

# FERRIS STATE SOFTBALL GAME NOTES



FERRIS STATE SOFTBALL



2005 NCAA DIVISION II

GREAT LAKES REGION TOURNAMENT

• May 12-15, 2005 •

Highland Heights, Kentucky

#4 FERRIS STATE:

30-18-0 Overall;

13-7 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC)

#5 NORTHWOOD: 31-12-0

#6 GANNON: 32-16-0

#3 WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN: 41-16-0

#2 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS-EDWARDSVILLE: 40-13-0

#1 NORTHERN KENTUCKY: 50-0-0

- **2005 GLIAC Tourney Champs!** – Ferris State captured its first Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament Championship title since 2000 with a 3-0 decision over Northwood last Saturday (May 7) in Midland, Mich. FSU advanced to the championship game with a 2-1 triumph over the Timberwolves in a game which was suspended last Friday (May 6) night after five innings due to lightning and resumed Saturday morning. In 2000, the Bulldogs won their last 10 contests but didn't gain a NCAA berth and finished the season at 33-18-0 overall.
- **Warming Up** – Ferris State enters this Thursday's regional opener against Northwood having won 14 of its last 16 outings this spring and is midst a four-game winning streak. The Bulldogs have outscored their opponents 77 to 37 in the 16-game span, including a 37-11 advantage in the first three innings and a 17-1 margin in the third frame alone.
- **Familiar Foes** – Ferris and Northwood will square off for the fifth time this season with the season series tied at 2-2. Northwood swept a regular-season conference road series (Apr. 2) at Big Rapids, winning 9-6 and 10-3 before the Bulldogs turned the tables at the GLIAC Tournament. Ferris is 45-34-1 in its all-time series against Northwood and head coach **Keri Becker** is 22-13 all-time versus the Timberwolves.
- **Hitting Leaders** – Ferris' top four hits leaders this season – **Emily McLean** (60), sophomore catcher-designated player **Allison McKibbin** (53), **Laura Crower** (49) and senior catcher-designated player **Melissa Worsley** (46) have combined to produce 52.9% (208-393) of the squad's total hits production to date. McLean's 60 hits is 10th among the program's all-time single-season leaders and is two hits away from tying Casey Munger's ninth-place 62-hit season total (1998).
- **Did You Know?** – Current Michigan head coach Carol Hutchins spent the 1982 season at Ferris and directed the Bulldogs to a 23-11 mark (.676). Hutchins, the most victorious coach in Michigan's softball history, guided FSU to a NCAA-II Tourney appearance in the '82 season.

## DIAMOND DAWG BITES...

- **33rd Season** – The 2005 campaign represents the 33rd season of varsity competition for the Ferris State Softball program. The Bulldogs are 612-571-3 overall (.517) since the program's inception in 1973. During that period, Ferris has compiled 13 20-plus win seasons to date, including three consecutive (1997-99) 40 or more victory campaigns.
- **In The NCAA Regionals** – The Bulldogs will be making their fourth NCAA Division II Regional appearance in the program's history this Thursday (May 12) after receiving an at-large bid. Ferris' last regional appearance was in 1999 at the Great Lakes Regional (May 14-15) in Allendale, Mich. FSU posted a 3-1 tourney mark and advanced to the 1999 NCAA-II National Championship Tournament after besting Ashland, 5-1, in the region's championship game (5/15). The Bulldogs, who are 8-3 (.727) all-time in regional action, won all three of their Great Lakes Region outings in 1998 (5/8-9) and bested Ashland, 4-2, in the title contest at Ashland, Ohio. Ferris made its inaugural appearance in 1982 (5/14-15) at the East Regional in Stratford, Conn., going 2-2.
- **Head Coach Keri Becker** – **Keri Becker** is the all-time winningest coach in Ferris' softball history with a current 255-164-1 (.608) bench mark. Becker, a two-time (1997 and 2003) GLIAC Coach of the Year selection, directed the Bulldogs to their three most winningest seasons in her first three years (1997-99). She also guided Ferris to back-to-back NCAA-II National Championship appearances (1998-99) as the 1998 squad registered a third-place showing. She led the 1999 team to a school-record 46 victories (46-18). Becker, who is 9-5 all-time in NCAA Tourney play, missed the 2003 season due to active U.S. Army duty in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.
- **McLean Named GLIAC Player of the Year** – Junior leftfielder **Emily McLean (Rogers City)** was honored as the GLIAC Softball Player of the Year this season and became the first Ferris State player to garner the recognition in school history. McLean, who was also chosen to the 12-member All-GLIAC First Team and was the Bulldogs' lone first-team representative, is batting a team-leading .385 this campaign with 60 base hits in 156 at bats to go with nine home runs, 36 runs batted in (RBI), and a .641 slugging percentage. She ranks among the top three conference leaders in batting average, slugging percentage, home runs, total bases and RBIs. The 2004 All-GLIAC Second-Team pick has compiled a squad-best 20 multiple hit contests and is tied for top team honors with nine multi-RBI game performances.
- **A Difference A Year Makes** – Sophomore first baseman **Laura Crower (Midland)** is batting

95 points higher this spring (.350) than a year ago (.255). The 2005 All-GLIAC Second-Team pick has produced 35 more hits this campaign (949) and 26 more RBIs (31) than in 2004. Her 13 doubles this season is currently sixth best on Ferris' all-time season leaders list and is one shy of tying for fourth-place honors. In 27 contests last spring, Crower didn't even record a double.

- **The Long Ball** – The Bulldogs have belted a school-record 29 home runs this season in 48 contests, bettering the 24 total set by the 1998 team in 61 games. A season ago in 46 contests, Ferris State belted seven home runs. Nine different batters this season have cleared the fences with **Emily McLean's** nine homers leading the way and **Laura Crower** ranking second on the squad with five blasts. McLean, who had a combined three home runs in her previous two seasons – two in 2003 and one in 2004, presently ranks third among FSU's career leaders with 12 roundtrippers in 106 outings. Her nine homers this year is tied for second place on Ferris' all-time season leaders list and is one shy of tying Jody Gifford's school-record 10 blasts established in 1998.

- **Who's Hot?** – **Emily McLean** is midst a team-high tying eight-game hitting streak with a .533 batting average (16-30) during that stretch. She has six multiple-hit game efforts in the span, highlighted by three-hit outings at Hillsdale (Apr. 30) and versus Wayne State (May 6). McLean has recorded two home runs, three RBIs, scored seven runs and posted a .733 slugging percentage.

- **Mound Dominance** – Senior pitcher **Rachel Chartier (Marquette)** has compiled an 8-1 record with a 1.12 earned run average in her last 11 appearances to date. Chartier has turned in seven complete games in 62.2 innings pitched in the 11-game period while allowing 18 runs (10 earned) to go with 13 walks and 28 strikeouts. Chartier won all three of her GLIAC Tourney starts and tossed a three-hitter in Ferris' 3-0 title game victory over Northwood last Saturday (May 7). The 2004 honorable mention all-GLIAC selection presently is ninth on FSU's all-time wins leaders chart with 27 career victories (27-21) and is three shy of tying for sixth place. Chartier's 348.1 innings pitched in 64 career outings currently is sixth highest among the Bulldogs' all-time pitching leaders.

- **Century Club** – Three Ferris State players currently have 100 or more career hits. **Melissa Worsley** leads the team with 126 hits which ranks 15th in school history, followed by **Navreet Gill** (125 hits - 16th in FSU history) and **Emily McLean** (109 -- 22nd). Junior centerfielder **Jessica Jaroniewski** (92 hits) is eight shy of reaching the century mark.

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