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★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Football Special

**WITTENBERG PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH
COAST PREPS FOR 18TH FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN**

For Immediate Release

August 2, 2001

DELAWARE, Ohio -- Defending champion Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by coaches and media at the North Coast Athletic Conference's 18th annual Football Media Luncheon, held today at Oakhaven Golf Club in Delaware, OH.

Wittenberg, which rolled to a 10-0 regular season and earned its third straight trip to the NCAA playoffs last season, earned six of ten first-place votes from the coaches and 22 of 28 from the media to edge Allegheny and Wabash in both polls. Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster were picked fourth and fifth, respectively, by both groups.

Wittenberg is 52-5 (.912) during the five-year tenure of head coach **Joe Fincham** the winningest active coach in college football (based on winning percentage). The Tigers return 37 letterwinners who have never lost a regular season game, including 12 starters from last year's squad.

-NCAC-

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