

2004 WOMEN'S SOCCER REVIEW: EAGLES ACHIEVE ELITE STATUS

The weather in north central Ohio can accurately be described as inconsistent and unpredictable. The Ashland University women's soccer team, coached by John Hall, is quite the opposite of the local meteorological trends. The Eagles have been consistently good, winning 16 or more games in six of the last seven seasons. They are also a safe bet to compete for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) title and a spot in the NCAA Division II playoffs. AU has now achieved both of those objectives eight straight times.

The 2004 season was no aberration for AU, as the Eagles went 19-2-1, captured the GLIAC crown with a perfect 8-0 mark and reached the NCAA Division II Elite Eight for the first time since 1998. The 19 wins and Ashland's 15 straight wins at one point in the season each established new school records.

One early victory helped establish the tone for AU's later success. The Eagles shut out nationally-ranked offensive powerhouse Christian Brothers, 1-0 on Sept. 3 in a classic at Northern Kentucky. Junior midfielder Alyssa Albert notched the game's lone tally.

The following weekend, SIU-Edwardsville handed Ashland a rare home defeat, 1-0 on Sept. 12. That loss, the first for the Eagles in a regular season home game in 48 contests, served as a wake-up call.

From that point on, Ashland would win its final 13 regular season tilts, including all eight GLIAC encounters. The biggest victory during that streak was a 2-1 overtime win at Grand Valley State on Oct. 24. Renee Kozma's unassisted goal 6:51 into the extra session clinched at least a tie for the conference title.

That late-season surge netted Ashland the second seed in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional tournament at Wisconsin-Parkside (Nov. 12-14). The Eagles' first-round opponent, Northern Kentucky, was a very familiar one. The Norse had eliminated AU from the postseason in each of the previous three years. The fourth time proved to be the charm for Ashland, though, as a first-half goal by Maria Manzo gave the Eagles a 1-0 win.

Ashland then met the host Rangers for the regional title. Wisconsin-Parkside, ranked fifth nationally, had given up just five goals in the entire season entering the contest. As in the previous contest, Manzo scored in the first half, and again her goal stood up for a 1-0 victory, as Delilah Martinez posted her fourth straight shutout.

AU then earned the right to host an Elite Eight contest on Nov. 21 against Nebraska-Omaha, who was seeking its third straight trip to the Final Four. The Mavericks were able to do just that, recording a 4-0 win in front of one of the largest crowds in AU soccer history, estimated at 600.

Thus, one of the best seasons in program history came to an end, and it was not long before postseason awards began arriving. In all, seven Eagles plus Hall earned some form of recognition.

Manzo, the Eagles' leader in goals (21), assists (7), points (49) and game-winning goals (7), was named the GLIAC

Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight time. She was also one of an AU record five first team All-GLIAC picks. Manzo was a second team NSCAA/adidas All-America.

Senior midfielder Jen Berardinelli joined Manzo as an All-America, finding a spot on the third team. Berardinelli, a first team All-GLIAC selection, was third on the Eagles with seven goals. She leaves AU ranked ninth in career goals with 22.

Sophomore defender Karen Carty was named the GLIAC Defensive Player of the Year, marking the third straight year that an Eagle captured that honor. She was additionally a first team all-conference honoree.

Senior midfielder Ursula Staneff was another of Ashland's first team All-GLIAC selections. She notched a pair of assists in a 2-0 Senior Day win against Saginaw Valley State (Oct. 30) and earned the GLIAC Player of the Week award. Staneff finished her Ashland career ranked fifth in assists (20).

Sophomore defender Lisa Burg was the Eagles' final first team All-GLIAC pick. She started all 22 contests on the back line and notched a quartet of assists on free kicks and corner kicks.

Sophomore forward Caitlin Carducci was a second team all-conference pick. Carducci placed second on the team in goals (11), assists (6), points (28) and game-winning goals (4). She tallied game-winners in victories at Saint Joseph's (IN) and Indianapolis on the season's opening weekend and received the GLIAC Player of the Week award.

