



Ferris State Men's Basketball

December 22, 2003

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Bulldogs Return To Action At Porreco Cup In Erie, Pa.

FERRIS AT A GLANCE:

After a short holiday break, the Ferris State University men's basketball team will take part in the 30th annual Porreco Cup Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, at Gannon University's Hammermill Center in Erie, Pa. The Bulldogs will battle Cheyney (Pa.) on Monday (Dec. 29) at 6 p.m. (EST) with the host Knights facing Glenville State (W.Va.) in the 8 p.m. (EST) nightcap. The tournament's consolation and championship games are set for Tuesday (Dec. 30) at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

LAST WEEKEND: The Bulldogs dropped two non-league games in the Sprint PCS/Southern Indiana Challenge held last weekend (Dec. 19-20) at USI's Physical Activities Center in Evansville, Ind. FSU lost a 90-77 decision last Friday to nationally-ranked Indianapolis and then suffered an 89-62 setback Saturday against number one ranked Southern Indiana. Ferris, which is currently 3-7 overall and 3-1 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) to date this campaign, held a 43-36 halftime advantage against USI in Saturday's finale before the Screaming Eagles responded with 53 second-half points. Indianapolis is ranked 15th in the latest (Dec. 16) poll.

TWO WEEKS AGO: Ferris recorded an 88-65 league win versus Lake Superior State in their 2003-04 home opener Thursday, Dec. 11, at Big Rapids (Mich.) High School. Ferris then posted an 88-76 league win Saturday, Dec. 13, over Saginaw Valley State in University Center, Mich.

LEADING THE WAY: Senior guard **Willie Thomas (Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy)**, who was named last week's GLIAC North Division Player of the Week (Dec. 15), tallied a game-high 29 points in Ferris' loss at USI. He also added 13 points against Indianapolis. Junior guard **Carlton Epps (Benton Harbor)** was FSU's leading scorer versus the Greyhounds with 22 points.

LAST SEASON: Ferris State concluded the 2002-03 campaign with an 11-15 overall mark and a fourth-place 7-11 GLIAC North Division finish. Both Ferris' overall record and league finish represented the program's best marks since the Bulldogs finished 21-12 overall and claimed the 1997-98 GLIAC Tournament championship.

THE BULLDOG TRADITION: The 2003-04 campaign marks the 76th season of Bulldog men's basketball. The program began in 1925 although Ferris did not field a team from 1942-45 due to World War II. FSU has compiled a 881-829 (.515) all-time mark. The Bulldogs have won nine GLIAC titles, made six NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and reached the 1988 NCAA-II Elite Eight. Ferris captured a league-record four consecutive GLIAC titles from 1986-90.

HEAD COACH BILL SALL: A 1994 Calvin graduate, second-year FSU head coach **Bill Sall** previously held assistant coaching positions at Calvin (1992-95), Ferris State (1995-98) and Hillsdale (1998-02) prior to being named Ferris State's 11th head coach. The Zeeland, Mich., native served as Ferris' interim head coach for a portion of the 1995-96 campaign and led the Bulldogs to a 5-8 mark. Before joining the coaching ranks, Sall was a standout player at Calvin from 1985-90. He twice (1989-90) received second-team National Association of Basketball Coaches Division III All-America honors and led Calvin to three MIAA championships, four NCAA-III Tournament bids and the

UPCOMING GAMES	
at Porreco Cup	
Hammermill Center (2,800)	
Erie, Pa.	
Monday, Dec. 29	
FSU vs. Cheyney (Pa.), 6 p.m.	Gannon vs. Glenville State (W.Va.), 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30	
Consolation/Championship, 6/8 p.m.	
All times are Eastern	

1990 NCAA-III Final Four. Sall has a current 19-30 (.387) career coaching mark.

FIRST OUTING AT WINK ARENA: The Bulldogs' first outing at Jim Wink Arena this campaign is against rival Grand Valley State Saturday, Jan. 10, at 3 p.m. (EST). FSU's only home game to date this season against Lake Superior State (Dec. 11) was held at Big Rapids (Mich.) High School due the school's annual winter graduation ceremonies.

