

2006 Hillsdale College Volleyball Game Stories

Pair of west Michigan standouts sign with Hillsdale volleyball team

Dec. 5, 2006 - Coming off its best season ever, the Hillsdale College volleyball team is already preparing for next year, and head coach Chris Gravel has announced the signing of two outstanding west Michigan players as part of the 2007 recruiting class.

Amanda Bigney (Cedar Rapids, Mich.) and **Rachel VanderWall** (East Kentwood, Mich.) have signed to play volleyball at Hillsdale College starting next season. They will help fill the void of five graduating seniors from the 2006 Charger volleyball team that finished 29-2 on the season.

Bigney is a 5-foot-11 outside hitter who has experience at the middle hitter position also. She's entering her third year on the varsity team at Cedar Springs High School, and was a unanimous All-Conference selection as a junior.

She's also been a part of two AAU teams in the Cedar Springs area, and she led her AAU team to the championship at a tournament held at Grand Valley State University last year. Bigney has been a team captain for two years, and currently carries a 3.6 grade point average. Bigney is the youngest of four children, and has helped coach fifth and sixth-grade players as part of the community's Rocket Volleyball youth program. One of Hillsdale's graduating seniors, Audra VanderMolen, also attended Cedar Springs High School.

VanderWall will come to Hillsdale from two of the state's most successful high school and club programs. She is a 5-9 right side/opposite side hitter, and was an integral part of the 2005-06 Class A state championship team at East Kentwood High School. She is entering her third year on the Falcon varsity team.

VanderWall had 208 kills, 40 assists, 69 aces and 66 total blocks in 2005-06 for the state champs. In addition to playing the right side, VanderWall also saw plenty of court time as an outside hitter for East Kentwood.

Her club teams have enjoyed the same kind of success as her high school teams. VanderWall is part of the Far Out Volleyball Club, based out of Grand Rapids. In three seasons with the club, VanderWall has helped lead her team to 153 wins and just 25 losses. She was a co-captain of the team last year, and the team finished fifth at the national tournament. Her club team in 2003 finished 52-4 and was stats champions.

VanderWall has plenty of interests outside of volleyball as well. She has been a member of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony for five years, and is currently the first chair cellist. She has been either a first or second chair cellist each of the past four years. She's also a member of the National Honors Society and is the oldest of three children.

Red-hot Eagles end Hillsdale's volleyball season in regional semifinals

Nov. 10, 2006 - In volleyball, momentum can be everything. And the Ashland University volleyball team has ridden a wave of momentum for a week and a half. That didn't stop in Friday's regional semifinal match vs. Hillsdale College.

The incredible season enjoyed by the Chargers ended with a 3-0 loss to Ashland in the NCAA Division II regional semifinals at Jesse Philips Arena. Ashland (22-9) advances to Saturday's regional final vs. SIU-Edwardsville, while Hillsdale's season ends with a 29-2 record.

Both of Hillsdale's losses came against the Eagles, both in postseason tournament play, both at home and both on a Friday night. The Chargers were GLIAC South Division champions and the No. 1 seed in the Great Lakes Region. But none of that mattered to Ashland, who simply played outstanding all-around volleyball and earned the victory.

Ashland led for most of the first game, winning 30-25. Hillsdale seemed in good position to win the second game, leading 28-25 at one point. But the Eagles found a way to rally and won game two 31-29. Game three was also tightly played, but an 8-0 late run by Ashland helped take it to a 30-26 victory.

Ashland held Hillsdale to a team hitting percentage of .092 in the match, the lowest mark of the season for the Chargers. Although Ashland was held to a .157 hitting average, it committed six fewer hitting errors than Hillsdale, and had six more service aces and four more kills in the match.

Junior Melissa Bartlett had a team-high 11 kills for Hillsdale, while senior Katherine Jones had eight kills. Senior Taryn Rudland, the conference and regional player of the year, had five kills in her final collegiate match. Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms picked up 33 assists, while junior Megan Howard was one of four players in double-figure digs with 18. Bartlett and senior Tessa Bloemers each had 11 digs, and sophomore Jamie Murray had 10 digs.

Ashland was led by Beth Dangel and Mary Kate Glowe, who each registered 12 kills. Setter Lynsey Warren played a terrific match and had 38 assists, 12 digs and three kills. Glowe added a team-high 16 digs for Ashland.

- 30 -

Hillsdale celebrates first-ever regional win in front of the home crowd

Nov. 9, 2006 — Add another piece of history to the growing mosaic that is the 2006 Hillsdale College volleyball season.

The Chargers won their first-ever NCAA Division II regional match in a 3-0 win over West Virginia State Thursday evening at Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale is now 29-1 on the season and will face Ashland in the second of Friday's two regional semifinal matches, around 7:30 p.m. No. 7 Grand Valley faces No. 14 SIU-Edwardsville at 5 p.m. in the other semifinal.

The Chargers were coming off their first loss of the season, suffered last Friday at the hands of the Eagles, in the GLIAC Semifinals. Now, the two teams will meet again in a winner-take-all matchup. The victor moves onto Saturday's regional final, while the loser of the match will have its season ended.

There would be no season-ending matches for the Chargers on Thursday, as they pleased the huge home crowd by blitzing the Yellow Jackets early and often. Hillsdale won the three games by scores of 30-17, 30-26 and 30-17. The Chargers defeated West Virginia State earlier in the season, by a similar score.

Hillsdale came out clicking on offense in the first game, hitting .500 as a team while easing its way to a 13-point win. Four players had four or more kills in the game, which symbolized the balance on offense Hillsdale had all night.

Game two was a tougher nut to crack for Hillsdale, as West Virginia State played a superior defensive game and made the Chargers work hard for every point. Hillsdale led 29-23, but saw the Yellow Jackets score three straight points while up against game point before falling to the Chargers.

Game three was more like a repeat of game one, as Hillsdale hit .471 as a team and held West Virginia State to a match-low .087 hitting percentage for the game.

Four players had between eight and 11 kills for the Chargers, led by 11 from senior Taryn Rudland. Seniors Becky Grzegorski and Katherine Jones had 10 apiece, while junior Melissa Bartlett scored eight kills. Sophomore Stephanie Booms racked up 46 assists, and junior Megan Howard led the team with 13 digs. Stephanie Harwood and Kerri Kraus each had 10 kills for West Virginia State.

- 30 -

Ashland stuns Chargers in GLIAC Semifinals

Nov. 3, 2006 — There's never a good time for a first loss of a season, but for it to happen in the semifinals of the GLIAC tournament at home was especially stunning for the Hillsdale College volleyball team.

Ashland University (19-9) shocked Hillsdale 3-0 Friday night in the second semifinal match of the 2006 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament. Hillsdale falls to 28-1 with the loss, while the Eagles advance to the conference tournament finals at 7 p.m. Saturday vs. Grand Valley State University (26-2).

The Eagles played a tremendous match, passing the ball very effectively while making the Chargers work hard for every point throughout the match. Ashland played 180 degrees different from its match against Hillsdale back on Oct. 14, when the Eagles scored a total of 39 points in a three-game sweep at the hands of the Chargers.

Ashland won the three games by scores of 30-28, 30-24 and 30-28. It marked the first time the Chargers were swept in a match since the 2005 season-ending match, to Rockhurst on Nov. 17, 2005.

The Eagles and Chargers played close throughout the first game, but Ashland got the key point when the game was 29-28, and edged Hillsdale in the first game.

Ashland took total control of the match in the second game, leading by as many as seven and eight points midway through the game before prevailing 30-24.

Hillsdale led for brief parts of game three, but let the lead slip away when the Eagles inched ahead, 20-19.

Ashland became the first team to have a better hitting percentage in a match than Hillsdale, outhitting the Chargers .312-.256. The Eagles had six more kills, one fewer error, and eight more digs than Hillsdale.

