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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 Women's Soccer Special

**For Immediate Release
 August 25, 2009**

**DENISON PREDICTED TO FINISH FIRST AS NCAC
 PREPARES FOR 26TH WOMEN'S SOCCER SEASON**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Denison University was tabbed the preseason favorite in balloting by North Coast Athletic Conference women's soccer coaches conducted via email.

The Big Red, the defending NCAC regular season champions, earned seven of nine first-place votes from league coaches to compile 79 points, edging defending NCAC tournament champion Wittenberg (70). The Tigers claimed one first-place vote. Ohio Wesleyan was voted third with 58 points and the remaining first-place vote. Wooster (51) and Allegheny (48) were fourth and fifth, respectively, while Kenyon (37), Earlham (33), Hiram (18) and Oberlin (11) rounded out places six through nine.

Denison is 177-52-16 (.755) during the 12-year tenure of head coach **Gail Murphy**. The Big Red return 20 letterwinners and nine starters from last year's 15-5-1 squad that won the NCAC title and earned an NCAA tournament bid. Denison will be led by junior All-NCAC forward **Kim Oshita (Cincinnati, OH/Sycamore)**, and senior All-NCAC midfielder **Anna Rusch (Washington, DC/Sidwell Friends)**. The pair finished last fall as the third- and fourth-leading scorers in the NCAC. Oshita was third in the conference in points with 1.29 per game and also third in goals with 13 over 21 games (0.62 gpg). Rusch followed in fourth in both categories with 1.28 points per game and 11 goals over 18 games (0.61).

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 Women's Soccer Poll

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

1. Denison (7).....	79
2. Wittenberg (1)	70
3. Ohio Wesleyan (1)	58
4. Wooster.....	51
5. Allegheny	48
6. Kenyon.....	37
7. Earlham.....	33
8. Hiram.....	18
9. Oberlin.....	11