



# Wittenberg Men's Lacrosse 2001 Season in Review

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**SETTING THE SCENE:** The Wittenberg University men's lacrosse team made some strides in 2001, but inconsistency and a late-season slide carried the Tigers to a 5-7 overall record and a mark of 1-4 in the North Coast Athletic Conference. Wittenberg was a strong offensive team, but the NCAC was as strong as usual in 2001 and the Tigers lost their last three games to Ohio Wesleyan, Wooster and Kenyon.

In Wittenberg's five wins — over Oberlin (twice), Wheeling Jesuit, Wooster and Marietta — the Tigers outscored their foes 88-25. Only Wooster and Oberlin in the second confrontation managed more than five goals in those five Wittenberg victories.

Junior **Nate Reed (Cincinnati, Ohio/Moeller)** was named the team's Most Valuable Player after he scored nine goals and distributed 10 assists. Reed's greatest value was on faceoffs as he won more than 75 percent for the season and as a dominating midfielder who scooped up a team-best 85 ground balls. The Tigers won at least 57 percent of faceoffs in every game in 2001.

Senior **Mario Cassani (Chesterfield, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit)** was named the team's Offensive MVP after ranking among the NCAC's leaders in several offensive categories. Cassani took a team-high 71 shots in 2001, scoring 28 goals and dishing out 15 assists. Senior **Tim Schuckman (Cincinnati, Ohio/Moeller)** was named the team's Defensive MVP after starting all 12 games and picking up 47 ground balls. Senior **Scott Gilbert (St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers College)**, who had 29 ground balls, received the Coach's Award. Freshman **Andy Buck (Hilliard, Ohio/Davidson)** was given the Most Improved Player award. And freshman **Hans Rydquist (Hudson, Ohio/Hudson)** got Rookie of the Year.

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**OFFENSIVE-MINDED:** The Tigers had several players ranked among the North Coast Athletic Conference leaders in the three offensive categories all season. Leading the charge was Mario Cassani, who was fourth in total points (3.50 per game) and fourth in goals (2.25 per game).

In addition, sophomore **Dan Patterson (St. Louis, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit)** ranked seventh in the NCAC in assists with 1.33 per game. He came on strong late in the season to finish second on the team with 30 total points on 14 goals and 16 assists.

Also scoring more than 10 points during the season were senior **Shawn Egan (Roswell, Ga./Innocents Episcopal)**, who had 21 goals and six assists for 27 total points, sophomore **Zach Kulow (Wooster, Ohio/Wooster)**, who has 20 goals and four assists for 24 total points, **Nate Reed**, who had nine goals and 10 assists for 19 total points, junior **Alex Nichols (Phoenix, Md./Dulaney)**, who had nine goals and six assists for 15 total points, freshman **Mike Dosenbach (St. Louis, Mo./DeSmet Jesuit)**, who had five goals and 10 assists for 15 total points, and **Hans Rydquist**, who had six goals and four assists for 10 total points.

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**ALL-NCAC:** Predictably, the Tigers didn't place anyone on the All-NCAC first team, but three players made the second team and two more made honorable mention.

Mario Cassani, Nate Reed and Shawn Egan were all named to the second team thanks to their strong offensive output. Tim Schuckman and Zach Kulow both were recognized for their contributions with honorable mention.

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**THE COACH:** In his first year with the Tigers, **Vinnie Lang (Owego State 1989)** had a 5-7 record. His overall four-year mark of 27-22 includes three seasons and a 22-15

record at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.

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**LOOKING AHEAD:** The Tigers have a lot of vacancies now, but also a lot of underclassmen expected to return for 2002.

The senior class included **Mario Cassani, Shawn Egan, Tim Schuckman, Scott Gilbert, Chris Gruber (Hudson, Ohio/Hudson)** and **Andy Rathfon (Ft. Washington, Pa./Upper Dublin)**. All 12 appeared in every game for the Tigers in 2001, and all of them played major roles on the team. Gilbert, Rathfon and junior **Alex Nichols** were the team's captains.

The team's top returnees are expected to be **Nate Reed, Nichols, Zach Kulow, Mike Dosenbach, Dan Patterson** and **Hans Rydquist**, making up a potentially strong offensive team despite the loss of leading scorer Cassani. In addition, all four goaltenders who saw action in 2001 were underclassmen, led by sophomore **Tripp Way (Wayne, Pa./Radnor)**, who made 110 saves and yielded 99 goals in 10 games.

**Tentative 2002  
Wittenberg University  
Men's Lacrosse Schedule**