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GLIAC Men's Basketball Coaches Tab Michigan Tech and Hillsdale for 2002-03 Division Titles

BAY CITY, Mich. -- The head men's basketball coaches of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) chose Michigan Tech University and Hillsdale College to win the league's North and South Division titles, respectively.

Michigan Tech received all six first-place votes it was eligible for. Northwood University received the remaining first-place vote and finished second in the poll, while Northern Michigan University placed third in the balloting. Grand Valley State University and Lake Superior State University tied for fourth place with 18 points. Saginaw Valley State University in sixth (16 points), and Ferris State University in seventh (13) round out the Division.

Hillsdale also received all the first-place votes it was eligible for (5) to rank first in the South Division. Second-place Gannon University received the remaining first-place vote and finished four points behind the Chargers. Wayne State University edged Ashland University by one point for third place. Mercyhurst College (9) and the University of Findlay placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

Each of the GLIAC's 13 coaches ranked the teams in the division in which they play, but were not allowed to vote for their own team. The first-place team on the North Division ballot received six points, while the second-place team received five points, etc. The first-place team in the South Division received five points, while the second-place team received four points, etc.

Michigan Tech defeated Northwood in the finals of the 2001-02 GLIAC post season tournament, claiming the school's first-ever conference championship. The GLIAC tournament will take on a new look this season. Quarterfinal games will be played on Saturday, Mar. 1, on campus sites with the higher seeds hosting the games. The semifinals and finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed on Friday, Mar. 7 and Saturday, Mar. 8.

The GLIAC sent four teams - Findlay, Gannon, Hillsdale and Michigan Tech - to the NCAA II Great Lakes Region Tournament last season.

GLIAC basketball teams open play on Friday, Nov. 22 with conference play beginning Saturday, Nov. 30.

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2002-03 GLIAC Preseason Men's Basketball Coaches Poll

North Division

<i>Rank</i>	<i>School (first-place votes)</i>	<i>Points</i>
1.	Michigan Tech (6)	36
2.	Northwood (1)	25
3.	Northern Michigan	21
4.	Grand Valley State	18
	Lake Superior State	18
6.	Saginaw Valley State	16
7.	Ferris State	13

South Division

1.	Hillsdale (5)	25
2.	Gannon (1)	21
3.	Wayne State	15
4.	Ashland	14
5.	Mercyhurst	9
6.	Findlay	6

2001-2002 GLIAC Men's Basketball Final Standings

North Division

<i>School</i>	<i>Record (GLIAC)</i>
Michigan Tech	27-3 (16-2)
Northwood	18-11 (10-8)
Lake Superior State	17-10 (8-10)
Grand Valley State	15-13 (8-10)
Northern Michigan	14-12 (7-11)
Saginaw Valley State	5-21 (2-16)
Ferris State	4-22 (1-17)

South Division

Findlay	23-7 (12-5)
Gannon	21-7 (12-5)
Ashland	18-9 (11-6)
Hillsdale	20-8 (11-6)
Wayne State	15-12 (10-7)
Mercyhurst	13-13 (6-11)

The following are season previews on each of the GLIAC's 13 Men's Basketball Teams:

Ashland University: The Eagles welcome back three starters from last year's 18-9 team. The backcourt is manned by two seniors - 6-3 Isaac Kincaid (18.4 ppg.) and 6-2 Angelo Edwards (12.6 ppg., 123 assists). Kincaid is a two-time GLIAC all-star and Edwards has been named to the GLIAC All-Defensive Team for two straight seasons. Up front, 6-5 sophomore center Mike Campbell (10.2 ppg., 8.9 rpg.) returns. Head coach Roger Lyons is back for his 10th season at AU. He's guided the Eagles to 18 or more wins in four of the last five years.

Ferris State University: FSU tips off a new era in its 77-year history this season under first-year head coach Bill Sall, who previously compiled a 5-8 mark as FSU's interim head coach for a portion of the 1995-96 season. Sall welcomes back eight returnees from last season's squad. Headlining the list of returnees is 6-10 Street & Smith's Division II Preseason Honorable Mention All-America selection Adam Anderson, who was granted a medical redshirt campaign after missing the final 23 games last season due to a bone bruise injury (knee). Anderson led the league in scoring (21.3 ppg) while attaining first-team GLIAC North Division and GLIAC All-Defensive Team recognition in 2000-01. Ferris' 2002-03 roster includes eight newcomers, highlighted by transfers Dennis Springs and Willie Thomas.

