



Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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Tigers host NCAC rival Ohio Wesleyan in key match-up

Wittenberg University (13-2, 6-0 NCAC) vs. Ohio Wesleyan (9-6, 5-1 NCAC)

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • HPER Center (Cap. 3,000)

Probable OWU Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Shawn Kindred	So.	6-0	11.4	4.0	3.8	Delaware, Ohio/Hayes
G Jason Dopoulos	Jr.	6-2	11.1	2.5	2.7	Strongsville, Ohio/Strongsville
F Brandon Cole	Fr.	6-5	8.7	9.3	1.9	Sidney, Ohio/Sidney
F Charlie Smith	So.	6-5	6.5	4.4	1.2	Centerburg, Ohio/Centerburg
C Travis Schwab	So.	6-6	16.7	7.1	1.7	Medina, Ohio/Medina
Probable WU Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Greg Rustad	Sr.	5-10	8.9	2.7	2.2	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.9	3.0	4.8	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	11.0	1.9	0.9	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	10.1	7.7	1.9	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.9	8.1	1.7	Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins

SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 17 in the nation, return home for a crucial North Coast Athletic Conference match-up with rival Ohio Wesleyan. The Tigers, off to a 13-2 start (6-0 in the NCAC) following last Saturday's 91-51 victory over Hiram, will square off with a Bishops squad that has won four straight games to climb to 9-6 and 5-1 in the NCAC, just one game behind co-leaders Wittenberg and Wooster.

Wittenberg, 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 a balanced offensive attack. Junior center **B.J. Harris** leads three players averaging double figures in points with 12.9 per game, and he also tops the squad with 8.1 rebounds per outing.

Joining Harris in double figures in scoring are junior forward **Kevin Longley**, a second-team All-NCAC choice in 2001 who is averaging 10.1 points and 7.7 rebounds per contest, sophomore forward **Peter Walker**, who missed the last game with a shoulder injury but is averaging 10.1 points and 5.8 rebounds in just 15.6 minutes per game off the bench, and senior forward **Chad Mossing**, who is averaging 11.0 points per game and leads the Tigers with 41 three-pointers.

Ohio Wesleyan was the surprise team of the NCAC in 2000-01. The youthful Bishops do not have a senior on the roster, and the starting lineup includes just one junior. Leading the charge is sophomore center Travis Schwab, who scores 16.7 points per game. Freshman forward Brandon Cole paces the team in rebounding with 9.3 per game. And guards Shawn Kindred, a sophomore, and Jason Dopoulos, a junior, provide the perimeter threat, hitting for 11.4 and 11.1 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 193-49 (.800). His overall record is 253-148 (.631), 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 Ohio Wesleyan's **Mike DeWitt**, who is in his third season coaching his alma mater. A former Wittenberg student who is married to Hall of Honor inductee Brenda Shaw DeWitt (swimming), the OWU coach carries a Bishops record of 25-41 into tonight's game, as well as an overall mark of 80-136, including stints at Hiram and Centre.

STILL BIG ON THE BOARDS:

The Tigers led the nation in rebounding margin a year ago and weren't beaten on the boards in a regular season game. This year, Wittenberg is collecting 13.7 more caroms than its foes, putting the Tigers fifth in NCAA Division III.

In 2000-01, the Tigers were beaten on the boards by just one team — Ohio Northern in a 76-62 defeat in the NCAA tournament. This year, just one team has outrebounded 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 71 assists to 31 turnovers. A year ago, Borland finished with 91 assists and 66 turnovers.

INJURY UPDATE:

The Tigers have been banged up of late, but everyone is expected to be available for tonight's game. The walking wounded include **Peter Walker** (shoulder), **Greg Rustad** (ankle), **Rod Emmons** (ankle) and **B.J. Harris** (ankle). Only Walker has been forced to miss a game due to injury, sitting out the Hiram win last week after suffering his injury diving for a loose ball in

the first half of last week's win over Kenyon.

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE:

The Tigers are off to a 5-1 home record in 2001-02. Since 1956-57, Wittenberg's home court record is a whopping 470-52, a winning percentage of .900. In the HPER Center, which opened in 1982, Wittenberg is 251-29, a percentage of .898, and 216-20 in regular season games alone. Against the NCAC in regular season and conference tournament play, the Tigers are 102-10 in the 13 seasons they have been in the league.

WITTENBERG/OHIO WESLEYAN SERIES:

Wittenberg leads this longtime series 93-41, including a 26-1 mark against OWU in NCAC action since 1989. The Bishops snapped a 37-game losing streak to Wittenberg on Dec. 6, 2000 with a 93-84 home win over the Tigers. The two teams then met two more times last year and Wittenberg won both highly competitive games, including the second one in the semifinals of the NCAC tournament.

Two other items of interest, Wittenberg has won 39 of the last 40 games between the two teams, dating back to a two-point Ohio Wesleyan win in the Ohio Athletic Conference tournament on Feb. 25, 1977. The Bishops have not beaten Wittenberg in Springfield since 1962 and have never won in the HPER Center.

RADIO:

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

TELEVISION:

Tonight's game will be carried by Time Warner Cable on tape delay. The game can be seen in the Dayton area at 10 p.m. on Jan. 17, 22 and 24.

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. Wittenberg also offers Internet broadcasts of various sporting events carried by WBLY. Just click on www5.wittenberg.edu/news/athletics/broadcast.html.