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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 Volleyball Special***  
**WITTENBERG PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH  
COAST PREPS FOR 18TH VOLLEYBALL CAMPAIGN**

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 13, 2001**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- Defending champion Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference volleyball coaches in their first-ever preseason poll.

Wittenberg, which rolled to a perfect 8-0 conference record and earned its fourth consecutive NCAC regular season and tournament championships, earned all nine first-place votes from league coaches to edge Denison and Allegheny. Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster were picked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Wittenberg is 193-77 (.715) during the seven-year tenure of head coach **Connie Surowicz**. The Tigers return 10 letterwinners from last year's squad, including 2000 NCAC Player of the Year, junior setter **Shelli Habegger (Curtice, OH/Clay)**.

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.

**-NCAC-**

**2001 NCAC Preseason Volleyball Poll**

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

- 1. Wittenberg (9) ..... 81
- 2. Denison ..... 71
- 3. Allegheny ..... 59
- 4. Ohio Wesleyan ..... 53
- 5. Wooster ..... 42
- 6. Earlham ..... 37
- 7. Kenyon ..... 35
- 8. Oberlin ..... 15
- 9. Hiram ..... 12