

Football News Release

S-02

FINDLAY AT FERRIS STATE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2001



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GAME FACTS

FINDLAY OILERS (0-1; 0-0 GLIAC)

AT

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS (0-1; 0-0 GLIAC)

KICKOFF: 7 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Top Taggart Field
(6,200)/Artificial Turf (AstroTurf 12)

RADIO COVERAGE: WBRN-AM (1460) – Jason Edwards (play-by-play), John Smith (color commentary).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State is 0-1 overall as a result of suffering a 34-24 non-conference season-opening loss to South Dakota State last Saturday (Sept. 1) night at SDSU's Coughlin-Alumni Stadium in Brookings, S.D. The Bulldogs compiled a 5-6 overall mark a season ago while placing tied for fifth place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) with a 5-5 league mark. Prior to last season, FSU finished 7-3 overall and shared the conference championship title with Northwood at 7-2. The Bulldogs have won or shared the conference championship six of the last nine years, including five straight (1992-96).

Findlay is presently 0-1 overall this season after being dealt a 31-10 non-conference loss by nationally-ranked Indiana (Pa.) last Saturday (Sept. 1) evening at IUP's George P. Miller Stadium in Indiana, Pa. The Oilers were 2-8 both overall and in the GLIAC (10th-place tie) a season ago.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – **Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 7th season, 42-26-0 (.618) — (2-1-0 vs. Findlay).

FINDLAY – **Dan Simrell** (Toledo, 1966), 2nd season, 2-9-0 (.182) — (0-1-0 vs. Ferris State).

2001 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS (0-1, 0-0 GLIAC)

Sept. 1	at South Dakota State	L 24-34
Sept. 8	Findlay*	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Saginaw Valley State*	12 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Wayne State*	12 p.m.
Sept. 29	Northwood*	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	Grand Valley State* (HF)	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Mercyhurst*	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	Michigan Tech* (HC)	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Northern Michigan*	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	at Hillsdale*	2:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	Indianapolis*	1:30 p.m.

All times are Eastern

Home games in **Bold**

*GLIAC Game

(HF) – Hall of Fame

(HC) – Homecoming

THE GAME: The Ferris State University football team will begin Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play this Saturday (Sept. 8) evening as the Bulldogs entertain the University of Findlay (Ohio) Oilers in their 2001 home opener in Big Rapids, Mich. The annual post-game fireworks display will be held near Top Taggart Field as part of the Fireworks Night festivities.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is in his seventh year at Ferris State and has registered a six-year 42-26-0 record to date. In that span, Pierce has already made a mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the best winning percentage (.618) in the program's history. The Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., native is 18 victories away from becoming the winningest coach at Ferris. Pierce, the 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year, served 12 years as an assistant at FSU prior to being named head coach in May 1995. Under Pierce's tutelage, the Bulldogs have won or shared three GLIAC titles while earning back-to-back (1995-96) berths in the NCAA Division II National Championship Playoffs, including a semifinal-round appearance in '95.

WHEELER PAVILION DEDICATION: Ceremonies for the dedication of the \$1.8 million Wheeler Pavilion at Top Taggart Field will be held this Saturday beginning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. (EDT). The three-story building was constructed through the generosity of alumnus John Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer of Rockford Construction Company and the Rockford Development Group. Located on the stadium's west side, the building features a clubroom level, media/game management level, ticket office, remodeled and expanded restrooms along with a remodeled, expanded and covered concession area.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ferris State trails Findlay 8-5-0 in their all-time series which dates back to 1934 (10/27) with the Bulldogs dropping a 12-6 road decision to the Oilers. UF won the first six meetings, but FSU has posted victories in four of the last five between the teams and has a current two-game series winning streak. Nine of the last 13 meetings have been decided by 14 points or less, including nine of the last 12 outings while the average margin of victory for both teams in the series is 21.9 points per game.

Findlay leads 8-5-0	(FSU 9/18/99 – 9/9/00)	1935	UF	33-6	H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 15.5 (202 pts.)	Longest Series Win Streak: 6	1963	UF	21-6	H
UF Scoring Avg.: 20.7 (269 pts.)	(UF 10/27/34 – 10/8/66)	1964	UF	47-0	A
Differential: +5.2 (UF)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 56	1965	UF	27-0	H
	(56-14 – 9/18/99)	1966	UF	20-0	A
At Big Rapids: UF leads 4-2-0	Most Points in a UF Win: 47	1968	FSU	36-16	A
At Findlay: UF leads 4-3-0	(47-0 – 10/10/64)	1969	UF	20-3	H
First Game: UF 12, FSU 6	Most Decisive Score: FSU 42	1970	FSU	21-7	A
(10/27/34)	(56-14 – 9/18/99) UF 47 (47-0 –	1971	FSU	28-13	H
Last FSU Win: 33-15 (9/9/00)	10/10/64)	1998	UF	24-7	A
Last UF Win: 24-7 (9/19/98)		1999	FSU	56-14	H
Last Meeting in Big Rapids:	* – Denotes FSU home game	2000	FSU	33-15	A
FSU 56, UF 14* (9/18/99)					
Current Series Win Streak: 2	1934	UF	12-6	A	

