



Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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For Immediate Release
Written: Jan. 25, 2002

Tigers host Wooster with conference bragging rights again on the line

Wittenberg University (15-3, 8-1 NCAC) at College of Wooster (15-3, 9-0 NCAC)

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2002 • 7:30 p.m. • HPER Center (cap. 3,000)

<u>Probable COW Starters:</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>PPG</u>	<u>RPG</u>	<u>APG</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
G Antwyan Reynolds	Sr.	5-10	18.9	3.1	4.4	Mansfield, Ohio/Senior
G Rodney Mitchell	So.	5-9	8.9	3.4	2.4	Elida, Ohio/Elida
F Matt Smith	Jr.	6-4	9.0	3.7	2.4	Elida, Ohio/Elida
F Bryan Nelson	Jr.	6-4	17.8	7.4	1.4	Kettering, Ohio/Fairmont
C Matt Schlingman	Fr.	6-7	5.6	3.0	1.0	Ashland, Ohio/Ashland
<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	8.8	2.6	2.0	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Mark Borland	So.	5-9	8.7	3.0	4.7	Kettering, Ohio/Alter
F Chad Mossing	Sr.	6-4	10.1	1.9	1.1	Maumee, Ohio/Holland Springfield
F Kevin Longley	Jr.	6-7	9.5	7.5	1.7	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
C B.J. Harris	Jr.	6-8	12.8	8.2	1.7	Riverside, Ohio/Stebbins

SETTING THE SCENE:

The Wittenberg University Tigers, ranked No. 12 in the nation by d3hoops.com and No. 10 in the nation by Basketball America, return home for the game of the year to this point against North Coast Athletic Conference rival Wooster. The Tigers, off to an 15-3 start (8-1 in the NCAC) following Wednesday's surprising 77-65 loss at Wabash, will square off with a streaking Wooster squad that is also 15-3 overall and sits alone in first place 9-0 in the NCAC.

Wittenberg, the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history, is already 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, the Tigers feature a balanced offensive attack. Junior center **B.J. Harris**, who has seven double-doubles to his credit in 2001-02, leads the way with 12.8 per game, and he also tops the squad with 8.2 rebounds per outing.

Joining Harris in double figures in scoring are senior forward **Chad Mossing** with 10.1 points per game. On the boards, junior forward **Kevin Longley** is pulling down 7.5 and sophomore forward **Peter Walker** is averaging 6.1 per outing. In terms of assists, sophomore guard Mark Borland has a team-best 84, good for an average of 4.7 per game.

The Tigers must rebound quickly from a disappointing conference road loss on Wednesday at Wabash. A month after defeating the Little Giants by 21 points in Springfield, Wittenberg were ambushed on the road by a team that shot better than 50 percent in both halves and committed just 10 turnovers. **B.J. Harris** led the Tigers with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Wooster has come on strong after a relatively slow start. Despite a recent rash of injuries, the

three-time defending NCAC tournament champions have won nine straight conference games to claim sole possession of first place. In the Scots' most recent game, Wooster defeated Ohio Wesleyan by a surprisingly comfortable margin 76-55 for its 10th straight win overall.

The Scots' two returning all-conference players, senior point guard **Antwyan Reynolds** and junior power forward **Bryan Nelson**, lead the team in scoring and rank among the NCAC leaders with 18.9 and 17.8 points per game apiece.

THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his ninth season as the Tigers' head coach with a record of 195-50 (.796). His overall record is 255-149 (.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 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 410-150 (.732) and a Wooster mark of 323-85 (.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 LANDMARKS:

Wittenberg Head Coach **Bill Brown** is steaming toward several milestones. He recently coached his 400th career game and won his 250th career game. By season's end, he likely will 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 at 195 right now and 255 overall.

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 13.2 more caroms than their foes, a total that ranks among the best in the nation.

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 39-35. Since the Tigers began competing in the NCAC prior to the 1989-90 season, Wittenberg has a 14-13 advantage. 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.