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NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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 Basketball Report

WOOSTER OFF TO A 2-0 START, THREE OTHERS BEGIN 1-0; NCAC ACTION RESUMES JANUARY 2

**For Immediate Release
December 15, 2008**

CLEVELAND -- All of the early North Coast games slated for December have been completed. Four teams share first place heading into the holidays, as all have won their opening league games. Wooster (2-0, 5-3) leads the way with a pair of early victories. The Fighting Scots are joined by Allegheny (1-0, 5-4), Earlham (1-0, 1-6) and Hiram (1-0, 5-2) atop the standings. Conference action resumes Friday, January 2.

North Coast Athletic Conference winter sports reports will resume on Sunday, January 4, and will continue on Sundays through the basketball season. Basketball standings and statistics will be updated each Monday and Thursday throughout the holidays at www.northcoast.org. Scores will be updated daily.

Notes: Junior **George Raftis (Pittsburgh, PA/Sewickley Academy)** led **ALLEGHENY** to a pair of non-conference victories last week. He recorded double-doubles in both contests. In the first, an 89-78 defeat of Thiel, he scored 21 points and grabbed 10 boards, then followed with a 20-point, 11-rebound effort in an 84-42 win over Penn State-New Kensington. For the week, Raftis finished with 42 points, 21 rebounds and four assists and shot 18 of 31 (58.1 percent) from the field ... Junior **Chris Luther (Dayton, OH/Oakwood)** scored 20 points to lead **DENISON** in a 62-59 defeat of Washington & Jefferson. Luther, who finished the week with 29 points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals, helped the Big Red snap a four-game losing skid. Denison lost to Wittenberg, 74-45, earlier in the week to fall to 0-2 in the North Coast ... **HIRAM** had a big week last week with a 66-56 defeat of Grove City, then an 80-77 upset of Wittenberg. The Terriers, who are 5-2 overall, 1-0 in the NCAC, were led by sophomore guard **Chris Roberts' (Cleveland, OH/Kennedy)** 36 points, seven assists and six rebounds in two games. Senior forward **Ian Pfouts (Green, OH/Green)** pulled down 15 rebounds, including seven offensive, during the week ... After starting the season 5-1, **KENYON** lost twice last week, 95-59 against Ohio Wesleyan and 88-53 to Mount Vernon Nazarene. In the two games combined, senior forward **Bryan Yelvington (Arlington Hts., IL/John Hersey)** scored 29 points, grabbed nine rebounds and had six steals ... **OBERLIN** lost twice in non-conference play, falling to Kalamazoo, 73-46, and Alma, 76-51. Freshman **Joe Dilworth (Yarmouth, ME/Yarmouth)** scored a career-high 17 against the Hornets, while senior **Jordan Beard (Oberlin, OH/Oberlin)** notched his fifth game of 20-plus points with 23 against the Scots ... Senior **Kyle Holliday (Van Wert, OH/Van Wert)** scored 22 points in **OHIO WESLEYAN'S** 95-59 defeat of Kenyon. He hit eight of 10 shots from the field, including five of seven from three-point range ... Junior guard **Chase Haltom (Quincy, IN/Cloverdale)** scored a career-high 31 points to lead **WABASH** past Calumet College of St. Joseph, 80-77, in the semifinals of the Little Giants' Pete Thorn Tournament. Haltom connected on a career-best eight three-point attempts. He added another 12 in a 74-62 loss in the championship game to Marian. He was named to the All-Tournament team for his 21.5 ppg scoring average, best among all players in the tourney. Little Giant sophomore **Wes Smith (Indianapolis, IN/Lawrence North)** averaged 16.5 points in the two games to also earn All-Tournament recognition. Smith posted a team-best 18 points in the loss to Marian ... Two **WITTENBERG** football players have successfully transitioned to the basketball team. **Josh McKee (New Carlisle, OH/Tecumseh)** compiled a career-best 13 points in a 74-45 victory over Denison. **Michael Cooper (Springfield, OH/South)** totaled 20 points in two games last week, which included an 80-77 loss to Hiram ... In its only action last week, **WOOSTER** defeated Albion, 74-66 in overtime. Freshman forward **Justin Hal-lowell (Worthington, OH/Thomas Worthington)** led all players with 17 points, including a banked-in three-pointer early in overtime that gave the Fighting Scots a 66-60 cushion. All but two of his points came off three-pointers as he shot 5 of 7 from long range, and added a season-best nine rebounds.

