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For immediate release

Grand Valley State's Steve Larson Named 2006 GLIAC Men's Golf "Athlete of the Year"

Northwood's Spadafora Earns "Freshman of the Year" Honors, SVSU's Bethune Named "Coach of the Year"

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Junior **Steve Larson** of Grand Valley State University was named the 2006 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Men's Golf "Athlete of the Year." Northwood University rookie **Luigi Spadafora** earned the conference's "Freshman of the Year" title, while **Andy Bethune** of Saginaw Valley State University was tabbed "Coach of the Year."

Larson earned medalist honors twice, in addition to four second, two third and a fourth-place finish this past season. He recorded 11 top 10 finishes, including nine in the top four and six in the top two. Larson tallied an outstanding overall stroke average of 72.0 in 2005-06. Steve capped the year by earning medalist honors at the NCAA DII Great Lakes regional, posting a five-under-par 211. Larson tied for 41st at the NCAA Championships and earned second-team All-American honors.

Spadafora led a young Northwood squad with a 75.6 stroke average in 28 rounds played. For the season, Spadafora posted a total of three top-five, five top-10 and six top-20 finishes while finishing with a win percentage of .761 (775-243). He performed at an even higher level during in the spring, where he averaged 74.9 while earning a win and four top-10 finishes. He earned his first career collegiate victory by placing first out of 105 players at the Findlay-Outback Steakhouse Invitational. Spadafora led a NU team that finished fifth in the region despite playing three freshmen and a sophomore in their top five.

Bethune recently finished his fourth season as head coach at Saginaw Valley State. He guided the 2005-06 squad to a GLIAC Championship in the fall and led his team to a 15th-place finish at the NCAA D-II Championships. It was the Cardinals' second appearance at the D-II Championships in school history. SVSU won five tournaments this past year, including wins at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional and Regional Qualifier Tournament in the fall. The Cardinals finished in the top four in eight of 11 tournaments this year and the team posted a 298.8 average in tournament play.

Joining **Larson** on the 2006 All-GLIAC First Team are: juniors **Jeff Carlson** and **Kyle Mason** of Ferris State University; sophomore **Eric Atsma** the University of Findlay; senior **Dave Patronik** of Gannon University; and junior **Joe Wilson** of Wayne State University.

Joining **Spadafora** on the All-GLIAC Second Team are: senior **Derek Radley** of Ferris State; sophomore **Tony Mango** of Grand Valley State; junior **Kirk Stucke** of Grand Valley State; junior **Scott Urquhart** of Saginaw Valley State; and **Jacob Abramson** of Wayne State.

A complete list of the 2006 All-GLIAC Men's Golf teams are on the following page.

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2006 GLIAC Men's Golf Postseason Awards

Player of the Year: Steve Larson - Grand Valley State University

Freshman of the Year: Luigi Spadafora - Northwood University

Coach of the Year: Andy Bethune - Saginaw Valley State University

2006 GLIAC All-Conference Men's Golf Teams

First-Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>	<u>*Avg.</u>
Steve Larson	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Manistique, Mich.	71.7
Dave Patronik	Gannon	Sr.	Orchard Park, N. Y.	72.4
Kyle Mason	Ferris State	Jr.	Mt. Pleasant, Mich.	73.0
Eric Atsma	Findlay	So.	Grand Rapids, Mich./South Christian	73.1
Joe Wilson	Wayne State	Jr.	Trenton, Mich.	73.6
Jeff Carlson	Ferris State	Jr.	Holland, Mich./West Ottawa	73.9

Second-Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>	<u>*Avg.</u>
Kirk Stucke	Findlay	Jr.	Maria Stein, Ohio/Marion Local	74.3
Tony Mango	Grand Valley State	So.	Milford, Mich.	74.4
Scott Urquhart	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	Queens Ferry, Scotland	74.6
Jacob Abramson	Wayne State	Sr.	St. Clair, Mich.	74.7
Luigi Spadafora	Northwood	Fr.	Milford, Mich.	74.7
Derek Radley	Ferris State	Sr.	Mentor, Ohio/Lake Catholic	74.8

Honorable Mention

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>	<u>*Avg.</u>
Adam Craig	Findlay	Jr.	Lorain, Ohio/Southview	75.0
Adam Miller	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	Gaylord, Mich.	75.1
Tim Wheatley	Northwood	Jr.	East Tawas, Mich./Tawas	75.1
Kyle House	Northwood	Fr.	Highland, Mich./Pinckney	75.1
Kyle Murphy	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Grand Rapids, Mich./East Kentwood	75.3
Mike King	Saginaw Valley State	So.	Livonia, Mich./Detroit Catholic Central	75.4

* - All-GLIAC Men's Golf selections are based upon a player's stroke average in his 10 best rounds in league play, including the three rounds of the GLIAC Tournament. All ties are broken by total strokes in the GLIAC Tournament.