



# Amanda Smith

## Captain Spotlight

### **Who got you into tennis?**

I first got into tennis by watching it on TV as a teenager. My school didn't have a tennis program and there wasn't anything in the local area, so my first real tennis experience was a PE class my freshman year of college. I remember trying to serve and missing it completely! The teacher told me "good form", just hit the ball next time! It wasn't until I moved to Knoxville in 2005 that I began playing regularly and learned how to hit the ball.

### **How many years have you been a captain?**

I first started captaining in 2005, and I have captained at least 4 to 5 teams every year since. Captaining can have its challenges but I am lucky to play with some awesome teammates who make it worthwhile. I know that I can rely on their support and appreciate their attitudes and character both on and off the court. Everyone can have a bad match but how we treat others has a far greater impact than that match. It's important to me that my teammates know they are still valued even if they may not win a match, but it's equally important that they are gracious winners and treat their opponents with fairness and kindness. I am thankful for the friendships I have made in our tennis community, which is a lot like family.

### **When you aren't playing tennis, what are you doing?**

I may be napping! If there was an Olympic sport in napping, I think I could be a contender for the gold. I also enjoy tending to my irises, collecting all things Peanuts and Charlie Brown, and spending time with my tennis friends.