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NCAC Football Special

WABASH, WOOSTER PRESEASON FAVORITES AS NORTH COAST PREPS FOR 20TH FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN

For Immediate Release
August 7, 2003

DELAWARE, Ohio -- Defending NCAC champion Wabash, along with Wooster, emerged as the preseason favorites in balloting by coaches and media at the North Coast Athletic Conference's 20th annual Football Media Luncheon, held today at the Granville Inn in Granville, OH.

Wabash, which rolled to a perfect 10-0 regular season and earned its first trip to the NCAA playoffs in 25 years, earned eight of 25 first-place votes for 228 points to edge Wittenberg (223) and Wooster (220) in the media poll. The Tigers and Fighting Scots also each received eight first-place votes. Allegheny (157) and Ohio Wesleyan (154) were picked fourth and fifth, respectively. The Little Giants are 20-3-0 during the three years Head Coach **Chris Creighton** has been at the helm. Wabash returns 18 starters, including defensive lineman **Blair Hammer (Carmel, IN/Carmel)**, the only active member of the recently-released NCAC All-Decade team.

Wooster, last fall's third-place team, earned three of 10 first-place votes for 91 points to top Wabash (89) and Wittenberg (87) in the coaches poll. The Little Giants received four first-place nods, while the Tigers picked up three. Allegheny (69) and Ohio Wesleyan (59) were picked fourth and fifth, respectively.

Wooster is 18-12-0 during the four-year tenure of Head Coach **Mike Schmitz**. The Scots return 15 starters, including All-NCAC tailback **Tony Sutton (Akron, OH/Archbishop Hoban)**.

North Coast teams kick off the season on September 6; NCAC play begins October 4.

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2003 NCAC Football Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2003 preseason football polls (first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

COACHES	MEDIA
1. Wooster (3) 91	1. Wabash (8) 228
2. Wabash (4) 89	2. Wittenberg (8) 223
3. Wittenberg (3) 87	3. Wooster (8) 220
4. Allegheny 69	4. Allegheny 157
5. Ohio Wesleyan 59	5. Ohio Wesleyan (1) 154
6. Oberlin 49	6. Earlham 117
7. Earlham 38	7. Oberlin 108
8. Denison 37	8. Denison 87
9. Hiram 21	9. Hiram 56