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Grand Valley State University Tabbed 2005 Preseason Favorite By GLIAC Football Coaches

Defending League Co-Champions NU & MTU Finish Second and Fourth, Respectively

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University was picked to win the 2005 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) football title by the head football coaches of the league in preseason balloting.

The Lakers outdistanced 2004 league co-champion Northwood University by 14 points in the voting (143-129). The Lakers garnered 11 of the 13 first-place votes it was eligible for, while the Timberwolves nabbed one first-place nod.

The poll was released in conjunction with the league's football media day luncheon held at the Ryder Center on the campus of Saginaw Valley State in University Center, Michigan.

The league's 13 head coaches participated in the balloting, but were not allowed to vote for their team. The first-place team on each ballot received 12 points, while second received 11 points, etc.

Saginaw Valley State University, coming off of a fourth-place finish in last year's league race, placed third in the balloting with 127 points and garnered one first-place vote. Michigan Tech University, the GLIAC's other 2004 co-champion, claimed fourth place with 99 points. Ferris State University placed fifth in the poll, just four points behind Tech. The University of Findlay earned the sixth spot in the poll. The Oilers beat out seventh-place Ashland University by seven points (87-80).

Hillsdale College placed eighth in the poll with 62 points. The University of Indianapolis edged out Mercyhurst College for ninth place by just four points (52-48). Gannon University (33), Northern Michigan University (31), and Wayne State University (24) round out the poll.

The 2004 season was historic for the Conference as three schools earned NCAA Division II playoff berths. GLIAC teams claimed three of the six Northwest Region postseason bids, including the top two seeds. Michigan Tech earned the region's No. 1 seed, followed by Northwood at No. 2 and Grand Valley State at No. 6. The Lakers advanced to the Division II quarterfinals before falling to the University of North Dakota, 19-15.

For more information about GLIAC football please check the GLIAC football web page at: www.gliac.org/.

2005 GLIAC Preseason Football Coaches Poll

<i>School (first-place votes)</i>	<i>Points</i>
1. Grand Valley State (11)	143
2. Northwood (1)	129
3. Saginaw Valley State (1)	127
4. Michigan Tech	99
5. Ferris State	95
6. Findlay	87
7. Ashland	80
8. Hillsdale	62
9. Indianapolis	52
10. Mercyhurst	48
11. Gannon	34
12. Northern Michigan	31
13. Wayne State	24

2004 GLIAC Final Standings

	GLIAC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Northwood	9	1	10	2
Michigan Tech	9	1	9	2
Grand Valley State	8	2	10	3
Saginaw Valley State	7	3	7	3
Ferris State	6	4	6	5
Findlay	5	5	6	5
Ashland	4	6	5	6
Mercyhurst	4	6	4	7
Hillsdale	4	6	4	7
Gannon	3	7	4	7
Indianapolis	3	7	4	7
Northern Michigan	2	8	2	8
Wayne State	1	9	1	9