

Football News Release



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**GRAND VALLEY STATE AT FERRIS STATE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2002**

GAME FACTS

**GRAND VALLEY STATE LAKERS
(1-0; 0-0 GLIAC)
AT
FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(1-0; 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).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State improved to 1-0 overall with a 33-21 non-conference triumph over Hillsdale last Saturday (Sept. 7) in front of 4,896 fans at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. A season ago, Ferris compiled a 7-4 overall mark and finished third in the GLIAC standings at 7-3. In 1999, FSU was 7-3 overall and conference co-champions (7-2 GLIAC). The Bulldogs have won or shared the conference championship six of the last 10 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Grand Valley State won its season opener with a 24-17 non-league victory over sixth-ranked California-Davis last Saturday (Sept. 7) before a record crowd of 12,361 fans at GVSU's Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, Mich. The Lakers have won 17 straight regular-season games to date, including 16 consecutive conference outings. Last season, GVSU registered a 13-1 overall mark and advanced to the NCAA Division II National Championship game before dropping a 17-14 decision to North Dakota. GVSU posted a 9-0 conference record to claim the GLIAC title.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – **Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 8th season, 50-29-0 (.633) – (2-5-0 vs. Grand Valley State). Pierce has registered a 26-13-0 (.667) mark in home games and is 18-12-0 (.600) in September.
GRAND VALLEY STATE – **Brian Kelly** (Assumption, Mass., 1983), 12th season, 91-34-2 (.724) – (6-4-1 vs. Ferris State).

2002 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 7	Hillsdale	W 33-21
Sept. 14	Grand Valley State*	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Northern Michigan*	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Wayne State* (HF)	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Northwood*	12 p.m.
Oct. 12	Michigan Tech* (HC)	2 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Mercyhurst*	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State*	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Findlay*	1 p.m.
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 concludes its two-game season-opening home-stand this Saturday (Sept. 14) evening as the Bulldogs square off against nationally top-ranked and 2001 NCAA Division II National Championship runner-up the Grand Valley State University Lakers at Big Rapids, Mich. The contest represents the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) opener for both teams.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is presently in his eighth season at Ferris State and has registered a current 50-29-0 career coaching record. Pierce has already made a mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the best winning percentage (.633) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is 11 wins shy of becoming the winningest FSU coach and would surpass 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 semifinal-round appearance in '95.

ALL-TIME SERIES: Grand Valley State has a 18-12-1 lead over Ferris State in the series, which commenced in 1971 (10/9) with a 57-0 FSU home victory. The Bulldogs are 2-9-1 in their last 12 meetings at home. FSU had its 42-game unbeaten streak (40-0-2) snapped in 1996 (9/21) with a 36-17 loss at GVSU, which also halted the Bulldogs' 41-game MIFC unbeaten string (39-0-2) and 27-game conference win streak. Ferris State is 8-6-0 in contests decided by 10 points or less and 2-8-0 in games when the margin is between 11 and 30 points. In the last three meetings at Big Rapids, GVSU is averaging 46.7 points (140 total) per game in comparison to Ferris' 29.3 points an outing (88) for a +17.4 differential.

