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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 Cross Country Special

For Immediate Release

**ALLEGHENY MEN, OBERLIN WOMEN TOP PRESEASON PICKS  
 AS NORTH COAST READIES FOR RUNNING OF 26TH SEASON**

August 24, 2009

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- For the seventh consecutive year, North Coast Athletic Conference coaches predicted that Allegheny would claim the NCAC men's cross country championship through annual preseason balloting. Oberlin was tabbed preseason favorites for the women's championship for the third time in the past four years.

The Gator men, five-time defending champions, earned all 10 first-place votes cast for 100 points from the coaches to top second-place Wabash. The Little Giants totalled 82 points, followed by Denison (71), Oberlin (70) and Kenyon (65) in third fourth and fifth, respectively. In total, the Allegheny men have claimed eight NCAC crowns: 1984, '97, 2002, and '04 through '08. The Gator harriers return last season's NCAC championship individual runner-up, junior **Zac Ross (Meadville, PA/ Meadville)**, as well as another first-team performer, senior **Tony Dipre (Twinsburg, OH/Walsh Jesuit)**, who was sixth at last fall's North Coast meet.

The Yeowomen were selected to finish first with 76 points. Oberlin received four first-place votes, to outdistance second-place Kenyon, which totalled 73 points and also collected four first-place votes. Wittenberg (64) was third and claimed the remaining first-place nod, while Ohio Wesleyan (57) and Allegheny (43) were predicted to finish fourth and fifth, respectively. The Yeowomen claimed the first conference women's cross country title in 1984 and claimed it again in 2006. The 2009 Oberlin squad is led by junior **Joanna Johnson (Chico, CA/Chico)**, a two-time defending individual NCAC Champion.

Founded in 1983, the NCAC 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.

-NCAC-

**2009 NCAC Cross Country Polls**

North Coast Athletic Conference 2009 preseason cross country polls  
*(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points)*

WOMEN	MEN
1. Oberlin (4).....76.0	1. Allegheny (10).....100.0
2. Kenyon (4).....73.0	2. Wabash .....82.0
3. Wittenberg (1) .....64.0	3. Denison .....71.0
4. Ohio Wesleyan.....57.0	4. Oberlin.....70.0
5. Allegheny .....43.0	5. Kenyon .....65.0
6. Denison .....37.5	6. Ohio Wesleyan.....60.0
7. Wooster.....27.5	7. Wittenberg.....39.0
8. Hiram.....17.0	8. Wooster .....33.0
9. Earlham.....10.0	9. Earlham.....19.0
	10. Hiram.....11.0