



DENNIS M. COLLINS
Executive Director
 P. O. Box 16679
 Cleveland, Ohio 44116
 Phone (440) 871-8100
 Fax (440) 871-4221
 ncac@northcoast.org
 www.northcoast.org

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 Cross Country Special

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2008

ALLEGHENY MEN AND WOMEN SWEEP PRESEASON PICKS AS NORTH COAST READIES FOR RUNNING OF 25TH SEASON

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- For the sixth consecutive year, the Allegheny men were predicted to claim the NCAC championship after annual preseason balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference cross country coaches. The Gator women were picked to join their counterparts atop the podium as preseason favorites.

The Gator men, four-time defending champions, earned all 10 first-place votes cast for 100 points from the coaches to top second place Ohio Wesleyan. The Battling Bishops totalled 79 points, followed by Oberlin (74) and Denison (72) in third and fourth, respectively. Kenyon rounded out the predicted top five with 67 points. In total, the Allegheny men have claimed seven NCAC crowns: 1984, '97, 2002 and 2004-07. The Gator harriers return sophomore **Zac Ross (Meadville, PA/ Meadville)**, who finished fourth in his NCAC championship debut last fall.

The Gator women, looking to defend their 2007 NCAC team title, earned four of nine possible first-place votes from coaches to total 72 points. Kenyon received two first-place votes and 67 points, edging third-place Oberlin, which collected 66 points and two first-place votes. Ohio Wesleyan (65) finished fourth and earned the remaining first-place nod, while Denison (39) and Wittenberg (39) tied in fifth place. The Gator women claimed the 2007 league championship by a single point, however they outpace the rest of the conference with 11 total crowns. This fall, Allegheny returns sophomore **Rachel Hutchinson (Mohnton, PA/Governor Mifflin)**, who finished fifth at the NCAC championships last season.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference is celebrating 25 years of equity, broad-based athletic programs and excellence in academics over the 2008-09 academic year. Made up 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 Cross Country Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2008 preseason cross country polls
 (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

WOMEN	MEN
1. Allegheny (4).....72	1. Allegheny (10).....100
2. Kenyon (2).....67	2. Ohio Wesleyan.....79
3. Oberlin (2).....66	3. Oberlin.....74
4. Ohio Wesleyan (1)65	4. Denison.....72
5. Denison.....39	5. Kenyon.....67
Wittenberg.....39	6. Wabash.....58
7. Wooster.....29	7. Wooster.....35
8. Earlham.....19	8. Wittenberg.....31
9. Hiram.....9	9. Earlham.....24
	10. Hiram.....10