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## GLIAC Women's Basketball Coaches Tab Lake Superior State and Ashland for 2004-05 Division Titles

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

Lake Superior State received four of the six first-place votes it was eligible for and tallied 33 points. Ferris State University received two first-place votes and finished just one point behind the Lakers with 32 points. Michigan Tech University placed third in the balloting with 25 points while Grand Valley State University and Northern Michigan University tied for fourth place with 21 points each. Saginaw Valley State University in sixth place (11 points) and Northwood University in seventh (6) round out the Division.

In the South Division, Ashland University earned four of six possible first-place votes, claiming the top spot with 24 points. Second-place Gannon finished three points behind the Eagles (21), while receiving two first-place votes. The University of Findlay tallied 16 points and finished third in the poll. Hillsdale College (13), Wayne State University (10) and Mercyhurst College (6) placed fourth, 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 claimed its second-straight GLIAC title last season, defeating Ferris State in the Conference Tournament finals. The 2004-05 GLIAC tournament quarterfinal games will be played on Tuesday, Mar. 1, 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. 4 and Saturday, Mar. 5.

GLIAC women's basketball teams open play on Saturday, Nov. 13 with conference play beginning Wednesday, Dec. 1.

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<b>2004-05 GLIAC Preseason Women's Basketball Coaches Poll</b>		
<i>North Division</i>		
<i>Rank</i>	<i>School (first-place votes)</i>	<i>Points</i>
1.	Lake Superior State (4) .....	33
2.	Ferris State (3) .....	32
3.	Michigan Tech .....	25
4.	Grand Valley State .....	21
	Northern Michigan .....	21
6.	Saginaw Valley State .....	11
7.	Northwood .....	6
<i>South Division</i>		
1.	Ashland (4) .....	24
2.	Gannon (2) .....	21
3.	Findlay .....	16
5.	Hillsdale .....	13
4.	Wayne State .....	10
6.	Mercyhurst .....	6

<b>2003-04 GLIAC Women's Basketball Final Standings</b>	
<i>North Division</i>	
<i>School</i>	<i>Record (GLIAC)</i>
Lake Superior State .....	28-4 (16-2)
Ferris State .....	21-10 (14-4)
Michigan Tech .....	16-11 (11-7)
Northern Michigan .....	19-8 (11-7)
Saginaw Valley State .....	16-12 (8-10)
Grand Valley State .....	11-15 (2-16)
Northwood .....	5-21 (0-18)
<i>South Division</i>	
Ashland .....	23-8 (12-5)
Gannon .....	18-11 (10-7)
Wayne State .....	12-15 (8-9)
Hillsdale .....	10-16 (7-10)
Findlay .....	14-13 (6-11)
Mercyhurst .....	1-25 (1-16)

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

**Ashland University:** Enthusiasm is high for the Eagles, who are coming off of a season that saw them set a school record for wins (23), capture the GLIAC South Division title and make their first NCAA Tournament appearance in school history. Head coach Sue Ramsey, 130-117 in nine years at Ashland and 225-245 in 17 years as a collegiate head coach, must deal with the loss of All-GLIAC performers Isolina Brescia and Alanna Buurma. Jackie Mason, a 6-4 senior, highlights the returnees. An All-GLIAC Defensive Team selection last season, Mason set school records for single-season rebounds (280) and blocked shots (95). AU also returns its top two scorers from a season ago, 5-7 sophomore Amber Rall (14.1 ppg.) and 5-8 junior DeAndria Bethune (13.5 ppg.) Rall took home last year's GLIAC Freshman of the Year award. Top newcomers include 6-1 sophomore Catherine Portyrata, a transfer from Wright State, and 6-0 freshman Lisa Graue.

