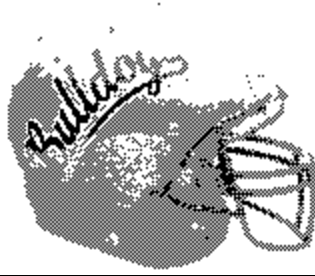


Football News Release

For Immediate Release
February 7, 2001



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FERRIS STATE ANNOUNCES FOOTBALL RECRUITS

Ferris State Focuses On Team Needs; Inks 20 High School Seniors

Big Rapids, Mich. – Ferris State University football head coach **Jeff Pierce** and his staff announced the signing today of 20 student-athletes to national letters of intent to attend and play football at FSU.

Included in the list are six offensive linemen, four receivers, three linebackers and three defensive ends.

"I'm really excited about the group of young men we're bringing in and I believe they're a nice compliment to last year's class," said Pierce, who enters his seventh season at FSU this fall and has the winningest percentage (.627) among all-time Bulldog coaches. "Our approach this year was to try to fill the needs in our program with a limited amount of scholarships due to the fact that we're a young team and have a multitude of guys coming back this fall."

The Bulldog recruiting class, which is comprised of 12 individuals on offense and eight on defense, features 17 prep student-athletes from Michigan, two from Illinois and one from Indiana.

"An emphasis of ours was on the line of scrimmage," stated Pierce. "To bring in a good, solid group of offensive line prospects was one of our priorities and we accomplished that. I believe the number of talented big guys we have coming in along with last year's group will give us a lot of quality depth and provide for a good future in that area.

"We also concentrated on receivers and getting speed kids at this position. I think we have a great group of receivers with exceptional speed which should allow us to feature an explosive offense in the future."

The majority of Ferris State's recruits on offense were linemen as the group is comprised of six individuals – **Jamie Bretl (Elmhurst, Ill./York)**, **Chris Buskalic (Laingsburg)**, **Mark Miller (Johannesburg/Gaylord St. Mary's)**, **Phillip Teeple (Bancroft/Durand)**, **Brian Timmer (Zeeland)** and **Jacob Welch (West Bloomfield/Walled Lake Central)**. The Bulldogs solidified their receiving corps with the addition of **Larry Burton Jr. (Lansing/Eastern)**, **Roderick Melton Jr. (North Muskegon)**, **Maurice McQueen (Bloomfield Hills/Andover)** and **Ryan Mitchell (Eagle/Grand Ledge)**. Ferris State also added quarterback **Ryan Kaul (Clarkston)** and tailback **Shawn Grigg (Allegan)**. Miller, Timmer and Kaul were all-state prep honorees.

Defensively, Ferris State signed three defensive ends and a trio of linebackers. **Kirk Long (North Muskegon)** along with **Josh Swartz (Caledonia)** and **Matt Swartz (Greenville)** will bring depth to the end position while **Tony Dawson (Mishawaka, Ind.)**, **Ryan Fritz (Elkton/Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport)** and **Derek Kendall (Lake Zurich, Ill.)** should contribute to a traditionally-sound linebacking corps. In the secondary, FSU welcomes defensive backs **Kyle Myers (Ypsilanti/Belleville)** and **Aaron Sawyer (Belmont/Rockford)**. Long garnered all-state recognition this last fall.

"I would say on paper we have an excellent class although it's hard to tell until they put a year in here and we find out the type of commitment they're going to make," added Pierce.

The Bulldogs, six-time Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions (1992-96, 99), concluded the 2000 campaign at 5-6 overall and 5-5 in the conference (fifth-place tie).

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2001 FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL RECRUITS

NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL	HEAD COACH
Jamie Bretl	OL	6-4	240	Elmhurst, Ill./York	Terry Grider
Larry Burton Jr.	WR	5-8	170	Lansing, Mich./Eastern	Kerry Keyton
Chris Buskalic	OL	6-3	255	Laingsburg, Mich./Laingsburg	Mike Brooks
Tony Dawson	LB	6-3	225	Mishawaka, Ind./Mishawaka	Jim Aldrich
Ryan Fritz	LB	6-4	215	Elkton, Mich./Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport	William McLellen
Shawn Grigg	TB	5-10	185	Allegan, Mich./Allegan	Ron Orr
Ryan Kaul	QB	6-0	175	Clarkston, Mich./Clarkston	Kurt Richardson
Derek Kendall	LB	6-2	220	Lake Zurich, Ill./Lake Zurich	Mike DiMatteo
Kirk Long	DE	6-4	225	North Muskegon, Mich./North Muskegon	Dave Cooke
Maurice McQueen	WR	6-2	175	Bloomfield Hills, Mich./Andover	Scott Sugg
Roderick Melton Jr.	WR	5-11	160	North Muskegon, Mich./North Muskegon	Dave Cooke
Mark Miller	OL	6-3	260	Johannesburg, Mich./Gaylord St. Mary's	Rod Bragg
Ryan Mitchell	WR-TE	6-4	220	Eagle, Mich./Grand Ledge	Pat O'Keefe
Kyle Myers	DB	6-1	197	Ypsilanti, Mich./Belleville	Bob LaPointe
Aaron Sawyer	DB	6-0	185	Belmont, Mich./Rockford	Ralph Munger
Josh Swartz	DE	6-3	220	Caledonia, Mich./Caledonia	Tom Burrill
Matt Swartz	DE	6-3	200	Greenville, Mich./Greenville	Warren Kent
Phillip Teeple	OL	6-5	234	Bancroft, Mich./Durand	Bill Altimore
Brian Timmer	OL	6-4	280	Zeeland, Mich./Zeeland	Stan Jesky
Jacob Welch	OL	6-5	260	West Bloomfield, Mich./Walled Lake Central	Chuck Apap