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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 22ND VOLLEYBALL CAMPAIGN**

For Immediate Release
August 22, 2005

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

The Tigers, who rolled to a perfect 8-0 conference record and earned their eighth consecutive NCAC championship last fall, earned six of nine first-place votes from league coaches to total 76 points. Wittenberg topped second place Hiram by a slim four-point margin. The Terriers, who finished as the NCAC runner-up the past two seasons, earned one first-place nod from the coaches to tally 72 points. Wooster (63), coming off its most successful season in 20 years, picked up the remaining two first-place votes to finish third, followed by Denison (57) and Allegheny (46) in fourth and fifth, respectively. Ohio Wesleyan (29) and Kenyon (29) tied for sixth, while Earlham (23) and Oberlin (10) round out the poll in eighth and ninth.

Wittenberg enters its third season under the direction of head coach **Paco Labrador**, who has a 63-10 record over his two seasons at the helm. The Tigers, winners of 11 North Coast titles overall, rang up a school-record 35 wins last fall, on their way to a top-five national ranking and their second NCAA Division III quarterfinal appearance in three years. Wittenberg returns seven letterwinners and three starters from last season's 35-3 team.

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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2005 NCAC Preseason Volleyball Poll

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

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| 1. Wittenberg (6) | 76 |
| 2. Hiram (1) | 72 |
| 3. Wooster (2) | 63 |
| 4. Denison | 57 |
| 5. Allegheny | 46 |
| 6. Kenyon | 29 |
| Ohio Wesleyan | 29 |
| 8. Earlham | 23 |
| 9. Oberlin | 10 |