

THIS IS LAKER SOCCER



GVSU
SOCCER TM



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The Laker Soccer program began in 1996 and has taken a quick rise to national prominence. The Lakers spent much of the year in 2008 ranked as the No. 1 team in the nation and advanced to the NCAA playoffs for the sixth consecutive season.

The soccer team claimed their fourth straight conference crown in 2008. The Lakers proved their dominance on the field by going undefeated through the regular season for the second consecutive season and taking nine of the 11 spots on the all-conference first team. GVSU also swept the conferences top awards with Katy Tafler being named the Offensive Player of the Year, Natalja Stanski being named the Defensive Player of the Year, and Dave DiIanni being tabbed the Coach of the Year.

LAKER SOCCER

The 2008 campaign saw three Lakers earn all-american honors. Kristina Nasturzio, Natalja Stanski, and Katy Tafler were all named first team all-americans. The three players honored in 2008 added to the list of all-americans the GVSU soccer program has produced in just over a decade. In all, GVSU has seen seven players recognized nationally, with a total of 12 all-american awards over the years.

The Lakers won the Midwest Region in three of the last four years. GVSU has also advanced to the NCAA Final Four for soccer in two of the last three seasons with an appearance in the national championship game. The 2008 graduating seniors left the program with a winning tradition with a 81-7-2 record over their four year careers.

The soccer program takes pride in more than just winning. The team also posted a combined 3.31 GPA which is the third highest of the Grand Valley's 19 athletics programs. Three players on the team also have a cumulative GPA between 3.9 and 4.0.



COACHING STAFF



Head coach Dave DiIanni has guided the Lakers to a new level in his six years at the helm. In his first season, he brought the Lakers to their first-ever NCAA playoff appearance. In his third season, GVSU claimed its first GLIAC title in the program's history. In DiIanni's fourth season, the Lakers made their first-ever appearance in the national championship game. In 2007, DiIanni and the Lakers made their first stint as the top ranked team in the nation. He has led the program to six NCAA playoff appearances in as many seasons. DiIanni was named the 2006 NSCAA National Coach of the Year and has been a two-time regional coach of the year. DiIanni is also the coach of the 89 ODP age group and is a USSF-B licensed coach. In his six season as the head coach, the Lakers have a 113-14-4 record.

Erica Demers has spent the last four years as the top assistant coach for the soccer team. In the last four seasons, the Lakers have seen their four best goal totals by scoring 75 or more goals in each season, with a high of 88 in 2007. In 2008, the Lakers outscored their opponents 75-5 in 23 games. Demers, who played NCAA Div. I soccer for Oakland University, was a two-time Mid-Con first team selection and was named the Mid-Con Player of the Year in 2002.

ACTIVITIES



GVSU's main campus is located in Allendale, Mich. which is located between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. Grand Valley also has a downtown campus which is located in the second largest metropolitan city in the state, Grand Rapids.

Grand Haven is home to the Coast Guard Festival and is a also well-known attraction because of the beach on beautiful Lake Michigan. Grand Rapids hosts the Celebration on the Grand every fall and is a city full of various events and attractions throughout the year.

Grand Valley State also has a very good Student Life department which creates events and brings in different musical, comedy, and other acts from around the nation for GVSU students to enjoy.



LAKER SOCCER EXPERIENCE



GVSU is committed to offering its student-athletes an opportunity to participate in some of the best experiences of their lives, while competing in intercollegiate athletics, as well as attending one of the fastest rising universities in the state.

The Lakers don't always stay in West Michigan to play their games. The soccer team has traveled for tournaments in Colorado and has flown to Florida on two separate occasions for the NCAA Division II Final Four tournament.

Grand Valley State also spent its fall camp in 2008 preparing for the regular season by playing exhibition games against European club teams in Germany and Denmark. The Lakers were able to tour parts of Europe and enjoy the sights while getting ready for the upcoming season.

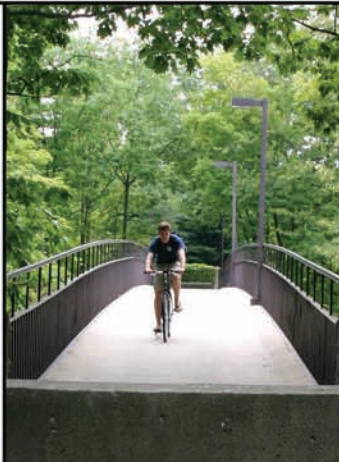
In 2009, the Lakers start the season against one of the other top ranked teams in the country when they travel to Tampa, Fla. to play the Tampa Spartans.

GRAND VALLEY STATE



Grand Valley State University was established in 1960 in Allendale, Mich. Entering the 2008 academic year, Grand Valley had a higher enrollment than the year before. That marks the 26th year in a row in which Grand Valley enrolled more students than the previous year. GVSU now boasts a total attendance of 23,892 with over 20,000 of those students being undergrads.

Grand Valley State offers 70 undergrad programs with over 200 areas of study. Some of the top programs are Physical Therapy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physicians Assistant, Business, and Education.



GRAND VALLEY STATE



The GVSU Soccer Field is located on-campus in Allendale. The home field for the Lakers saw one of the biggest college soccer matches in West Michigan when the #3 Lakers defeated the #1 Tampa Spartans in the first game of the 2008 season.

The Lakers hold a strong advantage over their opponents when playing at home. The Lakers had a home unbeaten streak of 43 games that spanned from 2005-08.

In 2008 GVSU opened the Laker Turf Building. The 138,000 square-foot indoor facility has a seating capacity of 800 with a 100 yard sport turf field surrounded by a six-lane track. The building will be used by the movement science classes, intramurals, and athletics teams.