

## Melissa Bartlett named AVCA First-Team All-American

*UPDATE: Bartlett also named Daktronics First-Team All-American*

November 26, 2007 - For the second year in a row, a Hillsdale College volleyball player has been named AVCA First-Team All-American.

Senior outside hitter Melissa Bartlett earned the honor, announced Monday afternoon. Bartlett joins Taryn Rudland, named 2006 First-Team All-American, as the only Charger volleyball players to ever receive such accolades.

Early Thursday morning, Bartlett received another All-American honor, this one coming from Daktronics. She was one of just seven Division II players in the nation to be named Daktronics First-Team All-American.

Bartlett had an outstanding 2007 campaign, leading the Chargers to their second straight GLIAC South Division championship. Her 635 kills led the GLIAC and were the second-most in school history for one season. She was named GLIAC Player of the Year, and was named First-Team All-Region by the AVCA and Daktronics.

She finished her two-year Hillsdale career with 1,046 kills, No. 5 on the school's career list despite playing just two seasons in Charger blue. She came to Hillsdale in 2006 after playing her first two collegiate seasons at Eastern Michigan University.

The Chatham, Ontario native led Hillsdale to a 55-10 record over the past two seasons, including back-to-back spots in the NCAA Division II regional tournament. She led Hillsdale in kills in both of her seasons, and was second on the team in digs in 2007. She led Hillsdale in service aces with 54.

Bartlett was the only GLIAC player to make it to the AVCA First-Team All-American list.

## Chargers lose 3-1 in first round of regionals to Indianapolis

November 15, 2007 - A wonderful 2007 season came to an end Thursday afternoon for the Hillsdale College volleyball team, as the Chargers lost a 3-1 decision to the University of Indianapolis. Hillsdale finishes the season at 26-8, losing in the first round of the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament at Grand Valley State University.

The Chargers opened the match playing well, winning game one 30-24. But the Greyhounds played with energy and executed soundly in winning games two and three by identical scores of 30-24. Hillsdale matched Indy's energy through game four, and battled toe to toe before falling 32-30.

Although the current season came to an end Thursday, the Chargers have to be encouraged by the strong play in the match of some of its younger players, particularly freshmen Amanda Bigney and

Amanda Geelhoed.

Bigney set a new career-high with 24 kills and hit .409 for the match. She became Hillsdale's primary offensive weapon throughout the match and was too powerful for Indy to block in most of her attacks.

Geelhoed had five kills and three block assists and played well along the front row during her time in the match.

Junior Stephanie Booms played a brilliant match, recording her second career triple double. She finished with 14 kills, 50 assists and 12 digs. Her first triple double came way back on Sept. 13, 2005, her first career GLIAC match, at Wayne State.

Hillsdale and Indy hit nearly identical percentages in the match (.291-.293), but the Greyhounds took advantage of 10 Charger service errors and had six more kills in the match.

Senior Melissa Bartlett, playing her final collegiate match, had 13 kills, 17 digs and five block assists. Fellow senior Megan Howard wrapped up a record-breaking career with a team-high 18 digs.

## **Bartlett, Howard named to the 2007 Daktronics All-Region Volleyball Teams**

November 14, 2007 - Hillsdale College seniors Melissa Bartlett and Megan Howard were awarded as being two of the top players in the Great Lakes Region Wednesday morning.

Bartlett was named to the Daktronics First-Team All-Region, while Howard was named Second-Team All-Region. Votes were cast by sports information directors throughout the Great Lakes Region, which covers the GLIAC, GLVC and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Bartlett, who last week was named GLIAC Player of the Year, has been among the top outside hitters in the nation this season. Her 622 kills are second on Hillsdale's single-season list, and she is second on the team in digs. She was named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week four times, and has more than 1,000 kills in two seasons with the Chargers.

Howard, a co-captain of the team, is Hillsdale's all-time leader in digs with 2,116. She is second in career service aces with 160, and has helped lead the team to four consecutive seasons of 19 wins or more for the first time in school history. She is the only libero to be named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week, winning the award in 2005 and again this season.

## Charger volleyball team gets into NCAA Division II regional tournament, and will face Indianapolis in first round Thursday

*Grand Valley State University to host regional tournament*

November 12, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team has qualified for the NCAA Division II regional tournament for the fourth year in a row. The Chargers (26-7), a sixth-seed, will face the University of Indianapolis in the first round Thursday, at 12 p.m. The Greyhounds are the No. 3 seed in the tournament.

Grand Valley State University will host the tournament, which will take place Thursday through Saturday. There will be four quarterfinal matches Thursday, followed by two semifinal matches Friday. The championship match is scheduled for Saturday.

Here are the other first-round regional matchups: Grand Valley vs. Charleston W.Va.); Lewis vs. Ashland; and Northern Kentucky vs. SIU-Edwardsville.

Hillsdale heads into the tournament with a No. 9 national ranking and a 26-7 record. The Chargers were champions of the GLIAC South Division for the second year in a row, and advanced to the GLIAC Tournament Championship Match for the first time in its history.

That positive momentum could carry over into this week's regional tournament. Hillsdale gets matched up with another team that lost in the finals of its conference tournament, the University of Indianapolis.

The Greyhounds have enjoyed their finest season of volleyball in their history in 2007, racking up a gaudy 32-3 overall record heading into the playoffs. Indy was the regular season champions of the GLVC and was the top-ranked team in the Great Lakes Region throughout the season. But red-hot Lewis toppled UIndy 3-0 in the GLVC tournament finals on Sunday, dropping the Greyhounds from first to third in the region.

Hillsdale played Indianapolis during the 2006 regular season, with the Chargers earning a 3-0 win on Oct. 19, 2006 at Hillsdale's Senior Night. The two teams did not play in the 2007 season.

UIndy has enjoyed productive seasons from its setter and middle hitters, who were among the best throughout the GLVC. Setter Beth Robbins has been among the nation's leaders in assists all season, and has piled up 1,564 this season. She has fed hitters Casey Chrzastowski and Lyndsay Callahan with a steady diet of kills all season. Those two players have combined for 804 kills this season.

The Chargers also have a powerful offense at their disposal. Senior Melissa Bartlett is fifth in the nation with 622 kills this season, just 16 shy of the single-season school record. She was named GLIAC Player of the Year last weekend and was named GLIAC South Player of the Week a record

four times.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms was also named First-Team All-GLIAC, and ranks among the Chargers; career leaders in service aces and assists in less than three full seasons. Booms and Bartlett were also named to the GLIAC All-Tournament team.

The team's young crop of hitters have improved throughout the season. Sophomore Kittrick Smith (pictured) was named Second-Team All-GLIAC, and her 358 kills this season rank her among the 10 best single-season kill totals in school history. Emily Bennett, Hannah Barrett and Jen Pilot have all taken turns playing big games in the middle for Hillsdale. Pilot had 11 kills in Hillsdale's conference semifinal win over Ashland on Nov. 10.

Hillsdale's defense has been a reliable measuring stick for its overall play all season. When the Chargers play good defense, they're very tough to beat, and leading that defense is libero Megan Howard. A senior, Howard was named Second-Team All-GLIAC and is Hillsdale's career leader in digs and is second all-time in service aces. Junior DS Jamie Murray was honorable mention All-GLIAC, and is one of the team's most reliable servers and passers. Freshman Sydney Dow has been a welcome addition to the defensive mix this season, providing energy, aggressive serving and selfless team play during her rookie season.

Six of the eight teams in the Great Lakes Region are currently ranked in the nation's top 25, with a seventh team, Northern Kentucky, one spot out of the poll. NKU is as capable of winning the tournament as anyone, showcasing the strength and depth of this region. Lewis, Ashland and Grand Valley join Hillsdale as teams making at least their second consecutive trip to the NCAA Regional Tournament.

## **Grand Valley defeats Hillsdale 3-1 in 2007 GLIAC volleyball tournament championship match**

November 11, 2007 - Today, the Hillsdale College volleyball team is playing in its first-ever GLIAC tournament championship match. That match turned into the team's seventh loss of the season.

Grand Valley played extremely well on its home court and defeated the Chargers 3-1 Sunday afternoon in Allendale. Both teams will be participating in next week's NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament.

The Lakers jumped out to big leads in both the third and fourth games. GVSU had a 16-1 lead in game three, and jumped out to a 10-2 edge in the fourth game. Hillsdale showed grit and heart in rallying in both games, but could not overcome those huge early deficits.

The Lakers had 70 kills in the match compared to 48 for Hillsdale. Three Lakers had 10 or more kills

snd GVSU committed just 13 attack errors compared to 29 for Hillsdale.

Hillsdale's Stephanie Booms and Melissa Bartlett were named to the All-Tournament Team, announced after the match.

Grand Valley won game one 30-21, but the Chargers came back with a clutch 33-31 win in the second game. GVSU won games three and four by scores of 30-13 and 30-22.

Senior Melissa Bartlett led Hillsdale with 12 kills in the match. Hillsdale hit just .108 in the match compared to .356 for the Lakers. Grand Valley had 15 team blocks in the match compared to six for the Chargers.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms had 37 assists for Hillsdale. Bartlett's 17 digs were a team-high, while senior Megan Howard had 15 digs and a team-high five service aces, which all came in the first game.

The Lakers (ranked eighth in the nation) played unbelievable defense throughout the match, both in blocking in the front row, and in court coverage on attack attempts by the Chargers. Many of Hillsdale's clean attempts were dug up by Laker players flying in all directions on the court.

Thanks to outstanding clutch play by freshman Amanda Bigney, Hillsdale came back to win a thrilling second game, 33-31. Bigney has six kills in the second game, including three after the score was 29-27, Grand Valley. The Chargers scored three straight points after being one point away from an 0-2 deficit.

Grand Valley's Allyson Riley was injured in the second game. Riley has won the GLIAC's Libero of the Year honor three years in a row. She did not return to the match after suffering what appeared to be a right knee injury.

Although the Chargers played well for stretches, the host Grand Valley State University Lakers won the first game 30-21. Senior Megan Howard had five service aces in the opening game. The Lakers did a terrific job of blocking in the first game, picking up six total team blocks. GVSU held Hillsdale to a team hitting percentage of .000 in the first game, while the Lakers hit .472.

Grand Valley ended the first game on a 10-2 run after clinging to a 20-19 lead over the Chargers.

## **Charger volleyball team advances to first-ever GLIAC championship match thanks to 3-1 win over Ashland**

November 10, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team emphatically put aside a lingering demon from last year's postseason Saturday afternoon.

Playing with purpose and power, the 11th-ranked Chargers defeated Ashland University 3-1 in the semifinals of the 2007 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament in Allendale. Hillsdale, now 26-6 on the season, will play in its first-ever championship match at 4 p.m. Sunday against the host Grand Valley State University Lakers.

Hillsdale rolled through the Eagles in the first two games, winning 30-24 and 30-25. Ashland came back to take game three 30-24, but the Chargers dominated the fourth game, never trailing en route to a 30-19 victory. Ashland was ranked 12th in the nation coming into the contest.

Now, the Chargers will face the No. 8 Lakers, who routed Northern Michigan 3-0 in the other semifinal. Grand Valley edged Hillsdale 3-2 when the two teams met in Allendale on Oct. 13. Hillsdale has just one win over GVSU since October of 1989, that coming on Oct. 7, 2006, when the Chargers swept the then-defending national champion Lakers in Allendale.

One year ago, Ashland handed Hillsdale its first loss of the 2006 season in the conference tournament semifinals. The Chargers made sure there would not be a repeat performance, and leading the way is Hillsdale's second straight GLIAC Player of the Year.

Senior Melissa Bartlett played perhaps her finest match in a Hillsdale uniform, leading all players with 23 kills and a career-high 31 digs to go along with five block assists. It's the first time she's had 30 digs in a match since coming to Hillsdale, and she joins Taryn Rudland as the only Charger players to be named conference player of the year. Bartlett received the award in between the two semifinal matches.

The Chargers shut down the Eagles in the fourth game, limiting Ashland to a .053 hitting percentage as a team. Ashland hit .165 in the match, and had 13 fewer kills than the Chargers.

Sophomore Kittrick Smith, who was chosen Second Team All-GLIAC, had 14 kills for Hillsdale. Senior Jen Pilot contributed 11 kills and four block assists, while junior setter Stephanie Booms had 56 assists, four service aces and 14 digs. Senior Megan Howard added 22 digs and two service aces, while freshman Sydney Dow had 12 digs and one ace.

