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WHAT'S INSIDE



DOWNTOWN

Grand Rapids offers several holiday venues to brighten the holiday season



LIFE

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca returned to put students under his spell



SPORTS

The men's basketball team racked up a victory over the weekend

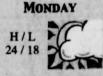


Indie music store. Shipwreck, opens its doors in Eastown Saturday A10



www.lanthorn.com

WEATHER UPDATE



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

Winter break safety concerns DPS, Housing

By JENNA CARLESSO GVL News Editor

Brandon DeHaan, assistant director Department for the of Public Safety, is encouraging. students to be safe this holiday season by reminding them to bring home their valuables and lock their housing center doors to prevent theft over break.

"We want to make sure students are taking the time to protect themselves," DeHaan DeHaan

He said while there have not been many break-ins in the past, students should make sure their doors are securely locked when they leave campus. Items such as laptops, cash and jewelry should be brought home rather than left in living centers, he added.

DeHaansaidfirst-floor residents are most at risk for break-ins, and should lock their windows and close the blinds.

"Larceny is the most frequently reported crime on our campus," he said. "We want students to be aware that there will be police on campus during the break."

He said students should also take their automobiles home. If the automobile has to stay. all valuable items should be stored in the trunk.

If larceny occurs, students should contact DPS at (616) 331-3255.

Another of DeHaan's concerns is fire hazards. Resident Assistants from the Office of Housing and Residence Life at Grand Valley State University will conduct safety inspections in living center rooms before campus closes for

break. "The residents need to make sure they take an extra look around before leaving," said Danyelle Thompson, graduate assistant for Secchia and Winter halls on GVSU's Pew campus. "Anything not needing to be plugged in should be unplugged."

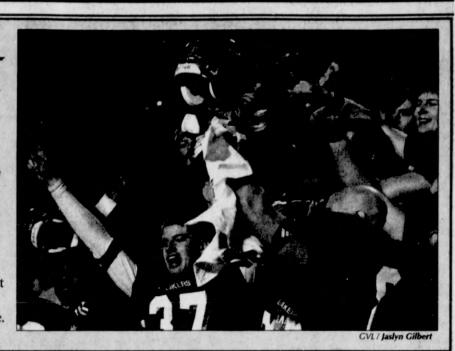
She said to prevent power surges and appliances like microwaves and televisions should not be plugged in while students are away.

As part of university procedures, all oncampus apartment residents should turn off their lights, take out the garbage, draw the shades and turn thermostats to 65 degrees. Nothing that can spoil should be left in refrigerators.

SEE CONCERNS, A2

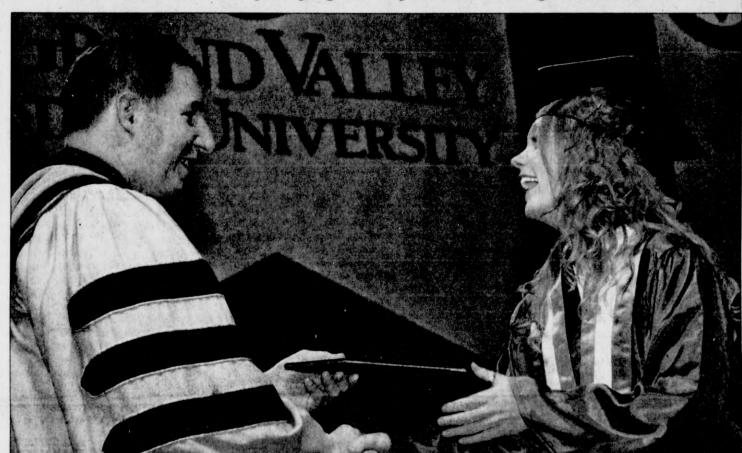
Division II National Champions

The Lakers hoist up the Division II National Championship trophy after beating Northwest Missouri State University 21-17 Saturday in Florence, Ala. See special section for coverage.



A bid farewell

Grand Valley says good-bye to winter graduates





accomplishment as he exits the stage during commencement.

Showing it off: A recent graduate of GVSU clings to his

By JENNA CARLESSO **GVL** News Editor

A sea of royal blue caps and gowns graced the corridors of Van Andel Arena on Saturday as the Grand Valley State University graduates of winter 2005 celebrated their commencement.

Graduate students and undergraduate seniors waited in line to receive a diplomaandcongratulatory handshake for completing their degrees at the university.

"It's hard to believe I'm finished with school," said alumna Jamie Wilson. "Getting to know people in my department and working with so many different people were the best parts of the experience.

About 750 students faculty, administration and loved ones to take part in the graduation ceremony.

Alumna Margaret Havenga said she was the first person in her family

to graduate from college Her two children inspired her to go back to school at the age of 25.

"My children got me thinking about the future," she said. "I really wanted to be a good role model. Now I can tell them they need to go to college."

The ceremony began with speeches by GVSU President Mark Murray and guest speaker Myles Fish, president and chief executive officer of International Aid.

Murray encouraged students to be confident in finding work with their degrees, and explained the importance of leadership roles in society.

"Have the courage to step out and make things better," he said. "Find a way to improve the domains you'll be entering."

Fish, who provided disaster relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Indonesia, drew from his experiences with helping others to motivate students going into the workforce.

"Students should have the courage to grab opportunities that come their way," he said. "You don't have to be brilliant, powerful or have a grand plan, you merely have to be willing. Being willing leads to success.

Alumna Emily Bell said the most important thing she is taking from GVSU is a strong liberal education.

"I valued the learning method of thinking instead of memorizing," she said.

After a series of speakers and individual awards, graduates from the different departments on campus walked single file across the stage to receive their bachelor's and master's degrees.

"I was excited and nervous at the same time," said alumna Zanobia Syed. "It was amazing to watch everyone walk for their diplomas."

Afterward. alumni were told to move the tassel of their cap from

SEE GRADUATES, A2

GVSU hears from first responders to tsunami, Katrina

Disaster respondents visit GVSU to share stories of experience

> BY MATT MARN GVL Staff Writer

When some of the worst disasters hit the world, Myles Fish and Mike Spofford were among the first respondents to provide help.

The two came to Grand Valley State University on Wednesday to share their relief observations from disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and

the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

"There were four hurricanes in a row last fall," said Myles Fish, president and chief executive officer International Aid. "We thought we were busy then, but the day after Christmas, the tsunami hit and the word 'busy' took on a whole new

meaning." Fish said while International Aid initially pledged to send \$300,000, they ended up donating about \$1 million for tsunami relief.

"It's not uncommon for

me to be amazed that our little facility in Spring Lake, Michigan would help that much," Fish said.

Fish said International Aid traveled to the Gulf Coast, a man visited them explaining that he was building an Old Navy store when Katrina hit, but could not continue because of area damages. He gave International Aid the keys to his half-built store to use as a warehouse for supplies.

Dick DeVos lent his SEE DISASTERS, A2



Assessing the damage: David Thomas, left, walks with his nephew Eric Flournoy, 14, as he visits his destroyed home after returning to it for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit in the Ninth Ward section of New Orleans on Dec. 1.

History Channel to showcase Grand Valley professor

Anthropology professor creates documentary on battles from the Bible's Old Testament

> By JENNIFER HOEWE GVL Staff Writer

Two years of writing, filming and editing landed anthropology professor Mark Schwartz on a couch in front of his television. Schwartz said he cannot wait to watch the History Channel's national television premier of his documentary, "Bible Battles."

Schwartz served as an expert, co-writer, associate producer and costume designer for all scenes in the film including historical reenactments and dialogue. The documentary illustrates battles from the Old Testament through accentuation of the strategies and weaponry used by military leaders.

"I was still a graduate student when I pitched the idea to producer and director David Padrusch," Schwartz said. "He was willing to listen to my ideas and together we worked out a proposal."

The History Channel accepted their proposal, and provided Schwartz and Padrusch with funding to create a historical film portraying ancient Biblical battles.

"The Old Testament has a lot of accurate descriptions of military tactics, strategies and maneuvers," Schwartz said.

He said before commercial breaks, the station will air segments called "From Bible to Battlefield," which will compare modern military tactics to ancient accounts.

"Bible Battles" spans from Abraham's rescue of Lot in the Bible's book of Genesis, to the renowned David versus Goliath story in the Bible's first book of

"There were too many battles in the Old Testament to cover them all," Schwartz said. "We were forced to cut some of them from the documentary, but I am hoping we will have the opportunity to cover the rest of the Old Testament battles in future shows."

came from reading Mordechai Gichon's book, "Battles of the Bible," he added. Schwartz also drew ideas from a publication by Richard Gabriel that describes ancient Israel's military history.

"Gabriel will be the featured expert throughout," he said. "He was the natural choice since he literally wrote the book about these battles.

Creating realistic fight scenes to accompany the explanations were important to the documentary's legitimacy, Schwartz added. The action sequences were filmed in Los Angeles, Calif., where a group of professional sword fighters implemented "a cinematic feel to battle recreations," he said.

The actors used bronze swords created by Smithsonian archaeometallurgist Shugar. Shugar relied on historical information about the creation of authentic weaponry to assemble instruments appropriate for the time period.

"He used ancient techniques

the people of Biblical times made tools and weapons," Schwartz said. "We wanted all the details to be as accurate as possible.

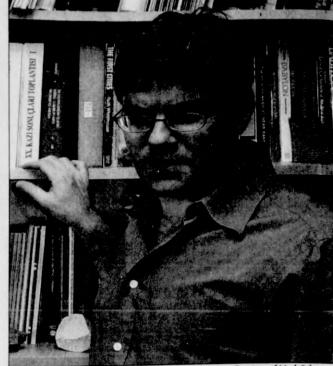
Frederick Antczak, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said weaponry and military tactics were used to illuminate the intelligence of ancient warriors.

The public generally makes the mistake of thinking that people from Biblical times were not as smart because their technology was not as advanced," he said. "Documenting chronological activity helps to find just how smart and strategic they really were."

Antezak added that Schwartz used a large amount of historical evidence to create the production.

"The reason he was selected to create this documentary was because he is recognized as one of the world's experts in this area," Antczak said. "We at Grand Valley are very proud to have him represent us."

"Bible Battles" will air on Dec. 21 at 8 p.m.



Courtesy of Mark Schwartz

Hitting the books: Mark Schwartz looks at volumes of books in an office.

State, DPS will crackdown on DUIs over the holiday

By Angela Harris GVL Laker Life Editor

With the holidays approaching and students returning home, Grand Valley State University and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning are reminding students and community members not to drink and drive.

The "You Drink & Drive You Lose" campaign, coordinated by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety and Planning, will begin Dec. 19 and run through Jan. 1,

taking place across the entire state. The campaign will include police agencies mobilized to patrol for drunken drivers.

GVSU's Department of Public Safety has taken part in this mobilization for several years and will this year, said Capt. Brandon DeHaan, assistant director of public safety.

During break, officers will patrol during non-obligated times looking for drivers operating under the influence. DeHaan said.

"Our goal is to make sure that students are aware of the

campus, but away from campus on this break time," he said.

Although students will be on break, the number of officers patrolling campus will not decrease or change because DPS is a 24 hour, seven day a week operative, DeHaan explained.

While the number of times DPS is called over break decreases, the number of officers does not, he

DPS issued 35 operating while intoxicated tickets in 2003. according to the most recent statistics available. It also issued 29 minor in possessions in 2004, down from 35 in 2003, DeHaan

If convicted of OWI in Michigan, first time offenders face up to 93 days in jail, a \$500 fine, 360 hours of community service, six points on a driver's license and 180 days of license suspension.

Convicted drunken drivers are subject to \$1,000 for two consecutive years, and if someone refuses a breath test, his or her license can be automatically

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During Christmas weekend last year, only one of the four traffic fatalities involved alcohol compared to the four out of six deaths over New Year's weekend, said the Michigan Department of State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center.

More than 1,800 motorists were arrested across the state for alcohol-related offenses during the crackdown last year, according to an OHSP press release.

Mobilization is made possible by grant funds that pay overtime hours to officers who participate in the crackdown.

Michigan State Police, police officers and sheriffs departments in Allegan, Alpena, Bay, Calhoun, Delta, Dickinson, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Mason, Midland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Otsego, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Saginaw, Van Buren, Washtenaw and Wayne counties will all receive the grant money to help pay for the cost of the mobilization.

CONCERNS continued from page A1

"We always do fire checks to ensure the room's OK when the students get back," said Orrie Close, RA for Robinson living center. Fire checks include inspecting rooms for hazards and making sure fire alarms work properly.

In some campus living centers, students may need to unplug, de-ice and clear out their refrigerators before leaving. Residents should check with RAs for specific building procedures.

'Making sure everything is unplugged not only prevents hazards, it saves on energy costs," said Khayree Williams, apartment director for Secchia and Winter halls.

Williams said students should also remember to bring their room keys back to campus with them after break

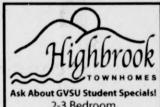
For residents who do not want to drive home for break, staying on campus is an option. Students interested in living on campus during winter break should contact the Department of Housing at (616) 331-2120, or talk to a RA in their building.

GRADUATES continued from page A1

the right to left completing the graduation commencement.

The ceremony closed with the singing of GVSU's alma mater.

"The education and friends I met made up my whole college experience," Syed said. "And it's something I'm going to carry with me for my entire life."



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DISASTERS continued from page A1

helicopter to International Aid to help with supply transportation, Fish added.

"That catapulted capabilities to a whole new level," he said. "We delivered \$738 million worth of food, supplies and equipment."

Fish presented a slideshow of photos taken in both Southeast Asia after the tsunami, and the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Another featured guest was Mike Spofford, a member of Grand Valley State University staff and part-time Emergency Medical Technician, who traveled to Louisiana to help the victims of Katrina. He presented his own slideshow of pictures from the Gulf Coast, and told the story of his first rescue, where he saved six people's lives by pulling them from their homes.

"Long hours and crappy pay doesn't matter as much as making a difference in someone's life,' he said. "You can't put a price on that. Everyone we came into contact with was grateful."

Steve Asiala, a GVSU sophomore, came to the presentation and said he was impressed by what both men had

"I learned things about Fish's group and their actual involvement in the events," Asiala said. "Their bit of their story we may not have heard otherwise.

Asiala said while he is not sure how his personal skills could help, he is now more motivated to make small contributions, such as

donating money. "These people are here helping," he said. "It is pretty inspiring.

Fish and Spofford said they stand ready to answer another call should a disaster present itself.

"The problem with these disasters is that they were so much bigger than anything we could plan," Fish said. "But long before we knew how big it was going to be, we swore to give everything we had."

Spofford said he is planning to put pictures and stories of his experiences on the GVSU Web site. Students with questions contact Spofford at spofform@gvsu.edu.

"It is very overwhelming," Spofford said. "I have not personally seen anything like it in my years. I have seen every type of misery a human being could have, but nothing comes close to

He added that it is fulfilling to make a difference in other's

"We do our jobs, and every once in a while, we pull someone from the brink of death," he said. "If students had the opportunity to do this, maybe on a smaller scal ... they can come away feeling goal is to give people here a little really good about themselves."

Grand Valley Lanthorn

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Corrections

In the Lanthorn's Dec. 8 issue on page B6, Bobby Cox is not the head coach for Florida State's football team; he is the head coach for the Atlanta Braves baseball team. Bobby Bowden is the coach for Floriday State football.

In the Lanthorn's Dec. 8 issue on page B6, Christine Elmelander is the intern for the Rampage, not Jennifer Vallely.

At the Lanthorn, we strive to bring you the most accurate news possible. If we make a mistake, we want to make it right. If you find any errors of fact in the Lanthorn, let us know by calling (616) 331-2464 or by e-mailing editorial@lanthorn.com.

Holiday season shines in GR

BY CAROLINE SHANKS GVL Staff Writer

The city streets and busy sidewalks in Grand Rapids are buzzing with holiday festivities, catering to many interests. Illuminated Christmas trees, decorations and family activities can be found all around town this season.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum is holding its 10th annual Christmas on the Grand exhibit through Jan. 8. In the lobby of the museum stand 15 trees decorated by local organizations.

Twenty Grand Valley State University art students were able to personalize one tree in the gallery with their own projects. Students in Professor Steve Peters' 3-D class shaped ornaments out of wood and metal. The tree-topper was a star carved from balsa wood accented with strips of foil. Peters was unavailable to comment on his students' involvement.

Other organizations involved in Christmas on the Grand gave their trees decoration themes. The American Red Cross chose a beach theme, complete with sunglasses and sandal ornaments. The John Ball Zoo decorated a tree with exotic birds and tropical rainforest flowers.

The Frederik Meijer Gardens is also celebrating the season with decorated Christmas trees. More than 40 towering trees are displayed at the Gardens throughout the building during the Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World event. Each tree represents a different country, and is adorned

with traditional decorations. A tree representing Belize was covered in starfish ornaments, birds and white lights. Another



Courtesy of Meijer Garde

Winter Wonderland: A couple takes a sleigh ride through Frederik Meijer Gardens in East Grand Rapids. The facility is one of many to offer special holiday events. tree, for Korea, was strung with multi-colored lights and Asian flowers and fans. Strings of popcorn, tinsel and glass bulbs

donned the pine dedicated to the

United States 'We have 400 or so volunteers who come to help us decorate the trees," said Rick Jensen, Public Relations Coordinator of Meijer Gardens. "Lena Meijer, Fred Meijer's wife, even helped us to decorate."

