

# Football News Release



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**FERRIS STATE AT ASHLAND  
AUGUST 30, 2004**

## GAME FACTS

**FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS  
(0-1; 0-1 GLIAC)  
AT  
ASHLAND EAGLES  
(1-0; 0-0 GLIAC)**

**KICKOFF:** 7 p.m. (EDT)

**STADIUM/SURFACE:** Community Stadium  
(6,000)/Natural Grass

**RADIO COVERAGE:** WBRN-AM (1460).

**THE RECORDS:** Ferris State suffered a 24-6 season-opening league loss to nationally number-one ranked and two-time (2002-03) defending NCAA Division II National Champion Grand Valley State last Saturday (Aug. 28) evening before a modern-day record crowd of 8,426 fans at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. A season ago, Ferris posted a 6-5 overall mark and finished tied for fourth place in the GLIAC standings at 5-5. The Bulldogs were 3-2 at home and 3-3 on the road last fall. FSU has posted a winning season in 10 of the last 15 campaigns. Ferris has won or shared the conference championship six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

**Ashland** recorded a 48-7 season-opening non-conference victory over St. Joseph's (Ind.) last Saturday (Aug. 28) night at Ashland, Ohio. Last season, the Eagles were 2-9 overall with an 11th-place tying 2-8 conference ledger. AU registered a 1-5 home mark and was 1-4 on the road a season ago

**THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 10th season, 60-40-0 (.600) — (4-3-0 vs. Ashland). Pierce has a 28-23-0 (.549) coaching mark in away games and is 20-17-0 (.541) in September contests.

**ASHLAND – Lee Owens** (Bluffton, 1977), 1st season, 1-0-0 (1.000); Career - 10th season, 41-61-0 (.402) — (0-0-0 vs. Ferris State). Owens previously served as head coach at NCAA-I Akron (Ohio) from 1995-2003 and guided the Zips to a share of the Mid-American Conference East Division title in 2000.

### 2004 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

|                 |                              |               |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Aug. 28</b>  | <b>Grand Valley State*</b>   | <b>L 6-24</b> |
| Sept. 4         | at Ashland*                  | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>Sept. 11</b> | <b>Hillsdale*</b>            | <b>7 p.m.</b> |
| Sept. 18        | at Indianapolis*             | 2 p.m.        |
| Sept. 25        | at Mercyhurst*               | 1:30 p.m.     |
| <b>Oct. 2</b>   | <b>Findlay* (HF)</b>         | <b>7 p.m.</b> |
| Oct. 9          | at North Dakota              | 2 p.m.        |
| Oct. 16         | at Northern Michigan*        | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>Oct. 23</b>  | <b>Michigan Tech* (HC)</b>   | <b>2 p.m.</b> |
| Oct. 30         | at Northwood*                | 12 p.m.       |
| <b>Nov. 6</b>   | <b>Saginaw Valley State*</b> | <b>1 p.m.</b> |

All times are Eastern and subject to change  
Home games in **Bold** \*GLIAC Game  
(HF) – Hall of Fame (HC) – Homecoming

**THE GAME:** The Ferris State University football team will travel to Ashland, Ohio, for the second consecutive year as the Bulldogs face the Ashland University Eagles this Saturday (Sept. 4) night in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action.

**HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE:** Jeff Pierce is in his 10th year at Ferris State this season and has a 60-40-0 career coaching record to date. Pierce has made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the third-best winning percentage (.600) in the program's history and is one victory shy of becoming Ferris' all-time winningest coach. The 1995 GLIAC Coach of the Year would surpass Keith Otterbein (60-39-3, 1986-94) for the top honor. 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:** Ashland has a 10-6-0 advantage over Ferris State in a series dating back to 1967 although the Bulldogs have won six of the last nine, including the last two meetings. FSU has been victorious in three of its last four contests at Ashland and claimed a 17-10 triumph last season (11/8). Ferris is averaging 24.0 points (96 total) to Ashland's 20.8 (83 total) for a +3.2 during that four-game span. Six of the 16 meetings have been decided by eight points or less and the Bulldogs are 3-3 in those outings.

