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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

2008 NCAC SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR FEBRUARY 14-16 IN CANTON

For Immediate Release
February 6, 2008

CLEVELAND – The 24th annual North Coast Athletic Conference Men's & Women's Swimming and Diving Championships will be held February 14-16 at C.T. Branin Natatorium, in Canton, Ohio. The 2008 meet, hosted by Wittenberg, is held at an off-campus site to accommodate overwhelming spectator response to the top NCAA Division III swimming and diving conference championship.

The Kenyon men's and women's squads are the defending champions. The Lords and Ladies have won 22 of the 23 NCAC crowns contested. The Denison men are the only team to have beaten the Lords in the NCAC meet when they claimed their title in 1997, while the Denison women snapped the Ladies' 19-year hold on the crown in 2004.

WOMEN'S TEAM PREVIEWS

KENYON returns last year's NCAC Swimmer of the Year in sophomore **Tina Ertel (Halle, Germany/Sportgymnasium Halle)**. She is the defending North Coast champion in the 100 freestyle, 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly. Ertel has qualified for the national meet in all three events plus the 200 free this season. Freshman **Lauren Brady (Tyngsboro, MA/Phillips Exeter)** has the Ladies' top times this season in the 200 free, 200 fly and 400 IM. She has recorded the top time in Division III in the 200 free, 200 fly and 400 IM and is in the top 10 in the nation in the 100 fly and 200 IM. Sophomore **Rebecca Wenzlau (Palo Alto, CA/Palo Alto Senior)** has the top time in the nation in the 500 free and has a top-four time in the 200 free.

DENISON sophomore **Olivia Zaleski (Corry, PA/Corry Area)** already has three individual All-NCAC certificates in her pocket after she was runner-up in the 50 and 100 freestyles, and was third in the 100 butterfly as a freshman. Zaleski has national qualifying times in four events this season. Sophomore **Kathy Faingold (Wexford, PA/North Allegheny)** placed second in both breaststroke events a season ago and has qualified for the NCAA Championships in both events. Junior **Kristen Hohl (Winfield, IL/Wheaton North)** has Denison's top times in the 50 and 100 freestyles, both of which rank in the top six in Division III.

Sophomore **Adeline Brym (Mansfield, OH/Lexington)** was an all-conference performer for **WITTENBERG** at last year's North Coast meet after she finished third in the 200 freestyle. She could contend in the freestyle, breaststroke and individual medley this year. Sophomore **Kristin Elber (Brunswick, OH/Brunswick)** is a top performer in the freestyle, while senior **Kaitlin Clark (Wakeman, OH/Firelands)** is a swimmer to watch in distance events.

ALLEGHENY senior diver **Glenna Kramer (Oakdale, PA/West Allegheny)** is a leading contender on both boards after she earned All-NCAC honors on the one-meter board last season. Junior **Erin Hamm (Franklin, PA/Franklin Area)** is a team leader in the breaststroke and individual medley. Freshman **Megan Knox (Pittsburgh, PA/Fox Chapel)** is a consistent scorer in the freestyle and backstroke. Senior **Carolyn Nairn (Lubbock, TX/Brownell-Talbot)** is a top performer in the backstroke and distance freestyle.

Junior **Meggie Edwards (Lynchburg, VA/E.C. Glass)** leads **WOOSTER** into the 2008 meet. She is a consistent scorer in the sprints and backstroke for the Fighting Scots. Sophomore **Amanda Bailey (Westlake, OH/Westlake)** has made her mark in the distance freestyles, while freshman **Tamari Farquharson (Kingston, Jamaica/Mercersburg Academy, PA)** is a contender in the sprints. Diver **Caitlin McNulty (Sequim, WA/Sequim)** is a returning all-conference performer. She was third on the three-meter board in 2007.

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OHIO WESLEYAN has All-NCAC diver **Katie Donnan (Columbus, OH/Bishop Hartley)** back in the fold after she was runner up on the one-meter board last year. Sophomore **Erin Hanahan (Madison, OH/Perry)** could also contend in diving. In the pool, freshman **Brenna Irrer (Ann Arbor, MI/Pioneer)** has had an outstanding rookie campaign, consistently scoring in the breaststroke and posting the Battling Bishops' top times in those events. Sophomore **Kendra Klossner (Naperville, IL/Neuqua Valley)** is a contender in the backstroke and individual medley, while senior **Rachel Ryan (Kinnelon, NJ/Kinnelon)** could score in the freestyle and butterfly.

Freshman **Sara Kadi (Piedmont, CA/Piedmont)** has posted seven individual top times for **OBERLIN** in 2007-08. She will be a force to contend with in the sprint freestyles, butterfly and individual medley, and has posted school-record times in both butterfly and IMs. Kadi has posted a national qualifying time in the 200 IM. Classmate **Jenny Meltz (Andover, MA/Andover)** has a pair of school record times in the 1,000 and 1650 freestyles, and also has the team's top effort in the 500 free this year. Junior **Bryne Ulmschneider (Midland, TX/Midland)** is the team's top breastroker.

HIRAM senior **Shelly Leshe (Palm City, FL/Martin County)** leads the Terriers in freestyle and butterfly events. Junior **Jen Fowler (Canton, OH/McKinley)** will be a contributor in diving, while junior **Amy Kocka (Strongsville, OH/Strongsville)** should score in the distance freestyle and individual medley.