Hillsdale has never won a GLIAC volleyball tournament title. If Hillsdale wins its Sunday match, it will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament. Although a postseason spot seems very likely for the Chargers, the team would go into the postseason with unbelievable confidence and momentum if it were to win the tournament. Ashland won the 2006 GLIAC volleyball tournament, while Grand Valley won the 2005 version.

Click on the link below for the box score, as well as the release of the 2007 GLIAC All-Conference volleyball teams.

Booms joined Bartlett on the First-Team, while Howard and Smith were on the Second Team. Junior Jamie Murray was named honorable mention All-GLIAC.

## Pair of Charger volleyball players earn Academic All-District honors

November 8, 2007 - Hillsdale College volleyball players Melissa Bartlett and Stephanie Booms were named to the ESPN the Magazine CoSIDA Academic All-District Second Team in an announcement Thursday morning.

The team is voted upon by sports information directors throughout the Great Lakes Region. On-court success and off-the-court academic success are equally weighted through the voting process.

Bartlett, a biology major with a 3.56 overall grade point average, leads the Chargers in kills this season with 587. She also ranks fifth in the nation in Division II in kills and kills per game.

Junior Stephanie Booms is among the GLIAC leaders in assists and service aces this season. A team co-captain, Booms carries a 3.89 grade point average with a biology major.

Only two other GLIAC volleyball players earned All-District honors: Erica Vandekopple from Grand Valley and Lynsey Warren from Ashland.

## Hillsdale advances in GLIAC volleyball tournament with 3-1 win over Saginaw Valley

November 7, 2007 - One aspect of the Hillsdale College volleyball team's game that has improved in recent weeks is its ability to finish. That was never more apparent than in Wednesday's GLIAC Tournament Quarterfinal match against Saginaw Valley State University.

With the score tied 22-22 in a tense fourth game, Charger junior Jamie Murray accepted the ball to begin serving. She wouldn't give it up, as she helped lead Hillsdale on a match-ending 8-0 run to give the Chargers a 3-1 quarterfinal win over the visiting Cardinals at the Jesse Philips Arena.

Hillsdale, 25-6 on the season and ranked 11th in the nation, will now play in Saturday's tournament semifinal at Grand Valley against Ashland University.

Ashland defeated Findlay 3-1 in another quarterfinal match Wednesday night. Grand Valley will take on Northern Michigan in the other semifinal matchup Saturday. The championship match is

scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday in Allendale.

After Hillsdale took a 2-0 lead in the match, the Cardinals came back with a 30-25 game three win, in which it played with more energy and made attacks that were tougher for Hillsdale to defend. Game four started out very tight, as neither team could establish more than a three-point lead leading up to the 22-22 tie score.

Murray (pictured), who often plays a hidden but important role in the team's defensive play, has long been one of the team's most consistent servers, and has improved her passing as the season has gone along. She served effectively against the SVSU defense, allowing Hillsdale's offense to execute attacks and block to its peak ability in the home stretch of the fourth game.

The Chargers appeared to get energized by the front row play of senior Jen Pilot and sophomores Hannah Barrett and Kittrick Smith, who each made key plays in that match-ending 8-0 run.

Smith had a kill and two block assists to help get the run going. The points appeared to throw off Saginaw Valley's chemistry, as the Cardinals committed back-to-back errors to push Hillsdale's lead to 26-22 before its second timeout.

Barrett delivered a killing blow with a kill off an overpass to keep the precious momentum on Hillsdale's side. Senior Melissa Bartlett then finished off the match with her 24th kill of the night.

Bartlett hit .444 in the match and had 11 digs and three block assists to lead the Hillsdale offense. Smith and freshman Amanda Bigney each had 12 kills, with Bigney's total representing a career-high. Junior setter Stephanie Booms contributed seven kills, a .429 hitting percentage and 51 assists. Senior Megan Howard led the team with 17 digs, and had two service aces.

The Chargers were able to overcome five service errors in the one-sided game-one victory. Hillsdale hit .295 for the match compared to .181 for Saginaw Valley. This match marked the first postseason appearance for the Cardinals since 1997, and just the second in school history. SVSU finishes a fine season with a 20-12 overall record.

This is the fourth straight year Hillsdale has won a first-round GLIAC tournament match. The team knocked off Findlay in 2004 and 2005, and swept Northern Michigan in 2006. Three of those four matches have been played at home. Hillsdale has never won a GLIAC Tournament Semifinal match, and that is just one of the challenges that awaits the team in Allendale this weekend.

# VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT PREVIEW: Chargers to host Saginaw Valley in first round of 2007 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament

*Match set to begin at 7 p.m. tonight inside the Jesse Philips Arena*

November 6, 2007 - For the third time in four years, the Hillsdale College volleyball team will host a first-round match in the GLIAC Volleyball Tournament. But this year, an opponent new to postseason play will be visiting Jesse Philips Arena.

Admission for all Hillsdale College students with proper ID will be free. General admission tickets are \$5. College faculty and staff members with proper ID will be charged \$3 for tickets, while tickets for seniors are \$2.

Hillsdale (24-6) will host Saginaw Valley State University (20-11) at 7 p.m. Wednesday inside the Jesse Philips Arena. The winner of this quarterfinal match will advance to Saturday's tournament semifinal, with time, opponent and location to be determined after all of Wednesday's matches are complete.

While the Chargers (ranked 11th in the nation) are working on a run of four consecutive appearances in postseason play, this is the first time Saginaw Valley will participate in a postseason tournament since 1997. That was even before the current rally-scoring system was implemented. It is just SVSU's second-ever GLIAC tournament appearance.

Although the playoff histories of the two schools are very different, Hillsdale knows how improved Saginaw Valley is this season. Back on Sept. 15, the Cardinals put a serious scare into the Chargers, winning the first two games of their match, which was eventually won by Hillsdale, 3-2. That day, SVSU featured a team with tall and strong hitters up front, to go along with excellent passing from its setters and back-row players.

Saginaw Valley finished the regular season with a 20-11 record, the most wins in its school history. The team took fourth place in the GLIAC North Division with a 9-9 conference ledger. That finish gave it the first of two available wild card spots in the postseason tournament.

Hillsdale got matched up with Saginaw Valley based on its first-place finish in the GLIAC South Division. Hillsdale finished the regular season on a five-game winning streak after sweeping Ashland 3-0 Saturday to clinch its second straight division title. Hillsdale was 15-2 in conference play this season, and has won 35 of its past 37 conference matches, dating back to the end of the 2005 season.

Hillsdale hosted quarterfinal matches in 2004 and 2006. Both matches were 3-0 sweeps for Hillsdale, as the team defeated Findlay in 2004 and Northern Michigan in 2006. In 2005, the

Chargers rallied for a 3-2 victory over the Oilers at Findlay. Hillsdale has never won a conference semifinal match.

The Chargers put together an outstanding regular season, often using a lineup with three to four underclassmen on the court at the same time. The team entered GLIAC play with a 7-4 record after those August and early-September tournaments. But the young players adjusted to the new level of play quickly, and the team ended up winning its first 10 conference matches in a row.

The only two conference losses suffered by the Chargers came on back-to-back days, at Ferris State and Grand Valley. Hillsdale lost both matches 3-2, with the fifth-game scoring margins ending up at two and four points. But like they did earlier in the season, the Chargers responded well to the losses, going into their next matches with improved focus and execution.

Hillsdale has one of the most powerful outside hitters in the nation on its team in senior Melissa Bartlett. A four-time GLIAC South Division Player of the Week, Bartlett leads the GLIAC in total kills and kills per game, and has been in the top five in the nation in both categories throughout the season. She finished the regular season with back-to-back 21-kill performances in wins over Findlay and Ashland on the road.

Hillsdale's offense has developed nicely throughout the season, with underclassmen showing great improvement in their games since those early-season tournament matches. Sophomore Kittrick Smith (pictured) has more than doubled her kills total from 2006, ranking second on the team with 329 kills. She also played big in a hostile environment, recording her first career 20-kill match on the road against Grand Valley on Oct. 13.

Sophomore middle hitter Emily Bennett has been a pleasant surprise for the Chargers, leading the team with a .341 hitting percentage. After playing in just seven total games last year, Bennett has played in all 30 games and given the team consistent scoring from the middle hitter position.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms has continued her brilliant play all season, ranking second in the GLIAC in assists per game while ranking third on the team in digs and service aces.

Senior Megan Howard claimed Hillsdale's career digs lead this season, and is the first player in school history to record more than 2,000 digs in her career. Her 44 service aces are second on the team, and is finishing her second year as team captain. She solidifies the team's defensive presence, which is strengthened by the play from freshman Sydney Dow and junior Jamie Murray. All three players have given the team consistent passing and serving all season.

In the first match between these two teams this season, SVSU stunned the Chargers by winning the first two games by scores of 30-27 and 30-26. Hillsdale hung in by winning games three and four by identical 30-28 scores. Hillsdale closed out the Homecoming Day win with a 15-11 triumph in the

fifth game. SVSU's Allison Schlinkert had a match-high 25 kills in that contest. Hillsdale committed 11 more attack errors than Saginaw Valley in the match (39-28), and had eight service errors. The Chargers have improved on both of those statistics in recent weeks, averaging just 15 hitting errors in the team's current five-match winning streak.

The other GLIAC quarterfinal matchups on Wednesday are as follows: Michigan Tech at Grand Valley, Ferris State at Northern Michigan, and Findlay at Ashland. The tournament is re-seeded after the first round, with the highest remaining seed playing the lowest remaining seed in one of the semifinal matches Saturday. The GLIAC championship match, set for Sunday, does not have a start time yet. That will be determined after the four quarterfinal matches Wednesday night.

## Melissa Bartlett wins second straight GLIAC South Division Player of the Week

November 5, 2007 - For the second week in a row, Hillsdale College senior volleyball player Melissa Bartlett was named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week. The award was announced by the conference office Monday afternoon.

Bartlett, an outside hitter, had 42 kills in two Hillsdale wins over the weekend. The Chargers clinched the 2007 GLIAC South Division title with wins of 3-1 over Findlay and 3-0 over Ashland. It's the second year in a row the Chargers have won the division championship.

Bartlett also had eight service aces over the weekend, and had a .342 hitting percentage in the two matches. Bartlett currently leads the GLIAC in kills and kills per game. This is also the fourth time this season Bartlett has been named player of the week. It's also the first time ever a Hillsdale player has won the award two weeks in a row. Chargers have been named South Division Player of the Week a total of six times this season, the highest for any team in the conference.

Hillsdale is 24-6 on the season and will host Saginaw Valley State University at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the first round of the GLIAC Volleyball Tournament. The Chargers are ranked 11th in the nation in the latest AVCA/CSTV Division II Top 25 Volleyball poll.

## BACK-TO-BACK! Charger volleyball team wins 2007 GLIAC South Division title thanks to 3-0 sweep of Ashland

November 3, 2007 - They say defending a title can be more difficult than winning one in the first place. Either way, few wins have been sweeter for the 2007 Hillsdale College volleyball team than the one it earned Saturday afternoon.

The Chargers put together perhaps their finest performance of the season in defeating Ashland University 3-0 at Ashland's Kates Gymnasium. With the win, Hillsdale wins the 2007 GLIAC South Division championship and will be the No. 2 seed at next week's GLIAC Tournament. Hillsdale is 24-6 overall and 15-2 in the GLIAC. The Eagles have lost just four matches this season, two coming to Hillsdale. Ashland finishes the regular season 14-3 in the GLIAC.

The Chargers won the three games by scores of 30-26, 30-19 and 30-26. The Eagles, ranked No. 9 in the nation coming into the match, are 25-4 on the season and 14-3 in the GLIAC. The Chargers came into the weekend ranked 13th.

The Chargers have swept Ashland in each of the past two regular seasons, but it was the Eagles who gave Hillsdale both of its losses in 2006, including two matches in the postseason, one in the GLIAC tournament and one in the NCAA Division II regionals.

This win also likely wraps up an NCAA tournament bid for the fourth year in a row for the Chargers. Hillsdale came into the match ranked seventh in the Great Lakes Region. But a win over Ashland, who was ranked higher in the regional poll, will likely give the Chargers more than enough regional wins to make it into the tournament.

