



The Grand Valley State football team enjoys the friendly confines of Arend D. Lubbers Stadium, one of the top Division II facilities in the nation. Gameday at Lubbers Stadium brings a buzz of excitement and pride to the Laker football program. The surroundings of Lubbers Stadium have changed almost yearly and add to the festivities that surround a Laker football Saturday during the fall. Most recently, a new Daktronics Scoreboard with a ProStar Video Display board was added for the 2005 season. Two seating sections were added to each end of the home side and a new student section was built to accommodate the stellar student turnout for Laker football games in 2004.

The Lakers have moved all of their football operations into the GVSU Football Center and the Rob Odejski Weight Room in 2002. The Football Center includes a state-of-the-art locker room, equipment room, training room and meeting rooms. The design doubled the size of the former building in the north end zone by adding over 4,000 square feet (2,000 square feet on each side). Permanent lighting, a new playing surface, and six executive suites located on each side of the press box are additions added in the last four years. The student seating area, which moved to south endzone in 1998, has created renewed excitement among the student body. The student seating section has doubled in capacity from 1,300 to 2,700 with the new bleachers. The Laker student seating section is routinely filled to capacity with the overflow moving onto the track.





TOP 25 LUBBERS STADIUM CROWDS

With the increased seating in the south end zone and the two new sections on the home side, Lubbers Stadium now has a permanent seating capacity for 8,550 fans. The Lakers set a Lubbers Stadium and GLIAC single-game record in 2005 as 14,557 fans watched Grand Valley State claim a 30-10 victory over Ferris State in the season-opener. GVSU set a GLIAC single-season attendance record in 2006 as 59,037 fans watched Laker football at Lubbers Stadium during the regular season for an average of 11,807 for five home dates. The Lakers ranked second in total attendance (72,651) and regular season average (11,807) among DII schools for the season. Three of the Lakers' top seven all-time single-game crowds and five of the top 15 came during the 2006 regular season. GVSU played before crowds of 13,480 (Northwood), 12,817 (Ashland), 12,410 (Saginaw Valley), 10,209 (Michigan Tech) and 10,121 (Mercyhurst). The Lakers regularly play in front of crowds over 10,000.

Designed with the future in mind, the stadium can have permanent seating added when needed, with ultimate expansion to 20,000 seats. A new track was also installed in the summer of 1998.

The stadium and track complex was dedicated on September 15, 1979, and named in honor of former Grand Valley State president, Arend D. Lubbers. Lubbers was instrumental in raising more than \$700,000 toward the \$1,050,000 project. The majority of the cost was offset by gifts from GVSU football fans and private donors.

Lubbers Stadium was built around the existing football field of Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT). The field, which is drained and heated by more than seven miles of tubing and electric coils, was installed in 1972. A new automatic sprinkler system was also installed in the summer of 1998.

The Lubbers Stadium press box was designed to accommodate both print and electronic media representatives. It's spacious features include a television booth, two radio

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Atten.</u>
2005	Ferris State	W 30-10	14,557
2005	Saginaw Valley	W 31-10	14,472
2006	Northwood	W 45-7	13,480
2003	Saginaw Valley	L 34-20	12,832
2006	Ashland	W 30-24	12,817
2003	Ferris State	W 40-10	12,627
2006	Saginaw Valley	W 49-35	12,410
2002	UC Davis	W 24-17	12,361
2007	Indianapolis	W 41-17	12,080
2007	Findlay	W 38-15	11,710
2004	Hillsdale	W 58-7	11,610
2007	St. Joseph's	W 42-14	11,134
2004	Northwood	L 35-14	11,041
2004	Indianapolis	W 35-9	10,969
2005	Wayne State	W 36-22	10,942
2007	Ferris State	W 34-7	10,858
2005	Northern Michigan	W 48-3	10,460
2007	Northern Michigan	W 44-14	10,270
2006	Michigan Tech	W 41-20	10,209
2006	Mercyhurst	W 49-17	10,121
2003	Wayne State	W 50-14	10,054
2003	Michigan Tech	W 48-17	10,034
2002	Hillsdale	W 44-19	10,031
2004	Ashland	W 37-7	9,578
2002	Northern Michigan	W 51-14	9,560

booths and an open air television and film platform on the second deck.

Grand Valley's football team has been very successful in games at Lubbers Stadium. The Lakers have an all-time record of 133-31-1 (.809) since the stadium was completed in 1979 and GVSU is 50-2 at home since 2001.





