

Football News Release



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**FERRIS STATE AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE
OCTOBER 21, 2003**

GAME FACTS

**FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(4-3; 3-3 GLIAC)**

AT

**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE CARDINALS
(7-0; 6-0 GLIAC)**

KICKOFF: 12 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium (4,028)/Prescription Athletic Turf.

RADIO COVERAGE: WBRN-AM (1460).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State is 4-3 overall and 3-3 in the GLIAC after claiming a 33-7 conference victory over Mercyhurst last Saturday (Oct. 18) in FSU's 77th Homecoming game at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Last season, FSU went 5-5 overall and placed sixth in the GLIAC with a 4-5 conference record. The Bulldogs were picked fifth in the 2003 GLIAC Preseason Coaches Poll with 80 points. Ferris has won or shared the conference title six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Saginaw Valley State, which is ranked second nationally in this week's *D2Football.com* poll, is 7-0 overall and 6-0 in the GLIAC following a 34-20 conference win over number-two ranked Grand Valley State last Saturday (Oct. 18) at GVSU's Arend Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, Mich. The Cardinals were 9-3 overall last season and placed tied for second in the GLIAC with an 8-2 league mark. SVSU dropped a 27-23 decision at Indiana (Pa.) in the 2002 NCAA-II Northeast Region Semifinals in its second straight postseason appearance.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – **Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 58-37-0 (.611) — (5-3-0 vs. Saginaw Valley State). In his FSU coaching career, Pierce is 27-22-0 (.551) in road games, 23-12-0 (.657) in October and 53-31-0 (.631) in GLIAC contests to date.

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE – Randy Awrey (Northern Michigan, 1978), 5th season, 40-14-0 (.741); Career – 14th season, 88-55-1 (.615) – (2-2-0 vs. Ferris State).

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)	L 14-26
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	W 29-16
Oct. 4	Northwood*	W 40-16
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	L 30-49
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst* (HC)	W 33-7
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, which has won three of its last four games, will go up against the nationally second-ranked Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals this Saturday (Oct. 25) afternoon in a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) encounter at University Center, Mich.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is midst his ninth season at Ferris State and has a current 58-37-0 career record. Pierce holds the distinction of having the second-best winning percentage (.611) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is three wins shy of becoming FSU's winningest coach and would surpass Keith Otterbein (60-39-0, 1986-94). Under Pierce, 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 has a 15-12-1 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 presently won three of the last five meetings, but is 1-5 in its last six appearances at University Center. In the six-game period, the Bulldogs have averaged 30.7 points a game (184 total points) to the Cardinals' 21.7 points an outing (130 total points) for a +9.0 margin. Eleven of the last 25 meetings have been decided by four points or less, including seven of the last 13 outings. Furthermore, 15 meetings between the two teams have been decided by eight points or less and the winning team has come-from-behind in 10 of those 11 games.

Ferris State leads 15-12-1	(FSU 11/9/91 – 11/1/97); 3 (SVSU 11/5/88 – 11/3/90)	1982 FSU 20-17 A
FSU Scoring Avg.: 23.2 (649 pts.)		1983 SVSU 17-7 H
SVSU Scoring Avg.: 21.6 (606 pts.)		1984 SVSU 27-19 A
Differential: +1.6 (FSU)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 56 (56-14 – 9/11/99)	1985 FSU 28-21 H
	Most Points in a SVSU Win: 39 (39-36 – 9/16/00)	1986 SVSU 31-24 A
At Univ. Center: FSU leads 8-5-1		1987 FSU 31-12 H
At Big Rapids: Tied at 7-7-0		1988 SVSU 12-0 A
First Game: SVSU 31, FSU 28* (10/4/75)	Most Decisive Score: FSU 42 (56-14 – 9/11/99) SVSU 34 (37-3 – 9/24/77)	1989 SVSU 29-27 H
Last FSU Win: 24-3* (10/26/02)		1990 SVSU 21-14 H
Last SVSU Win: 33-20 (9/15/01)		1991 FSU 18-15 A
Last Meeting at University Center: SVSU 33, FSU 20 (9/15/01)		1992 FSU 10-9 H
Current Series Win Streak: 1 (FSU 10/26/02)		1993 FSU 34-23 A
Longest Series Win Streak: 7		1994 FSU 30-28 A
	* – Denotes FSU home game	1995 FSU 46-42 H
		1996 FSU 26-17 A
		1997 FSU 24-23 H
		1998 SVSU 34-20 H
		1999 FSU 56-14 A
		2000 SVSU 39-36 H
		2001 SVSU 33-20 A
		2002 FSU 24-3 H

