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## GLIAC Football Release, September 13, 2004

### 2004 Conference Standings

(Through games of Sept. 11)

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Grand Valley State	3	0	1.000	3	0	1.000
Michigan Tech	3	0	1.000	3	0	1.000
Findlay	2	0	1.000	3	0	1.000
Northwood	2	0	1.000	3	0	1.000
Ferris State	2	1	.500	2	1	.500
Ashland	1	1	.000	2	1	.500
Saginaw Valley State	1	1	.000	1	1	.000
Gannon	1	2	.500	1	2	.500
Hillsdale	1	2	.500	1	2	.500
Mercyhurst	1	2	.500	1	2	.500
Wayne State	0	2	.000	0	2	.000
Indianapolis	0	3	.000	0	3	.000
Northern Michigan	0	3	.000	0	3	.000

### Last Week's Results

#### Saturday, Sept. 11

Saginaw Valley State 45, at Wayne State 0\*  
 at Michigan Tech 54, Mercyhurst 13\*  
 at Ferris State 21, Hillsdale 7\*  
 Ashland 22, at Gannon 19 (ot)\*  
 at Grand Valley State 35, Indianapolis 9\*  
 Findlay 41, at Northern Michigan 0\*  
 Northwood 45, at St. Joseph's (Ind.) 18

### This Week's Games

#### Saturday, Sept. 18

Mercyhurst at Northwood, Noon\*  
 Northern Michigan at Wayne State, Noon\*  
 Ferris State at Indianapolis, 2 pm\*  
 Gannon at Hillsdale, 2:30 pm\*  
 Saginaw Valley State at Findlay, 6 pm\*  
 Ashland at Grand Valley State, 7 pm\*  
 \* - GLIAC Games

### GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week:

**Dan Mettlach - Michigan Tech**  
 (SR, QB, 6-0, 186, Gwinn, Mich./Gwinn)

Mettlach accounted for 269 yards of total offense and three touchdowns as Michigan Tech scored the most points in a home GLIAC game in school history in a 54-13 blowout of Mercyhurst. The senior quarterback rushed nine times for 118 yards and a touchdown, and completed 15-of-29 passes for 151 yards and two more scores. Mettlach scored on a 10-yard run and threw TD passes of 22 yards and one yard.

**Offensive Honor Roll:** Antwan Hart - AU, Ryan Kaul - FS, Michael Simpson - UF, Darmel Whitfield - GU, Michael Tennessee - GV, Kyle Kolbe - NU, Mark Radlinski - SV.

**2004 Off. Players of the Week:** (8/30) D. Whitfield - GU; (9/06) D. Collins - GV; (9/13) D. Mettlach - MT.

### GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week:

**Devin Conwell - Ashland**  
 (JR, LB, 6-2, 225, Baltimore, Md./Montgomery C.C.)

Conwell had a team-high 13 tackles (six solo) in Ashland's 22-19 overtime victory at Gannon. Conwell had a half a tackle for loss and also blocked a kick. The Eagles allowed less than 100 yards rushing for the third consecutive week, holding Gannon's running attack to just 63 yards on 33 carries. Conwell helped the AU defense hold the Knights to 328 yards of total offense, 152 yards below their season average.

**Defensive Honor Roll:** Jason Davis - FS, Nick Notario - UF, Joe Dipre - GU, Mike McFadden - GV, Triston Jointer - UI, Brian Smith - MC, Andy Bonk - MT, Alonzo Williams - NU, Corey Gonzales - SV.

**2004 Def. Players of the Week:** (8/30) J. Horn - NU; (9/06) N. Harris - MC; (9/13) D. Conwell - AU.

### GLIAC Special Teams Player of the Week:

**Rick Cottengim - Saginaw Valley State**  
 (JR, WR/KR, 6-2, 185, Elk Grove, Calif.)

Cottengim set a school record with seven punt returns for 138 yards in SVSU's 45-0 blanking of Wayne State. He broke a 14-year old team record with the seven returns in the game. Cottengim sealed the win with a 69-yard punt return for a score in the third quarter. He totaled 171 yards of total offense on the day with 20 receiving yards and 13 rushing yards.

