

Football News Release



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S-9

**ASHLAND AT FERRIS STATE
NOVEMBER 5, 2002**

GAME FACTS

**ASHLAND EAGLES
(2-8; 2-7 GLIAC)**

AT

**FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(4-4; 3-4 GLIAC)**

KICKOFF: 1:30 p.m. (EST)

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

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

THE RECORDS: Ferris State is currently 4-4 overall and 3-4 in the GLIAC after having its three-game winning string snapped with a 28-21 conference setback to Findlay last Saturday (Nov. 2) at UF's Donnell Stadium in Findlay, Ohio. The Bulldogs are presently 3-1 in home encounters this campaign. Last fall, Ferris finished 7-4 overall, including 7-3 in the GLIAC (third place). The Bulldogs have won or shared the conference title six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Ashland, which is 2-8 overall and 2-7 in the GLIAC, dropped its third consecutive game to date as a result of a 35-14 conference loss to Indianapolis last Saturday (Nov. 2) at UI's Key Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. The Eagles, who will be competing in their 2002 season finale this Saturday (Nov. 9), are 1-4 in away contests this season. AU concluded the 2001 season at 6-5 overall, which included a fifth-place tying 5-5 GLIAC mark.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 8th season, 53-33-0 (.616) – (2-3-0 vs. Ashland). Pierce is 28-14-0 (.667) at home, 13-5-0 (.722) in November and 49-27-0 (.645) in GLIAC contests.

ASHLAND – Gary Keller (Bluffton, 1973), 9th season, 49-45-0 (.521) – (3-3-0 vs. Ferris State). Keller led the Eagles to a co-Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference (MIFC) championship title in 1997.

2002 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 7	Hillsdale	W 33-21
Sept. 14	Grand Valley State*	Cancelled
Sept. 21	at Northern Michigan*	L 3-17
Sept. 28	Wayne State* (HF)	L 21-36
Oct. 5	at Northwood*	L 24-41
Oct. 12	Michigan Tech* (HC)	W 21-14 OT
Oct. 19	at Mercyhurst*	W 19-13 OT
Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State*	W 24-3
Nov. 2	at Findlay*	L 21-28
Nov. 9	Ashland*	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Indianapolis*	1 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 closes out the home portion of its 2002 season this Saturday (Nov. 9) as the Bulldogs host the Ashland University Eagles in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action at Big Rapids, Mich.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce, who has a 53-33-0 career coaching record, has made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by presently having the second best winning percentage (.616) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is eight wins shy of becoming FSU's winningest coach, surpassing Keith Otterbein (60-39-0, 1986-94). 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 '95 semifinal-round appearance.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Ashland has a 10-4-0 advantage over Ferris State in a series dating back to 1967. The Eagles started out the series winning the initial seven contests before FSU countered with a four-game win streak. Presently, AU has won the last three meetings and the two teams haven't met since since 1999 (10/6) when the Eagles won 26-22 to spoil Ferris' homecoming. Only five of the 14 games have been decided by eight points or less with the Bulldogs sporting a 2-3 mark in those outings.

Ashland leads 10-4-0	(AU 8/28/97 – 10/16/99)	1969	AU	20-0	A
FSU Scoring Avg.: 14.9 (209 pts.)	Longest Series Win Streak: 7	1974	AU	28-10	H
AU Scoring Avg.: 22.8 (319 pts.)	(AU 10/7/67 – 9/12/92)	1975	AU	34-10	A
Differential: +7.9 (UA)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 26	1990	AU	22-20	A
	(26-0 – 8/29/96)	1991	AU	35-7	H
At Big Rapids: AU leads 5-2-0	Most Points in a AU Win: 59	1992	AU	15-7	A
At Ashland: AU leads 5-2-0	(59-37 – 10/17/98)	1993	FSU	20-6	H
First Game: AU 21, FSU 7	Most Decisive Score: FSU 26	1994	FSU	16-14	A
(10/7/67)	(26-0 – 8/29/96) AU 28 (35-7* –	1995	FSU	20-13	H
Last FSU Win: 26-0 (8/29/96)	9/14/91)	1996	FSU	26-0	A
Last AU Win: 26-22* (10/16/99)	* – Denotes FSU home game	1997	AU	26-7	H
Last Meeting in Big Rapids:		1998	AU	59-37	A
AU 26, FSU 22* (10/16/99)		1999	AU	26-22	H
Current Series Win Streak: 3					

