



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 Men's Basketball Special

**ALL-NCAC BASKETBALL SQUAD ANNOUNCED;
COOPER NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**For Immediate Release
March 5, 2008**

CLEVELAND -- Wooster senior guard **James Cooper (Springfield, OH/South)** has been named Player of the Year for the second time in three years to highlight the 2008 All-North Coast Athletic Conference men's basketball squad, announced today after voting by the conference's head coaches.

Cooper is one of two repeat first-team selections after he led Wooster to their fourth straight, and 11th overall, North Coast championship. The 6-0 senior earns first team honors for the third consecutive season, and picks up his second Player of the Year award. He also earned the award as a sophomore in 2006. This season, Cooper led the league in scoring, averaging 19.4 points per game, and was second in three-point field goal percentage (49.2) and three-pointers made (2.37 per game).

Wabash senior forward **Andrew Zimmer (Hobart, IN/Hobart)** is also a repeat first-team honoree. Four players move up from the second team.: Wittenberg junior **Gregg Hill (Farmington Hills, MI/Redford Union)**, Wooster junior **Brandon Johnson (Columbus, OH/Groveport Madison)**, Ohio Wesleyan senior **Dustin Rudegear (Yellow Springs, OH/Yellow Springs)** and Kenyon junior **Bryan Yelvington (Arlington Hts., IL/John Hersey)**. Ohio Wesleyan senior forward **Jesse Jean (Alexandria, VA/Hyde School, CT)** makes his first-team debut after earning honorable-mention recognition last winter.

Kenyon freshman **Kodey Haddox (Zanesville, OH/Zanesville)** was voted Newcomer of the Year after averaging 13.8 points per game and leading the Lords in three-point shooting. He made 57 of 138 three-point attempts for a percentage of 41.3.

Kenyon head coach **Matt Croci** was voted Coach of the Year for the first time. He completed his fifth year with the Lords and has posted an 44-86 mark in that span. Croci guided the Lords to an 11-5 mark this season to finish fourth in the conference, the best performance since the 1994-95 Kenyon team finished third with a 10-6 NCAC record. The Lords were 13-13 overall in 2007-08, the team's best mark since the 1994-95 squad went 20-9. Croci is the first person in NCAC men's basketball history to win both the Player of the Year award (1993-94) and the Coach of the Year honor.

- NCAC -

2008 ALL-NCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL

CLEVELAND -- The following performers have earned All-North Coast Athletic Conference honors for the 2007-08 season through balloting by the NCAC men's basketball coaches.

FIRST TEAM	School	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	PPG	RPG	APG	Hometown/High School
James Cooper *#	Wooster	Sr.	G	6-0	19.4	2.6	2.0	Springfield, OH/South
Gregg Hill @	Wittenberg	Jr.	W	6-0	16.5	2.3	1.7	Farmington Hills, MI/Redford Union
Jesse Jean %	Ohio Wesleyan	Sr.	F	6-5	13.5	8.2	1.3	Alexandria, VA/Hyde School, CT
Brandon Johnson @	Wooster	Jr.	G	6-2	11.4	3.8	3.4	Columbus, OH/Groveport Madison
Dustin Rudegear @	Ohio Wesleyan	Sr.	F	6-5	15.6	6.8	1.0	Yellow Springs, OH/Yell. Springs
Bryan Yelvington @	Kenyon	Jr.	F	6-6	15.3	7.6	1.5	Arlington Hts., IL/John Hersey
Andrew Zimmer #	Wabash	Sr.	F	6-6	17.0	7.4	1.5	Hobart, IN/Hobart

Player of the Year: James Cooper, Wooster

Newcomer of the Year: Kodey Haddox, Kenyon

Coach of the Year: Matt Croci, Kenyon

SECOND TEAM					PPG	RPG	APG	
Brandan Barabino	Wittenberg	Sr.	F	6-4	12.4	6.5	2.5	Toledo, OH/St. John's Jesuit
Devin Fulk	Wooster	Sr.	G	6-1	11.5	3.6	2.1	Newark, OH/Licking Valley
Tristian Gregory	Earlham	Jr.	G	6-2	18.8	3.5	1.5	Evansville, IN/Harrison
Kyle Holliday	Ohio Wesleyan	Jr.	G	6-3	11.5	4.2	2.0	Van Wert, OH/Van Wert
Michael Loll %	Oberlin	Jr.	G/F	6-5	14.5	7.0	2.6	Davison, MI/Davison
Mike McDevitt @	Hiram	Sr.	F	6-4	15.1	6.3	1.0	Lisbon, OH/David Anderson
George Raftis	Allegheny	So.	F	6-5	12.9	8.7	1.7	Pittsburgh, PA/Sewickley Academy
Gary Simkus	Wabash	Sr.	F	6-6	12.0	4.9	1.9	Highland, IN/Highland
Evan Will	Wooster	Sr.	F	6-6	9.7	6.6	2.5	Dublin, OH/Dublin Coffman

HONORABLE MENTION					PPG	RPG	APG	
Bill Babe %	Allegheny	Sr.	G	6-0	7.6	2.2	1.2	Pittsburgh, PA/Mount Lebanon
Marty Bidwell	Wooster	Jr.	F	6-4	9.4	5.2	3.6	Middletown, OH/Bishop Fenwick
Aaron Brock	Wabash	So.	F	6-5	11.1	5.1	1.2	Bremen, IN/Bremen
Dave Knapke	Kenyon	So.	F	6-5	11.4	8.0	1.4	Westerville, OH/DeSales
Mike Staley	Hiram	So.	G	6-0	16.7	2.2	3.9	Perry, OH/Lake Catholic
Pat Sullivan	Denison	Jr.	G	5-10	10.6	3.2	3.5	Loveland, OH/Loveland

Key: # 1st team 2007; @ 2nd team 2007; % honorable mention 2007; * 1st team 2006.