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For Immediate Release

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## OTTERBEIN GOLF COACHES SWEEP COACH-OF-THE-YEAR HONORS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

**Twinsburg, OH** - For the second straight, Otterbein has swept both the men's and women's Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) golf Coach-of-the-Year Awards. On the men's side, Cardinal fourth-year Head Coach **Matt Smith** has been voted the Coach-of-the-Year for the third straight year. For the women, seventh-year Head Coach **Sharon Sexton** has been named the OAC Women's Coach-of-the-Year for the fourth time in five seasons.

With their ninth straight OAC Tournament title, Smith and the Cardinals tied the OAC record for most Conference titles with 13. For the third time in four seasons, an Otterbein player took home the Brian Unk Tournament medalist. This season, sophomore **Zach Sebert (Grove City)** shot a one-over par 145, including a low round of 69 on the final day. The previous two seasons, Cardinal junior **Andy Miller (Xenia)** earned OAC medalist honors. All five Cardinal golfers earned All-Conference honors this year.

Smith will lead Otterbein to its 13th NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championship on Monday-Thursday, May 8-11, at the Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln, Nebraska. The announcement was made on Monday, May 1. Nebraska Wesleyan University is hosting the 2006 NCAA Championships.

Sexton has been at the helm for a Conference record four straight OAC championships and watched the team shoot a school and OAC record 322 on the first day and a combined 656 for the 2006 OAC Tournament. For the second straight year an Otterbein golfer took home medalist honors. Cardinal freshmen **Kristen Becker (Columbus/Upper Arlington)** and **Katie Johnson (Upper Sandusky)** tied with a 160 at the end of regulation, but Becker earned OAC medalist honors by winning the second playoff hole. Johnson shot a school record and tied the OAC record with a 76 on the first day.

Under Sexton's tutelage, senior **Colleen Grooms (Elyria)** became just the third OAC player to earn All-OAC honors four straight years. This year, Grooms finished fourth with a two-day 163 (80-83). Grooms was medalist in 2005, eighth in 2004 and third in 2003. The Cardinals had five golfers earn All-OAC honors this year, which was a first in the seven-year history of the OAC Tournament.

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## OTTERBEIN MEN TO COMPETE IN THE 2006 NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS *Cardinals Making their 13th Trip to the NAAs*

**Westerville, OH** - Otterbein was one of 23 teams selected to compete in the 2006 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships, which will be held May 8-11 at the Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln, Nebraska. Nebraska Wesleyan University will serve as host.

This marks Otterbein's 13th trip to the NCAA championships in the last 14 years. Otterbein finished second twice (1998 and 1995), third once (1997), and fourth twice (2000 and 1999). The Cardinals finished 11th of 23 teams a year ago.

A total of 120 participants will compete at the 2006 championships. Three teams were selected from each of the six regions. The committee then selected five at-large teams nationally. Therefore, in addition to the first three teams selected in each region, there are also three at-large selections in the south region and two at-large selections from the west region. Five individuals were also selected to compete.