

The Ferris State women's basketball team has been among the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's (GLIAC) most successful programs during head coach **Tracey Fisk's** first six seasons at the helm.

Last season was no different.

In 2003-04, the Bulldogs posted their eighth consecutive 10-win campaign, registered their second 20-win season in the last five years and notched their seventh-straight winning year by compiling a 21-10 overall record. In the meantime, the Bulldogs also placed second in the league's North Division with a 14-4 GLIAC mark.

For Ferris to top last season's efforts in 2004-05, the Bulldogs must replace one of the most successful senior classes in school history. The trio of Lucy DeMartin, Stephanie Benear and Molly Potvin not only advanced to the GLIAC Tournament finals last season, but they also reached the NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament for only the second time in school history.

"We had an outstanding season last year and we had great leaders in those three seniors," said Fisk, who ranks as the school's all-time winningest coach with a 106-61 (.635) record entering her seventh season at the helm. "However, I believe we have a lot of pieces to the puzzle returning this year and are in position to really become a national contender with consistent play."

Fisk welcomes back eight letterwinners and three starters from last season's squad, including both an All-GLIAC North Division and consensus All-Great Lakes Region First Team honoree in junior guard **Erin Miller**. The 5-7 Miller, who was named a co-recipient of FSU's 2003-04 Most Valuable Player Award, reached double-figure scoring in 28 of her 31 contests last campaign and ranked as the squad's second-leading scorer (17.0 ppg) behind DeMartin. Her versatility and prolific offensive skills make her one of the region's top all-around players.

"Erin makes everyone around her a better player," Fisk said. "Everyone knows what she can do, but if she maintains her composure she can help our other players utilize their strengths which will make us a better team."

Miller should also benefit from the return of senior center **Bridget Horwitz**, who missed the entire 2003-04 campaign with an injury. Horwitz totaled 420 points (16.8 ppg) and a team-leading 210 rebounds (8.4 rpg) while receiving second-team All-GLIAC North Division accolades for the second consecutive season in 2002-03. One of only 11 players in school history to score 1,000 career points, Horwitz appears poised to reassert herself as a solid interior presence.

"Bridget's worked hard to get into great shape and has positioned herself as one of the top post players in the league," said Fisk. "We're expecting her to have an outstanding season."

In addition to Miller and Horwitz, the Bulldogs also return senior forward and 2003-04 GLIAC North Division All-Defensive Team selection **Sarah Duesing**. The 5-10 Duesing tallied a personal career-high 233 points, 116 rebounds and 32 assists last season along with being named FSU's Defensive MVP Award recipient.

"Sarah's stepped up and elevated her play each season," Fisk said. "She does all of the little things well for us and will be one of the top defenders in our conference."

Beyond Duesing and Horwitz, the Ferris front-court also includes junior forward/center **Darcie Philp**. With Horwitz out last season, the 6-1 Philp made 27 starts and recorded 4.2 points and 3.6 rebounds per contest. Her continued development and improvement along with Horwitz's return should provide the Bulldogs with a much more established interior this season.

Sophomore **Audrey Thwing** provides valuable depth in the frontcourt following an adjustment season as a freshman last year.

Fisk expects sophomore guard **Kristin Reinhart** to become an even more viable scoring threat and capable contributor on the perimeter with the departure of DeMartin, who concluded her career as the school's all-time leading scorer. Reinhart played in all 31 games as a rookie and averaged 8.5 points per contest. A solid floor leader, her poise and added confidence should enable her to compliment Miller in the backcourt.

The squad's third senior, **Lucie Cenkova**, is one of the team's top outside shooters and scorers with the ability to play a significant role this season. Cenkova, who played two seasons of junior college basketball prior to her arrival a year ago, saw action in 21 games as a junior and netted 53 points.

Versatile junior **Kelly McLaughlin** could step into a starting role on the wing this campaign after seeing backup duty inside last season. McLaughlin's continued development and improvement will be critical if the Bulldogs hope to return to the regional tournament this time around.