The trees are living and are the actual species that the particular country would use for

a Christmas tree. A palm tree was decorated in the Gardens' conservatory to represent India, while a kissing bough - a globe made of pine branches represented a Canadian tradition. Beside each tree is a scroll listing the country's holiday greeting,

gift bearer and signs of the

An old-fashioned tree is displayed in the arid Victorian Garden room. It is decorated with antique glass ornaments and is encased in a climate-regulated

"The ornaments are so old, and we saw damage to the paint from the humidity in the room," Jensen said about the tree's condition.

In addition to trees, there are

SEE SEASON, A8

MSU to build medical school in GR

BY SHAWN ZALEWSKI

GVL Downtown Editor

The city of Grand Rapids is likely to have a new building on the horizon in the form of a full-scale medical school representing the future of Michigan State University's health sciences curriculum.

MSU is currently developing a medical education facility to be constructed in downtown Grand Rapids and would be open as early as 2010.

MSU is partnered with Grand Valley State University, Spectrum Health Center, Saint Mary's Health Care, the Van Andel Institute and other community organizations to develop the center and its economic impact.

"West Michigan is emerging as a much stronger center of medical education, research and delivery," said Mark Murray, President of Grand Valley State University. "A medical school will complement and strengthen the assets already in place. ... A stronger region benefits Grand Valley and all the partners in this discussion."

The project is part of MSU's expansion of its College of Human Medicine, and would advance the goal of improving health care, bringing jobs to the area and providing a resource to medical professionals all over Michigan.

Michigan West The Medical School, which is its working title, would operate as a satellite campus to MSU, while the main East Lansing campus would continue fouryear health programs such as veterinary science. The Grand Rapids facility would serve as a graduate institution.

Murray said GVSU will not be contributing money or participating in fundraising projects for the center. GVSU's partnership would involve assisting in research projects

and teaching certain courses. He added MSU will be responsible for funding and its administration will be the

primary decision makers. According to The State News, funding will be received in part by the Grand Action Council, a community organization in Grand Rapids, the MSU Capital Campaign and other private donors. MSU's annual revenue currently stands at \$1 million, and could increase to as much 10 years, as documented in The State News.

Murray said health-related fields offered at GVSU, such as nursing, physician assistants, cellular and molecular biology, physical therapy, occupational are likely to be helped by the a vertical structure at the and responsibilities. There is presence of a medical school.

"There is a virtuous circle created when you have skilled individuals in a community,' Murray said. "The more skilled people you have, the easier it is to recruit others with high skills.'

"As global trade barriers drop and economic competition accelerates, it will be the skills and entrepreneurship of this region that will determine its prosperity and social vitality,' he added.

The structure would house medical space, administrative offices. classrooms and possibly a full-scale research laboratory. The building is

as \$91 million during the next expected to be more than Institute, a medical research 100,000 square feet in size and would cost about \$70 million to construct, as reported in The

State News.

The Grand Rapids Press reported that there are four a significant step forward sites being considered for in further defining the therapy and other programs the building. One option is development intersection of Michigan and Division streets. This location is in close proximity to GVSU's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, Spectrum Health Center and the Van Andel

firm.

In a statement from the Van Andel Institute's Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Heacock, "This marks team's a desire among the group to keep the community apprised of its progress and will inform the public as we reach future milestones.'



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Seasons greetings

This holiday season, take time to learn about what other people do to celebrate, or instead of celebrating.

Winter is a culmination of several holidays, both secular and religious. Religious holidays abound in late December for a variety of religions. But whether students, staff and faculty celebrate holidays, this time of year is perfect for learning about other cultures and religions.

In a country where Christmas has become a gift-giving holiday, of which Santa Claus and pointy trees are the mascots, and all other holidays become a list of politically correct banter at the end of a generic "Happy Holidays" card, people need to educate each other about their traditions.

Simply asking what friends, coworkers or fellow students do to celebrate or to avoid celebrating during the holiday season could open eyes to different cultures. Not everyone goes to grandma's to open presents on Christmas morning. Not every family plays dreidel games in honor of Hanukkah. Some families celebrate both holidays. Some families celebrate neither.

So this holiday season, before exclaiming, "Merry Christmas!" stop and ask how that person is spending the holidays. They just might teach you something.

"What they've accomplished is almost mind-boggling."

Tim Selgo GVSU Athletic Director

GVL OPINION POLICY

The ultimate goal of the Grand Valley Lanthorn opinion page is to stimulate discussion and action on topics of interest to the Grand Valley Community.

The Grand Valley Lanthorn welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three vehicles of expression for reader opinions: letters to the editor, guest columns and phone responses.

Letters must include the author's name and be accompanied by current picture identification if dropped off in person. Letters will be checked by an employee of the Grand Valley Lanthorn.

Letters appear as space permits each issue. The limit for letter

length is one page, single spaced.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters and columns for length restrictions and

All letters must be typed.

The Grand Valley Lanthorn will not be held responsible for errors that appear in print as a result of transcribing handwritten letters or

e-mail typographic errors.

The name of the author is usually published but may be withheld for

compelling reasons.

The content, information and views expressed are not approved by nor necessarily represent those of the university, its Board of

Trustees, officers, faculty and staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student needs a history lesson

In response to a fellow student who wrote about Christmas, I am grateful. Your obvious fear of anything non-Christian is what makes me so proud of those who take a stand for their own beliefs, ask that our holidays adapt to be friendlier to all cultures, and evolve with our society. And while your reply was very well written, it was full of misinformation.

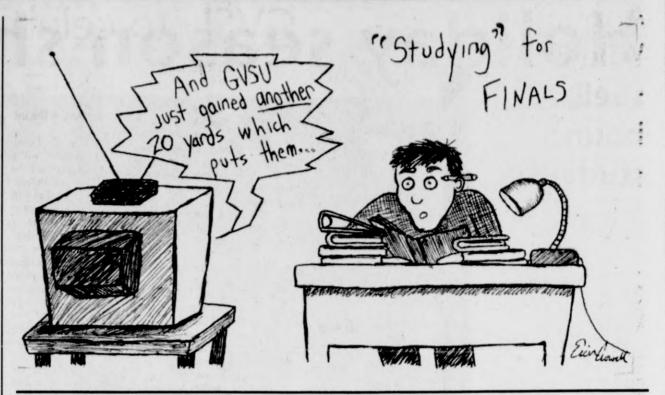
The fact that you said, "No one cares about any displays during this season except for Christian ones" was hysterical. Do you really think that Rudolf the reindeer, mistletoe, and Christmas trees are Christian? Well, I guess you need a history lesson.

First off, Christianity did not found Christmas. Jesus wasn't even born in December. Centuries before the arrival of Jesus, people would celebrate the coming of light because the worst of winter was behind them. This was the winter solstice. In Rome they celebrated the birth of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25 and the season was called Saturnalia in honor of the god Saturn. It was celebrated as a time of joy and fun; no one had to work or go to school and peasants had control of the city. It wasn't until the fourth century that officials decided to start celebrating the birth of Jesus and because

there was no date in the bible Pope Julius I chose December 25 as a way to adapt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festivals. Even then it wasn't called Christmas but a celebration of nativity. This holiday season was not originally Christian and it did not have the name of Christmas. It is nothing but a holiday that was taken from another culture, given another name, and it's only right that it now be changed as a compromise to ALL religions and celebrated more as a day of charity and family, than that of the religion that adapted it. Many holidays have traditions adopted from other religions or cultures. If you really want to learn more instead of spouting misinformation, try researching it.

When you look for sympathy that Christmas is being secularized, take a good look around you. No one is stopping you from having religion in your personal holiday, its only creating an opportunity for those who feel differently to not have to hear about it every second they step into a store. Diversity is growing, you can't hide from it. Perhaps this "Anti-Christian Uprising" you fear so much is just your lack of information and intolerance for anyone different from yourself.

Blessed Be, Patricia Molina



GVL STUDENT OPINION

This week the Grand Valley Lanthorn asked four community members:

Do you celebrate any winter holidays and how?



"I go over to my grandparents' house for Christmas and New York's"

Julie Johnston Junior Math and Spanish



"I celebrate Christmas with my family with presents and a Christmas tree."

Scott Sheppard Junior Film and Video



"Christmas. We just get together [and] go over to my grandmother's house"

Amber Waits Freshman Biomedical Science



"I celebrate Christmas. We get around the tree and open presents, and there's steak."

Kelvin Koster Freshman Undecided

GVL STUDENT OPINION

Responsible for my own bad day

Bears were

losing and

I needed

some

'Alex

time"

By Alexander Gray

GVL Columnist b

I'm having a bad day.

My wallet is missing,
which means that I can't
purchase any food. This,
however, isn't the real
problem, as my mittens
(no, not the cat, the actual
clothing item) are missing,
so even if I had the ability
to purchase a delicious sixinch Veggie Delight with
double American cheese,
my hands are so numb I
doubt I'd be able to direct
it toward my mouth. Maybe

it's better this way.

I missed the bus as well. This was clearly my fault, as I was too busy swearing at the Chicago game to keep half an eye on the clock. Despite this, I felt angry and betrayed at the bus system at Grand Valley State University for having the audacity to keep its schedules, even though they clearly knew the



to cope with this disastrous turn of

like, uh, "The Crapid."

Leave it to me to have the voice of maturity in

events. The Rapid? More

matters such as these. Anyway, getting to the point. On the way to the university this morning, I fell into a salt-ridden slush-puddle. This made me wish very strongly I was somewhere else, anywhere that did not feature hazards such as a constant flow of snow, salt and sludge to dodge on the way to school. And this thought made me think another: Why wasn't I somewhere else? I have never been one to take personal responsibility for anything, even if it is

clearly mine to take. This morning, one of my six (count 'em!) roommates left me an anonymous note which read, using no unclear terminology, that my "shit had to be cleaned up." My first reaction was one of righteous innocence. "What is he or she talking about? I mean, aside from this bowl of chips, this bag of cookies, and all of these various odds and ends that I left around the kitchen over the course of the last couple of weeks, none of this is mine!" The cat was the only one there to hear my rant. "Am I right or am I right, Mittens?" I said to her, waving my arms like a crazy man. She just blinked and walked away, most likely in the direction of some expensive electronic item that had yet to be destroyed.

I cleaned up the area as if I were a pariah, forced to do the bidding of others. But despite my

anger on being called out, I did realize something: If I did take pride in my work, and by extension, my life, I wouldn't be in this situation. Yes, I washed of bottles from a recent dinner party. I wiped the counter. But I also did justify not taking care of those chips and cookies, for reasons that, as I can't even remember them now, must have had to do more with laziness than altruism. And here I was, soaking ||

in black sludge and salt, my socks becoming more cold and more wet with every passing second. I need to get out of here. Grand Rapids isn't for me. I don't know where yet, but I can't be here anymore. It's my life, I need to make it good for me and stop making excuses.

Maybe Chicago? I hear they welcome losers there with open arms. Da Bears!

Saying good-bye to the Lanthorn

BY AJ COLLEY
GVL Editor in Chief

Saturday morning, technically at 4:30 a.m., I awoke to sounds that have become all-too-familiar to me this year — my cell phone ringing and my managing editor's voice on the other line waking me up. The group had made it to Alabama safely and called to tell me, because they knew I would worry

otherwise.

It is 3 a.m. on Sunday morning, technically, and I'm awake biting my nails wondering what state my five staff members are in on their trek back from Alabama following the football National Championship.

Throughout this semester, the staff at the



a lot
about me,
and one
of those
things is
that I am
not, nor
will I ever

Lanthorn

has learned

be, a morning person.
Luckily, their next editor,
Alan Ingram, is and called
me almost every morning
to ensure I was awake.

Another trait they learned is that I worry — a lot. I worry about how we will meet deadline. I worry about how readers will respond. I worry about how we will all get summer internships. And I especially worry when they go to Nebraska and Alabama to cover games

and get minimal sleep.

I have spent two and a

half years worrying about the Lanthorn, its staff and its readers. Now, it is time to worry about my future and how I am going to afford to feed myself while I study and intern in London.

In exactly one month, as of publication, there will be another issue of the Lanthorn on stands without the name "AJ Colley" printed in it, and I will be in London learning about international reporting, worrying still, despite my complete confidence in the staff that will be in charge.

Past editors writing good-bye columns have reflected on memories, or how we affectionately call our office "the dungeon," but nobody but the people inside these dusty, gray cubicle walls could ever really understand the

passion and talent that goes into this publication. This is evident in the now countless number of people who have met me and were shocked to discover I'm not a "him."

Every day, the news of the day changes as people slowly forget what the top news story was the previous day. The same can be said for editors of college newspapers. I leave ' this paper after helping to jump-start its twice-weekly? status, but 10 years from now, there will be a new editor looking through archives wondering who this "guy" AJ Colley is. As for me, in 10 years I hope to be working at a newspaper that has half as much heart as the Lanthorn has shown me.

Annual Yule Ball spell bounds students

By MATT MARN GVL Staff Writer

Wands flew through the air and capes cut through the room as Harry Potter fans united Saturday night in the Kirkhof Center for the third annual Harry Potter Club's Yule Ball.

The event included activities such as wand-making, a triwizard maze, Harry Potter puppet shows, fortune telling, costume contests and free food, as well as a live string quartet that played throughout the evening.

"The main problem is this event was so close to exams," Meghan Mulkerin, club president, said. "It is a little bit smaller than last year, but it really doesn't matter how many people showed up, as long as everyone has fun.'

Christine Humphrey, vice president of the Harry Potter club, said there were more than 100 people at the event.

"We wanted to have some sort of event the whole school would enjoy," she said. "I want people to have fun."

Humphrey said she thinks there were a lot of people who came and were not familiar with the Harry Potter books, but maybe after attending this event, they will consider reading the books.

"At the very least, it is a good break from finals stress," she said.

Carla Fiorenzo, a student at Grand Rapids Community College said her friend goes to -GVSU, and told her about it.

"I'm all about the Weasleys," ierenzo said. "Ron and the wins are my favorite.' Fiorenzo said she really

enjoyed the Yule Ball, doing the maze and making a wand.

"The potion tasting was really cool," she said.

Fiorenzo said she would like to attend again next year because she had fun socializing with other Harry Potter fans and she can not always find that many.

The idea for the Yule Ball came from a list of everything that takes place in the different books, particularly in the fourth book, when Hogwarts throws a Yule Ball themselves, Mulkerin

"I just hope students would know a little bit more about Harry Potter and just get to know more people on campus," Mulkerin said. "Events like this really get to bring people together.

Mulkerin is proud of how the club has grown in the three years it has been in existence.

"I founded the club when I was a freshman," Mulkerin said. "At the end of the first day, I had 30 names on the list on my

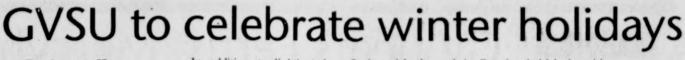
door." Today, the club has more than 150 students on the mailing list and about 25 that attend the regular meetings, Mulkerian said. She added that the group is always welcoming new

members. Mulkerin said she is happy with the turnout to club meetings this year.

"This is one of the best things I have done with my college career," she said. "I was positively obsessed with the books because it is great literature.

The Harry Potter club meets every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center in room 004.

"I just want people to check it out," Humphrey said. "I just want people to come and think of it realistically, and see we are a diverse group of people."



By Angela Harris GVL Laker Life Editor

Following finals, students and staff at Grand Valley State University will pack their cars and head home to celebrate various holidays including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas or perhaps no holiday at all.

Regardless of how they celebrate, break can be a time for students and staff to be with family and friends.

Kwanzaa is celebrated Dec. 26 and spans eight days. It focuses around the lighting of seven candles found on a Kinara, said sophomore Leah Burt.

While she does not celebrate Kwanzaa, Burt said the holiday originated in Africa, and later spread to other countries.

The seven candles that are lit represent the seven principles of the holiday, including unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith, she said.

The candle in the middle, which is black, is lit first, followed by three red and three green alternatively, Burt said.

In addition to lighting the candles, gifts are exchanged each day, she added.

Lighting of the menorah

On Dec. 25, Dorian Harrow. GVSU alumnus, will gather with his family around the menorah and light the shammus. Using the shammus, they will then light another candle and place it on the far right before saying three berakhots, or blessings.

The berakhots include a l'hadlik neir, à general blessing, she-asah nisim, a prayer to thank God for performing miracles, and a she-hekhianu, a general prayer that thanks God for allowing Jews to reach this time of year.

The menorah represents the miracle that took place in Jewish history where the oil that was only supposed to burn for one day lasted eight days, Harrow

Harrow does not go to a temple during the holiday, he said. Instead, he gathers with his family and spends as much time as possible with them, he added.

In recent years, he has not been able to spend as much time as he would like because Hanukkah normally falls during

Rapids for that, Harrow said.

"Hanukkah means family time and being with the ones I cares about," he explained.

His family normally does not eat any special foods during the holiday aside from potato latkes, he said.

As a Jew, Harrow said he does not think the lack of publicity or media advertising his holiday receives is a big deal.

Two are better than one

Growing up, senior Jamie Greene celebrated both Hanukkah and Christmas. Her father is a reformed Jew and her mother is Catholic.

When she was younger and did not understand the religious aspect of the holidays, Greene said she thought it was great to celebrate two holidays in which she received presents, rather than one like her friends.