MEN'S TEAM PREVIEWS

Last year's North Coast Swimmer of the Year, senior **Josh Mitchell (Iron Mountain, MI/Kingswood)**, leads **KENYON** into the 2008 conference meet. Mitchell is the defending champion in the 50 free, 100 free and 100 back and he has top-10 times in the nation in all three events this season. Sophomore **Blair Withington (Hastings, New Zealand/Hastings' Boys)** is back to defend his title in the 200 individual medley. Withington has posted national qualifying times in the 100 free, 200 free and 200 IM. Sophomore distance freestyler **Kegan Borland (Vandergrift, PA/St. Joseph)** has Division III top-four times in both the 500 and 1650 freestyles. He earned All-NCAC recognition with a second-place finish in the 1650 as a freshman.

Juniors **John Geissinger (Darien, CT/The Lawrenceville School)** and **David Curtis (Ann Arbor, MI/Pioneer)** are having stellar seasons and lead **DENISON** into the NCAC meet. Geissinger has the nation's top time in the 100 free, the second-best in the 200 free and the third-best in the 50 free. He earned all-conference honors in the 100 free last year. Curtis has the top time in Division III in both the 200 and 500 freestyles, and is the defending NCAC champion in both events. Senior **Lowell Byers (Chappaqua, NY/Horace Greeley)**, who earned All-NCAC honors in the 50 free and 100 fly, should contend in the 50 free, 100 back and 100 fly.

WABASH looks to a pair of sophomores to lead the way in 2008. **Elijah Sanders (Mt. Vernon, IN/Mt. Vernon)** should score in the distance events, while **Adam Petro (Indianapolis, IN/Decatur Central)** is the team's top swimmer in the butterfly and backstroke. Freshman **Cole Hatcher (Crawfordsville, IN/Southmont)** will be a contender in the diving events.

Sophomores guide **WOOSTER** into the 2008 NCAC meet. **Michael Saltzman (Evansville, IN/Asheville School, NC)** is a consistent scorer for the Fighting Scots in the freestyles while **Logan LaBerge (Towson, MD/Towson)** can be counted on in the IMs and backstroke. **Eric Babbitt (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA/Santa Margarita Catholic)** is a top competitor in the freestyles and butterfly. **Alex Gauvin (Ann Arbor, MI/Community)** is the team's top diver.

WITTENBERG sophomore **Neil Anderson (Lakewood, OH/Lakewood)** is the team's top distance freestyler who can score in the butterfly as well. Sophomore **Taylor Smith (Mansfield, OH/Senior)** and senior **Jeff Smith (Mansfield, OH/Senior)** are swimmers to watch as well. Taylor competes in the backstroke and freestyle, while Jeff is a distance freestyler.

Sophomore **Ashton Kinney (Sewickley, PA/Sewickley)** leads **ALLEGHENY**. He is a consistent scorer in the distance events. Other top swimmers for the Gators include sophomore **Josh Sesek (Pittsburgh, PA/Brentwood)** in the breaststroke and IM and junior **Colin Gundling (Murrysville, PA/Franklin Regional)** in the 50 freestyle and butterfly. Senior diver **Jayson Leffert (Gibsonia, PA/Pine-Richland)** earned All-NCAC honors in both diving events last year. He should contend for both titles again this season. Senior **Ryan Lawrence (Union City, PA/Union City)** has Allegheny's best times in the 100 and 200 freestyle and has been a top performer in the 100-yard backstroke.

OHIO WESLEYAN has depth it hasn't had in several years and looks to a trio of sophomores to lead the way to an improved

standing in the North Coast. **Kevin Fahey (Delaware, OH/Hayes)**, **David Gatz (Delaware, OH/Hayes)** and **Usman Javaid (Lahore, Pakistan/Aitchison)** account for the Battling Bishops' top times this season in every event but two.

HIRAM'S strong freshman class looks to make its debut at the 2008 Championships. **Santiago Morales (Mexico City, Mexico/Colegio Bilboa)** has set a number of pool records for the Terriers in distance freestyle events, and holds the school mark in the 400 IM and 200 butterfly. **Zach Wegman (Knoxville, TN/Bereon)** is also a distance freestyler and could compete in the individual medley, backstroke and butterfly as well. Another swimmer to watch is newcomer **Travis Subda (Spring, TX/Klein Collins)** in the sprint freestyles.

Senior **John Hugens (Sewanee, GA/Home schooled)** paces **OBERLIN** as he has posted the Yeomen's top times in three distance freestyle events and both backstrokes. Junior **Scott McInerney (Randolph, NJ/Randolph)** is the team's top sprint freestyler and also has Oberlin's top time in the 100 butterfly. A newcomer to watch is **Corey Spiro (Solon, OH/Solon)** in the butterfly and IM. Senior **Cory Myers (Nesconset, NY/Smithtown)** should score well for the Yeomen in both diving events.

- NCAC -

2008 NCAC Swimming & Diving Championships Thursday, Feb. 14 - Saturday, Feb. 16

Location

C.T. Branin Natatorium
1715 Harrison Ave. NW
Canton, OH 44708
330-438-2738

Tickets

Three-day pass (adults): \$45
Three-day pass (children, students/faculty/staff with college ID): \$20
Two-day pass (adults): \$30
Two-day pass (children, students/faculty/staff with college ID): \$15
Single ticket - finals (adults): \$10 ^
Single ticket - prelims (adults): \$5 *

^ children, students/faculty/staff with college ID: \$5

* children, students/faculty/staff with college ID: \$3

Schedule

Prelims: doors open 8:30 a.m. - events start 10:00 a.m.

Finals: doors open 5:30 p.m. - events start 6:30 p.m. *

* Saturday evening session: doors open at 3:30 for for the 1650 heats;
Senior Recognition Ceremony begins at 6:20 p.m.

Complete information is available at:
<http://www.northcoast.org/mw/swimchampionships.html>