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GLIAC Women's Basketball Coaches Tab Grand Valley State and Wayne State for 2003-04 Division Titles

BAY CITY, Mich. -- The head women's basketball coaches of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) chose Grand Valley State University and Wayne State University to win the league's North and South Division titles, respectively.

Grand Valley State received three of the six first-place votes it was eligible for and tallied 33 points. Lake Superior State University also received three first-place votes but finished second in the poll with 28 points. Ferris State University placed third in the balloting with 26 points and garnered the remaining first-place nod. Northern Michigan University placed fourth with 19 points. Northwood University in sixth place (11 points) and Saginaw Valley State University in seventh (6) round out the Division.

The first-place votes in the South Division were distributed equally between three teams, but Wayne State garnered the most points to finish in first (22). The Warriors recorded two first-place votes, as did Gannon University and Ashland University. Second-place Gannon finished one point behind Wayne State (21), while finishing one point ahead of Ashland (20). The University of Findlay had 13 points and finished fourth in the poll. Hillsdale College (9) and Mercyhurst College (5) placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

Each of the GLIAC's 13 coaches ranked the teams in the division in which they play, but were not allowed to vote for their own team. The first-place team on the North Division ballot received six points, while the second-place team received five points, etc. The first-place team in the South Division received five points, while the second-place team received four points, etc.

Lake Superior State defeated Grand Valley State in the finals of the 2002-03 GLIAC postseason tournament, claiming the school's first conference championship. The 2003-04 GLIAC tournament quarterfinal games will be played on Tuesday, Mar. 2, on campus sites with the higher seeds hosting the games. The semifinals and finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed on Friday, Mar. 5 and Saturday, Mar. 6.

GLIAC basketball teams open play on Saturday, Nov. 15 with conference play beginning Thursday, Dec. 4.

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2003-04 GLIAC Preseason

Women's Basketball Coaches Poll

North Division

<i>Rank</i>	<i>School (first-place votes)</i>	<i>Points</i>
1.	Grand Valley State (3)	33
2.	Lake Superior State (3)	28
3.	Ferris State (1)	26
4.	Northern Michigan	24
5.	Michigan Tech	19
6.	Northwood	11
7.	Saginaw Valley State	6

South Division

1.	Wayne State (2)	22
2.	Gannon (2)	21
3.	Ashland (2)	20
4.	Findlay	13
5.	Hillsdale	9
6.	Mercyhurst	5

2002-2003 GLIAC Women's Basketball Final Standings

North Division

<i>School</i>	<i>Record (GLIAC)</i>
Lake Superior State	23-6 (15-3)
Grand Valley State	24-7 (13-5)
Northern Michigan	16-10 (12-6)
Michigan Tech	15-13 (10-8)
Ferris State	15-11 (10-8)
Northwood	9-17 (5-13)
Saginaw Valley State	4-22 (0-18)

South Division

Hillsdale	23-6 (14-3)
Wayne State	17-12 (12-5)
Gannon	12-14 (8-9)
Findlay	10-19 (7-10)
Ashland	11-16 (5-12)
Mercyhurst	6-21 (3-14)

The following are season previews on each of the GLIAC's 13 Women's Basketball Teams:

Ashland University: AU figures to have one of the best inside tandems in the league with 6-2 senior **Alanna Buurma** and 6-4 junior **Jackie Mason**. Mason missed all of last year with an injury while Buurma earned first team All-GLIAC honors. The Eagles return eight letterwinners and four starters. The last time Buurma and Mason were playing together, AU went 17-10 and won a share of the GLIAC South Division title. Head coach Sue Ramsey is in her ninth season at Ashland where she is 106-108. Last year AU was 11-16.

Ferris State University: Hopes are high for Ferris State as the Bulldogs return eight letterwinners and all five starters from last season's squad, which compiled a 15-11 overall mark, a 10-8 GLIAC record and a fourth consecutive league tournament appearance. Sixth-year head coach Tracey Fisk, who presently ranks as FSU's all-time winningest coach with an 85-51 (.625) record to date, has plenty of returning firepower and added five newcomers as she attempts to guide Ferris to its first GLIAC title and NCAA Tournament berth since the 1999-00 campaign. The Bulldogs will be led by four senior captains including guard **Lucy DeMartin (Mason)**, forward **Stephanie Benear (Howell)**, forward/center **Bridget Horwitz (Auburn, Ind./DeKalb)** and forward **Molly Potvin (Lansing/Catholic Central)**. A 2003-04 Division II Women's Basketball Bulletin Preseason Super 16 All-America pick, DeMartin attained both first-team All-GLIAC and Daktronics All-Great Lakes Region kudos a season ago while Horwitz was both a second-team all-conference and all-region honoree. The GLIAC's 2002-03 Freshman of the Year, sophomore guard **Erin Miller (Niles)**, also returns.

