



KRISTIE SMILANCH

The 2007 Ferris State University women's soccer team hopes to continue building on their success from last season while moving up in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings as the Bulldogs begin their ninth season as a varsity sport.

Twelve players return from last year's squad, including eight starters and the team's three leading scorers in **Kristie Smilanch (Kalamazoo/Christian)**, **Tammy Unsworth (White Lake/Walled Lake Northern)** and **Heather O'Keefe (Ada/Forest Hills Central)**. Joining the trio are three transfers – **Julia Zilan (Wixom)**, **Chelsy Wagner (Ann Arbor/Pioneer)** and **Brandy Tarnowsky (Roseville/Bishop Foley Catholic)**. Each player enters the program with two years of collegiate experience under their belt and provides the defense with the confidence needed to reach the next level.

Leading the Bulldogs' offensive attack will be Kristie Smilanch, Tammy Unsworth and Heather O'Keefe as all three players rank among Ferris State's top 10 leaders in career points. Leading the defensive front will be seniors **Ashley Brewer (Dowagiac/Union)** and **Ashley Lukes (Kokomo, Ind./Western)** along with junior **Jackie Back (Ortonville/Ortonville-Brandon)**. They will be assigned to help protect sophomore goalkeeper **Kari Aslager (Mount Pleasant)** during her first starting season.

Forwards

Unsworth and O'Keefe are the top returnees at this position as both return after setting career high in points last season. Freshmen **Carlee Boyle (Lockport, Ill.)** could also receive a significant amount of playing time this upcoming campaign.

Midfielders

The most demanding position is led by Kristie Smilanch, who recorded 18 goals and 39 points last season en route to receiving 2006 Daktronics, Inc. NCAA Division II All-America First-Team honors. The 2006 All-GLIAC First-Team selection also earned Daktronics All-Great Lakes Region First-Team kudos and was the recipient of the team's Attacking Player of the Year Award last season. A pair of redshirt freshmen, **Owie Lanctot (Mount Pleasant)** and **Kristin March (Canton)**, are also prepared to make an impact.

Senior **Nicole Sawada (Westfield, Ind./Carmel)** contributed an assist in six matches last season and hopes to be joined by freshmen **Kara Lovelace (East Kentwood)** and **Megan Stec (Novi)**. Brandy Tarnowsky, a transfer from NCAA Division I Northern Illinois University, will lend experience to the group and figures to receive considerable action.

Defenders

FSU returns plenty of experience with Ashley Lukes leading a talented group. Lukes played in every Bulldog match last season and recorded two assists.

Joining Lukes on defense is Ashley Brewer along with Jackie Back. Those two appeared in all of the team's 18 matches a season ago and provide Ferris State with solid depth.

Julia Zilan and Chelsy Wagner both arrive to the program via Schoolcraft (Mich.) Community College. Zilan and Wagner are expected to provide depth for a unit which lost only one key player from last year's squad.



ASHLEY LUKES

Goalkeepers

The battle for the starting goalkeeper position is expected to be a fierce one throughout the 2007 season. Sophomore Kari Aslager is in contention to begin the season as the squad's number-one goalkeeper. Aslager appeared in four matches last season.

Freshman **Kathryn Downin (Rockford, Ill./Lutheran)** will compete for the backup spot and possibly for some starting time between the posts. Both Aslager and Downin should gain invaluable experience from first-year assistant coach Carla Gilbertson, who graduated in 2006 as Ferris' all-time leader in both career saves (365) and career wins (32).