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For Immediate Release

Grand Valley State's Mackson Named 2003 GLIAC Softball Player of the Year

Wayne State's Misiak Earns Freshman of the Year Honors, FSU's Becker Tabbed Coach of the Year

BAY CITY, Mich. -- For the second straight season Grand Valley State University junior pitcher **Jennifer Mackson** was named the 2003 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Softball Player of the Year. Wayne State University first-year pitcher **Meghan Misiak** garnered Freshman of the Year accolades, while Ferris State University's **Keri Becker** was tabbed Coach of the Year. All three awards were selected by the league's 11 head coaches in conjunction with all-conference balloting.

Mackson, a native of Pinconning, Michigan, compiled a 25-2 record with a 0.65 earned run average in 36 appearances as the Lakers tallied a 46-4 overall record and won the GLIAC with a 17-1 mark this season. Mackson's nine saves leads the country and is third in NCAA Division II softball history. Mackson has pitched 193.1 innings, only allowing 18 earned runs, while recording 279 strikeouts in 2003. She broke GVSU's career strikeout record (476) as she pitched a perfect game in a 3-0 win over Salem International. She helped the Lakers set a single-season winning streak with 29 (Mar. 1-Apr. 4). Along with GLIAC Player of the Year accolades, Mackson earned a number of honors following the 2002 season including: NFCA First Team All-American; NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team; All-GLIAC First Team; Great Lakes Regional Tournament "M.V.P."; and Verizon Academic All-Region First Team.

Misiak is a second team All-GLIAC selection after leading Wayne State in every pitching category. Heading into the 2003 NCAA Tournament, Misiak owns a 23-7 record with three saves, while compiling a 1.05 ERA. She led the Warriors in appearances (36), starts (25), complete games (19), innings pitched (192.2) and strikeouts (148). Misiak was named the Most Outstanding Player in the Silver Championship Bracket at the NFCA Leadoff Classic in Irving, Texas, and was also selected GLIAC Pitcher of the Week on April 15 after compiling a 3-0 record with one save in four appearances during the Great Lakes Regional Showdown in Battle Creek. A native of Livonia, Michigan (Churchill), Misiak recorded 10 of her 23 wins against teams participating in this year's NCAA tournament. She recorded seven shutouts this season with opposing batters hitting just .211 against her.

Becker was named the GLIAC Coach of the Year despite not actively coaching this season. A sergeant in the United States Army Reserve, Becker was called to active duty on Feb. 20 and is currently serving our country in Doha, Qatar, the site of the United States Military Central Command. Becker is FSU's all-time winningest coach with a six-year 201-125 career record (.617 winning percentage) at the helm. Ferris State has averaged over 33 victories per season during her coaching career and Becker guided the Bulldogs to two consecutive NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament appearances (1998 and 1999). In 1998, FSU finished third overall at NCAA-II Championships in its first national tournament appearance since 1982. Becker was named the 1997 GLIAC Coach of the Year in her initial coaching campaign as a result of guiding Ferris State to a then school-record 40 overall wins. She has led FSU to two first-place GLIAC Tournament (1999-00) finishes along with a conference overall championship title (2000).

Joining Mackson on the 2003 All-GLIAC First Team are: sophomore third baseman **Sara Mathes** and junior pitcher **Josie Nelson** of Ashland University; junior outfielder **Robin Alternburger** of the University of Findlay; junior first baseman **Sara Vroegindewey**, junior second baseman **Jennifer Goldschmeding**, senior shortstop **Keri Jonas**, and freshman outfielder **Tara Marsh** of Grand Valley State, senior outfielder **Gretchen Messenger** of Hillsdale College; senior catcher **Kelly Martin** of Saginaw Valley State University; junior designated player **Leah Ondrovick** and freshman utility player **Jordan Sinclair** of Wayne State.

