



DENNIS M. COLLINS
Executive Director

P.O. Box 16679
Cleveland, OH 44116
Phone (440) 871-8100
Fax (440) 871-4221
ncac@northcoast.org
www.northcoast.org

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 Soccer Special

**OHIO WESLEYAN TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITE
FOR 20TH NORTH COAST MEN'S SOCCER SEASON**

**For Immediate Release
August 20, 2003**

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

The Bishops, who earned their fifth consecutive NCAC championship and won their third straight league tournament last fall, earned nine first-place votes from league coaches for 99 points. Allegheny, which was runner-up and reached the championship game of the NCAC tournament last season, received the remaining first-place vote and was picked second with 84 points. Wooster (79) was predicted to place third, edging Denison (73) in fourth and Wittenberg (56) in fifth.

Ohio Wesleyan is 447-91-33 (.812) during the 26-year tenure of head coach **Jay Martin**. The Bishops expect to return 27 letterwinners and nine starters from last year's squad which reached the NCAA Division III Regional Championship game and finished with an 18-4-1 mark.

The North Coast Athletic Conference is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Founded in 1983, the NCAC 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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2003 NCAC Preseason Men's Soccer Poll

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

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (9) 99
- 2. Allegheny (1) 84
- 3. Wooster 79
- 4. Denison 73
- 5. Wittenberg 56
- 6. Earlham 45
- 7. Wabash 44
- 8. Kenyon 31
- 9. Oberlin 27
- 10. Hiram 12