| Ashland leads 10-6-0                      |                                      | Longest Series Win Streak: 7              |    | 1975  | AU  | 34-10 | A   |       |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|---|
| FSU Scoring Avg.: 16.0 (256 pts.)         | AU Scoring Avg.: 21.1 (337 pts.)     | *(AU 10/7/67 – 9/12/92)                   |    | 1990  | AU  | 22-20 | A   |       |   |
| Differential: +5.1 (AU)                   |                                      | <b>Most Points in a FSU Win: 30</b>       |    | 1991  | AU  | 35-7  | H   |       |   |
| <b>At Ashland:</b> AU leads 5-3-0         | <b>At Big Rapids:</b> AU leads 5-3-0 | *(30-8 – 11/9/02)                         |    | 1992  | AU  | 15-7  | A   |       |   |
| <b>First Game:</b> AU 21, FSU 7 (10/7/67) | <b>Last FSU Win:</b> 17-10 (11/8/03) | <b>Most Points in a AU Win: 59</b>        |    | 1993  | FSU | 20-6  | H   |       |   |
| <b>Last AU Win:</b> 26-22* (10/16/99)     | <b>Last Meeting in Ashland:</b>      | *(59-37 – 10/17/98)                       |    | 1994  | FSU | 16-14 | A   |       |   |
| FSU 17, AU 10 (11/8/03)                   | <b>Current Series Win Streak: 2</b>  | <b>Most Decisive Score:</b> FSU 26        |    | 1995  | FSU | 20-13 | H   |       |   |
| (FSU 11/9/02 – 11/8/03)                   |                                      | *(26-0 – 8/29/96) AU 28 (35-7* – 9/14/91) |    | 1996  | FSU | 26-0  | A   |       |   |
|   |                                      | * – Denotes FSU home game                 |    | 1997  | AU  | 26-7  | H   |       |   |
|   |                                      | 1967                                      | AU | 21-7  | H   | 1998  | AU  | 59-37 | A |
|   |                                      | 1969                                      | AU | 20-0  | A   | 1999  | AU  | 26-22 | H |
|   |                                      | 1974                                      | AU | 28-10 | H   | 2002  | FSU | 30-8  | H |
|   |                                      |   |    |       |     | 2003  | FSU | 17-10 | A |

**LAST MEETING – 2003:** Ferris State forced six Ashland turnovers and concluded the game with an impressive goal line stand to register a 17-10 victory at AU's Community Stadium in Ashland, Ohio. Ashland, which outgained Ferris in total offense by a 318 to 135-yard margin, committed five fumbles with one pass intercepted. With just over a minute remaining in the contest, AU drove to the FSU two-yard line but came away unsuccessful in four-scoring attempts. The Eagles moved the ball to the Ferris' one-yard line on successive running plays and then attempted two passes into the end zone which were incomplete as the Bulldogs took over on downs and proceeded to run out the clock. The Eagles struck with 6:57 left in the first quarter as AU kicker Austin Wellock's 48-yard field goal gave the hosts a 3-0 lead. Ferris was able to match on Tom Perez's 26-yard field goal with 1:07 remaining in the opening quarter. The Bulldogs claimed the lead for good at 8:42 of the second quarter as Ashland fumbled a FSU punt at its own two-yard line which split end Rob Giles promptly recovered in the end zone to give Ferris a 10-3 halftime lead. Ferris then posted another fumble recovery for a TD in the second half as middle linebacker Luke Piepkow picked up a fumble and ran 18 yards for the score with 5:42 left in the third quarter. AU had sliced the Bulldogs' lead to seven points (17-10) with 4:44 remaining in the game on a one-yard TD run by running back Joe Provenzano. Offensively, quarterback Tom Marsan completed 15-of-25 passes for 103 yards while flanker Carlton Brewster had five catches for 62 yards. AU's wide receiver Michael Hull posted a game-high 12 receptions for 162 yards while quarterback Nick Strance passed for 173 yards. Ashland, which was paced by linebacker Devin Conwell's 12 tackles, held FSU tailback Derek Fudge to 44 yards rushing on 20 carries. Defensive tackle Whitney Bell totaled 15 tackles for Ferris, which also received 14-tackle efforts from outside linebacker Kevin Myers and Piepkow.

**INTERNET COVERAGE:** All 2004 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](http://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](http://www.ferris.edu/sports/bulldogwebcasts).