'It was mind-blowing to have both." Greene said.

To celebrate, Greene gathers with her father's family and close friends to take part in the traditional activities, such as the lighting of the menorah, potato latkes and playing with the

A potato latke is like a potato pancake and is made of potato, egg, onion, salt and pepper, and fried in a skillet, Greene said.

Since her father is a reformed Jew, her family focuses more on the traditions of the holiday, the celebration of being together. and the miracle that happened. rather than the religious aspect of it, she said.

Greene said celebrating two holidays as a child was fantastic because her family had friends with so many different religions, and she learned a lot about tolerance.

"We learned to see people as people and not to judge on religion or skin color," she said.

Celebrating family

Every year, freshman Jim Sanford decorates the Christmas tree with his mother and siblings, and his father places the angel on the top at the end.

Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, Sanford and his family attend midnight mass.

"Christmas means, in the religious aspect, celebrating

SEE HOLIDAYS, A8

DeLuca hypnotizes students

Students entertain crowd with altered personalities, antics in annual event

Christmakwanzakah: Students to

By Angela Harris GVL Laker Life

Music coming from shoes, fruits with feelings, and people milking a cow entertained students Thursday night during Tom DeLuca's show.

DeLuca hypnotized 20 students to think they test drove Ferraris, that the ground was shaking, and that the audience was wearing only its underwear during his show in the Fieldhouse Arena at Grand Valley State University.

Senior Paul Damore was hypnotized to become a GVSU cheerleader who forgot the school mascot's name.

Damore did cartwheels, jumps and made up cheers for new mascot names.

Damore was the crowd favorite and the audience asked DeLuca to return to him multiple times and trigger him to act.

DeLuca was hesitant throughout the show and said he was afraid of him because Damore's cheers and statements were very provocative.

"[Damore] was the funniest guy in the show because he was so straightforward," said freshman Megan Pokowski. "It seemed like he was really going past his boundaries."

DeLuca also hypnotized Damore to either praise or insult DeLuca's show.

"Michael Jackson's nose is pretty real compared to this show," Damore said.

Following the event, Damore said he does not remember anything from the show. The last thing he remembers is sitting in his chair just prior to being hypnotized.

DeLuca also hypnotized sophomore Travis Sigman to believe fruits have feelings. Sigman named two apples "Jerry" and "Fred."

"You can't take them like slaves," Sigman said to DeLuca. "They need to be together. They need friends, too.'

Later in the show, however, Sigman was hypnotized to become hungry and eat the

SEE DELUCA, A8



CVI / Ashley Comstock

Too much spirit: Senior Paul Damore, a hypnotized volunteer in Tom Deluca's show on Thursday night, believes that

Students entertain with jokes and music

the room as Oza began with

"My friend recently suffered

jokes about school, sexuality

from a debilitating car crash,"

Oza said. "Yeah, it was really

bad. He lost his left leg, his

and life in general.

BY JOHN FAARUP GVL Staff Writer

A variety of talents were present for Open Mic Night Tuesday during the monthly event at Grand Valley State

University.

Musicians, singers and a comedian entertained a standing-room only crowd in the Women's Center lobby in Kirkhof. The stage was open to anyone who wanted to perform to the audience of about 30 people.

"Open Mic Night is so students have something to do, and to not just have experience in the classroom," said Tommy Rexford, the host of the event. "I think it is important to have things for the students to attend to break the monotony of classes. We have a lot of fun and a lot of people come out."

Rexford began the night's performances by playing a variety of songs on his acoustic guitar. He said he is usually a drummer, but decided to change up the pace and try his

hand at a guitar solo act. Rexford also played Christmas songs while snow fell outside, adding to the

Comedian Eric Ozafollowed Rexford's act. Oza took the microphone and proclaimed that it was his first time doing a stand-up comedy routine. He admitted to being nervous

event's holiday theme. about the act. Laughter filled

left arm and even lost hearing in his left ear. He said it was okay though because he was

Nervous novice: Sophomore Eric Oza did his first standup comedy routine on Tuesday night during Open Mic Night.

GVL / Sara Rademacher

all right now."

The laughter slowed toward the end as Oza continued with jokes about gays and race.

He said he was nervous, but not discouraged about the audience reaction.

"I felt awkward at first but quickly relieved when my jokes started getting some big

laughs," Oza said. "I thought 'I've got them now'."

"I want people to think Should I be laughing at that?"

Oza said he was happy to break the ice during his first performance.

SEE OPEN MIC, A8









Dz safe with any after coupes or Shout the least video





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11

Number Cruncher

Monday, December 12, 2005

After 11 seasons of coaching volleyball for Grand Valley State University, head coach Deanne Scanlon has accumulated a 294-90 record. She was recently awarded the title of 2005 Tachikara/AVCA Division II National Coach of the Year.

16

Sophomore guard Jason Jamerson posted 16 points in the GVSU men's basketball game against Ferris State University on Thursday, Senior guard Courtney

Thursday. Senior guard Courtney
James was right behind with 15
points. The Lakers dropped the
contest 63-79.

6.7

Laker sophomore guard Erin
Cyplik leads the women's
basketball team with a rebounding
average of 6.7 caroms per game.
She compiled 10 points in the
conference win over Ferris State
University 75-55. Senior forward
Niki Reams led the scoring with a
season-high 33 points.

20

On Dec. 20 and 21 the GVSU women's basketball team will be in Hawaii participating in the Hoop 'N' Surf Basketball Classic. The classic is presented by Malika Sports.





Rogers joins Detroit

By DAN KILIAN JR.

GVL Staff Writer

Detroit cameramen beware: Kenny Rogers is a Detroit Tiger.

The Tigers went into their winter meeting looking for a veteran pitcher to add to a young rotation. It was accomplished right before the deadline, inking the now infamous left-hander to a two year, \$16 million deal.

Now they just have to wait for that white van from the psychiatric ward to drop him off.

Kenny Rogers had an All-Star season last year, even at the ripe age of 41 years old, yet the Texas Rangers, with all their pitching troubles, did not feel the need to bring him back to the Lone Star State.

I hear it is hard to warm up an arm after it has been in a straitjacket for long periods of time.

Now the monster on the mound is Detroit's problem. Texas dropped Rogers like a bad habit, and now the Tigers are stuck with a \$2 steak, sounds like a bargain - but it is too tough to enjoy.

Yet Detroiters wonder why they have such a bad baseball record, and public relations rep to go along with it. Not only is Detroit one of the worst teams in the league, but they go out and get a pitcher that makes John Rocker look like a humanitarian.

OK, that might be pushing it...

Want to read more? Visit www.lanthorn.com .

GV beats Ferris, Mercyhurst on the floor

Lakers set to compete in Hawaii on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 for the Hoop 'N' Surf Classic

> BY JAYSON BUSSA GVL Staff Writer

This weekend, the Lakers earned their upcoming sunny vacation in Hawaii.

With the Lakers scheduled to ship out to Kilauea, Hawaii on Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 for the Hoop 'N' Surf Classic, they first took care of a little business on the mainland.

On Thursday night, the Lakers grabbed a 20-point victory against their long time rivals Ferris State University [1-2, 3-4], while on Saturday afternoon, they scored another

one-sided victory at home in the Fieldhouse against Mercyhurst College [1-2, 1-7].

The pair of Great Lakes Conference wins gives Grand Valley State University a perfect conference record of 4-0 setting them atop the North Division of the conference, in front of second-place Michigan Tech, who is 3-0 after their most recent win against Northwood [63-59]. The Lakers also have a record of 8-2 overall, ranking them No. 9 in the nation.

On Thursday in Big Rapids, Mich. senior guard Niki Reams scored 33 points to power the Lakers over the Bulldogs 75-55.

Reams went 13-19 from the field, three of which were SEE WOMEN'S BBALL, A7



CVI / Ashley Comston

Preventing the play: Junior Taushauna Churchwell plays defense during Saturday's home game against Mercyhurst.

Lakers breeze by Mercyhurst



Paying attention: Players huddle during a time-out in Saturday's homegame against Mercyhurst.

BY SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

Bouncing back after a loss at Ferris State University on Thursday, the Grand Valley State University men's basketball team out-rebounded Mercyhurst College on Saturday 27-12.

The Lakers [6-2] won the conference match 75-52 at the GVSU Fieldhouse Arena, with sophomore center Callistus Eziukwu leading the team in points. He posted 19 points, which included 7-7 from the field goal range. Eziukwu also added seven steals and six assists.

"Defensively he [Eziukwu] was a lot more aggressive," head coach Ric Wesley said. "He gave the team a spark."

GVSU built up 29 more points by capitalizing on 20 Mercyhurst

turnovers.

"Mercyhurst was very physical," Wesley said. "We really had to be ready and bounce back after tough losses at Ferris."

In the second half, the Lakers compiled an 81 shooting percentage resulting from 17 of 21 successful baskets. They started off the scoring runs right away with a 15-1 string of points.

"We started off strong, a lot more aggressive," Wesley said. "We did a good job of getting the ball into the net."

The fire power from the bench overpowered Mercyhurst 36-12. Junior center Dan Redder came off the bench with an explosive 12 points to add to the GVSU total. He also had four rebounds

and a block.

Other scoring contributions came from redshirt freshman Pete Trammell who put up 12 points. Senior guard Courtney James and sophomore guard Jason Jamerson each nailed nine points. Trammell teamed up with James for four assists a piece. Trammel added six boards [four

offensive].

GVSU ended the game with a 61.9 shooting percentage for a season-high mark, which included sinking 29 of 44 baskets.

The Lakers also compiled 34 assists on the game.

Trammell, Redder and Eziukwu played very well,

Wesley added. The Lakers matched the rest of the statistics with their 24 assists and 29 field goals.

"We did a good job of getting the ball into the net," Wesley added.

Mercyhurst stood with only three players reaching the double digits in scoring, which added to a 42.1 shooting percentage and attempts to regain the lead. Guard Terry Smith, forward Mitch Brennan and Avi Fogel each added the 11 points to the

Defensively the Mercyhurst Lakers struggled to catch GVSU. The Lakers built a heaping 17

steals on Mercyhurst.

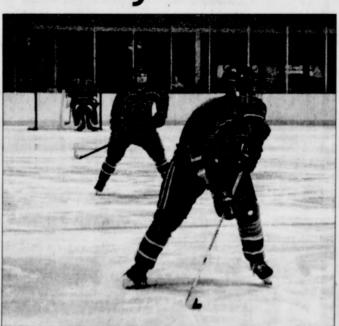
Wesley said he was happy with the players' performances.

"It was a great bounce back after the loss," he said.

In Thursday's match-up against Ferris, Jamerson led with 16 points. Teammates Eziukwu and James both rallied for 15 points each. It was the 24 GVSU turnovers that led to 25 FSU points. However, the 15 turnovers that the Bulldogs overcame with 24 points en route to the win.

GVSU fell 79-63 in Big Rapids.
GVSU will take on two
more conference teams at the
university's Fieldhouse Arena
before winter break. The first
match-up is on Dec. 17 at 7
p.m. against the University of
Indianapolis. In game two, they
will face off with Northern
Kentucky University on Dec. 20

Hockey team loses pair to MSU, Oakland



GVL / Anna Schwallier

Keeping his head up: Sophomore Adam Zobl handles the puck down the ice during Friday night's game against MSU.

says college hockey is different from high school competition

Club team president

BY MATT PICKEL GVL Staff Writer

For junior Mike Marquardt, hockey has always been a part of his life. Starting the game in Plymouth, Mich., at the age of five, Mike loved the hitting and fact page of the game.

and fast pace of the game.

Marquardt noticed a big
difference in the game when

he came to college.

"High school hockey is so much slower," Marquardt said. "College players aren't just coming from high school programs, many come from junior programs as well. This makes the college game more refined, there is a better talent

pool out there. I returned to watch my high school play and the speed of the game was incredibly slower than what I am used to."

Marquardt, nicknamed
"Smithers" by his fellow
teammates, grew up in
Northville, Mich. He has
a sister who is a junior at
Northville High School, and
a brother who is a freshman at
Central Michigan University.
Marquardt described his
relationship with his parents

as very close.

"My mother and father both make the trip across the state for all of my games," Marquardt said. "I don't think there has been a game in my college career that I didn't have one parent at. I have a very close family."

Marquardt said he takes on several responsibilities as the club's team president.

"I basically take care of getting the season running, making sure the rest of the team just has to worry about playing the game," he said. He gets help from Jadey Bogardus, the team manager, and Mike Kadzban, Chris Moore and Greg Kehr, who are all officers. We break the job down so that no one is bogged down, he added.

This season brought a huge improvement for the Grand Valley State University club hockey team, which started with a coaching change the team made at the beginning of the season, hiring Denny McLean to take over.

"Denny is great coach and person," he said. "He knows the game; I thought that I knew most of the game because I

SEE HOCKEY, A7





Into the blue: Senior Mackenzie Mikulenas swims the freestyle during practice last week. The swimming team

GVSU swimmers defeat Hope

Men and women swimmers win in meet, setting records in the process

> BY ROSS ANDERSON GVL Staff Writer

Valley Grand State University's swimming and diving teams brought home two victories over Hope College on Friday. The men won 140-97, while the women took their meet 139-92.

"Everyone is swimming well, especially our freshmen class is swimming out of their minds right now," said senior Mackenzie Mikulenas, who anchored GVSU's win in the

women's 200-medley relay. Freshman Jenna Thayer continued to dominate this season by setting a varsity record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.40. The time met the "B" national qualifying standard and it also beat the times of some of the men in the first heat.

Freshman Danielle Buglio

set a varsity record in the 100-yard backstroke and met the national "B" qualifying standard.

Sophomore Evan Kobes set a new varsity and pool record in the 100-yard backstroke in 49.60. He shaved almost four seconds off the previous record and met the "A" qualifying standards for nationals.

probably "That race puts him at about second nationally," said head coach Dewey Newsome.

Kobes added, "It was awesome, there's no other word to describe it."

Another breakout performance that night came from the men's 200-medley relay team. During the meet, Kobes, Justin Barkel, Justin Vasquez and Dan Kimble swam a 1:33.48, which was just .1 second off the national qualifying standard. They were so close that the coaches let them do the race again in a time trial right after the meet.

The group pulled through on the second try, setting a new varsity record and hitting

the qualifying standard with a time of 1:31.01.

Overall, the Lakers had 27 different lifetime bests for their swimmers during the meet.

Many of the Lakers' performances were based on how the teams handled the slight taper coming from the week up to the Wheaton College Invitational, Newsome

While Hope put in a week of workouts and focused a lot on strengthening, GVSU focused on speed.

Newsome said while some teams focus on plateuing near the end, the Lakers aim to be fast all year round, which allowed athletes to break their marks all season long and again at the end. The Lakers had more than 50 lifetime bests last year.

The next challenge for the Lakers will not be until after Christmas. During winter break they will train in Florida, and will compete on the way back at the Indianapolis Invitational on Jan. 6 and 7.

and Robb Higgins, sending the game into overtime. With five seconds left in overtime, MSU scored to win the game.

The slump continued on Saturday with a 7-4 loss to Oakland University. The Lakers were down 3-1 through the first period, and came back in the second period with goals from Adam Zobl and Jeff Stempin. They could not stop Oakland from adding two more to go down 5-3. A shorthanded goal by Stempin in the third was not enough to hold off Oakland from tacking on two

more goals to seal the win. The Lakers will take on Robert Morris Springfield in a double header on Jan. 6 and 7.

Dine In!

Take Out!

Marquardt plans to major in Information Systems; he said he has always been interested in computers and believes they oing to play a huge role in

The hockey team dropped two games at home this past weekend. On Friday, the Lakers took on the defending national champion Michigan State University. After being down 3-1 after two periods, GVSU came back to tie it up on goals scored by Dean Watkins



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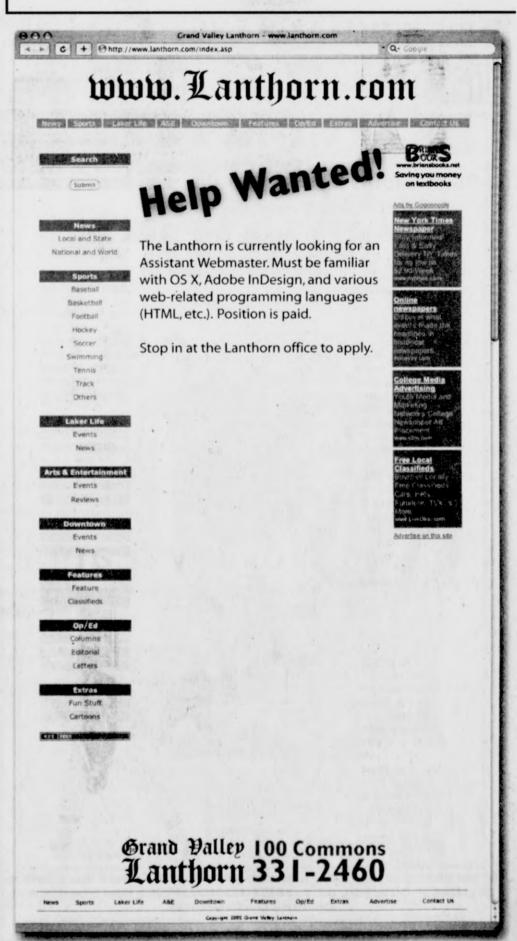
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WOMEN'S BBALL continued from page A6

three-point field goals, as she hit all four of her free throw attempts. Reams also had nine rebounds and three

Sophomore guard Crystal Zick contributed with double digit scoring as she finished the game with a total of 17 points, dishing off nine assists. Sophomore guard Erin Cyplik finished the game with 10.