The Chargers were led by junior Melissa Bartlett's 14 kills. Becky Grzegorski and Taryn Rudland each had nine kills. Sophomore Stephanie Booms added 37 assists.

Mary Kate Glowe and Beth Dangle each played brilliant matches for the Eagles, and combined for 32 kills, 17 by Glowe. Setter Lynsey Warren had 49 assists, and three players on Ashland's team had double-digit digs.

- 30 -

- **Chargers stay strong at home, defeat Northern Michigan in GLIAC Tournament Quarterfinals**

Oct. 31, 2006 — It seems like every time the Hillsdale College volleyball team has taken the court, a new bit of history is written. Volumes more were written Tuesday night.

In front of a home crowd of more than 600, the undefeated Chargers advanced in the 2006 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament with a 3-0 win over Northern Michigan University. Hillsdale, ranked No. 3 in the nation, is now 28-0 on the season, while the Wildcats are 16-11. Hillsdale advances to Friday's GLIAC Semifinal match, to be played at home at 7:30 p.m. against Ashland University. The other semifinal match will pit Grand Valley against Ferris State at 5 p.m.

The Chargers won the games by scores of 30-15, 30-25 and 30-25. It was the third year in a row the Chargers have won a quarterfinal tournament match. The previous two wins came by scores of 3-2 and 3-0 over the University of Findlay.

In the first game of the match, Hillsdale played as well as it had all season, recording 19 kills as a team with no attacking errors. The offense was clicking smooth as silk, and several players were producing crowd-pleasing kills throughout the 30-15 rout.

Games two and three saw the Wildcats improve their defense, and as a result, they kept the scores of both games close well into the 20-point totals. Northern Michigan trailed Hillsdale 23-22 in the third game, but the Chargers ripped off eight of the game's final 10 points to put away the victory.

Junior Melissa Bartlett had just one of Hillsdale's many standout performances in the match. She had five service aces - including three in a row at one point - to go along with 14 kills and seven digs.

Senior Becky Grzegorski, one of the nation's top hitting percentage players, had perhaps her finest collegiate match with a season-high 16 kills and a .565 attack percentage. In the first game, Grzegorski had five kills and no errors and completely controlled the right side of the court. Also in the first game, the Chargers had 17 assists on their 19 kills.

Hillsdale hit .306 in the match as a team, and held Northern Michigan to a team hitting percentage of .077. Charger sophomore Stephanie Booms had 48 assists, and junior Megan Howard had 23 digs to lead all players.

The Wildcats were led by Kate Olechny's eight kills and Brittany McGowan's 16 assists.

Chargers open 2006 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament with quarterfinal match vs. Northern Michigan

Oct. 30, 2006 — All of the accomplishments of the Hillsdale College volleyball team throughout its incredible 2006 season are now reset, and a new season is ready to begin.

The Chargers, who just completed a 27-0 regular season, open up the 2006 postseason with a GLIAC Quarterfinal Match at home at 7 p.m. Tuesday vs. the Northern Michigan University Wildcats. NMU comes into the match with a 16-10 record this season and is the second wild card playoff team to make the GLIAC Tournament. Hillsdale enters the tournament as the conference's overall number one seed.

If Hillsdale wins, it will be the host school for the GLIAC Volleyball Tournament semifinals and finals, to be played this weekend.

Ticket prices for the tournament are as follows: \$5 for adults, \$3 for Hillsdale College faculty and staff with proper ID, \$3 for students from other schools, \$2 for seniors age 65 and above, and all Hillsdale College students with proper ID get in for free. No passes are permitted for admission to the tournament.

Hillsdale and Northern Michigan played earlier this season, on Sept. 30 and the Chargers came away with a 3-1 win. NMU was the first team to win a game from Hillsdale at Jesse Philips Arena this season, taking the first game 30-25. But Hillsdale stormed back to win the final three games, by scores of 30-16, 30-18 and 30-21. The win was also the 200th in the coaching career of Chris Gravel.

The Chargers have enjoyed a season for the record books in 2006. The team has recorded 3-0 sweeps in 21 of its 27 wins this season, including a 3-0 win over defending Division II national champion Grand Valley back on Oct. 7. The team won the GLIAC South Division title outright for the second time in its history, and set a new school record for wins in a season, shattering the previous record, which was 24.

Hillsdale is the GLIAC's top team in both hitting percentage and opponents' hitting percentage, a testament to its overall dominance throughout the season. Taryn Rudland, Becky Grzegorski and Melissa Bartlett have all been among the top five in the conference in hitting percentage all season, while sophomore Stephanie Booms is among the GLIAC's top players in assists and service aces.

Northern Michigan has one of the conference's youngest lineups, with 12 freshmen among its 16 players. Although those players are freshmen, there are some very talented ones in that group. Madie Meyer, a freshman, was third on the team in kills during the regular season. Sophomore Sam Schulte is one of the top front-row players in the GLIAC, and led the Wildcats with 336 kills during the regular season.

NMU started off the season on a tear, winning its first 11 games and achieving the No. 24 spot in the AVCA Top 25 poll in early September. After a 4-0 start in GLIAC play, Northern stumbled, playing the grueling GLIAC schedule. Northern needed a Sunday afternoon win at home over Saginaw Valley to qualify for the GLIAC tournament.

The Chargers have won their first-round GLIAC tournament match each of the past two seasons, both matches coming against Findlay. In 2004, the only other time Hillsdale has hosted a

postseason match, the Chargers edged the Oilers 3-2. Hillsdale won last year's first-round match by the same score, only that contest took place at Findlay's Croy Gymnasium.

The other first round matches in this year's GLIAC Volleyball Tournament are: Northwood at Grand Valley; Michigan Tech at Ferris State; and Ashland at Findlay. The highest remaining seed after Tuesday's matches will be the host school for the semifinals and finals.

- 30 -

Chargers achieve regular season perfection after sweeps of Mercyhurst, Gannon

Oct. 25, 2006 — Saturday afternoon, the Hillsdale College volleyball team became the first college team to achieve a perfect regular season in 24 years. But the players and coaches on the team know greater things are still out there, waiting to be accomplished.

The volleyball team swept Mercyhurst and Gannon this weekend by identical 3-0 scores, improving its record to 27-0 on the season and 17-0 in the GLIAC. The last time a Hillsdale College team went undefeated in a regular season was in 1982, when the football team went 11-0 before finishing the season with a 12-1 mark.

Hillsdale has now officially earned the right to host the first round of the 2006 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament. The quarterfinals are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, when the Chargers host Northern Michigan University. The semifinals are scheduled for 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., with the finals slated for a 7 p.m. start Saturday, Nov. 4. If Hillsdale wins Tuesday, all matches will be played in Jesse Philips Arena.

Hillsdale started the weekend with a 3-0 win at Mercyhurst, though it wasn't easy. The Chargers won the three games by scores of 30-22, 30-26 and 30-22. Hillsdale didn't have an effective match offensively, but held the Lakers to a team hitting percentage of .007 in the match.

The Chargers had a season-high 25 blocks as a team, led by two solo blocks each by Melissa Bartlett, Katherine Jones and Stephanie Booms. Bartlett led the team with 10 kills, while Booms handed out 27 assists.

Saturday, Hillsdale rediscovered its offensive groove, particularly in the second and third games in the 3-0 win over Gannon. The Chargers won the games by scores of 30-26, 30-18 and 30-19. Bartlett was unstoppable in this match, recording a team-high 19 kills.

Hillsdale has now recorded four straight 3-0 sweeps and swept 22 of the 27 teams it faced throughout the regular season.

The Chargers last faced Northern Michigan back on Sept. 30, and came away with a 3-1 win. The Wildcats were the first team to win a game from Hillsdale at Jesse Philips Arena, winning the first game 30-25. But Hillsdale bounced back strongly, winning the final three games by scores of 30-16, 30-18 and 30-21.