**Ferris State University:** Seventh-year Ferris State women's basketball coach Tracey Fisk welcomes back eight letterwinners and three starters for the 2004-05 campaign. Highlighting the returnees is junior guard Erin Miller, who attained GLIAC North Division First-Team and All-Great Lakes Region kudos last season. Senior center Bridget Horwitz (Auburn, Ind./DeKalb), a two-time All-GLIAC Second Team pick, also returns after missing all of last season with an injury. The Bulldogs must replace all-time leading scorer Lucy DeMartin, who earned honorable mention All-America honors last season after guiding FSU to a 21-10 overall record and an NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament appearance for only the second time in school history. Fisk, who's presently 106-61 (.635) at Ferris State, has led Ferris to seven consecutive winning seasons following a second place 14-4 mark in the GLIAC North Division a season ago.

**University of Findlay:** The Oilers return three of their starters from a squad that finished 14-13 last season. Leading the returnees will be junior guard Michelle Vorst who was named Second Team All-GLIAC last season after averaging 11.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game as a sophomore. Other key returnees include junior guard Jennifer Winright (6.7 ppg) and sophomore guard Ashley Goldsberry (4.2 ppg)...Findlay also added some height and muscle to their team, signing transfers Julie Kafun, 6-1 (Dayton), Megan Cable, 6-3 (St. Bonaventure) and Carrie Bergman, 6-0 (Edison Community). Head coach Carolyn Mair enters her fourth season at Findlay having posted a 40-42 mark with the Oilers and a 247-143 career record.

**Grand Valley State University:** Grand Valley State is looking to improve on its 11-15 overall and 8-10 GLIAC record from last season...In her first head coaching position Dawn Plitzuweit is 35-22 after two seasons with the Lakers...GVSU is returning six letterwinners and three starters, including sophomore forward Julia Braseth who averaged 12.3 points, 6.6 rebounds, and shot 54.9% from the field...The Lakers have also added six freshman and junior University of Michigan transfer Niki Reams, all whom Plitzuweit expects to have an immediate impact.

**Gannon University:** Gannon hopes to continue its steady climb back to the top of the GLIAC in 2004-05. The Lady Knights finished 18-11 last season, a six-game improvement after recording their first losing season in five years with a 12-14 record in 2002-03. The program boasts seven returning letterwinners and five players who started at least five games last season. Head coach Cleve Wright enters his third season at Gannon with a 30-25 career record. Senior All-American candidate Jen Gwin headlines the Gannon attack. The senior point guard finished fifth among Division II players in assists per game last season. She has 580 career assists and needs 68 to break the school's career record of 647. Gwin began her career as the GLIAC's Freshman of the Year in 2001-02 and was named to the All-GLIAC first team last season.

**Hillsdale College:** The Hillsdale women's basketball team returns nine letterwinners from last year's squad that finished fourth in the GLIAC South Division. With seven sophomores returning, all who saw significant playing time in 2003-04, the Chargers are looking for improvement with young, talented players seeing a lot of playing time in their second seasons. HC returns its four top scorers from last season, led by sophomore forward Nikki Wustman, who was a Second Team All-GLIAC selection as a freshman after leading the team with 13.7 points and 4.6 rebounds per game. Wustman started all 26 games last year, averaging the second most minutes on the team (28.4). The Chargers also return sophomore guards Jodie Haines and Jenn Carlson. Haines started all 26 games as a freshman, recording 9.7 points and 3.0 assists per game. Carlson played in all 26 games with 15 starts, averaging 9.1 ppg.

**Lake Superior State University:** The three-time GLIAC North Division champion Lakers will have a much different look in 2004-05. The Lakers' identity will evolve around senior point guard Randi Johnson (5-7), who finished second in the league in steals and received All-GLIAC First Team and All-Defensive Team honors last season. She averaged 15.6 points and 2.8 assists per game. Sophomore guard Monica Rehmann (5-9) and junior center Becky Marquardt-King (6-0) are also returning starters. Marquardt-King was the Lakers' top rebounder in 2004-05. Johnson and Marquardt-King were both named to the 2004 NCAA Great Lakes Region All-Tournament Team after leading the Lakers to the final 16 in Division II.