GVSU Yearly Attendance Records

Year	Road Games	Road Att.	Avg. Road Att.	Home Games	Home Att.	Avg. Home Att.	Neutral Games	Neutral Att.	Total Games	Total Att.	Avg. Total Att.
2007	5	23,559	4,712	7	66,161	9,452	1	10,124	12	92,548	7,680
2006	6	15,161	2,527	8	72,651	9,081	1	7,437	15	95,249	6,350
2005	4	12,871	3,218	8	73,936	9,242	1	6,837	13	93,644	7,203
2004	8	36,715	4,589	4	42,895	10,723	1	50,123	13	129,733	9,979
2003	9	42,528	4,725	5	52,225	10,445	1	7,236	15	101,989	6,799
2002	4	16,035	4,009	9	63,991	7,110	1	9,736	14	89,762	6,415
2001	4	8,789	2,197	9	49,431	5,492	1	6,113	14	64,333	4,595
2000	6	14,034	2,339	5	30,155	6,031	0	0	11	44,189	4,017
Totals	46	169,692	3,689	55	451,445	8,208	7	97,606	108	718,743	6,655
1999	4	16,451	4,113	6	29,216	4,869	0	-	10	45,667	4,567
1998	6	25,625	4,271	6	30,844	5,141	0	-	12	56,469	4,706
1997	6	22,870	3,812	5	19,981	3,996	0	-	11	42,851	3,896
1996	6	19,010	3,168	5	19,000	3,800	0	-	11	38,010	3,455
1995	5	13,118	2,624	6	20,828	3,471	0	-	11	33,946	3,086
1994	7	15,345	2,192	5	17,974	3,595	0	-	12	33,319	2,777
1993	6	19,402	3,234	5	17,305	3,461	0	-	11	36,707	3,337
1992	5	6,600	1,320	6	23,828	3,971	0	-	11	30,428	2,766
1991	7	31,436	4,491	5	20,142	4,028	0	-	12	51,578	4,298
1990	6	15,495	2,583	6	25,916	4,319	0	-	12	41,411	3,450
Totals	58	185,352	3,203	55	225,034	4,092	0	-	113	410,386	3,632
1989	5	19,432	3,886	7	19,584	2,798	0	-	12	39,286	3,274
1988	6	19,518	3,235	5	15,527	3,105	0	-	11	35,045	3,186
1987	5	23,652	4,730	6	18,535	3,089	0	-	11	42,187	3,835
1986	6	19,537	3,256	5	14,763	2,953	0	-	11	34,300	3,118
1985	6	17,035	2,839	5	15,634	3,127	0	-	11	32,669	2,970
1984	5	17,203	3,441	5	12,912	2,582	0	-	10	30,115	3,012
1983	5	7,600	1,520	5	16,787	3,357	0	-	10	24,387	2,439
1982	5	23,488	4,698	5	11,228	2,246	0	-	10	28,015	2,802
1980	4	18,591	4,648	5	13,355	2,671	0	-	9	31,946	3,550
Totals	47	166,056	3,533	48	138,325	2,882	0	-	95	297,950	3,136
1979	5	5,833	1,167	4	14,716	3,679	0	-	9	20,549	2,283
1978	6	32,073	5,346	6	9,285	1,546	0	-	12	41,358	3,447
1977	4	15,718	3,930	6	9,459	1,577	0	-	10	25,177	2,518
1976	6	9,450	1,575	4	6,200	1,550	0	-	10	15,560	1,565
1975	5	13,377	2,675	5	17,150	3,430	0	-	10	30,527	3,053
Totals	26	76,451	2,940	25	56,810	2,272	0	-	51	133,171	2,611
Total	177	597,551	3,376	183	871,614	4,763	7	97,606	366	1,560,250	4,251

Note: Insufficient data from 1981 and before 1975



Grand Valley State was one of only a handful of colleges and universities which began playing football in the 1970's. According to NCAA records, the Lakers have been one of the most successful of all collegiate squads to take the field during that time period.

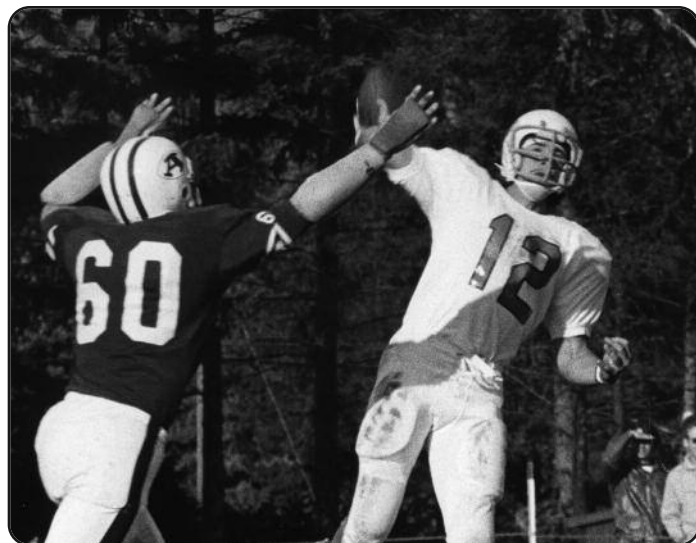
Laker football has been a key element of Grand Valley's rise from a small college to a regional university. President Arend D. Lubbers began the push for a team when he arrived in 1969. A year later, a Laker junior varsity team took the field. Then, in the fall of 1971, the Lakers kicked off their first varsity season. "It was clear that Grand Valley was changing from a commuter college, to a residential school in need of activities such as music, drama, and athletics," Lubbers recalled. "Football gave us the anchor, something you could build your weekend around."

The Origin of the Program

Lubbers came to Grand Valley from Central College in Pella, Iowa, which had a successful football tradition. He hired Zeeland native Ron Schipper, who had been at Central for 33 years, played in three national finals, and won one national championship.

"I was used to success at Central College, so when we started at Grand Valley, I wanted to have a successful program instead of throwing the ball out and saying, 'O.K. boys, it doesn't matter whether we win or not.'"

But despite Lubbers' success at Central College, it took almost nine years before Grand Valley had the total package.



The First Varsity Team

With blessing from the Board of Control, GV launched its football program to play a junior varsity schedule in 1970 and became varsity in 1971. On March 24, 1970, Lubbers, along with athletic director Charles H. Irwin, announced the hiring of Robert "Rip" Collins, a successful high school coach at Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills. Success didn't come quickly for the Lakers, and it took almost three years to win a football game. Collins was unable to get the program off to a successful start after going 0-13 and being outscored 534-58 in 1971 and 1972.

Harkema Begins the Tradition

E. James Harkema took over as head coach in January of 1973,

coming to GV from Northern Illinois where he was an offensive backfield coach.

Also awaiting Harkema was a brand new football field constructed in 1972 which featured the first "prescription athletic turf" (PAT) football playing surface in the country.

