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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***

**WITTENBERG PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH  
COAST PREPS FOR 17TH FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN**

**For Immediate Release  
August 3, 2000**

**GRANVILLE, Ohio** -- Defending champion Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by coaches and media at the North Coast Athletic Conference's 17th annual Football/Fall Sports Media Luncheon, held today in the Granville Inn in Granville, OH.

Wittenberg, which rolled to a 10-0 regular season and earned its second straight trip to the NCAA playoffs last season, earned eight of ten first-place votes from the coaches and 20 of 25 from the media to edge Allegheny and Ohio Wesleyan in both polls. Wooster and Wabash were picked fourth and fifth, respectively, by both groups.

Wittenberg is 40-4 (.909) during the four-year tenure of head coach **Joe Fincham**. The Tigers return 47 lettermen from last year's squad, including twenty starters. Wittenberg held off seven other conference schools to claim the 1999 NCAC crown, but will face stiffer competition this year, as the number of teams competing for the conference football title has grown to 10 with the addition of Hiram, Wabash and the return of Oberlin to the NCAC football schedule.

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**2000 NCAC Football Polls**

North Coast Athletic Conference 2000 preseason football polls (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

<b>COACHES</b>	<b>MEDIA</b>
1. Wittenberg (8) ..... 98	1. Wittenberg (20) ..... 243
2. Allegheny (2) ..... 89	2. Allegheny (4) ..... 224
3. Ohio Wesleyan ..... 77	3. Ohio Wesleyan (1) ..... 193
4. Wooster ..... 71	4. Wooster ..... 175
5. Wabash ..... 68	5. Wabash ..... 156
6. Hiram ..... 44	6. Denison ..... 101
7. Denison ..... 39	7. Earlham ..... 94
8. Earlham ..... 33	8. Hiram ..... 86
9. Kenyon ..... 26	9. Kenyon ..... 64
10. Oberlin ..... 10	10. Oberlin ..... 38