**Mercyhurst College:** New head coach Karin Nicholls and her staff will have the challenge of turning around the Mercyhurst College women's basketball program this season. A new era begins under Nicholls, who has ten letterwinners returning, along with four newcomers. The coaching staff will rely heavily on returning junior guard Cassie Seth. Seth was named to the Second Team GLIAC South Division last season. She started all 26 games, was second in scoring (13.0ppg), and first in assists (2.5). Another versatile returning player is sophomore G/F Julie Anderson. Anderson started 25 games for the Lakers last year and led the team in both points (13.3ppg) and rebounding (7.1rpg). She led the regulars in field goal percentage (.417) and tied for second in triples made (25).

**Michigan Tech University:** Huskies' head coach John Barnes begins his second season with four starters and 10 letterwinners returning from last season's 16-11 squad. Junior center Amanda Sieja is Tech's top returning scorer and rebounder, averaging 10.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per contest last season. Junior guard Maria Schneider starter all 27 games last season and led the team in three-point field goals made with 32. Junior guard Chelsey MacNeill led MTU in assists (73) while sophomore forward Jenna Bartels led the team in three-point field goal percentage (.467) a season ago.

**Northern Michigan University:** The Northern Michigan University women's basketball team lost only one starter and two letterwinners from a squad that went 19-8 last year and 11-7 in the GLIAC. Mike Geary is back directing the squad for his 17th season in Marquette and his 19th overall collegiate season. He is 354-111 at NMU and is 401-121 overall in his collegiate career. Tiffany Grubaugh was a First Team All-GLIAC North Division selection for the 2003-04 season. She led the team with 19.7 ppg last season, rank-

ing second in the conference in scoring. Michelle Moard, the leading rebounder last season, is back in the fold with her 7.1 rpg for the 2003-04 season.

**Northwood University:** New Northwood women's coach Jeff Curtis inherits a team that returns nine of its 10 letterwinners from a year ago. Despite all of the players being back, the Timberwolves are still a young squad, featuring only one senior (Kate Deupree) and three juniors (Maureen Elliott, Devon Hillstrom, Payge Salquist). Elliott lead Northwood in scoring a year ago, averaging 11.0 points per game. Hillstrom finished eighth in the GLIAC in rebounding (7.1 per game) while averaging 10.7 points per game to rank second on the team. Deupree led the team in 3-point field goals (39), while Salquist averaged more than seven points and six rebounds per game.

**Saginaw Valley State University:** SVSU welcomes Vonnie Killmer to the bench this season. She comes to Saginaw Valley State from Saginaw Arthur Hill High School where she patrolled the sidelines for 10 years as a junior varsity and varsity head coach. The Cardinals qualified for the GLIAC Tournament last year with an 8-10 conference record, before being bounced by LSSU in the first round. Senior Jessica Wilson will provide stability in the backcourt having played in all 28 games a year ago and averaging 5.7 points per game. Senior Jennifer Hagstrom is a three-year letterwinner who ranked second on the team last season with 13.3 points per game. She also ranked among the league leaders with 70 blocked shots. Sophomore Lisa Collison gained valuable experience last season playing in every game and averaging 22.7 minutes. She connected on 21 triples and dished out 26 assists.

**Wayne State University:** With nine newcomers added to the mix, head coach Gloria Bradley will plenty of options on the 2004-05 Wayne State women's basketball team. Bradley, in her fifth season in Detroit, owns a 60-50 record at WSU and is 174-119 in 11 seasons overall. Guard Alia Clark, a transfer from West Virginia and lone senior on the squad, will help make up for the loss of Ebony Vincent and Jodi Young who accounted for 48 percent of the 2003-04 scoring attack. Junior Shatona Clark was the Warriors' top rebounder at 6.2 boards per game and third on the team in scoring with 12.3 points per contest. Kristen Rogers, the top active player in six of seven categories, also returns for her junior season and has started 51 of 56 games with 490 career points.