It was ironic that Harkema opened the 1973 campaign against his alma mater Kalamazoo College, where he won 10 varsity letters and led the Hornets to six MIAA championships.

John Mahan rushed 26 times for 158 yards and Steve Brems added 122 more to lead GV to its first football victory in its season opener at home, a 27-14 win over Kalamazoo. Defensive tackle Bryce Berth and offensive guard Tom Tefft were named the offensive and defensive players of the game.

To prove it was not fluke, the Lakers did it again the following week with Mahan rushing for 147 yards and Brems adding 138 as GV defeated Chicago Circle 40-8 in a night game played at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Grand Valley outscored opponents 259-120 and posted their first winning season. 1973 marked the start of the great football tradition at Grand Valley, and during the next 10 years under Harkema they would post a 68-29-1 record, win three Great Lakes Conference football championships and make one trip to the NAIA playoffs.

Also during that period, a number of Lakers would begin careers in professional football. Jim Schaap and Tom Tefft, 1971-73, were the first Lakers to sign professional football contracts when they signed with the Detroit Wheels of the World Football League in 1974, setting the stage for a number of GV football alums to follow into the National Football League during that period. They include Gary Evans 1975-77 (New York Jets), Ron Essink 1976-79 (Seattle Seahawks), Ron Rubick 1978-81 (Detroit Lions), Steve Michuta 1979-81 (Cleveland Browns), and Jeff Chadwick 1980-82 (Detroit Lions).

Many Laker followers feel that the 1975 team, with a 7-2-1 record, may have set the standards for many years to come. After dropping a hard fought 15-6 contest to Wayne State, which also included the loss of their quarterback Scott VanDyken for the season, the Lakers bounced back to shutout Ferris State, 38-0, for their first win over the Bulldogs, defeat Saginaw Valley and Hillsdale, tie Northwood, and lose on a trick play to Northern Michigan, 21-17.

1976 was the year Grand Valley would receive national attention in more ways than one. It all started at Michigan Tech when Roger McCoy was credited with a 39-yard field goal although the ball never cleared the crossbar. Instead, the ball hit a public address wire some 50 feet in the air and the ball dropped straight down in front of the goal posts.

A lengthy deliberation following was dominated by Michigan Tech coach Jim Kapp, who brought the ground rule to the attention of the officials, that if that ball should hit the wire in flight, the down should be replayed. Kapp's appeal was denied on the basis that he forgot to tell Grand Valley or the officials before the start of the game that the rule existed, and because the field goal was allowed, the Lakers walked away with a 10-8 victory. McCoy had set a GVSU record with a 60-yard field goal the previous week against Grand Rapids JC at Houseman Field.

The Lakers get on the Map

The game which put Grand Valley on the map was the season finale against Northern Michigan. The Wildcats came into Allendale as defending champions, boasting an 18-game winning streak,

ranked No. 1 in Division II and fresh off an 82-7 whipping of Nebraska-Omaha.

ABC television sent a crew to feature Northern Michigan, but it was the Lakers, playing 21 seniors who built up a 24-0 lead and went on to shock the Wildcats 31-14 before the then largest crowd in GV history at the time.

Reflections of that game even hit the state legislature, when the Representative Dominic Jacobetti of Neguaneé vowed he would eat a pasties' box if Northern were to lose. Although humbled, Jacobetti was true to his word, and ate a piece of cake looking like a pasties' box that was furnished by Grand Valley president Don Lubbers.

Grand Valley Dominates the GLIAC

Harkema's teams had traditionally been built around defense and a solid running game. In 1977 he decided to go to the air and with senior quarterback Roy Gonzalez at the helm, a transfer from Toledo, the Lakers took to the air and won the first of three Great Lakes Conference Championships in a five year period.

Gonzalez was followed by quarterbacks David Quinley, Steve Michuta, and Jeff Lynch, who gave GV the most feared passing in the GLIAC. They were also blessed with outstanding receivers in Clint Nash, Michael Woods, Rubick Chadwick, and Bill Lucksted as the Lakers averaged seven wins a year from 1977-82.

Argument still exists over Harkema's most successful team. The 1976 club, despite an 8-2 record, and posting the biggest victory in the school's history, finished second in the GLIAC and missed the NAIA playoffs.

The First Playoff Year

In 1978 with Quinley at the controls, the Lakers suffered early 49-22 and 49-3 losses to Northern Michigan and Bowling Green, but bounced back to win eight straight games including a repeat of the GLIAC title and an NCAA playoff victory over Wisconsin-LaCrosse. The team lost at Elon (NC) College 14-7 in the semifinals of the NAIA playoffs and closed out with a 9-3 record, the most wins in GV history at the time. The 1981 season was similar to 1978 when the Lakers lost 21-20 to Northern Iowa and 29-28 to Northern Michigan, but bounced back to dominate the GLIAC and win their third title despite a rash of injuries which devastated the club.

The Lakers Earn a New Stadium

The Grand Valley football package was completed when the stadium and track complex named after its president, Arend D. Lubbers, was dedicated on September 15, 1979. The majority of these gifts included contributions from Laker football fans and private donors. The stadium was built around the existing PAT field with permanent seating for 4,146 fans. Beside the stadium/track complex, the new practice fields and the new Fieldhouse, which replaced the Dome in 1982, gave GV one of the finest Division II facilities in the Midwest. Harkema was on his way to building another winner when he accepted the head coaching job at Eastern Michigan. He resigned in November 1982 and was replaced by Bob Giesey, Ball State assistant, in December of 1982.

Giesey's team lost the final two games of the season by two points, 31-30 to Northwood and 15-14 to Saginaw Valley to finish 4-6. The roof caved in the following year and GV went 0-10 and managed only 99 points for the season.

