



# 2008 Weekly Game Notes

## FERRIS STATE SOFTBALL

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### On Deck

### 2008 NCAA-II Championships

### 2008 Schedule/Results



**NCAA DIVISION II  
 CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**  
 Memorial Park • Houston, Texas  
 May 14-17, 2008

#### FERRIS STATE:

- 34-16 Overall;
- 16-4 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC)
- #3 BARRY: 44-6
- #22 St. Edward's: 51-14
- Francis Marion: 38-14
- #1 Lock Haven: 47-6
- #8 Humboldt State: 53-18
- #9 C.W. Post: 48-14
- #6 Emporia State: 44-15

At THE NCAA NATIONALS: Ferris State is making its third NCAA Division II Championship Tournament appearance in the program's history and its first since the 1999 season. The Bulldogs made their initial national tourney appearance in 1998 at Pensacola, Fla., and finished with a third-place 3-2 record. Ferris State returned to nationals in 1999 at Salem, Va., and posted a sixth-place 0-2 ledger.

#### FERRIS STATE AT NCAA-II CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATE	SCORE	FSU PITCHER
5/14	Ferris State 4, Merrimack (Mass.) 0	Nadine Crowl
5/15	Barry (Fla.) 4, Ferris State 2	Nadine Crowl
5/16	Ferris State 5, Cal-State Bakersfield 3	Nadine Crowl
5/17	Ferris State 4, California (Pa.) 3 (8 innings)	Nadine Crowl
5/18	Barry (Fla.) 6, Ferris State 5	Nadine Crowl
1999 CHAMPIONSHIPS (SALEM, VA.)		
DATE	SCORE	FSU PITCHER
5/20	Humboldt State (Calif.) 2, Ferris State 1	Nadine Crowl
5/21	North Dakota State 4, Ferris State 3	Brandy Coe

GREAT LAKES REGION CHAMPIONS: Ferris State claimed the 2008 NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament title by besting 2007 national champion Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, 1-0, last Sunday (May 11) at SIUE's Cougar Field in Edwardsville, Ill. The Bulldogs registered a 4-0 tournament record and shutout the opposition in all four contests.

AGAINST NATIONAL TOURNEY OPPONENTS: The Bulldogs have compiled the following all-time records versus the 2008 NCAA-II Championships field.

Francis Marion – 0-0; St. Edward's – 0-0; C.W. Post – 3-0; Lock Haven – 3-2; Barry – 0-3; Humboldt State – 0-1; Emporia State – 0-0.

36th Season – The 2008 campaign repre-

sents the 36th season of varsity competition for the Ferris State Softball program. The Bulldogs are 704-632-3 overall (.527) since the program's inception in 1973. During that period, FSU has compiled 16 20-plus win seasons, including three consecutive (1997-99) 40 or more victory campaigns.

Bruntjens Garners Regional Tourney Top Individual Honor – Junior pitcher Holly Bruntjens was chosen as the Most Outstanding Player of the 2008 NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament last week (May 7-11). Bruntjens posted a 3-0 pitching mark with a 0.00 earned run average in 21.0 innings to go with 12 strikeouts and three walks. She held the opposition to a .151 batting average and gave up only 11 base hits while notching shutouts versus Saginaw Valley State (1-0), vs. Wayne State (4-0), and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (1-0) in the regional championship game. Bruntjens was joined on the 13-member all-tourney team by junior outfielder-pitcher Sarah Mueller (Santa Clarita, Calif./Valencia).

Defensive Stoppers – Ferris State didn't allow a single run in 36 innings over its four contests at the 2008 NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament and as the Bulldogs outscored their opponent by a combined 7-0 margin.

Doubling Their Pleasure – Ferris State's 89 doubles this season in 50 games presently represents the second-highest single-season total in the program's history. The 2008 squad is three second-base hits shy of matching the school-record 92 doubles total set by the 1998 Bulldogs. The 2008 squad currently has four individuals with double-digit totals in doubles this campaign.

Post-Season Producer – Katie Kraai, a two-time (2005 & 2007) NCAA-II Great Lakes Region All-Tournament Team selection, is currently hitting for a .424 average (14-33) in 11 career NCAA Tourney appearances. She also has compiled four doubles, three home runs, 12 RBI, and an .818 slugging percentage to date.

