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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 Softball Special***

**For Immediate Release  
May 6, 2009**

**ALL-NCAC SOFTBALL SQUAD ANNOUNCED;  
DROPSEY TOP PLAYER; HATCHER NAMED TOP PITCHER**

**CLEVELAND** -- Hiram junior centerfielder/pitcher **Whitney Dropsey (Ashland, OH/Hillsdale)** was named Player of the Year and Wittenberg senior right-hander **Rachael Hatcher (West Carrollton, OH/West Carrollton)** took Pitcher of the Year honors to highlight the 2009 All-North Coast Athletic Conference softball selections.

Dropsey makes her second consecutive appearance as a member of the first team. She spent nearly equal amounts of playing time as a centerfielder and a starting pitcher for the NCAC tournament champion Terriers. She batted .375 in conference games with seven RBI, and had not struck out in her three-year career, a streak of over 354 at-bats overall, before she finally ended the streak during the third game of the NCAC tourney. On the mound, Dropsey led the league in conference wins with a 7-2 record (17-8 overall) and posted a 2.35 earned-run average on the mound in 2009.

Hatcher makes her fourth appearance on the All-NCAC team and first as a member of the first team. She posted a record of 6-3 on the mound with a league-best 1.46 earned-run average in conference games, while striking out 42 batters. Overall, she posted a sparkling 0.98 ERA and rang up a 13-6 mark. Hatcher moves up to the top squad after earning honorable mention in 2008, and second-team recognition in 2006 and 2007.

Ohio Wesleyan sophomore **Tara VanVranken (North Canton, OH/Massillon Jackson)** joins Dropsey as a repeat first-team selection. Denison juniors **Brie Berkopec (Mars, PA/Senior)** and **Alex Murray (Mayfield Hts., OH/NDCL)**, Allegheny junior **Maggie Bodenlos (Pittsburgh, PA/Shady Side Academy)** and Kenyon junior **Ellen Wikowski (Banks, OR/St. Mary's Academy)** move up to the first team after earning second-team recognition in 2008.

The remainder of the first team makes their debut on the All-North Coast Athletic Conference squad: Allegheny freshman **Bessie Artino (Bellevue, OH/Bellevue)**, Kenyon senior **Kelly Adams (Lexington, MA/Lexington)**, Denison senior **Mary Beth Krolikowski (Brunswick, OH/Holy Name)** and junior **Sam Rumschlag (Carmel, IN/Cathedral)**, Ohio Wesleyan freshman **Ashley Allen (Richwood, OH/North Union)** and Hiram senior **Heidi Gipson (Canal Fulton, OH/Northwest)** appear on the All-NCAC team for the first time as first-team selections.

**Artino** earns Newcomer of the Year honors. She led Allegheny with a .458 batting average with four home runs and 15 RBI in North Coast games. In 132 chances as the team's starting first baseman, she made just one error.

Denison's **Tiffany Ozburn** earns Coach of the Year recognition for the first time after she led the Big Red to its sixth NCAC title. She has a 49-30 (.620) record in two years at Denison.

**-NCAC-**

## 2009 ALL-NCAC -- SOFTBALL

**CLEVELAND** -- The following performers have earned All-NCAC honors for the 2009 season through balloting by the North Coast Athletic Conference softball coaches.

### FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	School	Yr.	HR	RBI	AVE	Hometown/High School
C	Brie Berkopec ⌘	Denison	Jr.	4	17	.375	Mars, PA/Mars Senior
IF	Bessie Artino	Allegheny	Fr.	4	15	.458	Bellevue, OH/Bellevue
IF	Alex Murray ⌘	Denison	Jr.	2	12	.412	Mayfield Hts., OH/NDCL
IF	Maggie Bodenlos ⌘	Allegheny	Jr.	4	10	.440	Pittsburgh, PA/Shady Side Academy
IF	Kelly Adams	Kenyon	Sr.	1	5	.426	Lexington, MA/Lexington
OF	Ellen Wikowski @⌘	Kenyon	Jr.	1	13	.591	Banks, OR/St. Mary's Academy
OF	Tara VanVranken +	Ohio Wesleyan	So.	1	10	.462	North Canton, OH/Massillon Jackson
OF	Mary Beth Krolikowski	Denison	Sr.	1	9	.396	Brunswick, OH/Holy Name
UT	Sam Rumschlag	Denison	Jr.	0	6	.354	Carmel, IN/Cathedral
DP	Ashley Allen	Ohio Wesleyan	Fr.	1	8	.409	Richwood, OH/North Union
DP	Heidi Gipson	Hiram	Sr.	2	11	.385	Canal Fulton, OH/Northwest
				<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>ERA</b>	
P	Rachael Hatcher \$@❖	Wittenberg	Sr.	6	3	1.46	West Carrollton, OH/West Carrollton
P	Whitney Dropsey +	Hiram	Jr.	7	2	2.35	Ashland, OH/Hillsdale