LAST MEETING – 1999: Ferris State had its homecoming spoiled as Ashland recorded a 26-22 victory over the Bulldogs at Top Taggart Field. FSU, which trailed 26-7 with 14:56 remaining in the contest, tallied 15 unanswered fourth-quarter points on a 55-yard TD pass from quarterback Matt McCarthy to split end Clarence Coleman at the 13:11 mark. Ferris narrowed the deficit to 26-20 with 5:34 left in the game on McCarthy's one-yard TD run and then registered a two-point safety with 1:23 remaining after AU's punter ran out-of-bounds in the end zone. The Bulldogs marched down the field on the ensuing Eagles' kickoff and were on the opponent's four-yard line with less than a minute left in the contest. Unfortunately, FSU wasn't able to score in three opportunities as AU strong safety Scott Parks intercepted McCarthy's pass in the end zone to squelch the comeback. The Eagles had taken a 10-7 lead after the opening quarter on a 30-yard field goal and a 68-yard fumble recovery for a TD with just 24 seconds left in the quarter which put the visitors ahead to stay. Ferris' score came on a McCarthy TD pass to Coleman with 5:36 showing on the scoreboard clock in the first quarter. AU then accounted for the lone scores in both the second and third quarters on a 42-yard TD pass play and a one-yard TD run as the Eagles held a 23-7 advantage after three quarters. FSU tailback Mo Harris rushed for a game-high 201 yards on 24 carries as the Bulldogs totaled 505 yards in total offense to the Eagles' 376-yard total. McCarthy threw for 293 yards and two TD's on 28-of-53 passing, but was intercepted three times. In receiving, Coleman's nine receptions for 121 yards and two TD's led the way while flanker Doug Searles had six catches for 81 yards. Middle linebacker Steve Dillon spearheaded the defense with 14 tackles (11 solos) and free safety Alvin Corrier notched 10 stops along with an interception. Cornerback Devin Hutchings garnered nine tackles in the contest.

BULLDOGS AT HOME: FSU is presently 69-48-2 (.588) at Top Taggart Field since 1980 and sports a 55-37-2 (.596) conference home mark during that period.

IN 2002 HOME GAMES: In its four home contests this season, Ferris has averaged 380.0 yards in total offense (1,520 yds.) while recording averages of 128.2 in rushing (513 yds.) and 251.8 yards in passing (1,007 yds.). Defensively, the Bulldogs have allowed an average of 284.2 total offensive yards (1,137 yds.), including 123.0 yards on the ground (492 yds.) and 161.2 in passing (645 yds.).

– more –

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

2002 GLIAC STANDINGS

GLIAC					OVERALL					
W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	
Grand Valley State	7	0	1.000	318	117	8	0	1.000	342	134
Findlay	7	1	.875	203	184	8	1	.889	240	218
Saginaw Valley State	6	2	.750	339	146	7	2	.778	386	159
Northern Michigan	6	2	.750	204	188	6	3	.667	221	233
Northwood	5	3	.625	240	198	5	4	.556	253	245
Ferris State	3	4	.429	133	152	4	4	.500	166	173
Indianapolis	3	5	.375	205	220	4	5	.444	246	223
Hillsdale	3	5	.375	221	231	3	6	.333	242	264
Michigan Tech	3	6	.333	206	279	3	6	.333	206	279
Wayne State	2	6	.250	232	289	2	7	.222	232	323
Ashland	2	7	.222	157	275	2	8	.200	183	304
Mercyhurst	1	7	.125	107	286	2	7	.222	123	299

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Saginaw Valley State 48, Hillsdale 20*
 at Northwood 41, Wayne State 27*
 at Michigan Tech 34, Northern Michigan 13*
 at Indianapolis 35, Ashland 14*
at Findlay 28, Ferris State 21*
 Grand Valley State 62, at Mercyhurst 24*



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



SATURDAY, NOV. 9

Northwood at Michigan Tech*, 12 p.m.
 Mercyhurst at Wayne State*, 12 p.m.
 Saginaw Valley State at Northern Michigan*, 1 p.m.
Ashland at Ferris State*, 1:30 p.m.
 Findlay at Hillsdale*, 2:30 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Grand Valley State*, 7 p.m.

2002 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Grand Valley State (10)	126
2.	Saginaw Valley State (2)	112
3.	Ferris State	87
	Indianapolis	87
5.	Ashland	86
6.	Michigan Tech	69
7.	Northwood	68
8.	Northern Michigan	43
9.	Hillsdale	42
10.	Findlay	33
11.	Wayne State	22
12.	Mercyhurst	17

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: Despite a career-high 396 passing yards from sophomore quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**, Ferris State had its three-game winning streak halted as the Bulldogs dropped a 28-21 conference decision to nationally-ranked Findlay last Saturday in front of 1,300 fans at Donnell Stadium in Findlay, Ohio. FSU jumped on the scoreboard first with 13:17 left in the first quarter as sophomore tailback **Andrew Terry (Kentwood/Grand Rapids Creston)** scored from 10 yards out to give the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead. The Oilers then exploded for three straight TD's in the span of six minutes to take a 21-7 lead after the opening quarter with the first coming on a 14-yard TD pass from senior quarterback Jeff Fraser to sophomore tight end Bryce Abbott at the 8:42 mark of the first quarter. UF then claimed a 14-7 lead when junior running back Robert Campbell scored on a two-yard TD run with 4:33 left to go in the quarter. After the ensuing Ferris State drive went three-and-out, junior wide receiver Ty Rhoad returned a FSU punt 55 yards for a TD to put the hosts up 21-7 at the end of the first quarter. Following a scoreless second quarter, the Bulldogs tied the contest at 21-all in the third quarter with back-to-back TD's. **Marsan** hooked up with freshman split end **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** on a 25-yard TD pass play with 3:42 remaining in the quarter and then at the 2:18 mark, Marsan connected with freshman split end **Dennis Cartwright (White Cloud)** on a 68-yard TD aerial to complete a two-play, 68-yard scoring drive. However, Findlay capitalized on its ensuing drive as Fraser reached the end zone on a quarterback keeper from a yard out with 20 seconds left in the third quarter to give the Oilers a 28-21 lead and the hosts proceeded to hold off the Bulldogs in the fourth frame for the win. Both teams combined for 868 yards in total offense with FSU recording a 507-yard total. **Marsan** was 19-of-39 in the passing department to go along with two TD's and a pair of pass interceptions while **Cartwright** had five receptions for 121 yards and freshman flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** caught

