



Wittenberg Track & Field 2001 Season in Review

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SETTING THE SCENE: The Wittenberg University men's and women's track & field teams put together an outstanding 2001 season. Athletes on both teams posted numerous school records and the men and women finished strong by placing second and fifth respectively in the North Coast Athletic Conference championship meet and advancing three athletes to the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Decatur, Ill. May 24-26.

On the men's side, 10 athletes earned All-NCAC honors — several in multiple events — as the Tigers turned some heads with a second-place conference finish after a fourth in the indoor championships. Seven school records fell during the year — four indoor and three outdoor — and senior **Josh Guerrieri** (*Avon, Ohio/Avon*) capped his career by setting school and conference records in the decathlon and advancing to the NCAA meet, where he finished 14th.

For the women, the Tigers didn't have the depth to make a serious run at the conference titles, finishing fourth in the indoor championships and fifth in the outdoor competition. Still, four athletes earned all-conference at the indoor meet and five more claimed similar recognition at the outdoor meet, in addition to 12 school records — seven indoor and five outdoor — that were established in 2001. The season was capped by outstanding performances by freshman **Geri Woessner** (*Dayton, Ohio/Oakwood*), who won the heptathlon and shot put at the NCAC outdoor meet and was awarded Field Events MVP, sophomore **Abi Gerstle** (*Kettering, Ohio/Fairmont*), who set a school record in the 1500-meter run and advanced to the NCAA meet, and freshman **Andrea Warner** (*Oregon, Ohio/Clay*), who won the javelin at the NCAC outdoor meet and finished 17th in the nation in the event.

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MEN'S RECORDS: As mentioned earlier, four indoor school records fell in 2001, followed by three more during the outdoor season.

Indoor school records included:

- Junior **Tony Pelletiere** (*Gurnee, Ill./Warren Twp.*) established a new standard in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:59.2;
- Sophomore **Joel Drake** (*Springfield, Ohio/Shawnee*) set the mark in the 35-pound weight throw at 44-feet, 8-inches;
- **Josh Guerrieri** posted an indoor mark of 3309 in the pentathlon;

- Freshman **Demetrius Ellison** (*Cleveland, Ohio/Trinity*) blistered the track to set the record in the 200-meter dash at 23.16.

In the outdoor season:

- **Joel Drake** put up a throw of 148-8 in the hammer;
- **Josh Guerrieri** set the school and NCAC record of 6420 in the decathlon;
- Freshman **Tim Gaal** (*Amanda, Ohio/Clearcreek*) posted an NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 193-8 while winning the NCAC javelin competition.

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WOMEN'S RECORDS: As mentioned earlier, seven indoor school records fell in 2001, followed by five more during the outdoor season.

Indoor school records included:

- Freshman **Kelly Zilli** (*Dayton, Ohio/Kettering Alter*) set a new standard in the 500 with a time of 1:21.37;
- Junior **Sarah Weide** (*Ft. Wayne, Ind./Homestead*) set a pair of school records, in the 600 in a time of 1:39.79 and the 800 in a time of 2:19.78;
- **Sarah Weide** and **Kelly Zilli** also were members of record-setting relays — the 1600 with freshman **Kristen Mumper** (*Cincinnati, Ohio/Purcell Marian*) and **Abi Gerstle** in a time of 4:10.64, and with Mumper and Gerstle again in the distance medley relay in a time of 12:22.27;
- **Kelly Zilli**, senior **Amy Sonnanstine** (*Plymouth, Mich./Canton*) and sophomore **LaRissa O'Neal** (*Indianapolis, Ind./Broad Ripple*) all reached 9-0.25 in the pole vault to establish a new standard;
- Sophomore **Erin Zayicek** (*Solon, Ohio/Solon*) tossed the 20-pound weight a record distance of 34-9.

Outdoor school records included:

- **Kristen Mumper** with a mark of 34-11.25 in the triple jump;
- **Geri Woessner** with an NCAC-winning mark of 4145 in the heptathlon;
- **LaRissa O'Neal** and freshman **Jackie Spray** (*Newark, Ohio/Newark*) with heights of 9-0.5 in the pole vault;
- **Abi Gerstle** with an NCAA-qualifying time of 4:40.79 in the 1500 and 11:43.91 in the steeplechase.

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ALL-NCAC: A top-three finish in a North Coast Athletic Conference championship event

was good for all-conference honors.

On the men's side:

Freshman **Skip Ivery** (*Columbus, Ohio/Groveport Madison*) was a conference champion in the 55-meter hurdles, and he was joined in earning indoor All-NCAC honors by the four members of the 1600 relay — freshman **Alex Yurovitsky** (*Richmond Heights, Ohio/Lyndhurst Brush*), freshman **Matt Frost** (*South Vienna, Ohio/Northeastern*), sophomore **Mark Trempe** (*Springfield, Ohio/Greenon*) and **Demetrius Ellison**.

Josh Guerrieri won the outdoor decathlon title, **Tim Gaal** won the javelin and **Mark Trempe**, **Alex Yurovitsky**, junior **Brian Gehle** (*Huntsville, Ohio/Indian Lake*) and **Demetrius Ellison** won the 1600 relay. Joining them in earning All-NCAC were **Demetrius Ellison** in the 400, **Trempe**, **Yurovitsky**, junior **Andy Waddle** (*Enon, Ohio/Greenon*) and **Ellison** in the 400 relay, **Skip Ivery** in the 110 hurdles, **Brian Gehle** in the decathlon, pole vault and high jump, **Joel Drake** in the discus and freshman **Mike Klotz** (*Cincinnati, Ohio/Colerain*) in the javelin.

For the women, **Abi Gerstle** was the indoor 1500 champion, and she was joined in earning all-conference recognition by **Sarah Weide** in the 1500 and 800 and **Kelly Zilli** in the 800. In the outdoor championships, **Sarah Weide** was again all-conference in the 800, **Geri Woessner** was a two-time winner in the heptathlon and shot put (and subsequently MVP Field Events), **Abi Gerstle** was second in the 1500, **Andrea Warner** made all-conference in the javelin and shot put and senior **Julia Kregenow** (*Lancaster, Wisc./Lancaster*) made it in the discus.

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THE COACH: **Steve Shutt** (*Allegheny '97*) completed his second season. Both the men and women improved upon their 2000 NCAC finishes, with the men moving all the way up to second at the 2001 outdoor conference meet.

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TEAM AWARDS: The 2001 men's team MVP was **Josh Guerrieri**, while the women's team MVP was **Abi Gerstle**. Most Improved honors went to senior **Jared Harding** (*Littleton, Colo./Arvada*) and **Kristen Mumper**. The Spirit Awards were distributed to freshman **Cody Martin** (*Bellefontaine, Ohio/Bellefontaine*) and **LaRissa O'Neal**.