

Ferris State Men's Basketball

2001-02 SEASON PREVIEW

A few fresh faces and a talented crop of returnees provide head coach **Edgar Wilson** with optimism entering the 2001-02 campaign.

With an experienced Bulldog frontcourt returning and a wealth of young talent poised in the backcourt, Wilson is confident Ferris State has weathered the storm and can continue the climb it began a season ago in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) North Division standings.

"Our work ethic and chemistry is as good as it has been in some time," Wilson said. "That combination gives me optimism and the hope that we can continue the turnaround process in our program."

The Bulldogs will be led by 2001-02 *Basketball Times* NCAA Division II Preseason Top 25 All-America selection **Adam Anderson** and senior co-captain **Matt Miller**.

During the 2000-01 campaign, FSU finished fifth in the GLIAC's North Division (5-13) and recorded its most wins in three seasons (8-18). For the Bulldogs to build on last year's improvement, the talented Anderson must continue to assert himself as one of the premier post players in the conference.

FRONTCOURT

As a junior, the 6-10 Anderson attained first-team 2000-01 All-GLIAC North Division honors and 2000-01 All-Great Lakes Region accolades. A three-year letterwinner and two-time FSU Most Valuable Player, Anderson led the GLIAC in scoring at 21.3 points per game a season ago.

If FSU is to embark on its first winning campaign since claiming the 1997-98 GLIAC Tournament title, Anderson will have to lead the way.

"Adam has strengthened his commitment to the point where he could be a dominant force in this league," Wilson said.

Fellow senior Matt Miller is a solid defensive player and the squad's vocal leader. A determined veteran, his solid play and assertive leadership will be critical to the squad's success.

Besides Anderson and Miller, the Bulldogs also return steady sophomore **Johnathan Bowers**. As a freshman, Bowers started 11 games and was the squad's third-leading scorer (8.7 ppg). A versatile athlete, Bowers has the ability to knock down the outside shot and gives the Ferris State frontcourt much-needed quickness to attack the basket.

One of the squad's best outside threats, junior **Jeff Guernsey** figures to play a significant role. His aggressive offensive ability and three-point marksmanship are viable weapons in the Bulldog attack.

While sophomore **Nathan Wruble** averaged only 1.7 points per game in his first season at Ferris State a year ago, his continued development provides FSU with ample depth in the frontcourt, a must at the NCAA Division II level.

Newcomer **Doug Isanhart**, a transfer from Baptist Bible College, adds size to the squad and could earn quality playing time.

BACKCOURT

With Anderson leading the Bulldog charge in the frontcourt, Wilson is counting on sophomore **Marcus Wallace** to provide the experience in a young Bulldog backcourt. As a freshman, Wallace

was the squad's second-leading scorer (10.1 ppg) and most productive outside option.

While Wallace is expected to be the leader, a talented stable of backcourt mates should give Wilson added flexibility this season.

Two-year letterwinner **Brian Monahan** chipped in 6.8 points per game as a sophomore and is FSU's most-experienced returnee in the backcourt. Last season, Monahan led the Bulldogs in assists (3.0 apg) and steals (1.2 apg) while serving as the squad's floor leader at the point guard position.

Junior reserve **Brandon Alexander** saw action in 11 games last year and will help assume additional ball-handling responsibilities.

Behind the returnees, Wilson has brought in one of his best recruiting classes.

"For the first time in several years, I feel we've brought in more complete basketball players," Wilson said. "Hopefully, that will bring balance and consistency to our attack both offensively and defensively."

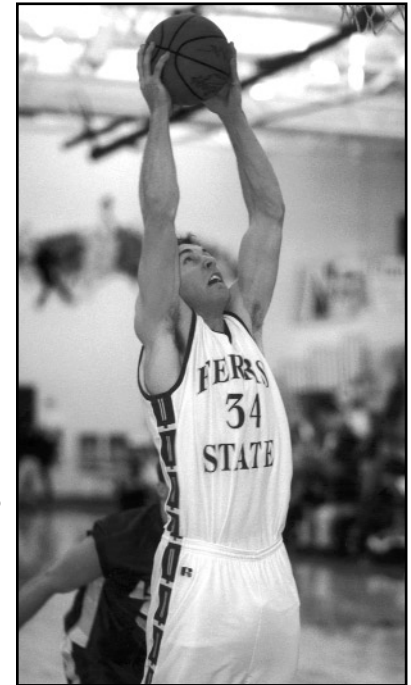
Two brothers **Carlton** and **Corey Epps** will compete for time in the backcourt after solid prep careers at Benton Harbor High School. Carlton ranked among the squad's leading scorers (15.2 ppg) at Benton Harbor while Corey earned the Tiger Most Improved Player Award as a senior.

Swingman **Michael Anderson** averaged 21.5 points per game last season at Royal Oak Shrine High School and has the potential to play a significant role.

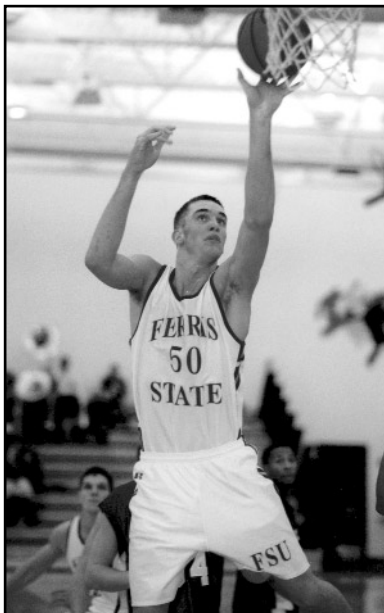
Highly-regarded point guard **Timothy O'Brien** was an honorable mention all-state selection at Traverse City St. Francis High School and will help provide ample depth.

"The returnees on our squad have significant experience," Wilson said. "That will give our younger players an opportunity to grow in our program."

The growth and development of the younger players will be critical if FSU is to continue its climb in the conference standings.



Senior forward Matt Miller has been elected one of FSU's team captains for the 2001-02 campaign.



Senior center Adam Anderson is a 2001-02 *Basketball Times* Preseason Top 25 All-America selection.

Returnees

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
4	Marcus Wallace	G	So.	6-3	1L
14	Brandon Alexander	G	Jr.	6-0	1L
22	Brian Monahan	G	Jr.	6-1	2L
33	Johnathan Bowers	F	So.	6-9	1L
34	Matt Miller	F	Sr.	6-8	3L
42	Nathan Wruble	F	So.	6-7	1L
50	Adam Anderson	C	Sr.	6-10	3L
54	Jeff Guernsey	G/F	Jr.	6-5	2L

Newcomers

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
3	Michael Anderson	G/F	Fr.	6-3	HS
12	Timothy O'Brien	G	Fr.	6-3	HS
20	Corey Epps	G	Fr.	6-2	HS
23	Carlton Epps	G	Fr.	6-2	HS
44	Doug Isanhart	F	Jr.	6-6	T

PG – Point Guard
C – Center

G – Guard
HS – High School

F – Forward
T – Transfer