



# Wittenberg Women's Lacrosse 2002 Season in Review

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**SETTING THE SCENE:** The Wittenberg University women's lacrosse team put together a solid 2002 season, finishing in sixth place in the North Coast Athletic Conference and compiling 6-8 overall record. The Tigers just missed advancing to the semifinals of the conference tournament, falling to Ohio Wesleyan 13-12 despite scoring the final five goals of the game. It was the second straight year that Wittenberg had lost an NCAC tournament quarterfinal match-up opposite OWU by one goal.

While the season didn't end up quite as hoped overall for the team, several outstanding individual performances and accomplishments provided the highlights.

First, there was the emergence of junior **Cara Romanowski (Collegeville, Pa./Perkiomen Valley)**, who led all scorers in the NCAC with 54 goals and 61 total points. She was named the conference Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-NCAC, just prior to claiming NCAC All-Tournament honors and Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association first team.

The high point of the season for the team came the weekend of April 6 and 7. The Tigers defeated NCAC foes Oberlin and Allegheny in a pair of home overtime thrillers. The latter was a landmark win for Tigers Head Coach Nancy Beck, the 100th of her career.

**OFFENSIVE-MINDED:** After Kati Robbins had practically re-written the Wittenberg record books a year earlier, the question before the season was who would replace that offensive production. While several players stepped up, the leader was clearly Romanowski.

She tallied 54 goals, including seven in a 17-11 loss to Kenyon on April 24 and six in the aforementioned 13-12 defeat at Ohio Wesleyan on April 30. Her final scoring statistics, made all the more impressive by the fact that she was a defender first and foremost, all rank among the best in Wittenberg history and put her in position to reach several career records with similar production in 2003. And she finished 23rd in the nation in goals per game.

Romanowski may have provided the main storylines, but she was hardly alone in pressuring the opponents' goaltenders. Senior **Erin Jacobsen (Fairport, NY/Penfield)** was outstanding with the ball in her possession, tallying 26 goals, second-best on the team. Freshman **Jenny Burns (Dublin, Ohio/Coffman)** was excellent with the ball on her stick as well, hitting for 24 goals and a team-best 10 assists for 34 total points, one of the best totals for a

freshman in the entire Midwest Region. Rounding out the 20-point scorers for the Tigers was sophomore **Kate Williston (Wooster, Ohio/Wooster)**, who contributed 13 goals and seven assists.

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**ALL-NCAC:** The Wittenberg women's lacrosse team placed four players on All-NCAC teams after the season. Three of them added regional honors as well.

Leading the charge, as usual, was Romanowski. She was named NCAC Defensive Player of the Year, first-team All-NCAC, first-team Regional All-America and NCAC All-Tournament.

Joining Romanowski in earning conference awards were Williston and sophomore defender **Katie Babcock (Phoenix, Md./Dulaney)**, who started all 14 games and spearheaded the team's defensive effort. She led the team in ground balls with 55, and she set a new school record in caused turnovers with 33. Burns was named Honorable Mention All-NCAC.

Williston, who set a school record for draw controls with 46 and is on pace to shatter the school's career record, and Babcock were both named second-team IWLCA Regional All-Americans. Williston's 3.7 draw controls per game ranked 10th in the nation.

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**DOIN' IT IN THE CLASSROOM:** The Wittenberg experience doesn't just include student-athletes going through the motions in the classroom. They are asked to excel on the field and in their studies, and the women's lacrosse team did just that again in 2002.

For the spring semester, the team posted a 2.86 team grade point average. Nine of the 19 student-athletes had GPAs of 3.0 or better, and three, Juliette Gordon, Jenny Burns and Jackie Comer, made the Dean's List.

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**SAYING GOOD-BYE:** The 2002 Wittenberg women's lacrosse team had just two seniors on the roster, but both figure to be missed. Erin Jacobsen was a key figure in an offensive attack that reached double figures seven times and scored nine goals on two other occasions. Senior **Juliette Gordon (Columbus, Ohio/Upper Arlington)** also put together a solid final campaign, banging home a pair of goals and three assists while playing in all 14 games.

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**THE COACH:** Nancy Beck (Lynchburg '78) completed her 16th season at the helm of the Tigers with a 102-142 overall record. Her 100th win came in a 13-12 overtime decision against

Allegheny on April 7, 2002.

Also Wittenberg's director of intramurals and recreation, Beck came to Springfield after serving as the assistant lacrosse coach and head field hockey and swimming coach at the College of Notre Dame in Maryland. She is a native of Baltimore, Md., and she holds a bachelor's degree from Lynchburg College and a master's from Towson State University.

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**LOOKING AHEAD:** The future is certainly a bright one for the Tiger women's lacrosse program, with just two players graduating in 2002. Three of the four players who scored more than 10 goals in the recently completed season are slated to return, while every player who saw action on the defensive side is expected back. Among the key figures in the backfield are Babcock, junior **Lindsay Law (Columbus, Ohio/Dublin Scioto)**, Romanowski and junior goaltender **Rebecca Russ (Louisville, Ky./Sacred Heart)**, who stopped 49.6 of the shots she faced in her first season with the program. Russ is an All-American field hockey player for the Tigers.

## Wittenberg University 2002 Women's Lacrosse Results

Record: 6-8, 3-4 NCAC

Mar. 10	vs. Regis&	L, 5-15
Mar. 14	vs. Salve Regina&	W, 14-11
Mar. 18	PUGET SOUND	W, 12-9
Mar. 23	at St. Vincent	L, 9-12 (ot)
Mar. 24	at Frostburg St.	L, 3-18
Apr. 6	OBERLIN*	W, 9-8 (ot)
Apr. 7	ALLEGHENY*	W, 13-12 (ot)
Apr. 10	at Earlham*	W, 11-4
Apr. 13	DENISON*	L, 8-19
Apr. 20	WOOSTER*	L, 7-11
Apr. 21	INDIANA (PA)	W, 10-7
Apr. 24	at Kenyon*	L, 11-17
Apr. 28	at Ohio Wesleyan*	L, 7-15
Apr. 30	at Ohio Wesleyan#	L, 12-13

\* NCAC Games

# NCAC Tournament

HOME GAMES IN CAPS