

Football News Release



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**GRAND VALLEY STATE AT FERRIS STATE
AUGUST 23, 2004**

ATHLETICS HOTLINE: (231) 591-2375

GAME FACTS

**# 1 GRAND VALLEY STATE LAKERS
(0-0; 0-0 GLIAC)
AT
FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(0-0; 0-0 GLIAC)**

KICKOFF: 7 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Top 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 compiled a 6-5 overall mark and placed tied for fourth place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) with a 5-5 league record last season. 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).

Grand Valley State was 14-1 overall and placed second in the GLIAC with a 9-1 conference mark. The Lakers, under former head coach Brian Kelly, defended their national championship title in 2003 with a 10-3 win over North Dakota (12/13) in the NCAA-II Championship game at Florence, Ala. GVSU has competed in the national title contest the last three seasons – losing to North Dakota (17-14) in 2001 (12/8) before registering a 31-24 triumph over Valdosta (Ga.) State in 2002 (12/14).

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 10th season, 60-39-0 (.606) — (2-6-0 vs. Grand Valley State). Pierce has a 32-16-0 (.667) coaching mark in home games and is 20-16-0 (.556) in September contests.

GRAND VALLEY STATE – Chuck Martin (Millikin, 1990), 1st season, 0-0-0 (.000) – (0-0-0 vs. Ferris State). Martin was a GVSU assistant coach the last four years (2000-03) and served as the defensive coordinator on the 2003 national championship team.

2004 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

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

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 opens both the 2004 season and Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play this Saturday (Aug. 28) evening as the Bulldogs host nationally top-ranked and the two-time defending (2002-03) NCAA Division II National Champions the Grand Valley State University Lakers at Big Rapids, Mich.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce begins his 10th season at Ferris State this season and has a 60-39-0 career coaching record. Pierce has made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the second-best winning percentage (.606) 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: Grand Valley State holds a 19-12-1 lead over Ferris State in a series which started in 1971 (10/9) with a 57-0 FSU home victory. The Bulldogs are 1-4-1 in their last six home meetings. FSU had its 42-game unbeaten streak (40-0-2) snapped in 1996 (9/21) with a 36-17 loss at GVSU, which also halted the Bulldogs' 41-game MIFC unbeaten string (39-0-2) and 27-game conference win streak. Ferris State is 8-6-0 in contests decided by 10 points or less and 2-9-0 in games between 11 and 30 points. In the last seven meetings at Big Rapids, FSU is averaging 20.1 points (141 total) per game to GVSU's 33.4 points an outing (234) for a +13.3 points differential.

GVSU leads 19-12-1 (57-0* – 10/9/71)	1982	GV	38-35	H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 20.4 (652 pts.)	1983	GV	52-21	A
GVSU Scoring Avg.: 26.7 (853 pts.)	1984	FSU	13-11	H
Differential: +6.3 (GVSU)	1985	GV	27-21	H
Most Points in a GVSU Win: 63 (63-17* – 10/6/01)	1986	GV	30-22	A
Most Decisive Score: FSU 57 (57-0* – 10/9/71); GVSU 46 (63-17* – 10/6/01)	1987	GV	21-5	H
At Big Rapids: GVSU leads 10-5-1	1988	GV	36-20	A
At Allendale: GVSU leads 9-7-0	1989	GV	28-0	H
First Game: FSU 57, GVSU 0* (10/9/71)	1990	GV	42-12	A
Last FSU Win: 48-23 (11/13/99)	1991	GV	28-6	H
Last GVSU Win: 40-10 (9/13/03)	1992	FSU	23-0	A
Last Meeting in Big Rapids: GVSU 63, FSU 17* (10/6/01)	1993	Tie	17-17	H
Current Series Win Streak: 3 (GVSU 10/7/00 – 9/13/03)	1994	FSU	27-21	A
Longest Series Win Streak: 7 (GVSU 10/5/85 – 10/19/91)	1995	FSU	30-21	H
Most Points in a FSU Win: 57 (1981 GV 46-12 A)	1996	GV	36-17	A
	1997	GV	21-18	H
	1998	GV	56-53▲	H
	1999	FSU	48-23	A
	2000	GV	21-20	A
	2001	GV	63-17	H
	2003	GV	40-10	A

