Versatility is a huge part of our program," Labrador added. "I can't wait to get into a gym and explore all the options Amy brings to the floor."

Cox was recognized for her on-court accomplishments in 2006 with Division IV Central District Player of Year and second-team All-Ohio honors following her senior season, but volleyball is just the tip of the iceberg. A two-sport athlete, Cox earned first-team all-district and honorable mention all-state in basketball as well. Academically, the 3.9 grade point average student is in the top 10 percent of her class and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Cox still found time to serve as Student Council President, start the Students Against Drunk Driving club and earn election as Newark Catholic's Homecoming Queen.

"Amy is a determined young lady," Labrador said. "She's the type of person that can accomplish anything she puts her mind to."

Cox joins a long and decorated list of Green Wave alumnae to join the Tiger volleyball team. Teresa Murphy, class of 2003, was a second-team All-NCAC outside hitter, Monica McDonald, class of 2005, was an All-American outside hitter, and current All-NCAC setter Sarah Matesich, class of 2008, have all found great success at Wittenberg.

"There is something special about the players who come out of Coach Helfer's program," Labrador said. "They find a way to win. I'm excited to have Amy help keep that tradition alive in our program."

The Tigers finished 2006 with a 35-8 record and a No. 4 national ranking. Wittenberg has won nine of the last 10 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) regular season championships and nine of the last 10 NCAC Tournament titles, and the Tigers have advanced to 11 straight and 12 of the last 13 NCAA Division III Tournaments. Wittenberg also lays claim to four of the last five Great Lakes regional titles.

Labrador is entering his fifth year at the helm of the Wittenberg program with a sparkling 133-23 overall record, including marks of 39-1 in NCAC regular season matches and 11-4 in NCAA Division III Tournament play.

Wittenberg University is a nationally recognized college for the liberal arts and sciences, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Wittenberg is distinguished by its strong interdisciplinary programs such as East Asian Studies and Russian Area Studies. Although Wittenberg's traditional strengths have been in the liberal arts, recently the sciences, management and education have also developed into popular majors for students. Eight thriving pre-professional programs contribute to the educational experience of Wittenberg students, 70 percent of whom eventually pursue graduate studies.