

2009 Wittenberg University Football

Pre-Game News & Notes - Sept. 5, 2009 vs. Olivet

• **SETTING THE SCENE:** The Wittenberg Tigers welcome 21 returning starters to the Edwards-Maurer Field sidelines in hopes of moving back to the top of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and beyond in 2009. Picked third in the NCAC, potentially matching last year's disappointing finish, Wittenberg kicks off the new campaign with much higher expectations against 2007 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association champion Olivet.

The Tigers, who have more than 40 letterwinners back in the fold after finishing 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the NCAC in 2008, face an Olivet team that plummeted to seventh in the MIAA with records of 1-9 overall and 0-6 in the conference a year ago.

• **SERIES HISTORY:** After last year's 22-10 victory in Springfield, the Wittenberg Tigers hold a 5-0 lead in the all-time series between the two Great Lakes Region schools.

Interestingly, before last year, the four previous games in the series were all played in different decades. Wittenberg won by shutout in 1924, 1955 and 1987, before squeaking out a 17-16 decision in 2007 and the aforementioned 12-point win in 2008.

• **SCOUTING THE TIGER OFFENSE:** The Wittenberg offense will likely go as far as senior quarterback **Aaron Huffman**, the 2006 NCAC Newcomer of the Year and 2007 team offensive MVP, can carry it. Surrounded by a talented supporting cast and experienced offensive line, Huffman gets back under center after missing the last eight games of 2008 due to injury.

Huffman has plenty of playmakers in the wide receiver corps, starting with fifth-year senior **Patrick Williams**, who starts the year just 33 receptions shy of the school's career record. He led the team in receiving for a second straight season in 2008, finishing with 51 catches for 685 yards and four touchdowns. Sophomore **Josh McKee** put together a tremendous inaugural collegiate season in 2008, hauling in 47 passes for 694 yards and nine scores. He is slated to start opposite Williams.

The passing game figures to get an added boost from the return of 2007 first-team All-NCAC tight end **Mat Guida**, who missed the 2008 season due to injury.

The running game will be handled primarily by junior **Corey Weber**, who gained 74 yards and scored two touchdowns against Olivet before going down for the season with an injury late in the game. He will be backed by senior **Jeff Wilbur**, who gained 258 yards on 58 carries a year ago, and sophomore **Connor Warye**, who transferred from Ohio Northern after seeing extensive action as a reserve in 2008.

The offensive line is anchored by senior All-NCAC center **Dillon Hollin**. Eight players with at least two prior starting assignments are competing for starting positions in 2009.

• **NO MORE DOUBLE DUTY:** **Patrick Williams** has been setting records on the gridiron and on the baseball field in his Wittenberg career. His days as an outfielder may have ended, but he decided to return to school after graduating in May to play one final season of football.

The team leader in receptions the last two years after finishing second in both categories in 2006, Williams started all but two of the Tigers' baseball games over the last four years. In 151 total games, including 149 starting assignments, the speedy outfielder ranked among the team leaders in numerous offensive categories in each of his four seasons in the Red & White.

Williams, who set a school record with a 27-game hitting streak stretching across the last 14 games of 2007 and the first 13 of 2008, finished his career with a batting average of .348. A second-team All-NCAC honoree in 2006, 2008 and 2009 to go along with his first-team All-NCAC award in football in 2007, Williams wound up with 39 doubles (fifth in school history), eight triples (seventh), 10 home runs, 109 RBI (seventh) and 42 stolen bases (fourth) in his baseball career. In addition, his 192 career base hits are good for third in the program annals.

• **ON TARGET:** **Aaron Huffman**'s collegiate career was sidetracked by an untimely injury a year ago, at a time when he was on pace to break most of Wittenberg's career passing records.

In 23 collegiate games, all starting assignments, Huffman has thrown for 3,709 yards, good for sixth place on Wittenberg's career list. He needs just 169 yards through the air to move into fifth place on the all-time list. If he chooses to accept his medical red-shirt year in 2010, Huffman will have a chance to supplant National College Football Hall of Famer Charlie Green, who did not lose a game as a starter between 1961-64, atop the school's passing list. Green is the standard bearer among Wittenberg quarterbacks, having thrown for 5,575 yards.