University of Findlay: UF is coming off a 23-7 season from a year ago and its first-ever berth in the NCAA Division II tournament. However, the Oilers have the daunting task of replacing several of the key components from last year's squad. The most significant loss is Kyle Hunt. Hunt, an All-GLIAC First Team selection last season, averaged 18.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, and 3.8 apg for the Oilers. Head coach Ron Niekamp, who will be beginning his 18th season at Findlay with an overall record of 354-143, brought in some excellent recruits and still has a solid nucleus of talent returning from last year's squad. Seniors Charles Warren and Brad Rethman, along with junior Marwan Gaines, are high-energy players that should help replace the talent lost from last year. Warren (12.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.9 apg, 63 three's), Rethman (8.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg), and Gaines (7.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.0 bpg) should help the Oilers contend for this year's GLIAC Championship.

Grand Valley State University: Head Coach Terry Smith enters his sixth year at the helm of Grand Valley State's men's basketball team. Smith has led the Lakers to an 82-56 record during that span, including a 15-13 record last year and a GLIAC Championship in 2000-01. This year's Laker squad has 10 new faces after losing four starters from a year ago. Senior Jason Bauer, an All-GLIAC North Second Team Selection last year, will lead the young Lakers after averaging 13.9 points and 9.6 rebounds a game in 2001-02. Other returning Lakers include Keith Barr, Justen Naughton, and Nate Hinkle.

Gannon University: GU returns three starters and nine lettermen from last season's 21-7 squad. The Golden Knights won the GLIAC South Division title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third consecutive season. The Division II Bulletin ranked Gannon 25th nationally in its preseason poll while Street & Smith's College Basketball listed the top 10 teams in the nation and listed Gannon among the "possible breakthrough" teams. Seniors Josh Morgan, Marc Sturdivant, and Camara Mintz lead the Knights into the 2002-03 season. Head coach Jerry Slocum enters his seventh season at Gannon after compiling a 119-49 record in his previous six years. Slocum's career record of 520-296 ranked him fifth among active Division II coaches.

Hillsdale College: With all letterwinners and starters returning for the 2002-03 season, the Hillsdale men's basketball team will look to continue the success it had last year after advancing to the NCAA Tournament in 2001-02. The upcoming season may mark a career milestone for Charger head coach Ed Douma, who could surpass 500 career coaching victories in his 28th season as a collegiate head coach (Douma currently has 498 wins in 27 seasons). Hillsdale returns all five starters from last year's team, including seniors Matt Mlynarchek and Jonathon Dues. Mlynarchek, who was a first-team All-GLIAC performer last season, averaged 15.1 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. Dues, who was also a first-team all-league pick, led the team with 16.3 ppg. The Chargers are coming off a 20-8 record last season while advancing to the NCAA Tournament First Round.

Lake Superior State University: Sixth-year head coach Marty McDermott will rely on an experienced group of perimeter players to lead the Lakers during the 2002-03 season. Senior guard Ben Dewar, a 2002 GLIAC first-team and two-time GLIAC all-defensive player, is the Lakers' only returning starter. Dewar (6-5, 190) averaged 19.3 points and six rebounds per game last season. Seniors Ryan Hiller and Frank Suszynski, juniors Paul Kurtz and Evan Engle, and sophomore Steve MacDonald are also returning guards. Sophomore Scott Jamison (6-6, 190) is the Lakers' most experienced inside player. He averaged 5.1 points and four rebounds in 28 games last season. In 2001-02, McDermott led the Lakers to a 17-11 overall finish and their first back-to-back winning seasons since the 1986-87 and 1987-88 seasons. His record at LSSU is 60-77.

Mercyhurst College: Karl Fogel (94-91) begins his eighth season at the Laker helm, the longest tenure of any men's basketball coach in Mercyhurst history. He is nine wins shy of setting a new career MC mark. Fogel and his coaching staff are optimistic for the 2002-03 season and have good reason to be. All five starters return, including Second Team All-GLIAC choices Scott Melle (12.8ppg, 5.3rpg, 29 blks), Justin Shouse (13.6ppg, 114 assists, 60 steals), and Josh Helm (15.6ppg, 7.6rpg). Shouse was also named to the South's All Defensive Team. Four freshmen have also been added, including 7-1 Jeff Daisley, the tallest player ever to don a Laker uniform.