Hillsdale has won the GLIAC quarterfinal match each of the past two seasons, both wins coming over the University of Findlay. The Chargers have been eliminated from the GLIAC tournament by Grand Valley each of the past two seasons. The rest of the first-round matches are not known yet, and will be determined after Sunday's results in the conference.

- 30 -

'06 Chargers set new school record for wins in a season thanks to 3-0 sweep of Wayne State

Oct. 20, 2006 — The old saying says records were made to be broken, but this year's Hillsdale College volleyball team was made to break records.

The Chargers set a new school record for wins in a season Friday night with a 3-0 triumph over Wayne State University at the Matthei Center in Detroit. Hillsdale is now 25-0 overall and 15-0 in the GLIAC. The team will close out the regular season next weekend with road matches at Mercyhurst and Gannon.

Another milestone has been achieved by this remarkable team with its 25th win. Hillsdale went 24-10 in 1999, the old mark for most wins in a season. A handful of Hillsdale teams won more than 25 matches during the early 1980s, when the college still competed in the NAIA. The 25 wins marks the most by a Charger volleyball team since it began competing in the NCAA.

Hillsdale swept Wayne State for the second time this season by scores of 30-18, 30-22 and 30-16. The Chargers have already clinched the GLIAC South Division title and can clinch the overall regular season conference title with two wins next weekend. Wins in those two matches would make Hillsdale the host school for the 2006 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament, scheduled for Oct. 31 and Nov. 3-4.

Every player on the roster got significant playing time in the win over the Warriors, and most of them contributed to the win. Sophomore Caitlin Baron had two kills and two digs in limited time, while senior Audra VanderMolen contributed a kill and three digs.

Junior Melissa Bartlett had a match-high 13 kills, to go along with 10 digs. Senior Taryn Rudland had 12 kills with a .550 attack percentage. She also had three service aces, four digs and four block assists in a terrific all-around performance.

Senior Katherine Jones added seven kills with a .778 attack percentage to the Hillsdale offense. Sophomore Jamie Murray had seven assists, eight digs and two service aces, while sophomore Stephanie Booms handed out 22 assists. Junior Megan Howard added a team-high 17 digs.

Even more remarkable than the team's 25-0 record is how much it stands out in Hillsdale's history. The team's previous record for winning streak in one season was eight. It's rare that a current winning streak by a team also exceeds that team's record for total wins in one season at the same time. That's the significance of this 25-0 record the Chargers have achieved.

But the team's focus is not on what it's accomplished in the past this season, instead, the focus lies on what is to come, and first up is the team's annual trip to Erie, Pa. to face Mercyhurst (7 p.m. Friday) and Gannon (4 p.m. Saturday). Regardless of the outcome of those matches, Hillsdale will host a GLIAC Quarterfinal match on Tuesday, Oct. 31 against an opponent yet to be determined.

- 30 -

Hillsdale closes out regular season home schedule with 3-0 win over Indianapolis

Oct. 19, 2006 — Although the five seniors on the Hillsdale College volleyball team know Thursday was not the last time they would be taking the Jesse Philips Arena court, the emotions of Senior Night were strong.

The group of Becky Grzegorski, Audra VanderMolen, Katherine Jones, Tessa Bloemers and Taryn Rudland won their 79th match as a class Thursday night, 3-0 over the visiting University of Indianapolis Greyhounds in a non-league match. Hillsdale has now tied the school record for wins in a season and is 24-0 overall. Indy drops to 20-9 on the season with the loss.

The five seniors were recognized in a pregame ceremony that was highlighted by two amazing national anthem renditions (Canadian and American) by Bloemers. While Thursday's match was the final scheduled home match on the schedule, many more home matches are possible for the Chargers. Hillsdale is guaranteed hosting a home match in the GLIAC Tournament Quarterfinals on Tuesday, Oct. 31 against an opponent yet to be determined. Wins in their final three GLIAC matches will assure the Chargers of also hosting the GLIAC Semifinals and Finals on Nov. 3-4.

Hillsdale downed the Greyhounds by scores of 30-24, 30-19 and 30-26. It was the team's 19th 3-0 sweep of the season, and gives the team a win over a quality team located in the same region. The Chargers are currently ranked first in the Great Lakes Region, and stand a decent chance of hosting the NCAA Division II regionals on Nov. 9-11.

Senior Taryn Rudland had 10 kills and six total blocks for the Chargers. Junior Melissa Bartlett had a match-high 15 kills with a .312 hitting percentage. Senior Becky Grzegorski had another efficient match with seven kills and three assists, to go along with a .429 attack percentage.

Sophomore Jamie Murray has been a quiet, but steady performer for the team all season, and she played a crucial part in the team's game two victory. Murray served eight straight points during an 8-0 run in the second game that allowed the Chargers their most lopsided game win of the night. Murray has been a superb server this season, along with an excellent passer from her defensive specialist position. Her contributions, while not containing the big numbers of other players, has been extremely valuable to the team's historic season in 2006.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms had three kills, 39 assists and eight digs in the first match after she received her first GLIAC South Division Player of the Week honor. Junior Megan Howard had 13 digs, while senior Katherine Jones added six kills and four total blocks.

Indianapolis was led by Alyssa Carlotta's 13 kills.

Hillsdale will be on the road Friday for a GLIAC match against Wayne State University in Detroit. The match begins at 7 p.m.

- 30 -

Stephanie Booms named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week

Oct. 14, 2006 — Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms became the fourth different Hillsdale College volleyball player to earn the GLIAC South Division Player of the Week award Monday afternoon.

Booms, who hails from Marysville, Mich., has been an important part of Hillsdale's 23-0 record and No. 4 national ranking this season. She played particularly well in two weekend wins over the University of Findlay and Ashland University, Friday and Saturday, respectively. Booms had a

total of 92 assists in the two Charger wins, and also racked up 20 digs, five kills and five block assists over the weekend.

Booms' skill as a setter is reflected in the Chargers' staggering offensive numbers so far this season. Hillsdale has been among the nation's leaders in team hitting percentage, and currently is hitting at a .306 clip, also ranking number one in the GLIAC. Booms now leads the GLIAC in assists per game, with 12.52 (964 total) and is No. 1 in the conference in service aces, with 58. Booms is also among the nation's leaders in both of those statistical categories. As a team, Hillsdale is third in the conference in total assists, second in total kills and second in service aces. Booms has played a significant role in all of those high marks for the Chargers this season. Booms' 1,831 career assists place her fourth on Hillsdale's all-time assists list, with more than two full seasons still remaining in her career.

Hillsdale clinched the 2006 GLIAC South Division title with the wins over Findlay and Ashland over the weekend. It marks just the second division title in the Chargers' program history. Hillsdale's current 23-game winning streak is the longest in the nation among all Division II volleyball teams, and its current No. 4 ranking is an all-time high for the volleyball program. The Chargers are also ranked No. 1 in the Great Lakes Regional poll.

Booms was named Honorable Mention All-GLIAC after her 2005 freshman season. She was named Miss Volleyball in the state of Michigan after the 2004-05 season at Marysville High School, where she helped her team to three state championships. Booms is a pre-med major and earned a 3.91 grade point average last year.

- 30 -

Hillsdale wraps up GLIAC South Division championship with 3-0 rout of Ashland

Oct. 14, 2006 — Before the season, the Hillsdale College volleyball team outlined a series of goals it wanted to accomplish. Put a check mark next to one of those goals.

The Chargers are the 2006 GLIAC South Division champions after Saturday's one-sided 3-0 rout of Ashland University at Jesse Philips Arena. The No. 4-ranked Chargers are now 23-0 overall and 14-0 in the GLIAC, while Ashland is 15-8 and 9-5 in conference play. Hillsdale holds a five-game lead on both Ashland and Findlay with three conference matches left to play.

