



Ferris State Men's Basketball

February 28, 2005

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FSU Wins GLIAC Championship; Will Host Tournament Game Tuesday

FERRIS AT A GLANCE:

The Ferris State University men's basketball team opens the 2004-05 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament with a quarterfinal round game this Tuesday (March 1) versus Northern Michigan at FSU's Jim Wink Arena in Big Rapids, Mich. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. (EST). Ferris is seeded first in the division with NMU fourth.

GLIAC CHAMPIONS: Ferris State claimed its second-straight GLIAC North Division Regular-Season

Championship with a 72-68 win over Michigan Tech this past Saturday (Feb. 26) in Houghton, Mich. FSU, which is currently 21-5 overall and 13-5 in league play, has won 10 consecutive contests to date this campaign. The Bulldogs also defeated Northern Michigan 74-65 in Thursday's (Feb. 24) first contest of the trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula at Marquette, Mich. This season marks the first time the Bulldogs have swept both Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan on the road in the same season since the 1988-89 campaign.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Live internet statistics for Tuesday's game can be found by clicking on the "Live Stats" icon at www.ferris.edu/sports. No local radio or internet coverage is currently slated for Tuesday's game due to the Bulldog women's tournament road contest being broadcast from Ashland at 7 p.m. (EST). However, Tuesday's game is tentatively slated to be aired through the NMU Athletics Website at www.nmu.edu/sports with Adam Hamari calling the play-by-play action. Additional FSU tournament coverage beyond Tuesday's game will be announced later in the week.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for the tournament contest at Wink Arena are \$5 for adults and \$2 for both Ferris State students with identification and youth up to age 18. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the FSU Athletics Ticket Office at (231) 591-2888 or will be sold at the door.

THE TOURNEY FIELD: The other quarterfinal round games include Michigan Tech (#3 seed North) at Grand Valley State (#2 seed North), Hillsdale (#4 seed South) at Findlay (#1 seed South) along with Gannon (#3 seed South) at Wayne State (#2 seed South). The GU-WSU game will also take place Tuesday at 7 p.m. (EST) with the HC-UF contest slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. (EST) and the MTU-GVSU tilt set to start at 8 p.m. (EST). The semifinals and finals will be held Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, at the site of the highest remaining seed. FSU is seeded second overall and would need a victory along with a Findlay loss in the quarterfinals to host the final four.

ANOTHER LEAGUE TITLE: Ferris won its 11th GLIAC title with last Saturday's win at Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs have presently won more league crowns than any other conference member. FSU had not won a GLIAC championship since 1994-95 prior to last season's (2003-04) initial title run under head coach **Bill Sall**.

REGIONALLY-RANKED: Ferris is ranked third in the latest (Feb. 23) NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional rankings. The Bulldogs are currently 15-5 versus regional teams this campaign. Findlay holds the top spot in the regional poll with Southern Indiana currently listed second. The Great Lakes Region consists of all GLIAC and Great Lakes Valley Conference schools.

NATIONALLY-RANKED: FSU entered the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC)/Division II Bulletin Top 25 Poll in the 24th spot last week (Feb. 23), marking the school's first national ranking since the 1988-89 campaign. The Bulldogs are one of only two league schools ranked in the poll along with third-ranked Findlay. Ferris had not been ranked prior to the current poll since holding down the number one spot in the final poll of the 1988-89 season (March 6, 1989). The current national listing represents the 18th time the program has been ranked in the Division II poll.

GLIAC TOURNEY GAME

**Northern Michigan
(13-14, 8-10 GLIAC)**

at

**Ferris State
(21-5, 13-5 GLIAC)**

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

7 p.m. (EST)

Jim Wink Arena (2,400)

Big Rapids, Mich.

Bowie State (Md.) holds the top position in the latest rankings followed by Kennesaw State (Ga.), Findlay, Metropolitan State (Colo.) and Southern Indiana in the top five. Ferris received 20 points in the poll after previously being listed among other teams receiving votes several times this year.

LAST SEASON: Ferris State, which also claimed the 2003-04 GLIAC North Division Regular-Season Championship, finished the 2003-04 campaign with a 14-14 overall record and a 14-4 league mark.

HEAD COACH BILL SALL: A 1994 Calvin graduate, third-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 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAA) championships, four NCAA-III Tournament bids and the 1990 NCAA-III Final Four. Sall has a current 51-42 (.548) career mark and picked up his 50th career win with last Thursday's triumph at NMU.

