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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 Baseball Special

For Immediate Release

**OHIO WESLEYAN, WOOSTER TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITES
IN 20TH NORTH COAST BASEBALL SEASON**

March 9, 2004

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending champion Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster have emerged as the preseason favorites in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference baseball coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Battling Bishops, who rolled to a 12-4 conference record and earned their eighth NCAC championship last spring, earned five first-place votes from league coaches for 92 points. Wooster, who has also claimed eight NCAC championships, picked up two first-place votes to equal the Bishops with 92 points. Denison, last season's conference tournament runner-up, was picked third (85) with the help of three first-place votes, while Allegheny (66) and Wabash (56) were tabbed fourth and fifth, respectively. Hiram (48), Wittenberg (47), Kenyon (23), Earlham (22) and Oberlin (19) follow in positions six through 10.

Ohio Wesleyan is 600-294-8 (.670) during the 21-year tenure of head coach **Roger Ingles**, the 2003 NCAC Coach of the Year. Ingles picked up his 600th win when the Bishops defeated Concordia (Ill.), 10-3, on March 6 in Fort Myers, Fla. Ohio Wesleyan returns 16 letterwinners and 13 starters from last season's squad. Among the returnees is 2003 NCAC Pitcher of the Year, senior **Tyler Mott (Grove City, OH/Grove City)**, as well as, the eight other pitchers who started a game for OWU in 2003.

Wooster is 686-277-6 (.711) during the 22-year tenure of head coach **Tim Pettorini**, the 2002 NCAC Coach of the Year. The Scots return 17 letterwinners and 10 starters (five position players / five pitchers) from last year's squad, including 2003 NCAC Player of the Year, junior third baseman **Jake Frank (Wooster, OH/Northwestern)**.

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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2004 NCAC Preseason Baseball Poll

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Ohio Wesleyan (5) | 92 |
| Wooster (2) | 92 |
| 3. Denison (3) | 85 |
| 4. Allegheny | 66 |
| 5. Wabash | 56 |
| 6. Hiram | 48 |
| 7. Wittenberg | 47 |
| 8. Kenyon | 23 |
| 9. Earlham | 22 |
| 10. Oberlin | 19 |