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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 Field Hockey Special
**DENISON AND WITTENBERG PICKED TO REPEAT AS
NORTH COAST FIELD HOCKEY START NEARS**

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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Last fall, Denison and Wittenberg shared the North Coast Athletic Conference Championship with identical 10-2 league records. Apparently, the two schools aren't done sharing, if preseason prognostication is to be believed. The Big Red and the Tigers both emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference field hockey coaches in their first-ever preseason poll.

Denison paced all teams in the poll with four first-place votes; Wittenberg picked up two. Wooster, predicted to finish third, also received a first-place vote. Oberlin and Ohio Wesleyan finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Complete poll results, which mirror the 2000 final standings, are listed below.

Both the Big Red and the Tigers are lead by coaches entering their second season. **Paula J. (P.J.) Soteriades** returns as Denison's seventh head women's field hockey coach. She led the Big Red to a 13-8 overall record last season as the Big Red's interim coach. **Marianne Beshara** returns to Wittenberg after leading the Tigers to a 15-4 overall record in 2000.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference consists of 10 academically selective colleges and universities - Allegheny College, Denison University, Earlham College, Hiram College, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Wabash College, Wittenberg University and the College of Wooster. The NCAC sponsors 22 championship sports, 11 for men and 11 for women.

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2001 NCAC Preseason Field Hockey Poll

First-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points:

- 1. Denison (4) 43
- Wittenberg (2) 43
- 3. Wooster (1) 40
- 4. Oberlin 23
- 5. Ohio Wesleyan 21
- 6. Kenyon 19
- 7. Earlham 7