Hillsdale's last division championship came during the 1999 season. During that season, the team set a school record for wins in a season with 24, a mark that is just two wins away from falling to this year's version of the Chargers.

Few times have the Chargers appeared as dominant during a match as they did in this contest vs. Ashland. Hillsdale encountered little resistance from the Eagles, and won the three games by scores of 30-10, 30-20 and 30-9. The 39 points allowed by Hillsdale are the fewest it's yielded in a full match this season.

The Hillsdale offense was clicking on all cylinders, as the team hit .430 for the match, committed just seven attack errors, and held the Eagles to a team hitting percentage of .043 for the match.

There were a total of three ties for four lead changes over the course of the match, illustrating how much in control Hillsdale was from start to finish. The team is still in great position to host the GLIAC Tournament and the Great Lakes Regional tournament. If the Chargers win their final

three league matches - at Wayne State, Gannon and Mercyhurst - they will host the conference tournament, and most likely, the regional tournament.

Ashland had no answers for Hillsdale's offensive twosome of Taryn Rudland and Melissa Bartlett. Rudland had 10 kills and a hitting percentage of .529. She also had five service aces and five total blocks for the match.

Bartlett was unstoppable, recording a match-high 15 kills to go along with eight digs and three block assists. Senior Becky Grzegorski added six kills with a .556 hitting percentage, while freshman Kitt Smith picked up five kills.

Defensively, Hillsdale outdug Ashland 53-32, led by Megan Howard's 17 digs. Senior Tessa Bloemers had a terrific match passing the ball, and had 14 digs. Sophomore Stephanie Booms handed out 35 assists to go along with five digs.

Ashland's Mary Kate Glowe had 11 kills and hit .048 for the match. Eagle setter Lynsey Warren had 25 assists and three digs.

Hillsdale will celebrate Senior Night on Thursday with a non-league home match against the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds.

- 30 -

22nd straight win comes the hard way for Chargers, who need five games to knock off Findlay, 3-2

Oct. 13, 2006 — Nothing comes easy for anyone when the volleyball teams from Hillsdale College and the University of Findlay collide on the court. Both teams struggled and had stretches of brilliance when they played each other Friday night, but in the end, the Chargers made the plays at the right time to remain undefeated on the season.

Hillsdale needed a fifth game, but beat Findlay 3-2 in front of a packed gym at Jesse Philips Arena. The Chargers lost games one and four by scores of 31-29 and 30-28. Hillsdale won the second and third games by scores of 30-25 and 30-18, and finished the win with a 15-7 decision in game five. The Chargers are now 22-0 overall and 13-0 in th GLIAC. The tough and talented Oilers fell to 16-6 overall and 8-5 in the conference.

The Chargers can clinch the GLIAC South Division championship with a win Saturday afternoon vs. Ashland. The Eagles visit Hillsdale at noon. Hillsdale's current 22-match winning streak is the longest among all Division II volleyball teams in the country.

The two teams traded long volleys and spectacular defensive plays most of the evening, and seemed evenly matched as game four wound down. Findlay led the fourth game 28-23, only to see the Chargers fight back to make it a 29-28 score. A controversial call that ended up going Findlay's way ended the fourth game and tied the match.

But the Chargers responded in the face of adversity, as they often have this season, and grabbed control of game five right from the start. Hillsdale jumped out to leads of 3-0 and 11-3 before hanging on to clinch the match and send the crowd - the biggest at home this season - home happy. A crowd of 502 that included the Charger football and cross country teams, was vocal from the start and gave Hillsdale a big home court advantage.

Findlay played an outstanding defensive match, and forced Hillsdale into a season-high 38 attack errors. The Chargers hit just .106 and .061 in the two matches they lost, but didn't hit all that much better in the two games they won (.292 and .100). But in the fifth and deciding game, Hillsdale hit .565 as a team, while limiting Findlay to a team hitting percentage of .111.

Both teams had more service errors than aces, but the Oilers had two aces compared to 11 errors, a key number going against them in a close match. The Chargers had seven aces versus nine service errors.

Freshman outside hitter Kitt Smith has become a go-to player for the Chargers in clutch situations lately, and delivered once again when the team needed her most. She delivered the final two kills of the match, and finished with a season-high 15 kills. Junior Melissa Bartlett led all players with 19 kills, 19 digs and six aces, while senior Taryn Rudland had 18 kills, four digs and four total blocks.

Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms had 57 assists, four kills and 15 digs, while junior Megan Howard had a match-high 25 digs. Senior Becky Grzegorski added 10 kills to the Hillsdale attack.

Findlay's Erin Puthoff led her team with 18 kills, and had 14 digs.

- 30 -

Grzegorski named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week

Oct. 9, 2006 — The honors and accolades are really starting to pile up for the undefeated Hillsdale College volleyball team.

The latest honor was bestowed upon senior outside hitter Becky Grzegorski, who on Monday, was named the GLIAC South Division Player of the Week. This marks the second time in Grzegorski's career she has earned the honor, the previous time coming during the 2004 season.

Grzegorski totaled 27 kills and a .415 attack percentage in Hillsdale's two victories over the weekend. She committed just five hitting errors, translating into an extremely effective offensive performance over the two matches.

The Chargers defeated Ferris State University 3-2 Friday night and swept top-ranked Grand Valley 3-0 Saturday afternoon. The wins improved the team to 21-0 on the season and 12-0 in the GLIAC. It marked the first Hillsdale win over Grand Valley in volleyball since Oct. 18, 1989, and the first time a Charger volleyball team has ever defeated a team ranked No. 1 in the AVCA Division II poll. As of Monday afternoon, Hillsdale is ranked No. 9 in the nation, but is likely to move up in the next poll. The team also has a four-game lead in the GLIAC South Division, over Ashland and Findlay.

Grzegorski has enjoyed an outstanding campaign for Hillsdale, and currently ranks fourth in the nation in hitting percentage for the season (.418). She's also second in the conference in that category, trailing teammate Taryn Rudland. Grzegorski has 159 kills on 323 attempts, with just 24 errors. Those 24 errors are the fewest among the conference's top 10 players in hitting percentage.

Grzegorski is the third Charger player to earn a South Division Player of the Week award this season, joining Rudland and Melissa Bartlett in that club.

Grzegorski has been a starter for the Chargers all four years of her career, and played her high school volleyball at Jenison.

- 30 -

Charger volleyball team makes history with 3-0 sweep of #1 Grand Valley

Oct. 7, 2006 — There is a first time for everything, and in this season of firsts, it only seemed appropriate that the Hillsdale College volleyball team add to that list Saturday afternoon.

The Chargers improved to 21-0 on the season and 12-0 in the GLIAC thanks to an amazing 3-0 sweep of No. 1-ranked Grand Valley State University in Allendale. Hillsdale won the three games by scores of 30-19, 30-20 and 32-30. It was the 16th sweep in 21 matches this season for Hillsdale, who figures to shoot up the polls with this victory. Grand Valley is now 18-2 overall and 11-1 in the GLIAC.

This was the first volleyball win by Hillsdale over Grand Valley since Oct. 18, 1989, and came right in the middle of a season of history-making streaks and accomplishments for the Charger players and coach Chris Gravel. In addition to the huge win over the Lakers, the Chargers have taken a big step towards clinching the GLIAC South Division championship. Michigan Tech has recorded back-to-back wins over Ashland and Findlay this weekend, giving Hillsdale a four-game lead in the South Division over both schools, with five conference matches left to play.

Hillsdale grabbed control of the first game, holding leads between four and seven points throughout, going on to win 30-19. Game two followed a nearly identical pattern, ending in a 30-20 Charger win.

Game three saw the Lakers battle and take a 27-24 lead. The two teams eventually found themselves knotted up at 28-28 and 30-30. But the Chargers found ways to score the final two points of the match, sending the players into a wild celebration.

