



# Volleyball Release

August 17, 2007  
For immediate release  
WWW.GLIAC.org



Chris Brigham~Media Relations Intern~1110 Washington Ave. Bay City, MI 48708~P (989) 894-2529~F (989) 894-2825~cbrigham@gliac.org

## Grand Valley State, Hillsdale Voted the Top Teams in GLIAC Women's Volleyball Preseason Poll for Second Straight Year.

**Bay City, Mich.** - The head volleyball coaches of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) have named the preseason favorites for the 2007 campaign. Grand Valley State has the most first place votes in the north division, Hillsdale was ranked first in the south division.

Grand Valley has been the favorite for GLIAC coaches to win the north division for the past three seasons. In 2005 the Lakers were NCAA D-II Champs with head coach Deanne Scanlon winning NCAA Division-II Coach of the Year honors. Last year they made a charge through the Great Lakes Regional Tournament but lost a 3-2 decision to SIU-Edwardsville in the semifinal round of the tournament.

Last season Hillsdale was voted the top team in the South Division preseason poll. The coaches were proven correct by Hillsdale's undefeated GLIAC play. They finally broke their winning streak losing three close games to Ashland in the GLIAC championship match.

Once again the Chargers have been chosen to win the south division. They received three of the six first place votes edging out Ashland in the polls by only two total points.

On a national note, the GLIAC was represented well in the CSTV/AVCA Division II Coaches Top 25 preseason poll. Coaches from around the country ranked Ashland 8th, Hillsdale 10th and not far behind Grand Valley State ranked 11th. Findlay was the fourth team representing the GLIAC, they did not make the Top 25 but they did receive 14 Top 25 votes. If this is any indication, fans can look forward to a high level of play in the league this year.

GLIAC volleyball teams open play on Thursday, Aug. 23 with Findlay vs. Western Washington, others will begin on Friday, Aug. 24. League play opens on Thursday, Sept. 13, Lake Superior taking on Grand Valley in Allendale. The 2007 GLIAC Volleyball Championship quarterfinals will be held on campus sites Nov. 7. The semifinals and finals are scheduled to take place Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 respectively on the campus of the highest remaining seed.

### GLIAC 2006 Women's Volleyball Standings

#### North Division

School	Record (GLIAC)
1. Grand Valley State	27-4 (17-1)
2. Ferris State	21-9 (12-6)
3. Michigan Tech	15-15 (11-7)
4. Northwood	16-11 (10-8)
5. Northern Michigan	16-11 (8-10)
6. Saginaw Valley State	14-13 (6-12)
7. Lake Superior State	5-22 (2-16)

#### South Division

School	Record (GLIAC)
1. Hillsdale	29-2 (17-0)
2. Findlay	22-8 (12-5)
3. Ashland	23-10 (11-6)
4. Gannon	9-14 (5-12)
5. Mercyhurst	7-18 (2-15)
6. Wayne State	1-21 (1-16)

### 2007 Preseason GLIAC VB Coaches Poll

#### North Division

School (first-place votes)	Points
1. Grand Valley (6)	36
2. Michigan Tech (1)	29
3. Ferris State	24
4. Northwood	23
5. Northern Mich.	17
6. Saginaw Valley	16
7. Lake Superior State	6

#### South Division

1. Hillsdale (3)	23
2. Ashland (2)	21
3. Findlay (1)	19
4. Gannon	10
Wayne State	10
6. Mercyhurst	7

•Ferris State •Grand Valley St.  
•Lake Superior St. •Michigan Tech  
•Northern Michigan •Northwood



•Ashland •Findlay •Gannon  
•Hillsdale •Mercyhurst  
•Wayne State



## Ashland University Eagles

[www.ashland.edu/athletic.html](http://www.ashland.edu/athletic.html)

**Head Coach:** Connie Surowicz, 5th season, 79-48

**2006 record:** 23-10 (12-6 GLIAC)

The Eagles are coming off their best season in school history. Last year AU advanced to the NCAA Championships before falling to national runnerup North Alabama. That marked their third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. They finished with a ranking of #10 in NCAA D-II. With the loss of just one senior, Beth Dangel, AU hopes to have another solid season. Returning key players are All-GLIAC OH Mary Kate Glowe ( 570 kills, 457 digs) and S Lynsey Warren (1,286 Assists, 77 SA in '06). An AVCA preseason poll ranking of 8th shows how well respected the Eagles are.



