



2002 NCAA DII Football
National Champions

GRAND VALLEY STATE LAKER FOOTBALL 2003

Game 1 • #1 Grand Valley State (0-0, 0-0) vs. California-Davis (0-0, 0-0)
Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00 p.m. • Toomey Field (10,111)

THE GAME:

Grand Valley State will kickoff the 2003 football campaign at UC Davis Saturday (Sept. 6). The Lakers enter the 2003 season as the number one ranked team in DII. GVSU has been ranked number one in the AFCA rankings for 16 straight weeks, the second longest tenure for a team to sit atop the rankings since 1982. North Alabama held the spot for 27 consecutive weeks.

SEASON OPENERS:

Grand Valley State is 16-16 in season-opening games, but just 7-10 when opening the season on the road. Head coach Brian Kelly is 7-5 in season openers as the Lakers' head coach. GVSU is 226-110-3 in 32 years of playing football.

THE TEAMS:

Grand Valley State and UC Davis are two of the most successful programs in college football over the last 12 years. In the 1990's, GVSU was 80-31-2 (.717), while UC Davis was 81-31-2 (.719). GVSU has the fourth best record by percentage in DII since 2000 with a 34-5 mark (.872). GVSU's 34 wins since 2000 rank as the second most in DII football. In the last five years GVSU is 48-13 (.787), while UC Davis is 51-12 (.823).

THE SERIES:

This is the fourth meeting between Grand Valley State and UC Davis. UC Davis leads the series by a 2-1 margin. Grand Valley State captured the 2002 contest at home by a 24-17 margin. The Aggies claimed the first meeting in 1997 by a 21-19 margin. The return matchup in 1998 was a classic. UC Davis jumped out to an early lead only to have the Lakers come back and score on the final play of the game to pull within two points (40-38). The Lakers failed on the two point conversion

attempt and UC Davis escaped with the win. The three games have been decided by a total of 11 points.

THE COACHES:

Grand Valley State • Brian Kelly (Assumption, 1983) • 104-34-2/.750 (13th year);
UC-Davis • Bob Biggs (UC-Davis, 1973) • 90-30-1/.747 (11th year).

GVSU head coach Brian Kelly and UC-Davis mentor Bob Biggs are two of the top coaches in DII in terms of winning percentage. Kelly is third (104-34-2/.750), while Biggs is fourth (90-30-1/.747).

- Grand Valley State enters tonight's game having won 26 consecutive regular season games versus DII opponents. The Lakers are 33-1 in their last 34 games overall. In addition, GVSU has won 24 straight GLIAC games.
- Two Lakers have garnered preseason All-American plaudits. Junior DT Keyonta Marshall and senior FS Scott Mackey were mentioned among the best in DII football in 2003.
- 20 Lakers (10 offense/10 defense) listed on the two-deep did not play a snap last season. In addition, 17 (8 offense/9 defense) players listed on the two-deep have never played a down for GVSU in a game.

2003 Grand Valley State Schedule

9/6	at UC-Davis	9 pm
9/13	Ferris State	7 pm
9/20	Wayne State	7 pm
9/27	at Hillsdale	7 pm
10/4	Michigan Tech	7 pm
10/11	at Northern Michigan	1 pm
10/18	Saginaw Valley St.	7 pm
10/25	at Northwood	12 noon
11/1	Mercyhurst	7 pm
11/8	at Indianapolis	1 pm
11/15	at Findlay	1 pm

2002 GLIAC Standings

Team (Overall Record)	W-L
Grand Valley State (14-0)	9-0
Findlay (9-2)	8-2
Saginaw Valley State (9-3)	8-2
Northwood (7-4)	7-3
Northern Michigan (6-5)	6-4
Ferris State (5-5)	4-5
Indianapolis (5-6)	4-6
Hillsdale (4-7)	4-6
Michigan Tech (3-7)	3-7
Wayne State (3-8)	3-7
Ashland (2-9)	2-8
Mercyhurst (2-9)	1-9

LAKER FOOTBALL ON THE AIR

You can catch Laker football on WMFN-AM 640, with the voice of the Lakers, Dick Nelson, calling the action. Nelson will call the play-by-play, while former Laker standout Dan McLean, will handle the color. The Laker pregame show will begin 15 minutes prior to kickoff. In addition, each and every Laker football game be heard live via the internet.. The Brian Kelly Football Show, with host Rick Berkey, will air at 12 noon every Sunday on WXSP-TV.

