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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 Lacrosse Special

For Immediate Release
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**OHIO WESLEYAN VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
23RD NORTH COAST WOMEN'S LACROSSE SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Ohio Wesleyan edged defending champion Denison as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference women's lacrosse coaches in their preseason poll.

The Battling Bishops, who last season finished with a 5-1 regular season league record and a 12-3 overall mark, earned four of seven first place votes to total 45 points. Denison was selected second with 43 points and received two first-place nods. Allegheny, last season's runner up, was predicted to finish third with 33 points. Wooster (29), which earned the final first-place vote from league coaches, was picked to finish fourth, followed by Kenyon (21), Wittenberg (14) and Oberlin (11) in places five through seven, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan returns 17 letterwinners and 10 starters from last year's team that set a school record with a season-opening six-game winning streak and tied the school record with 12 wins. The Bishops also advanced to the semifinals of the NCAC Tournament. Among their top returnees are a pair of All-NCAC first-team honorees: senior **Jamie Blake (Ballston Lake, NY/Shenendehowa)** at attack and junior **Lura Allen (Hingham, MA/Hingham)** at midfield. Blake scored 26 goals and added 22 assists, while Allen found the back of the net 27 times and registered 13 assists. Ohio Wesleyan is 31-13 over the three-year tenure of head coach **Kimberly Rocheleau**.

In 22 years of North Coast women's lacrosse competition, four schools have claimed championships: Denison, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster. The Big Red have won the most titles (15), followed by Wooster and Oberlin with three each. The Scots won their titles from 2002-04, while the Yeowomen claimed theirs in 1995 and 1997-98. The Bishops won their first ever women's lacrosse title in 2005.

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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2007 NCAC Preseason Women's Lacrosse Poll

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

- 1. Ohio Wesleyan (4).....45
- 2. Denison (2).....43
- 3. Allegheny33
- 4. Wooster (1).....29
- 5. Kenyon21
- 6. Wittenberg14
- 7. Oberlin.....11