Beck Turns GVSU into a Winner Again

Giesey resigned and Athletic Director Dr. George MacDonald began a nationwide search which climaxed with the hiring of Tom Beck, a Chicago native, who came to Grand Valley from the Chicago Blitz of the United States Football League and who had turned losing programs into winning ones at Illinois Benedictine and Elmhurst College.

It took Beck three games to get back on track in 1985. Faced with a 14-game losing streak, Beck made some key personnel changes. Beck installed Guy Schuler at quarterback and moved wide receiver Ray Buckner to tailback, linebacker Sylvester Johnson to fullback, and defensive tackle Brian Mulcahy to middle linebacker. The Lakers went out and defeated Evansville 28-14 and finished the year 6-5.

The next five years would see explosive offenses, outstanding players and solid coaching which would result in trips to the NCAA Division II playoffs, as well as the Lakers becoming a fixture in preseason and postseason rankings.

Beck's 1986 team posted a 9-2 record, but that was only an inkling of this to come.

Undefeated in 1989

After a pair of 7-4 seasons in 1987 and 1988, the Lakers posted their first undefeated regular season with an 11-0 record and the final Great Lakes Conference Championship in 1989. GV led Division II in total offense, averaging 480.9 yards per game and also in points with 44.5.

One of the highlights of the 1989 season was GVSU's record breaking 91-0 victory over Valparaiso. The Lakers jumped out to a 56-0 halftime lead as they rolled up 731 yards in total offense. Freshman kicker Miguel Sagaró from Spain set a Division II record when he connected on 65 of 66 extra points for the season and sophomore fullback Eric Lynch scored 21 touchdowns. Lynch went on to begin an outstanding career with the Detroit Lions.

Grand Valley finished third in the final 1989 Division II poll and earned the first of three consecutive playoff berths, losing to Indiana, PA, 34-24 on a frigid November afternoon highlighted by 11 inches of snow on the ground.



Grand Valley Joins MIFC, Wins Inaugural Crown

In 1990, Grand Valley, along with GLIAC members Ferris State, Hillsdale, Northern Michigan, Saginaw Valley, and Wayne State, joined forces with the schools from the Heartland Conference which included Ashland, Butler, University of Indianapolis, St. Joseph's College, and Valparaiso to form the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference.

The Lakers continued their winning ways, posting a 22-game



regular season winning streak before falling at Hillsdale, 38-34. GV won the inaugural MIFC crown, finished with a 10-2 record and lost to East Texas State, 20-14, in the playoffs.

Kelly Moves Up

Beck left Grand Valley the following March to become an assistant at Notre Dame, and Athletic Director Mike Kovalchik filled the position with 28-year old Laker assistant Brian Kelly, a graduate of Assumption College, who continued to lead the Lakers to success on the gridiron. He posted his 20th and 30th wins faster than any of his predecessors, and going into the 2003 season has a 104-34-2 record in twelve seasons of competition.

GV Defeats Defending National Champ, Goes To Playoffs For Third Straight Year

Kelly's first season was a roller coaster ride as the Lakers began by defeating defending Division II national champion North Dakota State, 21-17, in Fargo, breaking the Bison 25 game home winning streak as the Lakers became the first team to score a rushing TD in 38 quarters. The following week Grand Valley was shutout 33-0 in the Butler Bowl. Kelly's 1991 team went on to post a 9-3 record, losing to East Texas State in the playoffs, 36-15.

Grand Valley shared its second MIFC crown with Butler, Ferris, and Hillsdale in 1992 with an 8-3 record. Kelly's club returned to the playoffs in 1994 and posted an 8-4 mark after losing to IUP in the first round.

experience showed as the Lakers stumbled to a 5-5 finish. The 2000 season started slowly as a tough early schedule dropped GVSU to 0-3. However, the Lakers did not quite after the rough start and responded with a six-game winning streak to end the season at 7-4.



In 2001 the dividends of getting young players some valuable experience showed as the Lakers not only won their first-ever playoff game but advanced to the 2001 National Championship. Behind an offensive attack like no Division II school before it, Grand Valley posted a perfect 10-0 regular season with an average of 58.4 points per game and 48.0 average margin of victory. GVSU's march to the championship game was not easy, however, as quarterback and Harlon Hill Finalist Curt Anes, was injured in the Lakers' first playoff game. Grand Valley responded with a first round 42-14 victory over Bloomsburg, a 33-30 second round win over Saginaw Valley State, and a semifinal win over Catawba College, 34-16, with two back up quarterbacks. In the championship game against North Dakota the Lakers took a 14-10 lead with 2:46 left in the game, but the Fighting Sioux responded with a last minute drive of their own to take the title, 17-14.

Finish what we started was the motto of the 2002 season. Curt Anes returned from a serious knee injury to guide GVSU to a perfect 10-0 regular season mark. GVSU defeated three ranked teams en route to the undefeated season. The playoffs began with a convincing 62-13 win over C.W. Post. Then came a matchup against longtime nemesis Indiana (Pa.). GVSU entered the game 0-6 against the Indians all-time, however, scored on its first eight possessions in the first half and built a 50-7 lead. The Lakers cruised to a 62-21 win and advanced to the NCAA DII semifinals. Grand Valley State again jumped out to an early lead and never looked back with an impressive 44-7 victory over Northern Colorado. The win advanced GVSU to the NCAA DII National Championship game for the second straight year. The #1 ranked Lakers squared off against #2 Valdosta State for a winner take all game. GVSU led 17-6 at the half and 24-6 midway through the fourth quarter. However, VSU scored 18 unanswered points to tie the game with just over three minutes remaining. Anes, who won the Harlon Hill Award as the DII Player of the Year less than 24 hours earlier, drove the Lakers 68 yards in 2:05 for a TD to give GVSU the 2002 NCAA DII National Championship. Anes hit All-American David Kircus on a 10-yard pass for the winning score. Grand Valley State went wire-to-wire as the top-ranked team in Division II and finished with a perfect 14-0 record.



