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For Immediate Release
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Otterbein's Hadley Named January OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month

Twinsburg, OH- Otterbein senior basketball player **Scott Hadley (Lewis Center/Worthington Christian)** has been named the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Scholar-Athlete of the Month for January.

In its seventh year of existence, the OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month honors an exceptional student-athlete on a monthly basis. Criteria for the award consist of the student-athlete being a junior or senior status, competition in a sport that is in-season, sportsmanlike conduct and carrying at least a cumulative grade-point average (gpa) of 3.0.

Success seems to follow Scott Hadley around, especially on the basketball court.

A four-year letterman and three-year starter at Worthington Christian High School, Hadley helped lead his team to the Division IV state title in 1999, into the semifinals in 2000, and the quarterfinals in 2001 when he was named Division IV Player-of-the-Year.

But it didn't stop there.

The 6-5, 225-pound forward/center hooked up with a talented Otterbein squad, with the likes of seniors Jeff Gibbs and Kevin Shay, and helped lead Otterbein to its first-ever national championship as a freshman in 2002.

"That was quite a blessing," Hadley said about winning the national title. "That's all I can say. It was an honor to be part of a team—a great team like that—playing under an incredible coach like coach Reynolds.

"I was able to win a state championship in high school, and then the national championship in college. Now I say all that's left is a world championship," Hadley kiddingly said.

Hadley is too smart for that, however, knowing that his playing days are numbered.

Coming into college, Hadley, who maintained a 3.971 grade-point average in high school (he was sixth in his class), was more interested in achieving academic rather than athletic awards.

"I know that down the road 20 years, people aren't going to remember you, 'Well, that guy could play basketball.'"

Hadley has been busy readying himself for the game of life.

The senior has maintained a 3.568 grade-point average in middle childhood education, and plans to teach math or science in middle school while coaching basketball or track and field at the high school level. Making the Dean's List in six of 10 quarters, Hadley needs to take only 13 credit hours in each of his final two quarters to graduate on time on June 12.

Six days later, he and classmate Meredith Day, a senior sport management major, plan to marry.

Hadley attributes his success as a student-athlete to his work ethic.

"Ever since I was young, my parents always encouraged me that school work comes first, and then sports," he said.

Putting school before sport has not hurt Hadley's game.

Through his first three seasons, Hadley, a two-time All-OAC performer, averaged 11.2 points and 5.7 rebounds a game, starting 76 of the 81 varsity games he played. At the same time, he earned first team Academic All-OAC honors as a junior, and was an honorable mention choice his sophomore season.

Hadley, who does not work during the academic year, has managed to get himself through college nearly debt free by working with his dad's painting company over the last eight summers. He stays active in his local church, and has taught Sunday School to 3-year-olds for about four years.

With almost a full two months left to play in his final season, Hadley is sure to find additional success on the court—and that success, it would seem, will carry over into life after basketball.

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Otterbein Sports Information Director Ed Syguda is credited for this feature.

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