



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 Fall Special

**NORTH COAST'S 17TH SEASON OPENS FRIDAY;
ALL TEN NCAC SCHOOLS WILL TAKE THE FIELD**

**For Immediate Release
August 29, 2000**

CLEVELAND -- The NCAC's 17th season of athletic competition opens with a bang this weekend as conference cross country, field hockey, soccer and volleyball teams storm their respective playing fields in more than 59 contests, stretching from Friday through Sunday.

CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

North Coast Conference Cross Country coaches picked the 1999 NCAC champion Kenyon Lords and Denison Big Red to repeat as the men's and women's favorites respectively in their annual preseason poll. Squads from each school will stage a re-enactment of the last year's championships when they take their marks on Saturday in Gambier. The Lords edged the Big Red in last October's men's race, by a margin of only seven seconds, to claim their first-ever title. The Big Red women turned the tables on their close rivals, outpacing the Ladies by 15 points to earn their second straight title last season.

FIELD HOCKEY REPORT

The Denison Big Red travel to Gettysburg Saturday, opening their 2000 season on the road. They begin defense of their 1999 NCAC championship on Sept. 10, when they play their first conference opponent, Wittenberg. Oberlin and Earlham host conference games Saturday, with each looking to improve upon their respective positions in the standings last season. The Yeowomen, who finished fifth in 1999, entertain Wittenberg, while the Quakers, seventh-place finishers last season, entertain Wooster.

MEN'S SOCCER REPORT

The Fred Myers Invitational, running from Friday through Sunday, kicks off the 2000 campaign for ten-time NCAC champion Ohio Wesleyan. The Bishops, who begin their season ranked 22nd (tied with Plattsburgh, NY) in the NSCAA adidas Div. III Preseason National Ranking, host regional foes Hope and Kean in their first contests of the new season. Earlham, coming off a strong 1999 season, also received votes in the poll.

WOMEN'S SOCCER REPORT

Ohio Wesleyan and Denison, who finished number one and two in the North Coast last season, have both earned the respect of coaches around the nation. The Bishops, who claimed their fourth league title last fall, begins their 2000 campaign ranked ninth in the country in the NSCAA adidas Div. III Preseason National Ranking (tied with Puget Sound). The Big Red are ranked 15th. Denison kicks off this year's schedule with five straight home contests, starting Saturday when Ithaca comes calling. Ohio Wesleyan preps for their title defense with three straight road games, beginning with a trip to Hope on Friday.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

1999 North Coast Athletic Conference Champion, Wittenberg, enters the 2000 season with its eye on keeping its crown. The Tigers, who received votes in the AVCA Division III Coaches Top 20 Preseason Poll on August 23, begin a run at their seventh conference title at Alma this weekend. The non-conference tournament, as well as one at Ohio Northern next weekend will serve as warm-ups for Wittenberg, who opens their NCAC schedule on Sept. 12, when they host Earlham. The Tigers return four starters and eight letterwinners overall, including NCAC Player of the Year **Brittany Baume (Springfield, OH/Southeastern)**, from a 1999 team which went undefeated in conference play last fall.