

2009 Wittenberg University Football

Pre-Game News & Notes - Sept. 19, 2009 vs. Washington Univ.

• **SETTING THE SCENE:** The Wittenberg Tigers hit the road for the first time in the 2009 season, venturing west to take on Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Picked third in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) in the preseason coaches poll, the Tigers will take the field for the first time since dispatching Olivet, 37-6, in their season opener Sept. 5.

The Tigers, who have more than 40 letterwinners and 21 starters back in the fold after finishing 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the NCAC in 2008, face a Washington University squad that is off to a 1-1 start in 2009 after finishing 6-4 overall a year ago.

• **SERIES HISTORY:** Wittenberg and Washington University met on the gridiron for the first time ever in 2008, and the Bears escaped Edwards-Maurer Field with a 30-27 victory that essentially derailed the Tigers' season.

In that game, Wittenberg's stunning rash of injuries culminated with the loss of all-conference quarterback **Aaron Huffman** and kicker **Zack Harris**. The Tigers went on to lose three games by three points each after starting the season as the conference favorite.

• **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 threw for 265 yards in the 2009 opener against Olivet.

Huffman has plenty of playmakers in the wide receiver corps, starting with fifth-year senior **Patrick Williams**, who in now just 27 receptions shy of the school's career record after hauling in six passes for 64 yards against Olivet. Williams 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 and sophomore **Michael Cooper**, who caught three passes for 18 yards and a touchdown against Olivet, are sure-handed targets on the outside.

The running game is in the capable hands of junior **Corey Weber**, who ran wild against Olivet for 152 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries. It was his first game since the 2008 opener against Olivet, during which he suffered a season-ending shoulder injury. Weber is 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.

• **LIFE AFTER BASEBALL:** **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.

• **ALSO ON THE HARDWOOD:** **Josh McKee** and **Michael Cooper** not made an impact on the Tiger football program in 2008, they both also quickly worked their way into the playing rotation for the men's basketball squad.

McKee started 20 of the 23 games in which he played in 2008-09, averaging 7.3 points and 4.0 rebounds. His 23 steals ranked second on the team.

Cooper started 12 of the 22 games in which he played in 2008-09, averaging 8.0 points and 4.0 rebounds per outing. He ranked second on the team in scoring, and his 40 assists also put him second - tops among the team's post players.

• **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 24 collegiate games, all starting assignments, Huffman has thrown for 3,974 yards, good for fifth place on Wittenberg's career 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.

• **NCAC PLAYER OF THE WEEK:** After enjoying a solid freshman campaign in 2007, **Corey Weber** started the 2008 season off well, rushing for 74 yards and two touchdowns against Olivet in the season

BY THE NUMBERS

WITTENBERG (1-0)

2008 TEAM STATISTICS

	WIT	NCAC Rank
Scoring Offense	37.0	3rd
Scoring Defense	6.0	1st
Pass Offense	298.0	2nd
Pass Defense	62.0	3rd
Kickoff Returns	20.0	7th
Punting (Net)	35.5	5th
Rush Offense	242.0	2nd
Rush Defense	55.0	1st
Total Offense	540.0	1st
Total Defense	117.0	1st
Punt Returns	6.3	6th
Pass Efficiency	166.5	2nd

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	G	Att.	Yds.	TD	
C. Weber	1	26	152	3	
A. Huffman	1	6	37	0	
C. Warye	1	5	32	0	
Passing	G	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD
A. Huffman	1	16	26	265	2
Receiving	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	
P. Williams	1	6	64	1	
M. Cooper	1	3	18	1	
J. McKee	1	2	66	0	
C. Weber	1	2	53	0	

WASHINGTON (1-1)

2009 TEAM STATISTICS

	WASH	UAA Rank
Scoring Offense	24.0	4th
Scoring Defense	26.0	3rd
Pass Offense	174.0	3rd
Pass Defense	165.0	1st
Kickoff Returns	16.3	4th
Punting (Net)	36.5	3rd
Rush Offense	124.5	4th
Rush Defense	175.0	3rd
Total Offense	298.5	3rd
Total Defense	340.0	2nd
Punt Returns	2.4	3rd
Pass Efficiency	105.9	4th

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing	G	Att.	Yds.	TD	
J. O'Brien	2	38	165	1	
S. Kentor	2	6	35	2	
M. Glenn	1	7	33	0	
Passing	G	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD
S. Sherman	2	18	32	264	2
Receiving	G	Rec.	Yds.	TD	
G. Lachaud	2	6	96	1	
T. Gulyas	2	6	83	1	
M. Mangini	2	5	81	1	
A. Morman	2	3	20	0	
B. Fox	2	2	17	0	

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.

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.

opener. His season ended that night, however, due to injury.

Fast forward one year and Weber made a triumphant return, rushing for 152 yards and three scores against the same Olivet team. He picked up NCAC Player of the Week honors for his performance, which also included 53 yards on two receptions.