Bulldogs fought closely with the Lakers in the early going, keeping the game locked in a 24-24 tie half way through the first half. A midrange jump shot hit by Zick with 2:25 stretched a GVSU scoring run into a 12-point lead. However, the Bulldogs brought it within eight at halftime with a score of 29-

The Bulldogs cut the GVSU lead to six early in the second half, but the Lakers distanced themselves throughout the half taking the game by 20.

Reams, who led in scoring against the Bulldogs, also led in scoring against Mercyhurst, but this time there was a long list of personnel helping her out significantly. In the lopsided 78-41

GVSU victory, Reams totaled 16 points and eight rebounds. Behind her were four other Lakers who netted double digits in scoring. Junior forward

Braseth finished the game with 15 points, while junior guard Erika Ryskamp finished with 13 points and fired off seven assists. Zick also chipped in with 10 points, hitting two three-point field goals.

The remainder of the squad recorded Lakers' playing time in the game as well.

The Lakers jumped on Mercyhurst early on, building a 42-23 lead going into the locker room at halftime. GVSU continued to clip along in the second half finishing the game with a 78-41 victory.

GVSU forced 19 turnovers and outrebounded Mercyhurst 44-32.

The next stop for the Lakers will be on the island of Hawaii as they are slated to take on Valdosta State and the Dominican Republic in a pair of non-conference match-ups.

HOCKEY continued from page A6

have played so long, but he has taught me some new things to make me a better hockey

the future.

donated to the DeVos Children's

Other events around Grand-

Rapids include an exhibit at the Van-

Andel Museum Center showcasing.

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SEASON continued from page A3

displays of customary Hanukkah Kwanzaa decorations throughout the building. Various companies around Grand Rapids sponsored each display.

The Gardens Polar Express is another fixture in Meijer Gardens' Christmas events. A 20-foot long miniature train is constantly running through the greenhouse rooms, winding through a tiny Victorian town of buildings replicated after historical landmarks in Grand Rapids.

These replicas are made of allnatural materials," Jensen said. "If you look closely, you can see acom shells and cinnamon sticks."

Christ coming into our

lives," Sanford said. "[It also

means] our family being able

He said the family part

Sanford said religion

does not play such a large

role because it has been

harder for his family to go to

church regularly. His favorite

Christmas tradition is the

breakfast his mother makes on

Christmas morning, he said.

of the holiday plays a larger

HOLIDAYS

continued from page A5

to be with each other.'

On Tuesday evenings, Meijer Gardens extends its hours and offers a list of family-oriented activities for visitors, such as rides in a horsedrawn carriage around the outdoor sculpture park and visits from Santa and live reindeer. The events also offer dinner specials and live

entertainment. On the weekends, children can come in to do arts and crafts projects, such as making a koala ornament to learn about Australia, or sit down for a Christmas story. The activities are centered around the different cultures represented throughout the Gardens.

"Kids go crazy for this place," Jensen said. "They love our Polar Express and all the hands-on stuff they can do here."

It consists of his grandma's

monkey bread, a dessert-like

bread with chunks of bread

dough and cinnamon and sugar,

celebrate Christmas three

times, once as a family on

Christmas and then with

grandparents from both sides

of his family on Christmas and

Christmas is celebrated

"It's also my birthday, so

differently at senior Amanda

Sterling's house every year.

the day after Christmas.

Two Birthdays

Sanford and his family

as well as biscuits and gravy.

Fifth Third Ballpark is a winter wonderland of twinkling lights during the Nite Lites drive-through Christmas display. The trail of lights through the Whitecaps parking lot is over a mile long and filled with glowing snowmen, colorful shapes of elves and fluorescent forms of Santa playing various sports.

On another end of Grand Rapids,

"I had no idea Saint Nick was so athletic," said GVSU senior Sara Brennan. "Some of the lights were very breathtaking, especially the blinking Old Man Winter."

Nite Lites, Inc. of Grandville arranged the drive-through event

scrooges can find holiday activities in Grand Rapids. For more information of holiday activities in the city, visit-

and spent six weeks putting up thousands of lights, according to the company's Web site. A portion of the proceeds of the drive are

we normally have a birthday

gifts and sometimes seeing a

Her family dinner is similar

to that of Thanksgiving in that

they enjoy turkey and pumpkin

religious meaning of it is two

far removed and has become

commercialized. For her, it is

mainly a time to gather with

cake," Sterling said.

movie.

http://www.visitgrandrapids.org. family and spend time with

them, she added. "I don't like the commercial As an agnostic, Sterling aspect of it," Sterling said. "It is celebrates the holiday with her only about family togetherness, father, stepmother, siblings and like Thanksgiving." their families by exchanging

The scheduling of breaks also bothers Sterling because it focuses around Dec. 25 and does not coincide with other holidays or beliefs.

"For those that celebrate Hanukkah, it's not fair," she Sterling said she does not feel pressured to celebrate the holiday because the

She said she also supports a secular society, and feels society focuses too much on the Christian aspect of the break and holiday.

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DELUCA continued from page A5

apples. After realizing what he had done, he proceeded to kiss "Jerry" and give him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"He's going to make it," Sigman said. "He's alive."

Pokowski said this was her favorite memory from the show.

"He was such a macho guy," Pokowski said. "Seeing a macho guy give CPR to an apple was hilarious."

Freshman Ashley Patino said she enjoyed watching the student who was hypnotized to answer questions with pick-up

Throughout the evening students were also hypnotized

to dance for a national shakeit competition when cued by a certain sound or word. The women in the shake-it competition left the stage to dance with members of the audience.

Darci Sale, a junior, was part of the shake-it competition.

Sale said she does not remember much from the

experience, though remembers going up and down a staircase, screaming something, and waking up with a boot on. She had someone else's boot on because she was part of a group hypnotized to believe that their shoes were on the wrong feet and exchanged shoes with each other as a result.

OPEN MIC continued from page A5

"It was my first time ever doing anything like this," Oza said. "It was very frightening because I wanted people to be offended and laugh at certain stereotypes, but I didn't want people to feel morally

disgusted." For the most part, he was happy with his set, but was nervous to tell the more

outlandish jokes, he said.

He added he felt that some of his jokes did not go over well, possibly because the audience did not expect some types of jokes from a shy novice.

Oza's performance was followed by musical acts as people started trickling out of the Women's Center.

Attendees for Open Mic Night are welcome to showcase anything from standup comedy to poetry.

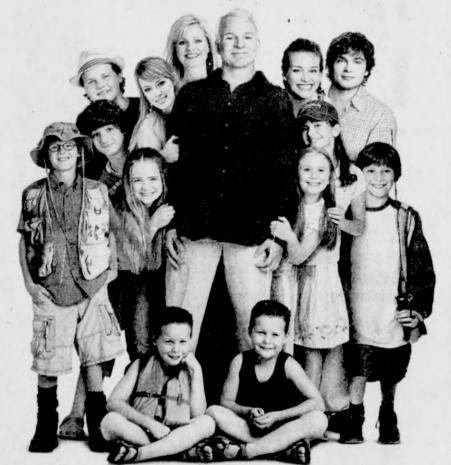
"I had a blast up there and can't wait to shock some more people," Oza said.





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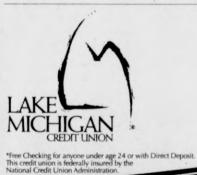
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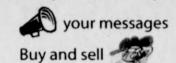
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GVSU alumna gets hands-on in new film

By MARTY SLAGTER GVL Staff Writer

Grand Valley State University alumna, Mary Graff, assisted in the upcoming box office blockbuster "King Kong."

Graff, who graduated from GVSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in film and video, was one of the editors for the Production Diaries on the film's Web site, kongisking.net. The Production Diaries are a behind-the-scenes look at the entire production of

"Each editor, along with assistant editors to help, would put together a four minute look at a different area of the production eachweek,"Graffsaid."[Director] Peter Jackson would approve the finished pieces himself. We'd upload them to the Web masters, and see it online about a week after we started working on it."

This is Graff's first long-term project, she said. Previously, Graff had done post-production work on "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" DVD.

"This is the first time I've worked on one project for an entire year, and I've never gotten

tired of working on footage related to the movie," Graff said. "Everyone who's worked on Kong say they are very anxious to see it.

The entire film was shot at Stone Street Studios, in New Zealand. Graff said the opportunity to work in a foreign country is something she has always wanted to do.

"Before I left for New Zealand last January, I had a few life goals in mind, one of which was to somehow work in a foreign country some day," Graff said. "I was happy to see this goal fulfilled much earlier than I would have ever expected."

Graff said one interesting aspect of working on the set of "King Kong" was working alongside some very recognizable Hollywood stars including Jack Black, Adrien Brody and Naomi

"King Kong' was the first time I was close to a movie set, with the actors going down the hallway to the green room," Graff said. "I felt I had gone all the way to New Zealand to really experience Hollywood.'

Working on the set also meant

working alongside renowned director Peter Jackson.

"I enjoy doing creative work on a film project for somebody like Peter Jackson," Graff said. "He is a huge film fan himself and he only makes films that he would want to see. And many people around the world seem to want to see the same things he does."

She said the overall experience of working on the set of "King Kong" was a rewarding one.

"I loved being near the shoot," Graff said. "My work could be stressful at times, because our deadlines followed those of the principal photography, but I wouldn't change the experience for anything."

Graff first began working in entertainment in 1997 in Los Angeles with Tucker Wiard, editor for the television show "Murphy Brown." She then began working as a production assistant for Craig Murray Productions, a trailer company producing many of the main Disney movie marketing campaigns.

Graff said she was interested in a number of different areas until she took her first editing class at GVSU, and was hooked. She said she values many of the people she encountered in her time at GVSU.

"I really appreciate all the people I met while at GVSU," Graff said. "I have some friends that I met there who have helped shape me into the person I am today.

"I also enjoyed working with Film and Video department instructors Deanna Morse, Barb Roos and Suzanne Zack. I can see that they treat current students with the same support and direction they gave to the people in my classes.

"King Kong" everywhere in theaters on Dec. 14. To see some of Graff's work, visit http://www.kongisking.net/



A warm welcome: Owner Nick Verburg (right) talks to a customer at the opening of new music store Shipwreck Saturday The new store is located in Eastown near the corner of Lake Drive and Wealthy Street.

Local music store opens to public

Brothers offer indie and underground selections in Eastown shop

> By JOHN FAARUP GVL Staff Writer

In the movie "High Fidelity," John Cusack often asks his coworkers and friends their top five favorite albums. This is how the owners of the newly opened record store Shipwreck Music came up with their store name. The store encompasses their "desert island" albums, and the songs they could not live without.

They opened for their first day of business on Saturday in Eastown. The store offers a focused selection of jazz, rock and folk CDs and records.

Shipwreck Music is coowned by brothers Nick and Jim Verburg.

A variety of local bands played in the front of the store as friends, family and customers browsed through various titles.

Posters stretched from end to end, featuring groups such as Sigur Ros, Franz Ferdinand, Gorillaz, Radiohead and Bob Dylan.

"This store, actually, is strictly out of a love for music," Nick said. "Music has been a big part of my life for years now and we wanted a place where we could share that love for music.'

They said they want the

store to turn into something where people feel welcome to just come and hang out.

"We are specializing in underground, harder to find bands, bands that you won't hear on the radio," Nick said. "However, we want this store to feel like a community store, one that everyone has a part in the development of."

Nick originally got involved in the Grand Rapids music scene about five years ago by playing in a band called City Sleep.

The first group to play in the store was Moss, made up of Dustin Anderson on bass and Paul Goodno on guitar. A touring bands because it was so third member,

Jay

side

of

"Organized

Crime," as well

as a variety

including

Nirvana'

"About a Girl."

covers

Kincer, joined in on drums halfway "This store, actually, is through to play strictly out of a love for songs from their music. Music has been a project Mitchell. They big part of my life for years performed now and we wanted a place original where we could share that such songs "Strangle love for music." Hold," "Buzz Song" and

> CO-OWNER OF SHIPWRECK MUSIC

of shops and restaurants surround the store including Wolfgang's **NICK VERBURG** Restaurant, Kava House, Bombay

> They open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

> someone put in a record store

like Vertigo and East Tunes,"

Kallman and Ben and Bruno

also played at the store's grand

shop's generous collection of

indie and punk rock records,"

said Kenneth Caldwell, a

Grand Valley State University

how the first day went.

Nick said he was happy with

"It was a really good

well received."

located at the

intersection of

Wealthy Street

and Lake Drive

on the northeast

Music

corner.

Cuisine

Yesterdog.

Shipwreck

turnout," he said. "We decided

to do an in-store monthly

performance with local and

Isaiah Kallman as Isaiah

"I was pleased with the

Goodno said.

opening.

senior.

COMPLIMENTARY MOVIE PASSES!

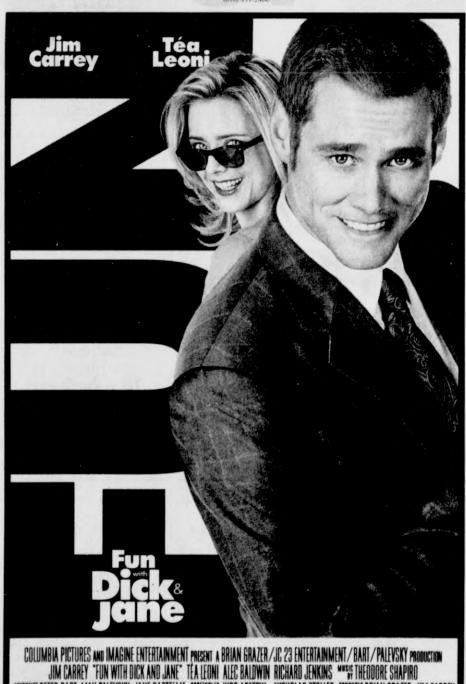


motion picture 'King Kong'

Ideas in motion: Mary Graff, a GVSU alumna, poses with a model from the

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No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Limit one prize per person. Limit one (admit-two) pass per person. Employees of The Grand Valley Lanthorn, Solomon Friedman Entertainment and Columbia Pictures are not eligible to win. This film is rated PG-13 for brief language, some sexual humor and occasional humorous drug references.

Great book, better movie

Recently, they met the Verburg brothers and said they

"I was thrilled when

were excited to be playing

during the store's opening.

REVIEW BY MICHELLE PAWLAK

GVL A&E Editor

Theaters across the country filled with curious audiences wondering if C.S. Lewis's 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" would make a successful journey from page to screen... but success was an understatement.

Director Andrew Adamson used his talents of animation with a spectacular cast to make a movie that is sure to sweep the Academy Awards. A step up from "Shrek 2," his last movie, Adamson had to make audiences believe in a world where animation and humans interact - inside a wardrobe.

Much like Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings, 'The Chronicles of Narnia" is a character driven film about the battle of good and evil, nobility and destiny.

Four siblings, homeless from WWI bombings, move into a mansion of the mysterious Professor where the youngest, Lucy, discovers another world through an old wardrobe.

After some disbelief.

the four find themselves in the land of Narnia where the White Witch has made it winter for 100 years in the absence of its true king Aslan. Their presence begins the prophecy that they will one day rein as the kings and queens of Narnia after a battle against the witch's army.

Georgie Henley makes her Hollywood debut as Lucy, the brave heroine and strength of the story, and shines. Only 10 years old, Henley creates a character that the audiences can't help but respect and she's adorable too. Instead of stepping into the spotlight, Henley commands its attention with her facial expressions and chemistry with the other actors. Her acting felt so natural that one was able to immerse themselves in the film as she spoke. Watch out Dakota - there's another ridiculously talented pre-teen on the screen.

Another actor whose skills succeed his years was William Moseley I, who played Peter, the oldest sibling. Moseley was able to capture Peter's valiance and obligation to his family as their protector - and with his resemblance to Prince William. looked

handsome doing so.

The cast of "The Chronicles of Narnia" fit perfect into their roles; from the strangely attractive Mr. Tumnus (James McAvoy) to the White Witch (Tilda Swinton) down to the smaller roles of Beaver voices and dwarfs.

Yet computer animation wasn't the only tool that brought this movie to life, elaborate costuming helped the interaction between the real and the make-believe. Centaurs and fauns walked along side the "sons of Adam and daughters of Eve" with a believability that made you want to reach out and touch them

Although this story is inspiring to all ages the film is appropriate for an older audience. Rated PG, it involves violent fighting seasons and somewhat gruesome deaths.

From beginning to end, this movie captures audiences and takes them on an emotional journey. "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is an imaginative and suspenseful beginning to a greater journey that audiences are anticipating will come.

SPECIAL SECTION

Grand Palley Lanthorn

Grand Valley State University

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Monday, December 12, 2005

12 teams, 13 wins

1 trophy



Lakers barely brush past Bearcats

The GVSU football team wins its third national title in five trips to Alabama, 21-17

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

FLORENCE, Ala. - Yellow rope barricaded the center of the field, parents flocked to their football stars and white Grand Valley State University National Championship Tshirts waved in the air.

