

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FERRIS STATE SIGNS TWO SKATERS TO NATIONAL LETTER-OF-INTENT

A Defenseman and Forward Ink With The Bulldogs During Early Signing Period

Big Rapids, Mich. – Ferris State University men's ice hockey head coach **Bob Daniels** has announced the signing of defenseman **Mark Giordano (Toronto, Ontario)** and center **Greg Rallo (Gurnee, Ill.)** to national letters-of-intent to attend and play ice hockey at FSU, beginning in the 2002-03 academic year.

"I'm happy we were able to land another pair of quality student-athletes to our program in Mark (Giordano) and Greg (Rallo)," said Daniels. "Both are talented individuals, who I believe will have a bright future at Ferris State. Getting these two signifies we're off to a good start in our recruiting class for this year."

Giordano (pronounced Gee-orr-don-no), a 6-0, 180-pound defenseman, is presently skating for the Brampton (Ontario) Capitals of the Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League (OPJHL). He currently has scored five goals to go along with 16 assists for 21 points while totaling 27 penalty minutes in 24 contests this season. The Capitals presently occupy first place in the 2001-02 OPJHL's West Conference standings with a 22-5-0 record. Prior to Brampton, Giordano spent the '00-01 campaign as a member of the Midget AAA's North York (Ontario) Rangers.

"Mark is a strong skater and a solid "defensive" defenseman," Daniels said. "He's going to strengthen our blueline due to his physical style of play and will be a key component in penalty-kill situations due to his defensive talents. Mark is also an excellent passer and a creative playmaker."

A 5-11, 170-pound center, **Rallo** (pronounced RAH-low) is currently in his second season with the North American Hockey League's (NAHL) Springfield (Ill.) Jr. Blues. A 2000-01 second-team All-NAHL pick, Rallo has totaled a team-leading 37 points with a league-best 25 goals and 12 assists in 23 contests to date this season. He also has been assessed 46 penalty minutes while recording eight power-play goals and two game-winning tallies this year. The '00-01 NAHL Rookie of the Year Award recipient has been recognized twice as the NAHL's Player of the Week this campaign (9/23/01 and 10/4/01). Rallo, who was named to the NAHL's top prospects team for 2001-02, racked up 68 points on 43 goals and 25 assists in 53 outings a season ago. A member of the '00-01 NAHL All-Rookie Team, Rallo's 43 markers ranked second among the league's top goal-scoring leaders. He was honored as the NAHL's Player of the Month (January 2001).

"Greg is a gifted offensive player who's a pure goal scorer," stated Daniels. "He possesses a hard, accurate shot and has a quick release. I've been impressed with his style of play and he knows his way around the net."

Ferris State is currently 7-5-1 overall and 5-5-1 (third-place tie) in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association (CCHA) this season. The Bulldogs will graduate four seniors upon conclusion of the 2001-02 season, including defensemen Jason Basile, Chad McIver and Kristian Schroder along with center Rob Collins.

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NAME, POSITION

HOMETOWN

▲ **Mark Giordano, Defenseman**

6-0, 180 lbs., Shoots: Left, Date of Birth: 10/3/83

2001-02 team: Brampton Capitals, Ontario Provincial Junior A Hockey League

Toronto, Ontario

▲ **Greg Rallo, Center**

5-11, 170 lbs., Shoots: Right, Date of Birth: 8/26/81

2001-02 team: Springfield Jr. Blues, North American Hockey League

Gurnee, Illinois