



# Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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## Tigers host streaking Hiram in quest to remain atop NCAC

Wittenberg University (19-3, 11-1 NCAC) vs. Hiram (5-17, 3-10 NCAC)

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • HPER Center

<u>Probable HC Starters:</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>PPG</u>	<u>RPG</u>	<u>APG</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
G David Mayle	Jr.	6-4	18.3	5.0	2.4	Ravenna, Ohio/Crestwood
G Allen Kirkpatrick	Fr.	6-0	8.4	2.3	1.8	Cleveland Hgts, Ohio/Lutheran East
F Brian Cecil	Fr.	6-6	6.7	6.4	1.2	Solon, Ohio/W.R.A.
F Cory Boyle	So.	6-4	8.6	4.4	0.4	Wellesville, Ohio/Salineville Local
G Matt Kersten	Jr.	6-1	9.7	2.5	1.1	Akron, Ohio/Garfield
<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	2.0	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.6	3.0	4.5	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	9.5	2.0	1.1	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	9.9	7.2	1.7	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.3	8.5	1.6	Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins

### SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 13 in the nation by d3hoops.com and No. 9 by Basketball America, return home tonight for a game against North Coast Athletic Conference foe Hiram. The Tigers, now 19-3 overall and 12-1 in the NCAC, will put their first-place conference standing on the line against a Terriers squad that may be just 5-17 overall and 3-10 in the NCAC but has won two straight games.

Wittenberg is the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history with a phenomenal string of 45 consecutive non-losing seasons coming into this season. 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 eight double-doubles to his credit this season, shows the way offensively with 12.3 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

Junior forward **Kevin Longley**, a second-team All-NCAC choice in 2001, averages 9.9 points and 7.2 rebounds per outing to rank second on the team in both categories. Senior forward Chad Mossing is averaging 9.5 points per game and leads the team with 51 three-pointers this season, sophomore forward Peter Walker is posting 9.6 points and 5.6 rebounds per outing, and sophomore point guard Mark Borland leads the team with 99 assists and 40 steals.

Hiram is a young team that may well be on the rise, as evidenced by its first back-to-back wins of the season against Ohio Wesleyan and Denison over the last week. The team's only returning starter, junior guard David Mayle, is among the league leaders in scoring at 18.3 points per game.

### THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of 199-50 (.799). His overall

record is 259-149 (.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 Hiram's **Sean McDonnell**, who is in his second season coaching the Terriers. In his first season, McDonnell led the team to a 7-18 record after serving as an assistant coach at LeMoyne College, Williams College and Boston College previously.

### 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. With three games remaining, he is a near lock to 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 199 Wittenberg wins and 259 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 12.9 per game. In addition, Wittenberg is 15th in field goal percentage defense (38.8), 21st in scoring defense (62.3), third in scoring margin (20.0), 23rd in scoring offense (82.3), 16th in three-pointers per game (8.9) and seventh in three-point field goal percentage (42.1).

### 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 12.8

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.

### POINTED IMPROVEMENT:

A year after leading the team in both assists and turnovers, **Mark Borland** has made significant strides not only distributing the basketball from his point guard position but also taking care of it. He leads the NCAC in assist/turnover ratio with an outstanding 99 assists to 55 turnovers for a 1.82 ratio. A year ago, Borland finished with 91 assists and 66 turnovers.

### WITTENBERG/HIRAM SERIES:

Donation is the only word to describe the series between Wittenberg and Hiram. The Tigers hold a 41-2 advantage over the Terriers in a series dating back to the 1950-51 season. Hiram's only two wins against Wittenberg came in 1953 by a score of 76-72 and in 1968 by a score of 45-43. Since then, the Tigers have won 27 straight games against the Terriers, including six straight in the NCAC.

### 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).