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**2004 GLIAC STANDINGS**

|                      | GLIAC    |          |             |             | OVERALL  |          |             |             |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
|                      | W        | L        | Pct.        | PF PA       | W        | L        | Pct.        | PF PA       |
| Gannon               | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 43 37       | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 43 37       |
| Grand Valley State   | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 24 6        | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 24 6        |
| Hillsdale            | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 49 43       | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 49 43       |
| Michigan Tech        | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 45 6        | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 45 6        |
| Northwood            | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 24 21       | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 24 21       |
| Ashland              | 0        | 0        | .000        | 0 0         | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 48 7        |
| Findlay              | 0        | 0        | .000        | 0 0         | 1        | 0        | 1.000       | 40 21       |
| <b>Ferris State</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>.000</b> | <b>6 24</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>.000</b> | <b>6 24</b> |
| Indianapolis         | 0        | 1        | .000        | 43 49       | 0        | 1        | .000        | 43 49       |
| Mercyhurst           | 0        | 1        | .000        | 37 43       | 0        | 1        | .000        | 37 43       |
| Northern Michigan    | 0        | 1        | .000        | 6 45        | 0        | 1        | .000        | 6 45        |
| Saginaw Valley State | 0        | 1        | .000        | 21 24       | 0        | 1        | .000        | 21 24       |
| Wayne State          | 0        | 0        | .000        | 0 0         | 0        | 0        | .000        | 0 0         |

**LAST WEEK'S RESULTS**

Gannon 43, at Mercyhurst 37 OT\*  
 Northwood 24, at Saginaw Valley State 21\*  
 at Michigan Tech 45, Northern Michigan 6\*  
**Grand Valley State 24, at Ferris State 6\***  
 at Hillsdale 49, Indianapolis 43 4 OT\*  
 Findlay 40, at Tiffin (Ohio) 21  
 at Ashland 48, St. Joseph's (Ind.) 7

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 4**

Wayne State at Northwood\*, 12 p.m.  
 Northern Michigan at Mercyhurst\*, 1:30 p.m.  
 Michigan Tech at Indianapolis\*, 2 p.m.  
**Ferris State at Ashland\*, 7 p.m.**  
 Grand Valley State at Gannon\*, 7 p.m.  
 Findlay at Hillsdale\*, 7 p.m.

**2004 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL**

| PLACE | TEAM                     | POINTS     |
|-------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1.    | Grand Valley State (8)   | 140        |
| 2.    | Saginaw Valley State (5) | 137        |
| 3.    | Northwood                | 107        |
| 4.    | <b>Ferris State</b>      | <b>101</b> |
| 5.    | Michigan Tech            | 88         |
| 6.    | Findlay                  | 84         |
| 7.    | Indianapolis             | 79         |
| 8.    | Hillsdale                | 72         |
| 9.    | Northern Michigan        | 66         |
| 10.   | Ashland                  | 41         |
| 11.   | Mercyhurst               | 36         |
| 12.   | Wayne State              | 33         |
| 13.   | Gannon                   | 30         |

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 dropped its 2004 season and conference opener to archival Grand Valley State 24-6 last Saturday night before a modern-day record 8,426 at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. FSU was hampered by seven turnovers, which included four interceptions. GVSU scored the first three times they held possession as running back Ryan Hukill accounted for the game's first score on a six-yard run at 6:37 of the opening quarter following a recovered fumble. The Lakers widened their lead to 14 points with 1:50 left in the frame as quarterback Cullen Finnerty hooked up with split end Demonte Collins on a 33-yard TD pass play as the visitors capitalized on a Bulldog miscue. GVSU tallied again in the proceeding quarter as Finnerty went into the endzone from one yard out at the 8:01 mark to cap off a 16-play, 91-yard drive as the Lakers claimed a 21-0 halftime advantage. The second half saw GVSU go up 24-0 as kicker Scott Greene hit a 37-yard field goal with 24 seconds to go in the third quarter. Ferris was able to hit paydirt with 10:24 left in the contest as junior flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** caught a 10-yard endzone corner pass from senior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**, who was 18-of-38 for 206 yards in passing but threw four interceptions. FSU, which was outgained 345 to 280 yards in total offense, was paced by Brewster's 12 receptions for 141 yards while senior tailback **Andrew Terry (Kentwood/Creston)** rushed for 75 yards on 24 attempts. GVSU running back Michael Tennessee ran for a game-high 159 yards on 39 carries while Finnerty threw for 164 yards on 17-of-23 passing. Senior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** led all tacklers with 26 total stops while sophomore middle linebacker **Mike Klobucher (Grand Haven/North Muskegon)** made 20 tackles and senior defensive end **John Hazle (St. Johns)** added 13 stops.