University of Findlay: The 2003-04 edition of The University of Findlay's women's basketball team is poised for a breakout year. The Oilers, coached by Carolyn Mair (3rd season at 26-29) return two starters from the 2002-03 squad that finished 10-19. The team will be led by senior center **Zsofia Horvath (Budapest, Hungary)** who will be expected to provide a solid low post presence on both ends of the floor. Also returning to the starting lineup will be sophomore guard **Jennifer Winright (Cincinnati, OH)**. Winright started every game as a freshman and led the Oilers in minutes played.

Grand Valley State University: Dawn Plitzuweit is set to begin her second season as head coach for Grand Valley. Last season, she led the Lakers to a 24-7 record, which broke GVSU's single-season school record for wins

and helped them advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in four years. **Julie Zeff**, All-GLIAC First Team and Daktronics All-Great Lakes Region Second Team honoree, will return for her senior season after averaging 16.2 points, 7.7 rebounds, and 3.0 rebounds last season. **Cori Jewett** will return at guard after tallying 8.1 points and 3.4 assists per game last year. The Lakers have also added four freshman who are expected to make an impact this season.

Gannon University: Gannon looks to rebound from its first non-winning season since 1997-98 after posting a 12-14 record last year. The Lady Knights started the campaign slow, but finished with a flurry by winning six of their last eight regular season games. Impressively, the squad won four of five road games down the stretch and qualified for the GLIAC Tournament for the sixth consecutive season. Second-year head coach Cleve Wright will guide a group that includes five returning starters and eight returning letterwinners. Junior **Jen Gwin**, an All-GLIAC selection last year and the 2002 GLIAC Freshman of the Year, is expected to run the offense from the point again in 2003-04. Gwin finished second in the GLIAC and seventh nationally in assists with 6.46 per game last season. **Katie Garms**, an All-GLIAC first-team selection in 2002-03, anchors the inside after averaging 13.1 points and 4.7 rebounds last season.

Hillsdale College: Hillsdale will be rebuilding from a historical season in 2002-03. The Chargers lost seven total letterwinners from last year's team, including all five starters and their sixth player off the bench. However, second-year head coach Claudette Charney (23-6 in first season at HC), recruited nine players to wear the Hillsdale blue and white, including eight freshmen, who will make a significant impact in their first year. Charney also brings in senior guard **Teresa Stuck**, who is a transfer from Grand Valley State. Stuck played two seasons for Charney as a freshman and sophomore. In addition, Hillsdale returns senior forward **Kelly Paxson** and junior guard **Jen Rolling**. Paxson averaged 3.5 ppg in 22 games, while Rolling played well at the end of last season by starting the final four games. Rolling averaged 3.7 ppg and pulled down 37 rebounds in 22 game appearances. Sophomore guard **Gretchen Rocco** also returns after playing in all 29 games as a key reserve

Lake Superior State University: Three standout players from LSSU's 23-6 GLIAC championship team, including All-American and all-time leading scorer Alice Duesing, have graduated. Returning starters include No. 2 scorer **Allyson Conaway**, a senior forward-center who averaged 13.8 points

and 5.5 rebounds per game, No. 4 scorer **Randi Johnson**, a junior guard who averaged 10 ppg, and led in assists with 80 and steals with 75, and senior guard **Hillary Bultema**, who is chasing the LSSU career three-point shooting record. All three players were starters last season. Sophomore center **Becky Marquardt-King** shot 66 percent from the field last season, followed by senior guard **Becca Johnson** at 59 percent and Conaway at 56 percent as LSSU posted the nation's best team field-goal percentage of .503. Dunbar is 83-53 entering her sixth season at LSSU.

