



For Immediate Release
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Wittenberg Golf 2000-01 Season in Review

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SETTING THE SCENE: The Wittenberg University golf team was up-and-down for much of the 2000-01 school year, but the Tigers finished with a flourish at the North Coast Athletic Conference tournament on April 29-30. The five Tigers who took the course that weekend played some of their most consistent golf of the year, providing optimism that the future has much promise.

The team's roster consisted of two freshmen and five sophomores, and six of the seven players participated in at least three tournaments and posted at least one score in the 70s. Wittenberg's best finish was a fourth out of eight teams at the NCAC Championships, and the team's best scores were a two-day total of 607 (par-70) at the Muskingum Invitational and two-day total of 627 (par-71) at the Denison Spring Invitational.

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AVERAGES: The seven players' averages:

- Sophomore **Steve Spittle (Dublin, Ohio/Coffman)** had an average score of 79.15 in seven tournaments and 13 rounds. His best 18-hole total was a two-over-par 72 at the Muskingum Invitational. His best two-round total was also at Muskingum, a 148, which was good for a tie for 11th. He also was the team's highest finisher in the NCAC tournament with a 163, which was also good for 11th.

- Sophomore **Pat Reist (Hamilton, Ohio/Hamilton)** had the team's second-best average, a six-tournament, 12-round figure of 81.33. His finest round was a 72 at the Muskingum Invitational, where he went on to post a two-round total of 147. That was good for a tie for sixth place. And Reist was second on the team at the NCAC tournament with a 36-hole total of 164, good for 12th.

- Sophomore **Jonathan Orr (Huntingdon,**

Pa./Huntingdon) finished the season with an average of 82.45 in six tournaments and 11 rounds. His best round of the year came at the Denison Spring Invitational, where he posted a first-round 76 and a two-round total of 160. His best finish of the season was at the NCAC tournament, a 15th-place finish after shooting 165.

- Sophomore **Jesse Fyffe (Chillicothe, Ohio/Chillicothe)** had a final average of 83.29 after playing seven tournaments and 14 rounds. His best round was a 77 in both the first and second rounds at Muskingum. Obviously, his two-day total of 154 was easily his best as well.

- Freshman **Adam Knowlton (Springfield, Ohio/Shawnee)** played eight tournaments and 15 rounds in posting an average of 83.47. His best round was a 75 on Day 2 of the Denison Spring Invitational, and his two-day total there was a season-best 151.

- Freshman **Mike DeFabis (Brentwood, Ind./Pike)** played three tournaments and six rounds total to compile an average of 83.83. His best round was a 77 on the opening day at Muskingum, and his two-round total there of 158 was also his best.

- Rounding things out, sophomore **David Meyer (Mansfield, Ohio/Lexington)** played three tournaments and six rounds to post an average of 89.33. His best round was an 83 on the opening day at the Kenyon Cup, where he also posted his best 36-hole total of 176.

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YOUTH MOVEMENT: As mentioned previously, all seven golfers on the 2000-01 team were freshmen and sophomores. Leading the charge were sophomores **Steve Spittle, Pat Reist** and **Jonathan Orr** and freshman **Adam Knowlton**, who took turns as the team's top golfer in various events. All five showed flashes of strong play but also the inconsistency that comes with youth and

inexperience negotiating courses during collegiate tournaments.

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THE COACH: **J.J. Searls (Ohio '95)** completed his first year with the Tigers and led an extremely young team to a strong fourth-place finish in the NCAC.

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LOOKING AHEAD: Every golfer on the 2001 Wittenberg University squad was either a freshman or a sophomore, and the inexperience showed for much of the season. The team was inconsistent, but each of the seven team members showed flashes of outstanding play and the potential to do great things in the years ahead.

All seven players are expected back in 2001-02, and Searls hopes to bolster the ranks with a strong recruiting class.

Tentative 2001-02 Wittenberg University Golf Schedule

Sept. 15-16 @ Denison Fall Invitational
Sept. 30-Oct. 1 @ Otterbein Fall Invitational

** One more fall date and a full spring schedule will be completed at a later date. **