

FERRIS STATE SOFTBALL



2004 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
3/7	at Florida Tech	1 p.m.
3/8	vs. Truman State	8:05 a.m.
	vs. Shippensburg	12:30 p.m.
3/9	vs. West Virginia Wesleyan	6 p.m.
	vs. East Stroudsburg	7:50 p.m.
3/11	vs. California (Pa.)	8:50 a.m.
	vs. Merrimack	10:40 a.m.
3/12	vs. Bloomsburg	10:40 a.m.
	vs. Nova Southeastern	12:30 p.m.
3/13	vs. South Dakota	8:50 a.m.
	vs. St. Xavier (Ill.)	12:30 p.m.
3/26-28	at Great Lakes Region Showdown	TBA
3/30	at Wayne State	3 p.m.
3/31	Aquinas	3 p.m.
4/3	at Ashland*	11 a.m.
4/4	at Findlay*	11 a.m.
4/6	at Saginaw Valley State*	3 p.m.
4/8	Lewis	12 p.m.
4/9	Hillsdale*	1 p.m.
4/10	Wayne State*	1 p.m.
4/14	at Lake Superior State*	3 p.m.
4/17	Mercyhurst*	1 p.m.
4/18	Gannon*	11 a.m.
4/20	at Northwood*	3 p.m.
4/23	Tiffin (Ohio)	3 p.m.
4/24	Grand Valley State*	1 p.m.
4/25	at Wisconsin-Parkside	12 p.m.
4/27	Calvin	3:30 p.m.
4/30-	at GLIAC Tournament*	TBA
5/2		
5/6-8	NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional	TBA
5/11-16	NCAA-II Championship*	TBA

All starting times are Eastern and subject to change

Home games in **bold** and held at the FSU Varsity Softball Field

NOTE – All dates are doubleheaders except tournaments

* – Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) game

► – Florida Rebel Spring Games (Kissimmee, Fla.)

✦ – Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. (Hosted by Lake Superior State)

◆ – Orlando, Fla.

MORE DIAMOND DOG BITES – Junior outfielder **Jessie Wright** improved her hitting average by 61 points last season over the previous campaign. She batted .287 (25-for-87) in 32 outings after hitting .226 (7-for-31) as a freshman in 31 games . . . **Nicki Merchant's** younger sister, Jessica, is the starting shortstop at Michigan . . . **Dana (Peuler) Conklin** was married this past June to Chad Conklin. She posted a team-high tying six multi RBI games a season ago while her eight multiple-hit contests were third best among the team leaders . . . Junior infielder/outfielder **Navreet Gill's** 31 base hits last season doubled her output (15) from the previous year. The 2003 GLIAC All-Academic performer turned in a personal career-high .240 average at the plate last year. She earned the team's FSU President's Academic Award last season for having the squad's highest grade point average.

WEEKLY RELEASE: MARCH 6, 2004

FERRIS STATE OPENS 2004 SEASON IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

ON DECK: The Ferris State University softball team opens the 2004 season and its 32nd year of varsity competition this Sunday (March 7) in the Sunshine State as the Bulldogs take on the Florida Tech Panthers in a non-league doubleheader at Melbourne, Fla.

FSU then will spend this upcoming week, March 8-13, competing in 10 non-conference contests at the annual Florida Rebel Spring Games in Kissimmee, Fla.

ALL-TIME SERIES: The Bulldogs have compiled the following all-time records versus their opponents on the Florida spring road swing.

Florida Tech – First Meeting
 Truman State (Mo.) – 0-3-0
 Shippensburg (Pa.) – 4-1-0
 West Virginia Wesleyan – 0-0-0
 East Stroudsburg (Pa.) – 0-1-0
 California (Pa.) – 3-4-0
 Merrimack (Mass.) – 1-1-0
 Bloomsburg (Pa.) – 1-2-0
 Nova Southeastern (Fla.) – 0-1-0
 South Dakota – 2-1-0
 St. Xavier (Ill.) – 0-1-0

HEAD COACH KERI BECKER: The all-time winningest head coach in Ferris State Softball history, **Keri Becker** enters her seventh year at FSU this spring with a current 201-125 career record (.617 winning pct.).

This past season (2003), Becker was honored as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's (GLIAC) Coach of the Year for the second time in her career after receiving the 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 Operating Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. **Note** – As a result of NCAA guidelines, Becker won't have the Bulldogs' 2003 season mark attributed to her coaching record.

During her tenure at FSU, Becker has guided the Diamond Dogs to a GLIAC Championship, a pair of GLIAC Tournament and NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional titles along with back-to-back appearances (1998-99) at the NCAA-II National Championship Tournament. She also directed the 1999 squad to a school single-season record 46 victories.

