

# Football News Release

S-6

FERRIS STATE AT MERCYHURST  
OCTOBER 14, 2002



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## GAME FACTS

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS  
(2-3; 1-3 GLIAC)  
AT  
MERCYHURST LAKERS  
(2-4; 1-4 GLIAC)

**KICKOFF:** 1:30 p.m. (EDT)

**STADIUM/SURFACE:** Louis J. Tullio Field  
(2,300)/AstroTurf.

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

**THE RECORDS:** Ferris State snapped a three-game losing streak with a 21-14 overtime victory over Michigan Tech last Saturday (Oct. 12) at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. The Bulldogs sport a 0-2 road record and are 2-1 in home outings this campaign. 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).

Mercyhurst is 2-4 overall and 1-4 in the GLIAC after suffering a 27-20 conference loss to Ashland last Saturday (Oct. 12) at AU's Community Stadium in Ashland, Ohio. The Lakers, who are 1-4 in their last five contests, are 2-1 at home and 0-3 on the road this season. MC concluded the 2001 campaign at 2-7 both overall and in the GLIAC (12th place).

**THE COACHES:** FERRIS STATE – **Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 8th season, 51-32-0 (.614) – (0-2-0 vs. Mercyhurst). Pierce is 24-18-0 (.571) in away games, 19-11-0 (.633) in October and 47-26-0 (.644) in GLIAC contests. MERCYHURST – **Marty Schaeztle** (Bucknell, 1983), 1st season, 2-4-0 (.333) – (0-0-0 vs. Ferris State). Schaeztle had spent the last five seasons as an assistant at NCAA Division IAA Bucknell and served as the Bison's offensive coordinator since 1999.

### 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*	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 travels to Erie, Pa., for the second consecutive year as the Bulldogs battle the Mercyhurst College Lakers this Saturday (Oct. 19) in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action.

**HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE:** Jeff Pierce has registered a current 51-32-0 career coaching record and has already made a mark among the school's all-time coaches by presently having the second best winning percentage (.614) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is 10 wins away of becoming FSU's winningest 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:** Mercyhurst holds a 2-0-0 series advantage over Ferris State following the Lakers' 25-14 home victory last season (10/13). FSU has thrown a combined 10 pass interceptions in the series, which included a conference-tying record six interceptions in Mercyhurst's 21-10 win at Big Rapids two years ago (10/14). The Bulldogs are averaging 270 yards in passing (540 total yards) for the series and racked up a series-high 299-yard performance two years ago (10/14/00).

### Mercyhurst leads 2-0-0

FSU Scoring Avg.: 12.0 (24 pts.)  
MC Scoring Avg.: 23.0 (46 pts.)  
Differential: +11.0 (MC)

**At Erie:** MC leads 1-0-0  
**At Big Rapids:** MC leads 1-0-0  
**First Game:** MC 21, FSU 10\* (10/14/00)  
**Last FSU Win:** —  
**Last MC Win:** 25-14 (10/14/01)  
**Last Meeting in Erie:** 25-14 (10/13/01)  
**Current Series Win Streak:** 2 (MC 10/14/00 –

10/13/01)

**Longest Series Win Streak:** 2 (MC 10/14/00 – 10/13/01)

**Most Points in a FSU Win:** —

**Most Points in a MC Win:** 25 (25-14 – 10/13/01)

**Most Decisive Score:** MC 11 (21-10\* – 10/14/00) & (25-14 – 10/13/01)

\* – Denotes FSU home game

2000	MC	21-10	H
2001	MC	25-14	A

**LAST MEETING – 2001:** Mercyhurst snapped a five-game losing skid dating back to last season and recorded its first win in 2001 with its 25-14 triumph over Ferris State in front of 2,317 fans at Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. FSU was plagued by five turnovers (four passes intercepted) in the contest. The game was scoreless until 7:28 of the first quarter when quarterback Tom Marsan hooked up with flanker Clarence Coleman on a 44-yard TD pass play. MC got on the scoreboard three minutes later on the first of three field goals by kicker Vinny Repucci. The Lakers went up 13-7 at the half on a two-yard TD run at 3:30 and Repucci's 47-yard field goal with two seconds left in the second quarter. However, Ferris regained the lead (14-13) in the third quarter with 2:35 remaining in the stanza as Marsan threw a 44-yard scoring strike to split end Robert Giles. Mercyhurst then reeled off 12 straight fourth-quarter points as Repucci connected on a 20-yarder to put the hosts ahead to stay at 16-14 with under eight minutes left to be played. MC quarterback Mac McArdle, who passed for 224 yards, scored on a four-yard bootleg at the 1:37 mark and the Lakers tacked on a safety during the Bulldogs' next possession when the snap sailed over Marsan's head and was swatted out of the FSU end zone. Individually, Coleman notched a game-best eight catches for 134 yards while Giles posted three receptions for 68 yards. Tailback Matt Otero's 114 rushing yards on 30 carries represented a game high. Marsan was 17-of-36 in passing for 241 yards and two TD's, but was intercepted four times. Outside linebacker Kevin Myers garnered a game-high 14 tackles to spearhead the FSU defense while middle linebacker Luke Piepkow totaled 13 stops and outside linebacker Charlie Pierson had eight tackles. Cornerback Rob Keefe recorded two pass thefts for the Lakers, who racked up 376 yards in total offense to Ferris' 366-yard total.

