

NCAA-II SWEET SIXTEEN

FSU's Reaches Regional Title Game

Prior to last year (2006-07), the Ferris State University women's basketball team had never won a NCAA Division II Tourney game in the program's 33-year history.

The third time was the charm, however, for the Bulldogs as they advanced to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Championship Game



The 2006-07 Bulldog basketball squad (above) reached the NCAA-II Sweet Sixteen last season with two tourney victories.

for the first time in school history with a remarkable run to the Sweet Sixteen at Lewis University's Neil Carey Arena in Romeoville, Ill. Ferris fell a game shy of advancing to the NCAA-II Elite Eight for the first time due to a 79-69 setback against Drury (Mo.) in last year's regional final.

Ferris State concluded the year with a school-best 23-9 overall record.

After earning the program's third NCAA-II Tournament bid, the seventh-seeded Bulldogs upset number two seed Northern Kentucky in Friday's (March 9) quarterfinals at Neil Carey Arena 70-69 as sophomore guard Teghan Thelen grabbed a loose ball underneath the basket and converted a layup off the glass as the final buzzer sounded to give FSU the one-point win and its first-ever NCAA Tournament victory.

The momentum from Friday's buzzer-beating quarterfinal triumph fueled the Bulldogs in Saturday's (March 10) semifinal round as Ferris bolted out to a 16-point halftime advantage versus sixth-seeded Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) foe Gannon. The Knights battled back to trim the deficit to only four points with 5:32 to go, but FSU knocked down some clutch free throws down the stretch to pull out a 80-61 win and reach the regional title game for the first time in the program's history.

The Bulldogs fought back from a nine-point deficit with 15 minutes left against Drury in Monday's championship game and took a 58-55 advantage with six minutes to go before the Panthers went on a 14-4 run to seize control. DU was appearing in its fourth regional final in the last five years while the Bulldogs made their first-ever appearance in the NCAA-II Sweet Sixteen.

In addition to the program's school-record 23 victories, Ferris State also advanced to the GLIAC Tournament for the eighth consecutive season and recorded its 11th-straight campaign with 10 or more victories this year. Ferris posted a second-place tying 13-5 mark in conference regular-season action this season and won 18 games or more for the third time in the last four years to date.

Senior guard Kristin Reinhart and junior forward Rachel Folcik were among five all-tournament team selections recognized after the Bulldogs' remarkable run to the regional finals.

**NCAA Division II
Great Lakes Region
Tournament
1999-00, 2003-04 &
2006-07**

**NCAA-II's Highest
Team Grade Point
Average
1999-2000**

**GLIAC Tournament
Quarterfinalists
2000-2007**

**WBCA Division II
Team Academic
Top 25 Honor Roll
1999-2006**

**GLIAC Tournament
Runner-Up
1999-00 & 2003-04**



RACHEL FOLCIK



TEGHAN THELEN