## Ferris State University Bulldogs

[www.ferris.edu/sports](http://www.ferris.edu/sports)

**Head Coach:** Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, 12th season, 233-115

**2006 record:** 21-9 (12-6 GLIAC)

A mixture of experience and youth sums up this years team. Nine letterwinners return joined by eight newcomers. Led by their four captains senior OH Lindsay Tye (55 SA, 289 digs, 355 kills), fifth year senior and All-GLIAC Honorable Mention L /OH Jamie Palazzolo (team leader 449 digs), junior S /OH Candice Marut and senior OH Lindsay Johnson, the Bulldogs hope to continue their streak of nine consecutive winning seasons. Eight of their last nine seasons have produced 20 wins or more.



## The University of Findlay Oilers

<http://athletics.findlay.edu>

**Head Coach:** Wick Colchagoff, 10th season, 223-99

**2006 record:** 22-8 (12-5 GLIAC)

Findlay hopes to build on last years success with experienced returning players. Senior OH Mallory Fleming, second team All-GLIAC honors last season (385 kills), is a team leader. Joining her on the opposite side will be junior OH Kelsey Wesaw, a second team All-GLIAC selection last season (281 kills). Talented newcomers Sarah Schroeder, Lindsey Reiff, Rachael Hammond and 6' 1" Courtney Neimeyer were all highly decorated prep players.



## Gannon University Lady Knights

[www.gannon.edu/sports/default.asp](http://www.gannon.edu/sports/default.asp)

**Head Coach:** Matt Darling, 1st season, 0-0

**2006 record:** 9-14 (5-12 GLIAC)

Darling is bringing his D-I experience to Gannon after serving as assistant coach three seasons at Auburn University and three seasons at Marquette University. Five starters return to the lineup. Senior OH Noelle Schad leads the hitters (227 kills, 241 digs). Sophomore S Maire Prybyl hopes to improve on her true freshman season numbers (754 Assists). Senior Alyse Parker and junior Julianne Moots complete the group of returners. Despite missing the last three post-season's the Lady Knights have some promising players who may return them to post-season tournament play.



## Grand Valley State University Lakers

[www.gvsulakers.com](http://www.gvsulakers.com)

**Head Coach:** Deanne Scanlon, 13th season, 321-94

**2006 record:** 27-4 (17-1 GLIAC)

Returning ten letterwinners and four starters from last season will help the Lakers stay competitive. Last season Grand Valley advanced to the Great Lakes Regional Tournament for the seventh straight time. Two-time GLIAC Libero of the Year and AVCAD-II All-American First Team senior Allyson Riley (5.75 digs p/g, 75 SA) will be a team leader. Senior MB Erica Vandekopple (.300 hit%) looks to have another outstanding season.



## Hillsdale College Chargers

[www.hillsdale.edu/athletics/volleyball/](http://www.hillsdale.edu/athletics/volleyball/)

**Head Coach:** Chris Gravel, 12th season, 211-146

**2006 record:** 29-2 (17-0 GLIAC)

After achieving the best season in school history the Chargers have their sights set even higher for 2007. 2006 GLIAC Coach of the Year Chris Gravel hopes to continue his success despite losing AVCA First-Team All-American Taryn Rudland. Senior Megan Howard returns for the fourth year as starting L, she's on pace to break the school's all time dig record this season. Junior Stephanie Booms was a First Team All-GLIAC selection at S in '06. Senior Melissa Bartlett returns as the team leader in kills and also recieved First Team All-GLIAC honors.



## Lake Superior Sate University Lakers

[www.lssulakers.com](http://www.lssulakers.com)

**Head Coach:** mark Engle, 13th season, 109-254

**2006 record:** 5-22 (2-16 GLIAC)

All but one starter from last year's squad returns for action in 2007. Senior Ashley Wyers, who led the team in kills and attack percentages suffered a career ending shoulder injury. The lone senior on the team is MH Jamie Groos. Groos led the league in solo blocks (39) and ranked third on the team in kills. Redshirt sophomore Ali Jones (190 kills), junior S Erin McLain, sophomore OH Sara Hess and sophmore L Jessica Ewar were all regulars in the '06 lineup. Ashley Purvis is a transfer from Mott Community College who recieved All -MCCA Honorable Mention honors last season.