The Chargers forced the Lakers into 22 hitting errors, while only committing 10 themselves throughout the match. Hillsdale had a team hitting percentage of .328 for the match, while limiting the powerful Lakers to a team hitting percentage of .191.

Senior Becky Grzegorski, who hails from Jenison (not far from Allendale) had a spectacular match, recording 12 kills and a .417 hitting percentage. Junior Melissa Bartlett led all players with 16 kills and had 17 digs in the victory. Senior Taryn Rudland had nearly a perfect match with 11 kills, no errors, a .611 hitting percentage, and four block assists.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms racked up 48 assists, and had five digs and two service aces. Junior Megan Howard had 13 digs, while senior Tessa Bloemers added 10.

Hillsdale will return home next weekend, hosting Findlay Friday night and Ashland Saturday afternoon.

- 30 -

Hillsdale pushed to fifth game by Ferris State, but stays unbeaten with 3-2 win

Oct. 6, 2006 — That was close.

The Hillsdale College volleyball team was pushed into a fifth game for the first time all season Friday night, but still emerged with a 3-2 win over Ferris State University in Big Rapids. The Chargers are now 20-0 overall and 11-0 in the GLIAC, while the Bulldogs are 15-5 and 7-4. The win also marks just the third time in Hillsdale volleyball history the Chargers have won at least 20 matches in a season.

In their first 19 matches, the Chargers had bulldozed the competition, winning all but four of those matches in 3-0 sweeps. But Hillsdale was tested more severely Friday than it had all season by a talented Bulldog squad, but still came up with enough big plays in key times to come away with the win. Hillsdale lost the first game 30-19 before coming back to post wins of 30-22 and 30-28 in the second and third games. Ferris State rallied from a 29-25 deficit to upend the Chargers 31-29 in the fourth game, and Hillsdale won the fifth 15-11.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 2-1 lead in the fifth game, but never led after that, as Hillsdale scored four straight points to gain a lead it would never relinquish.

Chargers coach Chris Gravel said some credit for the win should go to the Hillsdale College men's and women's cross country teams, who competed at Ferris State earlier in the day, and came out to cheer on their volleyball friends. The atmosphere at Ferris State was loud and hostile for the visiting team, but the support the cross country teams gave helped the Chargers overcome that environment and win the match.

Hillsdale had a team hitting percentage of .296 in the fifth game, while holding Ferris State to a .167 mark in the final game. The Chargers hit .206 for the match, one of their lowest marks of the season. The team also committed 10 more service errors than service aces (13-3). But a superior defensive effort (93 team digs) helped offset the lower hitting percentage.

Junior Melissa Bartlett had a 20-20 game, recording 21 kills and 25 digs. She also had three service aces in the win. Freshman Kitt Smith had a career-high 14 kills and had four digs and three block assists in one of her best performances of her short collegiate career.

Senior Becky Grzegorski had a season-high 15 kills, and hit an impressive .414 for the match. Grzegorski entered the match fourth in the nation in Division II in hitting percentage, and lived up to those numbers in the victory. Senior Taryn Rudland added 11 kills, one solo block and three block assists in the win.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms handed out 59 assists and had 11 digs and four kills. Junior Megan Howard had 21 digs, while senior Tessa Bloemers came through with 19 digs. Hillsdale committed just three attack errors in the fifth game.

The Chargers will face another tough road test Saturday afternoon, playing No. 1-ranked Grand Valley at 4 p.m. in Allendale.

Hillsdale finishes perfect three-day weekend with sweep of Michigan Tech

Oct. 1, 2006 — A weekend of milestones and good times was capped perfectly by the Hillsdale College volleyball team Sunday afternoon.

The Chargers finished a clean sweep of the three Upper Peninsula teams with a 3-0 victory over Michigan Tech University Sunday at Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale is now 19-0 overall and 10-0 in the GLIAC, while the Huskies fall to 8-10 and 4-5 in conference play.

The Chargers won the three games by scores of 30-22, 30-18 and 30-21. Hillsdale jumped out to big early leads in the first two games, playing some of the sharpest volleyball it has all season long. The Chargers got out to leads of 20-9 in the first game and 10-3 in the second game, building a cushion it needed against a resilient Michigan Tech team.

Hillsdale hosted all three Upper Peninsula teams over the weekend, a stretch it has sometimes struggle with in the past. Sunday's win over Michigan Tech was just the second in the past five meetings for Hillsdale.

Leading the way Sunday was senior middle hitter Taryn Rudland, who enjoyed one of her best weekends of her career, shortly after being honored in this week's issue of Sports Illustrated in the magazine's Faces in the Crowd feature.

Rudland had an attack percentage well over .500 in all three matches, and delivered a team-high 14 kills with a .650 attack percentage vs. the Huskies. She committed just one error in 20 total attempts.

Junior Melissa Bartlett added 12 kills, three service aces and four digs in the winning effort. Five players finished with four or more kills for the balanced Chargers.

Defensively, Hillsdale limited Michigan Tech to a team attack percentage of .106 for the match. Junior Megan Howard had a team-high 14 digs to pace the Chargers. Sophomore Stephanie Booms handed out 37 assists, and had three service aces, all three coming consecutively in the third game.

The Chargers' 19 wins in a row are by far the most in school history, and matches the team's win total from each of the past two seasons. The school record for wins in a season is 24, set back in 2000. Hillsdale has had three 20-win seasons in its volleyball history.

Achieving that mark next weekend represents the ultimate challenge for the Chargers. Hillsdale hits the road for matches at Ferris State (5:30 p.m. Friday) and Grand Valley (4 p.m. Saturday). Grand Valley is the defending Division II national champions, and has never lost to Hillsdale.

- 30 -

Chargers pass tough home test with 3-1 win over Northern Michigan

Sept. 30, 2006 — The Northern Michigan University volleyball team took Hillsdale College to a place it hadn't been before at home - a fourth game.

Despite the game one setback, the Chargers stormed back to defeat the Wildcats 3-1 in an intense match at Jesse Philips Arena Saturday afternoon. Hillsdale improves to 18-0 overall and 9-0 in the GLIAC with the win, while Northern Michigan is 13-5 and 5-5.

The victory was also the 200th in the career of Hillsdale coach Chris Gravel. The win extends the Chargers' season-opening winning streak to 18 matches, also a school record. Hillsdale wraps up its three-day weekend with a 2 p.m. match Sunday against Michigan Tech.

Hillsdale hadn't lost a single game at home all season, until the first one against a talented and scrappy Wildcat squad. NMU played a terrific opening game to hand Hillsdale a 30-25 defeat. It was the worst single-game loss suffered by the Chargers the entire season, and came in part from their five service errors in the game.

But, like their four previous single-game losses, the Chargers came back in the next game with a vengeance. Hillsdale rediscovered its serve receive game and offensive efficiency with a 30-16 rout in the second game. Hillsdale's attack percentage improved from .222 to .480 from game one to game two. Likewise, Northern's attack percentage fell from .237 in the first game to -.077 in game two.

Game three saw Hillsdale sustain the momentum it built up in game two, defeating NMU 30-18. The Chargers wrapped up the win with a 30-21 triumph in the fourth game.

Hillsdale generated 30 more kills than Northern Michigan in the match (71-41) and held the Wildcats to a team attack percentage mark of .109 in the match. Hillsdale hit .318 for the match, and were able to overcome 12 service errors with 18 total blocks, compared to 10 total blocks for the Wildcats.

Three players hit double figures in kills for the Chargers, led by junior Melissa Bartlett's 20. That total was the highest in a home match this season for the outside hitter from Chatham, Ontario. Senior Taryn Rudland added 17 kills and hit an incredible .556 for the match. Freshman Kitt Smith played perhaps her best match of her career, scoring 11 kills with a .450 attack percentage, along with six digs.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms once again expertly handled the offense, and finished with 66 assists. Booms' ability to move the ball around the team's various offensive options makes the team tough to defend.

