

Football News Release



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S-7

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE AT FERRIS STATE
OCTOBER 21, 2002

ATHLETICS HOTLINE: (231) 591-2375

GAME FACTS

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE CARDINALS
(6-1; 5-1 GLIAC)
AT
FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(3-3; 2-3 GLIAC)

KICKOFF: 1:30 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 is 3-3 overall and 2-3 in the GLIAC following a 19-13 conference overtime triumph over Mercyhurst last Saturday (Oct. 19) at MC's Louis J. Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. The Bulldogs are 2-1 at home to date this campaign. Ferris compiled a 7-4 overall mark and was 7-3 in the GLIAC (third place) in 2000. In 1999, FSU was 7-3 overall and conference co-champions (7-2 GLIAC). The Bulldogs have won or shared the conference title six of the last 10 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Saginaw Valley State, which is ranked sixth nationally in this week's *D2Football.com* poll, is 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the GLIAC after suffering a 23-18 conference loss to number-one ranked Grand Valley State last Saturday (Oct. 19) at SVSU's Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium in University Center, Mich. Last season, SVSU compiled an 11-2 overall record and was 9-1 in the GLIAC (second place). The Cards dropped a 33-30 decision at Grand Valley State in the 2001 NCAA Quarterfinals.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 8th season, 52-32-0 (.619) – (4-3-0 vs. Saginaw Valley State). Pierce is 27-14-0 (.659) in home games, 20-11-0 (.645) in October and 48-26-0 (.649) in GLIAC contests.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE – Randy Awrey (Northern Michigan, 1978), 4th season, 30-12-0 (.714); Career – 13th season, 78-53-1 (.595) – (2-1-0 vs. Ferris State).

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*	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, which has a current two-game winning streak, returns home this Saturday (Oct. 26) to face the nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals in a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) tilt at Big Rapids, Mich.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce, who has a current 52-32-0 career coaching record, has made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by presently having the second best winning percentage (.619) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is nine wins from 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: Ferris State has a 14-12-1 lead over Saginaw Valley State in a series which started in 1975 (10/4) with the Cardinals claiming a 31-28 victory in Big Rapids. SVSU has won three of the last four contests to date and is 5-5 in its last 10 appearances at FSU. Eleven of the last 24 meetings have been decided by four points or less, including seven of the last 12 outings. Furthermore, 15 meetings between the two teams have been decided by eight points or less and the winning team has come-from-behind 10 of the last 11 games.

Ferris State leads 14-12-1	11/5/88 – 11/3/90)	1983	SVSU	17-7	H			
FSU Scoring Avg.: 23.1 (625 pts.)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 56	1984	SVSU	27-19	A			
SVSU Scoring Avg.: 22.3 (603 pts.)	(56-14 – 9/11/99)	1985	FSU	28-21	H			
Differential: +0.8 (FSU)	Most Points in a SVSU Win:	1986	SVSU	31-24	A			
	39 (39-36 – 9/16/00)	1987	FSU	31-12	H			
At Big Rapids: SVSU leads 7-6-0	Most Decisive Score: FSU 42	1988	SVSU	12-0	A			
At Univ. Center: FSU leads 8-5-1	(56-14 – 9/11/99) SVSU 34 (37-3	1989	SVSU	29-27	H			
First Game: SVSU 31, FSU 28*	– 9/24/77)	1990	SVSU	21-14	H			
(10/4/75)		1991	FSU	18-15	A			
Last FSU Win: 56-14 (9/11/99)	* – Denotes FSU home game	1992	FSU	10-9	H			
Last SVSU Win: 33-20 (9/15/01)		1993	FSU	34-23	A			
Last Meeting at Big Rapids:	1975	SVSU	31-28	H	1994	FSU	30-28	A
SVSU 39, FSU 33* (9/16/00)	1976	FSU	24-23	H	1995	FSU	46-42	H
Current Series Win Streak: 2	1977	SVSU	37-3	A	1996	FSU	26-17	A
(SVSU 9/16/00 – 9/15/01)	1978	Tie	17-17	A	1997	FSU	24-23	H
Longest Series Win Streak: 7	1979	SVSU	22-14	H	1998	SVSU	34-20	H
(FSU 11/9/91 – 11/1/97); 3 (SVSU	1980	FSU	21-3	A	1999	FSU	56-14	A
1982	1981	FSU	28-6	A	2000	SVSU	39-36	H
	1982	FSU	20-17	A	2001	SVSU	33-20	A