Kelly Continues Winning Tradition

The Lakers posted back to back 8-3 seasons in '95 and '96, finishing second in the MIFC both years. GVSU earned a share of the conference title in 1997, with a 9-2 overall record, and finished the MIFC season 9-1, with only a 30-27 overtime loss at Saginaw Valley State.

Quarterback Jeff Fox led the Lakers to their second straight MIFC title and back into the playoffs in 1998 with a 9-1 conference mark. Fox became Grand Valley State's first-ever Harlon Hill Award Finalist as he rewrote the GVSU single-season and career offensive record books. The Lakers season was ended by Slippery Rock in the first round of the playoffs, 37-14.

Kelly decided to go with a youth movement in 1999 and the in-

Following "Finish What We Started" in 2002, the 2003 motto was "Tradition Never Graduates". Gone from the 2002 team were 25 seniors that concluded their careers with back-to-back appearances in the NCAA DII Championship game. However, someone forgot to tell the the 2003 squad that the run was over. The 2003 campaign started with a road win over perennial DII power UC Davis that was now a IAA school. GVSU limited the high-powered Aggie offense to just two field goals, while GVSU's All-American placekicker, David Hendrix, booted three field goals, the final one coming in overtime to give a young GVSU squad a 9-6 win. A resounding win over West Michigan rival Ferris State followed as the Laker defense scored a pair of TDs. Wins over Wayne State, Hillsdale, Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan built the Lakers'



overall winning streak to 20 games and the conference streak to 29 games. A date with fourth-ranked Saginaw Valley State was next on the ledger and GVSU and GLIAC record crowd of 12,832 attended the much anticipated contest at Lubbers Stadium. GVSU turnovers and miscues filled the second half and the Cardinals capitalized to claim a 34-20 victory. GVSU regrouped and notched a 33-14 win at Northwood to build momentum towards another playoff run. However, this playoff run would have to be done on the road as GVSU entered the playoffs seeded third in the Northeast Region. The Lakers opened with a 65-36 win at Bentley College that set up a rematch with SVSU. Scott Mackey picked off a pass late in the second quarter to score the games only TD and give GVSU a 10-3 win. A win (31-3) in south Texas over Texas A&M-Kingsville propelled GVSU into its third straight NCAA DII Championship game. A familiar foe, North Dakota, was on the docket in a game that was sure to be a defensive battle. GVSU led 3-0 in the third quarter, but UND was deep in Laker territory and looking to take the lead before junior defensive back Lucius Hawkins made the play of the game. Hawkins forced a fumble by the Sioux QB that he in turn picked up and raced 59 yards to the North Dakota 20-yard line. All-American Michael Tennessee scored three plays later from three yards out to give GVSU a 10-0 lead. GVSU led 10-3 in the closing minutes as North Dakota was driving. Senior linebacker Mike Hoard would have none of that and picked off a pass on the Laker 10 to preserve the win and give GVSU back-to-back NCAA DII National Championships. The 2003 GVSU senior class etched their names in the record books

by becoming just the second team (North Alabama) in NCAA DII history to make three consecutive trips to the title game. The Laker seniors were 47-2 in their final 49 games and tallied a four-year GLIAC record of 34-4.

Chuck Martin Takes Over The Reins Of Laker Football

The 2004 season opened the era of a new mentor as Brian Kelly left following the 2003 season to take the head coach job at Central Michigan. Enter Chuck Martin as the fifth head coach in the history of the Laker football program. Martin won more games (10) than any of the four previous head coaches in their first year at the helm. In addition, the Lakers advanced to the NCAA DII Quarterfinals for the fourth straight year. The 2004 Laker senior class concluded their careers with a 51-5 record, including two National Championships and three title game appearances. The 51 wins by the Laker senior class tied the DII record for wins in a career. DT Keyonta Marshall became GVSU's first-ever three-time All-American and Grand Valley State continued to set single-season attendance records with a single-game average of 10,799 in 2004.

National Championship Number Three

Year number two in the Chuck Martin era started with a lot of promise and ended with a National Championship.

GVSU swept through the regular season with a perfect 9-0 record. Grand Valley State held the top spot in the AFCA poll after a 14-10 comeback win at Ashland on Sept. 17. The Lakers claimed a pair of impressive wins in October over nationally-ranked opponents. GVSU claimed a 31-10 victory over #4 Saginaw Valley State and then one week later tallied a 30-14 win at #5 Northwood. The Lakers' final game of the regular season was cancelled due to lightning on a November night.

GVSU received a bye as the top seed in the Northwest Region and opened the playoffs with a familiar foe in North Dakota. GVSU dominated the contest defensively and had all the points they needed by the half (14-0) en route to a 17-3 victory. A rematch with Saginaw Valley State was next and the Cardinals built a 14-7 half-time lead. However, a crucial TD on fourth-and-one tied the game in the third quarter and GVSU added 10 more points to claim a 24-17 victory. The semifinals were next and East Stroudsburg (Pa.) was all that stood between the Lakers another trip to Florence. The Warriors didn't stand in the way long and GVSU raced out to a 41-0 lead midway through the second quarter and went on to claim a 55-20 victory.