Senior forward Kozma also made second team All-GLIAC. She tied for third on the team with five assists and, as mentioned above, scored one of the biggest goals of the season at Grand Valley State.

Hall was named the GLIAC Coach of the Year for the second straight year and the Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year for the third straight time. He needs just two more victories to overtake Brad Evans as the winningest women's soccer coach in AU history.

WOMEN'S 2004 SOCCER STATS

Ashland University Overall Individual Statistics (All Games)

Overall: 19-2-1 Conference Record: 8-0-0 Home: 7-2-0 Away: 10-0-0 Neutral: 2-0-1

[----- SHOTS -----]													
No.	Name	GP	GS	G	A	Pts	Sht	Sht%	SOG	SOG%	GW	PK	ATT
18	Maria Manzo	22	22	21	7	49	178	.118	100	.562	7	1	2
14	Caitlin Carducci	22	21	11	6	28	57	.193	31	.544	4	0	0
26	Jen Berardinelli	21	21	7	4	18	47	.149	22	.468	2	0	0
23	Renee Kozma	22	22	5	5	15	45	.111	19	.422	1	0	0
7	Ursula Staneff	21	19	3	5	11	33	.091	8	.242	1	0	0
3	Alyssa Albert	22	17	4	1	9	23	.174	9	.391	2	0	0
11	Erin Brockway	22	22	2	4	8	20	.100	7	.350	1	0	0
8	Lisa Burg	22	22	1	4	6	10	.100	6	.600	0	0	0
13	Karen Carty	22	21	2	0	4	11	.182	5	.455	1	0	0
24	Christian Schaefer	11	0	2	0	4	9	.222	5	.556	0	0	0
9	Tori Brokamp	12	0	1	2	4	11	.091	7	.636	0	0	0
2	Kelly Farrell	6	0	1	1	3	5	.200	3	.600	0	0	0
20	Angie Berardinelli	5	0	0	1	1	8	.000	5	.625	0	0	0
12	Bonnie Bray	16	8	0	1	1	6	.000	4	.667	0	0	0
10	Ashley Bigelow	21	21	0	1	1	2	.000	1	.500	0	0	0
17	Julie Davis	7	1	0	1	1	0	.000	0	.000	0	0	0
15	Lindsey Roberts	5	1	0	0	0	2	.000	0	.000	0	0	0
16	Ashley Thompson	12	2	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0	0
Ashland University		22		60	43	163	468	.128	232	.496	19	1	2
Opponents		22		18	13	45	172	.098	79	.485	2	2	2

[--- GOAL AVERAGE ---][--- SAVES ---][----- RECORD -----]												
No.	Name	GP	GS	Minutes	GA	Avg.	Saves	Pct.	W	L	T	Sho
1	Amanda Lindsey	3	0	107:00	0	0.00	0	.000	0	0	0	0
0	Becky Kasper	8	4	378:47	2	0.48	13	.867	5	0	0	1
0	Delilah Martinez	19	16	1521:04	16	0.95	56	.778	14	2	1	6
Ashland University		22		2006:51	18	0.81	71	.798	19	2	1	11
Opponents		22		2006:51	60	2.69	199	.768	2	19	1	2

Goals by Period	1	2	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Ashland University	36	23	1	0	0	60
Opponents	11	7	0	0	0	18

Shots by Period	1	2	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Ashland University	256	209	3	0	0	468
Opponents	80	87	2	3	0	172

Saves by Period	1	2	OT	OT2	OT3	Total
Ashland University	39	31	0	1	0	71
Opponents	98	99	2	0	0	199

2004 GLIAC STANDINGS/AWARDS

Team	Conference Record				Overall Record			
	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.
Ashland - #7	8	0	0	1.000	19	2	1	.886
Grand Valley State	6	2	0	.750	15	5	0	.750
Saginaw Valley State	5	3	0	.625	9	4	0	.692
Mercyhurst	5	3	0	.625	13	6	1	.675
Ferris State	3	5	0	.375	9	9	1	.500
Findlay	3	5	0	.375	8	8	1	.500
Northwood	2	4	2	.375	7	6	4	.529
Northern Michigan	2	5	1	.313	7	6	3	.531
Gannon	0	7	1	.063	5	12	1	.306