DARRETT AND RAFTIS NAMED NCAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

CLEVELAND -- Earlham's **Nikki Darrett (Evansville, IN/Bosse)** and Allegheny's **George Raftis (Pittsburgh, PA/Sewickley Academy)** have been named women's and men's basketball "Players of the Week" in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Darrett, a 5-6, freshman guard, totaled 22 points - all in the second half - in Earlham's 84-73 comeback win over St. Mary-of-the-Woods. The Quakers trailed, 37-30, at the half but an 11-2 run after intermission sent them on their way to victory. In addition to her 22 second-half points, Darrett pulled down nine of her team-high 10 rebounds after halftime, and contributed a team-best five assists and three steals. The win was the Quakers' first this season.

Raftis, a 6-5, junior forward/center, led Allegheny to a pair of non-conference victories with a combined 42 points and 21 rebounds. Raftis recorded double-doubles in both games, finishing with 21 points and 10 rebounds in an 89-78 defeat of Penn State Behrend, then added 20 points and 11 boards in an 84-42 defeat of Penn State-Kensington. Raftis shot 18 of 31 (58.1 percent) during the week.



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NCAC Women's Basketball Report

**For Immediate Release
December 15, 2008**

THREE TEAMS SHARE EARLY LEAD IN NCAC STANDINGS; NCAC GAMES RESUME JANUARY 2

CLEVELAND -- All of the early North Coast games slated for December have been completed. Three teams share first place heading into the holidays, as all have won their opening league games. Ohio Wesleyan (2-0, 4-3) leads the way with a pair of early victories. The Battlign Bishops are joined by Denison (1-0, 3-3) and Wooster, (1-0, 3-3) atop the standings. Conference action resumes January 2.

North Coast Athletic Conference winter sports reports will resume on Sunday, January 4, and will continue on Sundays through the basketball season. Basketball standings and statistics will be updated each Monday and Thursday throughout the holidays at www.northcoast.org. Scores will be updated daily.

Notes: **ALLEGHENY** split a pair of games against west Pennsylvania rivals last week. The Gators defeated Penn State-Behrend, 75-65, then lost to Grove City, 54-51. Senior **Stephanie Wolf (Pittsburgh, PA/North Allegheny)** totaled 19 points and 19 rebounds in the two contests, and added five assists, five blocks and two steals. Wolf posted a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds in the victory. Junior **Lauren Donahoe (Export, PA/Greensburg Central Catholic)** also had a double-double against Behrend with 19 points and 10 boards ... In its only action last week, **DENISON** lost to Bethany, 76-63. Senior post **Carolyn Simpson (Dublin, OH/Scioto)** became the ninth player in school history to score 1,000 points. Against the Bisons, she recorded 16 points and eight rebounds. Simpson is eight points from moving into eighth on the Big Red's all-time list. She is also third in school history with 609 career rebounds ... **EARLHAM** claimed its first victory of 2008-09 when the Quakers knocked off St. Mary of the Woods, 84-73. Freshman **Nikki Darrett (Evansville, IN/Bosse)** scored all 22 of her points in the second half to lead her team's comeback from a 37-30 halftime deficit. Darrett also grabbed 10 rebounds, nine in the second half, and finished with five assists and three steals. Senior **Tasha Merrill (Cedar Grive, IN/Franklin County)** poured in 23 points in the game and added nine rebounds and three steals ... **HIRAM** dropped its only contest last week, a 51-37 decision to Thiel. Sophomore forward **Caitlyn Ruese (Strongsville, OH/Strongsville)** grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the Terriers ... **KENYON** got into the win column with a big victory over local rival and previously unbeaten Mount Vernon Nazarene, 54-52. Sophomore **Taylor Lenci (Bridgeport, CT/Friafield Ludlowe)** posted game- and career-highs of 12 points and eight rebounds to lead the Ladies ... Ursuline outlasted **OBERLIN** through 10 lead changes and six ties to defeat the Yeowomen, 74-60. Senior **Alyssa Clark (Cleveland Hts., OH/Regina)** led the Oberlin offense with 21 points ... **WOOSTER** junior guard **Kym Wenz (North Ridgeville, OH/Avon Lake)** recorded her third career double-double in the Fighting Scots' 74-30 defeat of Pine Manor. She scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting and pulled down 10 rebounds, all in 23 minutes of playing time. She also had five steals and three assists.