LAST MEETING – 2000: Behind tailback Derek Fudge's 194 yards rushing, Ferris State registered a 33-15 conference-opening road triumph over Findlay. The Oilers scored first on a four-yard run by Robert Campbell at 9:30 of the first quarter, but Ferris countered eight minutes later when split end Lamar Patterson recorded a safety with 1:06 remaining in the quarter to pull the Bulldogs within 6-2. The second quarter saw FSU score twice as tailback Mike Collins went into the endzone on a three-yard TD jaunt to give Ferris a 9-6 advantage. Findlay knotted the score at nine apiece with 6:35 left before halftime on a 41-yard field goal by David Samsal before the Bulldogs struck back as quarterback Dan Richard, who passed for 109 yards and a TD, connected with Patterson on a five-yard TD pass play to give FSU a 16-9 halftime lead. Ferris increased its lead in the second half as the Bulldogs outscored the hosts 17-6 in the game's final 30 minutes. Kicker Brian McCullough accounted for the third quarter's only points on a 22-yard field goal as the visitors led 19-9 going into the final stanza. Collins' second TD of the contest, a three-yard scamper, gave FSU a 26-9 lead with 12:41 to go in the game. UF managed to pull within 26-15 on a 21-yard TD pass from quarterback Bryan Hieber to Jermaine Harris at the 3:57 mark, but the Bulldogs answered back as Fudge dashed 17 yards to paydirt with about a minute remaining. Ferris' offense rolled up 440 total offense yards as quarterback Kyle Park threw for 106 yards while split end Clarence Coleman totaled five catches for 73 yards. Free safety Alvin Grier garnered a team-leading 12 tackles.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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www.ferris.edu/sports

2001 GLIAC STANDINGS

	GLIAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Ashland	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Grand Valley State	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Indianapolis	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Northern Michigan	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Saginaw Valley State	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000
Mercyhurst	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Michigan Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Northwood	0	0	.000	0	0	.000
Ferris State	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Findlay	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Hillsdale	0	0	.000	0	1	.000
Wayne State	0	0	.000	0	1	.000



www.gliac.org

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Ashland 27, Edinboro (Pa.) 9
 at Grand Valley State 56, Minnesota-Crookston 0
 at Northern Michigan 27, St. Cloud State 24
 at Northern Iowa 34, Wayne State 14
 at Saginaw Valley State 31, Hillsdale 21
 at Indiana (Pa.) 31, Findlay 10
at South Dakota State 34, Ferris State 24
 Indianapolis 10, at St. Joseph's (Ind.) 0

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

Michigan Tech at Mercyhurst*, 1:30 p.m.
 Northern Michigan at Indianapolis*, 2 p.m.
Findlay at Ferris State*, 7 p.m.
 Northwood at Hillsdale*, 7 p.m.
 Saginaw Valley State at Grand Valley State*, 7 p.m.
 Wayne State at Ashland*, 7 p.m.

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern

2001 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Northwood (7)	126
2.	Grand Valley State (5)	109
3.	Saginaw Valley State	97
4.	Ferris State	91
5.	Northern Michigan	78
6.	Ashland	60
7.	Michigan Tech	54
8.	Indianapolis	49
9.	Wayne State	47
10.	Hillsdale	46
11.	Mercyhurst	31
12.	Findlay	14

First place votes in parentheses. Voting was conducted among the GLIAC football coaches; coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team. Points were assigned as follows: First-11 points; Second-10 points; Third-9 points; Etc.

LAST WEEK: South Dakota State's senior running back Josh Ranek rushed for a game-high 235 yards and accounted for all five SDSU TD's in propelling the Jackrabbits to a 34-24 season-opening victory over Ferris State last Saturday evening in what was the first-ever night game at SDSU's Coughlin-Alumni Stadium. The non-league contest was a showdown of two 2001 Harlon Hill Trophy candidates - Ranek and senior flanker **Clarence Coleman (Miami, Fla./Miramar)**, who had a school-record tying 15 catches for 212 yards and two TD's. The Bulldogs took a 3-0 lead on sophomore kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 30-yard field goal with nine minutes remaining in the first quarter before SDSU countered seven minutes later as Ranek scored from one-yard out to give the Jackrabbits a 7-3 first-quarter lead. A four-yard TD toss from senior quarterback **Kyle Park (Goshen, Ind.)** to senior split end **Lamar Patterson (Milan)** with just over 11 minutes left before the half put FSU back on top at 10-7, but Ranek scored a pair of six-yard rushing TD's in the time remaining to give the Jackrabbits a 20-10 half-time lead. Ferris managed to cut the deficit to 20-17 with 6:10 left in the third quarter as **Park** hooked up with **Coleman** on a 29-yard TD pass play. However, Ranek scored two unanswered one-yard rushing TD's at 2:33 of the third quarter and 8:15 of the fourth to give the hosts a 34-17 advantage. Ferris scored with 6:33 left to go in the game when **Coleman** caught a seven-yard TD pass from **Park**. FSU wound up with a 390 to 364-yard edge in total offense, but was hampered by four turnovers. Individually, Park was 26-for-41 in passing for a personal career-best tying 344 yards and two TD's. Defensively, senior outside linebacker **Jason Wells (Tipp City, Ohio/Bethel)** totaled a team-best 11 tackles while senior defensive tackle **William Foster (St. Ignace/LaSalle)**, senior strong safety **J.J. Moreland (Marcellus/Three Rivers)** and sophomore

middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** registered 10 tackles apiece.

BULLDOG BITES: Senior quarterback **Kyle Park** moved into sixth place on FSU's all-time passing charts and has presently totaled 2,570 passing yards in 18 career outings. Park, who surpassed both Sparky McEwen (1988-90; 2,233 yds.) and Bill Costner (1978-80; 2,271 yds.), is 260 yards away from tying Steve Piotraczk (1981-84; 2,830 yds.) for fifth place . . . Park's 344 passing yards equalled his personal career game high set last season (9/23) against Wayne State . . . Sophomore tailback **Derek Fudge** is only 73 yards away from surpassing Lou Melchiorre (1990-93; 1,342 career yds.) for 12th place on FSU's career rushing chart. Fudge, the 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year and an All-GLIAC Second-Team pick, has rushed for 1,270 career yards on 272 carries (4.7 avg.) . . . **Clarence Coleman** is 32 points shy of tying Mo Harris (1996-99) for fourth place on Ferris' career scoring charts. Coleman has accumulated 226 career points to date while Harris compiled 258 career points . . . Senior outside linebacker **Jason Wells'** game-high 11 tackles marks a personal career best, eclipsing his previous high of seven vs. Michigan Tech (10/23/99) . . . **Clarence Coleman's** 15 receptions at South Dakota State tied a school single-game record previously set by Chris Floyd at Eastern Illinois (9/29/84) and Coleman at Grand Valley State (10/7/00). He has totaled eight double-digit reception games in his career to go along with 22 100-yard or more receiving performances. The FSU offensive co-captain has also presently recorded 10 consecutive 100-yard plus receiving efforts and is averaging 158.0 yards per game in that period.

BULLDOGS IN HOME OPENERS: Ferris is 36-36-4 (.500) in home openers dating back to 1920, which includes a 6-5-0 mark since 1990. The Bulldogs are 5-3 in their last eight home-opening contests. FSU is 7-13-1 in conference openers since 1980 and sports a 3-7 home mark in such outings during that span.

FSU AT HOME: Ferris State is 62-46-2 (.573) at Top Taggart Field since 1980 and sports a 49-35-2 (.581) conference home mark during that span. The Bulldogs are 41-19-2 (.677) overall since 1990, which includes a 36-16-2 (.685) conference ledger.

2001 HARLON HILL TROPHY CANDIDATE: Senior flanker **Clarence Coleman**, the GLIAC and FSU's all-time leader in receptions and receiving yardage, is among several NCAA Division II standouts vying for the 2001 Harlon Hill Trophy as the nation's top Division II football player. The All-American receiver has currently amassed 3,849 career receiving yards on 244 catches in 32 games at FSU while compiling 212 career receptions for 3,460 yards in conference games only. Coleman established school single-season marks for receptions (97), receiving yards (1,519) and TD's (15) last fall. His 89 catches for 1,441 yards in GLIAC games last season both represented conference records.

UP NEXT: Ferris State continues conference action next Saturday, Sept. 15, as the Bulldogs take on the 2000 GLIAC co-champion Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals at SVSU's Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium in University Center, Mich. Opening kickoff is slated for 12 p.m. (EDT).

Bulldogs-Of-The-Week: Following each Ferris State contest, individual players will be recognized by the FSU coaching staff for their outstanding performance. Individual(s) will be selected on offense, defense, specialty teams, and for extraordinary effort (*every player, every play*).

DATE	OPPONENT	BULLDOGS-OF-THE-WEEK
Sept. 1	South Dakota State	Offense-Kyle Park, Defense-DeRen Ellis, Specialty-Tom Perez, EPEP-William Foster
Sept. 8	Findlay	
Sept. 15	Saginaw Valley State	
Sept. 22	Wayne State	
Sept. 29	Northwood	
Oct. 6	Grand Valley State	
Oct. 13	Mercyhurst	
Oct. 20	Michigan Tech	
Oct. 27	Northern Michigan	
Nov. 3	Hillsdale	
Nov. 10	Indianapolis	

Home games listed in **bold**