LAST MEETING – 2001: Saginaw Valley State intercepted three Ferris State passes and capitalized on the turnovers as the Cardinals tallied 20 unanswered second-half points en route to a 33-20 triumph in front of 6,813 fans at SVSU's Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium. Ferris State, which compiled 287 yards in total offense to SVSU's 274-yard total, held a 20-13 halftime lead after each team scored a TD in the opening quarter. SVSU cornerback Demons Bryan put the Cardinals up 6-0 with 11:16 remaining in the quarter after intercepting quarterback Kyle Park's pass and returning the pigskin 99 yards to paydirt. Ferris countered seven minutes later when quarterback Tom Marsan threw a four-yard TD aerial to flanker Clarence Coleman in completing a 17-play, 83-yard scoring drive. The Bulldogs then proceeded to take a 13-6 second-quarter lead when Park connected with Coleman on a 17-yard TD pass play with just under 10 minutes left before intermission. FSU struck again at 7:18 when Marsan scored his first collegiate TD on a quarterback keeper as the Bulldogs led 20-6. SVSU was able to cut into Ferris' lead with 30 seconds to go before half-time on running back Keath Bartynski's one-yard TD plunge. The second half belonged to the Cardinals, who reeled off 12 straight third-quarter points to claim a 25-20 advantage at the end of three quarters. A 47-yard TD pass from quarterback Matt LaFleur to wide receiver James Liang and a one-yard TD run by Bartynski accounted for the hosts' third-quarter scoring. Running back Damion Bridges' one-yard dash with 10:40 left to go in the contest concluded the game's scoring after Bryan recorded a 92-yard interception return. Bryan set conference records for interception return yardage in a game and for a season with 191 yards on two pass thefts. Tailback Derek Fudge led Ferris offensively with a game-high 111 yards rushing on 26 attempts and Coleman had seven receptions for 74 yards and two TD's. Split end Lamar Patterson chipped in with six catches for 36 yards. Park was 18-of-27 for 157 yards and a TD while LaFleur threw for 233 yards on 19-of-26 completions. Cornerback DeRen Ellis and outside linebacker Charlie Pierson posted a team-leading 10 tackles apiece. Defensive end Bo Moore claimed nine stops while free safety Rich Dosh and defensive end Michael King each garnered six tackles.

– 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	5	0	1.000	223 79	6	0	1.000	247 96
Saginaw Valley State	5	1	.833	288 102	6	1	.857	335 115
Findlay	5	1	.833	150 143	6	1	.857	187 177
Northern Michigan	5	1	.833	142 108	5	2	.714	159 153
Northwood	4	2	.667	185 138	4	3	.571	198 185
Ferris State	2	3	.400	88 121	3	3	.500	121 142
Hillsdale	2	4	.333	170 176	2	5	.286	191 209
Wayne State	2	4	.333	159 201	2	5	.286	159 233
Michigan Tech	2	5	.286	165 235	2	5	.286	165 235
Ashland	2	5	.286	123 215	2	6	.250	149 244
Indianapolis	1	5	.167	130 190	2	5	.286	171 193
Mercyhurst	1	5	.167	67 184	2	5	.286	83 197

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Grand Valley State 23, at Saginaw Valley State 18*
 at Northwood 41, Hillsdale 34*
 Wayne State 34, at Michigan Tech 31 OT*
 at Northern Michigan 24, Ashland 14*
Ferris State 19, at Mercyhurst 13 OT*
 at Findlay 14, Indianapolis 10*

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

Northern Michigan at Wayne State*, 1 p.m.
 Findlay at Ashland*, 1 p.m.
Saginaw Valley State at Ferris State*, 1:30 p.m.
 Mercyhurst at Indianapolis*, 2 p.m.
 Michigan Tech at Hillsdale*, 2:30 p.m.
 Northwood at Grand Valley State*, 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 junior tailback **Derek Fudge's (Gibson, Fla./East Bay)**

