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ALLEGHENY COLLEGE ★ DENISON UNIVERSITY ★ EARLHAM COLLEGE ★ HIRAM COLLEGE ★ KENYON COLLEGE ★ OBERLIN COLLEGE
★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Basketball Special

**For Immediate Release
Nov. 2, 2006**

**WOOSTER MEN, DENISON WOMEN FAVORED
AS NCAC PREPS FOR 23RD BASKETBALL CAMPAIGN**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Wooster's men and Denison's women were tabbed as the favorites in preseason voting by both league coaches and members of the media after the North Coast Athletic Conference's 23rd annual Basketball Media Day, which was held today via teleconference.

Defending champion Wooster topped Wittenberg in the men's balloting after picking up nine of 10 possible first-place votes from the coaches and 24 of 27 from the media. In fact, the coaches and media predicted the exact same finish for the 10 league squads, with one exception. The Tigers, in second, earned the remaining first-place nod from coaches and also earned one from the media. Ohio Wesleyan was third, followed by Earlham in fourth and Wabash in fifth. The Battling Bishops received the final two first-place votes from the media. Allegheny, Denison and Kenyon rounded out places six through eight, respectively in both polls. The coaches predicted Hiram would finish ninth, followed by Oberlin, while the media reversed the order. The Scots return eight letterwinners and four starters from a team that went 26-4 overall and was edged out in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Scots' top returning scorers are junior **James Cooper (Springfield, OH/South)** and **Tom Port (Avon Lake, OH/Avon Lake)** who averaged 19.2 and 15.4 points per game, respectively, last winter.

Defending NCAC tournament champion Denison topped both women's polls after receiving seven of nine first-place votes from the women's coaches and 14 of 22 from members of the press. Similar to the men's poll results, league coaches and members of the media agreed almost perfectly on the predicted order of finish for NCAC teams. Wittenberg was tabbed second and awarded the remaining first-place vote from league coaches, and six from the media on today's call. Allegheny followed in third, Kenyon was fourth, Ohio Wesleyan fifth and Wooster sixth. The Ladies earned the final two first-place nods from the media. The coaches slotted Wooster, Oberlin, Earlham and Hiram in positions six through nine, respectively, while the media mixed things up with Earlham in seventh, followed by Oberlin in eighth. The Big Red return 12 letterwinners and all five starters from a team that earned its second straight NCAC tournament crown and compiled a sterling 22-7 overall record a year ago. Denison's top returning scorer and rebounder is senior **Kristen Sheffield (Dublin, OH/Scioto)**, who averaged 11.1 points and 8.9 rebounds per game last season.

The 2006-07 season opens on Friday, Nov. 17. The NCAC Tournament will be held at the end of February, with the men's and women's semifinals and finals at the site of the respective high seeds on Feb. 23-24.

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2006-07 Men's Poll (Coaches)

1. Wooster (9).....	99
2. Wittenberg (1).....	87
3. Ohio Wesleyan	84
4. Earlham	63
5. Wabash	57
6. Allegheny.....	53
7. Denison	41
8. Kenyon	36
9. Hiram.....	17
10. Oberlin.....	13

2006-07 Women's Poll (Coaches)

1. Denison (7).....	79
2. Wittenberg (2).....	72
3. Allegheny.....	54
4. Kenyon	53
5. Ohio Wesleyan	50
6. Wooster	35
7. Oberlin.....	26
8. Earlham	19
9. Hiram.....	17

2006-07 Men's Poll (Media)

1. Wooster (24).....	267
2. Wittenberg (1).....	234
3. Ohio Wesleyan (2).....	220
4. Earlham	178
5. Wabash	161
6. Allegheny.....	129
7. Denison	125
8. Kenyon	77
9. Oberlin.....	50
10. Hiram.....	44

2006-07 Women's Poll (Media)

1. Denison (14).....	182
2. Wittenberg (6).....	177
3. Allegheny.....	133
4. Kenyon (2).....	128
5. Ohio Wesleyan	120
6. Wooster	91
7. Earlham	64
8. Oberlin.....	56
9. Hiram.....	33