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 VS. THE OPPOSITION: Florida Tech 0-0, Truman State 0-2, Shippensburg 3-1, West Virginia Wesleyan 0-0, East Stroudsburg 0-1, California (Pa.) 3-4, Merrimack 1-1, Bloomsburg 1-1, Nova Southeastern 0-0, St. Xavier 0-0.

BECKER'S RECORD BY THE MONTH:

YEAR	FEB.	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◆	0-0	7-12-1	10-15	1-2
TOTALS	1-1	80-62-1	107-74	31-17

◆ – Missed entire season

DIAMOND DOG BITES...

◆ **32ND SEASON** – The 2004 campaign represents the 32nd season of varsity competition for the Ferris State Softball program. The Bulldogs are 558-532-2 overall (.512) since the program's inception in 1973. During that period, FSU has compiled 11 20-plus win seasons, including three consecutive (1997-99) 40 or more victory campaigns.

◆ **SOLID AT THE CORNERS** – Seniors **Nicki Merchant** and **Dana Conklin** will solidify the Bulldogs' infield this season at first and third base, respectively. Merchant earned second-team All-GLIAC honors a season ago after hitting a career-best .286 with a team-high 42 base hits and 26 RBIs. Conklin picked up all-conference honorable mention accolades following a career-high .262 batting average with one home run and 20 RBIs. She attained All-GLIAC Second-Team kudos in 2002.

◆ **GOING DEEP** – **Nicki Merchant's** team-high nine home runs in 48 games last spring tied for the second highest single-season output in school history. Merchant's nine homers equals Jody Gifford's total in 1999. Gifford holds the Bulldogs' season mark with 10 set in 1998. Merchant accounted for 42.9% (9-of-21) of the squad's total home run production in 2003. She's presently tied with Anne Bentley (1997-00) for second place on Ferris' all-time home run leaders with 11 total.

FERRIS STATE

 SOFTBALL

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➤ **2004 GLIAC PRESEASON POLL** – FSU was chosen sixth with 50 points in the 2004 GLIAC Preseason Softball Coaches Poll. Grand Valley State was picked to repeat as conference champions as the Lakers received seven of 11 possible first-place votes and totaled 106 points. The voting was conducted by the GLIAC's 11 coaches who couldn't vote for their own team. Ferris was selected to place fifth in the 2003 preseason poll.

➤ **SEASON OPENERS** – The Bulldogs have won six of their last seven season-opening contests, including the last three to date. Ferris claimed an 11-2 win over Pfeiffer (N.C.) in last year's opener (March 1) at the Catawba (N.C.) Invitational.

➤ **A SEASON AGO IN FLORIDA** – Ferris State compiled a 3-12 record on its annual Florida trek, including a 3-7 performance at the Florida Rebel Spring Games Tourney. The Bulldogs went on to finish the 2003 campaign at 18-29-1 overall and 6-10 in the GLIAC under interim co-head coaches **Lesla Bickley** and **Chad Haberland**.

➤ **DID YOU KNOW?** – Former FSU Softball head coach **Monica Folske** (1975-81) was among the 2002 Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame inductees. She's the second all-time winningest coach at Ferris State with a 111-87 career record (.561) and was twice (1980 and 1981) honored as the GLIAC's Coach of the Year. **Carol Hutchins**, who only the 1982 season at FSU and directed the Bulldogs to a 23-11 mark (.676), is presently in her 20th year at Michigan and is the most victorious coach in UM athletics history. Hutchins guided Ferris to a NCAA-II National Championship Tourney appearance in the 1982 campaign and was recognized as the GLIAC's Coach of the Year.

➤ **INAUGURAL RECIPIENT** – Sophomore outfielder **Jessica Jaroniewski** was honored this summer as the first recipient of the Jen Jacobs Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a walk-on student-athlete after their initial collegiate season. Jaroniewski tied for fourth on the team with a .300 batting average in 39 games last spring. Jacobs, who hailed from Big Rapids, was a four-year letter-winner (1996-99) at third base and a member of the Bulldogs' two (1998-99) NCAA-II National Championship Tourney teams. Jacobs was named FSU's Most Improved Player in 1996 and was presented with the program's Diamond Dawg Award two seasons later (1998).