Michigan Tech University: MTU has national title aspirations after returning all five starters and 95 percent of its scoring from last year's 27-3 squad. The defending GLIAC North Division and Tournament Champion Huskies are led by All-American Matt Cameron. The senior forward averaged 17.8 points and 7.2 rebounds per game last year, earning GLIAC Player of the Year, GLIAC Tournament MVP honors. Academic All-American center J.T. Luginski (13.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg), GLIAC North All-Defensive forward Keith Fogle (4.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.0 apg) and GLIAC All-Tournament Team pick Josh Buettner (13.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg) join Cameron in arguably one of the nation's premier frontcourts. Sophomore guard Jason Marcotte (11.8 ppg, 3.7 apg), last year's GLIAC Freshman of the Year, and senior guard Jeremy Resmer (7.9 ppg) round out a lineup that should have ninth-year coach Kevin Luke (151-81) in position to win his fourth North Division title in six years.

Northern Michigan University: Wildcat coach Dean Ellis, who has compiled a 260-190 record in 16 years, has just 10 players on his roster, four are incoming freshmen and one a redshirt freshman. The key loss for NMU is graduated center Damian Matacz who departed as the ninth all-time scorer and eighth all-time rebounder in school history. Three starters and five letterwinners return led by junior guard Billy Hill (6-7) who has scored 857 points in two years. Junior Steve Watts (6-6) also returns as a starter at forward. He averaged 8.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg and a team-high 27 steals. Senior Adrian Whitten (5-9) returns as the starting point guard. He averaged 8.8 ppg and had a team-high 63 assists. NMU will also have height at center with redshirt senior Raef Lizak (6-11, 216) and junior Milan Azanjac (6-10, 262). Three freshmen from Montreal, Canada are also expected to make an impact. They are guards Keder Hyppolite (6-1, 222) and David Noel (6-1, 201) and forward Marco Volcy (6-7, 193).

Northwood University: NU, under the direction of sixth-year head coach Bob Taylor (80-57), will look to maintain and improve upon the squad's 2001-02 second-place finish in the GLIAC North and GLIAC Tournament. Four starters are gone from last season, but the one remaining starter is junior Dallas Logan, who plays numerous positions on the floor, but is listed as a guard at 6'3". Logan averaged 17.9 points per game (6th in GLIAC) last season and was named First Team All-GLIAC North. Joining him in the backcourt is junior Petar Jovanovic who played backup point guard last season, averaging 18 minutes and 4.1 points per game. The frontcourt will be solidified by sophomore Derek Fillmore, who ranked seventh in the GLIAC in three-point percentage last season (.429). Fillmore averaged 6.2 points per game which ranked fifth on the team. Senior Travis Meister saw action in 21 games last season and will be looked upon to provide leadership as the team's lone senior.

Saginaw Valley State University: Optimism surrounding the SVSU team is high entering the 2002-03 season. The Cardinals return four starters and ten letterwinners from last year's team, including four seniors. The Birds feature a talented backcourt led by Terrence Wright, who earned first team all conference honors in 2000-01, but redshirted last season. Wright led the team in scoring and assists as a junior. He's joined by senior Jerry Minott, who led the team in assists as a junior. Dean Lockwood, who enters his fifth season as head coach, added five freshman and four transfers to the program to fill out the lineup. Sophomore Anthony Parker, who led the team in scoring as a freshman (14.5ppg), returns for his sophomore campaign, as does forward Maurice Brown, the team's leading rebounder last season.

Wayne State University: WSU head coach David Greer begins his second season at the Warrior helm after leading his squad to a 15-12 (10-7 GLIAC) mark and a berth in the GLIAC Tournament last season. Wayne State's top returnee is GLIAC South Division All-Conference First Team selection Justin Chapman. The 6-5 senior was the South's Player of the Week twice in 2001-2002 (Jan. 7, Feb. 11). He will bring his 12.6 points and 7.5 boards per game back to the court for the Warriors. Also coming back are sophomore A.J. Parker and junior Kendall Lesure. Parker came off the bench last year and was WSU's second-leading scorer with 10.5 a game, including an eight-game double-digits scoring streak. Other returnees expected to make an impact on the squad are Jeremy Denha, Nick Dyer and Alton Marks. Denha led the Warriors in field goal percentage at .569 while Dyer ranked second in free throw percentage (.763) and Marks, who was a perfect 18-for-18 from the line last year. Rick Fox also returns for the Warriors after a yearlong rehab on his knee. In his junior year, Fox averaged 12.6 points and 5.5 rebounds.