**Special Teams Honor Roll:** Levi Slager - FS, Jeff Pax - UF, Carlos Cardenas - GU, Mark Catlin - GV, Matt Vanover - HC, Jim Schuler - MC, Grant Botz - MT, Doug Daniel - NU.

**2004 S.T. Players of the Week:** (8/30) B. McNicholas - GU; (9/06) B. Langston - GV; (9/13) R. Cottengim - SV.

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## GLIAC Football Notes

**Ashland** - Senior running back Antwan Hart (Detroit, MI/ Erie C.C.) had 100 yards rushing for the third consecutive game when he gained 114 yards on a career-high 32 carries at Gannon...senior wide receiver Michael Hull (Cincinnati, OH/ Sycamore) had seven catches for 62 yards and has caught at least one pass in 28 consecutive games....for the first time in school history, AU has played two consecutive overtime games. Ashland's record in overtime is 2-3...the Eagles allowed just 63 yards rushing at Gannon, the third straight game AU has allowed less than 100 yards on the ground...the Eagles continue to spread the work around among their receivers. Last week, 10 different players caught at least one pass. At Gannon, seven different players had at least one reception...AU is 2-1 for the first time since the 2001 season.

**Ferris State** - Junior quarterback Ryan Kaul (Clarkston), in his first collegiate start, threw for a career-best 206 yards and a TD against Hillsdale Saturday night. Kaul eclipsed his previous high of 177 yards passing (15-33) at Ashland a week ago (9/4)... Ferris State won for the fifth time in its last six home appearances versus Hillsdale with Saturday's 21-7 triumph. FSU has also now won 12 of the last 16 meetings, including nine of the last 11 to date... The Bulldogs 180 yards rushing against Hillsdale not only marked a season high, but was almost twice as much yardage as FSU's first two games combined (91 yds.). Ferris State registered 74 yards on the ground versus Grand Valley State (8/28) and then followed with a 17-yard total at Ashland (9/4).

**Findlay** - The UF shutout of NMU was the Oilers' first since their 1997 NAIA National Championships season when they defeated Westminster College 40-0 in the first round of the playoffs...Findlay racked up 371 yards on the ground during the game, the most since the 2002 season...They were led by junior Michael Simpson's 153 yards rushing on 12 carries...Freshman Derrick Braziel, earning his first carries in the backfield, gained 121 yards rushing on 13 carries to go along with his first collegiate touchdown...The Oilers defense made four interceptions in the game after totaling only five all of last year...Findlay now has seven interceptions on the season, all in the last two games...Senior Kevin Crooks moved into fifth place all-time at Findlay with 24 career touchdown passes. He also moved into fourth place all-time with 270 career pass completions.

**Gannon** - The Gannon defense produced its best outing of the season, allowing 287 yards of total offense (149 rushing & 138 passing) and scoring a touchdown vs. AU ... junior Kevin Scott returned an interception 24 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter for Gannon's first interception TD return since 2002 ... Gannon won the total offense war 328-287 ... Saturday's contest was the first meeting between Gannon and Ashland since 1950 ... Darmel Whitfield, ranked

fourth in Division II in total offense, was held to 304 yards of total offense, 79 yards under his average ... GU, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in Division II in team total offense, was held to 152 yards below its average with 328 yards ... senior Eugene Padgett recorded a career-high 15 tackles ... sophomore Joe Dipre posted career-highs in total tackles (11), assisted tackles (10), tackles for a loss (2.5) and sacks (1.5) ... senior Carlos Cardenas averaged 37.3 yards on seven punts, placing four inside the 20-yard line.