• **WELCOME BACK:** It could be argued that no injury in the 2008 season was more damaging to the Tigers' title hopes than the one suffered by kicker **Zack Harris**, who went down for the season midway through a three-point loss to Washington University in Week 2.

Harris, who opted to make use of his medical red-shirt season in 2009, missed the final eight games of last year's campaign, including a pair of gut-wrenching three-point losses. For the season, Wittenberg made just 22 of 32 PAT attempts and 5 of 9 field goals. Junior **David Rome** filled in admirably after

BY THE NUMBERS

WITTENBERG (0-0) 2008 TEAM STATISTICS

	WIT	NCAC Rank
Scoring Offense	25.7	3rd
Scoring Defense	14.4	1st
Pass Offense	210.2	4th
Pass Defense	172.1	2nd
Kickoff Returns	24.6	1st
Punting (Net)	33.0	6th
Rush Offense	135.9	6th
Rush Defense	88.8	2nd
Total Offense	346.1	5th
Total Defense	260.9	1st
Punt Returns	6.6	4th
Pass Efficiency	125.9	3rd

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	G	Att.	Yds.	TD	
T. Luckenbill	8	120	589	4	
J. Wilbur	9	58	258	2	
T. Hall	9	60	187	9	
R. Belcher	8	46	140	0	
Passing	G	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD
A. Durbin	8	82	142	1040	7
Receiving	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	
P. Williams	10	51	685	4	
J. McKee	10	47	694	9	
M. Cooper	9	20	292	2	
A. Kralich	10	18	218	0	

OLIVET (0-0) 2008 TEAM STATISTICS

	OLI	MIAA Rank
Scoring Offense	18.0	6th
Scoring Defense	24.1	4th
Pass Offense	134.9	7th
Pass Defense	209.7	3rd
Kickoff Returns	15.2	7th
Punting (Net)	37.0	1st
Rush Offense	151.8	3rd
Rush Defense	112.0	3rd
Total Offense	286.7	6th
Total Defense	321.7	2nd
Punt Returns	5.0	7th
Pass Efficiency	100.8	7th

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	G	Att.	Yds.	TD	
P. Clasgens	10	175	925	8	
M. Martin	10	59	308	2	
S. Misko	10	46	213	5	
Passing	G	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD
L. Linn	7	64	120	710	4
Receiving	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	
C. Mulder	10	34	480	1	
N. Woodson	10	23	277	0	
M. Martin	10	16	178	1	
J. Williams	10	14	138	2	
P. Clasgens	10	12	85	1	

TUNE IN TO THE TIGERS!

All Wittenberg athletic broadcasts can be heard locally on WUSO 89.1-FM, the university's student-operated station. They also can be heard around the world on the Internet thanks to Wittenberg's partnership with Stretch Internet. Wittenberg fans do not have to pay to listen to broadcasts, and anyone with a computer and an Internet connection can log in and listen.

Wittenberg is blessed with outstanding radio coverage again in 2009 as Scott Leo, who spends his summers as the play-by-play voice of the Columbus Clippers, heads things up. Leo, who has been involved with Wittenberg athletic broadcasts since 2000, will be joined by Ben Bradley and assorted Wittenberg students on the majority of this fall's football broadcasts. Bradley will call the Olivet game solo, however, due to Leo's commitments with the Clippers.

The student broadcast team is bigger and better than ever in 2009-10, led by WUSO Sports Director Jimmy Colloton. Student broadcasters are involved in all aspects of broadcasts, including sideline reporting, statistical analysis, on-air color analysis, in-game score updates and production work. This year, the team has ambitious plans to produce nearly 200 athletics broadcasts (audio and video).

- **FOOTBALL ROUNDTABLE:** Hosted by local sports radio personality Jim Scoby and Bradley, Football Roundtable is a weekly show that features conversation on high school, college and professional football. It can be heard locally on WUSO 89.1-FM and on the Internet from 6-7 p.m. every Thursday. Scoby and Bradley do the show each week from Dream Cup Cafe, located on Main Street in Springfield.

coming over from the men's soccer team, finishing third on the team with 32 total points.

