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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 Men's Lacrosse Special

**OHIO WESLEYAN TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN 20TH
NORTH COAST MEN'S LACROSSE SEASON**

**For Immediate Release
March 15, 2004**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending North Coast Athletic Conference champion Ohio Wesleyan emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by NCAC men's lacrosse coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Battling Bishops, who posted a perfect 5-0 league mark and a 10-3 overall record last spring, earned five of six available first-place votes from league coaches to total 35 points. Denison, last spring's runner-up, finished second with 30 points and one first-place vote. Wooster was picked third (23), while Kenyon (18), Wittenberg (14) and Oberlin (6) fill places four through six, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan is 42-16 (.724) with a trio of NCAC titles during the four-year tenure of head coach **Sean Ryan**. Leading the Bishop attack once again is junior **John Schlegel (Chevy Chase, Md./Gonzaga)**, who amassed 33 goals and 26 assists in 2003. The 2002 NCAC Newcomer of the Year, Schlegel is a two-time All-NCAC second-team honoree and was a preseason All-America selection once again this year. Junior **Paul McCommons (Smyrna, Del./Dover)** returns in goal. He was a preseason All-America selection this year after receiving All-NCAC honors in 2003, his first full season as a starter

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 Men's Lacrosse Poll

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1. Ohio Wesleyan (5) | 35 |
| 2. Denison (1) | 30 |
| 3. Wooster | 23 |
| 4. Kenyon | 18 |
| 5. Wittenberg | 14 |
| 6. Oberlin | 6 |