**BULLDOG BITES:** **Kevin Myers'** career-high 26 tackles (15 solos) against Grand Valley State was four shy of tying the school's single-game record held by John Sonntag vs. Eastern Illinois in 1974 (10/26). The 2003 All-

American had garnered 23 stops against Findlay last fall (11/1). Myers also tied a Top Taggart Field record for tackles in an outing which was initially set by Monty Brown versus Grand Valley State in 1991 (10/19).

☛ A crowd of 8,426 was present for last Saturday evening's contest against Grand Valley State, which established a new modern-day attendance mark. The figure surpasses the 8,000 spectators who attended the Bulldogs' 30-21 triumph over GVSU in 1995 (9/30). The all-time attendance mark was set in 1975 (10/4) when 12,545 fans watched FSU drop a 31-28 homecoming decision to Saginaw Valley State.

☛ Sophomore outside linebacker **Nick Maeder (Lake/Beal City)** will miss the remainder of the 2004 season as a result of an injury suffered against Grand Valley State in the third quarter. Maeder, a 2003 GLIAC All-Academic honoree, placed 14th among the team's tackles leaders a season ago with 22 stops (12 solo) in 10 contests.

☛ **Mike Klobucher** tallied a career-high 20 tackles (11 solo) versus Grand Valley State, bettering his previous best of 10 stops set twice last season – at GVSU (9/13) and vs. Northwood (10/4).

☛ **Carlton Brewster** attained double figures in receptions for the third time in his career with a game-leading 12 catches for a career-best 141 yards versus Grand Valley State. Brewster totaled 14 receptions for 100 yards at Michigan Tech last season (10/11) and had 10 grabs for 137 yards in the 2003 season finale against Indianapolis (11/15). A 2003 All-GLIAC Second-Team pick, Brewster currently is 11th among the Bulldogs' all-time receivers with 1,174 receiving yards on 105 catches in 22 career outings and is 70 yards away from tying Brian Busen (1995-98; 81 receptions for 1,244 yds.) for 10th place.

☛ The Bulldogs are now 39-50-5 (.441) in season openers and 8-16-1 (.340) in conference openers following their season-opening setback to Grand Valley State. FSU had won its two previous openers, both non-league affairs against Hillsdale – 33-21 at home (9/7/02) and 25-20 on the road (9/6/03).

☛ **Kevin Myers**, who was an honorable mention selection for the *D2Football.com* Pizza Hut Player of the Week (8/31) as a result of his game performance against GVSU, is within two tackles of tying Eric Wilcox (1986-89; 330 career stops) for 11th place on the program's all-time charts. Myers has accumulated 328 career tackles (189 solo) in 32 games while producing 17 career double-digit game tackle efforts, which included eight in 11 contests a season ago.

**PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS:** **Kevin Myers** and senior defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)** have been selected 2004 preseason All-Americans by various gridiron publications. Myers has received All-America recognition from *Street & Smith's*, *Football Gazette* and *D2Football.com* while Bell attained All-America plaudits from the *Football Gazette*. Both were 2003 first-team All-GLIAC performers.

**ROAD OPENERS:** FSU is 14-31-2 (.319) to date since 1920 and snapped a six-game losing string in such contests with a 25-20 triumph at Hillsdale last season (9/6). Prior to that season-opening encounter, the last time the Bulldogs won a road opener was in 1996 (8/29) with a 26-0 victory at Ashland.

**UNDER THE LIGHTS:** Ferris State is 26-39-4 (.406) in evening contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 9-18-2 (.345) on the road and 17-21-2 (.450) at home.

**UP NEXT:** Ferris State hosts the Hillsdale Chargers Saturday, Sept. 11, in a GLIAC matchup at Big Rapids, Mich. Kickoff for the Community Night contest is set for 7 p.m. (EDT) at FSU's Top Taggart Field.

**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  |
|---------|--------------------|---|
| Aug. 28 | Grand Valley State | Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Levi Slager, EPEP-Mike Klobucher |

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Sept. 4  | at Ashland                  |
| Sept. 11 | <b>Hillsdale</b>            |
| Sept. 18 | at Indianapolis             |
| Sept. 25 | at Mercyhurst               |
| Oct. 2   | <b>Findlay</b>              |
| Oct. 9   | at North Dakota             |
| Oct. 16  | at Northern Michigan        |
| Oct. 23  | <b>Michigan Tech</b>        |
| Oct. 30  | at Northwood                |
| Nov. 6   | <b>Saginaw Valley State</b> |

Home games listed in **bold**