Fisk and her staff also inked five prep recruits, which should help offset the loss of last season's talented senior group. The group includes **Katie Loosvelt**, **Ashley Corbiere**, **Sam Johns**, **Rachel Folcik** and **Lindsey Deyo**.

Both Johns and Folcik have the potential to contribute immediately. Johns guided Allendale High School to the program's first 20-win season (21-4) by averaging 15.7 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.5 assists in 2003. She also received honorable mention all-state kudos and garnered All-Ottawa Kent Silver Conference recognition four times (2000-03). Along with Cenkova and McLaughlin, Johns figures to be a key player as a combo guard/forward on the outside.

The 6-1 Folcik notched 21.5 points and 9.4 rebounds for Carney-Nadeau High School as a senior while picking up first-team *Associated Press* All-State honors for the second consecutive season. She'll be expected to supply ample depth inside and battle for quality playing time.

Loosvelt, Corbiere and Deyo all have the tools to be productive role players in the Bulldog attack.

The 5-3 Loosvelt compiled a school single-season record 20.4 points per contest at Carlson High School in her final prep campaign. A three-time (2001-03) All-Michigan Mega Conference pick, she led the Marauders to an 18-3 overall mark and a conference crown last season.

Corbiere averaged 13 points, nine rebounds and seven assists per game for Sault Area High School in 2003. The two-time (2002-03) All-Big North Conference honoree twice received All-Upper Peninsula accolades.

Deyo was an honorable mention all-stater at Richland's Gull Lake High School after helping her squad claim both a district and regional championship in 2003.

"If our players unite like they did last season, we're capable of having a big year," Fisk said. "However, I thought our schedule was brutal last year and it could be even tougher this season."

The Bulldogs' non-conference slate includes road games at North Dakota, South Dakota State, NCAA Division I Western Illinois and an exhibition contest at NCAA-I Central Michigan. Neutral site contests with perennial regional contenders Northern Kentucky and Southern Indiana are also on the docket.

"There's a chance we could have a better team and possibly advance further than we did last year, but not have as good of an overall record," said Fisk. "Our league will be as solid as ever and the team which peaks at the end will be the most likely to make a big run."

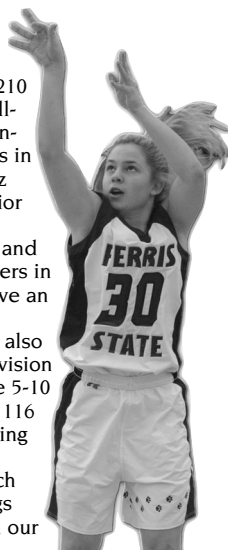
Fisk expects mental toughness and conditioning to be keys late in the season as teams fight for position in the conference standings.

"Hopefully, by playing some of the top teams in the country during the non-conference portion of our schedule, we'll be prepared to step up at the end of the season," she said.

If Fisk's first six seasons at the helm are any indication, the Bulldogs appear poised to step up for another postseason push.



**KELLY McLAUGHLIN**



**KRISTIN REINHART**

### Returns

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
11	Erin Miller	G	Jr.	5-7	2L
12	Lucie Cenkova	G/F	Sr.	5-10	1L
15	Sarah Duesing	F	Sr.	5-10	3L
22	Audrey Thwing	F	So.	5-11	1L
24	Kelly McLaughlin	F	Jr.	6-0	2L
30	Kristin Reinhart	G	So.	5-5	1L
40	Bridget Horwitz	F/C	Sr.	6-2	3L
45	Darcie Philp	F/C	Jr.	6-1	2L

### Newcomers

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
3	Katie Loosvelt	G	Fr.	5-3	HS
5	Ashley Corbiere	F	Fr.	5-10	HS
25	Sam Johns	G/F	Fr.	5-9	HS
33	Rachel Folcik	F/C	Fr.	6-1	HS
42	Lindsey Deyo	F	Fr.	5-11	HS

G – Guard                      F – Forward                      C – Center  
 T – Transfer                    HS – High School                      DNP – Did Not Play