#### 2008 GLIAC SOFTBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL

SCHOOL (FIRST-PLACE VOTES)	PTS
1. Wayne State (4)	.94
2. Grand Valley State (4)	.89
3. Ferris State (1)	.79
Gannon (2)	.79
5. Ashland	.63
6. Saginaw Valley State	.54
7. Northwood	.49
8. Mercyhurst	.39
9. Hillsdale	.27
10. Findlay	.20
11. Lake Superior State	.12

#### 34-16-0 OVERALL; 16-4-0 GLIAC

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
3/8	vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.)*	W 4-3 (8)
	vs. Northern Kentucky*	W 10-2 (5)
3/9	vs. Shippensburg (Pa.)*	L 2-0
	vs. Minnesota State*	W 3-2
3/10	vs. Upper Iowa*	L 10-9 (9)
	vs. Pfeiffer (N.C.)*	W 4-3 (8)
3/12	vs. American International (Mass.)*	L 5-3 (8)
	vs. C.W. Post (N.Y.)*	L 9-0 (5)
	vs. Indianapolis*	L 7-1
3/13	vs. SIU-Edwardsville*	L 5-4 (8)
	vs. Southern Indiana*	W 4-1
3/14	vs. Wisconsin-Parkside*	L 5-2
	vs. Central Missouri*	L 3-0
3/15	vs. St. Xavier (Ill.)*	W 8-4
	vs. New Haven (Conn.)*	W 8-0
3/22	at Wayne State Invitational▲	Cancelled
3/26	Aquinas (DH)	Cancelled
3/29	Gannon* (DH)	W 4-2, W 5-0
3/30	Mercyhurst* (DH)	W 5-0, W 10-0 (5)
4/5	at Northwood* (DH)	W 14-6 (5), W 9-5
4/6	at Saginaw Valley State* (DH)	L 2-3, W 4-3 (8)
4/7	Cornerstone (DH)	W 5-0, W 13-2 (5)
4/12	at Findlay* (DH)	W 8-2, L 7-6
4/13	at Ashland* (DH)	L 3-2, W 9-0
4/16	Grand Valley State* (DH)	W 2-1, W 1-0
4/19	Lake Superior State* (DH)	W 130(5), W 152 (5)
4/20	at Tiffin (DH)	L 4-3, W 16-3 (5)
4/22	at Northwood (DH)	W 9-2, L 4-3
4/25	Wayne State* (DH)	L 1-0, W 1-0 (10)
4/26	Hillsdale* (DH)	W 5-0, W 8-6
5/2	Mercyhurst❖	W 3-1
5/3	Saginaw Valley State❖	L 10-4
5/3	Gannon❖	W 3-1
5/3	Ashland❖	W 7-4
5/3	Wayne State❖	L 3-2
5/7	Saginaw Valley State⊕	W 1-0
5/9	Lewis⊕	W 1-0 (15)
5/10	Wayne State⊕	W 4-0
5/11	SIU-Edwardsville⊕	W 1-0
5/14	Francis Marion◆	1:30 p.m.

All starting times are Eastern and subject to change. Home games in **bold** and played at the FSU Varsity Softball Field.

NOTE – All dates are doubleheaders except tournaments

\* – Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) game

❖ – Florida Rebel Tournament - Kissimmee, Fla.

⊕ – GLIAC Championships - Midland, Mich.

◆ – NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament - Edwardsville, Ill.

◆ – 27th annual National Championships - Houston, Texas

– more –



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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# 2008 FINAL GLIAC STANDINGS



THROUGH GAMES OF MAY 11

TEAM	GLIAC		OVERALL	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Wayne State #21	16-4	.800	35-18	.660
<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>16-4</b>	<b>.800</b>	<b>34-16</b>	<b>.680</b>
Saginaw Valley State #15	14-6	.700	34-17	.667
Ashland	13-7	.650	29-17	.630
Grand Valley State	12-8	.600	27-16	.628
Northwood	10-10	.500	23-26	.469
Mercyhurst	7-13	.350	25-30	.455
Gannon	7-13	.350	27-23	.540
Findlay	6-14	.300	11-30	.268
Hillsdale	6-14	.300	13-37	.260
Lake Superior State	3-17	.150	9-31	.225

➤ **On The National Scene** – The Bulldogs rank seventh nationally in doubles per game (1.85 avg.) thru games of May 4 and are listed 39th in earned run average (2.05). FSU is 46th in triples (0.26) and 54th in win-loss percentage (.652). Individually, **Sarah Mueller** is 18th in triples (0.14) and 99th in ERA (2.06). **Katie Kraai** ranks 63rd in doubles (0.33) while **Amanda Jager** is 45th in on-base pct. (.503) and 91st in doubles per game (0.659).