FSU CAREER LEADERS

HITS			
NAME (YEARS)	HITS	NAME (YEARS)	HITS
1. Jody Gifford (1996-99)	277	Jennifer Colvin (1999-02)	70
2. Anne Bentley (1997-00)	222	12. Ami Canen (1991-94)	66
3. Becky VanderBee (1994-97)	211	13. Staci Leyko (1994-97)	61
4. Casey Munger (1996-99)	203	14. Nicki Merchant (2001-present)	58
5. Theresa Luciw (1993-96)	184	DOUBLES	
6. Nadine Crowl (1997-00)	167	1. Anne Bentley (1997-00)	43
7. Sarah Guzal (1995-98)	165	2. Jody Gifford (1996-99)	41
8. Shawn Martinez (1995-98)	154	3. Theresa Luciw (1993-96)	39
9. Paula Hensell (1992-95)	147	4. Amanda Opbroek (2000-03)	29
10. Anne Koltvedt (1998-01)	143	5. Anne Koltvedt (1998-01)	28
11. Ami Canen (1991-94)	133	6. Jaymee Kent (1999-00)	27
12. Marianne Gepfrey (1989-92)	125	Nadine Crowl (1997-00)	27
13. Nicki Merchant (2001-present)	122	Jennifer Colvin (1999-02)	27
RUNS BATTED IN		9. Nicki Merchant (2001-present)	24
NAME (YEARS)	RUNS BATTED IN	10. Shawn Martinez (1995-98)	22
1. Jody Gifford (1996-99)	193	Ami Canen (1991-94)	22
2. Becky VanderBee (1994-97)	115	Dana Conklin (2001-present)	22
3. Nadine Crowl (1997-00)	109	HOME RUNS	
4. Anne Bentley (1997-00)	95	1. Jody Gifford (1996-99)	31
5. Theresa Luciw (1993-96)	92	2. Anne Bentley (1997-00)	11
6. Shawn Martinez (1995-98)	85	Nicki Merchant (2001-present)	11
7. Anne Koltvedt (1998-01)	82	4. Patricia Silye (1979-82)	8
8. Casey Munger (1996-99)	74	Mila Prieur (1998-01)	8
9. Sarah Guzal (1995-98)	72	Jennifer Colvin (1999-02)	8
10. Patricia Silye (1979-82)	70		

TRACKING THE DIAMOND DOGS

Overall	0-0
Home	0-0
Away	0-0
Neutral	0-0
vs. Ranked Teams	0-0
Day Games	0-0
Night Games	0-0
Following wins	0-0
Following losses	0-0
Extra Innings	0-0
One-Run Game	0-0
Two-Run Game	0-0
Three-Run Plus Games	0-0
Doubleheaders	0-0
FSU scores first	0-0
Opponent scores first	0-0
Leading after five innings	0-0
Tied after five innings	0-0
Trailing after five innings	0-0
Outhitting the opposition	0-0
Same hits as the opposition	0-0
Outhit by the opposition	0-0
10 plus hits	0-0
Monday	0-0
Tuesday	0-0
Wednesday	0-0
Thursday	0-0
Friday	0-0
Saturday	0-0
Sunday	0-0
March	0-0
April	0-0
May	0-0
Last five games	0-0
Last 10 games	0-0
Current streak	0-0
Versus Sunshine State	0-0
Versus MIAA	0-0
Versus PSAC	0-0
Versus GLIAC	0-0

2004 FERRIS STATE BULLDOG SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Yr.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
1	Carissa Quider*	P/2B	R/R	5-4	So.	Gladwin, Mich. (Pinconning)
2	Rachel Chartier**	P	R/R	5-8	Jr.	Marquette, Mich.
3	Amy Dollarhite	OF	R/R	5-1	Jr.	Dewitt, Mich. (St. Johns/Lansing CC)
4	Melissa Worsley**	C	R/R	5-2	Jr.	Midland, Mich.
5	Jessica Jaroniewski*	OF	L/R	5-3	So.	Millington, Mich.
6	Amber Sriver	OF/1B	L/L	5-10	So.	Niles, Mich. (Brandywine)
8	Nicki Merchant***	1B	R/R	5-8	Sr.	Wayland, Mich.
9	Allison McKibbin	C	R/R	5-4	Fr.	Hemlock, Mich.
11	Jenna Thiede	P	R/R	5-5	Fr.	LaSalle, Mich. (Airport)
12	Lindsay Riskovitch*	SS/2B	R/R	5-6	So.	Reese, Mich.
13	Emily McLean*	UTL	R/R	5-5	So.	Rogers City, Mich.
14	Navreet Gill**	IF/OF	R/R	5-4	Jr.	Brampton, Ontario (Mayfield Secondary)
16	Danielle Maxwell*	1B	L/R	5-4	Sr.	Bay City, Mich. (Western/Delta CC)
17	Jessie Wright**	OF	R/R	5-5	Jr.	Sand Lake, Mich (Tri-County)
18	Laura Crower	IF/OF	R/R	5-9	Fr.	Midland, Mich.
20	Dana Conklin***	3B	R/R	5-8	Sr.	Wyoming, Mich./Rogers

* – Letters Earned