GVSU leads 18-12-1 FSU Scoring Avg.: 20.7 (642 pts.) GVSU Scoring Avg.: 26.2 (813 pts.) Differential: +5.5 (GVSU)	(57-0* – 10/9/71) Most Points in a GVSU Win: 63 (63-17* – 10/6/01) Most Decisive Score: FSU 57 (57-0* – 10/9/71); GVSU 46 (63-17* – 10/6/01) * – Denotes FSU home game ▲ – Overtime	1981 GV 46-12 A 1982 GV 38-35 H 1983 GV 52-21 A 1984 FSU 13-11 H 1985 GV 27-21 H 1986 GV 30-22 A 1987 GV 21-5 H 1988 GV 36-20 A 1989 GV 28-0 H 1990 GV 42-12 A 1991 GV 28-6 H 1992 FSU 23-0 A 1993 Tie 17-17 H 1994 FSU 27-21 A 1995 FSU 30-21 H 1996 GV 36-17 A 1997 GV 21-18 H 1998 GV 56-53▲ H 1999 FSU 48-23 A 2000 GV 21-20 A 2001 GV 63-17 H
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LAST MEETING – 2001: Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes set a GLIAC single-game record with eight TD passes, including six in the first half as the Lakers posted a 63-17 road victory over Ferris State in front of a 2,901 fans at Top Taggart Field. GVSU wide receiver David Kircus also set a conference mark with five TD receptions -- 25, 10, 57, 43 and 14 yards. The game was close in the opening quarter as Ferris countered GVSU's TD with one of its own at the 6:17 mark on tailback Matt Otero's one-yard plunge to knot the contest at seven-all. However, the Anes-Kircus combination hooked up for the second time in the quarter on a 10-yard TD pass play to give the visitors a 14-7 lead after 15 minutes of play. The Bulldogs drew within 14-10 on kicker Tom Perez's 27-yard field goal with just under 12 minutes remaining in the second quarter before the Lakers proceeded to reel off 28 unanswered points to claim a 42-10 halftime lead. GVSU added 21 more points in the second half, including 14 in the third quarter, to go up 56-10 after three quarters. A 13-yard TD pass from quarterback Tom Marsan to flanker Clarence Coleman with 1:34 left in the contest concluded the game's scoring. The Lakers' offense totaled 587 yards while Ferris netted a 302-yard total. Otero rushed for a game-high 149 yards on 21 carries to lead the Bulldogs while Coleman had a game-leading nine receptions for 81 yards. Marsan completed 17-of-29 passes for 133 yards and one TD. For GVSU, Anes threw for 301 yards on 21-of-27 passing while Kircus had eight catches for 169 yards. Running back Brent Lesniak ran for a team-high 111 yards on 14 attempts to lead the Lakers' ground attack. Free safety Rich Dosh and middle linebacker Luke Piepkow posted a game-best 12 tackles each while outside linebacker Charlie Pierson chipped in with 10 stops. Defensive ends Bo Moore and Michael King garnered eight and six tackles, respectively.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

2002 GLIAC STANDINGS

	GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Michigan Tech	1	0	1.000	30	23	1	0	1.000	30	23
Findlay	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	37	34
Indianapolis	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	41	3
Ferris State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	33	21
Grand Valley State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	24	17
Mercyhurst	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	16	13
Saginaw Valley State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	47	13
Hillsdale	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	21	33
Northern Michigan	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	17	45
Northwood	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	13	47
Wayne State	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	0	34
Ashland	0	1	.000	23	30	0	2	.000	49	59

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Edinboro (Pa.) 29, Ashland 26
 at Mercyhurst 16, West Virginia Wesleyan 13
 at St. Cloud State 45, Northern Michigan 17
 at Grand Valley State 24, California-Davis 17
at Ferris State 33, Hillsdale 21
 Saginaw Valley State 47, at Northwood 13

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

Michigan Tech at Saginaw Valley State*, 12 p.m.
 Wayne State at Findlay*, 6 p.m.
 Mercyhurst at Northern Michigan*, 7 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Hillsdale*, 7 p.m.
Grand Valley State at Ferris State*, 7 p.m.
 Northwood at Ashland*, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



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: Ferris State snapped a five-game losing streak in season openers as the Bulldogs outscored Hillsdale 23-7 in the second half en route to a 33-21 non-conference triumph last Saturday evening before 4,896 fans at Top Taggart Field. The Bulldogs reeled off 10 unanswered third-quarter points and accounted for all of the quarter's scoring to overcome a 14-10 halftime deficit. Trailing 21-20 with under 11 minutes remaining in the contest following a 14-yard HC TD pass play from quarterback Bill Skelton to tight end Ike Dougherty, Ferris took the lead for good (26-21) at the 6:43 mark as sophomore quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** hooked up with freshman split end **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** on a 28-yard scoring strike. Junior tailback **Derek Fudge's (Gibsonston, Fla./East Bay)** third rushing TD of the contest, a one-yard plunge with 1:35 left to go accounted for the game's final points. A one-yard TD run by tailback Kevin Clive gave the Chargers a 7-0 lead after the opening quarter before FSU countered with 10 straight points to open the second quarter. Junior kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 24-yard field goal at 11:39 and **Fudge's** three-yard TD run with 6:10 remaining before halftime put the hosts ahead 10-7. The score remained that way until defensive back Mitch May picked off a **Marsan** pass and returned the pigskin 22 yards to the end zone with 40 seconds remaining as HC claimed a 14-10 halftime advantage. Ferris, which generated 403 yards in total offense to Hillsdale's 187 yards, was led by **Fudge's** 148 yards rushing and career-high three TD's. **Marsan** threw for 237 yards on 25-of-41 passing while sophomore flanker **Delano McKinney (Oak Park/Ferndale)** was on the receiving end of seven aerials for 72 yards and **Bowie** had six catches for 75 yards. Clive totaled 100 yards on the ground in 26 attempts to lead the Chargers' offense. Senior defensive tackle **Jason Feasel (Ceresco/Battle Creek Harper Creek)** led the Bulldogs with nine tackles (six solos) while junior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** had eight stops. Junior strong safety **Vito**

Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester) and sophomore outside line-backer **Kevin Myers (Midland)** tallied seven tackles apiece.

