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Timothy W. Gleason, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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## 2007 Ohio Athletic Conference Cross Country Awards Announced

**Austintown, OH** – The Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) cross country coaches selected the men's and women's Runners-of-the-Year and the men's and women's Coaching Staff-of-the-Year. The OAC Cross Country Coaches began recognizing the Staff-of-the-Year in 2005. Prior to 2005, the coaches recognized an OAC Coach-of-the-Year.

Otterbein sophomore **Nicole Reese (Columbus/Centennial)** and Baldwin-Wallace senior **Lindsay Brickner (Lisbon/David Anderson)** were named the 2007 OAC women's Co-Cross Country Runner-of-the-Year and Ohio Northern junior **Jimmy O'Brien (Pemberville/Eastwood)** was selected as the men's Runner-of-the-Year. Earning OAC Coaching Staff-of-the-Year honors for the women was Baldwin-Wallace Head Coach **Bill Taraschke** and Assistant Coach **Steve Virgilio**. Ohio Northern Head Coach **Brian Cole** and Assistant Coaches **Jason Maus** and **Jake Gleason** were chosen as the men's Coaching Staff-of-the-year.



Reese capped her sophomore season with an individual second place finish at the OAC Championship meet with a time of 22:22.83. She earned her first NCAA appearance after finishing 11th (22:07.90) at the Great Lakes Regional. At the NCAA meet, Reese finished 195<sup>th</sup> (23:34). Reese earned both All-OAC and All-Region accolades.

Brickner concluded her senior year with an individual first place finish at the OAC Championship meet with a time of 23:19. She then went on to place 24<sup>th</sup> (22:34.85) at the Great Lakes Regional to earn both All-OAC and All-Region honors.



O'Brien, Ohio's Division III Runner-of-the-Year, ended his junior year with an individual first place finish at the OAC Championship meet with a mark of 25:53.29. He placed fifth (25:04.95) overall at the Great Lakes Regional, while the team placed second to qualify for the NCAA Championship. At Nationals, O'Brien placed 34<sup>th</sup> (25:10). O'Brien earned All-OAC, All-Region and All-American honors.

Baldwin-Wallace coaching duo of Taraschke and Virgilio led the Yellow Jacket women to their 15<sup>th</sup> overall OAC Championship title and placed four in the top-10. Leading the way was senior Lindsay Brickner, junior Ashley Scullion, sophomore D'Arcy Hlavin and freshman Karen Coyne. The Yellow Jackets went on to place sixth the Great Lakes Regional. This is the first time B-W has earned OAC Women's Coaching Staff-of-the-Year honors. Taraschke has earned Women's Coach-of-the-Year eight times.

Ohio Northern's coaching staff of Cole and Maus and Gleason led the Polar Bear men to their first OAC Championship title, with three individuals finishing in the top-10. Leading the way were juniors Jimmy O'Brien, Eric Porter and Paul Lewis. These three also led ONU to a second place finish at the Great Lakes Regional, to qualify for the NCAA championship meet. This is ONU's first OAC Men's Coaching Staff-of-the-Year honor. Cole earned Women's Coach-of-the-Year in 1998 and ONU won Women's Coaching Staff-of-the-Year honors in 2005 and 2006.

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### Ohio Northern-2007 OAC Men's Coaching Staff-of-the-Year

Brian Cole Jason Maus Jake Gleason



### Baldwin-Wallace-2007 OAC Women's Coaching-Staff-of-the-Year

Bill Taraschke Steve Virgilio

