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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 Volleyball Special
**WITTENBERG TOPS PRESEASON POLL AS NORTH
COAST PREPS FOR 20TH VOLLEYBALL CAMPAIGN**

For Immediate Release
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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending champion Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference volleyball coaches conducted via email ballot.

Wittenberg, which rolled to a perfect 8-0 conference record and earned its sixth consecutive NCAC tournament championship last fall, earned seven of eight* first-place votes from league coaches to top Allegheny. The Gators earned the final first-place vote. Denison was tabbed third, while Hiram and Wooster were picked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Wittenberg is taking the court for the first time under new head coach **Paco Labrador**. Labrador, a Hiram graduate, comes to Wittenberg after a four-year stint as the assistant volleyball coach at Miami. He takes over a program that is led by two returning All-Americans, juniors **Monica McDonald (Newark, OH/Catholic)** and **Sarah Yuskewich (Columbus, OH/Watterson)**.

Wittenberg opens the 2003 schedule on Friday at its own Wittenberg National Invitational. The Tigers will face John Carroll, Juniata and Georgetown. Wittenberg's first NCAC matchup comes Sept. 20 against Kenyon and Allegheny at Kenyon.

The North Coast Athletic Conference is celebrating its 20th anniversary. 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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2003 NCAC Preseason Volleyball Poll

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

- 1. Wittenberg (7) 71
- 2. Allegheny (1) 61
- 3. Denison 55
- 4. Hiram 47
- 5. Wooster 43
- 6. Ohio Wesleyan 34
- 7. Kenyon 21
- 8. Earlham 16
- 9. Oberlin 12

* Eight of nine coaches voted in the poll