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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 Basketball Special

For Immediate Release

**OHIO WESLEYAN WOMEN, WOOSTER MEN FAVORED
AS NCAC PREPS FOR 20TH BASKETBALL CAMPAIGN**

Nov. 4, 2003

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Ohio Wesleyan's women and Wooster's men were tabbed as the favorites in preseason voting by coaches and media after the North Coast Athletic Conference's 20th annual Basketball Media Day, which was held today via teleconference.

Ohio Wesleyan edged out Wittenberg and Allegheny in the women's balloting with 16 first-place votes, 11 of 24 from the media and five of nine from the coaches. The defending champion Tigers were second in both polls, receiving five first-place nods from the media and two first-place NCAC coaches. Both groups selected Allegheny a close third, followed by Earlham in fourth; each received first-place votes in both polls. The Battling Bishops return 12 letterwinners and two starters, including Player of the Year **Kelly Heil (Sylvania, OH/Southview)**, from last year's 18-10 squad that finished second in the NCAC tournament.

Defending NCAC champion Wooster took 27 first-place votes in the men's balloting, 20 of 24 from the media and seven of 10 from league coaches, to outdistance Wittenberg and Ohio Wesleyan. Both the coaches and the media predicted the Tigers would finish second and gave them a total of four first-place votes. Ohio Wesleyan picked up a first-place vote in both polls to finishing third behind Wittenberg. The Fighting Scots return six letterwinners and three starters from a team that compiled a sterling 30-3 record a year ago. Wooster earned its first trip to the NCAA Division III Tournament semifinals last season. The Scots finished third in the national tournament.

The 2003-04 season opens on Friday, Nov. 21. The NCAC Tournament will be held over the final week of February, with the men's and women's semifinals and finals at the site of the respective high seeds on Feb. 27-28.

2003-04 Men's Poll (Coaches)

1. Wooster (7).....	96
2. Wittenberg (2)	87
3. Ohio Wesleyan (1)	81
4. Allegheny	64
5. Earlham.....	59
6. Wabash.....	52
7. Denison	41
8. Oberlin	31
9. Hiram	24
10. Kenyon	15

2003-04 Women's Poll (Coaches)

1. Ohio Wesleyan (5)	74
2. Wittenberg (2)	70
3. Allegheny (1)	65
4. Earlham (1)	57
5. Denison	40
Wooster	40
7. Kenyon	27
8. Oberlin	20
9. Hiram	12

2003-04 Men's Poll (Media)

1. Wooster (20).....	236
2. Wittenberg (2)	211
3. Ohio Wesleyan (1)	179
4. Allegheny	157
5. Earlham (1)	148
6. Wabash.....	136
7. Denison	88
8. Oberlin	76
9. Hiram	49
10. Kenyon	40

2003-04 Women's Poll (Media)

1. Ohio Wesleyan (11)	195
2. Wittenberg (5)	187
3. Allegheny (4)	171
4. Earlham (3)	143
5. Denison (1)	127
6. Wooster	108
7. Kenyon	73
8. Oberlin	49
9. Hiram	27