

AUM NIBUS

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AUM's Curtis Leads Charge for another NAIA National Championship

Darrell Puckett

Being considered a winner for an athlete is the highest honor awarded. Competing and succeeding at the top level is necessary in order to grade an athlete's ability. AUM's Women's Tennis team has been tested before and showed the country that they are a legitimate title contender.

AUM won the NAIA National Championship this past season in Mobile, Ala., only having to win five team matches. The team consisted of Jade Curtis, Morgane Zowczak, Hagar Caro, Chanel Cunningham, Maria Vargas and Tiffany Williams.

The future looks brighter than ever, but what's the key for success in this upcoming season?

Jade Curtis, 23, from Saltash, England, has experience winning national championships before. She has totaled three in her career and believes that even with a new, younger team she can bring another championship back home. "We have a new group of girls this year," Curtis said. "But all of us have connected so well, and I believe that our chances are good this year."

Winning has become custom for AUM's tennis program, and expectations have been greatly raised. Coach Rolando Vargas's success hasn't been unnoticed by the community and must be highlighted. "Coach Vargas just wants all of us to be successful and work hard, so that our chances multiply for



Curtis looks to solidify AUM's chances for another NAIA National Championship.

Courtesy of Frank Williams

another championship run," Curtis said.

During her career, Curtis has racked up a 65-2 singles record, and finished 21-0 as the top women's singles player. She was named to the Collegiate Tennis Association's 2013 Collegiate All-Star Team along with AUM's Nicolas Pinones-Haltenhoff.

She just finished up her second straight undefeated season in singles, and currently has a 60 consecutive match streak going. Everything looks promising for another championship run, so look for the Warhawks to compete this season.