- **SCOUTING THE TIGER DEFENSE:** After ranking first in the NCAC in scoring and team defense in 2007 and 2008, the Tigers return nine starters, including three all-conference honorees.

Junior linebacker **Brad McKinley**, who has racked up more than 100 tackles in each of his first collegiate seasons, anchors the unit. He will be flanked by sophomore **Zach Hurtt**, who was third on the team in tackles a year ago, and junior **Ben Maxwell**. Junior **Kyle Lohrman**, a first-team All-NCAC honoree and the team's second-leading tackler in 2008, will also see substantial playing time.

The defensive line is anchored by senior **Taylor Scherer**, who is likely to start at end in the 2009 opener after starting the last two seasons at tackle. At the other end, junior **Eddie Vallery** hopes to build off his breakout 2008 season.

Rounding things out, the Tiger secondary is led by senior **Brandyn Brown**, a three-year starter at cornerback and a dangerous return man on special teams. Senior **Keenan Freeman**, riddled with injuries the last two years, is listed as a starter at the other corner, while senior **Trent Brunic** returns at safety.

- **SCOUTING THE COMETS:** A year after reaching the NCAA Division III Tournament for the first time in school history, Olivet fell to a deceiving 1-9 in 2008. The Comets enter 2009 with a relatively young team.

Offensively, the Comets are led by two-time all-conference running back Pat Clasgens. He is joined in the starting backfield this year by sophomore quarterback Nick McCleary, who starting the final games a year ago, and sophomore Mike Martin, who accumulated nearly 500 yards from scrimmage in 2008.

Olivet returns just four starters on defense, led by defensive backs Alex Hill and Jared Thornton, two of the team's top tacklers in 2008. Linebacker Hakeem Yakubu is a two-time first-team all-conference honoree.

Rounding things out, Olivet boasts one of the top punters in NCAA Division III in Ryan Patten, who averages more than 43 yards per punt in his career and has landed 28 kicks inside Olivet opponents' 20 yard line.

- **LAST MEETING:** The injury-riddled Tigers got the 2008 season started off right with a 22-10 victory over visiting Olivet.

After dictating play for most of the game, Wittenberg used a five-yard **Corey Weber** touchdown run early in the fourth quarter and a safety moments later when Olivet's punter planted his foot on the end line to secure the final 12-point advantage.

Josh McKee and Weber scored touchdowns in the first half to stake the Tigers to a slim lead. **Aaron Huffman** led both teams with 24 yards on nine carries and 231 yards through the air while completing 14 passes to just three players, led by **Patrick Williams** with six catches and 117 yards.

Defensively, **Kyle Lohrman** led the way with 10 tackles, while **Manny Rodriguez** and **Brad McKinley** added eight apiece. **Eddie Vallery** turned in a fine game in his first collegiate start, recording four tackles, including 1.5 sacks, a forced fumble and a pass broken up.

- **THE COACHES:** Wittenberg is led by **Joe Fincham**, a 1988 graduate

of Ohio University. In his 12th season at the helm, Fincham has a 114-29 overall record, including a mark of 78-14 in the NCAC and a regular season record of 107-23. His teams have claimed six conference titles, including four straight outright with undefeated records from 1998-2001. Fincham has been named NCAC Coach of the Year five times, including 2006 after he led the Tigers to their most recent conference title, and earned American Football Coaches Association/Kodak District IV Coach of the Year honors in 1998.

Fincham stands seconds in school history with 114 wins, trailing only National College Football Hall of Famer Dave Maurer, who posted a 129-23-3 record between 1969-83. Fincham is third in winning percentage as his .797 mark trails Maurer (.842) and fellow National College Football Hall of Famer Bill Edwards, who had a 98-20-4 record between 1955-69.

Dominic Livedoti, a 1965 graduate of Olivet and a 2006 inductee into the school's hall of fame, is in the fifth season of his second stint as head coach at Olivet. He has led the Comets to an 18-23 record in the last four years and holds an overall record of 39-44-3 in nine years as the head coach. Livedoti previously served as head coach from 1988-92.

