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LEWIS PICKED AS FAVORITE TO CLAIM GLVC SOFTBALL TITLE

INDIANAPOLIS – Lewis University has been selected as the favorite to claim the 2009 Great Lakes Valley Conference Softball Championship in a vote of the league's 13 head coaches. The Flyers, who have won the conference championship a record eight times, collected 142 total votes and ten of the 13 first-place votes in the annual GLVC Preseason Poll.

Indianapolis finished second in the voting with 133 total points and the final three first-place votes. The Greyhounds finished just ahead of Missouri S&T and Southern Indiana, who finished third and fourth, respectively, in the poll. S&T notched 113 total points and Southern Indiana finished with 108 total points.

Missouri-St. Louis garnered 86 total points to place fifth in the poll, while Quincy and Rockhurst each collected 82 total points to tie for sixth in the voting. UW-Parkside placed eighth with 80 total points and was followed by Northern Kentucky (52 total points), Saint Joseph's (49), Drury (46), Kentucky Wesleyan (25) and Bellarmine (16).

Lewis posted a 38-18 overall record in 2008 and claimed the regular season crown and the top-seed in the 2008 GLVC tournament by virtue of a 20-4 league record. The Flyers advanced to the NCAA Great Lakes Regional where they posted a 1-2 record.

Under the guidance of head coach George DiMatteo, the Flyers return three All-GLVC selections, including two first team honorees in senior pitcher Courtney Lyons and senior infielder Kelly Dianis. Lyons went 20-8 in the circle last season with a 1.27 earned run average. She registered 209 strikeouts for the Flyers in 182 innings. Dianis led the Lewis offense with a .371 batting average, 39 RBIs, 11 doubles and seven home runs.

DiMatteo, the 2008 GLVC Coach of the Year, collected his 800th career win last season and has posted an 834-422-6 (.633) overall record in 25 seasons as head coach of the Flyers.

Indianapolis, guided by head coach Missy Frost-Fisher, posted a 39-28 overall record in 2008 and finished fourth in the regular season standings with a 16-10 league mark. The Greyhounds will be led by junior outfielder Jessica Breeden who hit .326 with 37 RBIs and 10 home runs last season. Breeden was named first-team All-GLVC in 2008.

Missouri S&T finished 2008 with a 26-21 overall record and placed third in the GLVC standings with a 17-9 league mark. The Miners, led by head coach Don Kennedy, will be paced by first-team All-GLVC selection Emily Tucker who hit .409 with 33 RBIs and a team-best 14 doubles last season.

The softball season opens on Feb. 6 and the GLVC Tournament will be held on May 1-3 at the EastSide Centre in East Peoria, Illinois.

The complete 2009 GLVC Softball Preseason Poll follows:

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	<u>Team</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>(First-place votes)</u>
1.	Lewis	142	(10)
2.	Indianapolis	133	(3)
3.	Missouri S&T	113	
4.	Southern Indiana	108	
5.	Missouri-St. Louis	86	
6.	Quincy	82	
	Rockhurst	82	
8.	UW-Parkside	80	
9.	Northern Kentucky	52	
10.	Saint Joseph's	49	
11.	Drury	46	
12.	Kentucky Wesleyan	25	
13.	Bellarmino	16	

For more information about the GLVC and each conference member, please visit www.glvcsports.org.

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