THE BULLDOG TRADITION: The 2004-05 campaign marks the 77th 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 913-841 (.521) all-time mark. The Bulldogs have won 11 GLIAC titles, made six NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and reached the 1988 NCAA-II Elite Eight. Ferris, which captured a league-record four consecutive GLIAC titles from 1986-90, notched its 900th all-time win this season with a 110-104 overtime triumph over Indianapolis (Dec. 21) in the Lions Club Holiday Classic at FSU.

FSU PICKED SECOND: Ferris State was picked to finish second in the 2004-05 GLIAC North Division Preseason Coaches Poll. The Bulldogs totaled 32 points along with two first-place votes in the balloting conducted by the conference's head coaches. Michigan Tech was selected as the North Division favorite while Findlay took the top spot in the South Division.

JIM WINK ARENA: Ferris has recorded a 34-37 (.479) overall record to date in home contests at Jim Wink Arena, including a 23-31 (.426) mark in league play. The 2,400-seat facility replaced Old Jim Wink Arena, which was converted into the current Student Recreation Center after the 1997-98 season. FSU is 14-1 (.933) at home this year.

ON THE ROAD: Ferris is 370-310 (.544) overall since 1980-81 and sports a 171-212 (.446) record in road/neutral site contests during that span. The Bulldogs are 7-4 (.636) on the road this season.

SCHOOL RECORD: Ferris posted a school-record 14th home victory this season versus Northwood (Feb. 19). This season also represents the first time Ferris has won 10 or more home games in a season since the 1995-96 campaign (13-1). It is only the third time in the last 17 years FSU has achieved 10 or more home wins. The Bulldogs have won 20 of their past 22 games in Wink Arena.

2004-05 QUICK FACTS

Location:	Big Rapids, Mich.
Founded:	1884
Enrollment:	11,803
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:	51-42/Third
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
2004-05 Overall Record:	14-14
2004-05 Conf. Record/Finish:	14-4/1st-N
All-Time Record:	913-841 (.521)
Letterwinners Ret./Lost:	Eight/Five
Website:	www.ferris.edu/sports

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

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BULLDOG BITES

FSU's current 326 steals this campaign ranks as the program's best-ever single-season performance to date

Junior guard Dennis Springs (Toledo, Ohio/Scott) needs nine more assists to tie Tim Herman's school single-season record of 186 assists set in 1977-78.

Senior guard Carlton Epps (Benton Harbor) is nine three-pointers shy of matching Willie Thomas' single-season best of 91 treys a year ago.

Carlton Epps presently has 82 steals to date this season and has passed Day Smith's single-season record of 69 thefts recorded back in 1997-98.

Corey Epps recorded his 800th career point at NMU and needs five rebounds to garner his 300th career board.

GLIAC TOURNEY HISTORY: The Bulldogs, who made their first league tourney appearance since 1997-98 a year ago, are 4-8 all-time in six previous tournament appearances following last season's 72-71 quarterfinal round home loss to Northwood (3/2/04) in Wink Arena ...

ON CAMPUS AGAIN: The GLIAC Tourney remains on campus sites this season for the third year in a row.

NCAA REGIONAL INFO: The winner of this season's GLIAC Tournament will receive the league's automatic berth into the NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Tournament slated for March 12-15 at a site to be determined.

MORE BULLDOG BITES: Ferris has totaled more turnovers than its opponent only once this season, which came in an 84-56 non-league road win at Alma (Dec. 28) ...

A Look At The Opponent

NORTHERN MICHIGAN: NMU holds a 62-40 advantage heading into Tuesday's 103rd encounter. FSU has won five of the last six meetings, however, including a 74-65 victory last Thursday (Feb. 24) in Marquette, Mich.

2004-05 FSU MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

Table with columns: No., Name, Pos., Yr., Ht., Wt., Exp., Hometown/High School (College). Lists 54 players including Dennis Springs, Jesse York, Antwan Holt, etc.

Head Coach: Bill Sall, third year (Calvin, 1994) Assistant Coach: Cory Anderson (Ferris State, 1999) Volunteer Assistant Coaches: Bill Killian, Jim Lake, Dave Schlump

2004-05 Season Trends

Table with columns: SITUATION, FSU RECORD. Lists trends such as At home (14-1), On the road (7-4), Shoot over 50% from floor (7-1), etc.

