

To say the Ferris State University women's basketball program had one of its most successful seasons in school history last year would be quite an understatement.

The Bulldogs capped off the 2006-07 campaign by advancing to the NCAA Division II Sweet Sixteen for the first time in school history. Along the way, Ferris compiled a school-best 23-9 overall record, placed second in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings with a 13-5 league mark and won its first two games ever in national tournament action.

With the increased success, however, comes higher expectations.

The Bulldogs enter the 2007-08 campaign poised to build on last year's remarkable run. Eight letterwinners and three starters return this season, including 2007-08 GLIAC Preseason Player of the Year **Rachel Folcik**.

"The kids we have returning experienced something special last year and really want to get back there," said 10th-year head coach **Tracey Dorow**. "However, this is a different year with a different team and we're going to have to find our niche."

"It's going to take some time and we're going to have to be patient," she added.

The squad's goal, according to Dorow, is to win the GLIAC Tourney.

"If we can win the tournament, that means we earn a NCAA bid and it's a totally new season for us," she said. "We'd like to accomplish a lot more, but if we can remain focused on that goal and what it takes to get there we'll have the opportunity to achieve what we want in the end."

In order for the Bulldogs to match or surpass last year's success, Dorow will have to find a way to replace two of the top players in school history. Talented guards Erin Miller and Kristin Reinhart, who both finished among the top five scorers in FSU history, were lost to graduation.

"We lost two veteran guards who played a lot of significant minutes for us and it won't be easy to replace them," Dorow said. "In addition, we'll be relatively young with six freshmen so it's going to be a process."

The process should be much easier with the return of Folcik, who came into her own as one of the nation's top players last campaign. The 6-1 Folcik turned in the most productive season in Bulldog history as evidenced by her school single-season record 602 total points. She averaged 18.8 points and 8.2 rebounds en route to earning 2007 NCAA Division II Kodak/Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Honorable Mention All-America recognition.

"Rachel's a special player who can do it all," said Dorow. "She finished strong for us last season and is playing with more and more confidence every day. We're expecting her to have another outstanding season leading our squad."

While Folcik will undoubtedly serve as the team's primary offensive weapon, plenty of returning talent is also available. The Bulldogs also welcome back two other starters in guards **Sam Johns** and **Teghan Thelen**.

One of the squad's two seniors, Johns poured in 7.5 points and 3.8 rebounds a game on the wing last season. Thelen, who provides many intangibles, tallied 6.8 points along with 3.3 boards on the perimeter. Both will be called upon even more this season as Ferris attempts to reload despite the loss of Miller and Reinhart.

With Reinhart gone, the Bulldogs will certainly count on the services of senior **Katie Loosvelt** as one of the team's primary ball-handlers in the backcourt. She made five starts a season ago and dished out 66 assists.

Up front, the Bulldogs will look to a trio of returning post players to both backup Folcik and fill the graduation void left behind by starting forward Audrey Thwing. Juniors **Jenna Guay** and **Ashley Fleming** along with sophomore **Andrea Clancy** all played valuable minutes last season off the bench.

Dorow believes Guay has the ability to be one of the league's better rebounders while Fleming has the tools to be a solid offensive contributor. Clancy's the squad's tallest player at 6-2 and gives the Bulldogs yet another weapon in the frontcourt. The three players combined for 10 points and almost seven rebounds in 26 minutes of action per game last campaign.

Junior **Caitlin Hutchison** is the last returning player from a year ago and should provide additional depth this season after a strong off-season. Last year, she stepped in and played a solid reserve role in the Bulldogs' post-season push.

"Our returning players saw the vision of where they want to be at the end of last season and they know what that vision looks like," Dorow said. "The hard task now is putting everything together and performing like we're capable of so we can achieve that vision."

The Bulldogs inked six prep recruits in the off-season to help offset last year's losses. In addition, Ferris will also have the services of redshirt freshman guard **Stephanie DeNoyelles** who spent last year learning the system and adjusting to the collegiate game.

In the backcourt, Dorow added freshmen guards **Becci Houdek**, **Katie Mount** and **Mandy Yoder**. **Danielle Davis** and walk-on **Tiara Adams** figure to supply additional depth on the wing while **Amy Joostberns** should contribute

on the interior.

The 5-9 Houdek averaged 15 points, 6.0 assists, 4.0 steals and 3.5 rebounds per game for Canton High School during the fall 2006 season. Mount, who's 5-6, totaled nearly 13 points, four rebounds and four assists per game in her prep playing career for Waterford Mott High School.

The 5-8 Yoder tallied 16 points, five rebounds and 4.5 assists per contest as a prep senior in 2006-07 for NorthWood High School, which is located in Nappanee, Ind.

Meanwhile, the 5-10 Joostberns was an honorable mention all-state selection for Lakewood after averaging 10.4 points, 6.8 rebounds and 3.0 assists per game while shooting 51% from the floor during the 2006 season.

Davis concluded her prep eligibility by leading Grand Rapids' Ottawa Hills High School to a district championship last year. She also helped the squad post a 22-4 overall record and earn runner-up honors in the Class A division of the Grand Rapids City League by scoring 22 points and grabbing 10 rebounds per game.

Finally, Adams netted 10 points, 11 rebounds and two assists for Lansing Waverly High School as a prep senior.

"Our veterans are doing a good job of helping the freshmen adjust to college basketball," Dorow said. "We know we're young, but we're excited to get the season going."

In addition to having six freshmen, Dorow has also added a new assistant coach as former California-Riverside standout **Crystal Harris** takes over for former assistant Justin Rees, who landed a NCAA Division I position at the University of Maine.

"Crystal brings a ton of energy and enthusiasm to our practices," said Dorow. "She's holding our players accountable and making them perform at a higher level, which should help us as we strive to improve every day."

Ferris' schedule will be challenging as always, but the Bulldogs should have enough pieces in place to again be an important factor in an always-competitive league race. The media picked FSU second in the 2007-08 GLIAC North Division Preseason Poll.

If the Bulldogs are to again challenge for a league crown and attempt to make another remarkable NCAA Tourney run, Dorow believes the Bulldogs will have to rely on more than just an experienced group of returnees and an impressive crop of newcomers.

"We've had a lot of help from the outside to get to this point and it has really helped us achieve so many things," Dorow said. "Over the years, we've had great community and university support."

"I think people really enjoy being around our players and they've been excited to do their part to help us succeed."

If last season is any indication, the Bulldogs should again be an exciting and successful team to watch throughout the 2007-08 campaign.

That, to say the least, might be an understatement.



### Returnees

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
3	Katie Loosvelt	G	Sr.	5-3	3L
10	Caitlin Hutchison	F	Jr.	5-11	2L
20	Andrea Clancy	F/C	So.	6-2	1L
24	Teghan Thelen	G	Jr.	5-6	2L
25	Sam Johns	G/F	Sr.	5-9	3L
32	Jenna Guay	F/C	Jr.	6-1	2L
33	Rachel Folcik	F/C	Sr.	6-1	3L
45	Ashley Fleming	F/C	Jr.	6-1	2L

### Newcomers

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Exp.
11	Becci Houdek	G	Fr.	5-9	HS
12	Stephanie DeNoyelles	G	Fr.	5-7	RS
15	Mandy Yoder	G	Fr.	5-8	HS
21	Katie Mount	G	Fr.	5-6	HS
22	Danielle Davis	G/F	Fr.	5-8	HS
30	Amy Joostberns	F	Fr.	5-10	HS
44	Tiara Adams	G/F	Fr.	5-8	HS

G – Guard  
T – Transfer

F – Forward  
HS – High School

C – Center  
R – Redshirt