➤ **Seven Bulldogs Named All-GLIAC** – Ferris State placed seven players on the 2008 All-GLIAC teams, which were announced May 4 at the GLIAC Tournament in Midland, Mich. Utility player **Sarah Mueller** was a repeat first-team selection while junior first baseman **Amanda Jager** also received first-team kudos after garnering second-team honors a season ago. Third baseman **Katie Kraai** along with sophomore second baseman **Amanda Harrington** and pitcher **Holly Bruntjens** all collected second-team accolades. Attaining honorable mention laurels were junior catcher **Krystle Bailey** and freshman outfielder **Lynsay Weaver**. Bruntjens earned honorable mention plaudits last season while Bailey was a second-team pick.

➤ **Record Holder** – **Katie Kraai**, the lone senior on this season's team, became Ferris State's record holder in doubles this spring and presently has amassed 49 total in 199 career contests. The 2008 All-GLIAC Second-Team pick established the new standard with a two-base hit versus Wayne State (4/25) and was honored as the GLIAC's Player of the Week (4/28). Her 17 doubles in 50 outings this spring marks a personal career season best and is the second highest total on FSU's all-time single-season leaders list. Kraai is two doubles away from matching Emily McLean's school-record 19 doubles set in 2006.

➤ **All-Region Honorees** – **Sarah Mueller** received Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Great Lakes Region Second-Team honors this season for the second straight year. A season ago, she also achieved Daktronics All-America Third-Team recognition. Her teammate, **Amanda Jager**, landed a spot on the 2008 Daktronics All-Great Lakes Region squad as she was a second-team selection.

➤ **Fast Starters** – Ferris State has generated 55.4% (143-258) of its scoring this season in the first three innings and has outscored its opponent by 82 runs (143-to-61) in the opening three frames. The Bulldogs' 58-run total in the first inning represents a current team high.

➤ **Jager Hitting Her Stride** – **Amanda Jager** has been a productive performer for the Bulldogs this spring by leading the team in batting average (.358), home runs (seven), RBI (30), slugging percentage (.612), and on-base percentage (.488). Her .358 batting average (48-134) not only marks a career season high, but is 57 points higher than her previous season best of .301 (25-83) set as a freshman in the 2006 season.

➤ **The 40-Hits Plus Club** – The Bulldogs currently have four batters with at least 40-plus base hits this season in **Katie Kraai** (50), **Sarah Mueller** (50), **Amanda Jager** (48), and **Amanda Harrington** (48). The four have combined to account for 51.9% (196-378) of the team's hits output this season. Mueller needs four more hits to match her career season-high 54 total set last season in 48 outings.

➤ **30-Win Plateau** – For the second consecutive season and the eighth time in the program's history, Ferris State softball has reached the 30-win plateau in a single season. The Bulldogs compiled a 31-17 overall ledger a season ago. All but one (1995 – 30-17 overall) of the 30-victory or more campaigns has occurred under current coach **Keri Becker**. FSU's 34 victories this spring is the program's most single-season wins since 1999 when the Bulldogs produced a school-record 46-win total (46-18 overall).

➤ **Digging The Long Ball** – Ferris State's 27 home runs this season currently represents the third-highest total in school history and is six roundtrippers shy from tying the school-record 33 homers set by the 2007 squad. Ten different hitters have cleared the fence this spring with **Amanda Jager's** career season-best seven homers paving the way. Jager's seven home runs this season presently ties for sixth-place honors with Emily McLean (2006) on FSU's all-time charts and is one shy of moving into a fifth-place tie with Jody Gifford (1997).

