

Football News Release



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S-3

**FERRIS STATE AT NORTHERN MICHIGAN
SEPTEMBER 16, 2002**

ATHLETICS HOTLINE: (231) 591-2375

GAME FACTS

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS

(1-0; 0-0 GLIAC)

AT

NORTHERN MICHIGAN WILDCATS

(1-1; 1-0 GLIAC)

KICKOFF: 7 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Superior Dome
(8,000)/Artificial Turf.

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

THE RECORDS: Ferris State is currently 1-0 overall as a result of its 33-21 non-conference triumph over Hillsdale (Sept. 7) at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. The Bulldogs' conference opener scheduled for Saturday (Sept. 14) against Grand Valley State was cancelled and won't be rescheduled. 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).

Northern Michigan is 1-1 overall and 1-0 in the GLIAC to date following a 37-7 conference-opening triumph over Mercyhurst last Saturday (Sept. 14) at NMU's Superior Dome in Marquette, Mich. Last season, the Wildcats registered a 4-7 overall record and were 3-7 in conference action (ninth-place tie). NMU was 4-2 at home and 0-5 on the road last fall.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce

(Ferris State, 1979), 8th season, 50-29-0 (.633) – (6-1-0 vs. Northern Michigan). Pierce is 24-16-0 (.600) in away games and 18-12-0 (.600) in September.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN – Doug Sams (Oregon State, 1978), 1st season, 1-1-0 (.500); Career - 12th season, 59-53-0 (.527) – (0-0-0 vs. Ferris State). Sams spent 10 years as head coach at Fairmont State (W.Va.) and was 53-47-0.

2002 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 7	Hillsdale	W 33-21
Sept. 14	Grand Valley State*	Cancelled
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 will return to action this Saturday (Sept. 21) evening as the Bulldogs travel to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to battle the Northern Michigan University Wildcats in Marquette, Mich. The contest will represent FSU's Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) opener due to the cancellation of last Saturday's (Sept. 14) home encounter with Grand Valley State University.

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: Ferris State and Northern Michigan will square off for the 29th time in a series which originated in 1946 (10/26) with a 7-7 deadlock at Big Rapids. Ferris State has won nine of the last 10 meetings, including the last four contests to date. The Bulldogs are averaging 31.3 points (313 pts.) a contest in that 10-game span while the Wildcats have scored at an 16.9 points (169 pts.) per game clip. FSU, which has won four of its last five contests at Marquette, is averaging 32.2 points (161 pts.) in the five-game period in comparison to NMU's 16.6 points an outing (83 pts.) for a +15.6-point differential. Fifteen of the 28 meetings have been decided by 15 points or more and the Bulldogs are 8-7-0 in those contests.

Tied at 11-11-6	Longest Series Win Streak: 6	1953 FSU 7-2 H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 18.9 (528 pts.)	(NMU 10/20/56 – 9/30/89)	1954 Tie 13-13 A
NMU Scoring Avg.: 18.7 (524 pts.)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 47	1955 FSU 27-6 H
Differential: +0.2 (FSU)	(47-0 – 10/2/93)	1956 NMU 19-0 A
At Big Rapids: FSU leads 7-4-3	Most Points in a NMU Win:	1957 NMU 20-7 H
At Marquette: NMU leads 7-4-3	80 (80-14 – 10/2/82)	1982 NMU 80-14 A
First Game: FSU 7, NMU 7*	Most Decisive Score: FSU 47	1987 NMU 29-14 H
(10/26/46)	(47-0 – 10/2/93); NMU 66 (80-14	1988 NMU 24-22 A
Last FSU Win: 7-6 (10/27/01)	– 10/2/82)	1989 NMU 19-14 H
Last NMU Win: 23-21 (9/27/97)	* – Denotes FSU home game	1990 Tie 14-14 H
Last Meeting in Marquette:	1946 Tie 7-7 H	1991 NMU 27-17 A
FSU 7, NMU 6 (10/27/01)	1947 Tie 14-14 A	1992 FSU 23-12 H
Current Series Win Streak: 4	1948 Tie 0-0 A	1993 FSU 47-0 A
(FSU 10/3/98 – 10/27/01)	1949 NMU 21-6 H	1994 FSU 41-21 H
	1950 NMU 13-6 A	1995 FSU 41-27 A
	1951 Tie 7-7 H	1996 FSU 38-33 H
	1952 NMU 34-19 A	1997 NMU 23-21 A
		1998 FSU 29-19 H
		1999 FSU 45-27 A
		2000 FSU 28-7 H
		2001 FSU 7-6 A