2009 NCAC Standings

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct
Allegheny	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Denison	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Earlham	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Hiram	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Kenyon	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Oberlin	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Ohio Wesleyan	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Wabash	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Wittenberg	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Wooster	0	0	.000	0	0	.000

NCAC Game Schedule - Sept. 5, 2009

Wittenberg at Olivet, 6 p.m.
 Juniata at Allegheny, 1 p.m.
 Kalamazoo at Denison, 1 p.m.
 Kenyon at Case Western, 1 p.m.
 Oberlin at Washington and Jefferson, 7 p.m.
 Ohio Wesleyan at Carnegie Mellon, 1 p.m.
 Rose-Hulman at Earlham, 1 p.m.
 Waynesburg at Wooster, 1 p.m.

2008 NCAC Standings

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct
Wabash	7	0	1.000	10	2	.846
Wooster	6	1	.857	8	2	.800
Wittenberg	4	3	.571	6	4	.600
Denison	4	3	.571	6	4	.600
Allegheny	4	3	.571	5	5	.500
Earlham	4	3	.571	4	6	.400
Hiram	2	5	.286	3	7	.300
Oberlin	2	5	.286	2	8	.200
Ohio Wesleyan	2	5	.286	2	8	.200
Kenyon	0	7	.000	1	9	.100

Wittenberg Tiger Two-Deep

OFFENSE

WR	14 Josh McKee (So., 6-1, 180) 81 Anthony Kralich (Jr., 6-2, 200)
TE	88 Mat Guida (Sr., 6-5, 245) 84 Cody Parsell (Sr., 6-3, 240)
LT	52 Ryan Metzger (Sr., 6-2, 270) 58 Clay Hewson (Sr., 6-2, 285)
LG	54 Jeremy Block (Jr., 5-9, 265) 77 Alan Trump (So., 5-10, 260)
C	60 Dillon Hollin (Sr., 6-0, 260) 67 Jake Kerger (Sr., 6-3, 270)
RG	78 Nick Hudepohl (So., 6-1, 280) 74 A.J. Owen (Fr., 6-2, 285)
RT	69 Alex Burwell (Jr., 6-0, 285) 57 Brian Alspaugh (Jr., 6-1, 265)
QB	7 Aaron Huffman (Sr., 6-4, 225) 13 Andrew Durbin (Jr., 6-4, 225)
TB	9 Corey Weber (Jr., 5-9, 195) 38 Conner Warye (So., 5-11, 200)
FB	45 Mike Montgomery (Jr., 6-1, 225) 28 Vet Smelko (So., 5-10, 215)
WR	1 Patrick Williams (Sr., 6-0, 195) 2 Michael Cooper (So., 6-4, 205)

DEFENSE

DE	95 Taylor Sherer (Sr., 6-0, 240) 99 Nic Wolfe (Sr., 6-2, 245)
DT	93 Adam Kattoua (Jr., 6-0, 270) 90 Jimmy Neyhouse (So., 6-0, 230)
DT	56 Lance Phillips (Sr., 6-1, 250) 94 Justin Bartlett (Fr., 6-2, 230)
DE	47 Eddie Vallery (Jr., 6-2, 220) 50 Cory Cosby (Fr., 5-11, 235)
ILB	33 Zach Hurtt (So., 6-0, 215) 42 Kyle Lohrman (Sr., 6-0, 200)
MLB	21 Brad McKinley (Jr., 5-8, 195) 44 Fields Davis (Jr., 5-7, 200)
OLB	10 Ben Maxwell (So., 6-0, 200) 39 Josh Colbert (Fr., 6-0, 195)
CB	8 Brandyn Brown (Sr., 5-8, 170) 5 Ethan Bartel (So., 6-1, 190)
FS	11 Ben Zoeller (So., 6-0, 205) 20 Seth Parker (So., 5-11, 170)
SS	17 Trent Brunic (Sr., 6-0, 190) 19 Ty Whittington (Jr., 5-10, 170) or
CB	24 Mike Box (So., 6-3, 180) 25 Keenan Freeman (Jr., 5-10, 190) 41 Ben Merkert (Jr., 5-10, 185) or 30 Jamaal Everett (Fr., 5-8, 170)