ON THE ROAD: FSU is 339-298 (.532) overall since 1980-81 and sports a 161-203 (.442) record in road/neutral site contests during that span. Ferris has posted a 2-5 (.285) road mark to date this season.

FSU PICKED FOURTH: Ferris was picked to finish fourth in the 2003-04 GLIAC North Division Preseason Coaches Poll. The Bulldogs totaled 17 points in the balloting by the GLIAC's head coaches. Each of the league's 13 head coaches ranked the teams in their respective divisions, but were not allowed to vote for their own team. Northern Michigan was selected as the GLIAC North Division favorite with five first-place votes and 35 total points while Findlay took the top spot in the South Division with 25 points and five first-place votes.

A LOOK AT THE ROSTER: Ferris' 2003-04 roster includes two seniors, four juniors, two sophomores and seven freshmen. Eight of the 15 players are guards while the remaining seven are frontcourt players. Thirteen players hail from Michigan while two are from Ohio.

GLIAC GAMES ON THE AIR: Ferris' 2003-04 league games will be carried live by local radio station WBRN-1460 AM. Selected league contests can also be accessed live this season via the internet by clicking the Bulldog Athletics Webcasts icon at www.ferris.edu/sports.

FSU ON THE INTERNET: Ferris State University Athletics' official web site can be found at www.ferris.edu/sports. The site features information on all of FSU's varsity athletics programs including rosters, statistics and more. The Bulldogs' 2003-04 yearbook is also available online.

GLANCING AT THE BULLDOGS: Ferris returns seven letterwinners and four starters from last season, including senior co-captains **Willie Thomas** and **Nathan Wruble (Harbor Beach)**. The Bulldogs' biggest loss was 6-10 center Adam Anderson, who is presently playing in Egypt. The two-time team MVP was also a three-time All-GLIAC pick.

GREAT LEAGUE START: Ferris' current 3-1 league start this campaign marks only the third time in the last 15 seasons and the first time since 1996-97 the Bulldogs have won three of their initial four GLIAC outings. FSU also started league play with a 3-1 mark in 1992-93 while its last 4-0 start came in 1989-90.

TOUGH ROAD: Twelve of Ferris' first 13 games this campaign are away from home. The Bulldogs, who played their initial six outings this season away from home, are also slated to play their next three outings either on the road or at a neutral site.

2003-04 QUICK FACTS

Location:	Big Rapids, Mich.
Founded:	1884
Enrollment:	11,822
Nickname:	Bulldogs
Colors:	Crimson & Gold
Affiliation:	NCAA Division II
Conference:	Great Lakes Intercollegiate
President:	Dr. David L. Eisler
Athletics Director:	Tom Kirinovic
Asst. Athletics Director:	Brian Kegler
Head Trainer:	Dave Lucey, ATC
Assistant Trainer:	Tim Glover, ATC
Assistant Trainer:	Mike Blackburn, ATC
Equip. Manager:	Ben Mumah, E.M.C.
Athletic Dep. Office:	(231) 591-2860
Athletic Dep. Fax:	(231) 591-2869
Head Coach:	Bill Sall
Alma Mater/Year:	Calvin/1994
Record at FSU/Year:	19-30/2nd
Career Record/Years:	Same
Office Phone:	(231) 591-2877
Assistant Coach:	Cory Anderson
Office Phone:	(231) 591-3820
Home Court:	Jim Wink Arena
Capacity:	2,400
2002-03 Overall Record:	11-15
2002-03 Conf. Record/Finish:	7-11/T-4th
All-Time Record:	881-829 (.515)
Letterwinners Ret./Lost:	Seven/Six
Website:	www.ferris.edu/sports

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

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BULLDOG BITES

Carlton Epps is six points away from recording his 650th career point. He surpassed Dannie Hayes (125; 1991-95) into fifth place on FSU's career steals leaders list and has 135 career thefts to date The Bulldogs have held first-half leads of eight points or more in eight of their 10 outings to date this campaign Willie Thomas has 112 career three-point field goals to date and is four away from tying Randy Prince's (116; 1994-96) sixth-place career total. Thomas matched a personal career-high with seven treys at USI Freshman forward Terrance Shaw (Saginaw/Bridgeport) tied a personal career-best with 14 points against Indianapolis. He is averaging 10 points per game in his last three appearances Sophomore guard Dennis Springs (Toledo, Ohio/Scott) is presently five points away from recording his 400th career point. He has scored 10 points or more in his last four outings to date this season Willie Thomas has currently posted eight consecutive double-figure scoring performances this campaign.

