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For Immediate Release

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April 3, 2007

Ohio Northern's Conkey Named April OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month

By ONU Sports Information Department

Austintown, OH- When senior Josh Conkey arrived at Ohio Northern as a freshman, he wanted to be a pharmacist and play a little baseball.

Worried about the difficult academic responsibility of being in the College of Pharmacy, he was only in the lineup as a pitcher so he could concentrate more on his studies. Turns out he could be both a student and an athlete at a very high level.



Conkey, a McDonald, Ohio, native, has excelled both on and off the field, earning All-Conference and Academic All-Conference accolades last season while leading the team at the plate, on the mound, in the dugout and in the classroom.

He is an outstanding student, and is one of the top pharmacy majors on campus while serving as team captain.

He hit a team-high .346 as a sophomore in 2005 and a team-best .376 as a junior a year ago. He was also tops in home runs each of the past two seasons.

On the mound, he was the staff ace last season and led the team with seven complete games.

"I came in only expecting to pitch with the demands of pharmacy," Conkey said. "My freshman year I only pitched, and it made me want to hit even more. When I came back as a sophomore I tried to hit again. Since then it has been my favorite part."

His leadership abilities have been taxed the past two seasons as the Polar Bears struggled through a 6-33 season last spring.

But the 2007 squad has shown a great deal of improvement this season and an influx of freshmen newcomers have taken after the hard-driving senior.

"No question that Josh is the leader of this team," ONU head coach Justin Bergman said. "He's the guy that our young players look up to and follow. He works hard and does the right thing – that says a lot about him as a man."

"One positive [of last year] is that people started to fall into their roles on the team," Conkey said. "That helped give us a good indication of where we stood coming into the season. You saw who really wanted to be there and who wanted to play baseball regardless if we were winning."

When Coach Bergman arrived at ONU in 2005, the baseball program was in disarray. He has relied on his seniors to help get the Polar Bears back to the top of the OAC.

That project has been made much easier with a player like Josh Conkey on board.