

Football News Release



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**NORTHERN MICHIGAN AT FERRIS STATE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2003**

ATHLETICS HOTLINE: (231) 591-2375

GAME FACTS

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN WILDCATS
(0-2; 0-1 GLIAC)
AT
FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(1-1; 0-1 GLIAC)**

KICKOFF: 7 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Port Taggart Field
(6,200)/Artificial Turf (AstroTurf 12).

RADIO COVERAGE: WBRN-AM (1460) – John Smith
(play-by-play), Ted Halm (color commentary).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State is 1-1 overall and 0-1 in the GLIAC following a 40-10 conference-opening loss to nationally top-ranked and 2002 NCAA Division II National Champion Grand Valley State last Saturday (Sept. 13) evening at GVSU's Arend D. Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, Mich. Last season, FSU compiled a 5-5 overall mark and placed sixth in the GLIAC with a 4-5 conference record. The Bulldogs were 4-1 at home and 1-4 on the road last fall. In 2001, FSU posted a 7-4 overall mark and a third-place 7-3 GLIAC record. Ferris has won or shared the conference championship six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Northern Michigan dropped to 0-2 overall and 0-1 in the GLIAC as a result of suffering a 41-29 conference loss to Mercyhurst last Saturday (Sept. 13) at MC's Louis J. Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. The Wildcats were 6-5 overall with a fifth-place 6-4 conference mark. NMU was 2-3 on the road and 4-1 at home a season ago.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 55-35-0 (.611) — (6-2-0 vs. Northern Michigan). Pierce has a 29-14-0 (.674) coaching mark in home games and is 19-15-0 (.611) in September contests.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN – Doug Sams (Oregon State, 1978), 2nd season, 6-7-0 (.462); Career - 13th season, 64-59-0 (.520) – (1-0-0 vs. Ferris State). Sams spent 10 years as head coach at Fairmont State (W.Va.) and registered a 53-47-0 coaching mark.

2003 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	W 25-20
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State*	L 10-40
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan* (HF)	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	12 p.m.
Oct. 4	Northwood*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	1 p.m.
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst* (HC)	2 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State*	12 p.m.
Nov. 1	Findlay*	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	at Ashland*	1:25 p.m.
Nov. 15	Indianapolis*	1:30 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 opens the home portion of its 2003 regular-season schedule this Saturday (Sept. 20) as the Bulldogs host the Northern Michigan University Wildcats in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action at Big Rapids, Mich. The home opener also represents Ferris' fourth annual Hall of Fame contest.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is currently in his ninth season at Ferris State and has registered a 55-35-0 career coaching record. Pierce has already made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the second-best winning percentage (.611) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is also six wins shy 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: Ferris State and Northern Michigan will meet for the 30th 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 11 meetings and had its four-game series winning string snapped with a 17-3 setback at NMU last season (9/21). The Bulldogs are averaging 29.4 points (323 pts.) a contest in that 11-game span while the Wildcats have scored at a 17.5 points (192 pts.) per game clip. FSU is 5-0-1 in its last six home encounters against Northern and has a present five-game series winning streak. The Bulldogs have averaged 28.8 points (173 pts.) in comparison to NMU's 17.7 points an outing (106 pts.) for an +11.1-point differential during those six home contests. Fifteen of the 29 meetings have been decided by 15 points or more and the Bulldogs are 8-7-0 in those games.

NMU leads 12-11-6	(NMU 10/20/56 – 9/30/89)	1955	FSU	27-6	H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 18.3 (531 pts.)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 47	1956	NMU	19-0	A
NMU Scoring Avg.: 18.7 (541 pts.)	(47-0 – 10/2/93)	1957	NMU	20-7	H
Differential: +0.4 (NMU)	Most Points in a NMU Win:	1982	NMU	80-14	A
	80 (80-14 – 10/2/82)	1987	NMU	29-14	H
At Big Rapids: FSU leads 7-4-3	Most Decisive Score: FSU 47	1988	NMU	24-22	A
At Marquette: NMU leads 8-4-3	(47-0 – 10/2/93); NMU 66 (80-14	1989	NMU	19-14	H
First Game: FSU 7, NMU 7*	– 10/2/82)	1990	Tie	14-14	H
(10/26/46)	* – Denotes FSU home game	1991	NMU	27-17	A
Last FSU Win: 7-6 (10/27/01)		1992	FSU	23-12	H
Last NMU Win: 17-3 (9/21/02)		1993	FSU	47-0	A
Last Meeting in Big Rapids:		1994	FSU	41-21	H
FSU 28, NMU 7* (10/28/00)		1995	FSU	41-27	A
Current Series Win Streak: 1		1996	FSU	38-33	H
(NMU 9/21/02)		1997	NMU	23-21	A
Longest Series Win Streak: 6		1998	FSU	29-19	H
		1999	FSU	45-27	A
		2000	FSU	28-7	H
		2001	FSU	7-6	A
		2002	NMU	17-3	A
		1946	Tie	7-7	H
		1947	Tie	14-14	A
		1948	Tie	0-0	A
		1949	NMU	21-6	H
		1950	NMU	13-6	A
		1951	Tie	7-7	H
		1952	NMU	34-19	A
		1953	FSU	7-2	H
		1954	Tie	13-13	A

