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For Immediate Release

Wayne State's Jeney, Grand Valley State's Payton Named 2005 GLIAC Baseball Player, Pitcher of the Year

Northwood's Shields Tabbed Freshman of the Year, WSU's Alexeander Earns "Rodger George" Award

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Wayne State University senior shortstop **Frank Jeney** and Grand Valley State University junior pitcher **Grant Payton** were selected as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's (GLIAC) baseball Player and Pitcher of the Year, respectively. Northwood first baseman **Matt Shields** was named Freshman of the Year, while the "Rodger George Coach of the Year Award" went to Wayne State's **Jay Alexander**. All four awards were selected by the GLIAC baseball coaches in conjunction with all-conference balloting.

Jeney set numerous school hitting records this year, including hits in a season (74) and career (212). He holds the Wayne State all-time mark for extra-base hits (66), and single-season mark for total bases (117). The shortstop led the GLIAC with a .424 batting average this season, had a team-high 22 multi-hit games along with 13 multiple-RBI games, and started the season on a 13-game hitting streak. Jeney had a season-high four hits and three runs scored against Plymouth State, while he totalled a career-best five RBI, including a three-run home run in the seventh inning at Northwood last Sunday. Defensively, he was a part of 31 of Wayne State's GLIAC-high 44 double plays turned. Jeney is the first WSU player to be selected GLIAC player of the year since John Miele in 1999.

Payton is the second straight Laker to garner GLIAC Pitcher of the Year honors. He turned in a stellar season for the Lakers on the hill with a 8-3 record and a 1.22 ERA. Grant has tallied 67 strikeouts, four complete games and allowed just nine earned runs in 66.1 innings of work. He allowed just 10 extra-base hits on the year and opponents hit just .238 off the southpaw. Grant was 6-2 in league play with a miniscule 0.69 ERA. Payton allowed GLIAC opponents just eight runs, four of which were earned, in 52.0 innings. He notched 51 strikeouts and tossed four complete games in league action.

Shields proved to be one of the top offensive players in the GLIAC in his freshman season. He finished with a .783 slugging percentage, which is more than 100 points higher than any other player in the league. He also led the league in home runs (10) and on-base percentage (.545), while ranking fourth in batting average (.419). Shields ranks nationally in batting average, triples per game, slugging percentage, and walks. In GLIAC games only, Shields batted .434 with seven home runs and 25 RBIs while slugging .803.

After being selected fourth in the preseason coaches' poll, **Alexander** led his alma mater to the No. 1 seed and earned the right to host the Conference's postseason tournament with a 19-8 league mark. The Warrior's 31 overall wins is one shy of the school record established in 1999. Since taking over in 2003, Alexander has compiled a 78-70 overall record and defeated three Division I teams including Michigan State, Toledo and Eastern Michigan this season. He becomes the second recipient of the "Rodger George Coach of the Year Award," named after former Wayne State head coach Rodger George who passed away in 2003 year after 14 years at the Warrior helm.

Joining Jeney, Payton, and Shields on the 2005 All-GLIAC Baseball first-team are: **David Waters** (OF) of Ashland University; **Cody Davis** (DH) of the University of Findlay; **Nick Smith** (C), **Scott Smith** (2B), **Scott Allen** (3B), **Brandon McFarland** (OF), **Jeremy Dow** (SP), and **Joe Finnerty** (RP) of Grand Valley State; **Andy Lovell** (SP) of Hilldsale College; **Tim Stacey** (OF) of Mercyhurst College; **D.J. Hughes** (OF) of Northwood University; **Bobby Marten** (INF), and **Kyle Hill** (SP) of Wayne State.

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2005 GLIAC Baseball All-Conference Teams and Postseason Awards

Player of the Year: Frank Jeney, Wayne State (SR, SS, Windsor, Ont.)

Pitcher of the Year: Grant Peyton, Grand Valley (JR, LHP, Barrington, Ill.)

Freshman of the Year: Matt Shields, Northwood (FR, 1B, Midland, Mich.)