The Lakers skimmed past Northwest Missouri State University 21-17 to claim the 2005 National Championship Title on Saturday at Braly Municipal Stadium, which was shown live on ESPN.

"You get here by grinding it one day at a time," said GVSU head coach Chuck Martin.

It was late in the fourth quarter with the Lakers down by three and 8:57 to go. GVSU had the ball on their 18yard line. A false start penalty threw them back a bit, but four running drives and four pass completions later, the offense took charge for the

A 35-yard pass from junior quarterback Cullen Finnerty to senior wide receiver Brandon Langston in the end zone put the Lakers ahead for the first time in the game. Senior kicker Scott Greene nailed the PAT. and left the score at 21-17.

"When I don't know what to do in '05, I get the ball to Brandon Langston," Martin said. "His speed did the rest for us."

The lead put the defense on the spot to hold the Bearcats for the remaining 4:25. Much like the last two championship games, the title came down to the final seconds. Defensive back Brandon Carr covered a long bomb from NWMSU quarterback Josh Lamberson with slightly less than two minutes to go in the game.

Laker junior linebacker Rory Steinbach and sophomore defensive lineman Justin Ulberg sacked Lamberson, setting him back 5 yards. Senior free safety Joe Ballard and sophomore defensive back Samad Cain waited on the goal line to stop the drive as the clock ticked down.

Running for it: Junior running back Astin Martin beats a tackle while advancing up field. GVSU won the national title Saturday 21-17 over Northwes

SEE VICTORY, B8

Grand Valley fans wear true Laker blue

"It's another great day for

Grand Valley..."

MARK MURRAY

GVSU PRESIDENT

Several fans from GVSU made the trek to Alabama in support of the National Champions

By ALAN INGRAM

GVL Managing Editor

FLORENCE, Ala. - They stomped the metal bleachers, threw their arms in the air with nearly every Laker play, swirled their hats above their heads, and filled the air with loud whistles and chants of "GV-SU," "Let's go Lakers," "De-fense," and "Our house.

Many Grand Valley State University students made the more-than-700 mile trip from West Michigan to see the Lakers fight for their third NCAA Division II football National Championship. Others came from across the country.

Even GVSU's first-ever Louie the Laker traveled from his Las Vegas home.

Josh Lamers, who graduated with a business degree in 1996 and now owns an insurance agency, has attended each of the Laker's National Championship games during the past five years.

"It's just awesome to see everything that started 10 years ago paying off for the past five years," Lamers said of the Lakers athletic program.

While less than half of the 6,837 fans at Braly Municipal Stadium attended to cheer for GVSU, Laker fans made their presence known throughout the victory over Northwest Missouri State University on Saturday.

From before the kickoff to the time they stormed the field, the blue, black and whiteclad GVSU fans cheered on their team to deafening levels.

Everyone from younger siblings to grandparents jumped to their feet and cheered as loud as they could when the play landed in the Lakers' favor. They wore whatever GVSU apparel they could find and held up signs to show the players their

Some did not have any tie to GVSU at all, but still found themselves surrounded in a sea of Laker blue and white.

Florence resident Parke Crisler said his wife works at the University of North Alabama and both of them graduated from there. Last week, Northwest Missouri beat the University of North Alabama to advance to the National Championship.

Had the home team won last weekend, Crisler would have sat on the other side of the gridiron. However, following their defeat, he and his wife were ready to cheer morning and flying in before kickoff. on the Lakers.

"We're for Grand Valley tonight, that's for sure," Crisler said. "Go Lakers."

GVSU fans are "football fanatics," Crisler said, explaining it takes a real fan to make the drive.

The team invited Joe VanRavenswaay, who works for GVSU Facilities Services and for all the Laker football games in Allendale, and three other members of Facilities Services to accompany

"It's been a wonderful trip," VanRavenswaay said. "Southern hospitality's very good."

He described the atmosphere in the stands as "festive," explaining that while they see most of the fans at GVSU, it is nice to see them in Alabama as well.

"It's a lot of close family and a lot of close friends that make this program what it is," VanRavenswaay said.

GVSU President Mark Murray even made the trip, leaving Grand Rapids after the commencement ceremony Saturday

"It's another great day for Grand Valley," Murray said, explaining the university has a strong community, which draws many people to GVSU.

The football team represents GVSU

well, Murray said. They work hard both on the field and in the classroom and exemplify a number of the university's attributes, he added.

When the Lakers scored their final touchdown with just minutes remaining in the game, giving them their first lead of the night, the stands erupted and

the crowd had new-found life as the final seconds expired off the clock.

They hung over the railing and stood on its lower rungs. As the clock neared zero, many in the front row crossed over and hung on, waiting to storm the field to celebrate with their team.

And they did.

They mobbed the blue jerseys as time expired. Smiles stretched across faces, arms flew into the air and the chants continued onto the field.

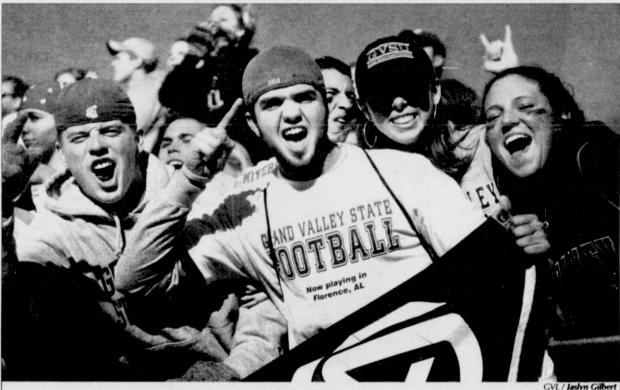
The celebration did not end there. The players, coaches, fans, family members and GVSU administration went to the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum for a postgame celebration, where the crowd heard speeches from GVSU head coach Chuck Martin, Athletic Director Tim Selgo and some Laker senior football players.

Seniors tight end Jeremy Cochrane and quarterback Jeff Dock thanked the fans.

You guys are awesome," they both

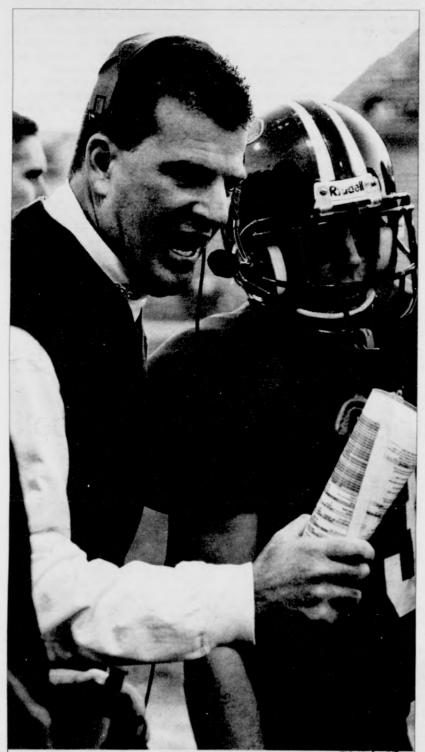


Louie, Louie: The first Louie the Laker, Josh Lamers (left) and the 2005 Louie the Laker commemorate 10 years of GVSU's mascot during the postgame party.



Go team! Laker die-hard football fans traveled miles to Alabama for NCAA DII football finals.

Youth vs. Savvy: Coaches collide in Florence



The task at hand: Coach Chuck Martin directs the football team toward a national title Saturday

Younger GVSU coach Martin faces veteran NWMSU coach Tjeerdsma in title game

By Jayson Bussa

GVL Staff Writer

FLORENCE, Ala. – For the two men at the helms of both of the 2005 NCAA Division II National Championship football teams, the national championship stage is not unfamiliar.

Both Chuck Martin, head coach for Grand Valley State University, and Mel Tjeerdsma, head coach for Northwest Missouri State University, have been to the national finals before.

Martin made the trip to Alabama with then-head coach Brian Kelly's 2003 squad, serving as the team's

defensive coordinator. After the Lakers grabbed the 2003 title, Martin was announced as GVSU's fifth head coach in the university's history.

Prior to Martin's role as defensive coordinator, he also served as GVSU's assistant coach for four years.

Beforehisexperience at GVSU, Martin held various coaching positions at Mankato State, Wittenberg University [Springfield, Ohio], Millikin University and Eastern Michigan University. He began his coaching career in 1992 at Mankato State.

Martin returned to the National Championship this year after falling short with last year's team. However, Martin did not drop the torch for the Lakers, as he guided the team to a 10-3 record on the year, falling out of the playoffs in the quarterfinal round to North Dakota University.

The 10 wins Martin's Lakers scored during his first year in the driver's seat were the most wins any first-year coach has captured in GVSU history.

Tjeerdsma has served as head coach for the Bearcats since 1994,

converting them from a winless team to a squad that has captured a pair of national championship titles in the past decade. Tjeerdsma led his team to back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999, while falling short this year.

"I felt like we were going to win not based on what has happened in the past, but by who we have on our sidelines now," Tjeerdsma said. "I'm very proud of how our kids played."

Tjeerdsma's past college coaching experience runs deeper than that of the younger Martin, as Tjeerdsma began his career in 1976 as offensive coordinator for Northwestern College [Organge City, Iowa].

In 1984, Tjeerdsma was named head coach of Austin College [Sherman, Texas] where he served until 1993, when he left to take the helm of NWMSU. His cumulative record at Austin was 60-38-4.

While awards may await Martin

in his future, a number of awards have already been bestowed upon the experienced Tieerdsma.

Tjeerdsma was named Coach of the Year in his conference in 1995 – 2000. He also received the American Football Coaches Association National Coach of the Year Award in both 1998 and

1999.

"I've never been more

proud of these kids."

CHUCK MARTIN

HEAD COACH

Awards aside, the 2005 match went to the younger, more inexperienced Martin who said he would much rather capture a team national championship than individual awards.

"I've never been more proud of these kids," Martin said. "It's amazing. I was fighting back tears during the pre-game."

Martin admitted that this national championship trip is much sweeter now that he is in the head coach position. His players also said he is a great coach.

"The first thing is that he is hard on everybody because he expects excellence," junior wide receiver Eric Fowler said. "He's a great leader [and] a great motivator."



Grateful: Senior quaterback Jeff Dock thanks the Laker crowd and teammates for a great season during the postgame party Saturday.

Beyond football, a class act

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

FLORENCE, Ala. - This 15-person group stumbled into Grand Valley State University in a variety of ways, and through adversity, championships and injuries, they all finished Laker careers in the same end zone.

In 2005, the Laker football senior class has more to offer than three NCAA Division II National Championship titles. They bring about poise, leadership and camaraderie.

'What they've accomplished is almost mind boggling," said GVSU Athletic Director Tim Selgo.

This year's senior class finished out the season with a 51-4 record overall, which ties with the GVSU football team of 2004 and Pittsburgh State University on the Division II leader board. They also post the fourth undefeated regular season in school

Leadership for this senior class begins with quarterback Jeff Dock, who was one of the team captains for the final game and received a standing ovation at post-game celebrations. Dock comes from a family of coaching and has done his fair share on the sidelines for Laker football.

Dock posted five touchdowns this season and 23-of-37 pass completions for 405 yards, as well.

"He's been an outstanding leader for everyone on this team," Selgo

Other seniors falling into different leadership roles are left tackle All-American Josh Bourke, centerback John Smith, center Mike Pinter, wide receiver Brandon Langston, punter Matt Regnery, punt kicker Scott Greene, tight end Jeremy Cochrane, and offensive linemen Greg Stoddard and Chris Stoddard.

The defensive line boasts Quartez Vickerson, Jorge Tapia, Tamayrr Salahuddin and running back Ryan

"They just want to be part of a football program," Martin said. "Their character and their work ethic and their desire to be part of the program is more than that.

The team spends time together on and off the field. Langston said the

main thing is to be out competing with his friends, teammates and family.

"They persevere, they grind - we laugh, we joke and we're serious sometimes," Martin said.

Last season, seven of GVSU's defensive starters were lost to graduation or other reasons, but it did not affect the play of the game, Martin said. He added that the team caught on quickly thanks to some supervision by the upperclassmen, as well.

"We played like experienced veterans from the start," Martin said.

Capitalizing on a third National Championship ring marks the perfect end with a 13-0 record for the seniors. In 2001 and 2002, the defense was a dominant factor, but now the focus is much deeper. This year's team had an evenly balanced line-up.

"This team overcomes less talent with their closeness," Martin said.

As a class leaving a legacy of tradition and football for next year's squad to follow, the seniors lead by example.

"Laker nation is awesome," Dock said. "Our number one goal has been to be a great teammate.'

Spending my semester in the heart of Laker football

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

FLORENCE, Ala. - From the benches to the bleachers, football is one of those crazy things that encompasses every second of each day when in season, but when it's over, the next season seems too far away.

National titles are won, and then to follow there is no watching tape, no running sets on the practice field, and no pre-game stories to write. Photos are sorted and lockers are cleaned out at the conclusion of each season.

Grand Valley State University football leaves yet another set of cleat marks on the path to greatness.

The seniors wave good-bye to the battle scars, late night road trips, and post-game singing of the fight song.

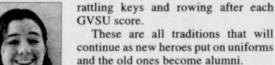
For the last four months, football has been my Saturday. I sat in the press box for six hours due to rain delays, I saw the more relaxed and funny side

of the coaching staff in practices, and observed a family overcome interceptions. fumbles and death to be the best.

The drive, the strength, the discipline and the emotion are not always seen from

the stands. A closer look on the field and into the depths of the players is more apparent on the sidelines and in practice.

Wide receiver Eric Fowler showed up to a Monday press conference dressed as Zorro for Halloween. The specialty coaches ran up and down the sidelines throwing their hands in the air trying to pump up the fans. The athletic trainers refueled players with water. Kids sported their favorite Laker player jersey as they ran around the bleachers. The student section was packed with Laker blue, face paint,



Head coach Chuck Martin hides his tears as the senior class walks away with three rings and more experience than he could have hoped for with a group of college students. They may carry memories and life lessons, but they also take the ideals of not doubting yourself because there is always a way

With each football game this season, improving became part of the picture. GVSU beat every opponent they faced, but they did not soar with ease. They perfected and strengthened areas of the game from punting to blocking to celebrating.

An unforgettable moment that came after beating Saginaw Valley State University for the second time this season en route to claiming the Northwest Division II Regional title was improved upon for the next round.

Without looking back on 'shouldhaves' and 'what-ifs,' the Lakers rolled on to the next round and then the next.

They stopped only to correct errors, heal injuries and rest for the next kickoff. Each group would break up, meet with their specific coaches, and plan for game time. Then it was a rejoining of forces to give the Laker fans a show, as well as to have some fun.

Even though some would be frustrated after a dropped catch, overestimated toss, or an opponent that slipped though the D-line, it was still the love for football the Lakers seemed to portray on the field. Contributions came from all sides, and I never left disappointed.

The players on the football team showed courage, heart and gave a reason for why GVSU football is the number one team in the nation. Statistics, records and mistakes aside, the 2005 football team played their hearts out and gave fans a reason to keep believing.



Two-and-a-half serves as a magic number for Lakers

GVSU and Northwest Missouri State University combined for only four penalties and 21 penalty yards

> BY JAYSON BUSSA GVL Staff Writer

FLORENCE, Ala. — A single second and 2.5 yards crowned Grand Valley State University football team as Division II National Champions.

In the final quarter of the NCAA Division II National Championship in Florence, Ala., Northwest Missouri State University [11-4] quarterback Josh Lamberson heaved up a pass toward the Bearcat end zone with a single second remaining and his team trailing by four points.

The pass was caught.

Unfortunately for the Bearcats, receiver Rapheal Robinson caught the ball 2.5 yards outside of the end zone and was taken down by a host of Lakers to seal the game, thus furthering the cliché that football is truly a game of inches.

"We had a lot of confidence in the huddle that we could drive down the field and score," Lamberson said. "Unfortunately I threw the ball a little short and he [Robinson] had to come out of the end zone, and we ended up 2.5 yards short."

Despite the many numbers involved with the narrow GVSU [13-0] victory that statisticians are crunching, the only numbers that matter to the Lakers are 21 and 17 – the final score that flashed across the scoreboard.

"We thought it was going to come down to one play," Martin said. "We talked about it all week."

Some of the minor numbers of the game were the ones that broke NCAA Division II records.

Both the Lakers and the Bearcats exercised discipline on both sides of the ball, combining for a total of four penalties throughout the entire game. That number sets the record for fewest penalties and fewest penalty yards in the Division II National Championship.

The four accounted for 21 penalty yards.

When the offenses for both the Lakers and the Bearcats were given the ball, they did not give it up. Both teams set another record for the Division II National Championship by

recording no turnovers throughout the entire game.

A number of the Bearcats personnel set national and personal records.

NWMSU's quarterback Josh Lamberson set a game record for passing attempts and completions. Lamberson heaved up a total of 49 passing attempts, completing 33 of them.

On the receiving end of Lamberson's passes was Bearcat receiver Mike Peterson, who recorded a career high of nine catches and 150 yards.

The Bearcats also did something no previous GVSU opponent had. Lamberson hooked up with tight end Mike Peterson for a 61-yard play, the longest play from scrimmage against the Lakers defense this year.

