Bulldogs Achieve Classroom Success

The Ferris State University women's basketball team has achieved success both on-the-court and in-the-classroom under fifth-year head coach Tracey Fisk.

The 2001-02 Ferris State University women's basketball squad was honored as one of the nation's top 25 academic teams for the third consecutive season in the annual Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division II Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll list.

Ferris State placed 21st overall after compiling a 3.313 team grade point average (gpa). FSU previously recorded the nation's top gpa (3.534) in 1999-2000 and was 20th overall (3.388) during the 2001-02 academic year on the national list, which recognizes the nation's top academic team performances based upon nominations by WBCA-member coaches.

Ferris was one of three Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC)-member schools to place among the top 25 for 2001-02. Abilene Christian (Texas) registered NCAA-II's top team gpa (3.666) while Montana State-Billings placed second (3.552) and Regis (Colo.) finished third (3.493).

The WBCA recognized the nation's highest NCAA Divisions I, II, III, junior/community colleges and NAIA programs based upon nominations submitted by WBCA-member coaches. Based out of Georgia, the WBCA has over 4,500 members and was conceived as a vehicle through which members could be recognized and honored for their efforts and achievements. The WBCA awards program remains a well-known benefit of WBCA membership.

Founded in 1981, the WBCA promotes women's basketball by unifying coaches at all levels to develop a reputable identity for the sport and to foster and promote the development of the game in all of its aspects as an amateur sport for both women and girls.

Four Bulldog players were honored individually as 2001-02 GLIAC Women's Basketball All-Academic Team selections. They included former FSU standout Debbie Killips (Shelby), who completed her eligibility at the conclusion of the 2001-02 season, and current juniors Lucy DeMartin (Mason), Stephanie Benear (Howell) and Bridget Horwitz (Auburn, Ind./DeKalb).

Killips, a first-team 2001-02 Verizon Academic All-District IV College Division honors, also received the Joan Nelson Academic Award for holding the squad's highest combined grade point average (gpa) over the previous two semesters while DeMartin was presented the President's Academic Award for recording the program's highest cumulative gpa.

During the Fisk era, the Bulldog women's basketball team has achieved success in more ways than one.

NCAA Tournament History

Ferris State reached the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in school history during the 1999-2000 campaign. The Bulldogs lost in the first round of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament to the University of Missouri-St. Louis 90-77 at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Ky. Junior center Tianna Kirkland led Ferris State with 18 points in front of a crowd of 312 people. Senior guard Carrie Roys had 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs.

The tournament was hosted by Northern Kentucky. The other schools participating in the regional tournament included Northern Michigan University, Gannon (Pa.) University and Michigan Tech University. Northern Kentucky won the regional championship and advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight with a 77-70 win over Northern Michigan.