



Wittenberg Women's Basketball 2000-01 Season in Review

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SETTING THE SCENE: The Wittenberg University women's basketball team completed the 2000-01 season with an 18-8 overall record and an 11-5 mark in the North Coast Athletic Conference. The Tigers shared third place in the regular season league standings with Earlham College, but were beaten in the NCAC tournament semifinals by eventual champion and host Ohio Wesleyan University.

Season highlights included a 76-75 defeat of Capital University early in the year, when the Capital women were ranked in the top five nationally, a championship in the Greensboro College Tip-Off Tournament in November, and a 19-point defeat of eventual conference regular season and tournament champ OWU late in the year. The Tigers put together a pair of five-game winning streaks, early in the season between a loss to nationally ranked teams from Baldwin-Wallace and Wisconsin-Eau Claire and again between a loss to Allegheny, which shared the conference title, and the NCAC semifinals against OWU.

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SUPER SENIORS: **Jamie Brafford** (*Monroe, Ohio/Lakota*), **Natalie Estep** (*Fairborn, Ohio/Fairborn*) and **Melissa JayJohn** (*Pickerington, Ohio/Pickerington*) each played key roles for the Tigers in their final season of collegiate basketball. Brafford, a 25-game starter in the post, played key minutes and was looked to for on-court leadership throughout the season. Estep and JayJohn each contributed important minutes off the bench and were often the spark needed to get the Tigers over the hump.

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PAVING THE WAY: Sophomore guard/forward **Kate Rolf** (*Fort Wayne, Ind./Carroll*) had an impressive season for the Tigers. She led the team in nine categories, including points (13.2), rebounds (4.7) and assists (3.3). Rolf was also among the top-20 performers in six categories in the NCAC. Rolf led the Tigers in scoring on 12 occasions and will be looked to for leadership as Wittenberg prepares for the 2001-02 season.

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SOUP'S ON: Sophomore transfer **Stephanie Campbell** (*South Charleston, Ohio/Southeastern*) made great contributions in her first year with the Tigers. Campbell led the Tigers in three-point shooting percentage, steals and minutes played. She was second behind Rolf in scoring with 10.3 points per game, which garnered her 17th place in the conference in that category. Campbell was

also second in the NCAC in steals.

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"TIFF" COMPETITION: Sophomore **Tiffany Keller** (*Massillon, Ohio/Tuslaw*) had another fine year for the Tigers, again pulling double duty on the basketball and volleyball courts. Keller was hampered by an ankle injury in January, but she came back strong in the final three weeks to contribute solid minutes off the bench. Even with the obstacles posed by the ankle injury, she led the Tigers in field goal percentage (54.8 percent) and was third in scoring with 8.8 points per game.

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POSTING UP: Junior **Jill Swary** (*Columbus, Ohio/Grandview Heights*) started 15 games for the Tigers in 2000-01 and made an impact in the post for the Tigers. While Swary was not one to score often, when she did they were big baskets that made a difference in the course of the game. Swary averaged 4.9 points per game and contributed some crucial baskets in three late-season contests that were decided by less than five points, including a win over defending conference champ Kenyon College. She also scored a career-high 16 points in the aforementioned victory over Ohio Wesleyan.

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FROM THE BEGINNING: Junior **Meghan Gaydos** (*Concord, Ohio/Mentor Lake Catholic*) was the only player to start all 26 games for the Lady Tigers this season. In those 26 starts, Gaydos led the team in free throw percentage, shooting 80 percent from the charity stripe. She was also third on the team in steals with 27 and third in assists with 33.

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CONFERENCE COMPETITION: The Tigers led the NCAC this season in scoring defense, allowing only 61 points per game, as well as rebounding defense, giving up only 34.7 rebounds per game. Wittenberg was also first in the conference in steals, with 13.12 per contest, and turnover margin, with a margin of +4.69.

No individual players topped the conference statistical rankings, a testament to the team's balance and depth. On several occasions during the season, more than 15 players saw the court during a game. Against Hiram in December, 19 players entered the game and none scored more than nine points.

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ALL-NCAC: Sophomore **Kate Rolf** was honored with a first team all-conference selection following the regular season. Teammate

Stephanie Campbell was an honorable mention selection.

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THE COACH: Head Coach **Pam Smith** (Wittenberg, 1982) completed her 15th season at the helm of the women's basketball program at her alma mater. She is 280-123 in her career. The 18-8 finish of this year's women's basketball team marks the 12th consecutive winning season under Smith's tutelage.

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LOOKING AHEAD: Next year's schedule for the Lady Tigers will feature a visit from Ohio Athletic Conference Baldwin-Wallace and Capital as well as an always tough conference schedule. Barring no unforeseen departures, the Tigers will return 80 percent of their scoring and 70 percent of their rebounding from this season. Eleven letterwinners are expected to return for the 2001-02 season.

Tentative 2001-02 Wittenberg University Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 16	at Kalamazoo Tourney
Nov. 17	at Kalamazoo Tourney
Nov. 20	BALDWIN-WALLACE
Nov. 28	at Capital
Dec. 5	EARLHAM*
Dec. 8	at Denison*
Dec. 12	THOMAS MORE
Dec. 15	at Defiance
Dec. 28	WITTENBERG-KIWANIS CLASSIC
Dec. 29	WITTENBERG-KIWANIS CLASSIC
Jan. 4	HIRAM*
Jan. 5	ALLEGHENY*
Jan. 9	at Ohio Wesleyan*
Jan. 12	OBERLIN*
Jan. 16	at Kenyon*
Jan. 19	at Wooster*
Jan. 26	OHIO WESLEYAN*
Jan. 30	KENYON*
Feb. 1	at Hiram*
Feb. 2	at Allegheny*
Feb. 6	at Earlham*
Feb. 9	WOOSTER*
Feb. 13	at Oberlin*
Feb. 16	DENISON*
Feb. 19	NCAC Quarterfinals
Feb. 22	NCAC Semifinals
Feb. 23	NCAC Finals