LAST MEETING – 2001: Ferris State edged out a 7-6 conference victory over Northern Michigan in front of 4,423 fans at NMU's Superior Dome as the Bulldogs overcame a 6-0 first-half deficit to record their second consecutive win. The contest also marked the first time in 21 games that NMU failed to score a TD. Cornerback DeRen Ellis tied the contest with 7:51 remaining in the second quarter on a 55-yard TD interception return after picking off NMU quarterback Bryan White's pass. FSU kicker Tom Perez then made the game-winning extra-point kick attempt. The Wildcats struck first with 12:20 to play in the first quarter on a 24-yard field goal by Andrew Coster. Leading 3-0 after the first 15 minutes of play, NMU went up 6-0 at the second quarter's 14:09 mark when Coster booted a 42-yard field goal. However on the Wildcats' next possession, Ellis picked off White's pass on a fourth and 12-yard situation at the NMU 34-yard line and returned the ball to the end zone. The Bulldogs posted 337 yards in total offense while the Wildcats' managed 207 yards. The FSU defense, which limited the hosts to 24 yards rushing, was paced by middle linebacker Luke Piepkow's game-high 15 tackles. Ferris' defensive tackle William Foster totaled 12 stops while free safety Alvin Grier and outside linebacker Charlie Pierson garnered 10 and nine tackles, respectively. Offensively for the Bulldogs, flanker Clarence Coleman had a game-best eight catches for 130 yards and split end Lamar Patterson caught four passes for 52 yards. Tailback Matt Otero rushed for 100 yards on 12 attempts to pace the Ferris ground assault while quarterback Tom Marsan was 18-of-30 in passing for 247 yards. Ferris State punter Tim Gill recorded a 37.2 yards per attempt average with eight punts for 298 yards.

– 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
Saginaw Valley State	1	0	1.000	35 21	2	0	1.000	82 34
Indianapolis	1	0	1.000	24 17	2	0	1.000	65 20
Northern Michigan	1	0	1.000	37 7	1	1	.500	54 52
Northwood	1	0	1.000	32 7	1	1	.500	45 54
Findlay	1	0	.000	33 21	2	0	1.000	70 55
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
Michigan Tech	1	1	.500	51 58	1	1	.500	51 58
Mercyhurst	0	1	.000	7 37	1	1	.500	23 50
Hillsdale	0	1	.000	17 24	0	2	.000	38 57
Wayne State	0	1	.000	21 33	0	2	.000	21 67
Ashland	0	2	.000	30 62	0	3	.000	56 91

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Saginaw Valley State 35, Michigan Tech 21*

at Findlay 33, Wayne State 21*

at Northern Michigan 37, Mercyhurst 7*

Indianapolis 24, at Hillsdale 17*

Grand Valley State at Ferris State* - Cancelled

Northwood 32, at Ashland 7*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Grand Valley State at Wayne State*, 12 p.m.

Findlay at Northwood*, 12 p.m.

Mercyhurst at Saginaw Valley State*, 12 p.m.

Indianapolis at Michigan Tech*, 1 p.m.

Ashland at Hillsdale*, 7 p.m.

Ferris State at Northern Michigan*, 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's scheduled home game against Grand Valley State last Saturday (Sept. 14) was cancelled due to the tragic death of freshman linebacker **Matt Sklom (Blue Island, Ill./Eisenhower)** in a tackling drill at practice last Wednesday (Sept. 11). The cancellation of the conference contest was announced following last Friday's (Sept. 13) meeting between the athletics staff and the football team.

"In making the decision not to play, we considered the health and safety of the student-athletes involved, and felt there was enough doubt in their minds about whether they could be ready," said FSU Athletics Director **Tom Kirinovic**.

NOTE - The schedule doesn't allow for the game to be moved to a later date nor will forfeiture of the contest be considered by the GLIAC.

TEAM TO DEDICATE SEASON: The 2002 season will be dedicated to freshman linebacker **Matt Sklom**, who passed away suddenly last Wednesday (Sept. 11). A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. (CDT) on Monday (Sept. 16) at the St. Benedict Catholic Church in Blue Island. Memorial donations can be made to the Dwight D. Eisenhower High School weight room, 12700 S. Sacramento Ave., Blue Island, Ill. 60406.

"Matt was a good kid. Even though he wasn't in our program for a long time, our people recognized him because of his tremendous work ethic," said FSU head coach **Jeff Pierce**.

FUDGE TABBED GLIAC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK: **Derek Fudge** was named the GLIAC's Offensive Player of the Week a week ago (9/9) 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 against Hillsdale (9/7) 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 has notched a 4-7-1 mark in road outings during that span. Ferris is 7-5-0 since 1990, which includes a 4-2-0 road record. FSU sports a 7-5 mark in its second game of each season dating back to 1990.

BULLDOGS ON THE ROAD: Ferris State is presently 44-24-1 (.645) in road contests since 1990, which includes a 44-22-0 (.667) record in regular-season away outings. Since 1993, FSU is 34-17-1 (.663) in overall road encounters and 34-15-1 (.690) in regular-season away games only. The Bulldogs have registered a 3-3-0 road ledger in each of the last two campaigns to date.

UNDER THE LIGHTS: Ferris sports a current 24-34-4 (.419) record in night contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 8-16-2 (.346) on the road and 16-18-2 (.472) in home encounters. FSU posted a 3-1 mark in such outings a season ago and is 1-0 this campaign following its season-opening 33-21 home non-conference triumph over Hillsdale two weeks ago (9/7).

FSU IN THE UPPER PENINSULA: FSU has compiled a 36-33-10 (.519) record versus four-year football-only colleges (Northern Michigan and Michigan Tech) from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Bulldogs are 14-21-4 (.410) in away contests - 4-7-3 at Marquette and 10-14-1 at Houghton.

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 entertains the Wayne State University Warriors Saturday, Sept. 28, in FSU's annual Hall of Fame Game. Opening kickoff for the GLIAC game is slated for 7 p.m. (EDT) at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids.

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
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