LAKER BYTES

OT Josh Bourke

2002: Earned second varsity letter after starting all 14 games at right tackle...Key performer on an offensive line that allowed just 13 QB sacks in 455 passing attempts...Enabled the GVSU offense to average 204.4 yards rushing and 284.2 yards passing per game.

CB Dion Charity

2002: Earned third varsity letter...Played in 13 games...Missed Hillsdale game after being in a car accident prior to the game...Recorded 24 total tackles (18 solo/6 assisted)...Played a key role in season-opening win over UC Davis (9/6) with three tackles...Recorded a season-high five tackles vs. Findlay (11/16)...Notched four tackles vs. both IUP (11/30) and Northern Colorado (12/7) in DII playoffs...Outstanding special teams player...**2001:** Grand Valley State Special Teams Player of the Year...Earned second varsity letter...Notched 27 total tackles...Recovered two fumbles, forced one fumble and deflected a pass...Recorded a season-high six tackles vs. Wayne State (11/3)...Recorded five tackles and one fumble recovery vs. Mercyhurst (10/13)...Four tackles, a fumble recovery and a forced fumble vs. Hillsdale (11/10).

LB Dustin Cole

2002: Earned third varsity letter after starting all 14 games at linebacker...Ranked fourth on the team in tackles with 73 (45 solo/28 assisted)...recorded three tackles for loss (-13) and three QB sacks (-7)...Picked off one pass...Recorded eight or more tackles five times...Tallied 10 tackles vs. #2 UC Davis (9/7)...Notched eight tackles at #3 Saginaw Valley State (10/19)...Recorded six tackles vs. #2 Valdosta State (12/14) in National Title game...**2001:** Ranked third on the team in total tackles with 80...Recorded seven tackles for loss (-34) and four QB sacks (-14)...Picked off one pass and notched four pass break ups...Forced a pair of

fumbles...Averaged 9.5 tackles per game in NCAA Division II Playoffs...Recorded a season-high 11 total tackles in NCAA DII semifinal game vs. Catawba (12/1)...Tallied 10 tackles and returned an interception 29 yards vs. Bloomsburg (11/17).

QB Jeff Dock

2002: Earned first varsity letter...Rushed 12 times for 38 yards...Completed 10-of-13 passes for 143 yards and one TD...Completed 5-of-6 passes for 50 yards and a TD, while rushing for 15 yards on eight carries vs. Findlay (11/16)...Rushed one time for nine yards and completed only pass attempt for 49 yards vs. C.W. Post (11/23)...Rushed three times for 14 yards and completed 4-of-6 passes for 44 yards vs. IUP (11/30).

LB William Gray

2002: Returned after redshirting 2001...Tallied 18 total tackles (13 solo/6 assisted)...Notched two tackles for loss (-16) and two QB sacks (-16)...Recorded a season-high six tackles at Mercyhurst (11/2)...Tallied three tackles in National Championship game vs. Valdosta State (12/14)...**2001:** Granted a medical redshirt and did not play...**2000:** First-Team All-GLIAC selection...Second-Team *Daktronics* All-Northeast Region honoree...Team Defensive Most Valuable Player...Led team in tackles with 70, despite playing in just seven games due to injury...Tallied 14 tackles for loss (-28 yards) and two QB sacks (-6)...Recovered two fumbles and picked off two passes...Chipped in two QB hurries and deflected three passes...Recorded 12 or more tackles three times...Tallied a career-high 18 tackles at Northern Michigan (9/30)...Notched 12 tackles vs. Ferris State (10/7), including a career-high seven tackles for loss (-12)...Picked up 12 tackles in season finale at Hillsdale (11/11).

DB Lucius Hawkins

2002: Second-Team All-GLIAC selection...Earned second varsity letter

after playing in all 14 games...Ranked sixth on the team in total tackles with 54 (41 solo/13 assisted)...Tallied five tackles for loss (-27) and three QB sacks (-24)...Tied for second on the team in interceptions with three...Totalled 65 return yards...Recorded a season-high nine solo tackles and two tackles for loss (-10) at Saginaw Valley State (10/19)...Talled seven tackles vs. UC Davis (9/7)...Picked off two passes, returning on 57 yards for a TD, vs. Northern Michigan...Notched six tackles vs. Valdosta State (12/14) in National Championship Game.

