



DENNIS M. COLLINS
Executive Director

P.O. Box 16679
Cleveland, OH 44116
Phone (440) 871-8100
Fax (440) 871-4221
ncac@northcoast.org
www.northcoast.org

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE ★ DENISON UNIVERSITY ★ EARLHAM COLLEGE ★ HIRAM COLLEGE ★ KENYON COLLEGE ★ OBERLIN COLLEGE
★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Basketball Special

For Immediate Release

**WITTENBERG WOMEN, WOOSTER MEN FAVORED
AS NCAC PREPS FOR 21ST BASKETBALL CAMPAIGN**

Nov. 4, 2004

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Wittenberg's women and Wooster's men were tabbed as the favorites in preseason voting by coaches of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Defending NCAC champion Wittenberg edged out Allegheny in the women's balloting by a slim two-point margin after picking up five of nine possible first-place votes to total 74 points. The Gators were second with 72 points and three first-place votes. Ohio Wesleyan (68) was a close third and received the final first-place nod. Denison (52) was fourth, followed by Kenyon (43) in fifth. Wooster (40), Earlham (22), Oberlin (21) and Hiram (13) rounded out places six through nine, respectively. The Tigers return 10 letterwinners and a single starter, senior guard **Alison Nahrup (Loveland, OH/Mt. Notre Dame)**, from last year's squad which made a run to the NCAA Division III Round of 16. The Tiger's top returning scorer is **Emilie Schmid (Canton, OH/Massillon Jackson)**, who averaged 7.3 points per game off the bench. Schmid will once again be a midseason pick-up since the Wittenberg volleyball team have designs on a long trip through the NCAA Volleyball Tournament.

Defending NCAC Tournament champion Wooster took nine of 10 first-place votes for 99 points in the men's coaches' poll to outdistance defending NCAC champion Wittenberg and Ohio Wesleyan. The coaches predicted the Tigers (90) would finish second and gave them the remaining first-place vote. Ohio Wesleyan (71) was followed by Earlham and Wabash (64) in a tie at fourth and Denison (48) in sixth. Allegheny (45), Kenyon (33), Hiram (23) and Oberlin (13) round out the men's poll in positions seven through 10, respectively. The Fighting Scots return 10 letterwinners and four starters, including 2003-04 NCAC Newcomer of the Year **Tom Port (Avon Lake, OH/Avon Lake)**, from a team that compiled a sterling 26-4 record a year ago. Wooster had a strong run through the NCAA Tournament and was a few minutes from making a return trip to the national semifinals last season.

The 2004-05 season opens on Friday, Nov. 19. The NCAC Tournament will be held at the end of February, with the men's and women's semifinals and finals at the site of the respective high seeds on Feb. 25-26.

2004-05 Men's Poll (Coaches)

1. Wooster (9).....	99
2. Wittenberg (1)	90
3. Ohio Wesleyan	71
4. Earlham	64
Wabash	64
6. Denison	48
7. Allegheny	45
8. Kenyon	33
9. Hiram	23
10. Oberlin	13

2004-05 Women's Poll (Coaches)

1. Wittenberg (5)	74
2. Allegheny (3)	72
3. Ohio Wesleyan (1)	68
4. Denison	52
5. Kenyon	43
6. Wooster	40
7. Earlham	22
8. Oberlin	21
9. Hiram	13