Grand Valley State was making its fourth appearance the NCAA DII title game in the last five years. The Lakers trailed Northwest Missouri State 17-14 midway through the fourth quarter when they started their National Championship game-winning drive. Junior QB Cullen Finnerty hit WR Eric Fowler with a key third-down pass to keep the drive alive. Senior WR Brandon Langston thought he let the title slip away when a Finnerty pass just slipped through his hands. However, Finnerty came back to the Lakers' playmaker later in the drive and boy did he prove worthy of the task. Langston took a screen pass and raced 35 yards to paydirt to give GVSU a 21-17 lead with just over four minutes remaining. The Bearcats picked up a couple of first downs and had one final play from the Laker 25 with one tick left on the clock. The pass was completed, but senior safety Joe Ballard and sophomore linebacker Kirk Carruth made sure it was short of the goal line and GVSU had its third DII football National Championship in four years. The victory also enabled the Laker senior class to pick up



their 51st victory against just four losses to establish the top victory total and best winning percentage in a four-year period. The Lakers placed 18 on the All-GLIAC team, including nine first-teamers. DT Mike McFadden was named the GLIAC Defensive Lineman of the Year, while Cullen Finnerty was named the Offensive Back of the Year. McFadden and OT Josh Bourke were consensus all-Americans. McFadden was named the Gene Upshaw Award winner as the top DII interior lineman. Head coach Chuck Martin was named the AFCA DII Coach of the Year.

Allendale Becomes Titledown

Allendale, Michigan officially became titledown of Division II football on Dec. 16, 2006. Grand Valley State captured its fourth NCAA DII Football National Championship in the last five years (2002, 2003, 2005, 2006), becoming just the second team in DII history to finish the the season with a 15-0 mark. Grand Valley State has appeared in five title games since 2001.

The Lakers swept through the 2006 regular season in dominating fashion, outscoring its GLIAC foes by an average score of 37.1-14.6. Grand Valley State then rambled through a playoff run that included wins over two North Central Conference schools (South Dakota and North Dakota) in regional action, a win over a Gulf South Conference team (Delta State) in the semifinals, followed by a victory over Northwest Missouri State (17-14) of the MIAA in the title game. QB Cullen Finnerty scored the game winner early in the fourth quarter on a 4-yard run and the Laker defense preserved the win. Finnerty ran for 117 and passed for 225, while cornerback Bill Brechin picked off two passes and recovered a fumble for the defense. GVSU also played on national television three



times (ESPN2 twice and CSTV) during the 2006 season. An incredible 21 players earned All-GLIAC plaudits, including nine first-teamers. Seven individuals earned all-American honors, including consensus first-teamers in QB Cullen Finnerty, OT Brandon Barnes, DL Mike McFadden, LB Anthony Adams and CB Brandon Carr.

GVSU concluded the 2006 season with college football's longest active winning streak (28 games) and the winners in 85-of-their-last-90 football games. Grand Valley State quarterback Cullen Finnerty concluded his career as college football's all-time winningest starting QB in terms of total wins with a 51-4 record. The

GVSU 2006 senior class ended their playing careers with a 52-4 overall mark and three National Championships. Including a red-shirt year in 2002, the senior class was 66-4 with four National Championships.

Grand Valley State didn't win the 2007 NCAA DII Football National Championship, but it took an unforeseen road trip, an ice storm and a record-setting performance by an all-american running back to keep the Lakers out of the title game. The Lakers went through the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record and won its first two playoff games en route to the NCAA Division II Semifinals. The 12 straight wins ran the Lakers' Division II record win streak to 40 games before it ended with a loss at No. 5 Northwest Missouri State in the semifinals. The Lakers were ranked No. 1 in the nation until their loss in the 13th game.

Sophomore Brad Iciek excelled in his first season as GVSU's starting quarterback and compiled a quarterback efficiency rating of 168.12 by completing 61.1 percent of his passes for 2850 yards and 30 touchdowns. Freshman Jimmy Berezik stepped in and ran for 1,021 yards with eight touchdowns, while Blake Smolen tallied 1,631 all-purpose yards. Senior Brandon Horn caught a team-best 55 passes for 823 yards, while Antione Trent hauled in 34 passes for 585 yards and 11 TDs. Defensively, the Lakers were led by Anthony Adams and Dan Skuta. Adams piled up 94 tackles, 52 solo, along with 20.5 tackles for loss for a total of 74 yards. He also recorded six sacks and two forced fumbles. Skuta was second on the team with 77 tackles, with 17.5 for a loss. He notched 11.5 sacks for 71 yards and forced four fumbles.

Following the season, defensive back Brandon Carr was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs as the fifth pick in the fifth round of the NFL draft. Carr was the first Laker to be drafted since Keyonta Marshall was drafted in the second day of the 2005 draft. Three other Lakers earned various all-american honors following the season. Adams was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-American First Team, as well as the AP and Daktronics, Inc. All-American First Teams. Brandon Barnes earned AP and Daktronics First Team All-American plaudits, as well. He also took home the Gene Upshaw award as the best lineman in Division II football. Skuta also earned First Team All-American status from Daktronics, and also second team plaudits from the AP. The selections marked the seventh straight year that a GVSU player was named to the AFCA All-American First Team.

Iciek was also named as a Harlon Hill finalist for the most valuable player in Division II football. He became the fourth straight GVSU quarterback to be named as a Harlon Hill finalist. Head coach Chuck Martin was named the NCAA Division II AFCA Region 3 Coach of the Year after leading the Laker football program to a third consecutive undefeated regular season.