## Mercyhurst College Lakers

[www.hurstathletics.cstv.com](http://www.hurstathletics.cstv.com)

**Head Coach:** Ryan Patton, 3rd season, 20-33

**2006 record:** 7-18 (2-15 GLIAC)

With six sophomores and eight freshman on the roster this year head coach Ryan Patton has a young team. The Lakers hope to improve on their '06 record with experienced returning players such as sophomore S Julia Butler, an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention, junior Jenna Matson, the Lakers leader in kills last year (289) and senior Christine Nisbet (67 total blocks) leading the way. Senior Kristen Peterson and junior Laurne Kubinski will also add some experience.



## Michigan Technological University Huskies

[www.michigantechhuskies.com](http://www.michigantechhuskies.com)

**Head Coach:** Krista Mikesch, 9th season, 109-137

**2006 record:** 15-15 (11-7 GLIAC)

Coming off a .500 season that took them into the NCAA regionals last year the Huskies can expect some improvement this season. They return 14 of 18 players from last year's roster. First Team All-GLIAC Jen Jung and reigning Freshman of the Year Kelly Jorgensen will be two team leaders to watch. With only one senior and seven freshman on the roster coach Krista Mikesch will be giving experience to younger players this season.



## Northern Michigan University Wildcats

[www.nmu.edu/athletics](http://www.nmu.edu/athletics)

**Head Coach:** Dominic Yoder, 1st season, 0-0

**2006 record:** 16-11 (8-10 GLIAC)

Yoder comes to NMU from Cameron University, he led the Aggies to a 25-4 record in his lone season as head coach. Only one letterwinner from the 2006 team is gone. Mandie Meyer and Megan Elliot are the top two returning hitters. Both setters are back as Brittany McGowan led the team in assists (684) while Rachel Martinez had 350. Cassie Osiecki was the team leader in digs (369) she returns with Breanne Zarembo who totaled 44 blocks last season and they are ready to guide their team to another winning season.



## Northwood University Timberwolves

[www.northwood.edu/](http://www.northwood.edu/)

**Head Coach:** Tim Koth, 4th season, 60-32

**2006 record:** 16-11 (10-8 GLIAC)

A young but hungry Northwood University team look to improve by returning ten players from last year, featuring two seniors, Gordana Barac and Lana Sorokina. Also returning are All-GLIAC Honorable Mention Sarah Pollard who set the school record for digs in a match (40) and ranked fourth in the GLIAC in digs per game (4.82). Other key returners are sophomores Ashley Carr, Danielle Gass and Samantha Matheson who all saw significant playing time a year ago.

---



## Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals

[www.svsu.edu/athletics](http://www.svsu.edu/athletics)

**Head Coach:** Will Stanton, 5th season, 26-91

**2006 record:** 14-13 (6-12 GLIAC)

The Cardinals hope to continue improving year to year. They are returning five of their six starters from last season, and returning 14 letterwinners. Last season they posted a 14-13 record, the first over .500 since the '98 season. Senior S Amy Howard brings her experience and 9.85 assists p/g to the role of captain. Joining her as co-captain this year will be Daniele Dryer, a senior OH who totaled 203 kills last season. Another returning notable is junior Sarah Redoute, she made 226 kills, 193 digs and 38 total blocks last year.

---



## Wayne State University Warriors

<http://wsuathletics.com>

**Head Coach:** Ernie Gilbert, 4th season, 28-45

**2006 record:** 1-21 (1-16 GLIAC)

Head Coach Ernie Gilbert will see many new faces this year, only four Warriors return from last years squad. Karri Kuczajda is a redshirt senior who led the team in blocks (70) last season and is the longest tenured player on the roster. Six incoming freshman join the team this year, S Katy Westenberg (Milford, Mich, Milford) broke three school records as a senior. Former Rutgers and Muskegon C.C. standout Mallory McEnroe is one of four transfers rounding out the WSU roster, she led the Scarlet Knights in blocks (53) last season.

---