LAST MEETING – 2003: Grand Valley State recorded a 40-10 conference-opening victory over Ferris State before a GVSU Arend D. Lubbers Stadium-record crowd of 12,627 in Allendale, Mich. The Lakers scored on their opening drive as running back Michael Tennessee hit paydirt on a four-yard run. However, Ferris answered as tailback Andrew Terry returned a GVSU kickoff 59 yards to set up a game-tying TD as quarterback Tom Marsan hooked up with flanker Carlton Brewster on a 20-yard scoring pass at 8:48 of the first quarter. FSU went ahead 10-7 as kicker Tom Perez nailed a 34-yard field goal with 14:10 left in the second quarter. The Lakers 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 a 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 split end Andy Thwaites had three catches for 32 yards. Marsan threw for 86 yards on nine-of-23 passing while tailback Derek Fudge totaled 34 yards rushing on 17 carries. Middle linebacker Luke Piepkow paced the defense with 13 tackles, outside linebacker Kevin Myers had 12 and strong safety Vito Ciaramellano garnered 11 tackles.

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). Listeners who click on the Bulldog Athletics' webcast icon will be directed to the site at www.ferris.edu/sports/bulldogwebcasts.

– more –

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2003 GLIAC FINAL STANDINGS

GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF PA	W	L	Pct.	PF PA	
Saginaw Valley State	10	0	1.000	371 154	12	1	.923	437 187	
Grand Valley State	9	1	.900	426 149	14	1	.933	551 200	
Northwood	6	4	.600	293 220	6	5	.545	307 250	
Indianapolis	5	5	.500	243 361	6	5	.545	287 368	
Ferris State	5	5	.500	260 266	6	5	.545	285 286	
Findlay	5	5	.500	174 239	6	5	.545	225 270	
Michigan Tech	5	5	.500	352 321	5	5	.500	352 321	
Mercyhurst	4	6	.400	153 271	5	6	.455	183 292	
Hillsdale	4	6	.400	259 283	4	7	.364	279 308	
Northern Michigan	3	7	.300	263 347	3	8	.273	263 409	
Wayne State	2	8	.200	223 333	3	8	.273	261 354	
Ashland	2	8	.200	167 240	2	9	.182	173 252	

THURSDAY, AUG. 26
Gannon at Mercyhurst*, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 28
Northwood at Saginaw Valley State*, 12 p.m.
Northern Michigan at Michigan Tech*, 1 p.m.
Grand Valley State at Ferris State*, 7 p.m.
Indianapolis at Hillsdale*, 7 p.m.
Findlay at Tiffin (Ohio), 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's (Ind.) at Ashland, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
All Times are Eastern

2004 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Grand Valley State (8)	140
2.	Saginaw Valley State (5)	137
3.	Northwood	107
4.	Ferris State	101
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.

2003 SEASON OPENER: Ferris State tailback Derek Fudge rushed for a career-high 276 yards and scored two TD's, including the game winner on a 14-yard scamper with 4:15 left in the game as the Bulldogs pulled out a 25-20 season-opening non-conference road victory over Hillsdale. Ferris produced 545 yards in total offense while HC had 227 yards as FSU's defense held the Chargers to 102 yards rushing. Quarterback Tom Marsan was 17-of-30 in passing for 231 yards and a TD while flanker Brandis Bowie caught seven aeriels for 127 yards and a TD. Linebacker Kevin Myers' 15 tackles spearheaded the defensive unit, which also received 13 stops from linebacker Luke Piepkow and 10 by defensive end John Hazle.

BULLDOG BITES: Ferris State returns 36 letterwinners from last season's squad, including 14 starters – six on offense, seven on defense and one on special teams.

Ferris State will dedicate the 2004 season to the memory of guard **Ben Willard (Jackson)**, who died May 27 as a result of injuries substained in an automobile accident near his hometown. Willard, who donned jersey #54, was redshirted as a freshman last season during his initial FSU year.

Senior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**, who presently ranks fifth among FSU's all-time passing yard leaders with 5,870 yards (503-938) in 30 career games, has thrown for over 1,500 yards in each of his three previous campaigns. Last season, Marsan passed for 1,983 yards (13th best in school history) and 12 TD's in 11 outings. He also totaled six 200-yard or more single-game passing performances in 2003, which included a season-best 297-yard, three TD effort at Michigan Tech (10/11).