SWIMMING & DIVING REPORT -- OHIO WESLEYAN SWEEPS WILMINGTON

North Coast swim squads have completed the first half of the regular season. The next action for most teams will be winter break trips. The only action last week in the pool was a dual meet between Ohio Wesleyan and Wilmington. The Battling Bishop men defeated the Quakers, 112-84. Junior **David Gatz (Delaware, OH/Hayes)** won two events and met a national qualifying standard. Gatz won the 50 freestyle with a time of 23.55, and touched first in the 100 breaststroke with an NCAA provisional qualifying time of 58.08 seconds. Junior **Kevin Fahey (Delaware, OH/Hayes)** won the 500 freestyle (5:09.70) and 1000 freestyle (10:31.27). Freshman **Jesse Sheldon (Mansfield, OH/Ontario)** took the 200 free (1:56.65) and 100 backstroke (57.47). The trio joined with junior **Nathaniel Cook (Delaware, OH/Hayes)** to win the 200 medley relay in 1:43.69.

On the women's side, OWU defeated Wilmington, 114-91. Five different Battling Bishops won events to pace the victors. Senior **Tarenne Ferenchak (Haddonfield, NJ/Haddonfield)** won the 1000 free (12:14.28), while freshman **Ali Russ (Shaker Hts., OH/Shaker Hts.)** was first in the 100 back (1:06.82) and second in the 200 free. Other individual event winners were freshman **Kirstin Mowry (Centerville, OH/Centerville)** in the 50 free (26.98), sophomore **Marisa Obuchowski (Baltimore, MD/Pikesville)** in the 100 butterfly (1:05.74), and senior **Katie Keleshian (Richmond Hts., OH/Regina)** in the 100 free (59.46).

2008-09 North Coast Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Standings (through games of Dec. 14 - All games)

STANDINGS	-----CONFERENCE-----				-----OVERALL-----			
	W-L	Pct	PF	PA	W-L	Pct	PF	PA
1. Ohio Wesleyan....	2-0	1.000	87.5	47.0	4-3	.571	79.9	67.0
Denison.....	1-0	1.000	58.0	54.0	3-3	.500	65.2	67.7
Wooster.....	1-0	1.000	74.0	57.0	3-3	.500	71.3	64.0
4. Allegheny.....	1-1	.500	56.5	57.5	5-4	.556	62.3	61.1
Hiram.....	1-1	.500	59.0	70.0	2-4	.333	56.5	66.8
Oberlin.....	1-1	.500	54.5	62.0	1-6	.143	49.3	73.1
7. Wittenberg.....	0-1	.000	54.0	58.0	4-3	.571	68.0	61.6
Kenyon.....	0-1	.000	47.0	51.0	1-6	.143	49.7	63.7
Earlham.....	0-2	.000	47.0	74.5	1-6	.143	57.0	77.4

Monday, December 8
Allegheny 75, PSU-Behrend 65

Wednesday, December 10
Grove City 54, Allegheny 51
Bethany 76, Denison 63

Thursday, December 11
Ursuline 74, Oberlin 60

Saturday, December 13
Earlham 84, St. Mary of the Woods 73
Kenyon 54, Mt. Vernon Nazarene, 52
Thiel 51, Hiram 37

Sunday, December 14
Wooster 74, Pine Manor 30

Upcoming Women's Basketball

Tuesday, December 16
Wooster at Worcester St., 12:00
Adrian at Earlham, 6:00
Bluffton at Hiram, 7:00

Thursday, December 18
Allegheny at Pitt-Greensburg, 7:00

Saturday, December 20
Anderson at Earlham, 1:00

Saturday, December 27
Denison at Surf & Slam Tournament

Sunday, December 28
Kenyon at Westfield St., 12:00

Monday, December 29
Kenyon at Amherst, 12:00
Wooster at Westminster, 6:00
Denison at Surf & Slam Tournament

Ohio Wesleyan Hoops for Hope Tournament, 6/8
Wittenberg Zimmerman Classic

Tuesday, December 30
Defiance at Earlham, 5:00
Mount Union at Hiram, 7:00
Denison at Surf & Slam Tournament
Ohio Wesleyan Hoops for Hope Tournament, 1/3
Wittenberg Zimmerman Classic