PK David Hendrix

2002: Earned second varsity letter...Converted all 10 field goal attempts...Hit 74-of-80 PATs...Scored 104 points, the seventh-best single-season total in GVSU football history...Scored a season-high 12 points (2-2 FG; 6 PATs) vs. IUP (11/30)...Converted all four field goal attempts in playoffs, including a career-best 42 yarder IUP...Kicked a 40 yard field goal at Saginaw Valley State (10/19).

LB Mike Hoad

2002: Earned third varsity letter after playing in all 14 games...Ranked eighth on the squad in total tackles with 47 (36 solo/11 assisted)...Notched three tackles for loss (-10) and one QB sack (-7)...Recorded a career-high 11 tackles vs. UC Davis (9/7)...Tallied six tackles at Wayne State (9/21)...Recorded five or more tackles four times.

RB Brandon Langston

2002: Grand Valley State Rookie of the Year...Played in 13 games and earned first varsity letter...Rushed for 469 yards and two TDs on just 66 carries...Averaged a team-high 7.1 yards per carry...Caught seven passes for 77 yards...Rushed for 149 yards on 12 carries vs. Northern Michigan (10/12)...Tallied a season-best 72 yard TD run versus the Wildcats...Rushed for 108 yards on 11 carries and caught four passes for 36 yards at

LAKER BYTES

Mercyhurst (11/2)...Rushed 11 times for 78 yards vs. Findlay (11/16)...Returned six kickoffs 124 yards in four playoff games.

WR Mario Locricchio

2002: Named the 2002 Most Improved Offensive Player Award...Earned third varsity letter after starting all 14 games...Caught 20 passes for 192 yards...Hauled in a season-high three passes for 25 yards at Michigan Tech (10/2)...Caught seven passes for 80 yards in four playoff games...Credited with key block that enabled David Kircus to score the game winning TD in National Championship game...Has caught a pass in 11 straight games.

FS Scott Mackey

2003: Preseason First-Team All-American by *Street And Smith's* College Football Magazine...Preseason First-Team All-American by *Lindy's* College Football Magazine...**2002:** *Football Gazette* First-Team All-American...*D2Football.com* Second-Team All-American...*Associated Press* Second-Team All-American...*Daktronics, Inc.* Second-Team All-American...GLIAC Defensive Back of the Year...First-Team All-GLIAC...GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week vs. UC Davis...GLIAC Special Teams Player of the Week vs. Mercyhurst...Ranked second on the team in total tackles with 87 (71 solo/16 assisted)...Ranked second on the team in interceptions with three...Tallied three pass deflections and one fumble recovery...Preserved victory over #2 UC Davis with an interception in the end zone on the final play of the game...Tallied 13 tackles vs. Hillsdale College (9/28)...Notched a season-high 14 tackles vs. Northwood (10/26)...Started returning punts in eighth game of the season at Mercyhurst and returned first punt for a GVSU record 87 yards for a TD...Returned 24 punts for 291 yards on the year...Recorded six or more tackles seven times...**2001:** Second-Team All-GLIAC honoree...Recorded 63 total tackles, including seven tackles for loss (-27) and two QB sacks (-14)...Seven interceptions during the regular season ranks as the second-best

single-season total in GVSU annals...Two-time National Football Weekly Gazette Defensive Player of the Week...GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week after picking off three passes and recording two tackles for loss (-11) at Indianapolis (10/13)...Three interceptions vs. Indy tied the GVSU single-game record...Tallied six tackles and picked off a pair of passes vs. Hillsdale (11/10)...Picked off a pass with less than a minute in the first half vs. Catawba (12/1) and returned it 39 yards for a TD...Recorded seven tackles vs. Catawba...Notched a career-high nine tackles vs. North Dakota (12/8).

