



Ferris State Men's Basketball

December 1, 2003

Contact: Rob Bentley, Assistant Athletics Communications Director
Office: (231) 591-3821/2336; **Home:** (231) 796-1178; **Email:** bentleyr@ferris.edu
Website: www.ferris.edu/sports; **Athletics Hotline:** (231) 591-2375

Ferris Returns To Action With Two League Games This Week

FERRIS AT A GLANCE:

The Ferris State University men's basketball team returns to action following a 12-day layoff this Thursday (Dec. 4) versus Findlay in UF's Croy Gymnasium at Findlay, Ohio. The contest, which is the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) opener for both teams, is set for a 7:30 p.m. (EST) start. FSU will then visit Ashland Saturday (Dec. 6) for a 3 p.m. (EST) league tilt in AU's Kates Gymnasium at Ashland, Ohio.

A LOOK BACK: Ferris posted an 0-2 mark in the Cornerstone Raymond James Classic held Nov. 21-22 in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Bulldogs dropped a 74-73 decision to St. Xavier (Ill.) in Friday's (Nov. 21) tournament opener at Byron Center High School before falling 81-77 to host Cornerstone in Saturday's (Nov. 22) consolation game at CU's Bernice Hansen Athletics Center. Senior guard **Willie Thomas (Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy)** tallied a game-high 26 points versus Cornerstone and had 11 points against the Cougars. Freshman forward **Michael Daniels (Detroit/Murray-Wright)** also recorded two double-figure scoring performances with 14 points and 10 points against CU and SXU, respectively. FSU is presently 0-4 overall to date this campaign.

LAST SEASON: Ferris State concluded the 2002-03 campaign with an 11-15 overall mark and a fourth-place 7-11 GLIAC North Division finish. Both Ferris' overall record and league finish represented the program's best marks since the Bulldogs finished 21-12 overall and claimed the 1997-98 GLIAC Tournament championship.

THE BULLDOG TRADITION: The 2003-04 campaign marks the 76th season of Bulldog men's basketball. The program began in 1925 although Ferris did not field a team from 1942-45 due to World War II. FSU has compiled a 878-826 (.515) all-time mark. The Bulldogs have won nine GLIAC titles, made six NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and reached the 1988 NCAA-II Elite Eight. Ferris captured a league-record four consecutive GLIAC titles from 1986-90.

HEAD COACH BILL SALL: A 1994 Calvin graduate, second-year FSU head coach **Bill Sall** previously held assistant coaching positions at Calvin (1992-95), Ferris State (1995-98) and Hillsdale (1998-02) prior to being named Ferris State's 11th head coach. The Zeeland, Mich., native served as Ferris' interim head coach for a portion of the 1995-96 campaign and led the Bulldogs to a 5-8 mark. Before joining the coaching ranks, Sall was a standout player at Calvin from 1985-90. He twice (1989-90) received second-team National Association of Basketball Coaches Division III All-America honors and led Calvin to three MIAA championships, four NCAA-III Tournament bids and the 1990 NCAA-III Final Four. Sall has a current 16-27 (.372) career coaching mark. He is 6-19 (.240) on the road and is 9-14 (.391) in GLIAC outings to date.

ON THE ROAD: FSU is 336-295 (.532) overall since 1980-81 and sports a 159-200 (.443) record in road/neutral site contests during that span. Ferris was 5-9 (.357) on the road last season.

FSU PICKED FOURTH: Ferris State was picked to finish fourth in the 2003-04 GLIAC North Division Preseason Coaches Poll. The Bulldogs totaled 17 points in the balloting by the GLIAC's head coaches. Each of the league's 13 head coaches ranked the teams in their respective

THIS WEEK

FSU at Findlay

Thursday, Dec. 4

7:30 p.m. (EST)

Croy Gymnasium (3,200)

Findlay, Ohio

FSU at Ashland

Saturday, Dec. 6

3 p.m. (EST)

Kates Gymnasium (3,000)

Ashland, Ohio

divisions, but were not allowed to vote for their own team. Northern Michigan was selected as the GLIAC North Division favorite with five first-place votes and 35 total points while Findlay took the top spot in the South Division with 25 points and five first-place votes.