By Don Thomas and Tim Nott

GV	Opp	H/A	Opponent	Date	Result	Score	GV	Opp	H/A	Opponent	Date	Result	Score
1	5	A	Northwest Missouri	12-8-07	L	34-16	1	NR	A	Gannon	9-4-04	W	48-17
1	21	H	Central Washington	12-1-07	W	41-21	1	NR	A	Ferris State	8-28-04	W	24-6
1	7	H	North Dakota	11-24-07	W	21-14	4	17	N	North Dakota#	12-13-03	W	10-3
1	NR	H	Northern Michigan	11-10-07	W	44-14	4	3	A	Tex. A&M-Kingsville*	12-6-03	W	31-3
1	NR	A	Saginaw Valley	11-3-07	W	21-10	4	1	A	Saginaw Valley State*	11-29-03	W	10-3
1	NR	H	Ferris State	10-27-07	W	34-7	4	19	A	Bentley*	11-22-03	W	65-36
1	NR	A	Northwood	10-20-07	W	51-20	4	NR	A	Findlay	11-15-03	W	44-0
1	NR	H	Indianapolis	10-13-07	W	41-17	4	NR	A	Indianapolis	11-8-03	W	53-10
1	NR	A	Mercyhurst	10-6-07	W	59-7	6	NR	H	Mercyhurst	11-1-03	W	51-6
1	NR	H	Wayne State	9-29-07	W	41-10	7	NR	A	Northwood	10-25-03	W	33-14
1	NR	A	Michigan Tech	9-22-07	W	48-6	1	4	H	Saginaw Valley State	10-18-03	L	20-34
1	NR	H	Findlay	9-15-07	W	38-15	1	NR	A	Northern Michigan	10-11-03	W	50-20
1	NR	H	St. Joseph's(Ind.)	8-30-07	W	42-14	1	NR	H	Michigan Tech	10-4-03	W	48-17
1	2	N	NW Missouri State#	12-16-06	W	17-14	1	NR	A	Hillsdale	9-27-03	W	37-24
1	11	H	Delta State*	12-10-06	W	49-30	1	NR	H	Wayne State	9-20-03	W	50-14
1	8	H	North Dakota*	12-2-06	W	30-20	1	NR	H	Ferris State	9-13-03	W	40-14
1	16	H	South Dakota*	11-25-06	W	35-17	1	(1-AA)	A	UC-Davis	9-6-03	W	9-6 (OT)
1	NR	A	Northern Michigan	11-11-06	W	47-17	1	2	N	Vadosta State#	12-14-02	W	31-24
1	NR	H	Saginaw Valley State	11-4-06	W	49-35	1	7	H	Northern Colorado*	12-7-02	W	44-7
1	NR	A	Ferris State	10-28-06	W	28-6	1	6	H	Indiana (Penn.)*	11-30-02	W	62-21
1	9	H	Northwood	10-21-06	W	45-7	1	12	H	C.W. Post*	11-23-02	W	62-13
1	NR	A	Indianapolis	10-14-06	W	33-7	1	19	H	Findlay	11-16-02	W	63-19
1	NR	H	Mercyhurst	10-7-06	W	49-17	1	NR	H	Indianapolis	11-9-02	W	50-13
1	NR	A	Wayne State	9-30-06	W	36-13	1	NR	A	Mercyhurst	11-2-02	W	62-24
1	NR	H	Michigan Tech	9-21-06	W	41-20	1	NR	H	Northwood	10-26-02	W	33-14
1	NR	A	St. Joseph's	9-16-06	W	31-6	1	3	A	Saginaw Valley State	10-19-2002	W	23-18
1	NR	H	Ashland	9-9-06	W	30-24	1	NR	H	Northern Michigan	10-12-02	W	51-14
1	NR	A	Findlay	9-2-06	W	13-0	1	NR	A	Michigan Tech	10-5-02	W	56-14
1	21	N	NW Missouri State#	12-10-05	W	21-17	1	NR	H	Hillsdale	9-28-02	W	44-19
1	16	H	East Stroudsburg*	12-3-05	W	55-20	1	NR	A	Wayne State	9-21-02	W	49-14
1	4	H	Saginaw Valley State*	11-26-05	W	24-17	1	6	H	UC-Davis	9-7-02	W	24-17
1	16	H	North Dakota*	11-19-05	W	17-3	2	4	N	North Dakota#	12-8-01	L	14-17
1	NR	H	Northern Michigan	10-29-05	W	48-3	2	7	H	Catawba*	12-1-01	W	34-16
1	5	A	Northwood	10-22-05	W	30-14	2	9	H	Saginaw Valley State*	11-24-01	W	33-30
1	4	H	Saginaw Valley State	10-15-05	W	31-10	2	5	H	Bloomsburg*	11-17-01	W	42-14
1	NR	A	Hillsdale	10-8-05	W	38-10	3	NR	H	Hillsdale	11-10-01	W	57-21
1	NR	H	Wayne State	10-1-05	W	36-22	4	NR	H	Wayne State	11-3-01	W	77-12
2	NR	A	Ashland	9-17-05	W	14-10	5	NR	A	Michigan Tech	10-27-01	W	44-34
2	NR	A	Indianapolis	9-10-05	W	29-13	7	NR	H	Mercyhurst	10-20-01	W	59-3
2	NR	H	Gannon	9-3-05	W	61-10	12	NR	A	Indianapolis	10-13-01	W	63-27
3	NR	H	Ferris State	8-27-05	W	30-10	15	NR	A	Ferris State	10-6-01	W	63-17
15	14	A	North Dakota*	11-27-04	L	15-19	15	NR	H	Northern Michigan	9-29-01	W	64-14
15	7	A	Northwood*	11-20-04	W	10-7	15	NR	A	Ashland	9-22-01	W	63-19
15	8	A	Winona State*	11-13-04	W	16-13	18	21	H	Saginaw Valley State	9-8-01	W	38-7
17	4	N	Michigan Tech	11-6-04	W	24-7	22	NR	H	Minnesota-Crookston	8-30-01	W	56-0
19	NR	A	Northern Michigan	10-30-04	W	45-29	22	17	A	South Dakota State	9-2-00	L	27-36
10	18	H	Northwood	10-23-04	L	14-35							
1	23	A	Saginaw Valley State	10-16-04	L	21-30							
1	NR	H	Hillsdale	10-9-04	W	58-7							
1	NR	A	Wayne State	10-2-04	W	34-0							
1	NR	H	Ashland	9-18-04	W	37-7							
1	NR	H	Indianapolis	9-11-04	W	35-19							