DT Keyonta Marshall

2003: *Lindy's* College Football Magazine Preseason First-Team All-American...**2002:** *Football Gazette* First-Team All-American...*Daktronics, Inc.* First-Team All-American...*D2Football.com* Second-Team All-American...GLIAC Defensive Lineman of the Year...First-Team All-GLIAC...Earned second varsity letter after starting all 14 games...Ranked third on the squad in total tackles with 79 (53 solo/26 assisted)...Led the team with 12 QB sacks (-64) and 23 tackles for loss (-91)...Broke up two passes...Recorded as least one tackle for loss in 10 of 14 games...Excelled versus ranked teams...Recorded a career-high 12 total tackles, including six tackles for loss (-16) and two QB sacks (-6) vs. #2 ranked Valdosta State (12/14) in National Championship Game...Tallied 11 total tackles, with three tackles for loss (-15) and two QB sacks (-12) vs. #2 UC Davis (9/7)...Notched seven total tackles, three tackles for loss (-17) and three QB sacks at Saginaw Valley State (10/19)...Recorded eight tackles, two tackles for loss (-3) and a QB sack vs. Indianapolis (11/9)...**2001:** Earned first varsity letter...Tallied 41 tackles, including 12 tackles for loss (-32) and four QB sacks (-14)...Recovered two fumbles...Recorded a tackle for loss in 8-of-13 games played...Tallied five tackles and recovered a fumble at Ashland (9/22)...Recorded a season-high six tackles, including two tackles for loss (-9) and a QB sack (-7) vs. North Dakota (12/8).

RB Michael Tennessee

2002: Practiced with the team, but did not play...**2001:** Earned second varsity letter...Rushed for 559 yards and four TDs on 107 carries...Caught one pass for 10 yards...Averaged 55.9 yards per game and 5.2 yards per carry...Broke the 100-yard rushing mark twice...Rushed for 112 yards and one TD on 13 carries vs. Saginaw Valley State (9/8)...Tallied 103 yards via the ground on 19 carries vs. Northern Michigan (9/29)...Rushed for 84 yards on 18 carries vs. Minnesota-Crookston (8/30)...**2000:** Rushed for 559 yards and five TDs on 109 carries...Caught three passes for 19 yards...Averaged 50.8 yards per game rushing and 5.1 yards per carry...Rushed 17 times for a career-high 94 yards at Saginaw Valley State (9/9/00)...Toted the ball 17 times for 80 yards and two TDs vs. Michigan Tech (10/28).

SEASON PREVIEW

"Tradition Never Graduates," was the catch phrase around the Grand Valley State football program following the 2002 NCAA DII National Championship. The Grand Valley State football program has averaged nearly nine wins a year under the direction of head football coach Brian Kelly in his 12 years at the helm.

"We have enjoyed a great deal of success the last two years, winning 33 out of 34 games," said Kelly. "However, tradition isn't built in a two-year span and we feel that the Grand Valley State football tradition started long ago," added Kelly.

Incredible, awesome, outstanding, thrilling, memorable are just a few words that describe that Lakers' play the last two years. GVSU scored 190 TDs in its last 28 games (6.8 per game). The Lakers scored 50 or more points 15 times and 40 points or more 21 times. Grand Valley State set nearly 300 school, GLIAC and NCAA records the last two years. GVSU averaged 228.2 yards rushing and 286.8 yards passing per game. And that was just the offense. Brian Kelly is a firm believer that offense sells tickets and defense wins championships. The

improvement of the Laker defense the last two years was also a key in back-to-back DII National Championship game appearances.

"Our defense was the difference maker that last two years," stated Kelly. "We forced turnovers and constantly put the offense in position to be successful. Our defensive coaches have done an outstanding job of building a defense that maximizes the talents of our players," added Kelly.

Grand Valley State lost key performers on both sides of the ball, but players that saw a great deal of action do to the lopsided victories will now step to the forefront.

"We graduated some of the finest players in the history of our football program, but we also have an incredible tradition and new host of players that want to make a name for themselves and stamp their mark on the Lakers football program," said Kelly.

OFFENSE

Grand Valley State must replace a great deal offensively, but a number of key players return to the mix. One area of strength will be the offensive line. Junior Josh Bourke will move from right tackle, where he started all 14 games a year ago, to left tackle. Senior Mike Wilford and junior Troy Williams will battle for the starting assignment at right tackle. Senior Scott Martin returns at guard after starting all 14 games a year ago. Freshman Mike Pinter will take over at center, while sophomore Greg Stoddard and freshman Drew Burton will man the other guard. Senior Mike Holloway, sophomore Jeremy Cochrane will handle to tight end duties.

