

Over the course of the past three seasons, head coach **Tracey Fisk** has guided the Ferris State University women's basketball program to places it had never been before.

The Bulldogs won a school-record 18 games during Fisk's inaugural 1998-99 campaign. In her second season at the helm (1999-00), Fisk led FSU to its first-ever Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) North Division Championship and a berth in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament. Last season (2000-01), the Bulldogs compiled a 16-11 mark and reached the GLIAC Tournament quarterfinals en route to posting their fourth-consecutive winning campaign.

Prior to Fisk's arrival, Ferris State had posted only seven winning seasons in its previous 24 seasons of varsity competition. To say the least, Fisk has helped spark the rebirth of the Bulldog women's basketball program.

If Ferris State hopes to continue its ascent towards the top of the NCAA Division II mountain, the Bulldogs must reload after the loss of four letterwinners. Included among that group is departed center Tianna Kirkland, the school's first All-America selection (third-team 2000-01 NCAA Division II *Women's Basketball Bulletin*) and the 2000-01 GLIAC Player of the Year.

"Obviously, this is a totally different team than we've had the past couple of years," Fisk said. "We should be an athletic team and run the floor extremely well. That style will be exciting for the fans to watch."

BACKCOURT

While the loss of Kirkland figures to leave a significant void in the FSU frontcourt, the bulk of the Bulldog backcourt returns.

Senior guard **Debbie Killips**, a 2000-01 second-team All-GLIAC North Division pick, returns for her final season at the point guard position. Killips, who needs 23 steals to become FSU's all-time leader, ranks among the premier players in the conference and will be a top candidate for postseason recognition.

"Debbie has set very high standards for herself and is capable of reaching those goals," Fisk said.

A 2001-02 team captain, Killips set a single-game school record with 12 steals versus Ashland (Dec. 2, 2000) last season. Her defensive prowess and offensive skills will be relied upon to spark FSU's open court attack.

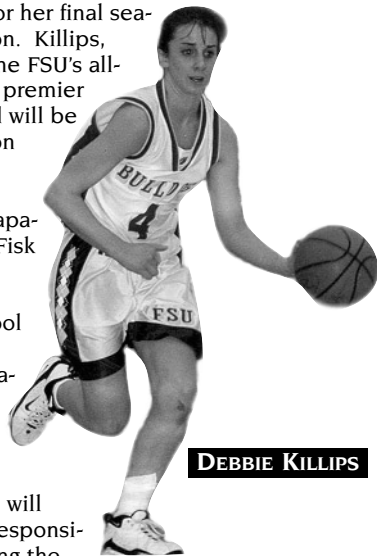
Fellow senior **Patti Larson** will assume additional captain's responsibilities this season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in her knee during preseason practice. A hard-nosed and reliable competitor, Larson will be missed on the defensive end.

Sophomore **Lucy DeMartin** ranked third among the squad's scoring leaders (9.7 ppg) a year ago and will be counted on to add increased production in the FSU lineup. Her quickness and ability to reach the basket are valuable weapons for the Ferris State offense.

Sophomore guard **Michelle Welch** will have an increased role this year after performing well in limited action as a freshman. She will assume additional ball-handling responsibilities.

The Bulldogs also return sophomore **Lindsey Kohn**, who suffered a season-ending injury early during the 2000-01 campaign. Kohn had a stellar high school career and could become more of a scoring threat this season with a transition to the shooting guard position.

Newcomers **Kari Searles** and **Sharon Smith** will help provide ample depth in the backcourt.



DEBBIE KILLIPS

FRONTCOURT

Besides losing Kirkland, FSU also lost veteran post players Dana Bull and Veronica Joseph. If Ferris State is to contend once again for the conference crown, a revamped Bulldog frontcourt will have to lead the way.

Sophomore **Bridget Horwitz** returns after averaging 7.6 points per game during her rookie campaign. At 6-2, Horwitz is the tallest and most experienced Bulldog post player. One of the league's most mobile inside players, Horwitz figures to be a key ingredient in FSU's success this season.

The addition of Lake Michigan College transfer **Ann Platz** should help reload the Ferris State frontline. Platz earned All-Michigan Community College Athletic Association honors during her two-year junior college career and is expected to adapt to the FSU system quickly after playing for Fisk's father, Rick Bloodworth, at Lake Michigan College.

The versatility of junior **Jennifer Brogger** will help Fisk fill the void inside. A two-year letterwinner, Brogger ranked among the squad's top three-point shooters (.368) last season. Her role is likely to change this season with new personnel.

"Because of our lack of height, Brogger will be forced to defend bigger players at times," Fisk said. "Our primary focus all season will be rebounding and our success will hinge on how well we rebound."

Additional rebounding help will come from sophomores **Molly Potvin** and **Stephanie Benear**. Potvin appeared in 24 games last year (2.9 ppg) while Benear grabbed 31 rebounds and scored 48 points.

Highly-regarded freshman **Sarah Duesing** has the athletic ability to make an immediate impact and will be one of FSU's top defenders. Freshman **Angie Price** is a solid athlete who will add depth.

"We are young," Fisk said. "Every game will be a challenge. One of our goals is to play consistently and improve every game."

That consistency will be crucial as the 25-game slate includes several nationally-ranked opponents.

"Our schedule is one of the toughest in the country," Fisk said. "I really believe our conference is a lot stronger from top to bottom than it has been in the past. On any given night, anyone can win."

If the past is any indication, Fisk has proven her squad can win.



BRIDGET HORWITZ

Returns

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
4	Debbie Killips	PG	Sr.	5-7	3L
10	Michelle Welch	G	So.	5-8	1L
12	Lindsey Kohn	G	So.	5-6	1L
23	Lucy DeMartin	G	So.	5-9	1L
24	Stephanie Benear	F	So.	5-9	1L
30	Patti Larson	G/F	Sr.	5-9	3L
31	Molly Potvin	F	So.	5-10	1L
40	Bridget Horwitz	F/C	So.	6-2	1L
42	Jennifer Brogger	F	Jr.	5-9	2L

Newcomers

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
15	Sarah Duesing	F	Fr.	5-10	HS
21	Kari Searles	G	Fr.	5-6	HS
22	Angie Price	F	Fr.	5-9	HS
33	Sharon Smith	G	Fr.	5-6	DNP
54	Ann Platz	C	Jr.	6-1	T

PG – Point Guard G – Guard F – Forward
 C – Center HS – High School T – Transfer
 DNP – Did Not Play Last Season