SPECIALISTS

K	4 Zack Harris (Sr., 5-11, 210) 15 Sean Williams (Fr., 6-1, 155)
P	18 Trevor Cochran (Jr., 6-1, 170) 92 Trey LaValley (So., 6-2, 195)
KO	4 Zack Harris (Sr., 5-11, 210) 15 Sean Williams (Fr., 6-1, 155)
KR	8 Brandyn Brown (Sr., 5-8, 170) 20 Seth Parker (So., 5-11, 170)
PR	8 Brandyn Brown (Sr., 5-8, 170) 30 Jamaal Everett (Fr., 5-8, 170)
H	14 Josh McKee (So., 6-1, 180) 1 Patrick Williams (Sr., 6-0, 195)
LS	58 Clay Hewson (Sr., 6-2, 285) 84 Cody Parsell (Sr., 6-3, 240)

Olivet Comet Two-Deep

OFFENSE

WR	3 James Williams (So., 5-10, 185) 18 Brian Phillips (Fr., 5-9, 185)
WR	1 J.W. Seekman (Fr., 6-2, 195) 87 Ben Sherman (Jr., 6-2, 195)
LT	76 Dwight Tillis (So., 6-5, 315) 68 Joshua Matthews (So., 6-4, 250)
LG	77 James Reynolds (Jr., 6-4, 260) 55 Casey Keyosky (Jr., 6-2, 295)
C	58 Jacob Shafer (Fr., 6-1, 280) 50 Paul Goodwin (Fr., 6-2, 220)
RG	56 Elijah Keller (Sr., 6-0, 275) 74 James Dye (So., 6-5, 270)
RT	62 Derek Svoboda (So., 6-4, 285) 72 James Tanis (Sr., 6-4, 290)
TE	82 Austin Khoshnegah (So., 6-4, 255) 85 Thomas Tobolic (Fr., 6-2, 240)
QB	8 Nick McCleary (So., 6-1, 210) 14 C.J. Gregory (So., 6-0, 190)
RB	24 Mike Martin (So., 5-11, 180) 23 Antonio Todd (Fr., 5-8, 175)
RB	2 Pat Clasgens (Sr., 5-10, 200) 42 Sam Watson (So., 5-10, 210)

DEFENSE

DE	95 Ron Cadez (So., 6-0, 240) 93 Glenn Van Nortwick (Fr., 6-3, 225)
DT	99 Anthony Silvas (Sr., 6-0, 260) 90 Travis Farris (So., 5-11, 250)
DT	91 Billy Albrecht (Sr., 6-0, 260) 62 Blake Beals (Fr., 6-1, 245)
DE	84 Chris Gottardo (Jr., 6-2, 230) 54 Tim Knight (Fr., 6-1, 250)
LB	41 Anthony Castaneda (Fr., 5-10, 245) 30 Branden McLean (Sr., 5-11, 230)
LB	32 Chris Behnke (Jr., 6-3, 215) 12 Joe Riley (So., 6-1, 210)
LB	9 Hakeem Yakubu (Sr., 6-1, 250) 45 Mike Purtilar (So., 6-0, 200)
CB	31 Alex Hill (Sr., 5-9, 195) 35 Jarred Goodman (Fr., 5-10, 170)
S	10 Jared Thornton (Sr., 5-10, 185) 37 Matt Goodman (Fr., 5-10, 175)
S	36 Nick Glass (Jr., 5-11, 200) 20 Brandon Taylor (So., 5-10, 200)
CB	5 Robby Jensen (So., 6-0, 175) 34 Harold Ellison (So., 6-0, 180)