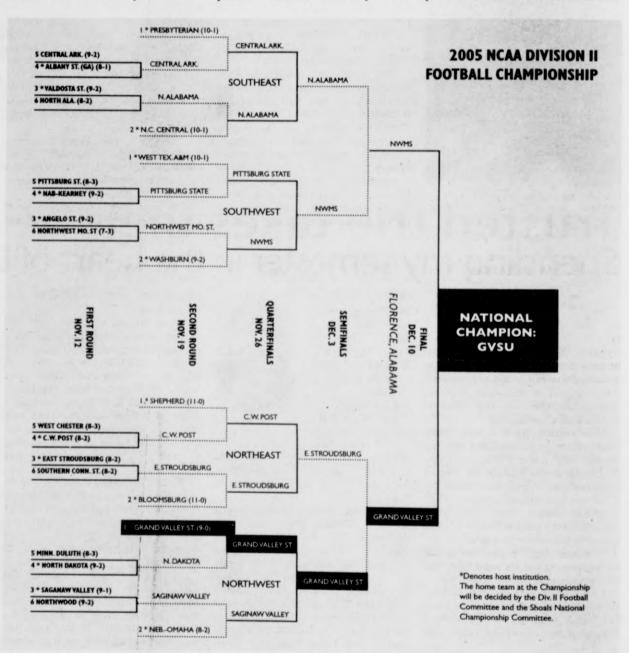
"I didn't know he could run so far after the catch," Martin said. "I did know he was an athlete and physical."

GVSU junior left end Mike McFadden, who had an ailing leg during the duration of the playoffs, posted uncharacteristically low numbers, but, sometimes for Martin, the effort counts more than the output.

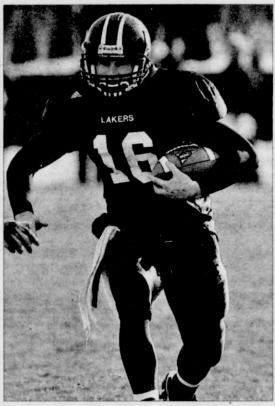
"Statistically, this was the worst game for him [McFadden]," Martin said. "But for courage, it was the best."

McFadden's only tackle was a sack on Lamberson for a loss of 7 yards.

This is the Lakers' fourth trip to the national championship in five years, as they have come away with three national crowns – a number that is a pride of the GVSU football tradition.







GVL Archive / Sara J. Gross



Trusted trio takes their helmets off

BY SARAH HAWLEY **GVL Sports Editor**

Good luck charms - they don't need them. Superstition - not their style. The University of Toledo - not anymore. A red practice jersey is the only thing that separated Cullen Finnerty from his long time buddies - Brandon Langston and Astin Martin - on the football field. He stood on the field just outside Grand Valley State University's Lubbers Stadium watching two freshman squads run plays at the end of practice.

"The guys around here are great," Finnerty said. "Great personalities - somebody's always busting a joke. But when things come down to it, they get their job done.'

Finnerty first suited up into football gear in the third grade. His older brother played for a couple of years and was the star of the team. When Finnerty got on the team, he said he liked watching his big brother play. Now, Finnerty is the star and leading the Lakers on the field. He has started

at quarterback in all 13 games last season and has cumulated 798 total passing yards this year.

"Everybody usually looks to the quarterback as the leader," Finnerty said. "I have to know what everyone's roles are - tell them, answer questions, get things done.

With helmets off, Finnerty and Langston are not teammates, but best friends - "mejor amigos" in Spanish and Toledo transfers.

In 2001, Finnerty and Langston redshirted at the University of

After the season they transferred to GVSU. Here Finnerty sat out the first season, cheering on Langston from the sidelines.

"He's just a silly guy," Finnerty said. "You can always count on Langston for giving a good laugh."

Langston, a senior, began playing football in the third grade as well. He said that in grade school it was just about having fun. But in college, taking the position of wide receiver, is much more than that.

"Before a game I get focused,"

Langston said. "The system is so complicated. I take in a couple of handfuls at a time - [on the field] you have to think quick.'

Junior, running back Martin followed the path of Finnerty and Langston a few seasons later. He transferred from Toledo after the 2003 schedule.

Martin rushed for 1,221 yards and compiled 16 touchdowns in Toledo over the two years he suited up for the Rockets. He has 468 rushing yards this season as a Laker.

Martin said he likes GVSU football because it is family oriented. He said he likes how the sports teams support each other.

As far as football goes, Martin is a competitor.

'You're out there with some of your close friends, and you're going to battle," Martin said. "The first thing, I need to spot out the blitzes, where the safety's are spinning, what the D-line is going do before they do it."

Martin has a mental game plan, an area that he also wants to improve. He said he has appreciated how GVSU

head coach Chuck Martin has helped him to stay grounded and focused.

"I need to work on controlling my emotions," Astin Martin said. "I get so wound up at being the best and making every touchdown and always wanting to win. Coach Martin reminds me that I'm not always going do that.'

These three athletes always have something to say, Chuck Martin said.

"Cullen gives us a lot of energy because he is enthusiastic, high strung," Chuck Martin said. "Langston keeps it light, he always has a joke when we need a joke. Astin - I'm still trying to figure him out. He's always got something good to say."

The trio from Toledo cracks jokes off the field, provides energy during practice and leads the offense in games.

Finnerty, Langston and Astin Martin, whether watching movies at Finnerty's house, cheering on the younger squads in practice or tossing and catching a pitch for the Laker's next touchdown - they just have

VICTORY

continued from page B2

"It kind of wraps up our whole season," Finnerty said. "It's defensively frustrating, but we just kept pushing."

The Bearcats bowed their heads in the end zone as the Laker squad bolted from the sideline to the field. The players were swamped by fans and cameras as they hugged their teammates and hoisted the trophy into the air.

The scoring runs and the Bearcats lead started in the first quarter with a 30-yard touchdown pass from Lamberson to junior tight end Mike Peterson. The extra point was good as well.

Shortly after, the Lakers put numbers on the board when Finnerty scored on a 5-yard scamper. Greene nailed the kick, tying the game at seven points. The ball went back to NWMSU for a short 2-yard touchdown at the 13:43 mark in the second quarter, from sophomore running back Xavier Omon.

The Lakers ended the half behind 7-14.

The game took a different spin in the second half.

GVSU posted its second touchdown with 2:15 remaining in the third quarter. Ten plays for 80 yards brought about a 3-yard run from Finnerty to tie the game at 14.

A 35-yard field goal from NWMSU kicker Tommy Frevert ended the scoring rounds for the Bearcats, just four seconds into the fourth quarter.

"We were just confident in our ability to run the two minute offense, but we came up 2.5 yards short,"



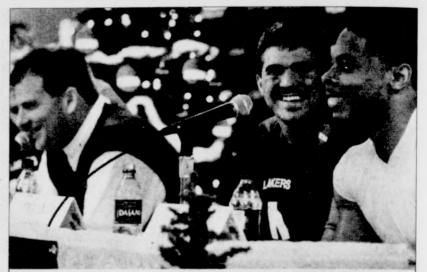
the GVSU fight song during the postgame celebration at Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum Saturday.

Lamberson said. "We got on a high, dropped off our level of intensity a little, and you just can't do that in a championship game."

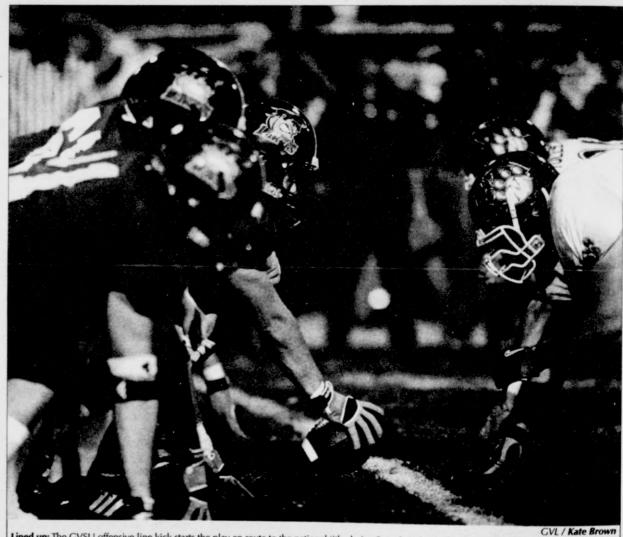
NWMSU ended its season with 96 rushing yards on the game and 326 passing yards. Omon compiled 69 rushing yards alone, while Lamberson connected on 33 of 49 passes. Peterson led with 150 yards on the pass receiving end.

For the Lakers, it was 76 rushing yards from junior running back Astin Martin and 62 receiving yards from Langston that helped to carry GVSU to its third title. Finnerty completed 12 of 19 passes for 172 yards, respectively.

"The way the game flowed, it was just a dog fight out there," said senior left tackle Josh Bourke. "It was nothing that we weren't used to."



Happy to be the victors: At the postgame press conference, (left to right) Chuck Martin, Brandon Langston and Astin Martin are all smiles after winning the National Championship on Saturday in Florence, Ala.



Lined up: The GVSU offensive line kick starts the play en route to the national title during Saturday's football game in Florence, Ala.



On to the playoffs

"All parties involved

are frustrated by

weather-but for the

safety of everybody it

was a good call."

MARK MURRAY

GVSU PRESIDENT

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

Lakers get a first round bye despite Mother Nature's wrath in final regular season game

The metal bleachers were closed off, Louie the Laker wore his green rain pants and about 250 dedicated fans climbed back into the stands at 11:18 p.m. for the start of the second quarter.

The Grand Valley State University football team played Michigan Tech University on Saturday for a little less than a half hour, minus the lightning delays, before the game was declared a no contest.

The initial start time was pushed back several times, eventually putting kickoff at 8:53 p.m. The fans huddled

together after collecting their Curt Aims action figures and cheered for the Laker kick-off. The student section was moved toward the Laker endzone and a few students braved the never-ending raindrops with blue body paint and basketball shorts.

"I was very surprised," said head coach Chuck Martin of the fan support. "At 8:50

when all the students stayed and after the first delay there were still people. We had fans in the second quarter at midnight. It was amazing.'

By 11:58 p.m., after the teams returned to their locker rooms for the third time, the game was called off. MTU could prepare for a long bus ride home to end the season and GVSU would keep its undefeated record at 9-

"I had no idea what to do," Martin said. "Some were watching the Virginia game, some were staying focused, others laughing. We fed them, then they (officials) said we were going to play.'

Both teams' Athletics Directors, head coaches and the officials met throughout the course of the night to decide what was to happen next. By the end of the day, it was determined that the game had just never happened.

'It's considered a no contest by GLIAC rules," GVSU Athletic Director Tim Selgo said. "We made every effort to get the game in.'

According to NCAA rules every time the lightning strikes, the game can not begin for another half hour, which is what caused the start time to be about two hours behind and delays to run throughout the game.

The first quarter was played out before a delay came at 9:25 p.m. Then the teams went back to the locker rooms to wait some more. At 5:49 to go in the second quarter, lightning flashed and the game was called.

"All parties involved are frustrated by weather - but for the safety of everybody it was a good call," Selgo said. "We did our best."

The Lakers had the lead, 7-3, for the short time they were on the field.

Quarterback Cullen Finnerty ran eight yards with 5:04 to go in the first quarter for a touchdown. This 80yard drive then ended with a Scott Green field goal.

One lightning delay later, in the second quarter, Husky kicker Grant Botz nailed a 22yard field goal putting MTU on the board.

A rematch was out of the question, due to the 1 p.m. Sunday postings of the regional brackets on ESPN News.

It's an extended season for the Lakers - playoff time - as they claimed the top seed in the Northwest Region. On Sunday, the official standings were announced on ESPN News. This seed gives them a bye in the first round of regional play and a home field advantage for round two.

The Lakers are set to face the winner of the Nov. 12 game between the University of Minnesota-Duluth and North Dakota University.

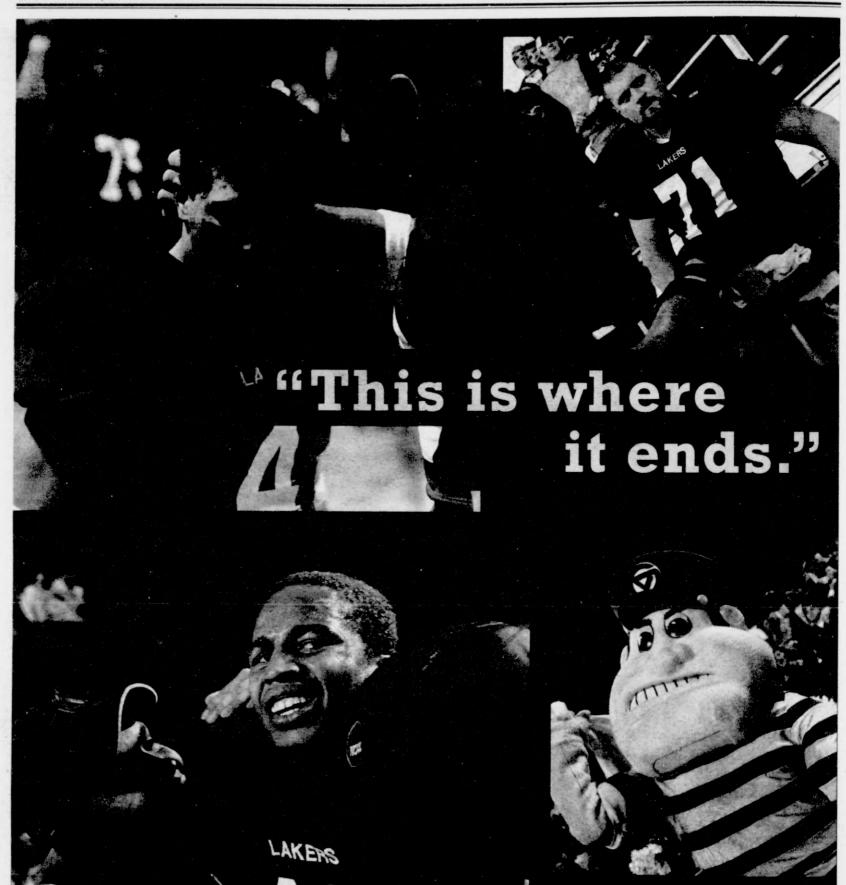
"We need time to rest," linebacker Matt Beaty said. "We look at it more as a blessing. We're just going to focus on whoever comes our way."

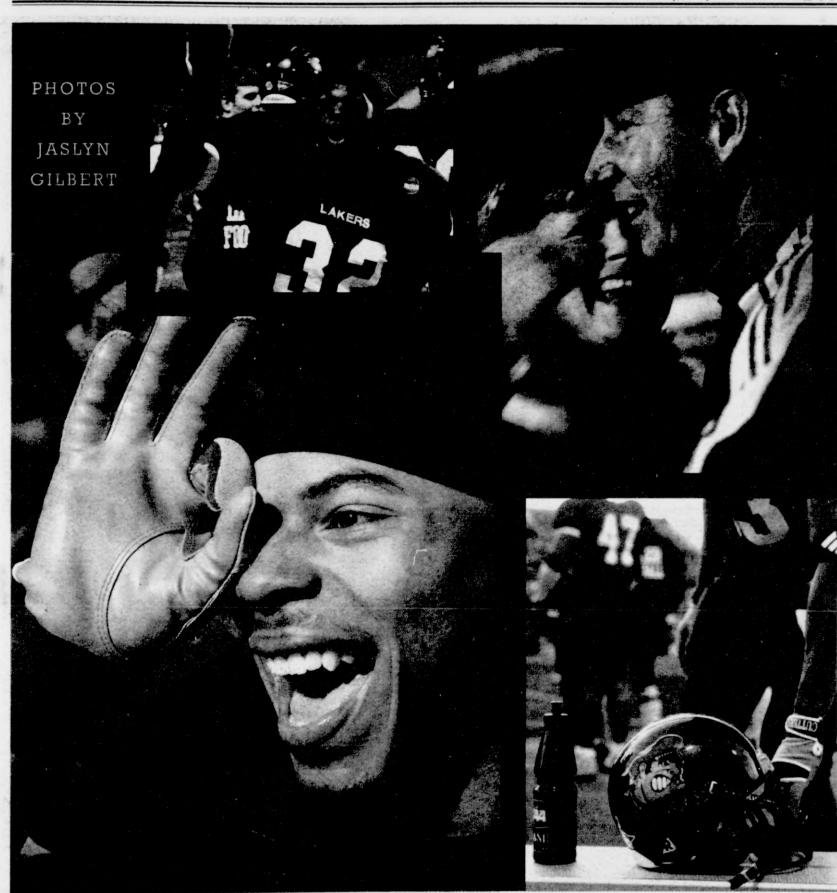
GLIAC teams Saginaw State University and Northwood University also made the tournament.

The Lakers will play again at Lubber's Stadium on Saturday, Nov. B10 Monday, December 12, 2005

SPECIAL SECTION

GRAND VALLEY LANTHORN





Lakers battle, bash Bulldogs

GVSU begins the 2005 season with a win with help from University of Toledo transfer Astin Martin

> BY SARAH HAWLEY GVL Sports Editor

Any rust that was laced into junior Astin Martin's cleats was wiped clean at the end of Saturday's football game.

Martin, a University of Toledo transfer that sat out all last season, rushed 116 yards in the season opener against Ferris State University. Not to mention 19 carries that helped build a 30-10 win for Grand Valley State University.