Friday, January 2
Earlham at Allegheny, 6:00
Wittenberg at Hiram, 6:00
Denison at Wooster, 7:30
Ohio Wesleyan at Kenyon, 7:30

Saturday, January 3
Earlham at Hiram, 1:00
Wittenberg at Allegheny, 3:00
Oberlin at Kenyon, 7:30

Wooster at O.Wesleyan, 7:30

Monday, January 5
Oberlin at Bryn Mawr, 7:00

Tuesday, January 6
Oberlin at Haverford, 5:00

Wednesday, January 7
Hiram at Case, 7:00
Kenyon at Wooster, 7:30
Wittenberg at Earlham, 7:30
O. Wesleyan at Denison, 8:00
PSU-Behrend at Allegheny, 8:00

2008-09 North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Standings (through games of Dec. 14 - All games)

STANDINGS	-----CONFERENCE-----				-----OVERALL-----			
	W-L	Pct	PF	PA	W-L	Pct	PF	PA
1. Wooster.....	2-0	1.000	93.0	59.5	5-3	.625	80.2	68.1
Hiram.....	1-0	1.000	80.0	77.0	5-2	.714	80.7	77.9
Allegheny.....	1-0	1.000	64.0	63.0	5-4	.556	68.3	69.4
Earlham.....	1-0	1.000	68.0	64.0	1-6	.143	59.9	74.1
5. Kenyon.....	1-1	.500	64.5	75.0	5-3	.625	66.8	67.5
Ohio Wesleyan....	1-1	.500	80.0	70.5	4-3	.571	75.0	72.3
7. Wabash.....	0-1	.000	55.0	70.0	3-4	.429	64.3	67.4
Wittenberg.....	0-1	.000	77.0	80.0	2-5	.286	65.4	71.9
Denison.....	0-1	.000	63.0	64.0	2-6	.250	66.5	75.2
Oberlin.....	0-2	.000	59.0	86.0	2-7	.222	60.6	72.2

Tuesday, December 9
Allegheny 98, Thiel 78

Wednesday, December 10
Kalamazoo 76, Oberlin 43
Wittenberg 74, Denison 45
Ohio Wesleyan 95, Kenyon 59
Hiram 66, Grove City 56

Thursday, December 11
Allegheny 84, Penn St.-Kensington 42

Friday, December 12
Alma 76, Oberlin 51
Wabash 80, Calumet-St. Joseph 77

Saturday, December 13
Marian 74, Wabash 62
Denison 62, Washington & Jefferson 59
Wittenberg 80, Hiram 77
Kenyon 88, Mt. Vernon Nazarene 53
Wooster 74, Albion 66 (ot)

Upcoming Men's Basketball

Tuesday, December 16
Rose-Hulman at Earlham, 8:00

Thursday, December 18
Bluffton at Hiram, 7:30
Franklin at Earlham, 7:30
Defiance at Ohio Wesleyan, 8:00

Friday, December 19
Wooster at Hawaii-Hilo, 7:30

Saturday, December 20
Kalamazoo at Kenyon, 2:00
Wabash at Rose-Hulman, 7:30

Monday, December 22
Kenyon at Capital, 7:00
Wittenberg at Otterbein, 7:30

Sunday, December 28
Hiram at Greensboro, 2:00

Monday, December 29
Hiram at Guilford, 7:00
Wooster Kiwanis/Mose Hole Tournament, 5:30/7:30
Ohio Wesleyan at Case Tournament, 6/8
Denison at Salem St. Tournament
Wittenberg Zimmerman Classic

Tuesday, December 30
Denison at Salem St. Tourney
Ohio Wesleyan at Case Tournament, 2/4
Wabash at Franklin, 7:30
Wittenberg Zimmerman Classic
Wooster Kiwanis/Mose Hole Tournament, 5:30/7:30

Friday, January 2
Earlham at Allegheny, 8:00
Wabash at Hiram, 8:00

Saturday, January 3
Wabash at Allegheny, 1:00
Earlham at Hiram, 3:00
Wittenberg at Oberlin, 3:00
Case at Kenyon, 3:00

Monday, January 5
Denison at Bethany, 7:00

Tuesday, January 6
Earlham at Anderson, 7:30