Junior Megan Howard had 19 digs, while senior Tessa Bloemers had 14. Bartlett added 12 to Hillsdale's total. Senior Becky Grzegorski played an error-free match, with nine kills and no errors in 21 attempts.

Katt Garvick led Northern Michigan with 18 kills in the match.

- 30 -

Hillsdale extends winning streak to 17 with win over Lake Superior State

Sept. 29, 2006 — The three-day weekend got off to a terrific start for the Hillsdale College volleyball team.

Playing the first of three straight home matches this weekend, the Chargers extended their winning streak to 17 with a 3-0 sweep of Lake Superior State University Friday night at Hillsdale's Jesse Philips Arena. The Chargers are 8-0 in the GLIAC, while LSSU falls to 5-13 overall and 2-7 in the conference.

Hillsdale won the three games by scores of 30-21, 30-13 and 30-16. It was the 14th 3-0 sweep in 17 matches this season for the 10th-ranked Chargers.

Hillsdale stands as one of the best teams in the nation in hitting percentage, and helped out that stat with its performance against the Lakers. The Chargers hit progressively better in each game, culminating in a team hitting percentage of .500 in the third game. Hillsdale hit .422 for the match, while limiting LSSU to a team hitting percentage of .129. Hillsdale outblocked Lake State 13-2, and had 19 more kills with 11 fewer attack errors in the match.

The trio of Becky Grzegorski, Taryn Rudland and Melissa Bartlett are the top three hitting percentage players in the conference, and like the team, did nothing but help those numbers individually.

Rudland, who was featured in this week's issue of Sports Illustrated, had 11 kills, two solo blocks and three block assists. She hit .529 for the match. Rudland made an appearance in the magazine's Faces in the Crowd section.

Grzegorski was effective on offense once again, delivering eight kills against just one error, for a .467 percentage.

Bartlett had four digs and three aces to go along with her team-high 13 kills, and an attack percentage of .423.

Freshman Kitt Smith added six kills and three digs, while sophomore Stephanie Booms had 43 assists and seven digs. Junior Megan Howard led the team defensively with 13 digs.

The Chargers had 16 service aces as a team, compared to just five service errors. Senior Audra VanderMolen delivered two of those aces, both coming in the third game.

Hillsdale faces another U.P. test Saturday with a home match against Northern Michigan University at 2 p.m.

- 30 -

Another dominating weekend in the books for Hillsdale volleyball team; Chargers sweep Saginaw Valley, 3-0

Sept. 23, 2006 — It might be hard to top the performance the Hillsdale College volleyball team put on over the weekend.

The Chargers finished two days of near-flawless volleyball, sweeping Saginaw Valley State 3-0. Hillsdale won the games by scores of 30-15, 30-19 and 30-12. It was the Chargers' fifth straight 3-0 sweep and improves the team to 16-0 overall and 7-0 in the GLIAC this season. The improved Cardinals are 11-5 and 4-4.

Friday night, the Chargers completed a sweep of Northwood University on the road, and kept their record perfect with an even more one-sided victory over the Cardinals. Hillsdale held SVSU to a team hitting percentage of -.043 for the entire match, while recording more than twice as many kills (46-20) as the Cardinals.

Hillsdale has now recorded 13 3-0 sweeps over its opponents this season, and has a games record of 48-3 on the season.

Junior Melissa Bartlett led the Chargers with 15 kills, to go along with 14 digs. She was one of three Chargers to crack double figures in digs, highlighting one of Hillsdale's best team defensive performances of the season.

Senior Tessa Bloemers and junior Megan Howard each had a match-high 15 digs. Sophomore Jamie Murray chipped in with six digs.

Senior Becky Grzegorski capped a brilliant weekend with nine kills and one error, on 17 attempts, good for a hitting percentage of .471. She hit an eye-popping .667 Friday night at Northwood.

Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms added 38 assists and five kills, while senior Taryn Rudland had seven kills and one solo block.

Hillsdale now faces its busiest weekend of the season at home, with three matches in three days against the Upper Peninsula schools. The action starts with a 7 p.m. Friday night home match against Lake Superior State University.

- 30 -

Chargers dominate Timberwolves, cruising to 15th straight victory, 3-0

Sept. 22, 2006 — It had been three years since the Hillsdale College volleyball team visited Northwood University. After Friday's match, the Timberwolves might not want the Chargers to come back for a while.

Hillsdale defeated Northwood for the third year in a row, this time in a 3-0 sweep in Midland. The Chargers, ranked 11th in the country, are now 15-0 overall and 6-0 in the GLIAC. Northwood, who had won three straight, is now 10-5 and 4-3 in conference play. Hillsdale travels to Saginaw Valley for a 4 p.m. match Saturday.

This marks the first match against a North Division opponent for Hillsdale this season, and the Chargers stormed through the Timberwolves. Hillsdale had won tightly played 3-2 decisions over Northwood each of the past two seasons, but those matches were played at Jesse Philips Arena. Friday's matchup was played at the Bennett Center at Northwood, but the change of venue didn't faze the Chargers.

Hillsdale won the three games by scores of 30-22, 30-22 and 30-16. It marked the 12th 3-0 sweep in 15 matches this season for the Chargers, and their third in a row.

Seniors Becky Grzegorski and Taryn Rudland hadn't played at Northwood since they were freshmen in 2003, but they seemed very comfortable in this match. Both players were nearly unstoppable, combining for 24 kills and one error on 42 combined attack attempts. Grzegorski recorded a season-high 13 kills, while Rudland added 11. Junior Melissa Bartlett also had 11 kills.

As a team, Hillsdale leads all Division II teams in the nation in hitting percentage, and did nothing in this match to lose that lofty ranking. Hillsdale hit .352 for the match, while limiting the potent Timberwolves to a team hitting percentage of .087. The Chargers lead the GLIAC in both attack percentage and opponents' attack percentage.

Bartlett rang up another double-double, adding 12 digs to her 11 kills. Junior Megan Howard led Hillsdale with 15 digs, while sophomore setter Stephanie Booms had 43 assists.

- 30 -

Hillsdale grabs stranglehold of South Division race after 3-0 sweep of Mercyhurst

Sept. 16, 2006 — Their ranking now matches their winning streak.

The players on the Hillsdale College volleyball team are on a mission, and took the next step on that mission Saturday afternoon, defeating visiting Mercyhurst College 3-0 at Jesse Philips Arena. The 14th-ranked Chargers are now 14-0 overall and 5-0 in the GLIAC this season. The Lakers fell to 6-8 overall and 1-4 in the conference.

The Hillsdale offense is balanced and deep, but in this match, it was the defense that got the job done. Hillsdale held Mercyhurst to a team hitting percentage of -.019 for the match, while hitting .280 as a team offensively. The Chargers won the digs battle with the Lakers 46-28, and recorded 22 team blocks, compared to four for Mercyhurst.

Hillsdale won the first game 30-14, the second game 30-17 and the third game 30-27. The Chargers have won 11 of their 14 matches by 3-0 sweeps this season, and have an overall games record of 42-3.

Three players had eight or more kills, led by nine each from Taryn Rudland and Melissa Bartlett. Senior Katherine Jones, who had one of her best back-to-back efforts of the season, added eight kills and had a hitting percentage of .462. Freshman Kitt Smith added six kills and hit an impressive .556 for the match.

Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms picked up 32 assists and three service aces. She ranks among the GLIAC leaders in both categories. Bartlett and junior Megan Howard each had a team-high 10 digs for Hillsdale.

