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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 Basketball Special**

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 4, 2002**

**NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE POST-SEASON AWARDS;  
DESJEAN, STURTZ EARN TOP INDIVIDUAL HONORS**

**CLEVELAND** -- Wabash junior **Joe DesJean (Indianapolis, IN/Perry Meridian)** and Ohio Wesleyan senior **Katy Sturtz (Worthington, OH/Bishop Watterson)** have been named North Coast Athletic Conference men's and women's basketball Players of the Year through balloting by the NCAC coaches. Wittenberg's **Bill Brown** and **Pam Smith** have earned Coach of the Year honors, while Ohio Wesleyan's **Brandon Cole (Sidney, OH/Sidney)** and **Kelly Heil (Sylvania, OH/Southview)** are the Newcomers of the Year.

**DesJean**, a 6-6 forward, the first two-time All-NCAC selection from Wabash, lived up to his preseason billing as the team's top returner and led the Little Giants as the conference's leading rebounder with 9.8 per game. He also led all shooters in field goal percentage (59.6), was the league's best shot blocker, recording 2.35 blocks per game, and was tied for second in scoring (18.0).

**Sturtz**, a 5-11 post, is the NCAC's second best rebounder overall (9.3 rpg), but the best on the defensive end of the court (6.86 per game). She is only the third woman in conference history to win this award in back-to-back seasons and is the fifth overall (two men have been selected as repeat winners). She is the first person - male or female - to be named player of the year in both basketball and soccer in the NCAC's 18 seasons. She earned the honor in soccer this past fall as well as after the 1998 and '99 seasons. Sturtz led the Bishops to their fourth NCAC tournament title and second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. OWU takes on St. Lawrence (NY) at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass, in the sectional on Friday night.

**Brown** led Wittenberg to its fourth regular season NCAC title. The Tigers finished their season with a 26-4 record and their second straight trip to the NCAA Division III Tournament. Brown, a 1973 graduate of Wittenberg, is 206-51 (.802) in nine seasons at Wittenberg and 266-150 (.639) in 15 years as a collegiate coach. He has earned NCAC Coach of the Year three previous years, twice as coach of the Tigers - last year and in 1994 and once as coach at Kenyon in 1986.

**Smith** is the women's Coach of the Year for the fourth time as the Tigers claimed their eighth overall for NCAC championship and extended eventual tournament champion Ohio Wesleyan to overtime in the conference tournament championship game. Smith, a 1982 graduate of Wittenberg, is 301-129 (.651) in her 16 seasons as a head coach. She earned this award in 1995 and 1990 and shared the honor with Denison's Sara Lee in 1991.

This is the third time in NCAC history that men's and women's coaches from the same school have both earned Coach of the Year honors. Wittenberg's **Smith** and **Dan Hipsher** both won in 1990, while Ohio Wesleyan's **Nan Carney-DeBord** and **Gene Mehaffey** won in 1988.

**Cole** and **Heil** are the North Coast's Newcomers of the Year after outstanding freshman seasons at Ohio Wesleyan. Cole, a 6-5 forward, averaged 8.3 points and 2.1 assists per game for the Bishops. He was second in the NCAC with 8.9 rebounds per game. Heil, a 5-10 wing, was one of only two freshman to earn all-conference honors this season, and the only one named to the first team. She averaged a team high 17.2 points and added 5.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game for the Bishops. She also led OWU and the NCAC in three-point shooting percentage (35.7). This is the third time since the creation of the Newcomer award in 1995 that athletes from the same school have swept the awards. Both previous times, athletes competed for Wooster (2000 and '96).

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