



# Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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## Tigers hit the road for key NCAC match-up at Earlham

*Wittenberg University (16-3, 9-1 NCAC) at Earlham College (8-11, 3-7 NCAC)*

*Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • Schuckman Court*

<u>Probable EC Starters:</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>PPG</u>	<u>RPG</u>	<u>APG</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
G Larry Hart	Jr.	6-0	9.0	2.3	1.6	Muncie, Ind./Southside
G Jason Smith	Sr.	5-6	11.1	3.4	3.3	Powder Springs, Ga./Westminster
G Travis Brett	Sr.	6-0	11.9	2.4	1.8	Shoals, Ind./Shoals
F Nathan Stoops	Jr.	6-3	14.3	6.6	1.4	South Bend, Ind./LaSalle
F Brady Keaton	Jr.	6-4	12.0	6.5	0.9	Morristown, Ind./Morristown
<u>Probable WU Starters:</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>PPG</u>	<u>RPG</u>	<u>APG</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
G Greg Rustad	Sr.	5-10	8.7	2.6	2.1	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.9	2.9	4.7	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	10.1	1.9	1.1	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	9.2	7.5	1.8	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.6	8.1	1.7	Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins

### SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 11 in the nation by Basketball America and No. 16 by d3hoops.com, hit the road again for a game at neighboring North Coast Athletic Conference rival Wooster. The Tigers, who are now 16-3 overall and 9-1 in the NCAC following last Saturday's 75-70 win over Wooster, are tied for the league lead with the Scots, while Earlham has struggled since defeating then No. 3 DePauw 106-101 on Jan. 4, losing four of its last five to fall out of contention in the NCAC.

Wittenberg, the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history, is already assured of extending a phenomenal string of 45 consecutive non-losing seasons. Coming off a 24-4 season a year ago in which they won the NCAC regular season championship and advanced to the NCAA Division III regional semifinals, the Tigers feature a balanced offensive attack. Junior center **B.J. Harris**, who has seven double-doubles to his credit in 2001-02, leads the way with 12.6 per game, and he also tops the squad with 8.1 rebounds per outing.

Joining Harris in double figures in scoring is senior forward **Chad Mossing** with 10.1 points per game. On the boards, junior forward **Kevin Longley** is pulling down 7.5 and sophomore forward **Peter Walker** is averaging 6.1 per outing. In terms of assists, sophomore guard **Mark Borland** has a team-best 89, good for an average of 4.7 per game.

The Tigers likely will be guarding against overconfidence following the must-win over Wooster. Wittenberg was led in that game by Borland, who scored six of his 12 points late in the second half after Wooster had pulled into a 64-64 tie. It was a win made that much more critical by a surprising road loss at Wabash last Wednesday and the fact that the Scots were unbeaten in conference play.

### THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of 196-50 (.797). His overall record is 256-149 (.632), including stops at Wooster and Kenyon. Brown's Wittenberg teams have made five NCAA Division III tournament appearances, won three NCAC regular season titles and two NCAC tournament championships. He has been named NCAC Coach of the Year three times (1986, '94 and '01).

Joining him on the sidelines tonight is Earlham's **Jeff Justus**, a 1978 Rose-Hulman graduate. In his fourth season at Earlham, Justus has a record of 42-52.

### COACHING LANDMARKS:

Wittenberg Head Coach **Bill Brown** is steaming toward several milestones. He recently coached his 400th career game and won his 250th career game. By season's end, he likely will reach 200 wins at Wittenberg, a feat accomplished by just one Tiger head man previously — Larry Hunter, the school's leader in wins with 305 from 1977-89. He is currently at 196 Wittenberg wins and 256 overall.

### ON THE NATIONAL SCENE:

As mentioned previously, Wittenberg is ranked in both national weekly polls. In addition, the Tigers are among the national leaders in seven statistical categories.

Most prominently, the Tigers are No. 1 for a second year in a row in rebounding margin at 12.7 per game. In addition, Wittenberg is 27th in field goal percentage defense (39.5), 26th in scoring defense (63.6), fifth in scoring margin (19.1), 25th in scoring offense (82.7), 14th in three-pointers per game (9.1) and sixth in three-point field goal percentage (42.4).

### REBOUNDS GALORE:

The Tigers, who led the nation in rebounding

margin a year ago and weren't beaten on the boards in a regular season game, are once again leading the nation. Wittenberg is garnering 12.7 more caroms than their foes.

A year ago, the Tigers were beaten by just one team in the rebounding category — Ohio Northern in a 76-62 defeat in the NCAA Division III tournament regional semifinals. This year, just one team has outrebounded Wittenberg — Otterbein on Jan. 2 in a 73-64 win over the Tigers at the HPER Center. The Cardinals feature the best individual rebounder in the nation, All-American Jeff Gibbs, who is averaging 17.1 boards per game and had 20 against Wittenberg.

### WITTENBERG/EARLHAM SERIES:

Wittenberg leads this long-standing neighborhood rivalry 43-13. Earlham won the four games of the series between 1914 and 1937, and the Quakers captured nine of the first 13 meetings through 1956. But since then, Wittenberg has won 39 of the last 43 games, including a string of 31 straight from Nov. 30, 1974 through Feb. 2, 2000. Last year, the Tigers won both games, by scores of 81-65 in Springfield and 90-63 at Earlham.

### RADIO:

WBLY (AM 1600) carries all Wittenberg men's basketball games, with the Voice of the Tigers, **Marty Bannister**, calling the action.

### ON THE WEB:

Wittenberg's World Wide Web site offers up-to-date information on all Tiger athletic teams. Scores, results, statistics, news releases and boxscores are available by visiting Wittenberg's athletics home page [www5.wittenberg.edu/news/athletics](http://www5.wittenberg.edu/news/athletics). Wittenberg also offers Internet broadcasts of various sporting events carried by WBLY. Just click on [www5.wittenberg.edu/news/athletics/broadcast.html](http://www5.wittenberg.edu/news/athletics/broadcast.html).