Mercyhurst College: Third-year head coach Bo Kuntz (12-41) and his staff have their work cut out for them. Mercyhurst lost four starters and five of its top six scorers from last year's team which finished 6-21 overall and 3-14 in the GLIAC. Although nine players are back, the team will be very young and will feature one junior, eight sophomores, and two freshmen. Among the nine returnees is 5-11 sophomore guard **Cassie Seth**. Seth missed only one game last season and started in 24 of 26. She scored 212 points, third on the team, averaged 8.2ppg, and totaled 36 steals. The other eight returnees include 5-10 sophomore guard **Jody Sabo**, 5-11 sophomore forward **Mary Clare Harlan**, 6-0 sophomore forward **Kayla Lazor**, 5-10 sophomore guard **Coco Sommers**, 5-6 junior guard **Shanna McDowell**, twin 6-2 sophomore forwards **Erin and Samantha Solada**, and 6-3 sophomore center **Amy Leone**.

Michigan Tech University: Senior forward **Andrea Novak** headlines a cast of 11 returning letter winners who are looking to secure the program's 16th consecutive winning season. Novak, one of three returning starters, averaged team highs of 16.7 points and 4.7 rebounds a year ago and earned All-GLIAC North Division First Team honors. Sophomores **Maria Schneider** and **Amanda Sieja** look to step up their games. Schneider started all 28 games in 2002-03 and scored nine points per game. Sieja, a 6-2 center, recorded averages of 7.9 points and 4.2 rebounds last season. Seniors **Randi Miller**, **Jennifer Swanson** and **Megan Schaller** add depth to the MTU frontcourt. Other players to watch include sophomore guard **Chelsey MacNeill**, freshmen forward **Jenna Bartels** and freshman guard **Catherin Rottier**. The Huskies are led by first-year coach John Barnes, who helped the Tech men's program to four GLIAC titles in six years as an assistant coach.

Northern Michigan University: NMU returns five letterwinners to the fold. The 'Cats will be led by **Emily Samuelson**, who averaged 12.5 ppg last year, **Tiffany Grubaugh**, who averaged 15.7 ppg a year ago, and **Michelle**

Moard, who averaged 5.7 rpg in 2002-03. A couple of newcomers who could emerge are **Andrea Brooke** and **Holly Cole**. Mike Geary enters his 16th season directing the NMU women's basketball program. He is 335-103 with the 'Cats. NMU was 16-10 last year and finished in third place in the GLIAC North.

Northwood University: Head coach Kelli Parker (24-53) enters her fourth season looking to find the successful blend between a solid group of returners and a number of key newcomers. Junior forward **Kate Deupree** (Ionia, MI) is the top returning scorer (10.5) and is a legitimate three point threat (37.4%). Sophomore **Maureen Elliott** (East Tawas, MI) came on strong last year to average 10.0 points per game as the two-guard, while senior **Payshence Erb** (Middleville, MI/Thornapple-Kellogg) will start again at point guard. Another sophomore who improved throughout her rookie campaign was **Payge Salquist** (Oxford, MI), who will look to start at forward this season.

Saginaw Valley State University: Saginaw Valley State enters the third season with Kim Chandler at the helm of the program after a 4-22 season last year. The Cards are 14-38 during Chandler's two seasons on the bench and return six letterwinners from a year ago. **Jennifer Hagstrom**, a 6-1 forward, averaged 8.7 points per game as a sophomore. Junior **Nicole Pfenninger** also returns after averaging 6.3 points per game last season.

Wayne State University: With three starters back and added size in the post, the Wayne State Warriors look to return to the NCAA Tournament this season after qualifying for the first time in school history in 2003. Fourth-year head coach Gloria Bradley's record has improved every season since arriving in Detroit. Last year, WSU went 17-12 overall with a 12-5 GLIAC record to finish second in the South Division. Overall, Bradley is 162-104 in her 10-year career. South Division First Team selection **Jodi Young** was the squad's leading scorer a year ago with 18.0 points per game en route to breaking the school record with 72 three-pointers. She is joined by classmate **Ebony Vincent**, a South All-Defensive squad member, who ranked second in the nation with 222 assists. **Kristen Rogers** and **Casey Banks** are both back for their sophomore campaigns. The Warriors open the season at 2003 Final Four opponent California (Pa.) on November 15.