SPECIALISTS

PK	16 Alex Willard (Jr., 6-0, 185) 28 Blake Iobe (Fr., 5-10, 155)
P	81 Ryan Patten (Sr., 6-3, 200) 5 Robby Jensen (So., 6-0, 175)
KR	3 James Williams (So., 5-10, 185) 24 Mike Martin (So., 5-11, 180)
PR	3 James Williams (So., 5-10, 185) 24 Mike Martin (So., 5-11, 180)
LS	36 Nick Glass (Jr., 5-11, 200) 1 J.W. Seekman (Fr., 6-2, 195)
H	14 C.J. Gregory (So., 6-0, 190) 10 Jared Thornton (Sr., 5-10, 185)
KO	16 Alex Willard (Jr., 6-0, 185) 28 Blake Iobe (Fr., 5-10, 155)



2009 Wittenberg Schedule ...

0-0 Overall, 0-0 NCAC

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	at Olivet	6 p.m.
19	at Washington U. (Mo.)	1 p.m. (CST)
26	OHIO WESLEYAN*	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	HIRAM*	1 p.m.
10	at Earlham*	1 p.m.
17	at Wabash*	1 p.m.
24	CARNEGIE MELLON	2 p.m.
31	at Denison*	7 p.m.
Nov. 7	ALLEGHENY*	1 p.m.
14	WOOSTER*	1 p.m.

* North Coast Athletic Conference Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2008 Wittenberg Results ...

6-4 Overall, 4-3 NCAC

Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 6	OLIVET	W, 22-0
20	WASHINGTON (MO.)	L, 27-30
27	at Ohio Wesleyan*	W, 32-0
Oct. 4	at Hiram*	W, 44-7
11	EARLHAM*	W, 45-13
18	WABASH*	L, 10-13
25	at Carnegie Mellon	W, 21-14
Nov. 1	DENISON*	W, 23-0
8	at Allegheny*	L, 27-30 (ot)
15	at Wooster*	L, 6-27

* North Coast Athletic Conference Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2009 Wittenberg Quick Facts ...

Location:Springfield, Ohio
 Founded: 1845
 Enrollment: 1950
 Nickname: Tigers
 Colors:..... Red & White
 Stadium (capacity): Edwards-Maurer Field (3,000)
 Surface: Artificial
 Affiliation:..... NCAA Division III
 Conference: North Coast Athletic
 2008 Record: 6-4/4-3 NCAC (t-3rd)
 President:.....Dr. Mark H. Erickson
 Athletic Director: Garnett Purnell
 Head Football Coach: Joe Fincham
 Sports Information Director: Ryan Maurer



2009 Olivet Schedule ...

0-0 Overall, 0-0 MIAA

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	WITTENBERG	6 p.m.
12	at Elmhurst	Noon (CST)
19	CONCORDIA (ILL.)	1 p.m.
26	at North Central	6 p.m. (CST)
Oct. 3	at Albion*	1 p.m.
10	KALAMAZOO*	2 p.m.
17	TRINE*	1 p.m.
24	at Alma*	1 p.m.
31	HOPE*	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	at Adrian*	6 p.m.

* Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2008 Olivet Results ...

1-9 Overall, 0-6 MIAA

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 6	at Wittenberg	L, 10-22
13	ELMHURST	L, 14-31
20	at Concordia (Ill.)	W, 59-0
27	NORTH CENTRAL (Ill.)	L, 7-37
Oct. 4	ALBION*	L, 5-10
11	at Kalamazoo*	L, 30-35
18	at Trine (Ind.)*	L, 10-21
25	ALMA*	L, 28-35
Nov. 1	at Hope*	L, 13-38
15	ADRIAN*	L, 7-19

* Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2009 Olivet Quick Facts ...

Location: Olivet, Mich.
 Founded: 1844
 Enrollment: 1,008
 Nickname: Comets
 Colors:..... Scarlet and White
 Stadium (capacity): Cutler Athletic Complex (2,200)
 Surface: Artificial
 Affiliation:..... NCAA Division III
 Conference: Michigan Intercollegiate
 2008 Record: 1-9/0-6 MIAA (7th)
 President:.....Don Tuski
 Athletic Director: Dominic Livedoti
 Head Football Coach: Dominic Livedoti
 Sports Information Director: Geoff Henson