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For immediate release

## **Grand Valley State's Katy Tafler Named 2006 GLIAC Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year**

**BAY CITY, Mich.** -- Grand Valley State University sophomore forward **Katy Tafler** was named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) women's soccer "Offensive Player of the Year" in balloting conducted by the league's coaches.

Mercyhurst College senior defender **Finella Annand** earned the "Defensive Player of the Year" award, while GVSU midfielder **Katie Johnson** was honored with the league's "Freshman of the Year" award. Northern Michigan University's **Matt Granstrand** was named "Coach of the Year" by his peers.

**Tafler** has started all 19 matches for the Lakers this season and leads the nation in points per game (3.74) and goals per game (1.68). She has broken GVSU single-season scoring records for goals in a season with 32 and points with 71. Tafler opened the season scoring two or more goals in seven consecutive matches. She has scored a goal in 17 of 19 matches this season, including four match-winning goals. Tafler, who was named the GLIAC Player of the Week five times this year, is currently tied for second on the squad with seven assists. She was selected the 2005 GLIAC Freshman of the Year along with being named to the All-GLIAC and All-Region teams.

**Annand** anchored a Mercyhurst defense that surrendered just 17 goals in 20 games. The unit shut out nine opponents, allowed more than one goal on just five occasions and more than a pair only once. A team captain, Annand helped guide the Lakers to a berth in the NCAA Championships this season. A versatile player, she spent time at both back and midfielder. Annand scored one goal, a game-winner, and assisted on three others. A three-time All-GLIAC selection, she finished her career with 16 goals and 15 assists for 47 points.

**Johnson** is the third consecutive Laker to be selected as the GLIAC Freshman of the Year. She currently ranks tied for fifth on the squad with 13 points from her midfielder position. Johnson has started in 14 of her 19 matches played and scored three goals and tallied seven assists. She has been a key factor in a Laker offense that has scored 83 goals on the season a new school record.

**Matt Granstrand**, having just concluded his third season at Northern Michigan, led the 2006 Wildcats to their best records ever overall at 16-2-0, and in GLIAC play at 6-2-0. NMU finished in third place in the GLIAC standings, which is the best-ever finish for a Wildcat team. His 2006 edition of the 'Cats set over 15 NMU records including: most wins in a season (16), fewest losses (2), fewest goals allowed (16), longest winning streak (7 games – twice) and most shutouts (12). Granstrand guided the 2006 NMU women's soccer team to its first-ever national and regional rankings. His record at NMU is now 33-15-3 and his overall collegiate record is 64-37-6.

Joining Tafler, Annand, and Johnson on the 2006 All-GLIAC first team are: senior forward **Shannon Carrier**, junior defenders **Sue Christenson** and **Kourtney Willert**, and sophomore goal keeper **Kristina Nasturzio** of Grand Valley State; sophomore forward **Sarah Powell** of Mercyhurst; sophomore midfielder **Stephanie Roy** of Saginaw Valley State University; junior midfielder **Kristie Smilanich** of Ferris State University; and freshman goal keeper **Kara Music** of Northern Michigan.

The complete listing of the 2006 All-GLIAC women's soccer teams and postseason awards are listed on the following page.

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## 2006 GLIAC Women's Soccer Postseason Awards

### Offensive Player of the Year:

Katy Tafler - Grand Valley State (So, F, Mississauga, Ont./Cawthra Park)

### Defensive Player of the Year:

Finella Annand - Mercyhurst (Sr, D, Inverness, Scotland/Culloden Academy)

### Freshman of the Year:

Katie Johnson - Grand Valley State (Fr, MF, Petoskey, Mich.)

### Coach of the Year:

Matt Granstrand - Northern Michigan

## 2006 All-GLIAC Women's Soccer Teams

### First-Team

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Forward	Shannon Carrier	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Plainwell, Mich.
Forward	Sarah Powell	Mercyhurst	So.	McKean, Pa./General McLane
Forward	Katy Tafler	Grand Valley State	So.	Mississauga, Ont./Cawthra Park
Midfielder	Katie Johnson	Grand Valley State	Fr.	Petoskey, Mich.
Midfielder	Stephanie Roy	Saginaw Valley State	So.	Royal Oak, Mich./Dondero
Midfielder	Kristie Smilanich	Ferris State	Jr.	Kalamazoo, Mich./Christian
Defender	Finella Annand	Mercyhurst	Sr.	Inverness, Scotland/Culloden Academy
Defender	Sue Christenson	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Livonia, Mich./Ladywood
Defender	Kourtney Willert	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Elk Grove Village, Ill./Conant
Goalkeeper	Kristina Nasturzio	Grand Valley State	So.	Mississauga, Ont./Cawthra Park
AL (GK)	Kara Music	Northern Michigan	Fr.	Whitehouse, Ohio

### Second-Team

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Forward	Lisa Casement	Mercyhurst	Sr.	Mississauga, Ont./Erindale Secondary
Forward	Renee LeBlanc	Northern Michigan	Jr.	Fenton, Mich.
Forward	Tammy Unsworth	Ferris State	So.	White Lake, Mich./Walled Lake
Midfielder	Kim Oberski	Saginaw Valley State	So.	Port Huron, Mich.
Midfielder	Meaghan Robinson	Grand Valley State	So.	Woodstock, Ont./Huron Park
Midfielder	Jamie Shadd	Gannon	Jr.	Cleveland, Ohio/Padua Franciscan
Defender	Ashley Bigelow	Ashland	Sr.	Lexington, Ohio
Defender	Lisa Burg	Ashland	Sr.	Medina, Ohio
Defender	Sarah Peters	Saginaw Valley State	So.	Saginaw, Mich./Heritage
Goalkeeper	Stacy LaLond	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	Cheboygan, Mich.
AL (MF)	Courtney Rowan	Gannon	So.	Mentor, Ohio/Notre Dame-Cathedral