Amp **Campbell**, who was an assistant coach at Urbana (Ohio) last two seasons (2002-03), is the newest addition to the Bulldog coaching ranks and joined the staff in March. At FSU, Campbell will coach the defensive backs while serving as both the special teams and recruiting coordinator. He replaces Darrell Perkins, who accepted an assistant position at NCAA-IAA Charleston (S.C.) Southern in January. A four-year letterwinner (1996-99) at Michigan State, Campbell overcame a life-threatening neck injury in 1998 to earn *Associated Press* All-America Third-Team and All-Big Ten Conference First-Team plaudits in 1999.

Senior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)**, an unanimous All-America pick in 2003, accumulated a career-high and conference-best

141 tackles (87 solo) in 11 games last fall to rank 13th on FSU's all-time single-season leaders list. He finished second nationally in solo tackles (7.9 avg.), fourth in total tackles (12.8 avg.), and fourth in forced fumbles (0.45 avg.). In 31 career games, Myers has amassed 302 tackles (174 solo) to rank 14th among the school's career leaders.

Senior defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)**, who garnered *Football Gazette* All-America Second-Team kudos in 2003, claimed a career-high 99 tackles (64 solo) in 10 contests last season. He paced all GLIAC linemen in tackles with 9.9 stops per game while placing sixth nationally in solo tackles (6.4 avg.), 25th in tackles for loss (1.7 avg.), 33rd in pass sacks (0.7 avg.) and 43rd in total tackles (9.9 avg.).

PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS: Kevin Myers and Whitney Bell 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 first-team All-GLIAC performers a season ago.

SEASON OPENERS: The contest versus Grand Valley State represents the 94th season opener for Ferris State since 1900 (*no scores available 1912 & 1916*). The Bulldogs are 39-49-5 (.446) in season-opening contests and have won nine of their last 15 openers. FSU is 4-5 in such games under head coach Jeff Pierce with the first two being Bulldog victories – 20-13 vs. Ashland (9/9/95) and 26-0 at Ashland (8/29/96). Ferris then dropped five straight – 26-7 vs. Ashland (8/28/97), 17-10 at Winona State (9/5/98), 55-35 at North Dakota State (9/2/99), 24-13 at Indiana, Pa. (9/2/00) and 34-24 at South Dakota State (9/1/01) before registering a 33-21 home victory over Hillsdale in 2002 (9/7) and a 25-20 win at Hillsdale last season (9/6). Ferris is 38-37-4 (.506) in home openers dating back to 1920, which includes an 8-6-0 mark since 1990. The Bulldogs are 7-4 in their last 11 home-opening encounters.

CONFERENCE OPENERS: FSU is 8-15-1 (.354) in conference openers since 1980 and sports a 4-9-0 home ledger in those games during that period.

UNDER THE LIGHTS: Ferris has compiled a 26-38-4 (.412) record in evening contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 17-20-2 (.462) at home and 9-18-2 (.345) on the road.

ANCHOR BONE TROPHY: The Anchor Bone Trophy, sponsored by Huntington Bank, is awarded annually to the winner of the Ferris State-Grand Valley State football game. The traveling trophy debuted in 2002.

BULLDOG CAPTAINS NAMED: Serving as the 2004 captains will be senior guard **Jeff Williams (West Branch/Ogemaw Heights)** and **Tom Marsan** on offense while **Whitney Bell** and **Kevin Myers** will lead the defense.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2004: The GLIAC has expanded to 13 teams this season as the Gannon Golden Knights embark on their inaugural GLIAC campaign. Also GLIAC-member schools will begin competing this fall in the newly-formed Northwest Region, which is comprised of teams from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate, North Central and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conferences along with six independents as mandated by the NCAA Division II Football Committee. The GLIAC had previously competed in the NCAA-II Northeast Region since 1990. The NCAA-II Committee also has expanded the postseason playoffs from 16 to 24 teams with six teams from each region competing in the championship as each region's top two teams will receive a first-round playoff bye.

UP NEXT: Ferris State is on the road next Saturday, Sept. 4, taking on the Ashland Eagles in Ashland, Ohio. Opening kickoff for the GLIAC contest is slated for 7 p.m. (EDT) at AU's Community Stadium.

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	
Sept. 4	at Ashland	
Sept. 11	Hillsdale	
Sept. 18	at Indianapolis	
Sept. 25	at Mercyhurst	
Oct. 2	Findlay	
Oct. 9	at North Dakota	
Oct. 16	at Northern Michigan	
Oct. 23	Michigan Tech	
Oct. 30	at Northwood	
Nov. 6	Saginaw Valley State	
Home games listed in bold		