**Player of the Year:** Whitney Dropsey, Hiram

**Pitcher of the Year:** Rachael Hatcher, Wittenberg

**Newcomer of the Year:** Bessie Artino, Allegheny

**Coach of the Year:** Tiffany Ozbun, Denison

### SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	School	Yr.	HR	RBI	AVE	Hometown/High School
C	Marci Potuzko +	Allegheny	So.	2	11	.304	Greensburg, PA/Hempfield Area
IF	Chastine Romanello%@+	Hiram	Sr.	3	18	.300	Phoenix, AZ/Barry Goldwater
IF	Rachel Ryan *#+	Allegheny	Sr.	1	9	.366	West Salem, OH/Northwestern
IF	Stephanie Zunic ♦⌘	Hiram	Sr.	0	8	.396	Canfield, OH/Canfield
IF	Lauren Lynn	Denison	Fr.	0	7	.452	Cincinnati, OH/Sycamore
OF	Megan Samuel @⌘	Hiram	Sr.	0	3	.383	Olmsted Falls, OH/Olmsted Falls
OF	Amanda Sanders	Ohio Wesleyan	Jr.	2	13	.318	Lima, OH/Bath
OF	Jessi Allen	Wittenberg	So.	0	5	.286	Naperville, IL/Neuqua Valley
UT	Brittany Vanegas ❖	Kenyon	So.	4	19	.489	Alameda, CA/Redwood Christian
				<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>ERA</b>	
P	Rachel Seibel +	Ohio Wesleyan	Jr.	5	5	3.03	Johnstown, OH/Johnstown-Monroe

*Note: Based upon NCAC stats*

Key: + 1st team 2008; ⌘ 2nd team 2008; ❖ honorable mention 2008;  
 # 1st team 2007; @ 2nd team 2007; ♦ honorable mention 2007;  
 \* 1st team 2006; \$ 2nd team 2006; % honorable mention 2006

## HONORABLE MENTION

Pos	Name	School	Yr.	HR	RBI	AVE	Hometown/High School
C	Sara Gaines	Oberlin	Fr.	1	5	.361	Lexington, KY/Dunbar
IF	Rosie Frank	Hiram	Sr.	0	9	.380	Strongsville, OH/Holy Name
IF	Katie Wills	Allegheny	Jr.	0	6	.432	McKees Rocks, PA/Montour
IF	Caitlin Gaffney	Wooster	So.	0	2	.359	Tallmadge, OH/Archbishop Hoban
IF	Kristine Kuchta	Oberlin	Fr.	0	2	.349	Brookfield, IL/Lyons Twp.
OF	Kim Skully \$♦⌘	Wooster	Sr.	0	2	.239	Brooklyn Hts., OH/Cuyahoga Hts.
UT	Brooke Boswell	Wittenberg	Jr.	1	6	.310	Hamilton, OH/Fairfield
				W	L	ERA	
P	Jenny Dillon	Kenyon	Jr.	3	1	2.05	Norman, OK/North

*Note: Based upon NCAC stats*

Key: + 1st team 2008; ⌘ 2nd team 2008; ♦ honorable mention 2008;  
 # 1st team 2007; @ 2nd team 2007; ◆ honorable mention 2007;  
 \* 1st team 2006; \$ 2nd team 2006; % honorable mention 2006