



Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

CONTACT: Ryan Maurer
Sports Information Director
Office: (937) 327-6114
Home: (937) 342-1654



For Immediate Release
Written: Feb. 15, 2002

Tigers travel to Wooster for annual showdown with title on the line

Wittenberg University (21-3, 14-1 NCAC) at Wooster (19-5, 13-2 NCAC)

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • Timken Gymnasium (3,400 cap.)

Probable COW Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Antwyan Reynolds	Sr.	5-10	11.7	3.2	5.0	Mansfield, Ohio/Senior
G Rodney Mitchell	So.	5-9	9.1	3.5	2.8	Elida, Ohio/Elida
F Matt Smith	Jr.	6-4	9.0	3.4	2.8	Elida, Ohio/Elida
F Bryan Nelson	Jr.	6-4	17.5	7.5	1.8	Kettering, Ohio/Fairmont
C Matt Schlingman	Fr.	6-7	5.4	2.7	1.0	Ashland, Ohio/Ashland
Probable WU Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Greg Rustad	Sr.	5-10	9.1	2.6	2.3	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.4	2.8	4.5	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	9.3	2.1	1.2	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	9.9	7.2	1.6	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.3	8.3	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, put the wraps on another outstanding regular season tonight as they travel to Wooster to face their arch-rival, the College of Wooster Fighting Scots. The two programs have dominated the North Coast Athletic Conference for more than a decade, and the 2001-02 season has been no different. The regular season finale has plenty on the line once again, as Wittenberg comes in with a narrow one-game advantage over the Scots. A Tiger win makes them outright champs for a second consecutive season, while a Wooster victory splits the championship and throws the NCAC tournament No. 1 seed back into play.

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 eight double-doubles to his credit this season, shows the way offensively with 12.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game.

Junior forward **Kevin Longley**, a second-team All-NCAC choice in 2001, averages 9.7 points and 7.2 rebounds per outing to rank second on the team in both categories. Senior forward **Chad Mossing** is averaging 9.3 points per game and leads the team with 53 three-pointers this season, sophomore forward **Peter Walker** is posting 9.4 points and 5.4 rebounds per outing, and sophomore point guard **Mark Borland** leads the team with 107 assists and 39 steals.

Wooster is the No. 3 winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history and a thorn in the side of the Tigers. The two teams have a storied rivalry that has not only been renewed since Wittenberg joined the NCAC in

1989, but has been reinvigorated. The Scots are led by the superlative inside-outside duo of junior forward Bryan Nelson's 17.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game and senior point guard Antwyan Reynolds' 11.7 points and 5.0 assists per outing.

THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of 201-50 (.800). His overall record is 261-149 (.636), including stops at Wooster and Kenyon. Brown's Wittenberg teams have made five NCAA Division III tournament appearances, won five NCAC regular season titles (including a share of the 2002 crown) 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 Wooster's **Steve Moore**, a 1974 Wittenberg graduate and close friend of Brown's. Moore, who is in his 15th season at Wooster and 21st overall, has a career record of 413-152 (.732) and a Wooster mark of 326-87 (.792). Moore has guided the Scots to 10 NCAA tournament appearances, eight regular season NCAC titles and seven NCAC tournament crowns, and he has been named NCAC Coach of the Year five times and NABC District Coach of the Year twice.

COACHING LANDMARK:

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:

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 12.5 per game. 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).

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 12.5 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.

WITTENBERG/WOOSTER SERIES:

Wittenberg leads this intense, long-standing series 40-34. Since the Tigers began competing in the NCAC prior to the 1989-90 season, Wittenberg has a 15-13 advantage, including the aforementioned Jan. 26 victory. Last year, the two teams met three times — the Tigers won both regular season games, but Wooster claimed the conference tourney title.

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