"I really like what we have up front," said Kelly. "This group is athletic and strong with solid depth. Our offensive line has been a key contributor to our offensive success the last 12 years," he added.

Freshman QB Cullen Finnerty looks to take over the reins for the DII Player of the Year, Curt Anes. Finnerty spent the 2002 season as the understudy and is ready for the challenge. Sophomore Jeff Dock saw limited action a year ago and will push Finnerty for playing time. Dock has been in the program for two years and is more than capable of running the offense.

"We need our quarterback to

run the offense efficiently and take care of the ball," said Kelly. "I don't want us forcing the issue and putting our defense in a position where our opponent is playing on a short field."

Junior Michael Tennessee returns as the featured back in the Laker offense. Tennessee has rushed for 1,118 yards and nine TDs in two years on 216 carries. Sophomore Brandon Langston rushed for 469 yards and two TDs on just 66 carries a year ago. Langston averaged an incredible 7.1 yards per carry. Sophomore Ryan Hukill moves back to running back after spending the last two years at linebacker. Hukill practiced in the spring at running back and impressed the coaches.

"We feel we have three outstanding players at running back," said Kelly. "All three have different styles and give us different options within our offense," he added.

GVSU will be young, but talented at receiver. Mario Locricchio started all 14 games a year ago and will be called upon to bring the young group along. Locricchio, who caught 20 passes for 192 yards in 2002, has been primarily a blocking receiver the last two years. Junior Tyrone Hibbler returns after missing the 2002 season with a knee injury. Hibbler caught 30 passes for over 444 yards as a sophomore. Mark Catlin, Paul Cummings, Eric Fowler, Anthony Phillips, Mark Remmler and Micah Staley will all battle for playing time.

DEFENSE

The Laker defense will be under the direction of first-year defensive coordinator Chuck Martin. Martin has orchestrated a defensive backfield that has 48 interceptions the last two years.

"We will hang our hat on our defense," said Kelly. "We are athletic, fast and have a number of kids who can make plays."

GVSU returns six starters and eight of the top 10 tacklers from the 2002 season. Nine players return that saw a significant amount of playing time, including two first-team all-Americans in Scott Mackey and Keyonta Marshall. Marshall, the 2002 GLIAC Defensive Lineman of the Year, returns for his junior season after recording 79 total tackles, 23 tackles for loss and 12 QB sacks as a sophomore.

Joining Marshall is fellow all-American Scott Mackey. Mackey, a free safety, was voted the GLIAC Defensive Back of the Year as a junior. Mackey notched 87 total tackles and picked off three passes to give him 11 in his career. Joining Marshall up front will be senior Matt Yoches, and juniors Marcus Spencer and Aaron Hein. Chris McNally, Ashea Roberson and Mike McFadden will all battle for playing time

Seniors Dustin Cole, Mike Hoard and William Gray lead a solid group of linebackers. Cole recorded 73 tackles in his second season as a starter, while Mike Hoard picked up 47 stops. Gray picked up 18 tackles in a limited role after returning from a knee and hamstring injury. Junior college transfer Dateme Lay will push for a starting assignment

Mackey leads a talented group of defensive backs. Lucius Hawkins, DeJuane Boone, Dion Charity, Marvis Bryant have all seen extensive playing time in their careers. Add in talented newcomers Derrick Phillips, Tyrone James and Bill Brechin at corner and you have one of the deepest defensive backfields in college football.

"We have a bunch of playmakers in our defensive backfield," said Kelly. "Chuck has done an outstanding job of molding this group into one of the best defensive backfields in college football.

SPECIAL TEAMS

A question mark a year ago has turned into a solid unit in 2003. Senior David Hendrix was 10-for-10 in field goals a year ago, while Matt Regnery turned in a solid freshman year at punter. Regnery averaged 41.4 yards per punt in the title game. Scott Greene was solid on kickoffs and could be called on for long field goal attempts.

"This is an important phase of a game and we want to excel in all phases of the game," said Kelly. "We have a number of kids that have made their mark on special teams over the last few years and we will continue to put a strong emphasis on that part of the game," stated Kelly.