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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 Volleyball Special***

**WITTENBERG UNANIMOUS PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH COAST PREPS FOR 19TH VOLLEYBALL CAMPAIGN**

**For Immediate Release  
August 14, 2002**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- Defending champion Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference volleyball coaches conducted via email ballot.

Wittenberg, which rolled to a perfect 8-0 conference record and earned its fifth consecutive NCAC regular season and tournament championships last fall, earned all nine first-place votes from league coaches to top Denison and Allegheny. Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster were picked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Wittenberg is 219-86 (.715) during the eight-year tenure of head coach **Connie Surowicz**. The Tigers return nine letterwinners and all of their starters from last year's squad, including 2001 NCAC Player of the Year, senior middle hitter, **Tiffany Keller (Massillon, OH/Tuslaw)** and 2001 NCAC Newcomer of the Year, sophomore outside hitter, **Monica McDonald (Newark, OH/Catholic)**. Wittenberg opens the 2002 schedule with non-conference action at the Mt. St. Joseph Tournament on August 30. The Tigers' first NCAC matchup comes Sept. 21 when they welcome Allegheny and Kenyon 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.

**2002 NCAC Preseason Volleyball Poll**

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

- 1. Wittenberg (9) ..... 81
- 2. Denison ..... 68
- 3. Allegheny ..... 60
- 4. Ohio Wesleyan ..... 50
- 5. Wooster ..... 48
- 6. Hiram ..... 42
- 7. Kenyon ..... 27
- 8. Earlham ..... 16
- 9. Oberlin ..... 13