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For immediate release

Ashland's Maria Manzo Named 2003 GLIAC Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Ashland University sophomore forward **Maria Manzo** 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.

Becky Richards, senior defender from Ashland, was tabbed the conference's "Defensive Player of the Year" for the second consecutive season. Mercyhurst College's **Lisa Casement**, a forward, was honored with the league's "Freshman of the Year" award. **John Hall**, who guided the Ashland squad to the GLIAC title this past season, earned "Coach of the Year" accolades.

Manzo led an offense that scored 59 goals on the season and finished undefeated in the conference. She finished with 19 goals and seven assists. The AU forward led the conference in shots (129), and shots per game (6.79), while finishing second in goals (19) and points (45). She scored in 13 of the Eagles' 19 games and had five games of two or more goals. Manzo's 129 shots set an AU all-time single-season record. The sophomore has 30 goals in her career, which ranks her fifth on the all-time scoring list. Manzo is a two-time All-GLIAC selection. She was named to the second team Verizon Academic All-District team this season.

Richards started all 19 matches for this season's GLIAC Champions and finished with 11 points (two goals, seven assists). She was a leader of a defense that allowed only 12 goals in 2003 and posted 10 shutouts. A four-time All-GLIAC selection, Richards was named first team on three occasions (2003, 2002 and 2000). She was named to the first team Verizon All-America squad for the second consecutive year. Richards finished her career tied for the program's all-time assists record (37) and placed ninth in points (55).

Casement played in all 17 matches for the Lakers this season. Despite being constantly marked, she recorded 16 of the team's 36 goals. Casement also had four assists for a team-leading 36 points. She led the team with 62 shots, 39 shots on goal, and four game-winning goals.

Hall, in his third season as head coach for the Eagles, has a record of 21-0-4 in the GLIAC. He guided AU to its seventh consecutive conference championship and NCAA Division II playoff appearance. Ashland has gone 47-4-5 during his tenure, which ranks him second on the all-time coaching record. Hall was recognized as the Great Lakes Regional Coach of the Year in 2002.

Joining Manzo, Richards, and Casement on the 2003 All-GLIAC first team are: junior midfielder **Jen Berardinelli** and senior goal keeper **Patti Cooke** of Ashland; sophomore forward **Lisa O'Brian** and senior midfielder **Emily Rogers** of Ferris State University; senior defender **Abby Gienapp**, senior goal keeper **Melissa Henson**, and sophomore **Mirela Tutundzic** of Grand Valley State University; and junior defender **Jessica Lamb** of Mercyhurst.

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2003 GLIAC Women's Soccer Postseason Awards

Offensive Player of the Year:

Maria Manzo - Ashland (So, F, Pickerington, Ohio)

Defensive Player of the Year:

Becky Richards - Ashland (Sr, D, Akron, Ohio/Revere)

Freshman of the Year:

Lisa Casement (Fr, F, Mississauga, Ont./Erindale Secondary)

Coach of the Year:

John Hall - Ashland

2003 GLIAC All-Conference Women's Soccer Teams

First-Team

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Midfielder	Jen Berardinelli	Ashland	Jr.	Willowick, Ohio/Eastlake North
Forward	Lisa Casement	Mercyhurst	Fr.	Mississauga, Ont./Erindale Secondary
Goal Keeper	Patti Cooke	Ashland	Sr.	Wadsworth, Ohio
Defender	Abby Gienapp	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Brighton, Mich.
Goal Keeper	Melissa Henson	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Clinton Twp., Mich./Chippewa Valley
Defender	Jessica Lamb	Mercyhurst	Jr.	Mentor, Ohio
Forward	Maria Manzo	Ashland	So.	Pickerington, Ohio
Forward	Lisa O'Brian	Ferris State	So.	Kalamazoo, Mich./Loy Norrix
Defender	Becky Richards	Ashland	Sr.	Akron, Ohio/Revere
Midfielder	Emily Rogers	Ferris State	Sr.	Traverse City, Mich./Central
Forward	Mirela Tutundzic	Grand Valley State	So.	Wyoming, Mich./Rogers

Second-Team

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Forward	Jessica Booth	Findlay	Jr.	Dearborn, Mich.
Goal Keeper	Caroline Bonynge	Northwood	So.	East Grand Rapids, Mich.
Defender	Rachel Bondy	Grand Valley State	So.	Brighton, Mich.
Forward	Caitlyn Carducci	Ashland	Fr.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy
Midfielder	Shannon Carrier	Grand Valley State	Fr.	Plainwell, Mich.
Forward	Jen Gaylor	Ferris State	Jr.	Roscommon, Mich.
Forward	Carolyn Kunas	Northern Michigan	Sr.	Mentor, Ohio/Lake Catholic
Forward	Tara Pifer	Ashland	Sr.	Whitehouse, Ohio/Anthony Wayne
Midfielder	Ursula Staneff	Ashland	Jr.	Westlake, Ohio
Forward	Jenny Swalec	Grand Valley State	So.	St. Clair Shores, Mich./South Lake
Forward	Rachel Vilders	Northern Michigan	Jr.	Mt. Vernon, Wash.