

Football News

Release

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FERRIS STATE FOOTBALL HONORS 2003 SEASON AWARD WINNERS

Senior Luke Piepkow Named Most Valuable Player At Annual Season-Ending Awards Banquet

Big Rapids, Mich. – Senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** was named the 2003 Ferris State University football team's Most Valuable Player as voted on by his FSU teammates at the annual team awards banquet held Sunday at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids, Mich.

Piepkow recorded a career-best and team second-place 132 tackles (66 solo) this season. The 2002 All-GLIAC Second Team pick finished third among the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) tackles leaders while ranking 15th in total tackles (11.4 avg.) and 17th in solo tackles (5.9 avg.) among this week's NCAA Division II individual statistical leaders. He notched 6.5 tackles for a loss of 38 yards, including 4.5 quarterback sacks for 35 yards. The FSU defensive co-captain also recovered four fumbles this fall of which two were returned for touchdowns – at Saginaw Valley State (10/25) and at Ashland (11/8). He totaled eight double-digit game tackle performances this season with a season-best 17 stops (12 solo) at Michigan Tech (10/11). He concluded his career with 393 tackles (193 solo) in 39 outings for the fifth highest output in Ferris State history. Along with attaining MVP honors, Piepkow was a co-recipient of the Rich Currie EPEP (*Every Player, Every Play*) Award.

Junior defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)** earned the Most Valuable Defensive Lineman Award as a result of tying for third place in team tackles with a career-high 99 stops (64 solo) while placing second on the squad in both tackles for loss (16.5 for minus 47 yards) and sacks (seven for minus 33 yards). This season, the 2002 FSU Most Improved Defensive Player Award winner averaged a conference 11th-place 9.9 tackles average and notched five double-figure tackle game efforts, including a career-best 18 stops (14 solo) versus Findlay (11/1). He presently ranks nationally in four statistical categories – solo tackles (13th-6.1 avg.), tackles for loss (25th-1.7 avg.), forced fumbles (28th-0.3 avg.), and pass sacks (29th-0.8 avg.). Senior **Matt McCoy (Charlotte)**, a two-year starter at offensive right tackle and an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention honoree last season, was the recipient of the Eric Bennett Memorial Award as the team's Most Valuable Offensive Lineman. The FSU offensive co-captain started all 11 contests this fall and helped the Bulldogs average 348.5 yards in total offense. Sharing the Rich Currie EPEP Award with Piepkow was senior free safety **Rich Dosh (Burton/Flint Kearsley)**, whose career-best 99 tackles (51 solos) this campaign ranked tied for third place on the squad and his 9.0 stops per game was 14th best in the conference. Dosh turned in six double-figure tackle contests this year which included a career-high 14 hits against Findlay (11/1) and also had two pass thefts for the season.

Senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** was presented with the Most Valuable Offensive Skill Player Award for the second consecutive season after eclipsing the 1,000-yard single-season rushing mark for the third time in his career. The 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year and two-time second-team all-conference back gained a career-best 1,232 yards on 260 carries with 14 TD's in 11 games this fall which represented the sixth highest single-season rushing output in school history and ranked second among the GLIAC's top rushers. His career-high 90 points this season tied for the seventh best total in school history and his 8.2 points per game average presently ranks 33rd nationally. Fudge closed out his career with 4,024 career rushing yards on 885 attempts and the Bulldog offensive co-captain was 166 yards shy of becoming FSU's all-time rushing leader trailing only Mo Harris (1996-99). The Most Valuable Defensive Skill Player honor went to junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)**, who paced the Bulldogs in tackles for the second straight year with a career-best and conference-leading 141 stops (87 solos) this campaign. His season tackles total was the most by a Ferris State player since 1996 and is the 13th highest total among the school's single-season all-time leaders. Myers presently is second in solo tackles (7.9 avg.), fourth in total tackles (12.4 avg.) and fifth in forced fumbles (0.45 avg.) in this week's NCAA-II statistical rankings. The 2002 All-GLIAC Second-Team performer had eight double-digit tackle outings, highlighted by a career-high 23 stops (15 solo) versus Findlay (11/1), and averaged 16.5 tackles (66 total) in his last four contests.