A LOOK AT THE ROSTER: Ferris' 2003-04 roster includes two seniors, four juniors, two sophomores and seven freshmen. Eight of the 15 players are guards while the remaining seven are frontcourt players. Thirteen players hail from Michigan while two are from Ohio.

FSU ON THE INTERNET: Ferris State University Athletics' official web site can be found at www.ferris.edu/sports. The site features information on all of FSU's varsity athletics programs including rosters, statistics and more. The Bulldogs' 2003-04 yearbook is also available online.

GLIAC GAMES ON THE AIR: Ferris' 2003-04 league games will be carried live by local radio station WBRN-1460 AM. Selected league contests can also be accessed live this season via the internet by clicking the Bulldog Athletics Webcasts icon at www.ferris.edu/sports.

BETWEEN THE LINES: "Between The Lines", a weekly television program profiling Ferris State University Athletics, airs across northern Michigan on WFQX-Fox 33 every Saturday at 3:30 p.m. (ET). The 30-minute program is hosted by Phill Mooney and produced in the studios of the University's cable Channel 7. FSU men's basketball head coach **Bill Sall** will make appearances throughout the season. The show is also aired locally on the University's cable Channel 7 every Tuesday (7 p.m.) and Wednesday (8 p.m.).

GLANCING AT THE BULLDOGS: Ferris returns seven letterwinners and four starters from last season, including senior co-captains **Willie Thomas** and **Nathan Wruble (Harbor Beach)**. The Bulldogs' biggest loss was 6-10 center Adam Anderson, who is presently playing overseas in Egypt. The two-time team MVP earned All-GLIAC First-Team accolades last season after averaging a team-high 17.4 points per game.

NOT AN EASY OPENER: Ferris has dropped its league-opener 11 consecutive seasons to date. The Bulldogs, who had won seven-straight GLIAC openers prior to their current streak, last won its first league game in 1991-92 with a 77-66 home victory over Saginaw Valley State (1/4/92). FSU, which has lost each of its last six GLIAC openers to Findlay, is 7-12 (.368) in its first league tilt since the 1984-85 campaign. Ferris has dropped five consecutive league-opener on the road.

THE NEXT LEAGUE GAME: The Bulldogs are 5-4 (.556) in their second league game since the 1994-95 campaign. Ferris, which has lost its second league game four-straight seasons to date, is currently 11-8 (.579) overall in its second GLIAC contest since the 1984-85 season. The Bulldogs fell to Gannon 73-62 in their second league encounter last season (12/5/02) at Erie, Pa.

2003-04 QUICK FACTS

Location:	Big Rapids, Mich.
Founded:	1884
Enrollment:	11,822
Nickname:	Bulldogs
Colors:	Crimson & Gold
Affiliation:	NCAA Division II
Conference:	Great Lakes Intercollegiate
President:	Dr. David L. Eisler
Athletics Director:	Tom Kirinovic
Asst. Athletics Director:	Brian Kegler
Head Trainer:	Dave Lucey, ATC
Assistant Trainer:	Tim Glover, ATC
Assistant Trainer:	Mike Blackburn, ATC
Equip. Manager:	Ben Mumah, E.M.,C.
Athletic Dep. Office:	(231) 591-2860
Athletic Dep. Fax:	(231) 591-2869
Head Coach:	Bill Sall
Alma Mater/Year:	Calvin/1994
Record at FSU/Year:	16-27/2nd
Career Record/Years:	Same
Office Phone:	(231) 591-2877
Assistant Coach:	Cory Anderson
Office Phone:	(231) 591-3820
Home Court:	Jim Wink Arena
Capacity:	2,400
2002-03 Overall Record:	11-15
2002-03 Conf. Record/Finish:	7-11/T-4th
All-Time Record:	878-826 (.515)
Letterwinners Ret./Lost:	Seven/Six
Website:	www.ferris.edu/sports

