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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 Football Special

**For Immediate Release
August 5, 2009**

NCAC COACHES CHOOSE WABASH AS PRESEASON FAVORITE

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Wabash College emerged as the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference coaches for the NCAC's 26th annual poll.

The Little Giants, who compiled a 9-1 overall regular season record and claimed its fourth straight conference crown, earned six of ten first-place votes from the coaches to total 93 points. Close behind in the balloting is Wooster (91), last year's runner-up. The Fighting Scots claimed three first-place votes and last claimed the NCAC title in 2004. The remaining first place nod went to Wittenberg (84), last a conference co-champion in 2006. Allegheny wound up fourth in the balloting with 69 points, while Denison (56) was fifth and Ohio Wesleyan (46) was sixth. Hiram and Oberlin tied for seventh with 30 points each. Earlham (28) and Kenyon (23) round out places nine and ten, respectively.

Wabash is entering its second season under the leadership of head coach **Erik Raeburn**. The Little Giants, who have won 28 of their past 29 conference games, are led by returning NCAC Offensive Player of the year **Matt Hudson (Salem, IN/Salem)**. A senior quarterback, Hudson led the league in passing yardage (261.2 yards per game), passing touchdowns (29) and pass efficiency (158.8) as a junior.

The 2009 season opens on Saturday, September 5. NCAC play begins Saturday, Sept. 12.

-- NCAC --

2009 NCAC Preseason Coaches' Poll

North Coast Athletic Conference 2009 preseason football coaches' poll
(first-place votes in parentheses, followed by total points)

- 1. Wabash (6).....93
- 2. Wooster (3)91
- 3. Wittenberg (1)84
- 4. Allegheny69
- 5. Denison56
- 6. Ohio Wesleyan.....46
- 7. Hiram30
- Oberlin30
- 9. Earlham.....28
- 10. Kenyon.....23