Senior Melissa Bartlett turned in her second straight 21-kill match for the Chargers. She also had 21 in Friday's win at Findlay. She hit .298 for the match, and had 17 digs and four block assists.

Senior Jen Pilot had a brilliant match at the net, picking up a career-high 11 total blocks, including three solos. Her play at the net was key in stopping Ashland's potent offense. Senior Megan Howard (22) and freshman Sydney Dow (20) each had more than 20 digs in a nicely balanced defensive effort for the Chargers.

In the second game of the match, Hillsdale hit an impressive .441 as a team. The Eagles hit .101 for the entire match. The Chargers also had seven service aces against just one service error. Bartlett led the team with four aces.

Hillsdale's opponent in the GLIAC tournament has not yet been determined. Click on the link below for the box score from Saturday's match.

## Charger volleyball team takes out Findlay, 3-1

November 2, 2007 - The first half of this weekend's trek through Ohio turned out well for the Hillsdale College volleyball team.

The Chargers used a steady effort to defeat the University of Findlay Oilers, 3-1 Friday night at

Findlay's Croy Gymnasium. Hillsdale is now 23-6 overall and 14-2 in the GLIAC, and will face Ashland University in a Saturday afternoon match that will decide the 2007 GLIAC South Division champion.

Hillsdale won the first two games by scores of 30-23 and 30-25. The Oilers won game three 30-26, but the Chargers easily won the fourth game, 30-19.

Hillsdale held Findlay to a .050 hitting percentage in that fourth game. The Oilers committed 14 service errors, and hit .150 for the match. The win was the fifth straight for Hillsdale over Findlay, dating back to October 2005.

Senior Melissa Bartlett turned in another dominating performance for Hillsdale, leading all players with 21 kills against just three errors. Sophomores Kittrick Smith and Emily Bennett each registered eight kills to contribute to the win.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms had 41 assists and four block assists. Senior Megan Howard had 30 digs, gaining another membership to the national 30-dig club. The Chargers had 11 total blocks in the match, with Booms and Bennett each leading the team with four assists apiece.

Hillsdale's match at Ashland will start at 1 p.m.

## **VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: South Division title on the line this weekend as Hillsdale volleyball team travels through Ohio**

October 31, 2007 - This weekend, the Hillsdale College volleyball team has a chance to solidify its postseason future, both in the conference and in the NCAA regionals. But who and where the team plays, as well as its seeding in both tournaments, will be determined by how well it does against two arch-rivals this weekend.

The Chargers, 22-6 overall and 13-2 in the GLIAC, hit the road to face the University of Findlay (7:30 p.m. Friday) and Ashland University (1 p.m. Saturday) in a pair of matches that will decide the South Division champion for 2007. Hillsdale's final ranking in the Great Lakes Region will also likely be dictated by how it fares against these two strong foes.

Hillsdale and Ashland are tied for first place in the South Division with identical 13-2 conference records. The winner of the division will get the No. 2 seed at next week's GLIAC Tournament, which starts with first-round matches on Wednesday. The second-place team in the South Division will take on the third-place team in the division in the first round. Findlay (7-8 in the GLIAC) needs one win or a Wayne State loss this weekend to clinch third place in the division.

Ashland is 24-3 on the season and ranked ninth in the nation. The Chargers handed the Eagles one of their three losses this season in a 3-2 decision back on Sept. 14. Hillsdale has won three straight over Ashland in the regular season, but the Eagles handed the Chargers their only two losses of the 2006 season, both coming in the postseason. The two teams are very evenly matched and tend to bring out the best in one another. Both teams lost to Grand Valley earlier this season 3-2.

Hillsdale and Ashland players are easy to find among the GLIAC's statistical leaders. Charger senior Melissa Bartlett, the reigning GLIAC South Division Player of the Week, leads the conference with 5.32 kills per game. Ashland's Mary Kate Glowe is third in kills per game with a 4.58 mark.

The two setters on the teams (Hillsdale's Stephanie Booms and Ashland's Lynsey Warren) each average 12.7 assists per game, the top figure in the conference. Booms (pictured) has 102 more total assists in eight more games played this season than Warren.

Hillsdale's Megan Howard and Glowe rank 5-6 in the GLIAC in digs per game. Howard is the Chargers' career leader in that category, with more than 2,000 for her career.

But before Hillsdale and Ashland meet, the Chargers will have to face Findlay, who always plays Hillsdale tough inside the Croy Gymnasium. Hillsdale has won the last two road matches vs. the Oilers, including a memorable 3-2 decision in the first round of the 2005 GLIAC Volleyball Tournament.

Mallory Fleming is a dangerous outside hitter for the Oilers, and is fifth in the GLIAC with 4.51 points per game.

The GLIAC Tournament semifinals and finals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 11. This is a change from last year's schedule, which played matches on Friday and Saturday. The highest remaining seed after Wednesday's quarterfinal matches will host the weekend tournament.

## Melissa Bartlett named South Division Player of the Week for a third time

October 29, 2007 - When it comes to Player of the Week honors, three is never a crowd.

Hillsdale College senior volleyball player Melissa Bartlett was named GLIAC South Player of the Week for the third time this season Monday afternoon. The award was announced by the conference office.

It's tough to have a better weekend than Bartlett turned in for the Chargers, who swept Mercyhurst and Gannon by identical 3-0 scores at home. In the two matches, Bartlett had 35 kills with just two

errors, compiling an overall attack percentage of .611. Bartlett led all players with 18 kills against the Lakers, following that up with 17 against Gannon on Saturday.

Bartlett previously won GLIAC Player of the Week honors on Sept. 4 and Oct. 1, making her the only three-time winner of the award in either the North or South Divisions this season. Hillsdale players have earned Player of the Week accolades five different times this season.

For the season, Bartlett has 521 kills, placing her No. 2 on Hillsdale's all-time single-season kills list. Her 932 career kills put her fifth on the Chargers' career kills list, even though she's played for Hillsdale for less than two full seasons. She leads the GLIAC in kills per game (5.32) and has been in the top five nationally in that category throughout the season.

The Chargers are 22-6 on the season and are ranked 14th in the nation in the latest Division II poll. Hillsdale wraps up the regular season this weekend with road matches vs. Findlay and Ashland. On Wednesday, Nov. 7, Hillsdale will host a first-round GLIAC Tournament match at Jesse Philips starting at 7 p.m.

## Volleyball team earns another 3-0 sweep over Gannon

October 27, 2007 - There was no stopping the Hillsdale College volleyball team Saturday, as it improved to 22-6 on the season with a 3-0 victory over Gannon University Saturday afternoon at the Jesse Philips Arena. The Chargers, who played their final home match of the regular season, sit tied for first place in the GLIAC South Division with a 13-2 league record.

Hillsdale dominated the match, winning the three games by scores of 30-18, 30-14 and 30-28. The Chargers hit .370 as a team in the match, while holding the Golden Knights to a team hitting percentage of .109.

All but two players on Hillsdale's roster recorded kills in the match, led by 17 from senior Melissa Bartlett. She had just one error on 21 attempts, giving her a season-high attack percentage of .762 in the match.

Sophomore Kittrick Smith added seven kills, while junior Stephanie Booms had six kills, 42 assists and four digs. Freshman Amanda Bigney (pictured) had three kills.

Freshman Sydney Dow led the team with 13 digs, while senior Megan Howard added two kills to her total of 10 digs and two service aces. Hillsdale had twice as many kills as Gannon (53-26), but with an equal number of errors and eight more attack attempts. The Chargers had 12 service aces, led by four from Bartlett.

The final weekend of the regular season looms for Hillsdale, where its ultimate finish in the South Division will be determined. The Chargers travel to Findlay for a 7:30 p.m. match Friday, before a Saturday showdown with Ashland to conclude the regular season.

## Chargers celebrate Senior Night with 3-0 sweep of Mercyhurst

October 26, 2007 - Before Friday's home volleyball match, the five seniors on Hillsdale College's volleyball team were honored for their excellence on and off the court. During the match, each of the four active seniors showed why they deserved such accolades.

The 14th-ranked Chargers improved to 21-6 on the season with a 3-0 home victory over the Mercyhurst College Lakers at Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale is 12-2 in the GLIAC, and will host Gannon University at 12 p.m. Saturday. Mercyhurst drops to 16-13 and 3-12 in conference play with the loss.

Hillsdale's four active seniors (Caitlin Baron is out due to injury) each played well in helping the Chargers to their 10th straight home win of the season.

Senior Devon Blain played a fine all-around match, recording six kills, four assists, two service aces, one one dig and one block assist. She showed aggressiveness throughout the match from the right side.

Senior Melissa Bartlett was her usual unstoppable self, using powerful jump serves to generate five service aces. On offense, she was brutally efficient, getting 18 kills with just one error and a .515 hitting percentage.

Senior Megan Howard hit the 2,000-dig mark for her career with a team-high 12 digs in the match. Her one service ace also tied her for second place on Hillsdale's all-time aces list.

Senior Jen Pilot added five kills and a match-high seven block assists for Hillsdale. She ran the team's "quick" play with setter Stephanie Booms with high efficiency.

Booms led the team with 31 assists, and had eight digs and three kills. Hillsdale held Mercyhurst to a .100 hitting percentage for the match.

# VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Chargers honor seniors on final home weekend of season

October 25, 2007 - The last weekend in October also brings the final home weekend of the 2007 Hillsdale College volleyball season.

It won't be the last time the Chargers take the Jesse Philips Arena floor this season, but it will be the last time it will do so in the regular season. Hillsdale (20-6, 11-2) hosts Mercyhurst College at 7 p.m. Friday, followed by a noon Saturday match against Gannon University. Hillsdale will host a first-round GLIAC Tournament match at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Friday is Senior Night at Hillsdale, as the team's five seniors will be honored in a pre-match ceremony. This senior class will go down as one of the most successful in the program's history, becoming the only class to lead the Chargers to four straight 19-plus win seasons. Hillsdale has a record of 87-30 since this class arrived on campus, and has won 38 of 44 home matches in that time span.

The team is currently ranked 14th in the nation, but still has to take care of business to qualify for the NCAA Division II tournament. Right now, Hillsdale is ranked seventh in the Great Lakes Region. The top eight teams make the national tournament, however, only seven currently ranked teams will go. The West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference gets an automatic bid to the tournament for its conference champion. But no WVIAC teams are currently regionally ranked, which means the team sitting in the No. 8 position will get bumped out of the tournament by the WVIAC champion. That gives seventh-seeded Hillsdale very little room for error in the season's final two weeks.

Seven teams in the Great Lakes Region have 20 or more wins this season, making it one of the toughest and deepest regions in the nation. Only the South Central Region (containing many Florida schools) has more teams with 20 or more wins (eight).

The Chargers are a half-game behind Ashland for first place in the GLIAC South Division. That half-game will be made up this weekend, as the Eagles only place once, that coming Friday when the team hosts in-state rival Findlay. Hillsdale plays at Ashland on Saturday, Nov. 3 in a match that could decide the champion of the South Division for 2007.

Hillsdale played the two Erie-based schools just four weeks ago, and came away with wins over the Lakers (3-1) and Golden Knights (3-0). Hillsdale has dominated the series against both teams in recent years, having not lost to either team since Sept. 20, 2003.

These will also be the final meetings between the Chargers and the two Erie schools in regular season play. Next year, Mercyhurst and Gannon will join the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, exiting the GLIAC. Tiffin will join the conference in their place.

While the team's five seniors will be honored this weekend, two of them are approaching some notable career milestones. Senior Megan Howard, already the school's career leader in digs, needs 12 to become the first player in Hillsdale history with 2,000 career digs. She also has 147 career service aces, and needs three to move into second place on Hillsdale's career service aces list.

Senior Melissa Bartlett needs two kills to pass 2007 HC graduate Katherine Jones for sixth place on the Chargers' career kills list. Bartlett already occupies second place on Hillsdale's single-season kills list, having racked up 486 this season. She is fourth in the nation among all Division II players in total kills and kills per game.

## Hillsdale gets back to winning ways with 3-0 sweep of Wayne State

October 19, 2007 - It didn't take long for the Hillsdale College volleyball team to rediscover its winning ways, dispatching Wayne State University 3-0 Friday night at the Jesse Philips Arena. The Chargers are now 20-6 overall and 11-2 in the GLIAC with the win. The Warriors fell to 8-13 and 3-10.

