



NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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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 Men's Lacrosse Special

**For Immediate Release
Mar. 4, 2009**

DENISON VOTED PRESEASON FAVORITE IN 25TH NORTH COAST MEN'S LACROSSE SEASON

CLEVELAND -- Defending North Coast Athletic Conference champion Denison was tabbed the preseason favorite in balloting by NCAC men's lacrosse coaches in their annual poll.

The Big Red, who posted a 5-0 league mark and a 14-3 overall record last spring, earned four of six available first-place votes from league coaches to total 34 points. Ohio Wesleyan and Kenyon, who ended the 2008 season tied for second place, were predicted to finish this spring in second and third place, respectively. The Battling Bishops picked up the remaining two first-place votes on the way to 29 points, while the Lords accumulated 25. Wittenberg (16) and Wooster (16) were voted to a fourth-place tie, followed by Oberlin (6) in sixth.

The Denison offense returns five of their top-six scorers from a season ago, including seniors **Nate Hall (Columbus, OH/Upper Arlington)** on the attack and **Dan Maude (Wayne, PA/The Haverford School)** in the midfield, as well as junior attack **Brady Burton (Dublin, OH/Jerome)**. Hall is a four-year starter, who has dished out 48 assists since 2006. Maude and Burton are two-time All-NCAC first team honorees. Burton scored the 100th goal of his career in the Big Red's 22-1 season-opening victory over Trine on Feb. 28. Denison also sees the return of head coach **Mike Caravanna**, who posted a record of 145-65 (.690) and led the Big Red to five NCAC championships and eight NCAA Tournament berths which included a pair of national semifinal appearances, during his previous tenure in Granville, from 1991-2005.

Ohio Wesleyan leads all North Coast teams with 15 championships in 24 years. Denison follows with 10. Wooster and Kenyon each can boast one championship. The NCAC has twice had tri-champs in men's lacrosse, first in 2000 when the Big Red, Bishops and Lords shared the title, and next in 2004, when Denison, OWU and Wooster each had a piece of the crown.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference 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.

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2009 NCAC Preseason Men's Lacrosse Poll

First-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Denison (4)..... | 34 |
| 2. Ohio Wesleyan (2)..... | 29 |
| 3. Kenyon | 25 |
| 4. Wittenberg | 16 |
| Wooster | 16 |
| 6. Oberlin | 6 |