- **SCOUTING THE TIGER DEFENSE:** After ranking first in the NCAC in scoring and team defense in 2007 and 2008, the Tigers returned nine starters, including three all-conference honorees, this year. The veteran squad turned in a fine opening week performance, limiting Olivet to six points on a fourth quarter touchdown.

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

The defensive line is anchored by senior **Taylor Scherer**, who moved to the end spot in the 2009 opener after starting the last two seasons at tackle. At the other end, junior **Eddie Vallery** picked up right where he left off in his breakout 2008 season, accumulating five tackles, a sack and a forced fumble against Olivet. The defensive line took a hit, however, when fifth-year senior tackle **Lance Phillips** was lost for the season due to a knee injury prior to the opener.

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 the starter at the other corner, while senior **Trent Brunic** is the lone returner at safety.

- **SCOUTING THE BEARS:** Washington University lost its 2009 opener to Greenville, 17-7, but the Bears bounced back to take a 41-35 win at Westminster on Sept. 12.

The key to the team's improvement from Week 1 to Week 2 was an improvement in the rushing game. After picking up just 43 yards in the opener, the Bears picked up 206 yards on 43 carries, the biggest team rushing day for Washington University in two years.

The Bears have turned to converted running back Stephen Sherman to quarterback the offense, and he responded with an 8-of-12 performance against Westminster. Jim O'Brien is the team's leading rusher, with 165 yards on the season and nearly 1,000 in his collegiate career.

On the other side of the ball, defensive back Tim Machan leads with 12 solos tackles and 15 total. Tim Olivos is close behind with 14 total tackles, including three for loss.

- **LAST MEETING:** Wittenberg dropped a 30-27 decision on its home field - thanks largely to four turnovers and three blocked kicks (two field goals and an extra point that was returned for a rare two-point conversion) in the second game of the 2008 season.

The Tigers trailed 21-0 less than three minutes into the second quarter before rallying, starting with a 50-yard touchdown pass from **Aaron Huffman** to **Josh McKee**, the first of three scoring plays for the then-freshman receiver, who finished with 153 yards through the air. Running back **Trevor Luckenbill** added 82 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries.

Defensively, Wittenberg got a big game from **Eddie Vallery**, who finished with 10 tackles, a sack and a blocked field goal, and **Kyle Lohrman**, who added nine stops.

- **SCHEDULING AGREEMENT:** The University Athletic Association (UAA), which includes just four football-playing members, and the NCAC entered into a scheduling agreement that began in 2008. Nineteen games between teams in the two leagues are scheduled during the 2009 season.

- **THE COACHES:** Wittenberg is led by **Joe Fincham**, a 1988 graduate of Ohio University. In his 14th season at the helm, Fincham has a 115-29 overall record, including a mark of 78-14 in the NCAC and a regular season record of 108-23. 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 second in school history with 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.

Washington University is led by Head Coach Larry Kindbom, one of the most successful active coaches in NCAA Division III. He owns a career record of 155-105-1, including 127-75 in 21 years at Washington University. He previously coached six seasons at his alma mater, Kenyon.

2009 NCAC Standings

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct
Wabash	1	0	1.00	1	0	1.00
Allegheny	0	0	.000	2	0	1.00
Wittenberg	0	0	.000	1	0	1.00
Earlham	0	0	.000	1	1	.500
Hiram	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Oberlin	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Ohio Wesleyan	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Wooster	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Kenyon	0	0	.000	0	2	.000
Denison	0	1	.000	1	1	.500

NCAC Game Schedule - Sept. 5, 2009

Wittenberg at Washington University, 1 p.m.

Kenyon at Hiram, 1 p.m.

Chicago at Wabash, Noon

Wooster at Ohio Wesleyan, 1 p.m.

Earlham at Anderson, 7 p.m.

Oberlin at Case Western, 7 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) 50 Cory Cosby (Fr., 5-11, 235)
DT	94 Justin Bartlett (Fr., 6-2, 230) 90 Jimmy Neyhouse (So., 6-0, 230)
DE	47 Eddie Vallery (Jr., 6-2, 220) 99 Nic Wolfe (Sr., 6-2, 245)
ILB	33 Zach Hurtt (So., 6-0, 215) 29 Billy Alexander (So., 5-11, 190)
MLB	21 Brad McKinley (Jr., 5-8, 195) 44 Fields Davis (Jr., 5-7, 200)
OLB	42 Kyle Lohrman (Sr., 6-0, 200) 10 Ben Maxwell (So., 6-0, 200)
CB	8 Brandyn Brown (Sr., 5-8, 170) 5 Ethan Bartel (So., 6-1, 190)
FS	20 Seth Parker (So., 5-11, 170) 11 Ben Zoeller (So., 6-0, 205)
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	1 Patrick Williams (Sr., 6-0, 195) 14 Josh McKee (So., 6-1, 180)
LS	58 Clay Hewson (Sr., 6-2, 285) 84 Cody Parsell (Sr., 6-3, 240)

