

## News

### Research Leads Williams to Lee Volleyball

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Coach Andrea Hudson can thank the Internet for helping deliver the latest volleyball signee to the campus of Lee University.



*Kaleb Williams (brother), Missy Williams (mom), Lauren Williams, Bruce Williams (dad)*

"I've always wanted to play volleyball in college," said Lauren Williams, who is from Brooklyn Park, Minn.

"So that was one of the first things I looked at when searching schools. The first time I heard about Lee was in a scholarship search online."

Williams pointed out that she found a really great scholarship (Lee University's Centennial Scholarship). "I looked at the school more in depth, and saw that it had a really amazing volleyball program, and more importantly strong Christian values. It seemed like the perfect fit for me."

She is considering a major in pre-med (either chemistry or biochemistry). "I want to go into pharmacy one day, so I'll plan on studying on that tract."

Before Williams began looking at Lee, she admitted her top choice was Palm Beach Atlantic University. "I also was interested in maybe attending Azusa Pacific University, both really great schools, but neither offering the complete package that Lee did."

Hudson wasted no time in getting Williams' signature on the dotted line. "Lauren is going to be an impact player here at Lee," said the veteran leader of young women. "She is very versatile and will be contributing mainly in the middle and right side for our team."

The Lee staff was able to meet Williams when she attended one of the Lady Flames' games last fall. "We were excited to learn that Lee was her top choice for college," noted Hudson. "Although she is from Minnesota, she has a friendship connection with one of our upcoming seniors, Courtney Culbreath. Lauren is also coming in on the highest academic scholarship. She is such a well rounded young lady and we are glad she will be a part of the freshman class."

Williams received highest honors every year. She walked away with the math award during her ninth and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade years; the Spanish and the ACSI athletics awards as a junior; and

there were also some awards for choir. Senior honors will be passed out at Heritage Christian Academy when she graduates at the end of May.

Volleyball has been a part of her life since the sixth grade. "In high school, I played both outside hitter and middle blocker," she said, "but I played all the way around – back row as well. I started playing full winter/spring seasons three years ago, and I did a summer volleyball program for the past two years." Williams was an all-state player for the last two seasons and all-conference for four years.

She says the strongest part of her game is definitely her front-row play -- hitting and blocking. "I have a good court sense and play the best as a hitter," she added. "If I want to become even more of an all-around player, I'll need to improve my defensive skills in order to be more dependable in every position."

Researching the past success of Lee volleyball captured Williams' attention. "Looking at the teams past records, I think a good goal would be to win the national championship. Being a new player, I hope to fit in well and maintain unity within the team. For myself, I hope to play my best and play with confidence. I want to take advantage of every opportunity to improve and become a dependable player that the team can count on."

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