The Chargers have now finished the first half of the schedule vs. fellow South Division opponents with a perfect 5-0 mark. The team has at least a two-game lead on every other team in the South Division, pending the outcome of matches scheduled for later Saturday afternoon. Hillsdale is also the lone remaining undefeated team in the conference in terms of overall record.

The team will now face North Division opponents for the next three consecutive weekends, starting with a trek through mid-Michigan next weekend. Hillsdale faces a tough test on Sept. 22 at Northwood University, followed by a Saturday afternoon match at Saginaw Valley State University. SVSU is a much-improved team this season, and Northwood ended Northern Michigan's 11-match winning streak on Friday night. The Chargers are back home for three matches in three days starting on Sept. 29, with a trio of matches against the Upper Peninsula schools.

- 30 -

Chargers pick up 13th straight win of season, 3-0 over Golden Knights

Sept. 15, 2006 — Getting contributions from nearly every player on the roster, the Hillsdale College volleyball team picked up its 13th straight win to start the season Friday night, 3-0 over Gannon University at Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale is now 13-0 overall and 4-0 in the GLIAC, while Gannon falls to 4-6 and 1-4.

Hillsdale will host Mercyhurst College at 2 p.m. Saturday, looking for a sweep of its South Division opponents through the first half of the conference schedule.

Six different players recorded five kills or more, as the Chargers used another balanced offensive attack to overwhelm the Golden Knights. Hillsdale is currently ranked 14th in the nation in the latest AVCA Division II poll.

The Chargers won the first game 30-15, the second 30-20, and the third 30-17. Ten of Hillsdale's 13 wins this season have come by 3-0 sweeps.

Senior Katherine Jones played one of her best matches of the season, recording 11 kills with an eye-popping .643 hitting percentage. Jones had just two errors on 14 attempts. Senior Taryn Rudland added 10 kills on 15 attempts with one error, a .600 hitting percentage. Getting in on the offensive act also was junior Melissa Bartlett, who had seven kills. Freshman Kitt Smith had six kills, while Caitlin Baron and Becky Grzegorski each had five.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms is currently second in the GLIAC in both assists per game and service aces, and did nothing to detract from those numbers Friday night. Booms had 44 assists and seven service aces. As a team, the Chargers had 11 service aces, while hitting .356 as a team for the match. Hillsdale limited Gannon to a team hitting percentage of .088 in the victory.

Junior Megan Howard led Hillsdale with 13 digs, while senior Tessa Bloemers added 11. Jones also had five block assists.

- 30 -

Rudland earns GLIAC South Division Player of the Week honor for third time in career

Sept. 11, 2006 — Senior Taryn Rudland (Holland, Mich.) was named the GLIAC South Division Player of the Week for the third time in her career Monday afternoon.

Rudland, a middle hitter on the undefeated Hillsdale College volleyball team, led the Chargers to 3-1 wins on the road vs. Ashland and Findlay over the weekend, in addition to a home win vs. Wayne State last Tuesday. Rudland's award marks the second straight week a Hillsdale player has won the South Division Player of the Week award. Junior Melissa Bartlett won the award last week. This is also the first time two different Hillsdale players have won the award in back-to-back weeks.

Rudland finished the week with 37 kills in the three matches, compared to just four errors in 77 total attack attempts. She also recorded four solo blocks and 14 block assists during the team's 3-0 week. She had a hitting percentage of .481 in the three matches last week.

The Chargers are 12-0 overall and 3-0 in the GLIAC, representing the best start to a season in the program's history. Rudland has been an important part of that great start, as she leads the conference in hitting percentage this season (.456) and is second in blocks per game (1.28). Rudland was previously named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week on Oct. 28, 2003 and Sept. 6, 2005. Rudland was the 2003 GLIAC Freshman of the Year and is a two-time First-Team All-GLIAC selection during her career. Rudland played her high school volleyball at Holland West Ottawa High School.

The 20th-ranked Chargers will play at home this weekend, taking on Gannon University Friday night and Mercyhurst College Saturday afternoon.

- 30 -

Volleyball team opens GLIAC play with 3-0 sweep of Wayne State

Sept. 5, 2006 — Tuesday afternoon, the Hillsdale College volleyball team found out it was ranked 20th in the latest AVCA Division II poll. Tuesday night, the Chargers lived up to that billing.

Hillsdale won its 10th straight match to open the season, this one in efficient fashion, 3-0 over the visiting Wayne State University Warriors. The Chargers are now 10-0 for the first time in school history, and are 1-0 in the GLIAC. Wayne State is 0-6 and 0-1.

Hillsdale wasted little time in winning the match in front of an enthusiastic home crowd, taking just 62 minutes to complete the sweep. Hillsdale faces a key road trip this weekend with matches at South Division rivals Ashland and Findlay.

The Chargers won the first two games Tuesday night by identical 30-12 scores, and winning the third 30-19. The team has now won 28 straight individual games, and hasn't allowed its opponent more than 20 points in 17 of those 28 games.

It was another balanced offensive effort for Hillsdale, who had four players register seven or more kills. Senior Taryn Rudland led the way with 11 kills, hitting .455 for the match. Junior Melissa Bartlett and senior Katherine Jones each had eight kills, while senior Becky Grzegorski had another efficient match with seven kills and a .500 attack percentage.

Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms had 36 assists, while junior Megan Howard led the team with 11 digs. As a team, Hillsdale forced Wayne State into a -.055 attack percentage for the match, while winning the kills battle 50-15.

The 10-match winning streak by the Chargers is the longest in school history, and also represents the best start to a season for the volleyball program.

- 30 -

Bartlett named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week; volleyball team ranked 20th in nation according to latest AVCA Top 25 poll

Sept. 5, 2006 — Junior outside hitter Melissa Bartlett hasn't taken long to make a strong impression for the Hillsdale College volleyball team. Concluding her second week with the program, Bartlett was named the GLIAC South Division Player of the Week.

In addition to Bartlett's individual honor, the team achieved a Top 25 ranking in the latest AVCA poll, released Tuesday afternoon. Hillsdale went from being unranked to No. 20 on the AVCA Top 25 poll. This represents the highest national ranking in the history of the Charger volleyball program. The team received one first-place national vote, to go along with its new ranking.

Bartlett, a 5-foot-10 inch player from Chatham, Ontario, was named the Most Valuable Player at the Towne Place Suites Classic Tournament in Findlay, Ohio over the weekend. She led Hillsdale to a 4-0 record, all four wins coming in 3-0 sweeps. In those four matches, Bartlett piled up 49 kills, including a season-high 18 in a win over Edinboro. She played her prep volleyball at Chatham Kent.

Bartlett also earned her first double-double as a Charger, with 13 kills and 10 digs in a 3-0 sweep of 15th-ranked Lock Haven University in the final match of the tournament. Bartlett leads Hillsdale with 4.04 kills per game, and had a hitting percentage this season of .387. She also has 46 digs

and 11 service aces this season. Bartlett played her first two college seasons at Eastern Michigan University, and was honorable mention All-Mid-American Conference after the 2005 season.

The Chargers are off to a 9-0 start, the best mark ever for the volleyball program. The team had never had a winning streak as long as eight in any one season, and had never been off to a start better than 6-0 in its program's history. The team was nationally ranked early in the 2004 season, but never got rated as high as 20th.

The GLIAC was well-represented in the latest poll. Defending Division II national champion Grand Valley (7-1) was ranked No. 2, with six first-place votes. The University of Findlay (7-1) earned a No. 22 ranking in the latest poll, just two spots behind Hillsdale. Ferris State University (8-1) was ranked 25th in the poll. Northern Michigan University, off to an 8-0 start, was the second team listed in the "others receiving votes" category.

- 30 -

Charger volleyball team off to program-best 9-0 start after winning Towne Suites Classic Tournament at Findlay

Sept. 2, 2006 - The statement came through loud and clear: The Hillsdale College volleyball team is one to be reckoned with.

