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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 Tennis Special
KENYON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
22ND NORTH COAST MEN'S TENNIS SEASON

For Immediate Release
March 7, 2006

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending North Coast champion Kenyon edged Denison as the preseason favorite in balloting by eight of nine North Coast Athletic Conference men's tennis coaches in their preseason poll.

The Lords, who last season finished with a 4-0 league record and 16-6 overall mark, earned five of eight first-place votes cast and totalled 69 points. Denison was selected second just two points back (67) and received the other three first-place votes. Wooster, last season's third-place team, was predicted to finish third again with 52 points. Allegheny (49) was picked to finish fourth, followed by Oberlin (41), Wittenberg (31), Ohio Wesleyan (21), Wabash (17) and Earlham (13) in places five through nine.

Last spring Kenyon, under the leadership of head coach **Scott Thielke**, reached the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament, including a stunning come-from-behind first-round upset of eighth-ranked DePauw. The Lords return three starters in singles play, led by junior **Sean Stewart (Bay Village, OH/St. Ignatius)**. A second-team All-NCAC choice as a sophomore, Stewart will move up from third singles to first singles this year.

In 21 years of North Coast men's tennis competition, three schools have claimed championships: Denison, Wooster and Kenyon. The Big Red have won or shared the most titles (11), followed by the Lords with nine, including the past four in a row. The Scots have claimed a share of four NCAC titles, last in 1996. All three teams shared the crown in 1989; Wooster and Denison shared the first one, contested in 1985.

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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2006 NCAC Preseason Men's Tennis Poll

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

- 1. Kenyon (5).....69
- 2. Denison (3).....67
- 3. Wooster.....52
- 4. Allegheny.....49
- 5. Oberlin.....41
- 6. Wittenberg.....31
- 7. Ohio Wesleyan.....21
- 8. Wabash.....17
- 9. Earlham.....13