Hillsdale won the games by scores of 30-18, 30-12 and 30-24. The Chargers put together one of their most efficient offensive matches of the season, hitting .415 as a team compared to .104 for the Warriors.

Head coach Chris Gravel experimented with several different lineups throughout the match, and just about every player contributed positive plays to the team's win.

Three players hit double figures in kills for Hillsdale, led by 12 by sophomore Emily Bennett. Sophomore Kittrick Smith and senior Melissa Bartlett picked up 10 each, while committing just two errors between them. Bennett and fellow sophomore Hannah Barrett each hit .556 for the match, with Barrett contributing five kills.

Senior Megan Howard (pictured), Hillsdale's all-time leader in digs, added more to her record total with 11 for the Chargers. Bartlett led the team with 12, while junior Stephanie Booms had a match-high 42 assists, an average of 14 per game.

As a team, Hillsdale had 57 kills with just eight errors, and 52 assists. The team hit .486 in the second game.

Hillsdale is off on Saturday, and stays home next weekend against Mercyhurst and Gannon. To view the box score from Friday's match, click on the link below.

## VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Volleyball team back home, ready to resume winning ways

October 18, 2007 - With fall break underway around the campus of Hillsdale College, the Chargers' volleyball team will get some well-deserved rest this weekend.

After playing 12 GLIAC matches in the span of 27 days, Hillsdale has just one match this weekend, at home Friday night vs. Wayne State University starting at 7 p.m. The team is off Saturday, and will remain at home the weekend of Oct. 26-27.

The No. 14-ranked Chargers are coming off their first two conference losses of the season last weekend, both 3-2 heartbreakers to Ferris State and Grand Valley. Hillsdale's 10-2 GLIAC record ties it with Ashland for first place in the South Division. Prior to last weekend's losses, the Chargers had won 30 straight GLIAC matches.

Hillsdale had chances to win both matches on the road last weekend, playing in two of the toughest venues in the conference. Ferris State defeated Hillsdale 15-13 in the fifth game of their Friday night match, while Grand Valley edged the Chargers 15-11 in game five of a terrific Saturday afternoon matchup. Hillsdale has played Ferris State and Grand Valley on the road in three of the past four years.

Hillsdale is ranked fifth in the latest Great Lakes Regional rankings. The next set of rankings won't come out until Oct. 24.

The Chargers have enjoyed plenty of success vs. Wayne State in recent years, recording four straight 3-0 sweeps over the Warriors dating back to Nov. 5, 2005. Six of the past seven meetings between the teams have resulted in 3-0 victories for Hillsdale over Wayne State. The last time Wayne State beat Hillsdale was Nov. 7, 2003.

One of the positive developments to come out of the team's trip to west Michigan was the stellar play of freshman Amanda Bigney. Playing near her hometown of Cedar Springs, Bigney had nine kills and no errors in 15 attempts vs. Grand Valley, the best performance of her young career.

A win vs. Wayne State Friday would clinch the ninth 20-win season in Charger volleyball history. Head coach Chris Gravel has presided over four of those seasons, including last year's 29-2 record. The other 20-win seasons came during the 1980, 1981, 1982, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2001 campaigns. The team has won at least 19 matches four years in a row, the first time in program history that has been achieved.

Senior libero Megan Howard joined the 30-dig club for the fourth time this season last weekend, making her one of the most frequent visitors to that club in the nation this season. Senior Melissa Bartlett set a new career-high with 32 kills against Ferris State, and followed that up with 29 more kills against the Lakers. The 61 kills in two matches are a career-best for Bartlett.

Next Friday, the Chargers will honor their seniors on their final home weekend of the season when they host Mercyhurst College at 7 p.m. Saturday, the team will share the home event stage with the football team. Hillsdale takes on Gannon at 12 p.m., followed by the home football game against Tiffin starting at 2:30 p.m.

## Ferris State ends Charger volleyball team's winning streak

October 12, 2007 - For the first time in 103 weeks, the Hillsdale College volleyball lost a GLIAC match Friday night.

Ferris State University came back from a 2-0 deficit to upset No. 10-ranked Hillsdale 3-2 Friday night in Big Rapids. Hillsdale's record falls to 19-5 overall and 10-1 in the GLIAC with the defeat, its first in conference play since Oct. 22, 2005.

The Bulldogs are 15-7 overall and 7-4 in the GLIAC.

Hillsdale easily won the first game 30-20, but trailed most of game two before pulling out a thrilling 31-29 win to go up in the match two games to none. But the Bulldogs improved their play and used their significant homecourt advantage to rally to win the final three games by scores of 30-25, 30-23 and 15-13.

It was a reversal of sorts from last year's meetings between the teams, also in Big Rapids. Ferris State won the first game of that five-game match, 30-19, only to lose in five. This year, the Bulldogs turned the tables on the Chargers.

Hillsdale was led by senior Melissa Bartlett, who had a career-high 32 kills and 22 digs, her first 30-20 match of her Charger career. Sophomore Kitt Smith tacked on 14 kills, while senior Jen Pilot had a career-high 12 kills and a .364 hitting percentage in the match.

Senior Megan Howard added 27 digs, while junior Stephanie Booms handed out 60 assists to go along with 17 digs.

The Chargers will face No. 9 Grand Valley in Allendale at 4 p.m. Saturda

## Grand Valley hands Charger volleyball team second straight heartbreaking defeat

October 13, 2007 - For the second time in two days, the Hillsdale College volleyball team took a talented opponent to a fifth game on the road.

However, also for the second time in two days, the Chargers went down to defeat, 3-2, to Grand Valley State University Saturday afternoon in Allendale. Hillsdale is now 19-6 overall and 10-2 in the GLIAC. The Lakers are 22-2 and 12-0 in conference play.

The match was breathtakingly close throughout, with each team winning a game 31-29. The Lakers triumphed in the fifth game, 15-11.

Hillsdale won the first game 30-24, before losing the second game 31-29. The Lakers also won a close game three, 30-27, before falling to the Chargers 31-29 in the fourth game. There were a total of 39 ties and 12 lead changes in the match.

Senior Melissa Bartlett followed up her career-high 32 kills on Friday with 29 more Saturday vs. GVSU. Sophomore Kitt Smith set a new career-high with 20 kills. Freshman Amanda Bigney played her best match of her career with nine kill and no errors in 15 attempts. Senior Jen Pilot added eight kills with a .375 attack percentage.

Junior Stephanie Booms handed out 64 assists, while senior Megan Howard came just short of her career-high with 34 digs.

The Chargers hit .216 for the match compared to .225 for the Lakers. GVSU hit .368 in the fifth game, getting eight kills with just one error.

Hillsdale hosts Wayne State Univeristy Friday night at the Jesse Philips Arena. To view the box score, click on the link below.

## No. 10-ranked Charger volleyball team faces crucial weekend trip to Ferris State, Grand Valley

*Hillsdale moves up one spot in latest national poll*

October 8, 2007 - There has been no looking ahead this season for the Hillsdale College volleyball team. Coach Chris Gravel and his group of players make it a point to focus only on the opponent directly in front of them. But it would also be foolish to suggest that Oct. 12-13 has been without a red circle on the calendars of many of the players this season.

That's because the Chargers, now ranked No. 10 in the nation, face perhaps their most challenging road trip of the season, taking on Ferris State Friday night and No. 8-ranked Grand Valley Saturday afternoon. Start times for the matches are 7 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively.

Very few venues in the GLIAC are as hostile as the ones in Big Rapids and Allendale, and Hillsdale faces both on back-to-back days. Last year the team also had to hit the road to face Ferris State and Grand Valley, and came away with a pair of memorable wins, 3-2 over the Bulldogs and a stunning 3-0 sweep of the then-defending national champion Lakers on Grand Valley's Homecoming weekend.

But that was last year, and all three teams come into play this weekend with different makeups.

In 2006, Hillsdale's volleyball team was a freight train, blasting through opponents to the tune of 22 3-0 sweeps in 29 matches. This year's team has been able to grind out workmanlike victories, relying on its experience, conditioning and clutch play to win some of the close matches it's had.

Hillsdale has earned every bit of its No. 10 national ranking, currently enjoying a 12-match winning streak and a 30-match winning streak in GLIAC play. The conference record stands at 42, held by Northern Michigan's awesome teams from 1992-1994. The Chargers' last loss came to Wheeling-Jesuit during the Ashland University Tournament on Sept. 7. That match qualifies as an upset by any definition, but also served as a springboard to the team's current strong play.

Senior Melissa Bartlett has taken her game to a new level this season, her second in a Hillsdale uniform. She leads the GLIAC with 415 kills this season, which exceeds her total from all of 2006. Her 5.25 kills per game also leads the conference, and she has a .297 hitting percentage for the season. She's one of the few outside hitters that plays a full rotation, and her 257 digs are second on the team behind fellow senior Megan Howard.

Another player who has shown sharp improvement this season is sophomore Kittrick Smith, who joins Bartlett in giving Hillsdale a lethal 1-2 punch at outside hitter. Smith has a career-high 260 kills this season, and has gotten better at finding holes in the block and defense of the opponents. Smit hit .583 in three matches last week, all victories over the Upper Peninsula schools.

Junior Stephanie Booms has continued her brilliant all-around play in her third season, having passed the 1,000-assist barrier for the season last week. Booms sits 12 assists shy of taking over third place on Hillsdale's all-time assist list. Booms has 3,071 assists for her career. She has also become a more dangerous blocker and hitter this season. She has 86 kills (fifth on the team) and 39 total blocks, third on the team. Her accurate sets have allowed players like Emily Bennett (161 kills) and Jen Pilot (108 kills) to reach new career-highs in kills.

In facing Ferris State and Grand Valley on back-to-back days, the Chargers face one of the ultimate

challenges this tough conference can present. Last year, Ferris State packed its gym and placed its band right behind the Hillsdale bench to provide the Bulldogs with a significant home-court advantage. Ferris State won the first and fourth games of the match before Hillsdale prevailed in the fifth game, 15-11.

The win over Grand Valley on Oct. 6 remains a career highlight for many of Hillsdale's veteran players. It was the first time the Chargers had defeated the Lakers since October 1989, a win that was all the more sweet because of the 3-0 final score. The two teams never did meet again during the season, and it's certain that the result of the match hasn't been forgotten by the Laker veteran players, either.

Hillsdale and Grand Valley each stand at 10-0 in GLIAC play and each hold a two-game lead in their respective divisions. The winner of Saturday's match will have a big inside edge at hosting the conference tournament, which is scheduled for Nov. 10-11.

Both matches will feature live stats, which are free to view while the match is taking place. Both matches will also be webcast, with B2Networks handling the broadcast of the Ferris State match Friday. Check those schools' websites for details.

## Hillsdale volleyball team polishes off perfect weekend with 3-0 sweep of Lake Superior State

October 6, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team took care of business in efficient manner Saturday afternoon, dispatching the visiting Lake Superior State Lakers 3-0 in a hot and steamy Jesse Philips Arena.

The win improves Hillsdale's record to 19-4 overall and 10-0 in the GLIAC. The Chargers have won 12 straight this season, and 30 matches in a row in conference play. Hillsdale maintained its two-game lead over Ashland in the GLIAC South Division with the win. LSSU is now 6-13 overall and 2-6.

The Chargers executed cleanly in achieving their most lopsided win of the season. Hillsdale hit .337 for the match, while holding the Lakers to a match hitting percentage of .044. Hillsdale committed just 12 attack errors in the entire match, and had nine service aces compared to three errors. The Chargers have improved greatly in their service ace-to-error ratio in the past two weeks.

There were just four lead changes throughout the match, as the Chargers dominated from start to finish.

Hillsdale was able to spread the offense around to many players in the match. Senior Melissa

Bartlett was the only player to register more than 10 kills, picking up a match-high 11. Sophomore Kittrick Smith finished off a strong weekend with seven kills and a .538 attack percentage.

The Chargers picked up 10 total blocks in the game, including five block assists from both Stephanie Booms and Amanda Geelhoed. Sophomore Hannah Barrett had two solo blocks in the match.

Freshman Sydney Dow made her collegiate debut as the team's libero, and had 11 digs and a service ace. Booms had 37 assists for Hillsdale, while sophomore Emily Benett had eight kills with no errors for a career-best .800 hitting percentage.

