

Football News Release

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FERRIS STATE ANNOUNCES 2002 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Six Home Dates Highlight 11-Game Schedule; Bulldogs Open Season With Two Home Contests

Big Rapids, Mich. – For the first time since 1997, the Ferris State University football schedule will feature six home dates in the 2002 season, including both the season and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) openers as announced today by FSU Athletics Director **Tom Kirinovic**.

The Bulldogs kickoff their 93rd season of varsity competition Saturday, Sept. 7, against the Hillsdale College Chargers in a non-conference contest at FSU's Top Taggart Field with a 7 p.m. (EDT) start time scheduled. The matchup represents the first of a two-year home-and-home agreement between the GLIAC schools as a result of the 12-member conference's unbalanced schedule. The season opener will also mark the return of former Ferris head coach Keith Otterbein, who's starting his first year at Hillsdale this season, along with former Bulldog assistant coaches Barry Fagan and Cary Marquell. After the conclusion of the contest, the traditional post-game fireworks display near the stadium will be held as part of the annual Fireworks Night festivities. A week later (Sept. 14), Ferris State embarks on its 10-game conference schedule by hosting arch-rival and 2001 NCAA Division II national championship runner-up Grand Valley State University in a 7 p.m. (EDT) contest.

"I'm excited about having six home games this season," said FSU head coach **Jeff Pierce**, who enters his eighth year at the helm this fall. "We realize our schedule is always going to a challenging one each season because of the competition in our conference. We're going to take the one game at a time approach and maintain our focus on what we need to do each Saturday.

"I believe having three home night games will result in larger crowds and allow for more people in the community to watch us. The game environment is much better when there's a lot of people and our guys are always excited about playing before a full crowd," added Pierce.

Ferris' opponents for the remaining four home contests are Wayne State University (Sept. 28), Michigan Tech University (Oct. 12), Saginaw Valley State University (Oct. 26) and Ashland University (Nov. 9). The Wayne State encounter will represent the third annual FSU Bulldog Hall of Fame Game while Michigan Tech serves as the Bulldogs' homecoming opponent as Ferris celebrates its 76th year of the event. Saginaw Valley State was a 2001 NCAA-II Northeast Region Playoff finalist while Ashland is back on this season's schedule following a year's absence.

The last time FSU played three of its initial four games at home was in 1991 when the Bulldogs went 1-3-0 en route to registering a 5-6-0 overall record.

Comprising the opposition in road outings are Northern Michigan University (Sept. 21), Northwood University (Oct. 5), Mercyhurst College (Oct. 19), University of Findlay (Nov. 2) and the University of Indianapolis (Nov. 16) in the Bulldogs' regular-season finale. The contest at Northern Michigan will mark Ferris' third consecutive evening affair this campaign with a 7 p.m. (EDT) start time scheduled at NMU's Superior Dome in Marquette, Mich.

The Bulldogs are a combined 132-145-14 (.478 winning pct.) all-time against this season's opponents and the opposition registered a combined 60-60-0 (.500) record a season ago.

Ferris State concluded 2001 season with a 7-4 overall record, which included a third-place 7-3 GLIAC mark.

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– 2002 FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ATTACHED –

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

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2002 FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Saturday, Sept. 7	Hillsdale (Fireworks Night)	Big Rapids, Mich.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 14	Grand Valley State* (Community Night)	Big Rapids, Mich.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 21	at Northern Michigan*	Marquette, Mich.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 28	Wayne State* (Hall of Fame)	Big Rapids, Mich.	7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 5	at Northwood*	Midland, Mich.	12 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 12	Michigan Tech* (Homecoming)	Big Rapids, Mich.	2 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 19	at Mercyhurst*	Erie, Pa.	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 26	Saginaw Valley State* (Youth Day)	Big Rapids, Mich.	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 2	at Findlay*	Findlay, Ohio	1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 9	Ashland* (Senior Day)	Big Rapids, Mich.	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 16	at Indianapolis*	Indianapolis, Ind.	1 p.m.

Home games listed in **Bold**

All times are Eastern and subject to change

* – Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Game