When the Lakers are ranked since the start of the 2000 season
When ranked #1 (50-2 overall) (30-1 at home-17-1 on the road-3-0 N)
 # NCAA DII National Championship game
 * NCAA DII Playoff game



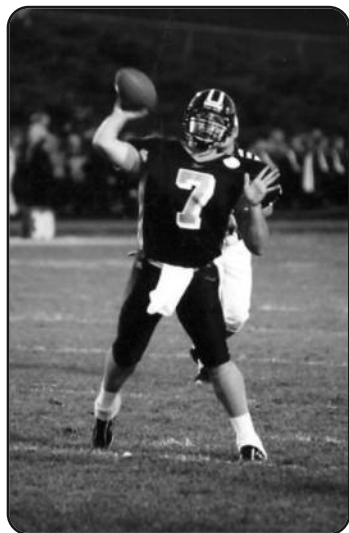
2001

1. North Dakota
2. **Grand Valley St.**
3. Catawaba
4. Valdosta St.
5. UC Davis
6. Saginaw Valley St.
7. Chadron St.
8. Indiana (Pa.)
9. Tuskegee
10. Tarleton St.
11. Pittsburg St.
12. Bloomsburg
13. Texas A&M-Kingsville
14. Winona St.
15. Central Arkansas
16. Nebraska-Omaha
17. Tusculum
18. Arkansas Tech
19. C.W. Post
20. Fort Valley St.
21. Central Missouri
22. North Dakota St.
23. Western Washington
24. Virginia Union
25. West Georgia



2002

1. **Grand Valley St.**
2. Valdosta St.
3. Northern Colorado
4. Texas A&M-Kingsville
5. Carson-Newman
6. Northwest Missouri St.
7. UC Davis
8. Indiana (Pa.)
9. Central Washington
10. Central Missouri
11. Minnesota-Duluth
12. Nebraska-Kearney
13. Saginaw Valley St.
14. Tuskegee
15. Catawaba
16. Fayetteville St.
17. C.W. Post
18. St. Cloud St.
19. Tarleton St.
20. Chadron St.
21. Pittsburg St.
22. Bloomsburg
23. Bentley
24. East Stoudsburg
25. Findlay



2003

1. **Grand Valley St.**
2. North Dakota
3. Texas A&M-Kingsville
4. Saginaw Valley St.
5. North Alabama
6. Carson-Newman
7. Valdosta St.
8. Winona St.
9. Indiana (Pa.)
10. Pittsburg St.
11. Southern Arkansas
12. Catawaba
13. Central Oklahoma
14. Mesa St.
15. Emporia St.
16. Delta St.
17. Central Missouri St.
18. Edinboro
19. Tusculum
20. Tarleton St.
21. Bentley
22. North Dakota St.
23. Chadron St.
24. Nebraska-Omaha
25. Northwest Missouri St.



2004

1. Valdosta St.
2. Pittsburg St.
3. Northwest Missouri St.
4. North Dakota
5. Albany St. (Ga.)
6. Texas A&M-Kingsville
7. West Chester
8. Colorado Mines
9. **Grand Valley St.**
10. Northwood
11. Michigan Tech
12. East Stroudsburg
13. Winona St.
14. Carson-Newman
15. Shippensburg
16. Arkansas Tech
17. St. Cloud St.
18. Edinboro
19. South Dakota
20. Bentley
21. Central Oklahoma
22. Tuskegee
23. Southeastern Oklahoma
24. Nebraska-Omaha
25. Saginaw Valley St.



2005

1. **Grand Valley St.**
2. Northwest Missouri St.
3. Saginaw Valley St.
4. North Alabama
5. East Stroudsburg
6. Central Arkansas
7. Bloomsburg
8. North Dakota
9. Albany St. (Ga.)
10. Presbyterian
11. Tuskegee
12. Pittsburg St.
13. Washburn
14. Valdosta St.
15. West Texas A&M
16. Nebraska-Omaha
17. South Dakota
18. Northwood
19. North Carolina Central
20. Shepherd
21. Carson-Newman
22. C.W. Post
23. Angelo St.
24. Nebraska-Kearney
25. Missouri Western St.



2006

1. **Grand Valley St.**
2. Northwest Missouri St.
3. Delta St.
4. Bloomsburg
5. Chadron St.
6. North Alabama
7. North Dakota
8. Shepherd
9. North Carolina Central
10. West Texas A&M
11. Nebraska-Omaha
12. Newberry
13. South Dakota
14. Valdosta St.
15. Pittsburg St.
16. Missouri Western St.
17. Midwestern St.
18. Northwood
19. Winona St.
20. Abilene Christian
21. Elizabeth City State
22. Tiffin
23. Bemidji St.
24. West Chester
25. Indiana



2007

1. Valdosta St.
2. Northwest Missouri St.
3. **Grand Valley St.**
4. California (Pa.)
5. Chadron St.
6. North Alabama
7. Nebraska-Omaha
8. West Texas A&M
9. North Dakota
10. Delta St.
11. Central Washington
12. Carson-Newman
12. Catawba
14. Shepherd
15. Abilene Christian
16. Tuskegee
17. West Chester
18. Indiana (Pa.)
19. Mesa St.
20. Newberry
21. Tarleton St.
22. Ashland
23. Winona St.
24. Washburn
25. Midwestern St.