Washington Bear Two-Deep

OFFENSE

TE	19 Brennan Fox (So., 6-1, 215) 84 Ashton Stewart (So., 6-3, 240)
LT	77 David Mackey (Jr., 6-5, 275) 66 Jake Lewis (So., 6-5, 285 So.)
LG	76 Jared Daiber (Sr., 6-4, 330) 67 J.J. Gotlieb (Jr., 5-10, 305)
C	54 Joe Rhein (So., 6-1, 275) 67 J.J. Gotlieb (Jr., 5-10, 305)
RG	58 Matt Hasmonek (So., 6-1, 285) 61 Jon Mollet (Fr., 6-3, 330)
RT	55 Zach Buckner (Jr., 6-3, 265) 74 Phill Stoecker (So., 6-2, 265)
WR	2 Tom Gulyas (Jr., 5-8, 155) 80 Brandon Rogalski (So., 6-0, 180)
WR	12 Matt Mangini (Sr., 5-11, 205) 83 Austin Morman (So., 6-3, 195)
QB	25 Stephen Sherman (Jr., 6-1, 210) 16 Mitchel Bartel (Jr., 6-2, 225)
HB	8 Greg Lachaud (Sr., 5-10, 200) 44 Sam Kentor (Jr., 6-0, 230)
RB	1 Jim O'Brien (Jr., 5-9, 180) 30 Clay Reed (So., 5-8, 165)

DEFENSE

DE	91 Tim Taylor (Sr., 6-2, 225) 92 John Schneider (Jr., 6-3, 225)
DT	39 Brendan O'Mahony (Sr., 6-0, 220) 78 Todd Palmer (Jr., 6-4, 240)
DT	69 Daniel Sufranski (So., 6-0, 220) 52 Landon Polakof (Jr., 6-2, 240)
DE	92 Nick Gialessas (Sr., 6-3, 240) 95 Greg Larson (Jr., 6-0, 215)
LB	49 Andrew Berryman (Sr., 6-2, 225) 34 Jake Mervis (Sr., 5-10, 190)
LB	37 Brett Schiffman (Sr., 5-10, 210) 45 Nick Diehl (Jr., 6-1, 245)
LB	46 Kyle Huber (Jr., 5-11, 210) 5 Bryce Buchanan (Sr., 6-3, 205)
DB	21 Brandon Brown (Jr., 5-10, 190) 10 John Meikel (So., 5-10, 170)
DB	31 Tim Olivos (Sr., 6-5, 215) 48 Liam Morrissey (So., 5-11, 190)
DB	47 Tim Machan Sr., 6-2, 195) 17 Jon Howard (So., 5-10, 200)
DB	3 Nick Vom Brack (Sr., 5-10, 185) 32 Marcus Shelby (So., 6-0, 185)

SPECIALISTS

PK	80 Brandon Rogalski (So., 6-0, 180) 87 Sean Foreman (Jr., 5-9, 180)
P	83 Austin Morman (So., 6-3, 195) 82 Brian Harrell (Fr., 6-2, 190)
PR	1 Jim O'Brien (So., 5-9, 180) 47 Tim Machan (Sr., 6-2, 195)
KR	1 Jim O'Brien (So., 5-9, 180) 9 Michael Weiss (So., 6-0, 170)
LS	19 Brennan Fox (So., 6-1, 215) 67 J.J. Gotlieb (Jr., 5-10, 305)



2009 Wittenberg Schedule/Results ...

1-0 Overall, 0-0 NCAC

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	at Olivet	W, 37-6
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 Washington Schedule/Results ...

1-1 Overall, 0-0 UAA

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 5	GREENVILLE	L, 7-17
12	at Westminster	W, 41-35
19	WITTENBERG	1 p.m.
Oct. 3	RHODES*	1 p.m.
10	at Wabash*	1 p.m. (EST)
17	WOOSTER*	1 p.m.
24	at Ohio Wesleyan*	1 p.m. (EST)
31	at Carnegie Mellon*	1 p.m. (EST)
Nov. 7	CHICAGO*	Noon
14	at Case Western*	Noon

*University Athletic Association Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2008 Washington Results ...

5-5 Overall, 1-2 UAA

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Sept. 6	GREENVILLE	W, 22-0
13	WESTMINSTER	W, 45-13
20	at Wittenberg	W, 30-27
Oct. 4	at Rhodes*	L, 10-28
11	WABASH*	L, 12-37
18	at Wooster*	L, 13-38
25	OHIO WESLEYAN*	W, 24-3
Nov. 1	CARNEGIE MELLON*	W, 16-8
8	at Chicago*	L, 14-17
15	CWRU*	L, 0-17

*University Athletic Association Games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

2009 Washington Quick Facts ...

Location:St. Louis, Mo.
 Founded:1853
 Enrollment:6,000
 Nickname: Bears
 Colors:..... Red & Green
 Stadium (capacity):Francis Field (3,300)
 Surface: Artificial
 Affiliation:..... NCAA Division III
 Conference: University Athletic Association
 2007 Record: 5-5/1-2 UAA (3rd)
 President:.....Mark Wrighton
 Athletic Director: John Schael
 Head Football Coach: Larry Kindbom
 Sports Information Director: Chris Mitchell