12-yard TD run in overtime propelled the Bulldogs to a 19-13 victory over Mercyhurst before 500 spectators at Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. The Bulldogs' win snapped a two-game series losing skid to the Lakers. The hosts jumped out to a 7-0 first-quarter lead as sophomore quarterback Jim Schuler, who threw for 240 yards on 19-of-40 passing, connected with senior wide receiver Tim Siemon on a 24-yard scoring strike. However, Ferris countered with 6:05 left in the quarter as senior cornerback **DeRen Ellis (Detroit/Harper Woods Notre Dame)** scored a TD on a 68-yard interception return to tie the game after 15 minutes of action. The Bulldogs proceeded to go ahead 10-7 at the second quarter's 1:29 mark when junior kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 22-yard field goal split the uprights. FSU then claimed a 13-10 halftime advantage when **Perez** booted a 33-yarder as time expired, which was preceded by a 27-yard field goal from senior kicker Vinny Repucci with 19 seconds remaining in the second quarter. Repucci accounted for only second-half scoring on a 30-yard field goal with 7:16 left in the third quarter as the Lakers knotted the game at 13-all after regulation. MC had the ball first in overtime but Schuler was sacked for a seven-yard loss by senior defensive end **Bo Moore (Montrose)** on first down and Repucci eventually missed a field goal attempt from 48 yards out. The Bulldogs quickly went on the offensive in their extra-session possession as the Lakers were penalized for pass interference on the first play which gave Ferris possession at the host's 12-yard line. **Fudge**, who led all rushers with 65 yards on 21 carries, then scored his game-winning TD. FSU sophomore quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** completed 20-of-36 passes for 148 yards while frosh split end **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** had seven receptions for 54 yards as the Bulldogs notched 232 total offensive yards to MC's 311-yard total. Siemon's nine catches for 82 yards led all receivers in the contest.

Defensively, sophomore outside linebacker **Rob Mida (Chelsea)** garnered a game-high 13 tackles, junior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** had 11 while sophomore defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie)** and sophomore outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** chipped in with 10 stops apiece. **DeRen Ellis** posted a pair of pass interceptions in the game.

BULLDOG BITES: Ferris State competed in its second straight overtime game this season at Mercyhurst, which represented the fourth extra-session encounter in the program's history. The Bulldogs are 3-1 all-time in such outings with three of the games occurring at home. FSU's initial overtime contest resulted in a 56-53 loss to Grand Valley State in the 1998 season finale (11/14), but the Bulldogs then tallied a 16-13 double overtime home decision against Indianapolis in the 2001 finale (11/10). Ferris captured a 21-14 win against Michigan Tech a week ago (10/12).

Derek Fudge has accounted for both game-winning scores in FSU's last two overtime outings to date with a one-yard TD run versus Michigan Tech (10/12) and a 12-yard TD rush at Mercyhurst (10/19).

Tom Marsan, who has currently accumulated 2,930 career passing yards in 15 appearances, moved ahead of Steve Piotraczk (1981-84; 2,830 yards) into sixth place on Ferris' all-time passing leaders list. Marsan now trails Kyle Park (1998-01; 3,474 yards) by 544 yards for fifth place on the career leader charts.

Derek Fudge needs 46 more rushing yards to tie Tom Hamlett (1968-71; 2,313 yards) for fifth place among the school's career rushing leaders. Fudge has presently recorded 2,267 career yards on the ground with 16 TD's in 26 contests for a 4.3 yards per carry career average.

Whitney Bell's 10 tackles at Mercyhurst matched his career high, which was set earlier this season (10/5) at Northwood. Bell is currently averaging 8.7 tackles per game (26 total) in his last three contests.

With his two pass thefts at Mercyhurst, **DeRen Ellis** has now totaled 11 career interceptions for 194 yards and also moved into a tie with senior free safety **Alvin Grier (Benton Harbor)** for fifth place on Ferris' all-time interception leaders list. Ellis has four career pass thefts for 83 yards (20.8 yards per return average) in three games against Mercyhurst. He notched his first career TD last season (10-27) at Northern Michigan on a 55-yard interception return.

Freshman cornerback **Justin Sherrod (Wyoming/Park)** has combined for 13 tackles in his first two collegiate games, which included a season-best eight stops (six solos) at Mercyhurst.

FSU is averaging 11.8 points per game in the first half (71 total) this season compared to 6.2 points (37 total) in the second half.

In its first six games this season, Ferris' top six receivers have combined for 93.8% (122-130) of the squad's total receptions in comparison to a season ago when the team's top three receivers accounted for 75.0% (90-120) of the Bulldogs' catches in the initial six outings.

Kevin Myers has chalked up double-digit single-game tackle performances in four of FSU's six games this season, which includes four of the last five contests. Myers is averaging 11.4 stops (57 total) during that time frame and garnered a career-best 17 hits at Northwood (10/5).

The Bulldogs are averaging 370.7 total offensive yards in three home games this season – 122.3 yards rushing and 248.3 yards in passing.

UP NEXT: The Bulldogs battle the Findlay Oilers Saturday, Nov. 2, in a 1 p.m. (EST) GLIAC contest at UF's Donnell Stadium in Findlay, Ohio.

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	
Nov. 2	Findlay	
Nov. 9	Ashland	
Nov. 16	Indianapolis	