Coach of the Year: Jay Alexander, Wayne State

GLIAC Baseball All-Conference First Team

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>B-T</u> | <u>Hometown/High School</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| DH | Cody Davis | Findlay | SR | R-R | Bluffton, Ohio |
| C | Nick Smith | Grand Valley State | SO | R-L | Hazel Park, Mich. |
| 1B | Matt Shields | Northwood | FR | R-R | Midland, Mich. |
| 2B | Scott Smith | Grand Valley State | SR | R-R | Fruitport, Mich. |
| SS | Frank Jeney | Wayne State | SR | R-R | Windsor, Ont./Catholic Central |
| 3B | Scott Allen | Grand Valley State | SR | R-R | Lansing, Mich./Holt |
| INF | Bobby Marten | Wayne State | SR | L-R | Allen Park, Mich. |
| OF | Tim Stacey | Mercyhurst | SR | L-L | Solon, Ohio |
| OF | David Waters | Ashland | JR | L-R | West Salem, Ohio/Wadsworth |
| OF | DJ Hughes | Northwood | SR | L-R | Saginaw, Mich./Swan Valley |
| OF | Brandon McFarland | Grand Valley State | SR | R-R | Urbana, Ill. |
| SP | Kyle Hill | Wayne State | SO | R-R | Mississauga, Ont. |
| SP | Grant Peyton | Grand Valley State | JR | L-L | Barrington, Ill. |
| SP | Jeremy Dow | Grand Valley State | JR | R-R | Sunfield, Mich. |
| SP | Andy Lovell | Hillsdale | JR | R-R | Monroe, Mich. |
| RP | Joe Finnerty | Grand Valley State | SR | R-R | Saline, Mich. |

GLIAC Baseball All-Conference Second Team

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>B-T</u> | <u>Hometown/High School</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| DH | Dan Jones | Saginaw Valley State | SR | L-R | Gladstone, Mich. |
| C | Matt Cunningham | Wayne State | R-FR | R-R | Gregory, Mich./Chelsea |
| 1B | Chad Rohacs | Grand Valley State | JR | R-R | Dowagiac, Mich. |
| 2B | Adam Wilson | Ashland | SR | R-R | New Philadelphia, Ohio |
| SS | Jake Howells | Hillsdale | SR | R-R | Sycamore, Ill. |
| 3B | Justin Hanning | Saginaw Valley State | SR | R-R | Lake Orion, Mich. |
| INF | Jason Chapieski | Wayne State | JR | R-R | Windsor, Ont./St. Joseph's |
| OF | Troy Reeder | Ashland | JR | R-R | Medina, Ohio |
| OF | Joe Daoust | Gannon | SR | R-L | Hermitage, Pa./Hickory |
| OF | Adam Bateson | Findlay | SR | R-R | Bloomdale, Ohio |
| OF | Nick Sandy | Grand Valley State | JR | R-R | Lansing, Mich./Grand Ledge |
| SP | Eric Drobotij | Mercyhurst | FR | R-R | Pittsburgh, Pa./Mt. Lebanon |
| SP | Ryan Mosher | Wayne State | FR | R-R | Ann Arbor, Mich./Pioneer |
| SP | Scott Roy | Saginaw Valley State | FR | R-R | Mt. Morris, Mich./Johnson |
| SP | Scott Schlaff | Saginaw Valley State | SO | R-R | Warren, Mich./Mott |
| RP | John Morris | Mercyhurst | FR | R-R | New Castle, Pa./Mohawk |

GLIAC Baseball All-Conference Honorable Mention

| <u>Pos.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>B-T</u> | <u>Hometown/High School</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| P/DH | Josh Davidson | Ashland | SO | R-R | Lexington, Ohio |
| 1B | Ron Oneson | Ashland | SO | R-R | London, Ont./Saunders |
| SP | Chris Antonides | Findlay | JR | R-R | Troy, Ohio |
| SP | Brett Bostelman | Findlay | SO | R-R | Napoleon, Ohio |
| SS | Frank Armeni | Gannon | SR | R-R | Conneaut, Ohio |
| OF | Matt Neiger | Gannon | JR | R-R | Painesville, Ohio/Riverside |
| SS | Ryan Lyster | Grand Valley State | SR | R-R | Grand Rapids, Mich./Kenowa Hills |
| SP | Jeff Sinicki | Grand Valley State | JR | R-R | Essexville, Mich./Garber |
| OF | Larry Jacques | Hillsdale | SO | R-R | Flushing, Mich. |
| SP | Corey Krug | Hillsdale | JR | R-R | Redford, Mich./Southfield Christian |
| OF | Matt Echan | Mercyhurst | JR | L-L | Solon, Ohio |
| OF | David Lough | Mercyhurst | FR | L-L | Akron, Ohio/Green |
| SP | Joe Ashdown | Northwood | SO | R-L | Euclid, Ohio |
| DH | Chris Kouris | Northwood | JR | L-L | Pickney, Mich. |
| OF | Justin Doughty | Saginaw Valley State | JR | R-R | Oscoda, Mich. |
| SS | Chris Norton | Saginaw Valley State | SR | R-R | Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central |
| SP | Dan Barnes | Wayne State | SO | R-R | Grand Ledge, Mich. |
| 1B | Jon Weisman | Wayne State | SO | L-L | Woodhaven, Mich. |