Hillsdale faces a key weekend of matches from Oct. 12-13, taking on Ferris State and Grand Valley on the road, respectively.

## Volleyball team sweeps Northern Michigan to remain in first place

October 5, 2007 - Thanks to a superb defensive effort, the Hillsdale College volleyball team improved to 9-0 in the GLIAC this season with a 3-0 victory over Northern Michigan University Friday night at Jesse Philips Arena.

The Chargers have won 11 straight matches overall and 29 straight in conference play. The team is 18-4 overall and will host Lake Superior State University at 2 p.m. Saturday, concluding its three-day home weekend set.

The match featured long rallies and high-effort defensive plays by both teams. But Hillsdale in particular made excellent defensive plays at key times that allowed it to shake free of close scores in all three games.

Hillsdale hit an impressive .304 as a team in the opening game, winning 30-23. Game two was close throughout, with NMU holding the lead most of the way. But Charger sophomore Hannah Barrett recorded back-to-back solo blocks that gave momentum and the lead to Hillsdale for good.

NMU led in game three as well, 23-22, but the Chargers hung tough, digging out big attacks from the Wildcats and turning them into points.

Barrett delivered the game-winning kill, and finished with four kills and two solo blocks.

Senior Melissa Bartlett had 16 kills and 17 digs, while sophomore Kittrick Smith also played strong, getting 12 kills, three assists and three digs. Sophomore Emily Benett did a fine job of attacking the ball, and finished with 10 kills, five total blocks and a .400 hitting percentage.

## VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Three of a kind; Charger volleyball team to play three home games this weekend

October 4, 2007 - Despite a 7-0 start to its conference schedule, the Hillsdale College volleyball team is hardly playing with house money this weekend when it hosts three teams from the North Division at the Jesse Philips Arena.

The Chargers, 16-4 overall and ranked 11th in the nation, has three consecutive home matches this weekend, starting with Thursday's home match against Michigan Tech University. Friday, Hillsdale hosts the second-place team from the North Division, Northern Michigan University, before wrapping up the home stand vs. Lake Superior State University Saturday. The matches begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, while Saturday's match commences at 2 p.m.

The dealer's cards have been kind to the Chargers this season, as they team has consistently found ways to win even if it isn't holding the best hand. Hillsdale has a two-game lead on Ashland in the South Division, and has won 27 straight GLIAC matches, dating back to Oct. 22, 2005, nearly two calendar years ago.

But don't call this cast of Hillsdale players jokers, either. The Chargers remain at the top of many GLIAC statistical rankings, including No. 2 in team hitting percentage, No. 1 in assists, No. 1 in kills per game, and No. 2 in team winning percentage. Only Grand Valley (18-2) has won a higher percentage of its matches so far this season.

There have been plenty of queens in the deck for the Chargers this season, led by several of its returning starters. Senior Melissa Bartlett is the reigning GLIAC South Division Player of the Week, an award she's won twice this season. She leads the conference in kills per game (5.3), a number that ranks her fourth in the nation among all Division II players.

Junior Stephanie Booms is the GLIAC leader in assists per game, handing out 12.77 each game. Senior Megan Howard, now Hillsdale's all-time leader in career digs, is currently tied for fourth in the conference with 4.9 digs per game. Sophomore Kittrick Smith is 10th in the conference in kills per game, and is attacking the ball with more confidence and frequency this season. Sophomore Emily Bennett is third in the GLIAC in hitting percentage (.357).

This marks the second consecutive season Hillsdale has hosted the three Upper Peninsula schools. Last year the Chargers won all three matches in the slate, including a 3-1 victory over Northern Michigan on Sept. 30 that was the 200th career victory for head coach Chris Gravel.

Michigan Tech (6-8, 4-3) has played the fewest matches of any GLIAC school to this point in the season. The Huskies are led by sisters Christa and Jen Jung, who are among the better blockers in the GLIAC. Jen plays middle hitter, while Christa is a right-side/opposite-side hitter for the Huskies. Jen Jung is second in the GLIAC with 1.33 blocks per game.

Northern Michigan has a new coach this season, Dominic Yoder. He takes over a young, but talented team that is off to a 7-1 start in conference play this season. Hillsdale swept NMU 3-0 in the first round of last season's GLIAC Tournament. This season, Northern Michigan is third in the GLIAC in overall winning percentage (13-7), and features nine players from the state of Illinois, including several from the talent-rich west suburbs of Chicago.

Lake Superior State is led by outside hitter Jessica Ewer, who is second in the GLIAC in digs per game (5.88). The Lakers are 6-12 this season and 2-5 in conference play.

All matches this weekend will be available to watch over the Internet, via B2Networks. Live stats are also available for all three matches this weekend. Check out the volleyball page on the Hillsdale College athletic website for details.

## Hillsdale extends conference winning streak to 28 in 3-1 win over Michigan Tech

October 4, 2007 - It wasn't easy at times, but the Hillsdale College volleyball team once again came up with big plays at key moments to defeat Michigan Tech University, 3-1 Thursday night.

Hillsdale, ranked 11th in the nation, is now 17-4 overall and 8-0 in GLIAC play. The team will play at home again Friday night against Northern Michigan University.

The Chargers came out executing sharply and playing well in a 30-16 rout of the Huskies in the first game. Hillsdale held MTU to a team hitting percentage of -.111 in the opening game.

But Michigan Tech responded well in the second game, rallying from a 28-27 deficit to post a 30-28 victory. Tech only committed two hitting errors in the second game and took full advantage of Hillsdale's mistakes down the stretch.

Game four's pattern followed that of game three, with the two teams tied 29-29. A Michigan Tech service error led to a game-winning kill by freshman Amanda Bigney to give the Chargers the 31-29 win.

Hillsdale held control throughout game four, holding Michigan Tech to .103 hitting.

The outside hitting combination of Melissa Bartlett and Kittrick Smith gave Hillsdale offense Michigan Tech had a hard time defending throughout the match. Bartlett recorded her fifth straight match of 20 or more kills, notching 22 with an impressive hitting percentage of .400. Smith displayed her improved power in getting 14 kills with a .333 hitting percentage.

Junior Stephanie Booms handed out 50 assists, while freshman Sydney Dow led the team with 16 digs, the second-highest total of her career. Senior Jen Pilot had five block assists.

Michigan Tech outblocked Hillsdale 18-8 and was led by 11 kills from Kelly Jorgensen, the 2006 GLIAC Freshman of the Year.

The Chargers have now won 28 straight conference matches, dating back to Oct. 22, 2005. Northern Michigan holds the GLIAC record for longest conference winning streak at 42, set between the 1992 and 1994 seasons.

## Melissa Bartlett named GLIAC South Player of the Week for second time this season

*Charger volleyball team also moves up to 11th in latest national poll*

October 1, 2007 - For the second time this season and the third time in her career, Hillsdale College senior Melissa Bartlett was named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week. Bartlett received the honor from the conference office Monday afternoon.

Bartlett helped lead the Chargers to two more wins last weekend, over Gannon (3-0) Friday and Mercyhurst (3-1) Saturday. The Chargers are 16-4 overall and 7-0 in conference play this season.

Bartlett averaged an amazing 6.57 kills per game through the weekend, getting 19 kills vs. Gannon and 27 against Mercyhurst. Her 27 kills against the Lakers are the second-most she's had in a match this season. Bartlett also had 26 digs in the two matches, and currently ranks second on the team in digs.

Bartlett currently leads the conference with 366 kills for the season, an average of 5.3 per game. She already has the sixth-most kills in a single season in Hillsdale history, with more than a month's worth of matches still to be played. Her 780 kills in her Hillsdale career rank her sixth on the school's career kills list. She has also ranked in the top 10 nationally all season in kills per game.

The Chargers have won 27 straight conference matches, and will look to extend that streak with three home matches this weekend, starting Thursday night against Michigan Tech.

A Hillsdale player has been honored as the GLIAC South Player of the Week in four of the six regular

season weeks in 2007, including three in a row: Bartlett, Megan Howard and Stephanie Booms.

Bartlett played her prep ball at Chatham Kent, in Chatham, Ontario.

Hillsdale also moved up to 11th in the latest AVCA/CST Division II Top 25 volleyball poll. The Chargers were ranked 15th last week, but their recent winning streak, coupled with losses by teams ahead of them, helped them jump up in the poll. Grand Valley is ranked ninth, while Ashland is 12th in the current poll, representing the only ranked GLIAC teams.

## Charger volleyball team stays perfect in GLIAC in 3-1 win at Mercyhurst

September 29, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team solidified its hold on first place in the GLIAC South Division Saturday, thanks to a 3-1 win over Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. Saturday afternoon. The Chargers are now on a nine-match winning streak and are 16-4 overall, with a 7-0 GLIAC mark.

Hillsdale buzzed through Mercyhurst in the first two games, 30-13 and 30-26, only to lose game three, 32-30. The Chargers recovered nicely, grabbing a 14-3 lead in the fourth game en route to a 30-20 victory-clinching win.

Thanks to Grand Valley's 3-2 win over Ashland Saturday, Hillsdale now holds a two-game lead in the South Division. The Chargers have wins over every team in the South Division so far this season. Next weekend, Hillsdale hosts the three Upper Peninsula schools, starting with a Thursday match against Michigan Tech.

Against Mercyhurst, senior Melissa Bartlett recorded her fourth 20-kill match in the last five outings, leading all players with 27 kills. Her kill total is two short of her high while wearing a Charger uniform. Seven other players had at least four kills in the match, including seven from freshman middle hitter Amanda Geelhoed. Sophomores Kittrick Smith and Emily Bennett each had eight kills, while Bennett hit .316 for the match.

Junior Stephanie Booms had 54 assists, a very high total for a four-game match. She also served a team-high 29 times and had two service aces. Senior Megan Howard added 24 digs, while Bartlett had 16.

Hillsdale has now won 27 straight conference matches, dating back to October 2005.

## Charger volleyball team sweeps Gannon Friday night

September 27, 2007 - The first half of this year's trip to Erie, Pa. went as planned for the Hillsdale College volleyball team.

The Chargers won their eighth match in a row, 3-0 over the Golden Knights at Gannon's Hammermill Center Friday night. Hillsdale is now 15-4 overall and 6-0 in the GLIAC, and will face Mercyhurst College at noon Saturday.

Hillsdale won the three games by scores of 30-23, 30-16 and 30-27. The Chargers have swept the Golden Knights 3-0 six straight times.

Senior Melissa Bartlett had a dominant match from her outside hitter position, registering 22 kills and a .344 attack percentage. As a team, Hillsdale hit .312 for the match. Sophomore Emily Bennett contributed 7 kills and hit .467, while sophomore Kittrick Smith had six kills and hit .375.

Junior Stephanie Booms handed out 35 assists, while Bartlett and senior Megan Howard led the team with nine digs apiece.

## **VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Hillsdale volleyball team makes trek to Erie, Pa. for pair of weekend matches**

September 27, 2007 - After back-to-back successful home weekends, the No. 15-ranked Hillsdale College volleyball team makes its first GLIAC weekend road trip of the season, heading to Erie, Pa. for matches against Gannon University (7 p.m. Friday) and Mercyhurst College (12 p.m. Saturday).

Hillsdale is 14-4 on the season and 5-0 in the GLIAC, good for first place in the South Division. The Chargers have won seven straight matches overall and are on a 25-match winning streak in conference play, the longest such streak since Northern Michigan won 42 straight conference matches from 1992-94.

The Chargers came through a challenging weekend last weekend, defeating South Division rivals Ashland (3-2) and Findlay (3-1) to solidify their hold on first place in the division. The win over the Eagles was particularly satisfying for Hillsdale, since Ashland was the only team to beat the Chargers in 2006, doing so twice within a week in the GLIAC tournament and the regional tournament.

Hillsdale has seen three players earn GLIAC South Division Player of the Week honors this season. Senior Melissa Bartlett and junior Stephanie Booms won awards earlier in the season, and this past week, senior libero Megan Howard won the award for the second time in her career.

Last week, Howard became Hillsdale's career leader in digs, surpassing the old mark held by 2000 graduate Cassandra Cole. Howard has 1,850 digs in her career coming into play this weekend.