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
210 Sports Drive, SPC 001, Big Rapids, MI 49307-2741
Phone 231 591-2336/3821 FAX 231 591-3775



Ferris State Men's Basketball

Page 2

BULLDOG BITES

Junior guard **Carlton Epps (Benton Harbor)** has 117 career steals to date and needs eight more to tie Dannie Hayes (125; 1991-95) for fifth place on FSU's career steals leaders list Sophomore guard **Dennis Springs (Toledo, Ohio/Scott)** and **Willie Thomas** will both return to their native state of Ohio this weekend. The duo's only other appearance in their home state was an 80-77 setback at Ashland last season (1/11/03) The Bulldogs are averaging only 31.3 rebounds per contest after four games compared to last year's average of 38.5 rebounds in their initial four outings **Nathan Wruble** has 197 career points to date and is three shy of garnering his 200th career point The Bulldogs have held first-half leads of eight points or more in three of their four outings this campaign Ferris is shooting .378 (99-262) from the floor this campaign. Last season (2002-03), the Bulldogs totaled a .447 (118-264) field goal percentage in their opening four outings **Willie Thomas** has 83 career three-point field goals to date and is nine away from tying Richard Legreair (92; 1985-89) for 10th place on the school's career leaders chart. Thomas currently ranks as FSU's leading scorer (15.3 ppg) this campaign Junior guard **Corey Epps (Benton Harbor)** recorded his 100th career assist at Cornerstone Sophomore forward **Jeffery Shanahan (Flint/Kearsley)** registered a personal career-high 14 points versus CU Ferris has lost its last seven outings decided by six points or less dating back to last season FSU is in the midst of a season-opening six-game road swing. Twelve of Ferris' first 13 games are away from home.

LOOKING AHEAD: Ferris opens the home portion on its schedule Thursday, Dec. 11, against Lake Superior State at Big Rapids (Mich.) High School. Tipoff for the GLIAC tilt is set for 8 p.m. (EST). FSU will then visit Saginaw Valley State Saturday, Dec. 13, for a 3 p.m. (EST) league encounter in SVSU's O'Neill Arena at University Center, Mich.

A Look At The Opponents

FINDLAY: The Oilers maintain a 6-2 series edge heading into Thursday's meeting and defeated Ferris 79-72 in the last meeting (11/30/02) at Big Rapids, Mich. UF, which has won six consecutive series' contests, is presently 4-1 overall after recording a 75-66 non-conference win last Saturday (Nov. 29) at Salem International (W.Va.). Findlay's only loss this season was a 64-50 setback at NCAA Division I Bowling Green State last Tuesday (Nov. 25). The Oilers, who are coached by 19th-year head coach Ron Niekamp, were 23-8 overall during the 2002-03 campaign and advanced to the NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament semifinal round following a first-place 13-4 GLIAC South Division finish. Junior guard Tyson McGlaughlin is the leading scorer (14.2 ppg) to date for Findlay, which was picked to finish first in the 2003-04 GLIAC South Division Preseason Coaches Poll and ninth in the *Division II Bulletin* Preseason National Rankings.

ASHLAND: The series is tied 5-5 entering Saturday's meeting. However, AU has won four consecutive series' contests and defeated Ferris 80-77 in the last meeting (1/11/03) at Ashland, Ohio. Ashland is presently 3-2 overall heading into this Thursday's (Dec. 4) GLIAC home opener versus Grand Valley State after claiming a 95-83 non-league victory at West Virginia Wesleyan last Saturday (Nov. 29). The Eagles, who have won three consecutive outings to date this campaign under 11th-year head coach Roger Lyons, were 16-11 overall during the 2002-03 campaign and compiled a fourth-place 8-9 GLIAC South Division finish. AU, which is led in scoring by junior guard Michael Fowler (15.5 ppg), was picked to finish sixth in the 2003-04 GLIAC South Division Preseason Coaches Poll. FSU head coach **Bill Sall** holds a 1-1 career coaching mark to date versus AU.

