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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 Women's Soccer Special

**OHIO WESLEYAN PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH
COAST PREPS FOR 18TH WOMEN'S SOCCER CAMPAIGN**

For Immediate Release
August 23, 2001

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending champion Ohio Wesleyan University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference women's soccer coaches in their first-ever preseason poll.

The Bishops, who capped their 2000 campaign with a perfect run through the inaugural NCAC Women's Soccer Tournament and their second straight conference championship, earned seven of nine first-place votes from league coaches to edge Denison and Allegheny. Wittenberg and Wooster were tabbed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan is 64-16-1 during the four-year tenure of head coach **Bob Barnes**. The Bishops return 24 letterwinners and nine starters from last year's squad, including three-time All-NCAC forward **Katie Sturtz (Worthington, OH/Watterson)**.

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 Women's Soccer Poll

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

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (7) 79
- 2. Denison (2) 71
- 3. Allegheny 64
- 4. Wittenberg 52
- 5. Wooster 49
- 6. Kenyon 34
- 7. Earlham 28
- 8. Oberlin 19
- 9. Hiram 9