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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 Basketball Special

**For Immediate Release
 Nov. 5, 2009**

**WOOSTER MEN, OHIO WESLEYAN WOMEN FAVORED
 AS NCAC PREPS FOR 26TH BASKETBALL CAMPAIGN**

CLEVELAND -- Wooster's men and Ohio Wesleyan's women were tabbed as the favorites in preseason voting by coaches of the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Five-time defending NCAC champion Wooster topped Ohio Wesleyan in the men's balloting by a 20-point margin after picking up nine of 10 possible first-place votes to total 99 points. The Battling Bishops were second with 79 points. North Coast tournament finalist Wabash was a point behind (78) in third, followed closely by Wittenberg (74) in fourth with the remaining first-place vote. Hiram totalled 65 points for the fifth spot in the poll, while Allegheny (50), Kenyon (42), Denison (31), Earlham (21) and Oberlin (11) rounded out places six through 10, respectively.

The Fighting Scots return nine letterwinners and four starters from a team that went 23-7 overall and won the NCAC Tournament. The Scots will look to junior guards **Ian Franks (Greenwich, OH/South Central)** and **Nathan Balch (Westerville, OH/Olentangy)** and sophomore forward **Justin Hallowell (Worthington, OH/Thomas Worthington)** for leadership. All three were All-NCAC performers a season ago, and Hallowell was the North Coast's Newcomer of the Year and conference tournament MVP.

Defending NCAC tournament champion Ohio Wesleyan took seven of nine first-place votes for 78 points in the women's coaches' poll to outdistance Kenyon by a 14-point margin. The coaches predicted the three-time NCAC champion Ladies (64) would finish second. Defending conference champion Denison received the remaining two first-place nods and was tabbed third with 61 points, followed by 11-time North Coast champs Wittenberg (57) in fourth, and 2009 tournament finalist Allegheny (48) in fifth. Wooster (39), Hiram (29), Earlham (15) and Oberlin (14) rounded out the women's poll in positions six through nine, respectively.

The Battling Bishops return 12 letterwinners and four starters from a team that won its fifth NCAC tourney crown after entering the event as the fourth seed. Ohio Wesleyan compiled an 17-12 overall record a year ago and bowed out in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. A trio of juniors, post **Kayla Gordon (St. Louis, MO/Mehlville)**, guard **Pam Quigney (Mentor, OH/Mentor)** and wing **Tyler Cordell (Columbus, OH/St. Francis DeSales)** are returning all-conference performers.

The 2009-10 season begins on Sunday, November 15. The NCAC Tournament will be held at the end of February, with the men's and women's semifinals and finals at the site of the respective high seeds on Feb. 26-27.

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2009-10 Men's Poll (Coaches)

1. Wooster (9).....	99
2. Ohio Wesleyan	79
3. Wabash	78
4. Wittenberg (1).....	74
5. Hiram	65
6. Allegheny.....	50
7. Kenyon	42
8. Denison	31
9. Earlham	21
10. Oberlin.....	11

2009-10 Women's Poll (Coaches)

1. Ohio Wesleyan (7).....	78
2. Kenyon	64
3. Denison (2).....	61
4. Wittenberg	57
5. Allegheny.....	48
6. Wooster	39
7. Hiram	29
8. Earlham	15
9. Oberlin.....	14