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Nov. 15, 2008 (For immediate release)

GVSU's Alexander Named 2008 GLIAC Volleyball Player of the Year

GLIAC Honors: HC's Crowder, Freshman of the Year; WSU's Bazzi, Libero of the Year; GVSU's Scanlon, Coach of the Year

BAY CITY, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University senior outside hitter **Danielle Alexander (Newport, Mich./Carelton Airport)** was named the 2008 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) volleyball "Player of the Year" in voting conducted by the league's head coaches. Hilldale College's **Ashlee Crowder (Jension, Mich.)** was tabbed "Freshman of the Year," while Wayne State University senior **Mayssa Bazzi (Dearborn, Mich./Schoolcraft C.C.)** earned "Libero of the Year" honors. Grand Valley State's **Deanne Scanlon** was named "Coach of the Year" by her peers.

Alexander leads the Lakers with 348 kills, a .338 hitting percentage, and 120 total blocks. The senior middle blocker ranks third in the GLIAC in hitting percentage, fourth in blocks, and seventh in kills for the 27-3 Lakers. In her career, Alexander is second in GVSU history in block assists (352), seventh in total blocks (413) and 10th in kills (1,081).

Alexander has been named GLIAC "Player of the Week" three times this season, making that six player of the week awards during her career. On Oct. 21, she became the first player in GVSU history to be named the AVCA Division II "National Player of the Week" for her efforts at the GLVC-GLIAC Crossover. Alexander has recorded double-digit kills in 20 matches and notched at least one block in all but one match this season. The senior has led Grand Valley State to a 22-match winning streak this year and the Lakers were ranked as high as #2 in the AVCA national poll.

Crowder finished the regular season with 333 kills, a school record total for a freshman, ranking third in the GLIAC at the end of the regular season. She is the first Charger player since Taryn Rudland in 2003 to be named GLIAC Freshman of the Year. Crowder had double-digit figures in kills in her last 10 consecutive matches, and recorded 10 or more kills in 22 of the team's 30 matches this season. Her season-high for kills was 17, achieved against Tiffin Oct. 25 and Saginaw Valley State Oct. 11. She also led Hillsdale with 25 service aces this season, and had a .254 hitting percentage. Her 3.43 kills per set rank her fourth on Hillsdale's career list, and she was fifth in the GLIAC with 3.90 points per game.

Bazzi enters Saturday's GLIAC semifinal with 446 digs on the year, ninth-most in Wayne State history, and her 4.25 digs/set average ranks third in the conference and seventh all-time at WSU. In just two years as a Warrior, Bazzi has become one of the most prolific defensive players in school history, having accumulated 1,102 digs in her career, which ranks sixth. The school record holder with 656 digs last season, Bazzi's 5.75 career digs average is the highest in the 34 years of Wayne State volleyball. Bazzi is the second Warrior to earn Libero of the Year honors, following Sei Hee Hwang in 2004.

Scanlon led the Lakers to a 26-3 regular season record, including a 15-1 GLIAC mark in 2008. It is the eighth time in her career that GVSU has won the GLIAC North Division championship and this weekend, the Lakers look to win their fifth GLIAC Tournament title during Scanlon's tenure. Grand Valley State was ranked as high as #2 in the national polls this season and tied the school-record with a 22-match win streak. GVSU has also won 31 consecutive matches at home, which is the all-time program record.

During her 14-year career at GVSU, Scanlon has a winning percentage of .790 (380-101) and owns an .814 mark (206-47) in GLIAC play. The Lakers have won 25 matches for the 10th straight season under Scanlon, who was also the GLIAC Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2005. GVSU is three wins shy of its sixth 30-win season with Scanlon at the helm. The last time that the Lakers won less than 20 matches in a season was 1997.

A complete list of the 2008 All-GLIAC Volleyball teams can be found on the following page.