FUDGE TABBED GLIAC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK: **Derek Fudge** has been named this week's GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week after rushing for a game-high 148 yards on 29 carries while scoring on TD runs of three, two and one yard in the season-opening win over Hillsdale. Fudge, the 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year, has currently compiled nine career 100-yard plus single-game rushing performances.

BULLDOG BITES: Junior kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 47-yard field goal in the third quarter of the Bulldogs' game versus Hillsdale represents a personal career best. Perez, FSU's Specialty Teams Player of the Year last season, booted a 43-yarder against Findlay last fall (9/8) and has successfully converted on his last six field goal attempts to date.

Sophomore quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** surpassed Norm Love (1970-72; 1,550 yds.) for 11th place on Ferris' all-time passing leaders chart versus Hillsdale and currently has thrown for 1,774 yards. The 2001 FSU Outstanding Offensive Rookie Award recipient needs 59 more yards to tie Steve Duchon (1973-76; 1,833 yds.) for 10th place. Last fall, Marsan's 1,537 passing yard total ranked 15th highest among the Bulldogs' career single-season leaders.

Derek Fudge moved into 11th place on the school's career rushing leaders list last Saturday against Hillsdale and is now within 82 yards of tying Delbert Littlejohn (1987-90; 2,006 yds.) for 10th place. Fudge has accumulated 1,924 career yards on 421 attempts (4.57 avg.) and surpassed Benny Roe's (1992-95) 1,835-career yard total.

Jason Feasel's team-high nine tackles (six solos) versus Hillsdale matched his previous career best set twice a season ago – vs. Michigan Tech (10/20) and Indianapolis (11/10).

Senior cornerback **DeRen Ellis (Detroit/Harper Woods Notre Dame)** and senior free safety **Alvin Grier (Benton Harbor)** are both one interception shy of tying Akil Young (1991-94) for fifth place among FSU's all-time pass theft leaders. Young notched 10 career interceptions for 59 yards while Ellis has nine for a 126-yard total and Grier for 111 yards.

CONFERENCE OPENERS: FSU is 8-13-1 in conference openers since 1980 and sports a 4-7 home mark in those games during that period. Meanwhile, Ferris sports a 7-5 record in its second game of each season dating back to 1990. The Bulldogs are 4-1 at home in such contests and have a present three-game winning streak following last season's (9/8) home-opening 33-10 conference win against Findlay.

BULLDOGS AT HOME: Ferris State is 67-47-2 (.586) at Top Taggart Field since 1980 and sports a 53-36-2 (.593) conference home mark during that span. The Bulldogs are 46-20-2 (.691) overall since 1990, which includes a 40-17-2 (.695) conference mark.

PRESEASON RECOGNITION: **Bo Moore** has been tabbed a 2002 preseason All-America selection by *Lindy's College Football Annual* and *Don Hansen's National Weekly Football Gazette*. Moore, a second-team pre-season honoree by *Hansen's Football Gazette*, was also chosen to the *Detroit Free Press'* All-Michigan Small College Football Team. Joining him on the preseason squad are senior tackle **Justin Giordano (Memphis)**, **Luke Piepkow** and **DeRen Ellis**.

UP NEXT: Ferris State continues conference action Saturday, Sept. 21, as the Bulldogs travel to Marquette, Mich., for the second straight year to take on the Northern Michigan University Wildcats. Opening kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. (EDT) at NMU's Superior Dome.

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. 14	Grand Valley State	
Sept. 21	Northern Michigan	
Sept. 28	Wayne State	
Oct. 5	Northwood	
Oct. 12	Michigan Tech	
Oct. 19	Mercyhurst	
Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State	
Nov. 2	Findlay	
Nov. 9	Ashland	
Nov. 16	Indianapolis	

Home games listed in **bold**