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### *Alex Clemson Named University of Maryland Head Wrestling Coach*

**COLLEGE PARK, Md.** -- University of Maryland Director of Athletics Damon Evans announced Tuesday that Alex Clemson has been named the seventh head coach of the Maryland wrestling program.

Clemson comes to College Park following a successful five-year tenure at Missouri, where he served as the program's associate head coach for the last four seasons. During his time on staff, Clemson helped Missouri wrestlers earn three NCAA individual titles, 22 All-America honors and five consecutive top-six team finishes at the NCAA Championships. Missouri teams went a combined 84-7 in dual meets during his time on staff there.

"We're thrilled to name Alex Clemson as our next head wrestling coach," Evans said. "Alex is coming to Maryland after spending five years at Missouri, where he was instrumental in producing numerous All-Americans and NCAA Champions. His dedication to developing student-athletes both on and off the mat will serve him well as the leader of our program. It is an exciting time for the Maryland wrestling program."

"I'm honored to have been selected as the head coach of the Maryland wrestling program," Clemson said. "I'd like to thank Director of Athletics Damon Evans, sport supervisor Mark Sherburne and the entire search committee for believing in my vision for this program. I'm excited to compete in the strongest conference in collegiate wrestling and I truly believe this program has what it takes to consistently compete on the national level. I cannot wait to get going with our team and hit the ground running."

Clemson played a pivotal role in developing nine NCAA qualifiers this past season, which included four earning All-American honors. The Tigers also saw six wrestlers win MAC individual titles on the way to their eighth consecutive team title.

In 2017-18, Clemson helped guide Missouri to a seventh straight conference title and fourth straight NCAA top-6 finish. Seven Tigers won individual conference titles at the MAC Championships, which was good for most in program history.

The 2016-17 season for Missouri was headlined by the third consecutive NCAA title for J'den Cox, who became the first wrestler in program history to reach the top of the podium three times. In that same season the Tigers tallied five All-Americans, which was tied for the most in program history.

In 2015-16, Missouri repeated as MAC Champions and sent nine wrestlers through to the NCAA Championships. The team finished sixth in the country at the national tournament and had a National Champion for the third consecutive season.

In his inaugural season at Missouri, Clemens played a key role in the development of 149-pounder Drake Houdashelt, who went on to win a title at the NCAA Championships. In all, the Tigers sent all 10 wrestlers to the NCAA Championships and claimed a fourth-place overall finish.

Known as an elite recruiter, Clemens helped assemble three top-10 recruiting classes and five top-20 recruiting classes during his career.

Clemens brought with him a tradition of success upon his arrival at Missouri, as he has coached 38 NCAA qualifiers, six All-Americans and eight ACC Champions at Virginia. He helped the program reach No. 11 in the nation during the 2012-13 season, which stands as a program-best ranking.

In his first season with the Cavaliers, Clemens helped lead the team to its first ACC Championship since 1977. The team went on to earn a 15th-place finish at the NCAA Championships to clinch its second consecutive top-25 finish at the event.

Clemens was also instrumental in developing student-athletes off the mat during his time in Charlottesville. The Cavaliers recorded the fifth-best team GPA in the country during the 2012-13 season, and eight Cavaliers were named to the NWCA All-Academic Team as well.

Prior to his time at Virginia, Clemens served as the director of wrestling operations at Oregon State for two seasons.

A 2007 graduate of Edinboro, Clemens was an All-American wrestler and four-time NCAA qualifier. He finished his career with a 121-35 record, good for ninth in the school's history. He was the 14th wrestler in program history to win four Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championships, and he was also named an Eastern Wrestling League Champion.

A two-time Academic All-American, Clemens graduated with the highest GPA of any wrestler in Edinboro history. He continued his career at the international level as a University Nationals All-American and a University World Team Trials runner-up.

Clemens was a standout wrestler at Moberly senior high school, winning three Missouri State Championship titles during his high school career. Clemens and his wife, Lindsay,

have two children: a daughter, Payten and a son, Porter.

**-MARYLAND-**