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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 Men's Lacrosse Special

**OHIO WESLEYAN TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN 19TH
NORTH COAST MEN'S LACROSSE SEASON**

**For Immediate Release
March 4, 2003**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- 2002 North Coast runner-up Ohio Wesleyan emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference men's lacrosse coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Bishops, who posted a 9-5 overall mark last spring, earned all six available first-place votes from league coaches to total 36 points. Defending champion Denison, who went 12-2 last season, finished second with 29 points. Kenyon was picked third (23), while Wittenberg (17), Wooster (15) and Oberlin (6) fill places four through six, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan, which led NCAA Division III in scoring last year with over 16 goals per game, is 32-13 (.711) with a pair of NCAC titles during the three-year tenure of head coach **Sean Ryan**. Leading the Bishop attack is sophomore **John Schlegel (Chevy Chase, Md./Gonzaga)**, who amassed 41 goals and 23 assists in 2002. Schlegel was named NCAC Newcomer of the Year in 2002 and was a preseason All-America selection this year. Sophomore **Paul McCommons (Smyrna, Del./Dover)**, who started 10 games last season, returns in goal.

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.

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2003 NCAC Preseason Men's Lacrosse Poll

First-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points:

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (6) 36
- 2. Denison 29
- 3. Kenyon 23
- 4. Wittenberg 17
- 5. Wooster 15
- 6. Oberlin 6