**Grand Valley State** - Grand Valley State is 50-2 in its last 52 games...The 2004 Laker senior class is 44-2 overall and 30-1 in GLIAC action during their careers...GVSU is currently on a 10-game winning streak...senior RB Michael Tennessee moved past the 3,000-yard career rushing mark with 96 yards on 20 carries versus Indianapolis. Tennessee is third on the Lakers' all-time rushing list with 3,063 yards and needs 95 yards to move past Jamie Hosford for second...GVSU sophomore QB Cullen Finnerty is completing 66.3 percent of his passes (55-83-1, 727 yds., 8 TDs)...GVSU has been ranked number one in the AFCA coaches poll in 26 out of the last 31 polls. In addition, the Lakers have been ranked in the top 25 for 49 straight polls and in the top seven for 43 consecutive polls.

**Hillsdale** - Hillsdale dropped a 21-7 decision to Ferris State last Saturday...It was the first time Hillsdale scored seven or less points in a game since falling to Michigan Tech 31-7 on September 18, 1999...By scoring a touchdown with under a minute to play against FSU, the Chargers kept their streak alive by scoring in 65 consecutive games. The last time Hillsdale was shutout came on Sept. 26, 1998 against Westminster (24-0)...Sophomore quarterback Aaron Scholl continues to rank in the GLIAC top five in total offense, averaging over 280 yards per game. He has completed over 62 percent of his passes this season, which ranks third in the GLIAC...Junior Chad Gurica leads the conference in kick returns, averaging over 32 yards per return.

**Indianapolis** - UI senior quarterback Matt Kohn became the Greyhounds' all-time leading passer on Saturday night. Kohn passed Kevin Kreinhagen (1995-98) for the top spot in the third quarter of the contest. He completed 15 of 32 passes for 185 yards at GVSU to improve his career total to 6,948 yards passing. Kohn is second on the U of I career completions list with 534, trailing Kreinhagen by three. Kohn also moved up two spots to fifth on the GLIAC all-time passing list with 6,296 yards in conference games only... The Indianapolis offense had the ball for 33:11 at Grand Valley, producing the two longest drives of the contest. A 14-play, 68-yard drive that consumed 7:47 late in the first quarter cut the Laker lead to 7-3. Indianapolis opened the second half with a 17-play, 92-yard drive that cut the GVSU lead to 21-9... Freshman WR Justin Russell caught a career-high six passes for 74 yards for his third straight outing with at least four grabs.

## GLIAC Football Notes

**Mercyhurst** - Mercyhurst is now 0-5 against Michigan Tech... Senior TE Jeff Thiel (Marion, OH/Ridgedale) extended his team record of catching at least one pass to 34 successive games. He has never missed a game in his career... Senior LB Brian Smith (Chardon, OH/Chardon) scored his first career TD when he returned a Tech fumble for 15 yards in the first quarter... Junior FS Ben Bluemle (Pittsburgh, Pa/Baldwin) scored his second TD of the season and fourth of his career when he returned an interception 32 yards for a score in the opening period. Bluemle also has a punt return for a TD this season... The Lakers have two interception returns for touchdowns this season, one kickoff return, one punt return, and one fumble return...all in three games... Ten different MC players have scored at least one TD this season... Senior Jim Schuler (New Middletown, OH/Springfield Local) continues to punt well. Schuler punted eight times against Tech for a 47.8 yard average, including two inside the 20. In the first 3 games, Schuler has punted 21 times for a 45.2 yard average and four inside the 20.

**Michigan Tech** - MTU has allowed just 9.7 points per game over the first three games of the year . . . Michigan Tech had 32 first downs last Saturday (Sept. 11) compared to Mercyhurst's seven . . . The Huskies are 3-0 for the first time since 1999 . . . MTU is 5-0 all-time against Mercyhurst . . . Tech scored its most points last Saturday (Sept. 11) in a 54-13 win since a 55-33 win at Northwood on Oct. 6, 2001. In addition, it was MTU's most-ever points in a GLIAC home game . . . Michigan Tech rushed for 395 yards vs. Mercyhurst (Sept. 11) with three individuals with 97 yards or more . . . The undefeated Huskies will be off next week before taking their perfect record to Ashland September 25.

