The 2001 Ferris State University women's soccer team hopes to continue building on their success from last season while moving up in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings as the Bulldogs begin their third season as a varsity sport. Sixteen players return from last year's squad, including two two-year players from the inaugural team in 1999, senior Christy White (Linden) and junior Sarah Hyde (Makanda, Ill./Carbondale). Fourteen sophomores also return from last year's breakthrough freshman class and have a year of experience to help give them even better.

Leading the offensive attack will be Ferris' career goals leader Emily Rogers (Traverse City/Central) and Christy White who were first and second, respectively, in leading the Bulldogs in points last season. Leading the defensive front will be Sarah Hyde, along with leading goalies from last year Connie Bigott (Valparaiso, Ind.) and Alana Dombrowski (Gaylord). Joining the squad this year are 12 true-freshmen, along with one redshirt-freshman, who should all see plenty of playing time.

Forwards
Rogers, a 2000 All-GLIAC second-team selection, returns for her sophomore season. White returns to lead by providing guidance to the under-classmen with her experience and playmaking ability.

Sophomores Kristin Bator (Saginaw, Mich./Heritage) and Sara Ideran (Bloomington, Ill./Normal) also return and hope to contribute even more than last year.

A trio of freshmen -- Jen Gaylor (Roscommon), Frances Kilbride (Shelby Township/Lutheran North) and Jessica Vogel (Fremont), along with redshirt freshman Diana Jacobson (Stillman Valley, Ill.) could receive significant playing time.

Midfielders
The most demanding position is led by a group of sophomores who are prepared to make an impact. Holly Alexander (Belmont/Rockford), Mandy Cafmeyer (Greenville) and Erin Gielincki (Roscommon) comprise half of the second-year class for the Bulldogs. Cafmeyer totalled two assists in 15 games last fall, while Gielincki and Alexander also have the ability to be offensive contributors.

Gayle Lukes (Kokomo, Ind./Western) and Lindsay McNeel (Defiance, Ohio) round out the sophomore class. Lukes contributed three goals and two assists for eight points a season ago while McNeel played in 13 matches.

Freshmen Lauren Hogan (Ann Arbor/Huron), Kelly Kline (Battle Creek/Harper Creek) and Danielle McAllister (Lowell/Grand Rapids Baptist) could also figure in the mix.

Defenders
FSU returns plenty of experience as Sarah Hyde leads a talented group. Hyde returns for her second year as a defender, after serving her freshman year as the starting goalkeeper.

Joining Hyde on defense are sophomores Julia Hitchingham (Owosso), Amanda Kirkwood (Westfield, Ind.) and Kerry Wolfe (Jackson/Lumen Christi). Each player appeared in at least 14 of the team's 16 matches, giving the Bulldogs experienced depth.

Freshmen Ashley Brawley (Grandville/Jenison), Katie Dishinger (Kentwood/East Kentwood), Kelley Flynn (Portage/Central) and Shawna Orcutt (Bloomington, Ill./Glenbard North) are expected to provide depth and a lot of fresh legs for a unit which lost only one key player from last year's squad.

Goalkeepers
The battle for the starting goalkeeper position will be a fierce one throughout the season. Sophomore Connie Bigott looks to begin the season as the number-one goalkeeper. Bigott played in 10 matches last season and finished with a team-leading 5-2-0 record.

Vying for playing time will be sophomore Alana Dombrowski and freshman Laura Myszka (Rockford), who will compete for the backup spot and possibly for some starting time between the posts. Dombrowski played in 11 matches, only giving up 11 goals for a 1.34 goals against average to go with a .771 save percentage.