



# Wittenberg University Men's Basketball

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## Tigers host Beloit, Hanover, Kalamazoo in annual Kiwanis-Wittenberg Holiday Classic

1st Round: Hanover (9-0) vs. Kalamazoo (4-6) • Wittenberg (6-1) vs. Beloit (2-3)

Friday, Dec. 29/30, 2000 • 6/8 p.m. • HPER Center (Cap. 3,000)

Probable Hanover Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown
G Brian Bowen	Jr.	6-1	3.8	1.2	1.7	Arcadia, Ind.
G Derek Grimm	Jr.	5-8	7.2	1.4	3.6	Evansville, Ind.
F Joe Neuman	Jr.	6-5	11.2	6.7	2.0	Connerville, Ind.
F Matt Brewer	Jr.	6-5	8.7	3.1	0.9	Indianapolis, Ind.
F Brandon Hoffman	Jr.	6-5	8.1	6.1	0.6	Sellersburg, Ind.

Probable Kalamazoo Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown
G Doug Lepisto	Fr.	5-11	8.8	2.1	3.2	Okemos, Mich.
G Dirk Rhinehart	So.	6-2	13.6	3.2	2.2	Westville, Ind.
F Scott Montmoreney	So.	6-5	10.1	5.6	1.3	Kalamazoo, Mich.
F Nate Troyer	Jr.	6-4	7.7	3.8	1.2	Three Rivers, Mich.
F Kevin Baird	So.	6-5	5.9	3.1	0.8	Portage, Mich.

Probable Wittenberg Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
G Greg Rustad	Jr.	5-10	9.7	3.6	3.0	Lakewood, Ohio/Lakewood
G Kyle Krauss	Sr.	6-0	1.3	2.6	3.4	Deshler, Ohio/Patrick Henry
F Kevin Longley	So.	6-7	12.3	8.9	2.1	Vandalia, Ohio/Butler
F Ryan Taylor	Sr.	6-5	19.9	5.9	1.0	Waynesfield, Ohio/Goshen
C Chris Fillmore	Sr.	6-6	9.3	5.3	1.2	Barberton, Ohio/Barberton

Probable Beloit Starters:	Yr.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown
G Marques Flowers	So.	6-3	7.6	4.4	1.6	Madison, Wisc.
G Ryan O'Hare	Jr.	6-2	3.8	1.6	0.6	WestDesMoines, Ia.
G Jonathan Allen	Fr.	5-9	16.4	3.4	2.0	Matteson, Ill.
F Henry Grant	Jr.	6-4	14.0	9.4	2.6	Chicago, Ill.
C Matt Entwistle	So.	6-8	10.6	5.6	2.8	Magnolia, Ill.

### TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW:

The Wittenberg University Tigers return to action in a big way this weekend as they play host to a strong field of teams in the Kiwanis-Wittenberg Holiday Classic at the HPER Center in Springfield, Ohio. Joining the 6-1 Tigers are the nationally ranked and undefeated Hanover Panthers, the 2-3 Beloit Buccaneers and the 4-6 Kalamazoo Hornets.

Hanover comes into the tournament with a head of steam. The Panthers have won their first nine games of the 2000 season, including a 76-60 win over Adrian on Dec. 20 in the Adidas D3 Desert Shootout, and have moved into the Top 25 in the latest D3Hoops.com poll. Junior forward **Joe Neuman** leads a balanced attack with a 11.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game.

Kalamazoo enters the weekend's competition looking to get things headed back in the right direction, having dropped five of its last six games. Most recently, the Hornets, who are paced by sophomore guard **Dirk Rhinehart's** 13.6 points per game, split a pair of games at the

Muskingum Tourney Dec. 22-23, defeating Denison before falling to the host Muskies by three points in the title game.

Beloit has won its last two games after an 0-3 start, and the Buccaneers figure to be well-rested. In their last game on Dec. 9, the Buccaneers defeated the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy 100-91 in double overtime as freshman guard **Jonathan Allen** exploded for 36 points on 6-of-7 shooting from beyond the three-point arc.

Wittenberg is coming off two straight lopsided victories against North Coast Athletic Conference opponents Hiram and Allegheny, and has been paced throughout the season by senior forward **Ryan Taylor**, who is averaging 19.9 points per game and is the top active scorer in the NCAC with more than 1,000 points in his career. The opening game against Beloit will take place 10 days after the Tigers' last game.

### THE COACHES:

A 1973 Wittenberg graduate, **Bill Brown** is in his eighth season as the Tigers head coach

with a record of 162-44 (.786) and a career mark of 222-142 (.610) including stints at Wooster and Kenyon. Brown has four NCAA Div. III tournament appearances, three NCAC regular season titles and one NCAC tournament championship to his credit.

Joining him on the sidelines this weekend are Hanover's Dr. **Mike Beitzel**, who has compiled an overall record of 343-220 in 21 years as a head college coach; Kalamazoo's **Joe Haklin**, who has put together a 192-140 record in his 14 seasons as head coach; and Beloit's **Cecil Youngblood**, who has a 14-56 record early in his fourth year at the school.

### RADIO:

WBLY (AM 1600) carries all the action of Tiger Basketball with **Marty Bannister** calling the play by play. Coverage includes a 15 minute pre-game show and a post-game show with head coach Bill Brown and player interviews.

### SCORING MACHINE:

Senior forward **Ryan Taylor** is putting up the biggest numbers of his career in 2000, topping all Wittenberg scorers with 19.9 points per game in 25.4 minutes per game. Taylor, who scored in double figures in all 25 games that he played last season, has been the team's leading scorer in six of the Tigers' first seven games this year. He jumpstarted Wittenberg's rout of Allegheny on Dec. 19 by scoring the team's first 17 points en route to a game-high total of 27.

### ON THE WEB:

Wittenberg's World Wide Web site offers up-to-date information on all Tiger athletic teams. Scores, results, statistics and boxscores are available by visiting Wittenberg's athletics home page [www5.wittenberg.edu/athletics](http://www5.wittenberg.edu/athletics). Wittenberg also offers Internet broadcasts of various sporting events carried by WBLY.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- Wittenberg is the winningest Division III basketball program with 1,394 victories and entered the year second in winning percentage at .703.
- The Tigers' NCAC regular season record in the previous 10 seasons is 153-27 (.850), and their overall record during that time is 278-62 (.817).
- Wittenberg's all-time record in the HPER Center is 234-27 (.897) in 17-plus seasons, including a regular season record of 198-18 (.917). In the past 42 years, the Tigers have a home mark of 464-50 (.903).
- Since 1960 Wittenberg has won 27 regular season conference championships and 17 league tournament titles.