Bartlett averaged 21 kills per match in the Chargers' 3-0 week last week. She leads the GLIAC and is fifth nationally with 5.12 kills per game so far this season. Booms has continued her fine play this season, ranking second in the GLIAC in assists per game with more than 13, while contributing blocking, opposite-side hitting and solid defensive play to the team.

But recently, other players have been stepping up to help the Chargers continue their winning ways. Junior Elisse Shank set a new career-high in kills twice last week, getting six at Wayne State and seven kills vs. Findlay. Shank's five service aces against Ashland were a key factor in winning the close match against the Eagles.

Hillsdale has remained in the national rankings all season, and has faced six ranked teams in 18 outings in 2007. The Chargers won't face another currently ranked team until Oct. 13, when it takes on Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

The Chargers have swept both Gannon and Mercyhurst a total of eight straight times, dating back to the beginning of the 2005 season. The last time either Erie school beat Hillsdale on the volleyball court was a 3-2 win by Gannon over the Chargers on Sept. 20, 2003.

## Megan Howard named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week; Chargers move up to 15th in latest poll

September 24, 2007 - For the second time in her record-setting career, Hillsdale College senior Megan Howard was named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week Monday afternoon.

Howard, a four-year starter at libero, is the only player at her position in the conference to earn the honor at any point in the last two-plus seasons. Howard also won the award back on Sept. 20, 2005.

Less than a week after her 22nd birthday, Howard led Hillsdale to a 3-0 week, a week that included significant division victories over Ashland and Findlay. Howard registered 32 digs vs. the Eagles Friday night, the third-highest single-match total of her career. The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has a 30-dig club, for players who record 30 or more digs in a match. Howard has been part of that club five different times in her career. In the team's three matches last week, Howard recorded more than six digs per game, well ahead of her already-impressive total of 4.88 digs per game for the season.

Last week, Howard also became Hillsdale's all-time leader in career digs, surpassing the total by Cassandra Cole. Howard now has 1,850 digs in her award-laden career, and will likely finish her career in the top five in that category in GLIAC history.

Howard was named honorable mention All-GLIAC last season, and was named to the 2006 Division II Great Lakes Regional All-Tournament Team. She was also named the Most Outstanding Libero at the Towne Place Suites Classic in Findlay, and was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Ashland Tournament earlier this month.

The Chargers are ranked 15th in the latest AVCA/CSTV Division II Top 25 poll, and will play road matches vs. Gannon and Mercyhurst this weekend in Erie, Pa. The team moved up two spots from last week's poll, and is 14-4 overall and 5-0 in the GLIAC.

Howard is a 2004 graduate of Lenawee Christian High School in Adrian, Mich.

## Volleyball team defeats Findlay 3-1; Chargers win 25th straight conference match

September 22, 2007 - Anytime Hillsdale faces Findlay on the volleyball court, the competition level figures to be fierce. The Chargers were able to play with that kind of skill and intensity against the Oilers Saturday, and solidified their hold on first place in their division.

Hillsdale improved to 5-0 in the GLIAC with a 3-1 win over the visiting Oilers Saturday afternoon at Jesse Philips Arena. The 17th-ranked Chargers are now 14-4 on the season, while Findlay falls to 14-5 and 3-2. Hillsdale has now won 25 straight conference matches, dating back to Oct. 22, 2005.

Coming off an emotionally charged win Friday night vs. Ashland, the Chargers showed little signs of letdown vs. the Oilers, playing extremely well in each game they won. Hillsdale looked crisp in a 30-23 game one victory. Findlay improved its play in the second game, beating Hillsdale by an identical 30-23 score. But Hillsdale took strong command of the match, closing it out with wins of 30-20 and 30-24.

One part of Hillsdale's game that saw significant improvement over the weekend was its serving. Against Findlay, Hillsdale delivered 11 service aces, while committing eight errors. Although the error count was still high, the plus-three ratio was a big improvement over recent matches for the Chargers. Findlay had nine aces and 10 errors Saturday.

Freshman Sydney Dow delivered four of those aces, including two in a row during a crucial stretch of the fourth game, when Hillsdale broke a 17-17 tie to take the lead for good. Dow also had four digs in the match.

Senior Melissa Bartlett had more than 20 kills for the second match in a row, leading all players with 21. She also had 10 digs, and finished with 23 total points. Sophomore Kittrick Smith had 10 digs

and hit .273 for the match.

Junior Elisse Shank (pictured) continued her fine play from this week, contributing seven kills, two aces and four digs to Hillsdale's victory. Senior Megan Howard had a match-high 22 digs, while junior setter Stephanie Booms had 44 assists, seven digs and three kills with a .429 hitting percentage.

Mallory Fleming led the Oilers with 19 kills, while powerful opposite side hitter Kelsey Wesaw had 13 kills.

Hillsdale will make its annual trek to Erie, Pa. next weekend to take on Mercyhurst and Gannon.

## VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Chargers face crucial home weekend set vs. Ashland, Findlay

September 20, 2007 - The last time Hillsdale and Ashland faced each other on the volleyball court, it was November 2006, and the Eagles shocked the Chargers by ending their season in the regional semifinals.

The two teams meet again Friday night, and while the stakes aren't quite as high, this match figures to have conference and regional playoff implications down the road. Friday's match, at Jesse Phillips Arena, will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Hillsdale welcomes GLIAC South rival Findlay for a 2 p.m. tilt.

Ashland gave Hillsdale its only losses of the 2006 season, both coming in the semifinals of postseason tournament. The returning Charger players remember those losses well, but this is a new year and both teams again are among the best in the nation.

Ashland comes into the match ranked 10th in the country in Division II, while the Chargers are 17th. Ashland is the sixth ranked team Hillsdale has played in just 16 matches this season.

The Eagles have picked up where they left off last season, going 14-1 to start this season. The only loss the team suffered was to Northern Kentucky in August. Ashland mowed down Findlay 3-1 Tuesday night in its last match.

Ashland is led by four-year starting setter Lynsey Warren, who leads the conference in assists per game. One of her favorite targets is sophomore Amanda Stefanski, who leads the GLIAC in hitting percentage (.418) and blocks per game (1.49). Senior Mary Kate Glowe is one of the GLIAC's most talented all-around players, while Carolina Gonclaves helps solidify the team defensively.

Hillsdale swept Ashland in the regular season last year, by scores of 3-1 in Ohio and 3-0 at home. The Chargers own a 23-match GLIAC winning streak, dating back to October 22, 2005. Ashland was the last team to defeat Hillsdale in a regular season GLIAC match, on that date.

The Chargers are 12-4 on the season, an excellent start considering the youth in its lineup and the challenging schedule it's faced so far. Both Hillsdale and Ashland are 3-0 in the GLIAC, and the winner of Friday's match will get an early upper hand on the South Division race.

Senior Melissa Bartlett (pictured) is enjoying a terrific campaign in her second season with the Chargers. She leads the GLIAC in kills per game (5.17) and ranks fifth nationally with that mark.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms is the reigning GLIAC South Division Player of the Week, and is second to Warren in assists per game. She also ranks 10th nationally in that category, and has continued her fine all-around play this season.

Findlay is a powerful offensive team who ranks in the top five in the conference in kills, blocks and opponent's hitting percentage. Right-side hitter Kelsey Wesaw has improved her game this season and ranks among the top hitters in the conference.

## Hillsdale volleyball team completes sweep of Wayne State, 3-0

September 18, 2007 - It wasn't always easy, but the Hillsdale College volleyball team stayed undefeated in GLIAC play Tuesday night thanks to a 3-0 win over Wayne State University in Detroit.

The Chargers won the games by scores of 30-20, 30-23 and 30-28. It is the fourth straight 3-0 win for Hillsdale over the Warriors, dating back to the 2005 season.

Wayne State led for much of the early part of game three, when the Chargers deployed a very young lineup, that saw all four freshman see significant playing time. But Hillsdale was able to inch in front after the game was tied 23-23 at one point, to hold on for the win.

The Chargers, still ranked 17th in the nation, now stand at 12-4 overall and 3-0 in the GLIAC. The team will face a pair of familiar foes this weekend, when Ashland and Findlay visit the Jesse Phillips Arena for a pair of matches on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Friday's match begins at 7 p.m., while Saturday's will tip off at 2 p.m.

Tuesday's win over Wayne State was not a breeze for the Chargers. The Warriors played with tenacity and effort, forcing Hillsdale to work for many of its points. There were 10 lead changes in the match, including five in the first game.

Senior Melissa Bartlett was an overpowering force for Hillsdale in the match, recording 18 kills to go along with 14 digs. Sophomore Kittrick Smith added 10 kills and a .400 hitting percentage.

Junior Elisse Shank established a career high with six kills in the match, and hit .545. Most of her action came in the third game of the match. Emily Bennett also had an error-free match, picking up five kills in 10 attempts.

Junior Stephanie Booms, the reigning GLIAC South Player of the Week, had 46 assists, eight digs and two kills for the Chargers. Senior Megan Howard had a team-high 20 digs, while freshman Sydney Dow added 11 digs.

## Stephanie Booms named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week in volleyball

September 17, 2007 - For the second time in her award-laden career, Hillsdale College setter Stephanie Booms was named GLIAC South Division Player of the Week Monday afternoon.

Booms, a junior, helped lead Hillsdale to a 2-0 start in GLIAC competition over the weekend. The Chargers extended their conference winning streak to 22 matches with wins over 25th-ranked Northwood (3-0) and Saginaw Valley (3-2).

In Friday's win over the Timberwolves, Booms racked up 49 assists, for an amazing average of 16.3 assists per game. Saturday against SVSU, Booms had 65 assists, one shy of her career high. She also had 16 digs, three short of her career high in that category. Hillsdale rallied from an 0-2 deficit to defeat Saginaw Valley, 3-2 on Homecoming.

Booms was named GLIAC South Player of the Week once in 2006. She was a First-Team All-GLIAC player last year and was named to the Daktronics First-Team All-Region in 2006 as well.

Booms was Miss Volleyball in the state of Michigan in 2004-05, and is a 2005 graduate of Marysville High School.

## What a comeback! Volleyball team rallies from 0-2 deficit to beat SVSU

September 15, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team has won a lot of matches over the past few years, but very few in the manner it did Saturday afternoon.

The Chargers came back from an 0-2 deficit to nip an improved Saginaw Valley State University team, 3-2, before a Homecoming Weekend crowd Saturday afternoon at Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale, now owners of a 22-match GLIAC winning streak, are 11-4 overall and 2-0 in the GLIAC. SVSU falls to 12-3 and 1-1 in conference play.

Overall, the match couldn't have been much more closely contested. There were a total of 37 ties and 11 lead changes in the match, however there were none of either in the decisive fifth game, where the Chargers' conditioning and ability to play well in the clutch made the difference.

Hillsdale jumped out to an 8-4 lead in the fifth game, after winning the third and fourth games by the slimmest of margins, 30-28 in both games. Although the Cardinals rallied to within two in the final game, the Chargers were able to put it away, celebrating one of their biggest comeback wins in recent years.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms came within one of her career high in assists in a match, with 65. She also had 16 digs, four kills and two block assists to lead the way for Hillsdale.

Four players cracked double figures in kills for Hillsdale, led by Melissa Bartlett's 24. Sophomore Emily Bennett recorded 12 kills in a match for the second consecutive day, while sophomore Kitrick Smith had 14 kills, and senior Jen Pilot delivered 11 kills and six total blocks. Bennett's seven total blocks, and four solo blocks, are a career-high.

Saginaw Valley showed what an improved team it is, by winning the first two games by scores of 30-27 and 30-26. Allison Schlinkert, a high school teammate of Booms', led the Cardinals with 25 kills and a .327 hitting percentage. Setter Amy Howard dished out 55 assists, while Carmer Schacher had a match-high 23 digs.

Hillsdale held Saginaw Valley to a team hitting percentage of .095 in the fifth game, the lowest of any game in the match. SVSU actually had a better hitting percentage than Hillsdale in the match (.230-.203), but the Cardinals committed 13 service errors and had six fewer total team blocks in the match.

Hillsdale's 22-match winning streak in the conference is the longest currently active in the GLIAC.

Hillsdale will be home again next weekend, hosting Ashland at 7 p.m. Friday and Findlay at 2 p.m. Saturday.

# Charger volleyball team opens GLIAC play on good note with 3-0 win over Northwood

September 14, 2007 - It was close, but in the end, it was a win the Hillsdale College volleyball team would gladly take.