LAST MEETING – 2002: Ferris State registered 408 yards in total offense and scored 17 second-half points en route to a 24-3 triumph over ninth-ranked Saginaw Valley State before 2,263 fans at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Ferris led 7-0 at halftime after tallying a first-quarter TD as split end Andy Thwaites was on the receiving end of quarterback Tom Marsan's 22-yard pass. The Bulldogs proceeded to take a 14-point advantage with 10:53 remaining in the third quarter as flanker Carlton Brewster returned a punt 89 yards for a TD. FSU then added to its lead (17-0) on a 27-yard field goal by kicker Tom Perez with 2:24 left to go in the quarter which capped a 15-play, 61-yard scoring drive. The Cardinals managed their only points of the contest at the 12:45 mark in the fourth quarter on kicker Eric Houle's 28-yard field goal to get within 17-3. However, Ferris answered with 7:38 remaining as tailback Derek Fudge rambled two yards for a TD to cap nine-play, 84-yard scoring drive. Marsan completed 17 of 38 passes for 262 yards while split end Dennis Cartwright had six receptions for 133 yards. FSU outgained SVSU 146-80 on the ground behind Fudge's 31 carries for 115 yards. Quarterback Matt LaFleur led the Cardinals with 41 rushing yards and 153 yards passing on a 17-of-38 performance. The Bulldog defense forced six turnovers, which included four interceptions. Outside linebacker Rob Mida led Ferris with 12 tackles while middle linebacker Luke Piepkow posted 10 stops and defensive tackle Jason Feasel had nine hits. SVSU inside linebacker Jason Battershell recorded a game-high 16 tackles.

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
Saginaw Valley State	6	0	1.000	222	65	7	0	1.000	252	79
Grand Valley State	5	1	.833	245	119	6	1	.857	254	125
Northwood	4	2	.667	188	112	4	3	.571	202	142
Indianapolis	3	3	.500	139	237	4	3	.571	183	244
Ferris State	3	3	.500	156	154	4	3	.571	181	174
Findlay	3	3	.500	106	136	4	3	.571	157	167
Hillsdale	3	3	.500	165	169	3	4	.429	185	194
Michigan Tech	3	4	.429	247	251	3	4	.429	247	251
Mercyhurst	2	4	.333	84	151	3	4	.429	114	172
Northern Michigan	2	4	.333	154	180	2	5	.286	154	242
Ashland	2	5	.286	119	166	2	6	.250	125	178
Wayne State	1	5	.167	123	208	2	5	.286	161	229

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Michigan Tech 42, at Wayne State 35*
 at Ashland 31, Northern Michigan 10*
at Ferris State 33, Mercyhurst 7*
 at Indianapolis 22, Findlay 19*
 Northwood 34, at Hillsdale 31 OT*
 Saginaw Valley State 34, at Grand Valley State 20*

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Ferris State at Saginaw Valley State*, 12 p.m.
 Grand Valley State at Northwood*, 12 p.m.
 Hillsdale at Michigan Tech*, 1 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Mercyhurst*, 1:30 p.m.
 Ashland at Findlay*, 6 p.m.
 Wayne State at Northern Michigan*, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



LAST WEEK: A total team effort was put forth by Ferris State resulting in a 33-7 conference victory over Mercyhurst last Saturday afternoon before a FSU Homecoming crowd of 3,644 at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids. While Ferris chalked up 391 yards in total offense, the Bulldogs' defense did its part by holding the Lakers to 67 total offensive yards, including three net yards rushing. Following a scoreless opening quarter, FSU was the first to reach the endzone with 1:15 left to go in the second quarter as sophomore flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** made a nifty one-handed catch of a 17-yard scoring strike by junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** to give the hosts a 7-0 halftime lead. In the second half, Mercyhurst capitalized on a Bulldog turnover as outside linebacker Mike Cikra blocked senior punter **Tim Gill's (Mt. Clemens/Lutheran North)** attempt which free safety Ben Bluemle recovered the ball and proceed to score from four yards out to knot the contest at seven-all with 10:38 left in the third quarter. The score remained that way until 5:05 of the quarter when senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** hit paydirt on a 17-yard TD run to give Ferris the lead for good. The Bulldogs increased their lead to 20-7 on an one-yard TD keeper by **Marsan** with 2:20 showing on the clock. Ferris continued to find the endzone two more times in the fourth quarter with the first occurring on **Fudge's** 11-yard TD run at the 7:06 mark and then just a minute later, sophomore tailback **Shawn Grigg (Allegan)** dashed 58 yards for the final score. **Marsan** posted his fourth straight 100-yard plus passing game performance with 228 yards on 26-of-39 passing while **Brewster** was his favorite target with eight receptions for 88 yards. Sophomore flanker **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** chipped in with seven catches for 39 yards and junior split end **Andy Thwaites (Stanton/Central Montcalm)** caught five aeriels for 66 yards. **Fudge** paced all rushers with 85 yards on 23 attempts and snagged six passes for 35 yards. Mercyhurst's Ben Bluemle was in on a game-leading 10 total tackles. For Ferris, senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** and junior outside linebacker **Rob Mida (Chelsea)** both garnered a team-leading nine tackles. Senior free safety **Rich Dosh (Burton/Flint Kearsley)**, senior defensive tackle **Pat Smith (Pewamo/Pewamo-Westphalia)** and junior defensive end **John Hazle (St. Johns)** all recorded eight stops apiece.

