



# Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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## Tigers host nationally ranked intra-state rival Otterbein

*Wittenberg University (10-1) vs. Otterbein College (10-1)*

*Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • HPER Center (Cap. 3,000)*

Probable Otterbein Starters: Yr.						Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown
G Tony Borghese	Fr.	5-10	10.8	1.7	3.3				Columbus, Ohio/DeSales	
G Kevin Shay	Sr.	6-2	19.9	3.9	5.2				Stow, Ohio/Stow	
F Jeff Gibbs	Sr.	6-3	20.9	16.9	3.1				Columbus, Ohio/East	
F Scott Hadley	Fr.	6-5	8.9	4.4	0.9				Lewis Center, Ohio/Worthington Christian	
F Phil Susi	So.	6-6	4.1	2.2	0.8				Pickerington, Ohio/Pickerington	
Probable WU Starters: Yr.						Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Greg Rustad	Sr.	5-10	9.9	2.7	2.0				Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood	
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	9.5	2.9	4.3				Kettering, Ohio/Alter	
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	10.4	1.8	1.1				Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield	
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	9.5	7.7	1.8				Vandalia, Ohio/Butler	
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.7	8.5	2.2				Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins	

### SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 8 in the nation following a championship in the Kiwanis-Wittenberg Holiday Classic on Dec. 29, return to action in the new year against longtime intra-state rival Otterbein College, one of the top teams in the Ohio Athletic Conference year in and year out. The Tigers, off to a 10-1 start and riding a 9-game win streak, will square off with a Cardinals squad that is also 10-1 and is coming off a home tournament title.

Wittenberg, the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history, is off to another tremendous start as the Tigers are already almost 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, Wittenberg features a balanced, deep offensive attack. Junior center **B.J. Harris** leads three players averaging double figures in points with 12.7 per game, and he also tops the squad with 8.5 rebounds per outing.

Joining Harris in double figures in scoring are sophomore forward **Peter Walker** and senior forward **Chad Mossing**, who are averaging 10.5 and 10.4 points per game respectively. On the boards, junior forward **Kevin Longley** is pulling down 7.7 and Walker is averaging 6.2 per outing. In terms of assists, sophomore guard Mark Borland has a team-best 47, good for an average of 4.3 per game.

Otterbein is off to one of its best starts in years, led by surefire All-American **Jeff Gibbs**. The senior forward, who was also an All-American in football in 2001, is averaging a whopping 20.9 points and 16.9 rebounds per game. The Cardinals' only loss this season came when Gibbs was playing in the 2001 Aztec Bowl and nationally ranked Mount Union took advantage to record a blowout decision.

The Cardinals have three players averaging double-figures overall, with the guard tandem of Tony Borghese and Kevin Shay averaging 10.8 and 19.9 points per game respectively.

### THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of 190-48 (.798). His overall record is 250-147 (.630), 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 Otterbein's **Dick Reynolds**, who is in his 30th season coaching the Cardinals and has compiled a sparkling career record of 501-286. His 501 victories rank first among Ohio Athletic Conference coaches, while he stands sixth among all coaches in NCAA Division III history in total wins and 49th by winning percentage. His teams have made the national tournament 12 times and reached the Final Four on two occasions, in 1981 and '91.

### 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 dominating in that area. Wittenberg is garnering 15.2 more caroms than their foes, a total that most likely will lead the nation when NCAA statistics are again tallied next week.

### DOUBLING HIS PLEASURE:

**B.J. Harris** is enjoying the kind of breakout season that the Wittenberg Tigers desperately needed following the graduation of All-NCAC starters Ryan Taylor and Chris Fillmore. He has asserted himself more and more as the season

has gone on, culminating in last weekend's Kiwanis-Wittenberg Tournament MVP selection.

Harris is averaging 12.7 points and 8.5 rebounds per game to lead the Tigers in both categories. He also ranks first in minutes at 23.7 per game, field goal percentage at .571, offensive rebounds at 37 and blocks with six. He also has been terrific passing the basketball out of the post with 24 assists, second-best on the team.

Harris has posted six double-doubles in the Tigers' first 11 outings. In addition, he had 18 points and nine rebounds in the season opener against Mount Vernon Nazarene.

### ENERGY OFF THE BENCH:

Wittenberg Head Coach Bill Brown uses his bench extensively, in part to infuse energy into the game and get the opponent on its heels.

No one has provided more energy in 2001 than sophomore forward **Peter Walker**. Playing just 16.7 minutes per game, Walker is averaging 10.5 points (second on the team) and 6.2 rebounds (third on the team) per game while also shooting .561 from the field, second-best on the team.

### 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).