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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 Softball Special

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**ALLEGHENY VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
11TH NORTH COAST SOFTBALL SEASON**

CLEVELAND, OH -- 2007 NCAC Tournament champion Allegheny emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference softball coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Gators, who last spring finished the regular season with an 9-5 league record, a 19-19 overall mark and their third NCAC tournament crown, earned four of eight first-place votes from league coaches for 59 points. Wittenberg was voted second with 54 points and two first-place votes. Defending NCAC champion Denison was predicted to finish third with 49 points and the remaining two first-place votes. Hiram was in fourth, with 45 points. Kenyon (30), Ohio Wesleyan (24), Wooster (19) and Oberlin (8) round out places five through eight.

Last spring the Gators earned their 15th trip to the NCAA Tournament and third under the leadership of head coach **Sandra Sanford**, who is beginning her fifth season at Allegheny. She has accumulated an 82-74 (.526) record at the helm of the Gators. Heading the list of returnees is **Abby Bodenlos (Pittsburgh, PA/Shady Side Academy)**. Bodenlos is a three-time All-NCAC honoree, who led the conference in runs scored (19) and stolen bases (10) and was second in hits (23), triples (2), total bases (34) and on-base percentage (.528) in 2007.

Since the North Coast began sponsoring softball as a championship sport, four schools have claimed championships: Allegheny in 1998, '99, and '04, Denison in the years 2001-03 and 2006 and '07, Wittenberg in 2000 and Ohio Wesleyan in 2004 and '05. Denison also won the first two NCAC Softball Tournaments, which began in 2001 to help determine the league's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament. The Big Red also took the conference tournament title in 2006. Wittenberg claimed the Tourney title in 2003, followed by Allegheny in 2004, '05 and '07.

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.

- NCAC -

2008 NCAC Preseason Softball Poll

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

1. Allegheny (4)	59
2. Wittenberg (2)	54
3. Denison (2).....	49
4. Hiram.....	45
5. Kenyon	30
6. Ohio Wesleyan.....	24
7. Wooster.....	19
8. Oberlin.....	8