



# Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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For Immediate Release  
Written: Feb. 19, 2002

## Tigers host Earlham in NCA Ctournament quarterfinals

*Wittenberg University (22-3, 15-1 NCAC) vs. Earlham (11-14, 6-10 NCAC)*

*Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2002 • 7:45 p.m • HPER Center*

Probable EC Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Jason Smith	Sr.	5-10	10.0	2.2	4.0	Louisville, Ky./Trinity
G Travis Brett	Sr.	6-0	11.2	2.7	1.9	Shoals, Ind./Shoals
F Neal Perry	Fr.	6-3	7.4	4.3	0.5	Yellow Springs, Ohio/Yellow Springs
F Nathan Stoops	Jr.	6-3	13.2	5.9	1.1	South Bend, Ind./LaSalle
F Brady Keaton	Jr.	6-4	11.6	6.4	0.9	Morristown, Ind./Morristown
Probable WU Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Greg Rustad	Sr.	5-10	9.2	2.6	2.2	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.2	2.8	4.4	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	9.0	2.2	1.1	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	10.0	7.1	1.6	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.3	8.4	1.6	Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins

### SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 11 in the nation by d3hoops.com and No. 9 by Basketball America, return home owners of a second straight North Coast Athletic Conference regular season championship and the No. 1 seed position in the postseason tournament. First up in the tourney is upset-minded Earlham, a team that gave the Tigers just about everything they could handle just six days ago.

Wittenberg is the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history with a phenomenal string of 46 consecutive non-losing seasons. Coming off a 24-4 season a year ago in which the Tigers were NCAC regular season champions and NCAA Division III regional semifinalists, Wittenberg features its usual balanced offensive attack. Junior center **B.J. Harris**, with nine double-doubles to his credit this season, shows the way offensively with 12.3 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. He played extremely well last week, dominating Earlham on the interior and then posting 12 points and 10 rebounds opposite Wooster in Saturday's biggest game of the year.

Junior forward **Kevin Longley**, a second-team All-NCAC choice in 2001, averages 10.0 points and 7.1 rebounds per outing to rank second on the team in both categories. Senior forward **Chad Mossing** is averaging 9.0 points per game and leads a strong three-point shooting team with 54 three-pointers, sophomore forward **Peter Walker** is posting 9.2 points and 5.3 rebounds per outing, and sophomore point guard **Mark Borland** leads the team with 109 assists and 39 steals.

Earlham was expected to be a challenger for the league title in 2001-02, but the Quakers have been inconsistent. Earlham counts No. 10 ranked DePauw and NCAC third-place Wabash among its victims this year, primarily because of a potent offense that centers around three-point shooting. Four players average in double figures for the Quakers.

### THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of

202-50 (.801). His overall record is 262-149 (.637), including stops at Wooster and Kenyon. Brown's Wittenberg teams have made five NCAA Division III tournament appearances, won four NCAC regular season titles and one NCAC tournament championship. 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 45-55.

### COACHING LANDMARKS:

Wittenberg Head Coach **Bill Brown** reached a milestone last week against Hiram, winning his 200th career game at Wittenberg and 260th overall. Brown stands second in wins at Wittenberg among Tiger head coach and he became just the second to reach 200 wins, joining Larry Hunter, the school's leader in wins with 305 from 1977-89.

### ON THE NATIONAL SCENE:

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 12.5 per game (through games of Feb. 11 - no national statistics are available yet for this week). In addition, Wittenberg is 17th in field goal percentage defense (39.0), 16th in scoring defense (62.3), second in scoring margin (20.3), 25th in scoring offense (82.5), seventh in three-pointers per game (9.5) and fifth in three-point field goal percentage (42.7).

### IN THE NCAC:

The Tigers lead the conference in scoring offense (81.9), scoring defense (62.3), scoring margin (+19.6), field goal percentage defense (.389), 3-point field goal percentage (.423), rebounding offense (42.5), rebounding defense (30.4), rebounding margin (+12.1), assist/turnover ratio (1.18), offensive rebounds (14.84), defensive rebounds (27.68) and 3-point field goals made (9.12).

### 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 12.2 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 outbounded Wittenberg — Otterbein on Jan. 2 in a 73-64 win over the Tigers at the HPER Center — although Wooster matched Wittenberg on the boards last Saturday 37-37.

### HAPPY AT HOME:

Wittenberg has always been tough at home, and 2001-02 is no exception. Heading into a week in which the Tigers could have three home games, Wittenberg is 11-1 at the HPER Center, with the lone defeat coming against Otterbein on Jan. 2. Last year, Wittenberg went 15-1 at home, including an NCAA Division III tournament win over Maryville.

### WITTENBERG/EARLHAM SERIES:

Wittenberg leads the series, 45-13. Earlham won the first four games between 1914 and 1937, and the Quakers captured nine of the first 13 meetings through 1956. But since then, Wittenberg has won 40 of the last 44 games, including a string of 31 straight from 1974 through 2000. Last year, the Tigers won both games, 81-65 in Springfield and 90-63 at Earlham, and Wittenberg swept the two regular season meetings this year by scores of 70-38 at Earlham and 81-60 at Wittenberg.

### 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).