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★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Women's Tennis Special

For Immediate Release
Feb. 21, 2007

**DENISON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
23RD NORTH COAST WOMEN'S TENNIS SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- 2006 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 18-7 overall mark, earned all seven first-place votes cast. Denison totaled 56 points, followed by Kenyon in second with 49 points. Ohio Wesleyan, last season's fourth-place team, was predicted to improve to third with 38 points. Oberlin (34) was picked fourth, followed by Wittenberg (26), Allegheny (22), Wooster (15) and Earlham (12) in places five through eight.

Last spring Denison, under the leadership of head coach **Peter Burling**, reached the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament before falling to DePauw. The Big Red return six starters, highlighted by a pair of sophomores who earned first-team All-NCAC honors last season: **Meghan Damico (Pittsburgh, PA/Fox Chapel)** and **Kendra Murray (Kirkwood, MO/Kirkwood)**. IN 2006, Damico rolled to a perfect 6-0 record at #2 and #3 singles, and was 20-1 overall, while Murray went 6-0 as part of the #1 doubles team, 17-8 overall.

In 22 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 six, including the past five 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.

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2007 NCAC Preseason Women's Tennis Poll

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

- 1. Denison (7).....56
- 2. Kenyon49
- 3. Ohio Wesleyan38
- 4. Oberlin34
- 5. Wittenberg.....26
- 6. Allegheny22
- 7. Wooster.....15
- 8. Earlham.....12