2003-04 FSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Hometown/High School (College)
#3	Dennis Springs	G	So.	5-6	135	1L	Toledo, Ohio/Scott (Bowling Green State)
#4	Joe DeMartin	G	Fr.	6-1	160	HS	Mason, Mich.
#10	David Clarke	G	Jr.	5-11	177	1L	Harbor Springs, Mich. (Siena Heights)
#12	Terrance Shaw	F	Fr.	6-5	210	HS	Saginaw, Mich./Bridgeport
#14	Reggie Prince	G	Fr.	5-9	165	HS	Saginaw, Mich./Buena Vista
#20	Corey Epps	G	Jr.	6-2	175	2L	Benton Harbor, Mich.
#22	Carlton Epps	G	Jr.	6-2	170	2L	Benton Harbor, Mich.
#23	Michael Daniels	F	Fr.	6-6	210	HS	Detroit, Mich./Murray-Wright
#30	Jeffery Shanahan	F	So.	6-6	205	1L	Flint, Mich./Kearsley
#32	Willie Burrel	F	Jr.	6-6	185	T	Muskegon Heights, Mich. (Muskegon CC)
#33	C.J. Van Wieren	G/F	Fr.	6-4	215	HS	Holland, Mich./West Ottawa
#34	Willie Thomas (C)	G	Sr.	6-4	170	1L	Columbus, Ohio/Eastmoor Academy (Muskegon CC)
#42	Nathan Wruble (C)	F/C	Sr.	6-7	225	3L	Harbor Beach, Mich.
#44	John Terrell	F/C	Fr.	6-7	210	R	Muskegon, Mich.
#54	Adam Veltkamp	F/C	Fr.	6-8	200	HS	Cedar Springs, Mich.

Head Coach: Bill Sall, second year (Calvin, 1994)
Volunteer Assistant Coaches: Bill Killian, Jim Lake
 HS - High School T - Transfer (C) - Captain

Assistant Coach: Cory Anderson
Basketball Consultant: Dean Davenport

2003-04 Season Trends

SITUATION	.FSU RECORD
At home	0-0
On the road	0-3
At neutral sites	0-1
Shoot over 50% from floor	0-0
Shoot less than 50% from floor	0-4
Opponent shoots over 50% from floor	0-3
Opponent shoots less than 50%	0-1
Has higher shooting percentage	0-0
Shoot over 70% from free throw line	0-2
Shoot less than 70% from line	0-2
Opponent shoots over 70% from line	0-1
Opponent less than 70% from line	0-3
Has higher free throw percentage	0-2
Shoot over 30% from three-point line	0-3
Shoot less than 30% from 3-pt. line	0-1
Opponent over 30% from 3-pt. line	0-4
Opponent less than 30% from 3-pt. line	0-0
Has higher 3-pt. percentage	0-0
Has more assists	0-1
Opponent has more assists	0-3
Assists are equal	0-0
Has more turnovers	0-1
Opponent has more turnovers	0-3
Turnovers are equal	0-0
Has more steals	0-4
Opponent has more steals	0-0
Steals are equal	0-0
Has more blocks	0-1
Opponent has more blocks	0-1
Blocks are equal	0-2
In November	0-4
In December	0-0
In January	0-0
In February	0-0
On Monday	0-1
On Tuesday	0-0
On Wednesday	0-0
On Thursday	0-0
On Friday	0-1
On Saturday	0-2
On Sunday	0-0
In afternoon games	0-0
In evening games	0-4
Against ranked teams	0-2
In non-conference games	0-4
In conference games	0-0
In non-conf. games vs. conf. teams	0-0
Attendance under 500	0-2
Attendance over 500	0-2
Has over 25 personal fouls	0-0
Opponent has over 25 personal fouls	0-0
In tournament games	0-2
Against in-state foes	0-2
Against out of state teams	0-2
Against teams with winning records	0-2
Against teams with losing records	0-0
Against teams with even records	0-2
When leading at halftime	0-1
When trailing at halftime	0-2
Three or more reach double-figures	0-4
In overtime game	0-0
Game margin is 1-5 points	0-2
Game margin 5-10 points	0-0
Game margin over 10 points	0-2

