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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**

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 29, 2001**

**NORTH COAST'S 18TH FOOTBALL SEASON OPENS  
SATURDAY; WITTENBERG FAVORITE TO REPEAT**

**CLEVELAND** -- The North Coast Athletic Conference's 18th football season opens Saturday with five non-conference contests, highlighted by the season-openers for the conference's top two preseason favorites. Wittenberg, picked by both coaches and the media to reclaim their 2000 NCAC crown this season, hosts neighboring Urbana, while Allegheny, predicted to finish second by the coaches and media, kick-starts its rugged schedule at defending national champion Mount Union. In other action, Earlham entertains Rose-Hulman, Oberlin visits Franklin & Marshall and Denison travels to Waynesburg.

**Opening Weekend:** The NCAC's 18th 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 72 contests, stretching from Friday through Monday.

**Notes:** Two of Division III's leaders will return to action Saturday. On offense, All-America senior tailback **Shane Ream (Meadville, PA/Meadville)** returns after leading the nation in scoring last fall (18.0 ppg), while on the defensive side of the ball, Earlham senior **Robert Gunn (South Bend, IN/LaSalle)** looks to duplicate last season's Division III-leading 178 tackles ... Wittenberg returns 37 letterwinners who have not lost a regular season game in their careers.

**2000 NCAC STANDINGS**

FOOTBALL	NCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
1) Wittenberg	7	0	0	12	1	0
2) Allegheny	6	1	0	7	3	0
3) Wabash	5	2	0	6	4	0
4) O. Wesleyan	4	3	0	6	4	0
Earlham	4	3	0	6	4	0
Wooster	4	3	0	6	4	0
7) Hiram	2	5	0	3	7	0
Denison	2	5	0	2	8	0
9) Kenyon	1	6	0	3	7	0
10) Oberlin	0	7	0	0	10	0

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, Sept. 1**  
ALLEGHENY at Mount Union, 1:30  
DENISON at Waynesburg, 1:30  
OBERLIN at Franklin & Marshall, 1:30  
Rose-Hulman at EARLHAM, 7:00  
Urbana at Wittenberg, 7:00

**2001 NCAC Football Polls**

North Coast Athletic Conference 2001 preseason football polls (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

COACHES		MEDIA	
1. Wittenberg (6)	94	1. Wittenberg (22)	260
2. Allegheny (2)	85	2. Allegheny (2)	238
3. Wabash (1)	83	3. Wabash (2)	214
4. Ohio Wesleyan	70	4. Ohio Wesleyan (2)	186
5. Wooster (1)	65	5. Wooster	170
6. Earlham	49	6. Earlham	166
7. Denison	34	7. Denison	103
8. Kenyon	33	8. Kenyon	90
9. Hiram	21	9. Hiram	74
10. Oberlin	16	10. Oberlin	39