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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

For Immediate Release

**OHIO WESLEYAN PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH
COAST PREPS FOR 19TH WOMEN'S SOCCER CAMPAIGN**

August 22, 2002

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending champion Ohio Wesleyan University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference women's soccer coaches conducted via email.

The Bishops, who capped their 2001 campaign with a perfect run through the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championships after picking up their their third straight conference championship, earned eight of nine first-place votes from league coaches to edge Denison and Allegheny. Wooster and Wittenberg were tabbed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan is 86-17-1 (.832) during the five-year tenure of head coach **Bob Barnes**. The Bishops return 22 letterwinners and seven starters from last year's national championship squad. Last fall, Ohio Wesleyan ran up a perfect 8-0 record in conference play and were almost as perfect overall finishing with a 22-1 record.

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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2002 NCAC Preseason Women's Soccer Poll

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

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (8) 80
- 2. Denison (1) 70
- 3. Allegheny 62
- 4. Wooster 49
- 5. Wittenberg 47
- 6. Kenyon 42
- 7. Earlham 25
- 8. Oberlin 17
- 9. Hiram 13