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Ferris State Football Honors 2003 Season Award Winners – Add One

Senior punter **Tim Gill (Mt. Clemens/Lutheran North)** and senior cornerback **Corey Scheick (Brooklyn/Columbia Central)** were co award winners of the Special Teams Player of the Year. Gill registered a career-best 37.1 yards per kick (15th highest in FSU history) this fall with 2,446 total punt yards on 66 attempts. He tied a school single-game mark with 13 punt attempts (417 yards) at Ashland (11/8) and concluded his career ranking fifth among Ferris' all-time punt yardage leaders with 6,594 career yards on 188 attempts for a 35.1 average. Scheick garnered 15 tackles this season and tied for 15th place on the squad in that statistical category.

Senior flanker **Avery Hicks (Hollywood, Fla./Miramar)** was chosen the Most Improved Offensive Player after setting personal career bests in pass catches (16) and receiving yardage (278) this season. His receiving yards was the third highest total on the squad while his reception total ranked fifth best. Hicks' season highs this campaign came at Michigan Tech (10/11) with five grabs for 67 yards, including a 13-yard TD reception. Junior defensive end **John Hazle (St. Johns)** picked up the Most Improved Defensive Player Award following his most productive season in a FSU uniform. In his first year as a starter this fall, Hazle amassed a career-best 77 tackles (39 solo) to place seventh among the team's leaders and 26th in the conference. He paced Ferris with 17.5 tackles for a loss of 93 yards, including a conference and team-leading 11 sacks for minus 77 yards. The defensive lineman is listed 10th nationally this week in pass sacks (1.0 avg.) and 31st (1.5 avg.) in tackles for loss. Hazle's sack total this campaign marked a tie for the fourth-best total among the Bulldogs' all-time single-season leaders. His best outing was a 10-tackle performance in the season opener at Hillsdale (9/6), which featured three pass sacks for a loss of 18 yards. A season ago, Hazle posted 20 tackles and had 2.5 tackles for minus 15 yards primarily in a reserve capacity.

The Outstanding Defensive Rookie was redshirt freshman middle linebacker **Mike Klobucher (Grand Haven/North Muskegon)**, who placed tied for 10th in team tackles with 54 total (34 solo) in his initial collegiate campaign. He garnered a season-high 10 tackles on two occasions – at Grand Valley State (9/13) and against Northwood (10/4), which also included a five-yard interception return in that contest. Redshirt frosh guard-tackle **Allen Feigel (Livonia/Stevenson)** was honored as the Outstanding Offensive Rookie and earned the starting nod at right guard in eight of nine outings he competed in.

Senior defensive tackle **Pat Smith (Pewamo/Pewamo-Westphalia)** and senior fullback **Jim Bockheim (Grand Rapids/Catholic Central)** were co-recipients of the Coaches Award for outstanding leadership. Smith was in on a career-high 65 tackles (32 solo) as the starting left tackle this season and garnered five tackles for minus 23 yards. He netted a career-best 11 tackles (nine solo) at Wayne State (9/27). Meanwhile, Bockheim proved effective in his initial season as a regular backfield starter by helping tailback Derek Fudge gain over 1,200 yards on the ground and rank 22nd among the national rushing leaders. Bockheim had one carry for five yards to go with four receptions for 28 yards this season.

The Bulldog Spirit Award for team spirit was presented to senior strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester)**, who racked up a career-high 91 tackles (55 solo) and recorded two interceptions for 21 yards this year. He captured fifth place among the FSU's tackles leaders while posting the 18th highest total in the GLIAC. The 2002 all-conference honorable mention defender wrapped up his career with 196 tackles (121 solo) with five pass thefts for 39 yards. The Bill and Lynn Scheible Scholarship Award as Tomorrow's Team Offensive Player of the Year was awarded to redshirt freshman flanker **Geoff Miller (Frankfort)** and frosh middle linebacker **Jordan Moore (Ada/Lowell)** picked up the Matt Sklom Memorial Award as Tomorrow's Team Defensive Player of the Year.

The 16 seniors honored were fullback **Jim Bockheim**, strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano**, outside linebacker **David Clifford (Flint/Kearsley)**, kicker **Casey Danford (Cadillac)**, free safety **Rich Dosh**, tailback **Derek Fudge**, split end **Rob Giles (Mt. Clemens/L'Anse Creuse North)**, punter **Tim Gill**, flanker **Avery Hicks**, tackle **Matt McCoy**, kicker **Tom Perez (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)**, middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow**, split end **Jesse Porter (Shepherd)**, cornerback **Corey Scheick**, tight end **Tyler Schuberg (Big Rapids)**, and defensive tackle **Pat Smith**.

Ferris State, under ninth-year head coach **Jeff Pierce**, concluded the 2003 season and its 95th year of varsity competition with a 6-5 overall record while compiling a fourth-place tying 5-5 GLIAC mark.

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