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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 Volleyball Special

For Immediate Release  
**August 23, 2006**

**WITTENBERG TOPS PRESEASON POLL AS NORTH COAST  
PREPS FOR 23RD VOLLEYBALL SEASON**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- Wittenberg University emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference volleyball coaches conducted via e-mail ballot.

The Tigers, who finished second in the NCAC with a 8-1 record and earned their 11th conference tournament title last fall, earned five of nine first-place votes from league coaches to total 77 points. Wittenberg topped second-place Hiram, the defending league champion, by a miniscule one-point margin. The Terriers, who claimed their first NCAC championship with a perfect 8-0 record last fall, earned the remaining four first-place nods from the coaches to tally 76 points. Denison (60) finished third, followed by Wooster (55), coming off its most successful season in more than 20 years, in fourth. Allegheny (45) and Ohio Wesleyan (36) were tabbed fifth and sixth respectively, while Earlham (27), Oberlin (17) and Kenyon (12) round out the poll in places seven through nine.

Wittenberg enters its fourth season under the direction of head coach **Paco Labrador**, who has a 97-15 record over his three seasons at the helm. Last season, the Tigers, winners of 11 North Coast titles overall, ranked in the top five nationally throughout the fall and won the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Tournament before eventually falling to defending national champion Juniata, 3-2, in the national semifinals. Wittenberg returns 10 letterwinners and five starters from last season's 34-5 team.

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-

**2006 NCAC Volleyball Poll**

North Coast Athletic Conference 2006 preseason volleyball poll  
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

- 1. Wittenberg (5) ..... 77
- 2. Hiram (4) ..... 76
- 3. Denison ..... 60
- 4. Wooster ..... 55
- 5. Allegheny ..... 45
- 6. Ohio Wesleyan ..... 36
- 7. Earlham ..... 27
- 8. Oberlin ..... 17
- 9. Kenyon ..... 12