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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 Football Special

For Immediate Release

**WABASH TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITE
AS NCAC PREPS FOR 23RD FOOTBALL SEASON**

August 8, 2006

GRANVILLE, Ohio -- Wabash College emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by the media and North Coast Athletic Conference coaches at the NCAC's 23rd annual Football Media Day, held today at Granville Golf Course in Granville, OH.

The Little Giants, who compiled an 11-1 regular season record and claimed their second conference championship last season, earned 24 of 28 first-place votes from the media in attendance for 264 points and eight of ten first-place votes from the coaches to total 98 points. The voting throughout the rest of the polls, especially amongst league coaches, reflects the growing parity throughout NCAC football. Just two points separate Ohio Wesleyan (78), picked to finish second by the coaches, and Wittenberg (76) in fourth. Wooster (77) sits squarely in third place after picking up the remaining two first-place votes from NCAC skippers. The media tabbed the Fighting Scots second (213) and the Battling Bishops (208) third, granting each a first-place nod, followed by the Tigers in fourth.

Both polls listed Denison in seventh and Oberlin, Earlham and Hiram in places eight through 10, respectively. The coaches predicted Allegheny would finish fifth, followed by Kenyon in sixth. The media reversed that result with the Lords ahead of the Gators.

Wabash is 44-11 (.800) during the five-year tenure of head coach **Chris Creighton**. Creighton has led the Little Giants to two league titles and a 28-6 (.824) conference record over that span. Wabash returns 31 letterwinners and 14 starters from last year's squad, including All-America linebacker **Adrian Pynenburg (Montgomery, IL/Oswego Community)**. The junior led the Little Giants in tackles his first two seasons. The 2006 season opens on Saturday, September 2. NCAC play begins Saturday, Sept. 23.

2006 NCAC Preseason Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2006 preseason football coaches' and media polls
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

COACHES		MEDIA	
1. Wabash (8).....	98	1. Wabash (24).....	264
2. Ohio Wesleyan.....	78	2. Wooster (1)	213
3. Wooster (2)	77	3. Ohio Wesleyan (1)	208
4. Wittenberg.....	76	4. Wittenberg.....	193
5. Allegheny	62	5. Kenyon (1).....	173
6. Kenyon.....	47	6. Allegheny (1)	127
7. Denison.....	45	7. Denison.....	100
8. Oberlin.....	27	8. Oberlin.....	75
9. Earlham.....	26	9. Earlham	66
10. Hiram.....	14	10.Hiram.....	32