LAST MEETING – 2002: Northern Michigan recorded a 17-3 home win over Ferris State before a Superior Dome crowd of 3,116 in Marquette, Mich. FSU claimed a 3-0 first-quarter lead at 10:04 on a seven-play, 21-yard scoring drive culminating on kicker Tom Perez's 34-yard field goal. However, NMU tied the game with 3:09 remaining in the first quarter as kicker Kyle Marotz's 45-yard field goal split the uprights. The Wildcats proceeded to claim a 10-3 halftime advantage on a 26-yard TD pass play from quarterback Kyle Swenor to wide receiver Nick Mauthe. The only scoring in the second half occurred at the third quarter's 9:09 mark as the Wildcats scored on Swenor's TD bootleg run from five yards out. Offensively, Northern Michigan posted 318 yards in total offense to Ferris' 243-yard total as the Bulldogs recorded 85 yards on the ground and 158 in the air. Ferris quarterback Tom Marsan completed 16-of-42 passes for 158 yards while tailback Derek Fudge ran for 70 yards on 23 attempts. Split end Brandis Bowie caught a team-high five passes for 38 yards and flanker Delano McKinney had three receptions for 42 yards. Outside linebacker Kevin Myers led the way with a game-high 11 tackles and had an 11-yard pass interception return as the FSU defense limited the Wildcats to 76 yards rushing. Defensive end Michael King and middle linebacker Luke Piepkow garnered nine stops apiece while defensive tackle Jason Feasel had eight tackles (six solos).

INTERNET COVERAGE: All 2003 Ferris State football games can be heard live on the internet through an agreement with FSU Athletics and local radio affiliate WBRN. The link is located on Ferris' Athletics homepage website (www.ferris.edu/sports). Listeners who click on the Bulldog Athletics' webcast icon will be directed to the site at www.ferris.edu/sports/bulldogwebcasts.

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2003 GLIAC STANDINGS

	GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Indianapolis	1	0	1.000	31	10	2	0	1.000	75	17
Mercyhurst	1	0	1.000	41	29	2	0	1.000	71	50
Findlay	1	0	1.000	19	3	2	0	1.000	70	34
Saginaw Valley State	1	0	1.000	34	32	2	0	1.000	64	46
Grand Valley State	1	0	1.000	40	10	2	0	1.000	49	16
Michigan Tech	1	1	.500	59	48	1	1	.500	59	48
Ashland	1	1	.500	38	48	1	2	.333	44	60
Wayne State	0	1	.000	3	19	1	1	.500	41	40
Ferris State	0	1	.000	10	40	1	1	.500	35	60
Northwood	0	1	.000	21	24	0	2	.000	35	54
Hillsdale	0	1	.000	10	31	0	2	.000	30	56
Northern Michigan	0	1	.000	29	41	0	2	.000	29	103

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Findlay 19, at Wayne State 3*
 Saginaw Valley State 34, at Michigan Tech 32*
 at Mercyhurst 41, Northern Michigan 29*
 at Indianapolis 31, Hillsdale 10*
 Ashland 24, at Northwood 21* (at Midland High School)
at Grand Valley State 40, Ferris State 10*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Hillsdale at Ashland*, 1:25 p.m.
 Saginaw Valley State at Mercyhurst*, 1:30 p.m.
 Michigan Tech at Indianapolis*, 2 p.m.
 Northwood at Findlay*, 6 p.m.
 Wayne State at Grand Valley State*, 7 p.m.
Northern Michigan at Ferris State*, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



2003 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Grand Valley State (8)	117
2.	Saginaw Valley State (4)	114
3.	Findlay	92
4.	Northern Michigan	83
5.	Ferris State	80
6.	Northwood	79
7.	Indianapolis	61
8.	Hillsdale	60
9.	Ashland	38
10.	Michigan Tech	28
11.	Wayne State	26
12.	Mercyhurst	14

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: Grand Valley State, the nation's top-ranked team, extended its winning streak to 16 games with a 40-10 conference-opening victory over Ferris State Saturday night before a GVSU Arend D. Lubbers Stadium-record crowd of 12,627. The host Lakers scored on their opening drive of the contest as running back Michael Tennessee hit paydirt on a four-yard run. However, Ferris quickly answered as junior tailback **Andrew Terry (Kentwood/Creston)** returned the GVSU kickoff 59 yards which set up an eventual game-tying TD as junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** hooked up with sophomore flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** on a 20-yard scoring pass at 8:48 of the first quarter. FSU then went up 10-7 when senior kicker **Tom Perez (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** nailed a 34-yard field goal with 14:10 left in the second quarter. The Lakers then countered at the 4:59 mark on a 34-yard TD pass from quarterback Cullen Finnerty to wideout Micah Staley. GVSU kicker David Hendrix connected on a 48-yard field goal with one second left to give the Lakers a 17-10 halftime lead. The second half saw Grand Valley tally 23 unanswered points with 16 of those occurring in the fourth quarter. A Tennessee 69-yard TD reception from Finnerty with 4:13 remaining in the third quarter gave the hosts a 24-10 advantage going into the final quarter. Following a 24-yard Hendrix field goal, the Lakers scored on a pair of 46-yard interception returns less than two minutes apart for the final margin. The Bulldogs, who were outgained 435 to 168 in total offense, were paced by **Brewster's** five receptions for 63 yards while junior split end **Andy Thwaites (Stanton/Central Montcalm)** had three catches for 32 yards. **Marsan** threw for 86 yards on nine-of-23 passing while senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibsonston, Fla./East Bay)** was held to 34 yards rushing on 17 carries. Senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** paced the defense with 13 tackles while junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** posted 12 stops (seven solos) and senior strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester)** contributed with 11 tackles.