In the opening match of GLIAC competition, the Chargers ran their conference winning streak to 21 matches with a 3-0 win over visiting Northwood University at a raucous Jesse Philips Arena. Hillsdale is 10-4 overall and 1-0 in the GLIAC, while the 25th-ranked Timberwolves suffered their first loss of the season, and are 12-1 and 0-1.

A homecoming weekend crowd of nearly 450 packed the gym on a night when Hillsdale defeated Northwood for the fourth time in a row. Northwood represented the fifth nationally ranked team the Chargers have already faced this season. Hillsdale is ranked 17th in the nation in the latest poll.

Each game was closely contested, with Northwood holding a lead after both teams scored into the 20s in the first two games. But the Chargers were able to limit their errors at those key times in each game, and were able to reach the 30-point finish line first. There were 10 lead changes and 26 tie scores in the match.

Sophomore middle hitter Emily Bennett enjoyed her finest collegiate match vs. the Timberwolves, picking up a career-high 12 kills to go along with an impressive .556 hitting percentage. Bennett did an excellent job at finding the holes in the Northwood defense and hitting over top of the defense.

Senior Melissa Bartlett led Hillsdale with 16 kills, while hitting .414 for the match, and getting 13 digs. Junior setter Stephanie Booms was her usual consistent self with 49 assists, three kills and four digs. Senior Megan Howard had a team-high 14 digs, and had two service aces. Sophomore Kittrick Smith played strong in the second and third games, and finished with 13 kills.

Northwood was led by two-time North Division Player of the Week Lana Sorokina, who had 20 kills and hit .457 for the match. Sarah Pollard was the only Northwood player to get double figures in digs, finishing with 10.

Hillsdale jumped out to an impressive offensive start to the match, hitting .421 as a team in the first game. The team then cracked down defensively, limiting Northwood to sub-.200 game hitting percentages in the second and third games.

The Chargers will play at home at noon Saturday vs. Saginaw Valley State University.

# VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Chargers open GLIAC play at home vs. Northwood, SVSU this weekend

September 12, 2007 - The preliminaries are over, now it's time to get down to business. The business for the Hillsdale College volleyball team is defense of its GLIAC South Division title, and the beginning of conference play for the 2007 season, both of which start here at home Friday night.

The Chargers, sporting a 9-4 record and ranked 17th in the nation, will host undefeated and 25th-ranked Northwood University at 7 p.m. Friday inside the Jesse Phillips Arena. Hillsdale is back in action for a noon start Saturday against Saginaw Valley State University.

Northwood comes into the game on a tear, going 12-0 in its first three tournaments of the season, including an impressive 3-2 win over 10th-ranked Truman, a team that beat Hillsdale two weeks ago. The Timberwolves are led by outside hitter Lana Sorokina, who is second in the conference in kills per game, just behind conference leader Melissa Bartlett of the Chargers.

Sorokina has been named GLIAC North Division Player of the Week twice already this season, with Bartlett also winning the award once for the South Division. The Timberwolves represent the fifth nationally ranked opponent for the Chargers already this season, while Hillsdale is the second ranked team Northwood faces.

Bartlett currently ranks fourth in all of Division II in kills per game, with 5.14. That mark also puts her No. 1 in the GLIAC. Junior setter Stephanie Booms is second in the GLIAC and 17th nationally with 12.8 assists per game.

Hillsdale put together a terrific effort in its last meeting with Northwood, sweeping the Timberwolves 3-0 in Midland last season. The Chargers have beaten the Timberwolves three times in a row, including 3-2 wins over Northwood in their last meeting in Hillsdale (Sept. 30, 2005) and a win the last time Northwood entered the match with a national ranking (Sept. 25, 2004). The last time Northwood topped Hillsdale in volleyball was on Sept. 27, 2003, in a 3-0 decision.

Saginaw Valley comes into this weekend's match on a roll of its own. The Cardinals are 11-2 on the season and have won eight in a row, before Friday's match at Wayne State. The 11-2 record marks the team's best-ever 13-match start to a season.

One of SVSU's top players, Allison Schlinkert, was a high school teammate of Hillsdale's Stephanie Booms at Marysville High School. Schlinkert is second on the Cardinals team in kills, while Booms remains one of the GLIAC's top setters, ranking second in the conference in that category.

Hillsdale has won 20 straight GLIAC matches, dating back to the 2005 season. Ashland was the last

team to defeat Hillsdale in a conference match, 3-1, back on Oct, 22, 2005.

There will be live stats and webcasting available at Friday's match, with live stats only for Saturday's match. Click on the links below to view the live stats and webcasting for this weekend's volleyball matches

## Volleyball team falls to No. 17 in latest national poll

September 10, 2007 - Although the Hillsdale College volleyball team suffered back-to-back losses for the first time in nearly two years over the weekend, the team remains ranked among the best in the nation.

The Chargers (9-4 overall) are ranked 17th in the latest AVCA/CSTV Division II Top 25 poll, released Monday night. Hillsdale fell 10 spots from last week's rank of seven.

The Chargers received 289 poll points in this week's rankings. Hillsdale recovered from a pair of Friday losses at the Ashland tournament to post back-to-back 3-0 sweeps of Bellarmine and Lock Haven on Saturday.

A total of four GLIAC teams are nationally ranked in the latest poll. Ashland returns to the top 10, earning a No. 9 ranking in the poll after going 4-0 at its own tournament last weekend. Grand Valley moved up two spots, from 13 to 11, after an identical 4-0 mark this weekend.

Northwood University, off to a 12-0 start, enters the poll at No. 25. The Timberwolves visit the Chargers at 7 p.m. Friday night in the Jesse Phillips Arena in the GLIAC opener for both teams.

## Charger volleyball team goes 2-2 at Ashland tournament

September 8, 2007 - The weekend finished much better than it started for the Hillsdale College volleyball team.

The Chargers split four matches at the Ashland Tournament over the weekend, losing both matches played Friday night, while recording a pair of 3-0 sweeps Saturday. Hillsdale, ranked No. 7 in the nation, is 9-4 upon completion of its early-season tournaments. The team opens GLIAC play at home this coming weekend, hosting Northwood at 7 p.m. Friday followed by a noon match against Saginaw Valley State University Saturday.

Hillsdale lost two matches in four games each on Friday, first to 24th-ranked Northern Kentucky, and later, to Wheeling-Jesuit. The loss to NKU was a tough one to stomach, given the 37-35 score of the fourth game. In volleyball's scoring format, that represents seven "overtime" points. Matches are decided by the first team to reach 30 points, but the final margin must be at least two points. That means the two teams never gained a lead of more than one point after the game was tied 29-29.

After hitting just .179 as a team in the first game, NKU cranked up its explosive offense, finishing the match with a team hitting percentage of .285. Three NKU players combined for 56 of the team's 73 kills in the match.

Hillsdale was led offensively by senior Melissa Bartlett's 20 kills, while sophomores Kitt Smith (17 kills) and Emily Bennett (10 kills) also played well for the Chargers.

The loss to the Cardinals of Wheeling-Jesuit was not a decision Hillsdale expected to have, especially after absorbing a tough loss earlier in the day Friday. Hillsdale easily won the second game of the match, 30-16, but struggled with all-around execution in losing the other games by scores of 30-26, 30-22 and 30-25. Senior Megan Howard delivered a career-high seven service aces to provide a highlight for Hillsdale in the loss.

The team came out Saturday with improved focus and execution in sweeping a pair of teams. The 3-0 win over Bellarmine also counts as a key regional victory for the team.

Six players registered at least four kills in the win over Bellarmine for Hillsdale. Freshman Amanda Bigney had eight kills and a .350 hitting percentage in the win, while Howard, Bartlett and junior Stephanie Booms combined to deliver seven service aces.

The weekend concluded on a high note for the Chargers, defeating Lock Haven by scores of 30-25, 30-25 and 30-19. The third game of the match featured some of Hillsdale's most efficient play of the weekend, as it had a team attack percentage of .421 in the game, while limiting Lock Haven to an attack percentage of .133 in the final frame.

Bartlett played a dominant match in the weekend finale, getting 24 kills, 10 digs and two service aces. Howard had six more service aces, and Booms had 49 assists, seven digs and five kills, to go along with a .714 attack percentage.

Howard now has 130 service aces for her career, ranking her sixth on Hillsdale's all-time list. She sits just 10 aces short of moving into fourth place on the list, a mark she figures to pass sometime during the season.

## VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW: Chargers finish tournament slate at Ashland this weekend

September 6, 2007 - Just one more weekend of matches before the No. 7-ranked Hillsdale College volleyball team can begin GLIAC play. That tournament will take the Chargers to Ashland, Ohio this weekend, for a series of four matches starting at 2 p.m. Friday against 24th-ranked Northern Kentucky.

Hillsdale will also take on Wheeling-Jesuit (6 p.m. Friday), Bellarmine (9 a.m. Saturday), and Lock Haven (1 p.m. Saturday). The Chargers come into play this weekend with a 7-2 overall record.

The opening match of the tournament figures to be a key one for Hillsdale. Northern Kentucky is off to a strong start to the season, and is the only team to have defeated Ashland this season. NKU figures to be one of the stronger teams in the Great lakes Region, and a Hillsdale win here would boost the Chargers' opening regional ranking.

Hillsdale defeated Bellarmine 3-0 in last weekend's tournament at Findlay. In an early-season tournament in 2006, Hillsdale swept Lock Haven 3-0, when Lock Haven was ranked 15th in the nation. The last time Hillsdale and Wheeling-Jesuit faced one another was the 2005 season.

The Chargers will return home next weekend to open GLIAC play. Hillsdale hosts Northwood University at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14. The next day, the Chargers face Saginaw Valley State University starting at noon, with both matches scheduled for the Jesse Philips Arena.

The Chargers have the reigning GLIAC South Division Player of the Week in Melissa Bartlett. A senior outside and middle hitter, Bartlett is second in the GLIAC in kills and in points per game. Bartlett won the conference's player of the week honor once last season.

Sophomore Kittrick Smith is off to the best start of her young career, ranking fifth in the GLIAC in kills per game. Junior Stephanie Booms ranks second in the conference in assists per game, while senior Megan Howard is fourth in digs per game. Hillsdale, as a team, ranks second in the conference in team hitting percentage.

## Melissa Bartlett named GLIAC South Division volleyball Player of the Week

September 4, 2007 - Player of the Week honors got spread to both the Hillsdale College football and volleyball teams Tuesday afternoon.

Senior outside hitter Melissa Bartlett was named the GLIAC South Division Player of the Week for the second time in her career Tuesday. She helped lead the Charger volleyball team to a 4-1 record last week, averaging a whopping five kills per game to go along with an overall hitting percentage of .406.

She registered a Hillsdale career-high of 29 kills in the team's 3-2 loss to No. 6 Truman at the Towne Place Suites Classic in Findlay, Ohio Friday afternoon. She also had 45 digs in the five matches last week and was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Bartlett leads the No. 7-ranked Chargers in total kills with 139 and is second on the team in digs with 93. The team is off to a 7-2 start to the season.

Hillsdale heads to Ashland University this weekend to play in the last of its three weekend tournaments before the start of conference play.

## Here they go again: Charger volleyball team moves up to No. 7 in latest AVCA/CSTV Top 25 poll

September 3, 2007 - After winning seven of its first nine matches of the season, the Hillsdale College volleyball team moved up three spots in the latest AVCA/CSTV Division II Top 25 poll, released Monday night.

The Chargers are now tied for the No. 7 spot in the latest national poll, moving up from its preseason ranking of 10. Hillsdale is tied with Central Missouri for the seventh spot in the poll, each school receiving 588 poll points.

Hillsdale is also the highest-ranked GLIAC team in the poll, leapfrogging Ashland, previously No. 8, now ranked 10th. Grand Valley State University was ranked 11th in the preseason poll, and slid to 13th in the latest poll. Northwood and Findlay each fell in the "others receiving votes" category.

The Chargers (7-2) went 3-1 in each of their first two early-season tournaments, with the only losses coming to No. 5 Florida Southern and No. 6 Truman. Hillsdale swept defending national runner-up North Alabama, 3-0, on Saturday. UNA dropped from No.9 to 22 in the latest poll.

The Chargers were nationally ranked most of 2006, peaking at No. 3 after their 28-0 start to the season. Hillsdale finished 12th in the final poll, after losing to Ashland in the regional semifinals.