BULLDOG BITES: **Derek Fudge** is 75 rushing yards shy of reaching the 1,000-yard single-season rushing mark. Fudge has rushed for 925 yards (132.1 ypg.) on 183 attempts in seven games this year. The FSU back is 283 yards away from reaching the 4,000-yard career plateau and his 3,717 career yards ranks second on the school's all-time rushing charts to only Mo Harris (1996-99; 4,192 career yds.).
Ferris State's defense limited Mercyhurst to 67 yards in total offense which included three net yards on the ground. The last time FSU held an opponent to three yards or less rushing in a game was in the 2000 season finale (11/11) when Indianapolis posted a minus four yards on 20 car-

ries in a 38-28 Bulldog victory.

John Hazle's 28 yards on three and a half pass sacks against Mercyhurst represents a personal career high, besting his 18 yards on three sacks set in this season's opener (9/6) at Hillsdale. The defensive lineman has compiled 9.0 total sacks (-57 yds.) in seven games this season and is currently in a four-way tie for 15th place among FSU's all-time season sack leaders.

Carlton Brewster is averaging 79.0 receiving yards per game (237 total yds.) in his last three contests. In his initial four appearances this season, he recorded a 33.8 yards an outing average (135 total yds.).

With its 33-7 Homecoming win over Mercyhurst Saturday, Ferris State has now won 11 of its last 14 Homecoming contests which includes a present three-game winning streak. The string commenced with a 35-0 win against Michigan Tech in 2001 (10/2) followed by a 21-14 overtime decision versus MTU last season (10/12).

Shawn Grigg tallied his first collegiate TD with a fourth-quarter 58-yard scoring run. He's currently averaging 22.7 yards per carry with 68 rushing yards on three carries in five outings this campaign.

Tom Marsan has thrown for over 100 yards in his last four outings, including a 200-yard plus effort in his last two appearances - 297 at Michigan Tech (10/11) and 228 versus Mercyhurst (10/18). Marsan is averaging 205.5 yards a contest (822 total yds.) and has completed 60.9% (81-133) of his pass attempts during that time period.

Tim Gill's 42.5 punt average in Saturday's game marked a season high, eclipsing his 40.8 yards (367 yds.) average on nine attempts at Grand Valley State (9/13). Gill had six punts for 255 yards, including a 50-yarlder, versus Mercyhurst.

Luke Piepkow needs seven tackles to move into a seventh-place tie with Jeff Robeson (1984-87; 355 career tackles) on the Bulldogs' all-time tackles chart. Piepkow has 348 career stops (176 solos) in 35 games. He's 23 tackles away from matching his career season-high and team-leading 110 stops (52 solos) set in the 2001 campaign.

Derek Fudge's 72 points (12 TD's) this season is a career high and exceeds his 60-point total (10 TD's) in 10 outings a season ago. With his two TD's Saturday, Fudge has compiled a career 204-point total (34 TD's) and is presently tied with Chris Pulliams (1993-96) for sixth-place on FSU's career scoring leaders list. He trails Mo Harris (1996-99; 258 career pts.) for fifth place by 54 points.

Among this week's NCAA Division II national leaders, Ferris ranks 24th in pass efficiency defense (98.3 ypg.). Individually, **Derek Fudge** is eighth in rushing (132.1 ypg.), ninth in scoring (10.3 ypg.) and 15th in all-purpose yards (151.6 ypg.). **Carlton Brewster** is listed 28th in punt returns (12.3 ypr.). Defensively, **Luke Piepkow** ranks fifth in total tackles (12.4 avg.) while junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers** is 14th (10.7) in that statistical category. **John Hazle** ranks sixth in pass sacks (1.3 avg.) and 14th in tackles for loss (1.9 avg.) while junior defensive tackle **Whitney Bell** is 28th in forced fumbles (0.33 avg.).

UP NEXT: FSU hosts the University of Findlay Oilers next Saturday, Nov. 1, at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Start time for the conference contest is 1:30 p.m. (EST).

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	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Rich Dosh, Specialty-Corey Scheick, EPEP-Rob Mida
Sept. 27	at Wayne State	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Pat Smith, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Allen Feigel
Oct. 4	Northwood	Offense-Tom Marsan, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Casey Danford, EPEP-Vito Ciarameallano
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech	Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Vito Ciarameallano, Specialty-Justin Rudy, EPEP-Matt McCoy
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst	Offense-Jim Bockheim, Defense-Whitney Bell, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Rob Mida
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State	
Nov. 1	Findlay	
Nov. 8	at Ashland	
Nov. 15	Indianapolis	

Home games listed in **bold**