"I haven't played in a game here, most of the receivers haven't played a game, so the first game is good to get the jitters out of the way," Martin said. "It's great to be back at home, family, friends, against one of my best friends [Carlton Brewster], Grand Valley and Ferris. I couldn't ask for anything better."

In Toledo, Martin spent two years with the Rockets and rushed for a total of 1,221- yards, plus compiled 16 touchdowns before transferring to GVSU.

Cullen Finnerty opened up the airways with much success in connecting with seven receivers. First, he found junior Eric Fowler at the 12:09 mark in the second quarter for a 33-yard GVSU touchdown, which gave them a 10-7 lead. Later on he sent a pass to Brandon Langston for another touchdown at the opening of the third quarter. The Finnerty and

Langston combo linked on four passes for 75 yards. Finnerty tallied 203 yards in the air and two touchdowns.

The air was not his only home. Finnerty ran two yards for a quick touchdown with 19 seconds left in the second quarter as well. This sent the record

number of 14,557 fans, including 6,900 students, to their feet.



GVL Archive / Misty Minna

On the go: Cullen Finnerty makes a break away run while Ferris State University players try to catch up during a game earlier in the 2005 season.

"In the first couple of series we sliced them up with the running

"Grand Valley and

Ferris. I couldn't ask for

anything better."

ASTIN MARTIN

RUNNING BACK

game," Finnerty said, "That left the receivers wide open."

Strong toes came in to seal the deal with three field goals from senior Scott Greene. The first was a 37-yard kick that started off the scoring for GVSU. Then he nailed one from 28-

yards in the second quarter, and a 34yard completion in the third quarter closed out the victory.

"We did a nice job," GVSU head coach Chuck Martin said. "Eric made a nice catch for a touchdown, Langston made some catches. It was a good start."

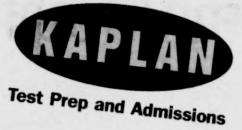
This was the 34th meeting between the two rivals, and GVSU landed on top for the fifth straight time.

Ferris State University's All-American candidate Carl Brewster stood silent because the whole defense was on him.

"We knew we had to keep Brewster off the board," GVSU defensive end Michael McFadden said. The Bulldogs landed their only touchdown of the night off a bad GVSU snap. Toward the end of the first quarter, the snap went over Greene's head and Lenald Monbo of Ferris grabbed it for a touchdown.

This also gave Ferris their only lead of the night 7-3. The other three points came from a 23-yard field goal by Josh Eichler.

"Ferris drove it down and got three points at the start of the second half," Martin said. "Other than that, our defense played tremendous." **GRAND VALLEY LANTHORN**



Campus View APARTMENTS & TOWNHOMES













he Lanthorn and its supporters would like to Congratulate the GVSU football team!

Football beats up on Gannon Knights

"I don't know if I thought

it'd be this lopsided. ... I have

a lot of confidence in our

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CHUCK MARTIN

HEAD COACH

By JAYSON BUSSA GVL Staff Writer

The offensive side of the ball for the Grand Valley State University football team gave GVSU's football program a very sizable anniversary gift: 680 totals yards and 61 points.

Happy anniversary.

Last week Friday marked the 35th anniversary for GVSU football. On a night that celebrated the growing success of the football program, the Lakers (2-0) mounted an unprecedented offensive campaign that nearly made history by reaching the record for most yards in a game (731 yards set in 1989). The offensive surge powered the Lakers over Gannon University (1-1) by a score

"I don't know if I thought it'd be this lopsided," head coach Chuck Martin said. "I have a lot of confidence in our defense, but I know they have a lot of skilled guys on offense so they could be a threat on any one play.'

Even though the offense was the story of the game for putting points on the board, they also let up the first touchdown of the game. With 12:23 left in the first quarter, Astin Martin fumbled the ball on the Gannon two yard line as Golden Knights'

named Great Lakes Conference Defensive Player of the Week last week, returned the ball for a 98-yard touchdown.

"I try not to let stuff like that get to me," Astin Martin said. "I know everybody makes mistakes but the offensive line did an

excellent job picking me up after."

With the exception of a 25-yard field goal by Gannon's Brendan McNicholas, the Lakers' defense would hold the Golden Knights at bay for the rest of the game.

The Lakers knotted the game up 7-7 with 9:55 left in the first quarter with a yard toss from Cullen

Finnerty to senior tailback Brandon Langston, and took the lead five minutes later with a 20-yard run by Astin Martin, his first touchdown in a Grand Valley uniform.

"I feel great," Astin Martin said. "Just to see the fireworks and the crowd getting crazy, it's a good

An unrelenting air attack and a late ground attack by sophomore

cornerback Kevin Scott, who was Preston Garris widened the gap in the proceeding quarters. At halftime, the Lakers already had a comfortable 37-10 lead while mustering up 375 total

Finnerty finished the game completing 15 of his 26 attempts for 247 yards along with a pair of

> touchdowns and one interception. Finnerty also ran for a two-yard touchdown early in the second quarter. Senior back-up quarterback Jeff Dock also flung the ball completing six of his 12 attempts for 145 yards and two touchdowns.

"A lot of our guys stepped up," Finnerty said. "And our offensive line did a great job picking up

their blitz packages.'

receiver Terry Junior wide Mitchell had a breakout game catching six passes for 122 yards and three touchdowns. Mitchell ripped two of his passes out of the air for touchdowns in the second quarter while his third and final grab came with 1:50 left to go in the game.

"They were making us throw the ball down the field," Chuck Martin said. "That's the type of thing that is fun for the quarterbacks and wide receivers. We hit a little bit of a lull in the third quarter, but we bounced back.

Another heavy contributor to the passing game was junior wide receiver Eric Fowler who grabbed seven passes for 152 yards. The combination for Fowler and Mitchell marks the first time two GVSU receivers have netted more than 100 yards since last year when Langston and former Laker Demonte Collins did so.

Garris had scampers of six and seven yards both in the fourth quarters for touchdowns.

The highly offensive air strike was viewed by many noteworthy alumni tied to the football program. At halftime, the GVSU athletics department presented former players and coaches from all three decades of Laker football including the likes of former Laker coach and national championship coach Brian Kelly.

Alumni and fans reflected on the accomplishments of the GVSU football program which has bred 170 All-Americans and currently leads the Great Lakes Conference in wins. GVSU is also the second most winning football program in the state of Michigan behind only the University of Michigan.

Lakers improve to 3-0 with win at Indianapolis

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

A tough start, an inconsistent passing game and a one hour time difference did not stop the Laker football squad as they flattened the University of Indianapolis 29-13.

Grand Valley State University's defense held up their end of the line in Saturday night's away game. Steady play and consistent stops kept GVSU flowing in the first half.

"The defense carried us for 30 minutes in the first half," said head coach Chuck Martin. "We didn't execute on offense very well."

The offense may have lacked cohesiveness the first part of the night, but senior Scott Greene nailed three field goals and fellow senior Joe Ballard grabbed an interception.

Greene capitalized on one from 35 yards, one from 38 yards and another from 22 yards.

With 43 seconds left to play in the second quarter, Ballard found a pass that was just for the Indy offense, but ended up nowhere near. He converted the pass into a 50-yard run ending in the first touchdown of the night. Greene did not connect on the extra point.

The Lakers ended the first half on a positive note, but not as high has they

"When we watch tape, Indianapolis played well," Martin said. "But we didn't execute well in the first half."

The second half heated up as a new Laker squad came out of the locker room. Junior Astin Martin tipped off the Laker scoring game with a 20-yard run for a touchdown, with just under two minutes into the half. While he found pay dirt just once Saturday night, Greene followed with an on-target extra point.

GVSU moved to a 16 point lead.

Off to a quick start in the fourth, senior Jeff Dock hit junior Eric Fowler with a line-drive seven-yard pass for another Laker touchdown. The extra point by Greene was good, putting the Lakers at a final mark of 29 points.

Junior quarterback, Cullen Finnerty, had a rough night, only completing nine of 18 passes. He did, however, compile 140 yards total. QB Dock found receivers four out of five times successfully for a total of 51 yards in the air.

"Our goal is to play Dock every night," Chuck Martin said. "He's a very solid player. Tonight it was the timing. Finnerty was struggling, so we needed a

Sophomore defensive-back Bill Brechin intercepted a Indy pass with less than a minute to go in the game for 18 more yards. GVSU tallied 176 rushing yards and 191 yards on the passing end.

Indianapolis had a tough time running against GVSU, but found the end zone with 5:09 remaining in the fourth quarter. David Link ran nine yards putting the Greyhounds on the board for the first time in the second half.

Indy's Nick Parker put the ball between the pipes three times. He connected on one extra point in the second half and two field goals in the

GVSU holds a perfect 3-0 record and will face Ashland University away on

Grand Valley beats Wayne State

By SARAH HAWLEY **GVL Sports Editor**

Finnerty to Langston. Finnerty to Fowler. Finnerty to Astin Martin. Finnerty to Trent. Touchdown Grand Valley State University.

The passing game was on in full force Saturday with quarterback Cullen Finnerty connecting on 14 passes for 175 yards in the GVSU 36-22 win over Wayne State University. GVSU landed a few touchdowns this match, but proved to be shocked with the intensity from Wayne State. GVSU remains on top of their conference with a 5-0 record.

The longest touchdown pass of the season came when Finnerty spotted wide receiver Brandon Langston fleeing from a pack of Warriors down the left edge of the field. The 47-yard-long bomb hit target as Langston crossed the line for the third touchdown on the night.

"Obviously Brandon stepped up big," GVSU head coach Chuck Martin said. "But Cullen made the pass. Cullen read the defense and saw him. He put us where we needed to be.'

On the receiving end, Langston also said he felt the pass connection was a reflection of Finnerty's hard work.

"Cullen made a great check,"

Langston said. "He watches a lot of film. He knew the defense well. He made a great pass. I had the easy part."

This touchdown put the Lakers up 21-16 after being down 14-16. WSU's first lead came just 90 seconds prior, when running back Chris Middlebrooks ran four yards for a touchdown.

Middlebrooks set the pace for the Warriors connecting on two of their three touchdowns. His first came in the second quarter with a 30-yard run for pay dirt. He also compiled a single 35yard run, which is Wayne's longest this

"Middlebrooks - they [the GVSU coaches] were telling us all week that he was a good athlete," said sophomore Bill Brechin. "I don't think we expected him to be this good."

Only allowing one touchdown coming into this game, the GVSU defense struggled to hold that line against Middlebrooks. Wayne jolted through the defense for 22 successful points.

Wayne posted a 30-yard field goal and a 9-yard pass for a touchdown as

"I think we played a good game," Chuck Martin said. "The game went kind of how I expected it to go."

It was not until late in the first quarter with less than three minutes to go that Finnerty squeezed past the pack for a 40-yard touchdown run to open the scoring rounds. Kicker Scott Greene nailed this first extra point and the three that followed.

Wide receiver duo, junior Eric Fowler and sophomore Antoine Trent both hit the end zone off of Finnerty passes for Laker touch downs. Fowler grabbed a quick 6-yard pass in the second quarter and Trent picked up a 6-yard dish in the fourth.

"All 11 people," Langston said. "Every single person comes together to do their job. And we get a touchdown."

Langston had his second touchdown from a kick-off in the third quarter. He returned the ball 91-yards, sprinting along the left side of the field, slipping past three defenders with solid blocks from his teammates, for a touchdown. Finnerty followed, connecting on the two-point conversion.

"There is no question about it," Finnerty said. "We've been working hard. Throw it up, and Eric [Fowler] grabs it out of the air. Langston chases it down."

Lakers dish Ashland first loss

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

Two undefeated football teams battled in Ohio on Saturday - Grand Valley State University came out on top 14-10.

Laker, junior Eric Fowler nailed a career-high of nine receptions for 104 yards of hard work against Ashland University. He also grabbed the football out of the air for the first Laker touchdown.

Right wing Fowler met the ball in the end zone at the opening of the second quarter. Quarterback Cullen Finnerty sent a pass over Ashland defenders to land in Fowler's hands. The 12-yard pass laid claim to the first successful scoring round of the night. Punt kicker Scott Greene swept away the extra point, putting the Lakers at a 7-0 lead.

GVSU ran the ball with ease in the first half piling up yards, but managed just one touchdown.

"The offense came out smoking in the first half," said head coach Chuck Martin. "We ran the ball up and down on Ashland."

The game looked like it should have been a blowout for the Lakers, Martin said, but some things just did not go their

"They [Ashland] have an absolutely tremendous defense," Martin said. "I'm surprised how well we ran the ball in the

Ashland found a hole in the Laker lineup for just one touchdown. It came off a deflected GVSU punt in the second quarter. AU's Devon Cornwell blocked the punt and Rock Lewis took it the six yards for the Eagle touchdown. The extra point fit between the posts as well.

Late in the second, Finnerty, who connected on 14-of-28 passes, ran for pay dirt and fumbled on the way. He lost the ball in the end zone, which was picked up by the Eagles for a touchback.

Relentlessly, the defensive squads battled out the rest of the half, holding the score at 7-7 for the break

At the 10:22 mark in the fourth quarter, Ashland took advantage of its chance at the lead for the night, a 22-yard field goal by Heath Studer.

We had 60 minutes of outstanding defense," Martin said. "They only gave up one field goal."

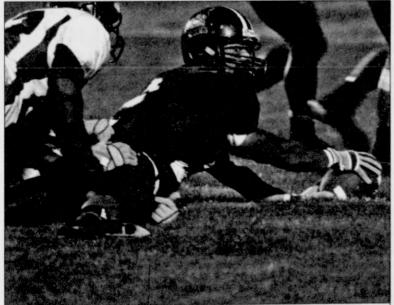
GVSU defense has been consistent this season. The Lakers compiled five pass deflections and held Ashland scoreless. Of the three out of four teams GVSU has defeated, only Indiana University has crossed the goal lines against a strong Laker defensive line.

Three players on the GVSU defensive team had big plays in the fourth quarter, Martin said - Matt Beaty, Brandon Carr and Bill Eisenhardt.

Sophomore Anthony Adams knocked down eight tackles and Senior Joe Ballard brought in seven for the Lakers, respectively.

The offensive line saved the day for the Lakers when a junior-senior combo landed the last touchdown. The fourth quarter drive kicked in gear when Finnerty connected with tight-end Jeremy Cochrane on the five yard-line. The 15yard touchdown pass came with 8:06 left to play. Greene, again, was good for the extra point.

"Our whole team never gave in," Martin said. "We got a lot of great efforts tonight."



GVL Archive / Lisa Marie Zavesky

Every inch counts: Junior Astin Martin tumbles to the ground in attempt to recover the ball from Wayne State University. The Lakers won the game 36-22.

Lakers travel to Hillsdale, defeat Chargers

GVSU remains undefeated as it gets many early first downs en route to its 38-10 victory on Saturday

By Sarah Hawley

GVL Sports Editor

Grand Valley State University football offensive lines ran well between tackles and created lots of space on Saturday. They built up three touchdowns and a field goal in the first half alone en route to defeating Hillsdale College 38-10.

The Lakers traveled to Frank "Muddy" Water Stadium and returned home with yet another win and remain undefeated. Many of the younger players and ones who do not see the field much found time to play.

GVSU coach Chuck Martin said the reserve players played big.

"The offensive line absolutely dominated," said GVSU coach Chuck Martin. "The tight ends played really well."

Prone to slow offensive starts in the past, GVSU picked up the pace as it scored on the first four drives of the night.

The kicking was once again a strong point in the GVSU offense and put the Lakers on the scoreboard first. All-American kicker Scott Greene nailed a 19-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead with 9:03 to go in the first quarter. To follow, he connected on five extra points.

Wide receiver Brandon Langston grabbed a four-yard pass from quarterback Cullen Finnerty for the first touchdown. The lead was 10-0 by the end of the first quarter.

Running back Astin Martin jolted across 54-yards of white lines and green grass to the endzone. He accumulated 169 yards in just 17 carries.

Next, running back Ryan Hukill blocked for Finnerty as he ran along the sidelines for a 30-yard touchdown. Finnerty started this play fast, leaving Hillsdale little time to set up the defense, as was how it went the entire game.

"We had lots of first downs early," Chuck Martin said. "So we got Hukill the ball more."

The only interception of the night came off a pass from Finnerty with just 90 seconds to go in the half. The pass was a little too late, giving Hillsdale a chance to recover it in the corner of the endzone for a touchback.

In the third quarter, quarterback Jeff Dock came off the bench and threw one 57-yard pass to wide receiver Terry Mitchell for a touchdown. He did not have time to celebrate with the team after the score because he was back in the line to hand off the football for the extra point, which was good.

Hukill was found a second time to run for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. He ran three-yards to pay dirt. This added to a game total of 81 rushing yards.

Defensive lineman Quartez Vickerson was everywhere. In one case, he had two back-to-back tackles. He built seven total tackles, only one of which was assisted.

"He was the lone defending guy that played tremendous," Chuck Martin said. "He's distributing and making sacks."

Hillsdale found the endzone just once with 5:05 left to go in the game. Brett Neller ran four-yards for a touchdown and Matt Menchginger finished with the extra point. Late in the third quarter, Menchginger notched a 21-yard field goal.

The Lakers will bring football back to Lubber's Stadium this Saturday to take on Saginaw Valley State University in the Battle of the Valleys.

GVSU keeps the Cardinals caged

"It's like an absolute circus.

