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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 Field Hockey Special***  
**WITTENBERG PICKED AS PRESEASON FAVORITE AS  
19TH NORTH COAST FIELD HOCKEY START NEARS**

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 26, 2002**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- 2001 North Coast Athletic Conference runner-up Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference field hockey coaches conducted via email ballot.

The Tigers paced all teams in the poll with three of six\* first-place votes to edge the defending champion Wooster Fighting Scots. Wooster picked up two first place votes while Denison, predicted to finish third, also received a first-place vote. Oberlin finished fourth.

Wittenberg is 28-10 (.737) during two years of tutelage under head coach **Marianne Beshara**. The Tigers return 14 letterwinners and nine starters from last year's squad. Wittenberg opens the 2002 schedule on Saturday with non-conference action at Rhodes. The Tigers' first NCAC matchup comes Sept. 4 when they welcome Earlham to Springfield, OH.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference consists of 10 academically selective colleges and universities - Allegheny College, Denison University, Earlham College, Hiram College, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Wabash College, Wittenberg University and the College of Wooster. The NCAC sponsors 22 championship sports, 11 for men and 11 for women.

**-NCAC-**

<b>2002 NCAC Preseason Field Hockey Poll</b>	
First-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points:	
1. Wittenberg (3) .....	38
2. Wooster (2) .....	35
3. Denison (1) .....	31
4. Oberlin .....	22
5. Ohio Wesleyan .....	15
Kenyon .....	15
7. Earlham .....	12

\* Six of seven coaches voted.