#-Indicates national ranking

2004 All-GLIAC Awards

Offensive Player of the Year	Maria Manzo – Ashland
Defensive Player of the Year	Karen Carty – Ashland
Freshman of the Year	Susan Christenson – Grand Valley State
Coach of the Year	John Hall – Ashland

2004 All-GLIAC First Team

Position	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown
Forward	Jessica Booth	Findlay	SR	Dearborn, MI
Forward	Lisa Casement	Mercyhurst	SO	Mississauga, Ontario
Forward	Maria Manzo	Ashland	JR	Pickerington, OH
Forward	Jennifer Prior	Saginaw Valley State	SR	Flushing, MI
Forward	Amy Snyder	Northwood	JR	Niagra Falls, Ontario
Forward	Mirela Tutundzic	Grand Valley State	JR	Wyoming, MI
Midfielder	Jen Berardinelli	Ashland	SR	Willowick, OH
Midfielder	Ursula Staneff	Ashland	SR	Westlake, OH
Defender	Lisa Burg	Ashland	SO	Medina, OH
Defender	Karen Carty	Ashland	SO	Fairfield, OH
Defender	Jessica Lamb	Mercyhurst	SR	Mentor, OH

2004 All-GLIAC Second Team

Position	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown
Forward	Caitlin Carducci	Ashland	SO	Powell, OH
Forward	Renee Kozma	Ashland	SR	Akron, OH
Forward	Lindsey Pawloski	Ferris State	JR	Royal Oak, MI
Forward	Jenny Swalec	Grand Valley State	JR	St. Clair Shores, MI
Midfielder	Finella Annand	Mercyhurst	SO	Inverness, Scotland
Midfielder	Ashleigh Burke	Saginaw Valley State	JR	Saginaw, MI
Midfielder	Shannon Carrier	Grand Valley State	SO	Plainwell, MI
Defender	Julie Brickman	Mercyhurst	SR	Eastlake, OH
Defender	Susan Christenson	Grand Valley State	FR	Livonia, MI
Defender	Adrienne Sluga	Mercyhurst	FR	Mentor, OH
Defender	Jacque Sluga	Mercyhurst	FR	Mentor, OH

Ashland University 2004 All-GLIAC Academic Team Selections

Name	YR	GPA	Major	Hometown
Alyssa Albert	JR	3.32	Electronic Media Production	Mentor, OH
Jen Berardinelli	SR	3.62	Elementary Education	Willowick, OH
Ashley Bigelow	SO	3.84	Athletic Training	Lexington, OH
Bonnie Bray	JR	3.24	Marketing	Madison, OH
Lisa Burg	SO	3.34	Psychology	Medina, OH
Caitlin Carducci	SO	3.74	Sports Communication	Powell, OH
Karen Carty	SO	3.59	Elementary Education	Fairfield, OH
Maria Manzo	JR	3.45	Business Management	Pickerington, OH
Delilah Martinez	SO	3.16	Marketing	Louisville, OH
Ursula Staneff	SR	3.45	Elementary Education	Westlake, OH

2004 GLIAC Women's Soccer Player of the Week Awards

Date	Player	School
Aug. 30	Caitlin Carducci	Ashland
Sept. 7	Ashleigh Lynn	Northwood
Sept. 13	Jenny Prior	Saginaw Valley State
Sept. 20	Lisa Casement	Mercyhurst
Sept. 27	Shannon Carrier	Grand Valley State
Oct. 4	Maria Manzo	Ashland
Oct. 11	Mirela Tutundzic	Grand Valley State
Oct. 18	Maria Manzo	Ashland
Oct. 25	Ashleigh Lynn	Northwood
Nov. 1	Ursula Staneff	Ashland
Nov. 8	Mirela Tutundzic	Grand Valley State



Karen Carty was the GLIAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2004, marking the third straight year that an AU player captured that award.