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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 Cross Country Special

For Immediate Release

**ALLEGHENY MEN, DENISON WOMEN TOP PRESEASON PICKS
AS NORTH COAST READIES FOR RUNNING OF 22nd SEASON**

August 23, 2005

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- For the third consecutive year, Allegheny topped the men's poll, and Denison returned to the top after a two-year absence in the women's after annual preseason balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference cross country coaches.

The Gator men, the defending champions, earned all nine first-place votes cast for 90 points from the coaches to top Denison for the second straight season. The Big Red totalled 75 points, followed by Kenyon (73) and Ohio Wesleyan (67) in third and fourth, respectively. In total, the Allegheny men have claimed four NCAC crowns: 1984, 1997, 2002 and 2004.

Gator senior co-captain **Chris Carrier (Lyndhurst, OH/Brush)** leads the Allegheny men. A three-year all-conference performer, the last two years on the first team, Carrier was the NCAC's Newcomer of the Year in 2002. Denison's women are led by juniors **Christine Collins (Chagrin Falls, OH/Chagrin Falls)** and **Elaine Binkley (Columbus, OH/Bishop Watterson)** who are both two-time first-team All-NCAC performers. Collins is the defending individual NCAC champion while Binkley, runner up to Collins in 2004, was the conference's Newcomer of the year in 2003.

The Big Red women, two-time defending champions, earned all eight first-place votes cast and 72 points from the coaches to top Kenyon (64) and Oberlin (53). Allegheny (49) and Ohio Wesleyan (42) were picked fourth and fifth, respectively. Denison has earned five women's cross country titles: 1998-99, 2000, 2003-04.

-NCAC-

2005 NCAC Cross Country Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2005 preseason cross country polls (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

WOMEN	MEN
1. Denison (8) 72	1. Allegheny (9) 90
2. Kenyon 64	2. Denison 75
3. Oberlin 53	3. Kenyon 73
4. Allegheny 49	4. Ohio Wesleyan 67
5. Ohio Wesleyan 42	5. Earlham 46
6. Earlham 31	Wabash 46
7. Wittenberg 21	7. Oberlin 44
Wooster 21	8. Wooster 30
9. Hiram 8	9. Wittenberg 20
	10. Hiram 9