➤ **Moving Up The Chart** – **Sarah Mueller**, a two-time (2007-08) All-GLIAC First-Team honoree, presently is third on Ferris State's all-time wins leaders chart with 39 victories (39-26 career mark) in 68 appearances. She's nine away from tying Niki Moeggenborg (1994-97) for second place and her 216 career strikeouts in one shy of matching Moeggenborg's fifth-place total 217-career total.

➤ **Dispelling The Sophomore "Jinx"** – **Amanda Harrington** is midst her most productive season at FSU this 2008 campaign with career highs in batting average (.336), hits (48), doubles (12), and slugging percentage (.421). Her .336 average is second highest on the team and is 60 points higher than last season (.276).

➤ **Did You Know?** – **Carol Hutchins**, who's currently in her 24th season as head coach at Michigan and is a 2006 NFCA Hall of Fame inductee, coached the 1982 season at Ferris State and led the Bulldogs to an NCAA-II Regional appearance en route to a 23-11 overall record. Current FSU Athletics Director **Tom Kirinovic** also served as co-head coach in the 1989 season as Ferris posted a 17-15 mark.

➤ **Impressive In The Circle** – **Holly Bruntjens** is 5-1 with a team-best 0.32 ERA and three shutouts in her last seven outings to date. She has fanned 26 batters while giving up 31 hits in 44.0 innings. Bruntjens has limited the opposition to a .188 hitting average.

## HEAD COACH KERI BECKER



The all-time winningest coach in Ferris State Softball program history, **Keri Becker** is presently midst her 11th season at FSU and was recently honored as the 2008 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Coach of the Year.

Entering the 2008 season, Becker ranked tied for 50th place among NCAA-II active coaches in winning percentage (.599).

Despite being unable to coach in the 2003 season due to a military commitment, Becker was voted the GLIAC's Coach of the Year after receiving the same honor in her first season (1997) at Ferris. She missed the entire 2003 campaign due to active United States Army duty in late February 2003 in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

During her tenure at FSU, Becker has guided the Bulldogs to a GLIAC Championship title (2000), two GLIAC Co-Championships (2005 & 2008), two (2000 & 2005) GLIAC Tournament championships and a pair (1998-99) of NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional crowns. Ferris made consecutive appearances (1998-99) in the NCAA-II National Championship Tournament. She also directed the 1999 squad to a school single-season record 46 victories.

Under Becker, Ferris State has accumulated eight winning seasons while making five NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tourney appearances. The Bulldogs qualified for the 2007 regional tourney and prevailed in their opening two post-season contests en route to finishing the season with a 31-17 overall record.

A 1995 graduate of Saginaw Valley State, Becker enjoyed a stellar softball career at SVSU in which she earned all-conference first-team kudos four consecutive seasons and was a two-time academic all-league selection as a four-year starter. Prior to Ferris, she served two seasons (1995-96) as an assistant coach at SVSU.

### BECKER YEAR-BY-YEAR

SEASON	GP	W	L	T	Pct.
1997	60	40	20	0	.667
1998	61	44	17	0	.721
1999	64	46	18	0	.719
2000	51	33	18	0	.647
2001	45	22	23	0	.489
2002	45	16	29	0	.356
2003	*Leave of absence due to military commitment				
2004	46	24	21	1	.533
2005	51	31	20	0	.608
2006	52	26	26	0	.500
2007	48	31	17	0	.646
<b>2008</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.680</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.606</b>

### BECKER'S RECORD BREAKDOWN

YEAR	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
1997	0-0	17-8	21-10	2-2
1998	1-1	10-5	23-7	10-4
1999	0-0	19-7	16-6	11-5
2000	0-0	15-8	14-10	4-0
2001	0-0	6-12	16-9	0-2
2002	0-0	6-10	7-17	3-2
2003	*Leave of absence due to military commitment			
2004	0-0	4-13-1	20-8	0-0
2005	0-0	7-7	19-11	5-2
2006	0-4	12-8	14-12	0-2
2007	0-0	14-9	16-4	3-4
<b>2008</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>11-8</b>	<b>16-6</b>	<b>7-2</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1-5</b>	<b>118-95-1</b>	<b>182-100</b>	<b>45-25</b>

CAREER TOTAL – 347-225-1; HOME – 101-37-0;  
AWAY – 77-62-1; NEUTRAL – 169-126-0