**Northern Michigan** - The 'Cats were shutout in a game for the first time since the opening game of the 2003 season at Northern Iowa...The 41-0 loss to Findlay was NMU's first shutout against a GLIAC/MIFC opponent since Ferris State shutout the 'Cats during the 1993 season 47-0...NMU hits the road this week to take on Wane State University, where the 'Cats are 2-1 in their past three trips to Detroit...Vincent Mayfield is still on pace to break his season reception record as he currently has 30 receptions for 330 yards and leads the team in all-purpose yards with 481 yards...NMU used four quarterbacks against the Oilers, Mike Quiroz started the game, Kyle Swenor then came in, Gary Rivera and Kelly Reed both saw some time...NMU had a grand total of eight first downs against Findlay.

**Northwood** - The Timberwolves had another big day on offense, finishing with 550 yards of offense ... NU finished the game with a season-high 282 yards through the air – 238 of which came in Kyle Kolbe's perfect first half (7-7, 238, 3 TD's) ... Northwood held a 28-18 lead at halftime despite having run

only 21 plays (to 54 for Saint Joseph's) and having possession of the ball for 8:17 (to 21:43 for Saint Joseph's) ... NU held that lead because of big plays – all four touchdowns plays covered at least 31 yards (31, 55, 88, 74) ... junior running back Chris Gruse was a big part of those scoring strikes – he had an 88 yard touchdown run and a 74 yard touchdown reception ... he finished the day with 127 yards rushing and 74 yards receiving ... junior receiver Yared Yearby played his best game of the season, finishing with 142 yards and a pair of touchdowns ... the Timberwolves defense came to life in the second half of the game – after allowing the Puma to gain 303 yards of offense and score 18 points in the first half, NU held SJC to just 71 yards of offense and zero points in the second half ... Northwood ended the game with seven sacks for –44 yards.

**Saginaw Valley State** - The Cards have now won 13 straight against the Warriors and eight straight road games dating back to last year ... In addition, SVSU has not lost in Detroit since 1980 ... Senior quarterback Mark Radlinski (Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central) inched closer to the career record for TD passes tying a single-game best with four TD passes against WSU...He was 16-of-22 for 191 yards and the four scores...Senior wideout Mike Crawford (Lake Orion, Mich.) hauled in two of the TD's for his first multi-TD game in his career... Junior wideout Rick Cottengim (Elk Grove, Calif.) set a school record with seven punt returns for 138 yards, including a 69-yard TD return in the third quarter...Junior safety Joe DiGiorgio (Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower) set a new record with a 45-yard fumble return for a TD which was the Cardinals first score of the day...Junior linebacker John DiGiorgio (Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower) led the defense with eight tackles and also posted one forced fumble and one fumble recovery... The Cardinals scored TD's on their first four possessions and led 26-0 just 12 minutes into the game.

**Wayne State** - WSU was assessed only one penalty against Saginaw Valley and just three in two games this season... Bobby Boyer, a transfer from UMass, recorded his first Wayne State interception stopping an SVSU drive near the goal line. He leads the squad in tackles after two games with 23 (14-9)... Sophomore quarterback Chad Blair has three career starts in his five games played, with two of the starts coming against Saginaw Valley. After completing 18 of 34 passes in his rookie campaign, Blair has completed 21 of 52 this season for 239 yards... Michael Griffie extended his reception streak to 14 games by recording three catches for a team-high 45 yards against SVSU... Junior defensive end Leo Wells had a game-high 12 tackles (5-7) versus the Cardinals including three tackles for loss (one sack) and a pass breakup... Junior defensive end Michael Hall also contributed three tackles for loss against SVSU.