Ferris State captured its ninth Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Championship in 2004 as the Bulldogs defeated archrival Grand Valley State (Nov. 14) 3-0 in the championship match of the league's annual postseason tournament held at GVSU's Fieldhouse Arena in Allendale, Mich.

The Bulldogs, who were ranked among the top 20 teams in the CSTV/American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II National Poll during the 2004 season, knocked off the Lakers for the second time in 2004 with a convincing 30-27, 30-24 and 30-16 triumph in front of 625 fans. The tournament championship was the first for the Bulldogs in the league’s 10th annual postseason event.

Ferris, which had previously claimed tournament runner-up accolades on three different occasions, also received the league’s automatic berth into the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament. The national tournament appearance was FSU’s 12th all-time berth.

Middle hitter Lauren Heine and outside hitter Karla Fairbanks were named to the GLIAC All-Tournament Team while Ashley Green was chosen as the all-tournament team most valuable player.

Fairbanks went on to attain 2004 American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division II All-America Second-Team honors. She also concluded her career ranked third on Ferris’ all-time chart with 1,649 career kills and was 53 digs away from becoming only the sixth player in school history to record both 1,000 career kills and 1,000 career digs.

A two-time (2003-04) All-GLIAC First Team honoree, Fairbanks placed second overall among the league leaders in kills (4.85 kpg) and third in aces (0.59 apg) as a senior. She was named GLIAC North Division Player of the Week four times in 2004 and garnered NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region All-Tournament Team recognition.

The Bulldogs compiled a 25-7 overall record during the 2004 campaign, including a second place 14-4 GLIAC North Division regular-season mark.

BULLDOG VOLLEYBALL

2004: GLIAC Champions Again!

Featured in the background are Bulldog fans cheering on the squad at the 2004 NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament in Allendale, Mich.