



P. O. Box 16679  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44116  
 Phone (440) 871-8100  
 Fax (440) 871-4221  
 ncac@northcoast.org  
 www.northcoast.org

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 27, 2009**

**WITTENBERG TOPS PRESEASON POLL AS NORTH COAST  
 READIES FOR 26TH VOLLEYBALL SEASON**

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

The Tigers, who won the NCAC title with a 16-0 record and earned their 14th conference tournament title last fall, earned all nine first-place votes from league coaches to total 81 points. Wittenberg topped second-place Hiram by a 10-point margin. The Terriers, who won the NCAC title in 2005, totaled 71 points. Allegheny (56) and Wooster (56) tied for third in the balloting, followed by Oberlin (41) in fifth. Ohio Wesleyan (37) and Denison (33) were tabbed sixth and seventh respectively, while Earlham (16) and Kenyon (14) round out the poll in places eight and nine.

Wittenberg enters its seventh season under the direction of head coach **Paco Labrador**, who has a 203-27 record over his six seasons at the helm. The Tigers return 15 letterwinners and three starters from last year's team that did not lose a set during the conference regular season and through the NCAC tournament. Seniors, setter **Erin Slattery, (Chagrin Falls, OH/Kenston)**, middle hitter **Kate Snead (Westerville, OH/South)**, and outside hitter **Leslie Clark (Marion, OH/Harding)**, lead Wittenberg into the 2009 campaign. Snead was second in the NCAC last fall with a .372 hitting percentage. Slattery was fifth in the league after averaging 7.11 assists per game over 102 games. Clark was third on the Tigers with 3.02 digs per game over 81 games.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference is made up 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-**

**2009 NCAC Volleyball Poll**

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

1. Wittenberg (9) .....	81
2. Hiram .....	71
3. Allegheny .....	56
Wooster.....	56
5. Oberlin.....	41
6. Ohio Wesleyan.....	37
7. Denison.....	33
8. Earlham.....	16
9. Kenyon.....	14