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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 Tennis Special**  
**DENISON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN**  
**22ND NORTH COAST WOMEN'S TENNIS SEASON**

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 7, 2006**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio --** 2005 North Coast champion Denison emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by seven of eight North Coast Athletic Conference women's tennis coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Big Red, who last season finished the season with a 6-0 league record and 19-2 overall mark, earned six of seven first-place votes cast. Denison totalled 55 points, followed by Kenyon in second with 46 points and the remaining first-place vote. Oberlin, last season's third place team, was predicted to finish third again with 41 points. Ohio Wesleyan (40) was picked fourth, followed by Wittenberg (26), Allegheny (20), Wooster (15) and Earlham (9) in places five through eight.

Last spring Denison, under the leadership of head coach **Peter Burling**, reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III tournament for the second straight season. The Big Red return four starters in singles play, highlighted by junior **Amelia Grace (Cincinnati, OH/Seven Hills)**, the team's top singles player and part of their top doubles combination in 2005. Grace earned first team All-NCAC honors in both singles and doubles in each of the past two seasons.

In 21 years of North Coast women's tennis competition, three schools have claimed championships: Allegheny took the first one in 1985, then Kenyon went on a run to claim 15 of the next 16 titles, interrupted only by Denison's first title in 1994. The Big Red again broke the Ladies' streak in 2002, and have claimed every title since. Kenyon has a total of 15 North Coast titles to Denison's five, which include the past four in a row.

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.

**-NCAC-**

**2006 NCAC Preseason Women's Tennis Poll**

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

- 1. Denison (6).....55
- 2. Kenyon (1).....46
- 3. Oberlin .....41
- 4. Ohio Wesleyan.....40
- 5. Wittenberg .....26
- 6. Allegheny .....20
- 7. Wooster.....15
- 8. Earlham.....9