



## Men's Soccer Alumni Network - Winter 2025 Newsletter

### Greetings from Wittenberg!

We hope this email finds you well. This message comes to you from fellow men's soccer alumni **Jay Freund '95** and **Ben Helm '93**. We are excited to reconnect with you as part of a new initiative to bring together the incredible alums who were once part of Wittenberg Men's Soccer. Whether you played in the 1990s like us or represented Wittenberg Soccer in another era, your journey is an integral part of our program's rich history, and we are thrilled to renew this connection.

Our goal with the **Men's Soccer Alumni Network** is to reignite the camaraderie we each experienced and create a vibrant, engaged community of former players. Together, we can share experiences, support one another, and help strengthen the bond between the past and present soccer teams while supporting our beloved alma mater for years to come.

This new affinity group will offer various ways to stay connected through social events, networking opportunities, special soccer alumni gatherings, and the opportunity to keep in touch with former teammates and coaches.

We know that like us, each of you has fond memories of your time on the field and campus. We hope to bring that spirit of camaraderie back to life. Together, we can continue to elevate Wittenberg Men's Soccer to new and uncharted success and support, building a lasting legacy for future players.

If you're interested in learning more or want to get involved, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you! Your participation is crucial in making this initiative a success. We look forward to reconnecting with you and seeing what the future holds for the Wittenberg University Men's Soccer Alumni Network!

**Go Tigers!**

**Benjamin Helm '93**



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## Highlights of the Men's Soccer Alumni Network

- You can look forward to **invitations to alumni soccer games and meet-ups**, where you'll have the chance to reconnect with old teammates and coaches.
- You'll be among the first to hear about the **latest news and developments** from the soccer program, including player achievements and coaching staff updates.
- You'll have access to **newsletters and other communications** for alumni to share memories, reconnect with teammates, and keep each other updated on personal milestones.
- You'll have the opportunity to **make a real difference**. Your support can help shape the future of our current players through mentorship programs, team and player engagement, and donations.



### Coach's Corner

Greetings from Springfield! With the 2024 season wrapped up, this is a good time to catch up.

Team success in the classroom continues. We've won four consecutive United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Awards, have a cumulative GPA of 3.15, placed 24 players on the Fall 2024 Dean's List, and maintained a four-year graduation rate. We now roster about 55 guys both varsity and junior varsity.

On the field, and following a series of successful seasons, the 2024 campaign finished in frustrating fashion. Despite a great start to North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play (a 1-1 tie at Ohio Wesleyan University, and a 4-0 win at The College of Wooster), a series of injuries dramatically altered our competitiveness down the stretch. Still, a talented senior class kept the team together and focused.

It's worth noting that the conference placed four of nine teams into the NCAA Tournament this fall. Based upon the overall strength of schedule, winning percentage, and post-season performance, the NCAC now ranks among the best leagues in the country. (Perennial powerhouse John Carroll University is moving into the NCAC beginning next fall).

Our primary focus during the offseason is in the weight room. But the guys also run their own Futsal league and have access to The Steemer. Our nontraditional season kicks off in March.

Please know your connection to Wittenberg and the men's soccer program is highly valued. We look forward to seeing you around campus and perhaps at a road game close to your home. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

**Dwight Burgess**  
**Head Men's Soccer Coach**

## Player Spotlight

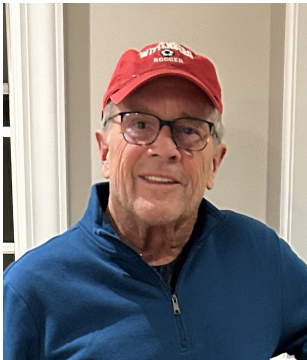
### Assabir Ali-Oumar, Class of 2025

From Columbus, Ohio, Assabir graduated from The Charles School and has played soccer for the Tigers since his freshman year. A biology and international business double major, he plans to pursue a doctorate in medicine after graduating later this spring. For him, playing soccer for Wittenberg is “about being part of something bigger than myself – a family that values hard work, resilience, and camaraderie.” Read more about Assabir [here](#).



## Where Are They Now?

We are thrilled to spotlight the journeys of our former players in this recurring section. We hope it will serve as a bridge between the past and present, showcasing how soccer has shaped the lives of our alumni and where their Wittenberg experiences have taken them.



### Don Nichols '73

In the 52 years since his last season at Wittenberg, Don Nichols '73 earned an MBA in finance and built a successful career in the investment business in Rochester, New York, working for Merrill Lynch, Paine Webber (now UBS), and Chase Manhattan before becoming an independent investment advisor and starting his own firm, Riley, Nichols & Munn, and retiring in 2020. He played soccer in a men's league in Rochester, New York, along with Tom Hildebrandt '72.

Reflecting on his time at Wittenberg, Don said, “During my years at Wittenberg, I learned many things that could be applied to my later business career and life itself. The concept of working hard to improve skills and build a team-mentality stands out as a very potent weapon to succeed in many facets of life. Working with a group of folks to achieve a common objective is extremely satisfying.” Read more about Don's journey [here](#).

## Commit to Witt 2025

Get in the game with us as a Commit to Witt ambassador on **Thursday, March 20**. As an ambassador, you will not only help to raise funds for Wittenberg through texting, calling, and posting on your social networks, but also help us unlock our very own Men's Soccer Challenge! Commit to Witt ambassadors create awareness and inspire others to make gifts to Wittenberg. Join the Commit to Witt Ambassador team today!



**Commit to Witt Ambassador Sign-Up**

**Save the date for March 20** and help us unlock this challenge: Diane '94 and Brenden '94 Wetherton are encouraging Men's Soccer alumni to pass their light and give like a Tiger during #Commit2Witt! They've pledged to unlock \$1,000 once we reach 25 gifts in support of Tiger Club Men's Soccer.



## Save the Date

### Alumni Game

April 12, 2025

The Steemer

Wittenberg University

*More details to follow*



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Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement

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