LOOKING AHEAD: Ferris returns home to visit Calvin Saturday, Jan. 3, for a 3 p.m. (EST) non-league contest in Grand Rapids, Mich. FSU will then host West Michigan rival Grand Valley State in league action Saturday, Jan. 10, at Big Rapids, Mich. Opening tipoff is set for 3 p.m. (EST). The contest marks FSU's initial appearance at Jim Wink Arena this campaign.

A Look At The Porreco Cup Field

CHEYNEY: Ferris and Cheyney will square off for the first time in the Porreco Cup tournament opener. The Wolves, who were picked to finish fifth in the 2003-04 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Preseason East Division Poll, are presently 5-2 overall and 2-0 in the PSAC this season. CU, which is coached by first-year head coach Cleo Hill, was 13-14 overall a year ago and placed fifth (4-8) in the PSAC's East Division. Cheyney is led in scoring by senior forward Anthony Frazier (18.0 ppg), who is a three-time All-PSAC pick. The Wolves, who were ranked 16th in the 2003-04 Basketball Times Division II Preseason Poll, have won five of their last six games to date this season following their 72-60 league road win at Edinboro (Pa.) last Thursday (Dec. 18).

GLENVILLE STATE: The Bulldogs have never faced Glenville State, which has lost four consecutive games to date this campaign under second-year head coach Chad Hankinson. The Pioneers, who are presently 1-5 overall and 0-0 in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC), are led in scoring by senior guard Andrew Harding (19.4 ppg). GSC was picked to finish seventh in the 2003-04 WVIAC Preseason Coaches Poll following its 12-17 overall record and seventh-place (9-9) league finish last season. Glenville State is coming off a 100-68 non-league loss at Kentucky Wesleyan last Saturday (Dec. 20) entering its tournament opening-round contest against host Gannon.

GANNON: The Knights maintain a 6-2 series edge and defeated Ferris 73-62 in the last meeting (12/5/02) at Erie, Pa. GU, which has won five consecutive series' contests, is presently 9-2 overall and 2-1 in the GLIAC after recording a 77-67 non-league home win over Daemen (N.Y.) last Saturday (Dec. 20). The Knights, who are coached by eighth-year head coach Jerry Slocum, were 20-10 overall during the 2002-03 campaign and compiled a second-place (11-6) GLIAC South Division finish. Gannon, which has reached the NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament four-straight seasons to date, was picked to finish second in the 2003-04 GLIAC South Division Preseason Coaches Poll and is led in scoring by junior center Geoff Husted (15.5 ppg). The Bulldogs are 1-4 all-time against the Knights at GU's Hammermill Center in Erie, Pa. Gannon is presently 8-1 overall in home games this campaign and has won five of its last six outings to date.

2003-04 FSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

Table with columns: No., Name, Pos., Yr., Ht., Wt., Exp., Hometown/High School (College). Lists 16 players including Dennis Springs, Joe DeMartin, David Clarke, Terrance Shaw, Reggie Prince, Corey Epps, Carlton Epps, Michael Daniels, Jeffery Shanahan, Willie Burrel, C.J. Van Wieren, Willie Thomas (C), Nathan Wruble (C), John Terrell, and Adam Veltkamp.

Head Coach: Bill Sall, second year (Calvin, 1994)
Volunteer Assistant Coaches: Bill Killian, Jim Lake
HS - High School T - Transfer (C) - Captain

Assistant Coach: Cory Anderson
Basketball Consultant: Dean Davenport

2003-04 Season Trends

Table with columns: SITUATION and FSU RECORD. Lists trends such as 'At home 1-0', 'On the road 2-5', 'Shoot over 50% from floor 0-0', 'Opponent shoots over 50% from floor 1-4', etc.