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2003 All-GLIAC Softball Teams and Postseason Awards

Player of the Year: Jennifer Mackson - Grand Valley State University

Freshman of the Year: Meghan Misiak - Wayne State University

Coach of the Year: Keri Becker - Ferris State University

GLIAC Softball All-Conference First Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
1B	Sara Vroegindewey	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Kalamazoo, Mich./Portage Central
2B	Jennifer Goldschmeding	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Allegan, Mich.
SS	Keri Jonas	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Jackson, Mich./Vandercook Lake
3B	Sara Mathes	Ashland	So.	Massilon, Ohio/Jackson
C	Kelly Martin	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	Bay City, Mich./All Saints
OF	Robin Altenburger	Findlay	Jr.	Gomer, Ohio/Lima Central Catholic
OF	Gretchen Messenger	Hillsdale	Sr.	Crown Point, Ind./Andrean
OF	Tara Marsh	Grand Valley State	Fr.	Byron Center, Mich.
DP	Leah Ondrovick	Wayne State	Jr.	Tecumseh, Mich.
UT	Jordan Sinclair	Wayne State	Fr.	Chatham, Ont./Chatham Kent S.S.
P	Jennifer Mackson	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Pinconning, Mich.
P	Josie Nelson	Ashland	Jr.	Prior Lake, Minn./Jordan

GLIAC Softball All-Conference Second Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
1B	Nikki Merchant	Ferris State	Jr.	Wayland, Mich.
2B	Shay Mulford	Ashland	Sr.	Plainfield, Ohio/Ridgewood
SS	Brooke Bower	Findlay	Sr.	Harpster, Ohio/Ridgedale
3B	Brooke Hall	Lake Superior State	Sr.	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich./Sault Area
C	Mandy Sansbury	Ashland	So.	Ripley, W.Va.
OF	Allison Gerger	Gannon	Fr.	Coraopolis, Pa./Montour
OF	Rachel Blain	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Byron Center, Mich./Grand Rapids C.C.
OF	Julie Westover	Hillsdale	Sr.	Monroe, Mich.
DP	Ann Dunmire	Ashland	Sr.	Loudenville, Ohio
UT	Jenna Robison	Hillsdale	Sr.	Castle Rock, Colo./Douglas County
P	Meghan Misiak	Wayne State	Fr.	Livonia, Mich./Churchill
P	Megan Smith	Gannon	Sr.	Lewis Center, Ohio/Olentangy

GLIAC Softball All-Conference Honorable Mention

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
1B	Colleen Devery	Ashland	Jr.	Lewis Center, Ohio/Olentangy
P	Leslie Eberhardt	Ashland	Jr.	Jeromesville, Ohio/Hillsdale
P/DP	Amanda Opbroek	Ferris State	Sr.	Sanford, Mich./Sanford-Meridian
3B	Dana Peuler	Ferris State	Jr.	Wyoming, Mich./Rogers
IF/OF	Brandy Bower	Findlay	Fr.	Harpster, Ohio/Ridgedale
P/OF	Stacy Sharp	Findlay	Sr.	Brighton, Mich
1B/C	Joanna Fergus	Gannon	Fr.	Youngstown, Ohio/Austintown Fitch
P	Heather Ford	Gannon	Sr.	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
IF/OF	Erin Ballinger	Grand Valley State	Jr.	DeWitt, Mich.
C	Bobbi Connor	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Lake Orion, Mich.
P/OF	Lindsey McNaughton	Hillsdale	Fr.	Carmel, Ind.
3B	Colleen McNutt	Hillsdale	So.	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Bishop Dwenger
IF/OF	Heather Salmi	Lake Superior State	Jr.	Ishpeming, Mich./Westwood
U	Chelsea Sparrow	Lake Superior State	Fr.	Dexter, Mich.
P/IF	Marissa Bartholomew	Mercyhurst	So.	Boardman, Ohio
1B/OF	Kate Conochan	Mercyhurst	Fr.	Concord, Ohio/Notre Dame
3B	Erin Martin	Northwood	Sr.	Southampton, Ont./Saugeen
P/1B	Lisa Shepard	Northwood	Fr.	Alma, Mich.
OF	Jesse Kaniszewski	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	Kingston, Mich.
2B	Laya Taylor	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	Saginaw, Mich./Michigan Lutheran Seminary
C	Maria D'Agostino	Wayne State	Jr.	Wixom, Mich./Walled Lake Western
1B	Beth Berry	Wayne State	Jr.	Blissfield, Mich.