

Ferris State University women's basketball head coach **Tracey Bloodworth-Fisk** has certainly experienced her share of success in eight previous seasons at the Bulldog helm.

The school's all-time winningest coach, Bloodworth-Fisk has directed FSU to seven consecutive Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament appearances, two NCAA-II National Tournament bids and a league title during her career.

In addition, the program has won more than 10 games each year she's led the way, enabling Bloodworth-Fisk to claim more victories than any other former Bulldog head coach.

Expect this season to be no different.

The Bulldogs, who were picked to finish second in the 2006-07 GLIAC North Division preseason coaches poll behind defending NCAA-II National Champion Grand Valley State, welcome back four starters and 11 letterwinners from last season's team that finished with an 18-10 overall mark.

"We'll have a veteran team with plenty of experience returning this year," said Bloodworth-Fisk. "Also, based on a team from our conference winning a national title last year, our players have experienced what it takes to compete at a championship level and are now much hungrier and willing to do what it takes to be successful."

Much of the reason for Ferris' optimism this campaign centers around the return of one of the league's most talented backcourt tandems in senior guards **Erin Miller** and **Kristin Reinhart**.

Miller returned from an injury last season to lead the Bulldogs in scoring at 14.7 points per game. She also became only the 12th player in school history to notch 1,000 career points and was recognized as a first-team All-GLIAC honoree for the second time in her career.

Reinhart received All-GLIAC North Division accolades for the second consecutive campaign a year ago after posting a squad-best 142 assists and scoring 12.9 points a contest.

Both Reinhart and Miller, who shared FSU's Most Valuable Player Award last season, will be called upon to provide experienced senior leadership this campaign while continuing to rank among the conference's top all-around threats.

"Our team chemistry has improved each season and this year's leaders are at a new level," Bloodworth-Fisk said. "They're pushing each other harder and farther than in the past and both of those two are a reason for that improvement."

Junior forward/center **Rachel Folcik** joins Reinhart and Miller as the squad's tri-captains this season. Folcik firmly established herself as the squad's primary frontcourt presence last year as she averaged 13 points and six rebounds a game. Her ability to score both from the inside and the outside combined with solid defensive skills provides the Bulldogs with nearly unmatched versatility in the post.

"Rachel's been an unbelievable presence already and she's not afraid to take charge," said Bloodworth-Fisk. "She's displaying a lot of confidence and playing with more authority at both ends of the floor."

Reinhart and Miller are joined in the squad's three-member senior class by forward **Audrey Thwing**, who developed into the team's top rebounder (6.8 rpg) and added a significant scoring punch (11.4 ppg) in the lineup last season.

"Audrey gained valuable experience last year and had a lot of big days for us," Bloodworth-Fisk said. "She's playing with more energy and her consistency will be a big key to our success this season."

Behind Thwing and Folcik inside, the Bulldogs should have more depth this season than in recent memory. Sophomore **Jenna Guay** played in 24 games a year ago and displayed the ability to effectively contribute down low. Fellow sophomore **Ashley Fleming** was limited to seven games last season due to injury, but has the necessary offensive tools to earn significant duty in the Bulldog lineup.

On the wing, Bloodworth-Fisk expects talented junior guard/forward **Sam Johns** to increase her production again this campaign. The 5-9 Johns appeared in all 28 games and totaled seven points a contest last year. Her 35 made three-pointers also ranked second on the squad. Johns' athleticism and competitive spirit should help provide a boost to the squad's attack.

Junior guard **Katie Loosvelt** returns to provide valuable spot duty in the backcourt behind Miller and Reinhart once again. Despite being the squad's shortest player at only 5-3, Loosvelt has developed into an inte-

gral defender on the ball with the ability to direct the offense in given situations.

Along with Loosvelt, sophomore guard **Teghan Thelen** is also likely to challenge for additional playing time in a deep Bulldog arsenal. The 5-6 Thelen, who prepped at Pewamo-Westphalia High School, saw action in 27 games while playing a relief role her initial season last campaign. An added year of experience combined with her outstanding energy and work ethic will result in a more significant role this year.

Sophomore **Caitlin Hutchison**, who took part in 15 contests during the 2005-06 season, along with sophomore **Ashley Corbiere** will compete for time on the wing. Corbiere sat out last season as a redshirt due to a knee injury.

Despite the 11 letterwinners returning, Bloodworth-Fisk also inked a pair of talented prep recruits in the offseason.

Andrea Clancy, a 6-2 forward/center from North Huron High School, is the squad's biggest, tallest and longest player which makes her a legitimate candidate for playing time inside. She averaged 18.5 points and 15 rebounds per game as a prep senior in 2005.

Fellow freshman **Stephanie DeNoyelles** from Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart is still recovering from an injury and will redshirt this season following a highly-successful high school career.

The Bulldog lineup this season may be among the deepest and most talented Bloodworth-Fisk has had in her tenure at Ferris State. However, as is almost always the case, Bloodworth-Fisk realizes hurdles and challenges will come along the way as the Bulldogs try to match their high preseason expectations.

"Our success is going to depend on whether or not we make the sacrifices we need to make every day and if we are able to develop the mental toughness required when the chips are down," she said. "We have to make the necessary sacrifices every day and stay focused if we're going to play at a championship level."

"If we make those sacrifices and our mindset is right, we'll be a tough team to beat."

The schedule, too, will be as tough as ever as the Bulldogs will play 14 regular-season games away from home following a preseason tilt at NCAA Division I Michigan State. Included in the slate are three non-conference games against regional foes and a season-opening trip to the Clarion (Pa.) Classic.

The schedule includes 13 home games inside the friendly confines of Jim Wink Arena, including nine outings against conference foes.

"The schedule won't be easy, but hopefully our experience will give us an added edge," said Bloodworth-Fisk.

The Bulldogs have had an edge over many teams throughout Bloodworth-Fisk's head coaching career at Ferris State.

As the Bulldogs contend for the program's third trip to the national tournament and a second league crown this campaign, *expect this season to be no different.*



KRISTIN REINHART



AUDREY THWING

Returns

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
3	Katie Loosvelt	G	Jr.	5-3	2L
10	Caitlin Hutchison	F	So.	5-11	1L
11	Erin Miller	G	Sr.	5-7	3L
14	Ashley Corbiere	F	So.	5-10	1L (R)
22	Audrey Thwing	F	Sr.	5-11	3L
24	Teghan Thelen	G	So.	5-6	1L
25	Sam Johns	G/F	Jr.	5-9	2L
30	Kristin Reinhart	G	Sr.	5-5	3L
32	Jenna Guay	F/C	So.	6-1	1L
33	Rachel Folcik	F/C	Jr.	6-1	2L
45	Ashley Fleming	F/C	So.	6-1	1L

Newcomers

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
12	Stephanie DeNoyelles	G	Fr.	5-7	HS
20	Andrea Clancy	F/C	Fr.	6-2	HS

G – Guard F – Forward C – Center
T – Transfer HS – High School R – Redshirt

