



DENNIS M. COLLINS
Executive Director

P.O. Box 16679
Cleveland, OH 44116
Phone (440) 871-8100
Fax (440) 871-4221
ncac@northcoast.org
www.northcoast.org

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE ★ DENISON UNIVERSITY ★ EARLHAM COLLEGE ★ HIRAM COLLEGE ★ KENYON COLLEGE ★ OBERLIN COLLEGE
★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

NCAC Volleyball Special

**For Immediate Release
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**WITTENBERG TOPS PRESEASON POLL AS NORTH COAST
PREPS FOR 24TH VOLLEYBALL SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference volleyball coaches conducted via e-mail ballot.

The Tigers, who claimed the NCAC title with a 16-0 record and earned their 12th conference tournament title last fall, earned all nine first-place votes from league coaches to total 81 points. Wittenberg topped second-place Hiram by an 11-point margin. The Terriers, who won the NCAC title in 2005, totaled 70 points. Denison (56) and Ohio Wesleyan (56) tied for third, followed by Allegheny (43) in fifth. Wooster (36) and Earlham (34) were tabbed seventh and eighth respectively, while Oberlin (16) and Kenyon (13) round out the poll in places eight and nine.

Wittenberg enters its fifth season under the direction of head coach **Paco Labrador**, who has a 132-23 record over his four seasons at the helm. Last season, the Tigers, winners of 12 North Coast titles overall, reached the national semifinals for the second consecutive season. Wittenberg returns every player but one from last season's 35-8 team. Among 19 returning letterwinners and six starters are senior outside hitter **Emily Bell (Fort Wayne, IN/Concordia Lutheran)** and junior outside hitter **Jackie Williams (Rocky River, OH/Magnificat)**, both returning first team All-NCAC players for the Tigers.

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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2007 NCAC Volleyball Poll

North Coast Athletic Conference 2007 preseason volleyball poll
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

- 1. Wittenberg (9)81
- 2. Hiram70
- 3. Denison50
- Ohio Wesleyan.....50
- 5. Allegheny43
- 6. Wooster.....36
- 7. Earlham.....34
- 8. Oberlin.....16
- 9. Kenyon13