Debbie Killips, a member of the 2001-02 Ferris State women’s basketball team, was awarded the school’s first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Postgraduate Scholarship last spring.

A first-team 2001-02 Verizon Women’s Basketball College Division Academic All-America selection, Killips received a one-time, non-renewable grant of $5,000 to continue her education this fall in FSU’s College of Optometry program. She was one of 11 NCAA Division II student-athletes selected to receive the prestigious award.

The NCAA presented 58 postgraduate scholarships to 29 men and 29 women who participated in winter sports, which included men’s and women’s basketball, fencing, men’s and women’s gymnastics, men’s and women’s ice hockey, rifle, skiing, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, men’s and women’s indoor track and field and wrestling. Candidates were screened by seven regional selection committees and the winners were selected by the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

Killips, who was a second-team 2001-02 Daktronics All-Great Lakes Region honoree, received Ferris’ 2001-02 Most Valuable Player Award. A three-time (2000-02) Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) North Division All-Defensive Team pick, Killips concluded her four-year career as the school’s all-time steals leader (322) and placed third in both assists (429) and made three-point field goals (109-295). The 5-7 Killips tallied 1,042 career points in a school-record 110 career outings (9.5 ppg) while becoming the ninth player in FSU history to score 1,000 career points.

A three-time GLIAC All-Academic pick, Killips also received the squad’s Joan Nelson Academic Award last season for holding the highest combined grade point average (gpa) over the previous two semesters. The daughter of David and Wanda Killips, Debbie posted a 3.92 cumulative gpa in Ferris’ applied biology program while garnering first-team Verizon Academic All-District IV recognition for the second consecutive season.

To qualify for an NCAA postgraduate scholarship, a student-athlete must have an overall grade point average of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale). Eligibility was restricted to student-athletes at NCAA member institutions, who in their final year of competition, performed with distinction as a member of the varsity team in the sport for which they were nominated. The student-athlete must have behaved, both on and off the field, in a manner that brought credit to the student-athlete, the institution and intercollegiate athletics.

Bulldog Athletics Hall Of Fame

Former Coach Monica Folske Inducted

Former Ferris State head coach Monica Folske (1974-83) became the first women’s basketball representative to be enshrined into the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame this fall.

Folske, who wore numerous hats for Ferris athletics, also coached volleyball, softball and tennis. As the school’s first basketball mentor, Folske won 25 contests and led Ferris to three winning campaigns during her three seasons (1974-77) at the helm.

In her initial season at Ferris in 1974, she coached tennis and softball and started the women’s basketball program. In addition to teaching physical education, she served five years as volleyball coach and was also a cheerleading advisor. As the first women’s cage coach, she guided Ferris to a 7-6 mark and a tie for second place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference during the 1974-75 season. In volleyball, Folske won 47 matches and earned two runner-up conference finishes.

Folske made her mark nationally as the eight-year head coach for the Bulldog women’s softball team. She led Ferris to two national tournament berths and a pair of 20-win seasons en route to a 111-87 career mark. Her best season was 1980 when FSU finished 26-8. An Indianapolis native, Folske lettered in basketball, field hockey and softball at Ball State. She served as head softball coach at Western Michigan from 1985-87.