**FERRIS VERSUS PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS:** Ferris State is 9-13-2 (.417) all-time against Pennsylvania schools, which includes a 2-6-2 road mark and a 7-7-0 home ledger.

**FSU LINEBACKER PERFORMS WELL IN SERIES:** Junior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** is averaging 12.5 tackles per game (25 total tackles) in the Mercyhurst series and chalked up 12 tackles in the first meeting between the two teams (10/14/00).

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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
Saginaw Valley State	5	0	1.000	270 79	6	0	1.000	317 92
Grand Valley State	4	0	1.000	200 61	5	0	1.000	224 78
Findlay	4	1	.800	136 133	5	1	.833	173 167
Northern Michigan	4	1	.800	118 94	4	2	.667	135 139
Northwood	3	2	.600	144 104	3	3	.500	157 151
Hillsdale	2	3	.400	136 135	2	4	.333	157 168
Michigan Tech	2	4	.333	134 201	2	4	.333	134 201
Ashland	2	4	.333	109 191	2	5	.286	135 220
<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.250</b>	<b>69 108</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.400</b>	<b>102 129</b>
Indianapolis	1	4	.200	120 176	2	4	.200	161 179
Mercyhurst	1	4	.200	54 165	2	4	.200	70 178
Wayne State	1	4	.200	125 168	1	5	.167	125 202

**LAST WEEK'S RESULTS**

at Ferris State 21, Michigan Tech 14 OT\*  
 at Ashland 27, Mercyhurst 20\*  
 Northwood 40, at Indianapolis 38\*  
 at Hillsdale 40, Wayne State 34\*  
 Saginaw Valley State 69, at Findlay 7\*  
 at Grand Valley State 51, Northern Michigan 14\*



www.gliac.org

\*GLIAC Game  
 All Times are Eastern



**SATURDAY, OCT. 19**

Grand Valley State at Saginaw Valley State\*, 12 p.m.  
 Hillsdale at Northwood\*, 12 p.m.  
 Wayne State at Michigan Tech\*, 12 p.m.  
 Ashland at Northern Michigan\*, 1 p.m.  
**Ferris State at Mercyhurst\*, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Indianapolis at Findlay\*, 6 p.m.

**2002 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL**

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Grand Valley State (10)	126
2.	Saginaw Valley State (2)	112
3.	<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>87</b>
	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's junior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** accounted for all three Bulldog scores, including a game-winning one-yard TD run in the extra frame, as Ferris recorded a 21-14 overtime victory over Michigan Tech in its 76 homecoming contest before a crowd of 4,057 at Top Taggart Field. Trailing 14-7 at the end of three quarters, the Bulldogs rallied to tie the contest with 12:52 remaining in the final quarter on a 35-yard TD pass from **Fudge** to sophomore split end **Andy Thwaites (Stanton/Central Montcalm)**, who finished with four grabs for 89 yards in the contest. In overtime, FSU got the ball first and **Fudge** scored on a one-yard run. MTU tried to answer on its possession but fell short as sophomore quarterback Dan Mettlach's pass to junior wideout Kirk Fauri in the end zone was deflected by freshman cornerback **Justin Sherrod (Wyoming/Park)** and fell incomplete. The Huskies found themselves in a 7-0 deficit with 5:57 left in the first quarter as **Fudge** rambled in on a four-yard TD blast and the two teams played scoreless through the remainder of the first half. The Bulldogs outgained MTU in total offense, 203-72, through the first half, but Michigan Tech turned things around in the second half. Tech notched its first score at 11:50 of the third quarter as Mettlach completed a 13-yard scoring strike to junior wide receiver Jeff Weber, who caught seven Mettlach passes for 73 yards. The same combination connected again on a 17-yard TD pass play just 3:19 later to give the visitors its first lead of the game at 14-7. **Fudge** carried the ball 31 times for a game-high 120 yards on the ground and also added 67 receiving yards on seven catches from sophomore quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**, who completed 17-of-34 passes for 200 yards. For MTU, Mettlach finished with 14-of-27 passing for 133 yards and two TD's while junior tailback Joe Johnson ran for 117 yards on 32 attempts. Sophomore outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)**, junior free safety **Rich Dosh (Burton/Flint Kearsley)** and sophomore outside linebacker **Rob Mida (Chelsea)** notched nine tackles