... Our kids have a tough

time. [But] it's family at

Grand Valley. Show me this

atmosphere on the map."

CHUCK MARTIN

HEAD COACH

Lakers win gridiron Battle of the Valleys with a 31-10 victory at Lubbers Stadium on Saturday

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

Students arrived two and a half hours early to get seats Saturday night, some with painted upper torsos and blue hair. Hours later and ten degrees cooler, those same students rowed back and forth 31 times and chanted "Hey, hey, hey, goodbye."

The Red Zone loaded up the bus and added themselves to Grand Valley State University football's list of defeated teams as the No. 1 Lakers ran over No. 4 Saginaw Valley State University 31-10 at home.

It was not just tough defense or a soaring offense that put GVSU over the top, but the peer motivation of all the blue gear.

"It's amazing. It's like an absolute circus," said GVSU head coach Chuck Martin. "Our kids have a tough time. [But] it's family at Grand Valley. Show me this atmosphere on the map."

Out of 50 finishing yards for four touchdowns and one safety — Laker

running back Ryan Hukill had three of those touchdowns for a career high.

After being behind for most of the first half due to a SVSU 43-yard field goal, the Lakers went on a scoring run, beginning with Hukill. His first end zone sprint came with less than

ten minutes to go in the second quarter. Hukill ran 5 yards to the end zone, to finish off a 44yard drive.

Before Hukill hit pay dirt again, quarterback Cullen Finnerty took his turn at a 5-yard six point run. The Lakers were up 14-7, and kicker Scott Greene nailed the first

two of his three completed field goals.

Hukill was back for another touchdown late in the third. A 29-yard

run to the end zone and a cleared path provided another advantage on the Laker end.

Now with a 17 point lead, the Laker half of the crowd was stomping, screaming, frozen and hungry for more.

"They [GVSU students] did a heck of a job up there," Finnerty said. "It helped us out a lot. Eventually we got things going in the second half." Finnerty left little room for error, connecting on 11 of 19 passes for 162 yards compared to Cardinal quarterback Chris Daugherty, who landed just 19 of 29 passes for 155 yards.

With 7:20 left in the game, GVSU punted the ball and put Saginaw on

their own 5-yard line. The Cardinals started the play, but hesitated just a split second too long — defensive-end Mike McFadden sacked the QB for a safety. Two more points for the home team.

Then came Hukill's third touchdown, an 11-yard run, followed by a

two-point conversion from quarterback Jeff Dock.

Power shortages were nonexistent for the Lakers, whether it was the fans, teammates, coaches or bitter rivals fusing the energy.

"The hardest part was to stay focused," McFadden said. "We knew there was going to be a large crowd. They [SVSU] have a good quarterback. We played hard and read them well."

SVSU only hit the end zone one time off a 19-play drive when running back Logan Barnhart ran 1 yard for a touchdown. The strong Laker defensive-line caused for two fumbles and intercepted two passes as well.

"We didn't bring our A-game today," said SVSU right end Dan Fodrocy. "They [GVSU] made the plays. We have to regroup ourselves and hopefully we'll see them again."

GVSU broke the Cardinals down on all levels.

On defense, SVSU gave up 37 points in the last six games — almost the amount of the Lakers' total score Saturday night.

On offense, GVSU posted 350 yards on the offensive end, while SVSU had just 241 yards.

In terms of records, GVSU sits at a 7-0 overall record and SVSU dropped to 6-1 on the season.

In terms of fans, 14, 472 of them packed Lubber's stadium for this game. It was the second largest crowd in history, next to the game against Ferris State University. Last year, only 6,325 fans showed up to HRW Memorial Stadium at the University Center for the GVSU and SVSU match-up.

Martin said the best part was "running the ball and playing defense." He added they played great defense and "these boys got a chance to win."

GVSU beats Northwood, faces SVSU next

By SARAH HAWLEY **GVL Sports Editor**

Quarterback Cullen Finnerty had an on-afternoon Saturday. His 252 passing yardage in the first half alone built for a Grand Valley State University 30-14 victory over Northwood University.

GVSU is the only undefeated team left. The Lakers ran away with the eighth win of the season and head coach Chuck Martin broke the record for the most wins in two seasons at 18. The previous record was set at 17 wins by former coach Brian Kelly.

"We definitely ran him [Finnerty] more than usual," Martin said. "We try to keep our quarterback out of harm's way. But we had the opportunity to run the football in the third downs."

At the start of the third quarter the Lakers pulled away with two touchdowns in just two possessions. It was a Brandon Langston touchdown with 8:41 to go.

Langston sprinted seven yards to pay dirt. The second touchdown came about five minutes later when Finnerty ran six yards for the corner of the end zone. Kicker Scott Greene connected on the first PAT, but the second one was blocked. Langston and Finnerty each posted two touchdowns for the Lakers.

With 13:34 to go in the first half, Langston grabbed a 60-yard spiral from Finnerty for a touchdown. Finnerty picked up his second touchdown off a 4-yard run a little under half way through the fourth

"They [Northwood] played very aggressive," Martin said. "We threw over their heads to Langston and [Eric] Fowler for the big plays."

It was a rough day of kicking for GVSU, with two missed field goals and a blocked extra point, but the offense put up 298 yards of rushing and 263 yards of passing. The Timberwolves were held to just 216 yards on the game.

"We had two critical turnovers on two fumbles that gave them scoring opportunities and lost some for us,' Martin said.

He added that the Lakers gave Northwood their first touchdown, which was from a fumble on the 14-yard line. Then the other was on the Laker 3-yard line, which lost a big scoring opportunity for GVSU.

Scoring started with a Laker 26yard field goal in the first quarter. Then it was followed by Northwood's first of two touchdowns. The first was in the second quarter when Yared Yearby hit the end zone off a 7-yard

After a GVSU touchdown moved the lead to 10-7 and a half-time break, Northwood came out for a 14-10 lead with their last scoring opportunity of the game. NWU's Kyle Kolbe ran 18 yards to the end zone for six points. This was the last chance Northwood would see at maintaining an undefeated record. Running back Astin Martin put up 133 rushing yards and wide-receiver Eric Fowler added 89 yards on the receiving end. Langston posted 126 yards while Finnerty connected on 15-of-26 passes for 263 offensive yards.

'It was a good win and we're proud of how they played back to back tough games," Chuck Martin said.

GVSU will face Northern Michigan University in the Homecoming matchup Oct. 29 at Lubber's Stadium.

Laker football runs away with the wins

GVSU beats Northern Michigan University 48-3 at the Homecoming game on Saturday

BY SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

An ordinary Saturday at Grand Valley State University has been nonexistent for the past two months. It could be the piles of homework in the corner, the unusual weather or the simple domination of Laker football.

With back-to-back big wins on top of an undefeated season, walking on the edge of fatigue, the Lakers brought an A-game to Lubber's Stadium this Saturday. They crushed Northern Michigan University [2-7] 48-3 in front of more than 10,000 fans and alumni for Homecoming.

"I know we're physically struck - mentally I felt we were good all along," said GVSU head coach Chuck Martin. "We had a good week of preparation and knew what Northern was going to do.

Junior quarterback Cullen Finnerty played just more than 10 minutes, connected on 11-of-16 passes, three touchdowns and 189 yards. He put up remarkable numbers for a short time

span on the field, but he was not the only Laker to push the shock factor.

"He's definitely coming into his own as far as staying within the offense," Martin said of Finnerty.

Nine Lakers alone had direct scoring contributions from combinations all across the board. It was Finnerty and wide receiver Eric Fowler for the first six points at the 9:41 mark in the first

Next, out of nowhere, came linebacker Matt Beaty with an interception less than 10 seconds later. He took the interception one step further by returning it 31 yards for touchdown No. 2.

"Beaty is as good as anyone," Martin said. "I wouldn't trade him for anything. He's known as a rundefender. Now he's picking off balls and I don't know where that came from.

Martin was surprised and pleased that Beaty actually listened to what his coach was telling him, Martin added with a laugh.

"I read the quarterback really well," said Beaty. "I have the tendency to come up, and I tried to stay back [this

Running back Astin Martin was making strides of his own - he's tailed more than 1,000 yards in his

career at GVSU, with the help of a 35yard touchdown run. He hit the end zone at the 5:10 mark in the first and hit the 1,000-yard mark in the second. Astin Martin compiled 66 yards in a small time span.

"I feel it's what is expected to do," Astin Martin said. "I wasn't here when they [GVSU] had all the glory days and it feels good [to win].

The Lakers posted 169 rushing yards to the 59 from NMU. GVSU landed 4-of-4 fourth down conversions, while the Laker defense stopped NMU on all of their fourthdown conversions.

Grand Rapids local and NMU quarterback Buddy Rivera completed just 31 passing yards before he ended the game's performance with a leg injury. Beaty said he found this disappointing because they were looking forward to playing against

At the start of the third quarter, scoring did not slow down for the Lakers. Finnerty threw a 13-yard pass to wide receiver Terry Mitchell in the left corner of the end zone.

Kicker Scott Greene nailed all six of his extra points.

It was not until there was about two minutes left in the half that NMU got on the scoreboard. Senior Kyle

Marote snuck a 33-yard field goal over the posts.

Fowler again received a spiral in the end zone, but this time it was from senior OB Jeff Dock with 11 seconds to go in the first half. Fowler brought down seven passes and Dock had 59 passing vards.

Wide receiver Brandon Langston and running back Ryan Hukill put up the only Laker points in the second half. Langston grabbed a 17-yard pass from Finnerty in the third. Hukill added a 1-yard touchdown run, but posted 59 total rushing yards.

Linebackers Rory Steinbach and Kirk Carruth contributed six and four tackles on the defensive end, respectively. Defensive line Michael McFadden added a QB sack for his ninth straight game. These three add to 23 of GVSU's last 37 opponents sitting with less than 100 rushing yards in their respective games.

"It's not just on Saturday nights we work all the time," Fowler said.

The Lakers take on Michigan Technological University in the last regular season home game on Saturday. If the Lakers win, they will have official bragging rights as GLIAC 2005 Champions and will post a perfect 10 record.

GVSU beats North Dakota at home

By SARAH HAWLEY

GVL Sports Editor

There was a familiar aroma brewing in Lubbers Stadium on Saturday. It was that of two playoff rivals with the same agenda — to win.

Grand Valley State University football, in a career-high scoring mark against the University of North Dakota, ended on top 17-3 for round two of the NCAA Division II Northwest region.

"It's no fun playing them," GVSU coach Chuck Martin said. "They're awfully physical, they never give up— it's just 60 minutes of anxiety as a coach."

Defensive battle — typical UND and GVSU game

The whole game was nothing but a defensive battle, aside from a few spurts to the endzone for GVSU. The Lakers posted 10:52 minutes of ball possession in the first quarter, which is more than half of UND's.

In the last few games, the fighting Sioux have not been able to hold onto the ball, and this problem returned again in Laker territory. They fumbled three times, one being their first possession of the game.

"We came out and didn't have a great start," said UND coach Dale Lennon. "We looked like a team that had a few weeks off. We committed lots of turnovers. Grand Valley didn't let us get our game on."

Lakers defensive lineman Mike McFadden and linebacker Dan Skuta led with 10 tackles each, five and six of which were assisted. Defensive back Samad Cain and free safety Joe Ballard both had nine tackles with two that were unassisted.

Sioux linebacker Digger Anderson, national finalist for the Harlon Hill Award as nation's top Division II football player, posted the game high of 14 tackles, four of which were unassisted.

"We had two chances to get turnovers and didn't come up with them," Anderson said. "They [GVSU] made a few big pass plays to set up all the big scoring drives."

One more touchdown

GVSU quarterback Cullen Finnerty completed 14-of-26 passes for 245 yards with five receivers.

Finnerty stared out the second quarter, just into the first few minutes of play with a 26-yard pass to senior tight end Jeremy Cochrane. The 12-play drive ending with a Scott Greene field goal put the Lakers at a 7-0 lead.

Less than five minutes later, it was another 26-yard Finnerty pass to sophomore wide receiver Antione Trent. This marked a 14-0 scoring run and doubled the amount of points the Lakers had in the first half of their last UND match-up.

Greene came out with 5:01 to go in the third quarter to set a career record of his longest field goal yet. He nailed the 50-yard kick after just six offensive plays.

"He [Finnerty] throws more touchdown passes when he's waxed and guys are all over," Martin said. "When somebody's wide open he throws it way overhead."

Finnerty threw a pass over wide receiver Brandon Langston's head, which may have resulted in GVSU posting more than 20 points on the Sioux and touchdown No. 3.

"It should've been three touchdowns — but I choked on that one," Finnerty said.

UND junior QB Reed Manke completed 26-of-41 passes and got beat up along the way. He was put on the ground many times, but never stayed down.

Early in the fourth quarter, Sioux kicker Jeff Glas put up a successful 27-yard field goal, giving UND its first and only number on the scoreboard.

"To beat a good football team at their place, you need to play a good game, and that's why we didn't win," Lennon said. The hits get harder

The Elite Eight begins Saturday and will bring the Battle of the Valleys back to GVSU a second time this season, but the stakes are higher. The Lakers host Saginaw Valley State University to determine the Northwest Region Champion.

"You want to feel good about your victory and celebrate," Martin said. "But you've got another game."

Saginaw beat Northwood University in round one 31-16, then blew past the University of Nebraska-Omaha 24-21 in round two.

The Lakers beat SVSU 31-10 in front of more than 14, 000 fans on Oct. 15. Finnerty was 11-of-19 passing and running back Astin Martin rushed for 101 yards. The Cardinals only completed 19-of-39 passes and had just 86 rushing yards.



Upside down: Junior wide receiver Eric Fowler watches No. 16 North Dakota Souix reach for the ball during the NCAA Division II Quarterfinal playoff game. The Lakers won 17-3.

GVSU stomps on East Stroudsburg

BY ANDY HAMILTON GVL Staff Writer

It was one touchdown after another for Laker football at Lubbers Stadium on Saturday.

By the time the final seconds ran down in the NCAA semi-final game, Grand Valley State University had nailed 55 points and shutdown East Stroudsburg University's dangerous record-breaking offense.

GVSU advances to the National Finals against North West Missouri State University in Alabama on Dec. 10.

The game was played without flurries or brisk Lake Michigan wind, but there was no escaping the bitter temperatures present on the field.

Snow lined the end zone in front of the student section. On each play the teams appeared to be blowing smoke across the line of scrimmage at each other and fans were dressed in almost as much hunter orange as they were Lakers blue and white.

Once again, Grand Valley called on their thunderous student section for help throughout the game. The south end zone was alive with flags, chants and cheers, and there was even a banana and a monkey in attendance.

GVSU wasted little time in scoring their first of six opening half touchdowns. On their first possession, the Lakers stormed down field on a drive of seven plays for 87 yards, over a period lasting barely three minutes. The end result was an 18-yard touchdown run by senior wide receiver Brandon Langston.

Laker offense sputtered momentarily on their second drive and they were whistled for a false start, and later lost a fumble to the Warriors. The Lakers' defense responded by forcing ESU to punt after sophomore center back Brandon Carr broke up a pass for the Lakers on the third down.

The special teams were next to step up for GVSU as they blocked the ensuing kick by ESU to set up Langston and the offense on the Warriors' 21 yard line. Laker offense worked quickly to find the end zone and on the second play of the drive junior quarterback Cullen Finnerty tossed a 22-yard touchdown pass to Langston.

The GVSU defense was consistent all day in shutting down the Warriors' offensive weapons of QB Jimmy



Breaking the gap: Junior Astin Martin bursts past East Stroudsburg's defensive line to score. GVSU defeated ESU 50-22. The Lakers advanced to the finals in Florence, Ala. with the win.

Terwilliger and receiver Evan Prall.

The ESU juniors entered the contest as holders of a couple NCAA records. Prall's 128 yards per game was a 2005 best in DII and Terwilliger's streak of 36 consecutive games with a touchdown pass, along with the 22 games he's thrown for more than 300 yards, was enough to make him a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy as Player of the Year in DII.

Records or not, the duo fell short of a solid performance thanks to a Lakers defense that seemed to control every inch of the frozen turf. Leading the way for GVSU was Anthony Adams with 10 tackles, three of them for negative

The Lakers' defense as a whole was responsible for 12 sacks and two forced fumbles. One of the loose balls was

recovered by Carr, who snatched the ball off a bounce and bolted 40 yards for a first quarter score.

Langston said the Lakers' two running backs performed well despite the expectations the team had for the Warriors' defense.

We knew they had a good 'D' coming in," Langston said. "But Astin (Martin) and (Ryan) Hukill just ran really hard for

Langston, who recorded three touchdowns on the day including an 81 yard pass and catch from Finnerty, said this year's success is a little bit sweeter than before. On the two previous trips to the national championship, Langston said he and other current seniors had smaller roles on the team.

"Now, it's our team and our turn to

finish out," he said.

Head coach Chuck Martin also felt the difference with this team compared to the squads that won titles in 2002 and 2003. Martin was defensive coordinator on the previous teams that won behind Curt Anes and David Kircus. Martin said he was excited to compete as a head coach for the title in Alabama but implied the Lakers had only a short time to celebrate.

'We have to be smart tonight," he said. "And then it's back to work tomorrow."

Grand Valley will play in the national championship game next Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. in Florence, AL. The Lakers' opponent will be the winner of the Northwest Missouri State and North Alabama contest.

B20 Monday, December 12, 2005

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