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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 Women's Soccer Special**

**For Immediate Release**

**OHIO WESLEYAN PRESEASON FAVORITE AS NORTH  
COAST READIES FOR 21ST WOMEN'S SOCCER CAMPAIGN**

**August 26, 2004**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- Ohio Wesleyan University is the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference women's soccer coaches conducted via email, edging last year's NCAC tournament winner, Denison, by four points.

The Bishops, runners-up in the NCAC last season, which broke a four-year run as conference champions, earned six first-place votes from league coaches to compile 68 points. The Bishops topped the Big Red (64), who claimed the remaining first-place votes cast. Last year's regular season champion Allegheny was selected third (55), which was just two points more than Wooster (53) in fourth.

Ohio Wesleyan is 127-19-1 (.867) during the seven-year tenure of head coach **Bob Barnes**. The Bishops expect to return 14 letterwinners and six starters from last year's squad. Despite posting a 17-2-0 record last fall, the Bishops missed the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1997. They won NCAA III titles in 2001 and 2002.

The North Coast Athletic Conference enters its third decade of competition in 2004-05. 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.

**-NCAC-**

**2004 NCAC Women's Soccer Poll**

North Coast Athletic Conference 2004 preseason field hockey poll (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (6) ..... 68
- 2. Denison (2) ..... 64
- 3. Allegheny ..... 55
- 4. Wooster ..... 53
- 5. Kenyon ..... 38
- 6. Wittenberg ..... 33
- 7. Earlham ..... 22
- 8. Oberlin ..... 16
- 9. Hiram ..... 11

\*8 of 9 NCAC coaches voted