Hillsdale will play in the third of its three early-season tournaments this weekend at Ashland, Ohio. The Chargers open play at 2 p.m. Friday against another ranked foe, No. 24 Northern Kentucky. The team begins GLIAC play on Friday, Sept. 14 at home vs. Northwood.

## Volleyball team sweeps defending national runner-up to go 3-1 at Findlay tournament

September 1, 2007 - After suffering its first five-game loss in nearly two years, the Hillsdale College volleyball bounced back to post a pair of impressive wins Saturday afternoon.

Highlighting the team's play in the final day of the Towne Suites Place Classic in Findlay, Ohio, was a huge preseason win, 3-0 over defending national runner-up and No. 9-ranked North Alabama. The Chargers are now 7-2 on the season and will head to Ashland University next weekend for the final of its three tournaments before GLIAC play begins.

Senior Melissa Bartlett was named to the All-Tournament Team, while senior Megan Howard earned Most Outstanding Libero honors at the tournament in Findlay.

The Chargers' win over UNA was its second in the past four years, the first coming in 2004 when North Alabama was the defending Division II national champions. The latest meeting between the teams wasn't as close as one would think a matchup of the Nos. 9 and 10 teams in the nation would be.

Hillsdale beat UNA 30-25, 30-21 and 30-26 in the final of its four matches over the weekend. Bartlett and sophomore Kittrick Smith combined for 31 of the team's 55 kills, proving to be an unstoppable outside hitter combination.

The Chargers hit .355 for the match, while holding UNA to a team attack percentage of .220.

Hillsdale's team defense turned in one of its best and most balanced efforts of the season. Three players had double-digits in digs, led by Bartlett's 14. Megan Howard added 12 digs, while Sydney Dow had 11.

Freshman Rachel VanderWall had a career-high eight kills, with junior Stephanie Booms dishing out 45 assists. Sophomore Emily Bennett had six kills and two solo blocks.

Hillsdale had little trouble disposing of Bellarmine, winning all three games by scores of 30-14, 30-

20 and 30-25. In that match, Smith led the team with 14 kills, while Bartlett had 12.

Friday night, Hillsdale lost a 3-2 heartbreaker to No. 7-ranked Truman State (Mo.) It was the first five-game loss suffered by the Chargers since Oct. 21, 2005.

The Chargers defeated future GLIAC foe Tiffin University 3-0 earlier Friday. The scores of the games were 30-28, 30-22 and 30-20.

The Chargers again controlled the offensive and defensive flow of the match vs. the Dragons. After Tiffin hit .412 as a team in the first game, Hillsdale held it to team hitting percentages of .088 and .031 in the final two games, games the Chargers won by eight and 10 points.

Bartlett led the Chargers with 14 kills and a .526 hitting percentage. Senior Devon Blain had an efficient offensive game, getting four kills and an .800 attack percentage. Freshman Amanda Bigney had seven kills, while Smith added 10 kills.

Booms dished out 43 assists, and senior Howard had a team-best 15 digs.

The match against Truman State featured some superlative performances from Charger players. Senior Megan Howard led the team with 33 digs, two short of her career-high. Bartlett recorded 29 kills, the most she's had in a match while wearing a Hillsdale uniform. Bartlett also had 18 digs.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms came close to a triple-double, getting seven kills, 56 assists and 12 digs. Freshman Sydney Dow had a career-high 25 digs, and sophomore Emily Bennett had a career-high 10 kills. Sophomore Kittrick Smith added 15 kills to the Hillsdale offense.

The Chargers lost the first game 31-29 before coming back to win the second, 30-22. Truman won game three 30-22, while Hillsdale took the fourth game, 30-26. Truman pulled out a 15-9 game-five win to close out the match. Truman hit .583 as a team in the fifth game, compared to .111 for the Chargers.

## Hillsdale volleyball team defeats Spring Arbor in home opener

August 28, 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team rolled off the assembly line and was shiny and new for the home fans Tuesday night, as the 2007 Chargers swept Spring Arbor University 3-0 in a steamy Jesse Philips Arena. The non-league match was Hillsdale's home opener for this season.

Just two days removed from returning from its season-opening tournament in Florida, the Chargers

ran smooth with no shifting problems in dispatching the Cougars while allowing 17 points or less in all three games.

The Chargers excelled in all areas of the game, holding Spring Arbor to a team hitting percentage of -.120 while putting together a team percentage of .270 of its own.

Despite losing a talented senior class from its 2006 team that went 29-2, this 2007 team showed nearly 300 home fans that it's certainly no lemon. Twelve of the team's 14 players recorded a kill in the match, led by 14 from sophomore Kittrick Smith. Senior Melissa Bartlett tacked on 12 kills, while freshman Amanda Bigney had six kills in the balanced offensive attack. Junior Elisse Shank played well in the third game, getting four kills in four attempts for a perfect 1.000 hitting percentage. Senior right-side hitter Devon Blain (pictured) showed plenty of aggressiveness on the court with a pair of strong kills during the match.

Hillsdale also had no problem driving defensively during the match, forcing Spring Arbor into 32 attack errors while picking up 52 digs as a team. Freshman Sydney Dow led the team with 14 in home home collegiate debut, while Megan Howard added 11 digs. Junior setter Stephanie Booms played the part of old reliable, recording 40 assists, with five digs, three kills and two service aces.

The Charger team had 16 total blocks and never trailed at any point during the match.

Hillsdale's next road test will come in Findlay, Ohio this weekend, where the team will play in its second early-season tournament.

## Volleyball team enjoys successful 3-1 trip in Florida

August 26 2007 - Entering a brand-new season, the grand success of 2006 still fresh in their minds, the players on the Hillsdale College volleyball team are intent on creating their own legacy in this just-started 2007 season. The Chargers took a very nice step forward on that journey with a 3-1 record in their first weekend of competition this season.

Hillsdale won three of four matches at the Florida Southern Invitational, held in Lakeland, Fla. The Chargers scored victories over Abilene Christian (Tx.) 3-1, and a pair of 3-0 sweeps over two quality teams: Metro State (Col.) and the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Hillsdale's lone loss came at the hands of the host school, fifth-ranked Florida Southern, 3-0. It was Hillsdale's first loss away from home since November 2005.

The Chargers came out of the gate looking like a seasoned team, which they are in some respects, but many young players saw their first, or most extensive playing time of their careers, and played like veterans. All four of the team's freshmen saw plenty of playing time in Florida, while a handful of players who haven't played much in their careers, accepted their increased roles with quality play.

Sophomore middle hitter Emily Bennett, who played in just seven total games last year, started all four matches over the weekend and was extremely efficient, picking up 23 kills with a .396 hitting percentage.

Senior middle hitter Jen Pilot, whose previous career high for kills in a match was six, eclipsed that

figure four times over the weekend, picking up a career-best 10 kills vs. Abilebe Christian and Metro State. She also delivered a team-high 13 total blocks over the weekend.

Senior Melissa Bartlett resumed her role of devastating force behind the offense, leading the Chargers with 57 kills over the weekend. She achieved at least 11 kills in all four matches, and led all players with 19 kills against Metro State.

Junior setter Stephanie Booms averaged more than 11.5 assists per game throughout the weekend, while senior Megan Howard resumed her four-digs-per-game pace she's maintained throughout her career.

The Charger freshman class also showed that it will be a force to be reckoned with in the present in addition to the future. Amanda Bigney hit .500 in both matches she played in, including a high of seven kills in a very short amount of time on the court vs. Metro State.

Freshman Sydney Dow started her first collegiate match and was a regular member of the rotation throughout the tournament, providing Hillsdale excellent defensive play and serving. She had a tournament-high seven service aces against Metro State, and she played with poise beyond her years in all four matches.

Freshman Amanda Geelhoed totaled three kills and one solo block in her time on the court during the tournament. Freshman Rachel VanderWall also started three matches and provided steady all-around play from the right side. She racked up nine kills, five digs and five assists at the tournament, showing her versatility on the court.

The Chargers will play their first home match of this season Tuesday night, taking on neighboring Spring Arbor University. This marks Hillsdale's first match back at home since last year's memorable playoff run that saw Hillsdale host both the GLIAC Tournament, and the Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament. Admission to the match is free and it begins

## Charger volleyball team picked to finish first in GLIAC preseason poll

Aug. 17. 2007 - The Hillsdale College volleyball team was picked by GLIAC coaches to finish this season where it did last - in first place in the GLIAC South Division.

The 2007 GLIAC Volleyball Coaches poll was released Friday afternoon, and Hillsdale received 26 poll points, finishing first in the GLIAC South Division. The Chargers picked up three first-place votes, followed by second-place Ashland, who got two first-place votes. Findlay was picked third in the preseason poll.

Grand Valley State University was picked to finish first in the GLIAC North Division, followed by Michigan Tech, then third-place Ferris State.

This marks the second consecutive season Hillsdale has been picked to finish first in the GLIAC South Division. In 2006, the Chargers proved the league coaches correct by going 29-2 and finishing 17-0 in the GLIAC, the first time as a team had gone through the entire conference schedule undefeated since 2003.

Hillsdale won its first 28 straight matches during the historic 2006 campaign. The Chargers open play this season on Friday, Aug. 24 at the Florida Southern Tournament in Lakeland, Fla.

## Charger volleyball team ranked 10th in AVCA preseason Top 25 poll

August 14, 2007 - Coming off its best season in history, the Hillsdale College volleyball team is regarded as one of the 10 best in Division II, according to a preseason poll.

The Chargers are ranked 10th in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Top 25 preseason poll, released Tuesday evening. Hillsdale received a total of 514 poll points.

Hillsdale is one of three GLIAC teams ranked in the top 11 of the poll. Defending GLIAC and Great Lakes Regional champion Ashland is ranked eighth in the preseason poll, while 2005 national champion Grand Valley State University checks in at 11th in the preseason poll.

This marks the first time in school history the Charger volleyball team has achieved a preseason national top 25 ranking. Hillsdale finished 12th in the final AVCA poll of the 2006 season, when it went 29-2.

The Chargers face several ranked teams during their early-season tournaments, including No. 5 Florida Southern. Hillsdale opens this season playing at the Florida Southern Tournament Aug. 24-25 and will play the host school at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24.

Other top 10 opponents on Hillsdale's docket include North Alabama (No. 9), the Division II national runner-up in 2006, and Truman (No. 7), a team the Chargers will face at the Findlay tournament Aug. 31-Sept. 1. No. 24 Lock Haven will take on Hillsdale at the Ashland Tournament Sept. 7-8, making if four ranked teams the Chargers will face before GLIAC play begins on Sept. 14.

The only two matches Hillsdale lost in 2006 came to Ashland, a team the Chargers swept during the regular season. Hillsdale won its first 28 consecutive matches, setting a school record for consecutive wins by a volleyball team, and achieving a No. 3 national ranking during the streak.

Hillsdale lost a terrific senior class from last season, but returns a pair of First-Team All-GLIAC players in Stephanie Booms and Melissa Bartlett. Senior libero Megan Howard joined Booms on the Great Lakes Region All-Tournament team last season, and they form a core of players that should contend for the GLIAC title once again this season.

## Charger volleyball team earns AVCA national honor

*The honors continue to pour in for the Hillsdale College volleyball team from the 2006-07 year even as the 2007 season is set to begin soon*

July 23, 2007 - The honors continue to roll in for the 2006 Hillsdale College volleyball team even as the start of the 2007 season looms one month and one day away.

The Chargers were one of 30 Division II volleyball programs to receive the GamePlan/AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2006-07 school year. In order to be eligible for the award, a team must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The University of Findlay's volleyball team was the only other GLIAC school to receive the GamePlan/AVCA award for the 2006-07 season.

The Charger team had a cumulative grade point average of 3.47 for the 2006-07 school year, a season that brought unprecedented success to the program. Hillsdale finished with a 29-2 overall record, won the GLIAC South Division and hosted both the GLIAC Tournament and NCAA Great Lakes Regional Tournament. Coach Chris Gravel was named GLIAC Coach of the Year, and Taryn Rudland was named GLIAC Player of the Year, Regional Player of the Year, and was a Division II First-Team All-American selection.

The 2007 season opener for the Charger volleyball team is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 24 against Abeline Christian at the Florida Southern Tournament in Lakeland, Fla.