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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 Men's Tennis Special

For Immediate Release

**KENYON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
24TH NORTH COAST MEN'S TENNIS SEASON**

Feb. 26, 2008

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- 2007 North Coast champion Kenyon emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by eight of nine North Coast Athletic Conference men's tennis coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Lords, who last season finished with a 6-0 league record and 17-7 overall mark, earned all eight first-place votes cast and totalled 72 points. Denison was selected second (64). Wabash, last year's fifth-place team, was selected third with 52 points. Allegheny (46) was picked to finish fourth, followed by Wooster (44), Oberlin (34), Wittenberg (21), Ohio Wesleyan (18) and Earlham (9) in places five through nine.

Kenyon, under the direction of head coach **Scott Thielke**, returns every player but one from 2007. The Lords are led by last spring's NCAC Player of the Year, junior **Daniel Becker (Portland, OR/Sunset)** and Newcomer of the Year, sophomore **William Vandenberg (Milwaukee, WI/University School)**. Becker was first-team All-NCAC selection in 2007 and Vandenberg recieved second-team recognition. Thielke begins his 13th season at the head of the men's program at Kenyon and has compiled a 173-69 (.715) record entering the 2007-08 season.

In 23 years of North Coast men's tennis competition, three schools have claimed championships: Denison, Wooster and Kenyon. The Big Red have won or shared the most titles (12), followed by the Lords with 10, including the five of the past six. The Fighting Scots have claimed at least a share of four NCAC titles; they last won a championship in 1996. All three teams shared the crown in 1989; Wooster and Denison shared the first one, contested in 1985.

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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2008 NCAC Preseason Men's Tennis Poll

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

- 1. Kenyon (8).....72
- 2. Denison64
- 3. Wabash52
- 4. Allegheny46
- 5. Wooster.....44
- 6. Oberlin.....34
- 7. Wittenberg.....21
- 8. Ohio Wesleyan.....18
- 9. Earlham.....9