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★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Basketball Special

For Immediate Release

**WITTENBERG MEN AND WOMEN FAVORED
AS NCAC PREPS FOR 19TH BASKETBALL CAMPAIGN**

November 5, 2002

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Wittenberg's men and women were tabbed as the favorites in voting by coaches and media at the North Coast Athletic Conference's 19th annual Basketball Media Day, which was held today via teleconference.

Wittenberg dominated the men's balloting with 27 first-place votes, 19 of 32 from the media and eight of 10 from the coaches. Wooster was second in both polls, receiving seven first-place nods from the media and one from NCAC coaches. The Tigers, the winningest men's basketball program in NCAA Division III history, return six letterwinners and two starters from last year's 26-4 squad which earned its second straight North Coast title.

Wittenberg took 25 first-place votes in the women's balloting, 19 of 32 from the media and six from league coaches, to outdistance Ohio Wesleyan. Both the coaches and media predicted the Bishops would finish second and gave them the remaining three first-place votes, while the media awarded them 13 first-place nods. Wittenberg, which has claimed eight North Coast titles and is the defending champion, returns three starters and 10 letterwinners from a team that went 21-6 a year ago. Ohio Wesleyan was last year's NCAC Tournament Champion.

The 2002-03 season opens on Friday, Nov. 22. The NCAC Tournament will be held over the final week of February, with the men's and women's semifinals and finals at the site of the respective high seeds on Feb. 28-Mar. 1.

Men's Poll (Coaches)

- 1. Wittenberg (8) 97
- 2. Wooster (1) 88
- 3. Wabash (1) 85
- 4. Ohio Wesleyan 70
- 5. Allegheny 59
- 6. Earlham 48
- 7. Denison 35
- 8. Oberlin 27
- 9. Hiram 21
- 10. Kenyon 20

Women's Poll (Coaches)

- 1. Wittenberg (6) 78
- 2. Ohio Wesleyan (3) 72
- 3. Denison 59
- 4. Allegheny 57
- 5. Kenyon 42
- 6. Earlham 37
- 7. Wooster 28
- 8. Oberlin 18
- 9. Hiram 14

Men's Poll (Media)

- 1. Wittenberg (19) 299
- 2. Wooster (7) 279
- 3. Wabash (5) 274
- 4. Ohio Wesleyan (1) 223
- 5. Allegheny 183
- 6. Earlham 146
- 7. Denison 114
- 8. Oberlin 104
- 9. Hiram 91
- 10. Kenyon 47

Women's Poll (Media)

- 1. Wittenberg (19) 273
- 2. Ohio Wesleyan (13) .. 269
- 3. Denison 186
- 4. Allegheny 150
- 5. Kenyon 146
- 6. Earlham 145
- 7. Wooster 102
- 8. Oberlin 71
- 9. Hiram 42