The Chargers were the team of the tournament over the weekend, going 4-0 at the Towne Suites Classic in Findlay, Ohio. Hillsdale won all four matches by 3-0 sweeps, including an especially impressive win over 15th-ranked Lock Haven in the final match of the weekend.

The sweep gives the Chargers a 9-0 record on the season. Hillsdale has never been 9-0 in the history of its program (until now), and the current nine-match winning streak is also the longest its ever had. The Chargers will look to make that streak hit double digits Tuesday evening when they host Wayne State University in the GLIAC opener for both teams.

The Chargers have won each of their past eight matches by 3-0 scores. Hillsdale has a "games" record of 27-1 this season, with the only loss coming 30-28 to Texas A&M-Kingsville.

There would be no game losses over the weekend for the Chargers. The weekend got off to a great start Friday afternoon with a 30-15, 30-24, 30-13 win over a talented California (Pa.) team. Junior Melissa Bartlett (13 kills) and senior Taryn Rudland (12 kills) led the offense for the Chargers.

Bartlett, who was named Tournament MVP, flexed her muscles against Edinboro in the late match Friday, recording a season-high 18 kills to help Hillsdale to wins of 30-11, 30-24, 30-24. Bartlett finished the weekend with a total of 49 kills.

The first match Saturday was also a breeze for Hillsdale, as it defeated Glenville State 30-23, 30-26, 30-26. Six players had four or more kills, led by freshman Kitt Smith's seven.

The most-anticipated match of the weekend came in the final showdown Saturday between the Chargers and Lock Haven, who was ranked 15th in the country by the AVCA. Hillsdale treated Lock Haven just like its previous eight foes this season - by sweeping it in three games. The Chargers earned wins of 30-20, 30-19 and 30-23. Four players - Rudland, Bartlett, Katherine Jones and Becky Grzegorski - had more than 10 kills in the match. Sophomore setter Stephanie Booms had a season-high 46 assists in the match, giving her a total of 139 for the tournament, an average of 11.6 per game.

Grzegorski was named to the All-Tournament team after hitting better than .500 in three of the four matches. Hillsdale has allowed fewer than 20 points in 13 of its 27 individual game victories this season. Hillsdale's previous longest winning streak was eight, coming early in the 2004 season. The Chargers had also won seven straight in the 1998, 1999 and 2002 seasons. But none of those winning streaks were entirely compromised of 3-0 wins. As far as starts to a season goes, it can't get much better than this for the volleyball team.

- 30 -

Hillsdale opens home schedule with 3-0 sweep of Spring Arbor

August 28, 2006 - Coming off an impressive showing at the first tournament of the season, the Hillsdale College volleyball team kept that trend going in its home opener Monday night.

The Chargers defeated neighboring Spring Arbor University 3-0 at Jesse Philips Arena in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Hillsdale is now 5-0 overall and has yet to play a conference match.

With coach Chris Gravel rotating the entire roster in and out of the match, several players got valuable playing experience, in front of an energetic home crowd against a team that, while from the NAIA, was no pushover.

Game one was tightly played, as the teams played through eight ties and three lead changes. But the Chargers ended up going on a scoring run late in the game to pull away with a 30-23 win.

Game two was more one-sided, as Hillsdale grabbed a 30-19 win. Junior Melissa Bartlett, playing her first home match for Hillsdale, had dominant stretches of offense, getting 13 of her match-high 16 kills in the first two games. The 16 kills are her best in a Hillsdale uniform.

The Chargers led game three from start to finish, prevailing 30-21. The Cougars fell to 3-2 overall with the loss.

The Hillsdale offense was balanced after Bartlett's 16 kills. Senior Taryn Rudland had seven, while senior Katherine Jones and freshman Kitt Smith had six each. Smith recorded half of her six kills in the third game. The team had 12 service aces compared to seven service errors, a solid ratio.

Sophomore Stephanie Booms handed out 38 assists, while sophomore Jamie Murray added five assists. Junior Megan Howard came in with 19 digs, while senior Tessa Bloemers also cracked double digits in digs with 10.

The Chargers will face some stiff competition this weekend at the University of Findlay tournament. The team will play a pair of strong teams from Pennsylvania, including California (Pa.) and 15th-ranked Lock Haven at the two-day gathering.

- 30 -

A nearly perfect beginning to the 2006 Hillsdale College volleyball season

August 27, 2006 - Perfection is nearly impossible to achieve in the competitive world of athletics, but the Hillsdale College volleyball team came pretty close during a dominating season-opening weekend at the Ferris State University Volleyball Invite.

The Chargers went 4-0 at the tournament, winning 12 out of the 13 games they played, being crowned the tournament's "unofficial champions." No other team had as good of a record games-wise as Hillsdale did, and the one game the team lost, came to Texas A&M-Kingsville, by a 30-28 score.

Every other number coming out of the tournament illustrated just how dominant the Chargers were. In the team's 12 single-game victories, their opponents didn't even reach the 20-point barrier nine times. Hillsdale's average margin of victory in each game was 10 points, and the team outscored its opponents by a total score of 388-249.

Several aspects of the team's game appeared in midseason form. The Chargers had nearly twice as many service aces as errors, and held their four opponents to a total attack percentage of .084.

The last time Hillsdale got out of the chutes 4-0 was in 2001, when the team opened the season playing at the Madonna University Tournament.

The Chargers opened play Friday with a 3-1 win over Texas A&M-Kingsville. The first game of the first match was just as lopsided as the score indicated - 30-11. Hillsdale won the second game 30-22 before suffering the narrow 30-28 defeat in the third game. The team returned to form in the fourth game, going away with a 30-17 win.

Hillsdale finished play Friday with a 3-0 sweep of West Virginia State, a team that won its regular season conference crown last year. The Chargers breezed to wins of 30-17, 30-15 and 30-16.

Saturday morning, Hillsdale was up bright and early, playing a 9 a.m. match against Saint Joseph's (Ind.) The early hour did nothing to slow the team down, as Hillsdale picked up wins of 30-17, 30-15 and 30-18. The team had a streak of seven straight games where its opponent couldn't get to 19 points before Hillsdale scored its 30th.

The final match of the weekend would prove to be the most challenging for the team, as Metro State (Col.) pushed the Chargers hard in each game. Hillsdale ended up winning the match 30-27, 30-19 and 30-25. Metro State led late in the first and third games, but Hillsdale used strong serving and good offense to score points when they needed them the most.

Senior **Taryn Rudland** and junior **Melissa Bartlett** were named to the All-Tournament Team for their terrific play. Rudland, a First-Team All-GLIAC middle hitter, picked up right where she left off, recording 43 kills and 14 total blocks while hitting a staggering .565 for the entire tournament. She didn't have an attack percentage below .500 in any match over the weekend.

Bartlett, who was making her debut in a Hillsdale uniform, was also outstanding, leading the team with 44 kills while delivering 24 digs, 10 total blocks and seven service aces. Bartlett's outside hitting and serving power proved to be too much for most teams to handle.

But those weren't the only two players to help Hillsdale go undefeated. Sophomore setter **Stephanie Booms** displayed a terrific all-around game, recording 16 service aces while dishing out 140 assists, a mark of more than 10 per game. She had 30 assists, eight service aces and 12 digs in the team's win over Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Senior **Katherine Jones** led the team with three solo blocks over the weekend, while junior **Megan Howard** had 60 digs. Freshman **Kitt Smith** was impressive in her collegiate debut, playing in all four matches while recording 21 kills with a .421 attack percentage. Fellow freshmen **Emily Bennett** and **Hannah Barrett** also recorded their first collegiate kills during the weekend.

Hillsdale opens up its 2006 home schedule Monday night with a non-league match against Spring Arbor University. Next weekend, the Chargers will travel to the University of Findlay to participate in the TownePlace Suites Classic.