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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  
February 19, 2008**

**DENISON, OHIO WESLEYAN TABBED PRESEASON FAVORITES IN  
24TH NORTH COAST MEN'S LACROSSE SEASON**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** -- Defending North Coast Athletic Conference champion Ohio Wesleyan and runner-up Denison emerged as the preseason co-favorites in balloting by NCAC men's lacrosse coaches in their annual preseason poll.

The Battling Bishops, who posted a 5-0 league mark and a 12-4 overall record last spring, earned three of six available first-place votes from league coaches to total 33 points. Denison, last year's runner up, earned the other three first-place votes and also totaled 33 points. Wooster (22), the fourth place squad in '07, was picked to finish third this year followed by Kenyon (19) in fourth and Wittenberg (12) and Oberlin (7) in spots five and six, respectively.

Ohio Wesleyan is led by seniors **Chris Eccles (Secane, PA/Monsignor Bonner)** and **Steve Fowler (Wilton, CT/Wilton)**. Eccles, a two-time All-America and NCAC Player of the Year selection, heads up the traditionally strong OWU midfield and has the potential to become the second player ever to earn a third conference Player of the Year award. The Battling Bishops are under the tutelage of ninth-year head coach **Sean Ryan**. He has guided OWU to six North Coast titles and an 81-36 (.692) record.

Denison returns sophomore attack **Brady Burton (Dublin, OH/Jerome)**, the North Coast Athletic Conference's Newcomer of the Year in 2007. Burton set a Denison single-season freshman record with 74 goals and led the conference in goals scored. The Big Red is guided by third-year head coach **Matt McGinnis**. He has posted a 21-10 (.677) mark and led DU to a pair of NCAA tournament appearances and the 2006 North Coast title.

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.

**-NCAC-**

**2008 NCAC Preseason Men's Lacrosse Poll**

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

- 1. Denison (3).....33
- Ohio Wesleyan (3) .....33
- 3. Wooster .....22
- 4. Kenyon .....19
- 5. Wittenberg .....12
- 6. Oberlin.....7