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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
August 22, 2007**

**ALLEGHENY MEN, OBERLIN WOMEN TOP PRESEASON PICKS
AS NORTH COAST READIES FOR RUNNING OF 24TH SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- For the fifth consecutive year, the Allegheny men were predicted to claim the NCAC championship after annual preseason balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference cross country coaches. The Oberlin women were picked as preseason favorites for the second straight year.

The Gator men, three-time defending champions, earned all 10 first-place votes cast for 100 points from the coaches to top Denison for the fourth straight season. The Big Red totalled 84 points, followed by Ohio Wesleyan (81), and Wabash (65) in third and fourth, respectively. In total, the Allegheny men have claimed six NCAC crowns: 1984, '97, 2002, '04, '05 and '06. The Gator harriers return last season's NCAC championship individual runner-up, senior **Ryan Place (Meshoppen, PA/Elk Lake)**, as well as another first-team performer, senior **Chris Corkins (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads)**, who was sixth at last fall's North Coast meet.

The defending champion Yeowomen were selected to finish first with 75 points. Oberlin received seven first-place votes, to outdistance second-place Ohio Wesleyan, which collected 70 points and the remaining two first-place votes. Allegheny (61) was third, while Denison (54) and Kenyon (54) tied in fourth place. The Yeowomen claimed the conference women's cross country title in 1984; the championship was the first conducted by the then recently-formed NCAC, giving the Oberlin women an untouchable milestone. Oberlin, which claimed its second North Coast crown in 2006, is led by senior **Marie Barnett (Acton, MA/Acton-Boxboro)** and junior **Maddy Davis-Hayes (Philadelphia, PA/Germantown Friends)**, both All-NCAC performers a season ago.

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.

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2007 NCAC Cross Country Polls

North Coast Athletic Conference 2007 preseason cross country polls
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points):

WOMEN	MEN
1. Oberlin (7)75	1. Allegheny (10)100
2. Ohio Wesleyan (2)70	2. Denison84
3. Allegheny61	3. Ohio Wesleyan81
4. Denison54	4. Wabash65
Kenyon54	5. Oberlin64
6. Wooster33	6. Kenyon55
7. Earlham25	7. Earlham31
8. Wittenberg24	Wooster31
9. Hiram9	9. Wittenberg29
	10. Hiram10