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Northwood's Gruszynski Named 2002 GLIAC Volleyball Player Of The Year *Clapham Earns Freshman of the Year Honors, Brandel-Wilhelm Tabbed Coach of the Year*

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Northwood University senior setter **Amy Gruszynski** was named 2002 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) women's volleyball "Player of the Year" in voting conducted by the league's coaches. Mercyhurst College's **Kari Clapham** was tabbed "Freshman of the Year," while Ferris State University's **Tia Brandel-Wilhelm** earned "Coach of the Year" honors.

Gruszynski, a senior setter from Pinconning, Michigan, is leading the conference in assists (12.32) and hitting percentage (.374) this season. A two-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) second-team All-American, Amy led the Timberwolves to a tie for second-place (15-3) in the North Division in 2002. She earned GLIAC North Division Player of the Week honors four times and AVCA Division II National Player of the Week once this campaign as Northwood to a 27-4 overall mark and a No. 15 national ranking. Gruszynski was named the 2001 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament "Most Valuable Player" after leading her squad to the tournament title. She is a three-time All-Great Lakes Region first-team selection and earned GLIAC All-Academic accolades twice.

Clapham played in every game for the Lakers this season and finished the regular season with 1,092 assists (10.92 per game). Clapham, a freshman from Elyria, Ohio, ranked fourth on the Mercyhurst squad in service aces (25) and in digs (236). She helped Mercyhurst to a 21-7 overall mark this season, its best since a 29-7 record in 1993, prior to joining the GLIAC. The 13 conference wins are also a one-season high for the Lakers. Clapham led her team wins over Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan, and Ferris State for the first time in school history.

Brandel-Wilhelm guided the Bulldogs to a national top 25 ranking and the school's fifth consecutive 20-win campaign (24-5). In her seventh season at FSU, Brandel-Wilhelm ranks second among Ferris' all-time coaching victory leaders with a 268-93 (.742) career mark and entered the 2002 season ranked 11th among NCAA-II's winningest active coaches. A 1990 Alma College graduate, she guided the Bulldogs to the school's fifth consecutive GLIAC Tournament berth this campaign and led them to a NCAA-II Tournament appearance in 1999. Ferris' 15-3 league record under Brandel-Wilhelm represented its best GLIAC mark since posting a 16-0 conference record in 1990.

Gruszynski led a trio of Timberwolves on the All-GLIAC first team, joined by sophomore outside hitter Sladjana Vasiljevic and junior outside hitter Laura Zaskowski. Ferris State also posted three players on the first team with senior middle hitter Alaina Olds, senior outside hitter Stephanie Speed, and sophomore setter Ashley Green.

The rest of the 2002 All-GLIAC first team includes: junior setter Nicole Bayle and senior outside hitter Carly Miller of Grand Valley State University; senior outside hitter Jill Duling and junior outside hitter Kara Heitmeyer of the University of Findlay; sophomore middle hitter Rebecca Kaukola of Michigan Tech University; and senior middle blocker Beth Laveen of Northern Michigan University.

Miller, last season's GLIAC Volleyball Player of the Year, is now a three-time All-GLIAC first-team selection. Olds and Laveen were named to the first team for the second consecutive season. Bayle, Vasiljevic, and Zaskowski were named to the All-GLIAC second team in 2001.

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2002 GLIAC Volleyball Postseason Awards All-Conference Teams

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Player of the Year:

Amy Gruszynski, Northwood University (Senior, Setter, Pinconning, Mich.)

Freshman of the Year:

Kari Clapham, Mercyhurst College (Freshman, Setter, Elyria, Ohio)

Coach of the Year:

Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, Ferris State University

All-GLIAC First-Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Nicole Bayle	Grand Valley State	Jr.	S	Fruitport, Mich.
Jill Duling	Findlay	Sr.	OH	Columbus Grove, Ohio
Ashley Green	Ferris State	So.	S	Pittsburgh, Pa./Baldwin
Amy Gruszynski	Northwood	Sr.	S	Pinconning, Mich.
Kara Heitmeyer	Findlay	Jr.	OH	Bluffton, Ohio/Pandora
Rebecca Kaukola	Michigan Tech	So.	MH	Fairfax, Minn./GFW
Beth Laveen	Northern Michigan	Sr.	MB	Eagan, Minn.
Carly Miller	Grand Valley State	Sr.	OH	Jackson, Mich.
Alaina Olds	Ferris State	Jr.	MH	Kingsely, Mich.
Stephanie Speed	Ferris State	Sr.	OH	Bothell, Wash.
Sladjana Vasiljevic	Northwood	So.	OH	Sarajevo, Bosnia
Laura Zaskowski	Northwood	Jr.	OH	Grand Rapids, Mich./Forest Hills Northern

All-GLIAC Second-Team

Sabrina Bird	Grand Valley State	Jr.	MB	Hopkins, Mich.
Kari Clapham	Mercyhurst	Fr.	S	Elyria, Ohio
Jessamyn Deemer	Gannon	Jr.	S	Conneaut Lake, Pa.
Chara Fehsenfeld	Grand Valley State	Sr.	OH/Lib.	Grand Blanc, Mich.
Lyndsi Hughes	Mercyhurst	So.	OH	Grove City, Pa.
Busra Kurtuldu	Hillsdale	Jr.	OH	Ankara, Turkey/Ted Ankara
Leslie Macko	Mercyhurst	Sr.	OH	South Park, Pa.
Ericka Marcus	Lake Superior State	Sr.	OH	Zeeland, Mich./Holland Christian
Katie O'Connor	Gannon	Sr.	MH	Boswell, Pa./North Star
Jamie Reed	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	S/OH/DS	Saginaw, Mich./Heritage
Traci Skrzypek	Grand Valley State	Sr.	RS	Mendon, Mich.
Jill Zwiebel	Findlay	Sr.	MH	St. Marys, Ohio/Memorial

All-GLIAC Honorable Mention

Mandi Altomari	Gannon	Jr.	OH	Pittsburgh, Pa./Baldwin
Jenn Barba	Mercyhurst	Jr.	MH	Meadville, Pa.
Lindsey Beckstedt	Findlay	Sr.	Lib.	Celina, Ohio
Taryn Franznick	Michigan Tech	Fr.	LS/MH	Southlake, Tex./Carroll
Brittney Godlewski	Ferris State	Fr.	OH/Lib.	St. Clair Township, Mich./Marysville
Elisa Joris	Grand Valley State	So.	MB	Walled Lake, Mich./Central
Allison Jurasek	Wayne State	Sr.	MB	Clinton, Mich.
Valarie Lyczkowski	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	MH	Temperance, Mich.
Kelli McCune	Northern Michigan	So.	S	Fort Collins, Colo.
Jelena Mijatovic	Northwood	Fr.	OH	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Leslie Newcomer	Lake Superior State	Sr.	S	Edwardsburg, Mich.
Karin Poschke	Hillsdale	So.	S	Stevensville, Mich./Lakeshore
Lora Wisenbarger	Ashland	Sr.	RSH	Mansfield, Ohio/Madison