



Jeff Ligney
Director of Media Relations

1110 Washington Ave.
Bay City, MI 48708
Voice: (989) 894-2529 Fax: (989) 894-2825
E-mail: jligney@gliac.org
web site: www.gliac.org/2003/spring/softball/

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For Immediate Release

Grand Valley State's Mackson Earns Third Straight GLIAC Softball Player of the Year Award

Wayne State's Ytsma Earns Freshman of the Year Honors, GVSU's Woods Tabbed Coach of the Year

BAY CITY, Mich. -- For the third straight season Grand Valley State University senior pitcher **Jennifer Mackson** was named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Softball Player of the Year. Wayne State University first-year pitcher **Sarah Ytsma** garnered Freshman of the Year accolades, while Grand Valley State's **Doug Woods** 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, tallied a 21-2 record with five saves this season. She helped the Lakers to a 32-6 overall and 14-2 GLIAC record, en route to capturing the GLIAC regular season title and advancing to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region tournament. Mackson pitched 162.2 innings, recording a 0.43 earned run average, while allowing just 10 earned runs and tallying 213 strike outs. She is GVSU's career leader in six categories, including 99 career wins, 0.66 ERA, 56 shutouts, and 984 strike outs. Mackson has been a two-time NFCA All-American, a Verizon Academic All-American, two-time NFCA All-Region honoree, three-time GLIAC Player of the Year, and four-time all GLIAC honoree.

Ytsma compiled an 8-3 GLIAC record with one save after appearing in 14 of WSU's 20 conference games. She had a 1.81 earned-run average in the league with three shutouts. She limited opposing batters to a .199 batting average while striking out 39 batters and only walking nine. The Second-Team All-GLIAC selection had seven of Wayne State's 12 complete games in the conference.

Overall, the Chatham, Ontario native finished with a 16-7 record and two saves with a 1.72 earned-run average. She led the Warrior pitching staff in wins, saves, strike outs and ERA. Ytsma had a seven-game winning streak from April 10 through April 20. She is the third consecutive Wayne State player to be selected GLIAC Freshman of the Year.

Woods led the Lakers to a 32-6 overall and 14-2 GLIAC record this season, earning the GLIAC regular season title. He has tallied a 546-224-3 overall record in his 14-year tenure as Grand Valley's head coach. Woods is leading his Lakers to their sixth straight NCAA Great Lakes Regional Appearance this season. This marks the fifth time Woods has been named the GLIAC Softball Coach of the Year.

Joining Mackson on the 2004 All-GLIAC First Team are: junior utility player **Sara Mathes** and freshman outfielder **Bree Beabout** of Ashland University; senior first baseman **Nikki Merchant** and senior third baseman **Dana Conklin** of Ferris State University; senior outfielder **Robin Alternburger** of the University of Findlay; senior pitcher **Heather Ford** of Gannon University; senior outfielder **Jessie Kaniszewski** of Saginaw Valley State University; junior second baseman **Jenna McWilliams**, sophomore shortstop **Sue Verbeem**, senior catcher **Maria D'Agostino**, and senior designated player **Leah Ondrovick** of Wayne State.

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2004 All-GLIAC Softball Teams and Postseason Awards

Player of the Year: Jennifer Mackson, Sr., P, Grand Valley State University

Freshman of the Year: Sarah Ytsma, P, Wayne State University

Coach of the Year: Doug Woods, Grand Valley 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	Nikki Merchant	Ferris State	Sr.	Wayland, Mich.
2B	Jenna McWilliams	Wayne State	Jr.	Tecumseh, Mich.
SS	Sue Verbeem	Wayne State	So.	LaSalle, Ontario
3B	Dana Conklin	Ferris State	Sr.	Wyoming, Mich.
C	Maria D'Agostino	Wayne State	Sr.	Wixom, Mich./Walled Lake Western
OF	Robin Altenburger	Findlay	Sr.	Gomer, Ohio/Lima Central Catholic
OF	Jessie Kaniszewski	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	Kingston, Mich.
OF	Bree Beabout	Ashland	Fr.	Powell, Ohio/Olentangy
DP	Leah Ondrovick	Wayne State	Sr.	Tecumseh, Mich.
UT	Sara Mathes	Ashland	Jr.	Massillon, Ohio/ Jackson
P	Jennifer Mackson	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Pinconning, Mich.
P	Heather Ford	Gannon	Sr.	Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

GLIAC Softball All-Conference Second Team

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
1B	Sara Vroegindewey	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Kalamazoo, Mich./Portage Central
2B	Jennifer Goldschmeding	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Allegan, Mich.
SS	Sarah Paape	Grand Valley State	Jr.	Sandusky, Mich.
3B	Hannah Cox	Mercyhurst	Jr.	Cranesville, Pa./Northwestern
C	Rachael Confer	Mercyhurst	Sr.	Warren, Pa.
OF	Emily McLean	Ferris State	So.	Rogers City, Mich.
OF	Ashley Mayle	Ashland	So.	Louisville, Ohio
OF	Allison Gerger	Gannon	So.	Coraopolis, Pa./Montour
DP	Dani Maxwell	Ferris State	Sr.	Bay City, Mich./Western
UT	Chelsea Sparrow	Lake Superior	So.	Dexter, Mich.
P	Sarah Ytsma	Wayne State	Fr.	Chatham, Ontario
P	Jen Feret	Mercyhurst	Fr.	Boardman, Ohio

GLIAC Softball All-Conference Honorable Mention

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
DP	Ann Dunmire	Ashland	Sr.	Loudenville, Ohio
OF	Michelle Congrove	Ashland	Jr.	Rittman, Ohio/Chippewa
P	Rachel Chartier	Ferris State	Jr.	Marquette, Mich.
OF	Jessie Wright	Ferris State	Jr.	Sand Lake, Mich./Tri-County
SS	Brandy Bower	Findlay	Jr.	Harpster, Ohio/Ridgedale
C	Alicia Fetter	Findlay	Jr.	Ada, Ohio
1B	Joanna Fergus	Gannon	So.	Youngstown, Ohio/Austintown Fitch
C/DP	Casey Brengle	Gannon	So.	Westminster, Md.
OF	Erin Ballinger	Grand Valley State	Sr.	DeWitt, Mich.
IF	Lindsay Crawford	Grand Valley State	Sr.	Perry, Mich.
P	Lindsey McNaughton	Hillsdale	So.	Carmel, Ind.
1B	Colleen McNutt	Hillsdale	Jr.	Ft. Wayne, Ind./Bishop Dwenger
3B	Stephanie Matthew	Lake Superior State	Sr..	Midland, Mich./Dow
P	Cherish Samuels	Lake Superior State	So.	Dexter, Mich.
1B	Rachelle Haight	Mercyhurst	Jr..	Saskatoon, Sask./Holy Cross
1B	Kate Conochan	Mercyhurst	So.	Concord, Ohio/Notre Dame
P/1B	Jackie Ruma	Northwood	Sr.	Clarkston, Mich./Our Lady of the Lakes
2B	Katie Albert	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	Waterford, Mich./Kettering
OF	Haley Slade	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	Waterford, Mich./Kettering
UT	Jordan Sinclair	Wayne State	So.	Chatham, Ontario
P	Meghan Misiak	Wayne State	So.	Livonia, Mich./Churchill