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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 Women's Tennis Special

For Immediate Release
Feb. 26, 2008

**DENISON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN
24TH NORTH COAST WOMEN'S TENNIS SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- 2007 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 spring finished the season with a 6-0 league record and 19-4 overall mark, earned all seven first-place votes cast. Denison totaled 56 points, followed by Kenyon in second with 49 points. Oberlin, last season's fourth-place team, was predicted to improve to third with 42 points. Ohio Wesleyan (29) was picked fourth, followed by Wittenberg (27), Allegheny (25), Earlham (16) and Wooster (8) in places five through eight.

Denison is guided by head coach **Peter Burling**, last year's NCAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year, who has compiled a 132-41 (.763) record in his previous eight years at the helm of the Big Red program. The Big Red return the 2007 NCAC Player of the year, **Meghan Damico (Pittsburgh, PA/Fox Chapel)**, who ranked ninth in the country in last spring. Also returning is sophomore **Marta Drane (Wilmington, DE/Tower Hill)**, last year's North Coast Newcomer of the Year and a first-team All-NCAC choice.

In 23 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 seven, which include the past six 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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2008 NCAC Preseason Women's Tennis Poll

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

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|
| 1. | Denison (7)..... | 56 |
| 2. | Kenyon | 49 |
| 3. | Oberlin | 42 |
| 4. | Ohio Wesleyan | 29 |
| 5. | Wittenberg..... | 27 |
| 6. | Allegheny | 25 |
| 7. | Earlham | 16 |
| 8. | Wooster..... | 8 |