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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 Field Hockey Special

For Immediate Release
August 31, 2006

**OBERLIN PREDICTED TO REPEAT AS 23RD NCAC
FIELD HOCKEY SEASON NEARS**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Defending regular season and NCAC tournament champion Oberlin has emerged as the favorite in preseason balloting by NCAC field hockey coaches.

The Yeowomen paced all teams in the poll with four of seven first-place votes for 41 points to edge Wooster, which totalled 35 points and one first-place nod. Wittenberg finished third with 30 points and one first-place vote, followed by Kenyon with 29 points and the final first-place vote. Denison was right behind in fifth with 27 points.

Oberlin is 47-27 (.635) during the four-year tenure of head coach **Deb Ranieri**. The Yeowomen expect to return 10 letterwinners and five starters from last year's squad which finished with a 16-5 mark and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Sophomores **Abigail Brox (Manchester, MA/Saint George's School)** and **Lela Hull (Cumberland, ME/Greely)** return to lead the Oberlin offense. Brox led the NCAC in goals scored last season and finished second in points on her way to conference Newcomer of the Year honors. Hull wrapped up the year third in goals scored and third in points among NCAC players.

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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2006 NCAC Field Hockey Poll

North Coast Athletic Conference 2006 preseason field hockey poll
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

- 1. Oberlin (4)..... 41
- 2. Wooster (1)..... 35
- 3. Wittenberg (1) 30
- 4. Kenyon (1)..... 29
- 5. Denison 27
- 6. Ohio Wesleyan 20
- 7. Earlham 14