apiece to spearhead the Bulldogs' defensive charge. Senior defensive tackle **Jason Feasel (Ceresco/Battle Creek Harper Creek)** chipped in with eight tackles. Senior free safety Ryan Jarois led Tech with 12 tackles and sophomore free safety Andrew Bonk had 10 stops in a losing effort.

**BULLDOG BITES:** **Tom Marsan** is 48 passing yards away from tying Steve Piotraczk (1981-84) for sixth place on Ferris' all-time passing leaders list. Marsan has thrown for 2,782 career yards in 14 contests while Piotraczk totaled 2,830 career passing yards.

**Ferris State** is now 20-5 against Michigan Tech in the all-time series when the Bulldogs score at least 20 points in a game. With its 21-14 overtime win over MTU, Ferris has now won 14 of the last 17 meetings and is 8-3 in its last 11 home outings versus the Huskies.

**Derek Fudge** moved ahead of LaDon Pree (1984-87) into sixth place among the school's career rushing leaders. Fudge, who has presently registered 2,202 career yards and 15 touchdowns in 25 outings, is 111 yards shy of tying Tom Hamlett (1968-71; 2,313 yards) for fifth place.

Ferris is averaging 122.3 yards rushing (367 total) in three home contests this fall while registering 67.5 yards a game (135 total) in two road games. In passing, Ferris is averaging 248.3 yards an outing (745 total) at home and 267.5 yards (535 total) on the road to date.

The Bulldogs have compiled a 44-15-1 (.742) record in their final five regular-season contests per season since 1990. Last year, Ferris went 4-1-0 to close out the season and finished with a four-game win streak.

**Derek Fudge's** 120 yards rushing against Michigan Tech represented his 10th career 100-yard single-game rush performance. He ran for a season-best 148 yards versus Hillsdale in the Bulldogs' 2002 season opener (9/7). The 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year posted six 100-yard rush efforts in his initial collegiate campaign (2000).

Ferris State participated in its third overtime game in the program's history with last Saturday's extra session outing against Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs presently own a 2-1 mark in such contests with all three overtime games occurring at Big Rapids. FSU dropped a 56-53 home loss to Grand Valley State in the 1998 season finale (11/14) and then tallied a 16-13 double overtime home decision against Indianapolis in the 2001 season finale (11/10).

Among this week's NCAA Division II national leaders, FSU ranks 25th in passing offense (256.0 ypg.). Individually, **Tom Marsan** is listed 20th in total offense (256.0 ypg.) while **Derek Fudge** is 32nd in all-purpose yards (135.6 ypg.). In total tackles, **Kevin Myers** ranks ninth (11.8 avg.), **Luke Piepkow** is 19th (10.8 avg.) and **Rob Mida** is tied for 31st place (10.0 avg.). **Piepkow** is also tied for 21st in forced fumbles (0.40 avg.).

**Rich Dosh's** nine tackles against Michigan Tech marked a season-high and represented his second highest single-game tackle output of his career. Dosh totaled 12 tackles (seven solo) versus Grand Valley State last season (10/6).

**Jason Feasel** is nine tackles shy of matching his personal season-best 43 stops (26 solos) set last fall in 11 games. He has garnered 34 total hits (22 solos) in the Bulldogs' first five outings this season, including a season-high nine tackles against Hillsdale (9/7). For his career, Feasel has accumulated 108 tackles (63 solos) in 35 contests.

**UP NEXT:** FSU hosts the nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State Cardinals Saturday, Oct. 26, at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Kickoff for the GLIAC encounter is slated for 1:30 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. 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	
Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State	
Nov. 2	Findlay	
Nov. 9	Ashland	
Nov. 16	Indianapolis	