

THE OHIO ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Commissioner: Timothy W. Gleason **Information Dir.:** Lindsay Rickel **Supervisor of Officials:** Larry Glass **Admin. Ass't.:** Cindy Van Stavern

The 2005-06 year proved, once again, why the OAC is one of the most prestigious Division III conferences in the country. The Conference had 14 schools finish in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) "Sweet 16", including a pair of National Champions and a third place finisher. The Mount Union football team won its NCAA record eighth national title, while Marietta baseball took home its fourth national championship. Muskingum's softball team finished third in the country, its highest finish since the 2001 season when it captured the NCAA title. Capital football, Mount Union men's indoor track & field, Heidelberg wrestling, Otterbein men's golf and Baldwin-Wallace's women's basketball teams finished in the NCAA "Elite Eight" in their respective sports. Teams finishing in the NCAA "Sweet 16" included Heidelberg men's indoor track & field; John Carroll women's outdoor track & field; Mount Union men's outdoor track & field; and Otterbein baseball, women's soccer and men's indoor track & field.

Individually, the Conference was represented by 71 All-Americans, including national champions in men's and women's track and field and wrestling. A total of 52 men and 19 women were named All-Americans throughout the 2005-06 year. Academically, the OAC boasted numerous CoSIDA ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans, along with a bevy of regional and national honors for our coaches. Heidelberg led the way with a pair of national champions during the winter season - Joe Pflug at the 157 pound weight class at the NCAA Wrestling Championships and Greg Tyson in the long jump at the 2006 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. At the 2006 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Mount Union's men's relay team of John Biacofsky, James Cunningham, Pierre Garcon and Nic Saluppo took home the 4x100 relay title and Wilmington's Ashley C. Johnson won the 2006 pole vault title.

The Ohio Athletic Conference, the third oldest conference in college athletics, is predated only by the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (1888) and the Big Ten (1895). The Conference is older than the World Series and even the NCAA itself and has survived two world wars, the Great Depression, the Korean War and the Vietnam Conflict. From a modest beginning of six charter members in 1902, the OAC grew to as many as 24 members in the mid-1920s.

Through the years a total of 31 colleges and universities at one time or another have been members of the OAC. Currently the Conference consists of 10 members, including Baldwin-Wallace College, Capital University, Heidelberg College, John Carroll University, Marietta College, Mount Union College, Muskingum College, Ohio Northern University, Otterbein College and Wilmington College. Wilmington became the 31st OAC member school, on July 1, 2000.

In the OAC's first year of existence, 1902, the first Conference champion was crowned - Case Tech won the football title with a 5-0-0 record. Outdoor track was added a year later and a third sport, cross country, became a Conference sport in 1914. More sports were steadily added to the OAC's repertoire throughout the years, culminating in the addition of women's sports in 1984. The Conference currently sponsors championships in 21 sports, 11 men's and 10 women's.

The enrollments at the 10 OAC institutions range from 1,200 to 4,500. All of the schools were founded in the 19th century and have long and outstanding academic reputations.

While maintaining these high academic standards, Ohio Athletic Conference athletic teams and athletes have consistently enjoyed a great deal of success on a regional and national level. The athletic competition is viewed not as an end in itself, but as an extension of the educational programs.

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2006 OAC FOOTBALL COMPOSITE SCHEDULE

TEAMS	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11
DEFIANCE	Otterbein	at Adrian	TRI-STATE	Open	at Manchester	at Rose-Hulman	ANDERSON	at Hanover	MT. ST. JOSEPH	FRANKLIN	at Bluffton
MOUNT UNION	at Averett	Open	at Otterbein	at Muskingum	HEIDELBERG	OHIO NORTHERN	at Wilmington	BALDWIN-WALLACE	CAPITAL	JOHN CARROLL	at Marietta
MARIETTA	at Emory & Henry	Open	BALDWIN-WALLACE	at Otterbein	at Capital	MUSKINGUM	JOHN CARROLL	at Ohio Northern	HEIDELBERG	at Wilmington	MOUNT UNION
OHIO NORTHERN	Open	at Millikin	MUSKINGUM	at John Carroll	OTTERBEIN	at Mount Union	CAPITAL	MARIETTA	at Baldwin-Wallace	at Heidelberg	WILMINGTON
WILMINGTON	at Mount St. Joseph	Open	at Capital	BALDWIN-WALLACE	MUSKINGUM	at Otterbein	MOUNT UNION	at Heidelberg	at John Carroll	MARIETTA	at Ohio Northern
HEIDELBERG	Open	at Oberlin	at John Carroll	CAPITAL	at Mount Union	at Baldwin-Wallace	OTTERBEIN	WILMINGTON	at Marietta	OHIO NORTHERN	at Muskingum
CAPITAL	WITTENBERG	Open	WILMINGTON	at Heidelberg	MARIETTA	at John Carroll	at Ohio Northern	OTTERBEIN	at Mount Union	MUSKINGUM	at Baldwin-Wallace
MUSKINGUM	BETHANY	Open	at Ohio Northern	MOUNT UNION	at Wilmington	at Marietta	BALDWIN-WALLACE	JOHN CARROLL	at Otterbein	at Capital	HEIDELBERG
BALDWIN-WALLACE	Open	at Augustana	at Marietta	at Wilmington	JOHN CARROLL	HEIDELBERG	at Muskingum	MOUNT UNION	OHIO NORTHERN	at Otterbein	CAPITAL
JOHN CARROLL	at Wooster	Open	HEIDELBERG	OHIO NORTHERN	at Baldwin-Wallace	CAPITAL	at Marietta	at Muskingum	WILMINGTON	at Mount Union	OTTERBEIN