four passes for 71 yards. Junior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibsonston, Fla./East Bay)** rushed for 115 yards on 21 attempts. For the Oilers, Campbell led all rushers with 40 carries for 198 yards and Fraser completed 11-of-25 passes for 140 yards. Junior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** and sophomore outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** each totaled 16 tackles while senior free safety **Alvin Grier (Benton Harbor)** chipped in with 13 stops.

BULLDOG BITES: **Luke Piepkow** is eight tackles shy of matching his personal career-best 110 tackles set last season. Piepkow has attained 92 stops (49 solo) in eight games this campaign for an 11.5 tackles per game average. Piepkow notched his 13th double-digit tackle single-game performance of his career with 16 stops (10 solo) at Findlay, which represents the second highest output in his FSU career. He garnered a career-best 18 tackles at Northwood earlier this season (10/5).

Tom Marsan moved into fifth place on FSU's all-time passing yardage list with his 396-yard throwing effort at Findlay last Saturday and surpassed Kyle Park (1998-01; 3,474 yds.) in the process. The signal-caller has currently accumulated 3,588 career passing yards and is averaging 211.1 yards per game on a 53.0 (287-542) career completion percentage in 17 contests. Marsan is now 3,217 yards away from tying Doug Arnold (1989-92; 6,805 yds.) for fourth place on the career chart.

Derek Fudge is within 246 rushing yards from tying Chris Pulliams (1993-96; 2,743 yds.) for fourth place among Ferris' career rushing leaders. Fudge, who has four 100-yard plus rushing performances this season, has registered 2,497 career rushing yards in 28 games and is averaging 89.2 yards on the ground a game.

Tom Marsan's 396 passing yards at Findlay was only 45 yards shy of tying FSU's single-game passing mark held by current Bulldog assistant coach Matt McCarthy, who threw for 441 yards at Hillsdale (10/30/99). The 300-yard plus passing effort also marked the third of Marsan's career and surpassed his previous high of 377 yards set at Northwood earlier this campaign (10/5).

Alvin Grier needs seven more tackles to register his 300th career stop and is averaging 7.3 hits per game in 40 career contests. The three-time all-conference defender has amassed 293 career stops, which includes 177 solo hits. This season, Grier has garnered 58 tackles in eight outings and his career best was as a frosh in 1999 when he racked up 92 tackles (51 solos) in 10 outings.

In the last four games, **Derek Fudge** is averaging 103.8 yards on the ground per contest with 415 total yards on 104 carries. Fudge has currently registered back-to-back 115-yard single-game rushing efforts against Saginaw Valley State (10/26) and at Findlay (11/2).

Tom Marsan has currently notched the 11th highest single-season passing performance in the program's history with his 2,051 passing yards this campaign. Marsan, whose 1,537 passing yards a season ago previously ranked 15th best, is 39 yards shy of tying Dave DenBraber's 10th-place 2,090-yard total set in 1986.

UP NEXT: Ferris State concludes the 2002 campaign on the road next Saturday, Nov. 16, as the Bulldogs battle the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds in GLIAC action. Opening kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. (EST) at UI's Key Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.

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. 7	Hillsdale	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Jason Feasel, Specialty-Tom Perez, EPEP-Carlton Brewster
Sept. 21	Northern Michigan	Offense-Brad Newell, Defense-Jason Feasel, Specialty-Jim Skodak, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 28	Wayne State	Offense-Austin Malloy, Defense-Whitney Bell, Specialty-Dennis Cartwright, EPEP-Matt McCoy
Oct. 5	Northwood	Offense-Tom Marsan, Defense-Alvin Grier, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Luke Piepkow
Oct. 12	Michigan Tech	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Rob Mida, Specialty-Cory Strader, EPEP-Justin Sherrod
Oct. 19	Mercyhurst	Offense-Matt McCoy, Defense-DeRen Ellis, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Bo Moore
Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State	Offense-Dennis Cartwright, Defense-Jason Feasel, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Justin Giordano
Nov. 2	Findlay	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Luke Piepkow, Specialty-Frank Sherrod, EPEP-Dennis Cartwright
Nov. 9	Ashland	
Nov. 16	Indianapolis	