BULLDOG BITES: **Derek Fudge** moved into third place on FSU's all-time rushing leaders list at Grand Valley State and has a current 3,102 career

yard total. Fudge surpassed Tyree Dye (1990-91/93-94; 3,076 yds.) and is now 422 yards away of tying Chuck Evans' (1974-77) second-place 3,524 career yard total. Fudge, who has compiled 144 career points in 32 outings, is two points shy of tying Buzz McNally's (1959-60) 12th-place 146 career point total among the school's all-time scoring leaders. He needs five more points to move ahead of Chuck Evans into 10th place on the scoring charts.

Tom Perez is two field goals shy of tying Mike Panasuk (1987-90) for fifth place on FSU's all-time list. Perez has connected on 19 of 32 field goal attempts while Panasuk converted 21 of 43 field goal opportunities.

Redshirt frosh outside linebacker **Mike Klobucher (Grand Haven/North Muskegon)** recorded a personal season-high nine tackles at Grand Valley State, including six solo hits to go with a sack for minus eight yards.

Luke Piepkow totaled his 15th career double-digit game tackle performance with his team-high 13 stops at Grand Valley State. Piepkow, who has compiled 287 career tackles, is 19 away from tying Steve Krispinsky (1973-75; 306 tackles) for 13th place among the school's tackles leaders.

Derek Fudge ranks ninth on Ferris' career total offense leaders list with a current 3,137-yard total. He moved ahead of Bill Costner (1978-80; 3,122 yds.) and is now 278 yards away of tying Kyle Park (1998-01; 3,415 yds.) for eighth place.

Kevin Myers has a present five-game double-figure tackle streak after posting 12 stops at Grand Valley State. Myers had seven double-digit tackle efforts last season and is averaging 13.6 (68 total) stops during the five-game period.

FSU is averaging 185.0 rushing yards per game (370 total) in its first two outings this season after garnering a two-game 125.5 yard average last fall. The Bulldogs have also increased their offensive output with a 356.5 (713 yds.) total offense yard average in comparison to last season's 323.0 average (646 yds.).

Senior punter **Tim Gill (Mt. Clemens/Lutheran North)** ranks sixth on FSU's all-time punting charts with 4,588 career yards on 133 attempts for a 34.5 yards average in 28 games. He's currently averaging a career-high 40.0 yards (440 yds.) on 11 attempts this season. His previous best was a 35.4 average (601 yds. on 17 attempts) in the 2000 campaign.

HOME OPENERS: Ferris is 38-36-4 (.513) in home openers dating back to 1920, which includes an 8-5-0 mark since 1990. The Bulldogs are 7-3 in their last 10 home-opening contests.

ANCHOR BONE TROPHY: The Anchor Bone Trophy, which is sponsored by Huntington Bank, is presented annually to the winner of the Ferris State-Grand Valley State football game. The traveling trophy remains with GVSU as a result of Saturday's victory and the cancellation of last season's (Sept. 14) contest by FSU at Big Rapids.

UNDER THE LIGHTS: Ferris has compiled a 25-36-4 (.415) record in evening contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 9-17-2 (.357) on the road and 16-19-2 (.459) in home outings.

HALL OF FAME GAMES: The Bulldogs are 1-2-0 in their annual Hall of Fame game which commenced in the 2000 season (9/23) with a 51-30 triumph over Wayne State. FSU has since dropped its last two Hall of Fame outings - 63-17 to Grand Valley State (10/6/01) and 36-21 to Wayne State (9/28/02).

UP NEXT: Ferris State takes to the road next Saturday (Sept. 27) for a GLIAC contest versus the Wayne State University Warriors. Opening kickoff is set for 12 p.m. (EDT) at Wayne State Stadium in Detroit, Mich.

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. 6	at Hillsdale	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-John Hazle, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State	Offense-Andy Thwaites, Defense-Luke Piepkow, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan	
Sept. 27	at Wayne State	
Oct. 4	Northwood	
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech	
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst	
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State	
Nov. 1	Findlay	
Nov. 8	at Ashland	
Nov. 15	Indianapolis	

Home games listed in **bold**