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2008 GLIAC Volleyball Postseason Awards All-Conference Teams

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Player of the Year:

Danielle Alexander, Grand Valley State University
(Senior, OH, Newport, Mich./Carelton Airport)

Libero of the Year:

Mayssa Bazzi, Wayne State University
(Senior, Lib., Dearborn, Mich./Schoolcraft C.C.)

Freshman of the Year:

Ashlee Crowder, Hillsdale College
(Freshman, MH/OH, Jenison, Mich.)

Coach of the Year:

Deanne Scanlon, Grand Valley State University

All-GLIAC First-Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Danielle Alexander	Grand Valley State	Sr.	MB	Newport, Mich./Carelton Airport
Veronica Armstrong	Michigan Tech	Sr.	OH	Battle Creek, Mich.
Jamie Ashmore	Grand Valley State	Sr.	S	LaPorte, Ind.
Gordana Barac	Northwood	Sr.	OH	Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina (USC)
Stephanie Booms	Hillsdale	Sr.	S/RS	Marysville, Mich.
Sarha Gosselin	Wayne State	Jr.	OH	Harrison, Twp., Mich./Warren Lincoln
Kait Harris	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	S	Essexville, Mich./Garber
Jen Jung	Michigan Tech	Sr.	MH	Andover, Minn./Coon Rapids
Rebecca Rapin	Grand Valley State	So.	MB	Saginaw, Mich./Nouvel Catholic Central
Sarah Redoute	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	OH	Clinton Twp., Mich./L'Anse Creuse
Andrea Rich	Ferris State	Sr.	S/OH	New Baltimore, Mich./Anchor Bay
Caryn VanBeckum	Northern Michigan	Sr.	MH	DePere, Wis.

All-GLIAC Second-Team

Mayssa Bazzi	Wayne State	Sr.	Lib.	Dearborn, Mich./Schoolcraft C.C.
Jaclyn Carnago	Saginaw Valley State	Jr.	MH	St. Clair, Mich.
Ashley Carr	Northwood	Jr.	MB	Marysville, Mich.
Ashlee Crowder	Hillsdale	Fr.	MH/OH	Jenison, Mich.
Sydney Dow	Hillsdale	So.	DS/S	Jonesville, Mich.
Arielle Goodson	Ferris State	So.	MH	Grand Rapids, Mich./Central
Kelly Jorgensen	Michigan Tech	Jr.	MH	Eden Prarie, Minn.
Lauren Mallast	Wayne State	Jr.	MB	Chesterfield, Mich./Anchor Bay
Mandie Meyer	Northern Michigan	Jr.	OH	Crystal Lake, Ill.
Courtney Niemeyer	Findlay	So.	MH	Lima, Ohio/Lima Central Catholic
Lauren Reber	Grand Valley State	Sr.	OH	Flint, Mich./Carman-Ainsworth
Marina Santos	Ashland	Jr.	OH	San Paula, Brazil/Copley

All-GLIAC Honorable Mention

Emily Bennett	Hillsdale	Jr.	MH	Neenah, Wisc.
Daniela Bezerra	Northern Michigan	So.	OH	Sao Paulo, Brazil
Lauren Chapman	Northwood	So.	S	Bascom, Ohio/Hopewell-Loudon
Katey Crichton	Grand Valley State	Jr.	OH	Howell, Mich.
Kim Gear	Wayne State	Sr.	MB	Benton Harbor, Mich./Watervliet
Kristy Gilchrist	Ferris State	Jr.	MH	Macomb, Mich./Anchor Bay
Ali Jones	Lake Superior State	Jr.	OH	Fruitport, Mich./Ravenna
Arian Martin	Ashland	Fr.	Lib.	Independence, Ohio
Carmen Schacher	Saginaw Valley State	Sr.	Lib.	Flint, Mich./Kearsley
Kelsey Skoog	Michigan Tech	Sr.	S	Long Lake, Minn./Orono
Brittany Teaford	Tiffin	So.	MH	Greenville, Ohio
Jessica VonIns	Findlay	Fr.	S	Ashville, Ohio/Teays Valley