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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 Cross Country Special

For Immediate Release

**ALLEGHENY MEN, OBERLIN AND DENISON WOMEN TOP PRESEASON PICKS
AS NORTH COAST READIES FOR RUNNING OF 23RD SEASON**

August 21, 2006

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- For the fourth consecutive year, the Allegheny men were predicted to claim the NCAC championship after annual preseason balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference cross country coaches. The Denison women were picked as preseason favorites for the second straight year, but the coaches also tabbed Oberlin as a contender for the title.

The Gator men, two-time defending champions, earned all 10 first-place votes cast for 100 points from the coaches to top Denison for the third straight season. The Big Red totalled 90 points, followed by Wabash (75) and Ohio Wesleyan (67) in third and fourth, respectively. In total, the Allegheny men have claimed five NCAC crowns: 1984, '97, 2002, '04 and '05. The Gator harriers return five of their top seven runners from last season's championship squad, including individual runner-up, junior **Ryan Place (Meshoppen, PA/Elk Lake)**.

The Big Red and Yeowomen share first place with identical 73 point tallies. Oberlin received five first-place votes, while Denison, three-time defending champs, garnered the remaining four nods. Allegheny (61) and Ohio Wesleyan (61) tied in third place, followed by Kenyon (47) and Wooster (33) in fifth and sixth, respectively. Denison has earned six women's cross country titles: 1998, '99, 2000, '03, '04 and '05. Oberlin is gunning for its second championship. The Yeowomen claimed the first conference women's cross country title in 1984; the championship was the first conducted by the then recently-formed NCAC, giving the Oberlin women a untouchable milestone. Allegheny leads all conference teams with 10 women's titles.

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2006 NCAC Cross Country Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2006 preseason cross country polls
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

WOMEN	MEN
1. Oberlin (5)..... 73	1. Allegheny (10) 100
Denison (4) 73	2. Denison 90
3. Allegheny 61	3. Wabash..... 75
Ohio Wesleyan 61	4. Ohio Wesleyan 67
5. Kenyon 47	5. Oberlin 57
6. Wooster..... 33	6. Kenyon 51
7. Earlham..... 28	7. Earlham..... 42
8. Wittenberg 20	8. Wooster..... 32
9. Hiram 10	9. Wittenberg 20
	10. Hiram 11