

Football News

Release

For Immediate Release
November 18, 2002



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2002 FERRIS STATE FOOTBALL TEAM AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Defensive Lineman Named Most Valuable Player; 11 Seniors Honored At Annual Post-Season Awards Banquet

Big Rapids, Mich. – Senior defensive tackle **Jason Feasel (Ceresco/Battle Creek Harper Creek)** highlighted the list of award recipients at the 2002 Ferris State University Football Awards Banquet Sunday as the lineman was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. The annual event was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids, Mich.

Ferris State concluded the 2002 season at 5-5 overall while placing sixth in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) with a 4-5 league mark under eighth-year head coach **Jeff Pierce**.

The 6-4, 268-pound Feasel registered a career-high 73 tackles (43 solos) this season while placing fourth among the team's tackle leaders. He also shared top team honors in tackles for loss with 15 for minus 68 yards, which included 10 quarterback sacks for 62 yards. The lineman chalked up a team-high 16 quarterback hurries and had two pass deflections. Feasel was named the GLIAC's Defensive Player of the Week following his nine tackles (four sacks for minus 25 yards) in the Bulldogs' 24-3 victory over nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State (10/26). He recorded a career-high 14 tackles (10 solo) at Indianapolis (11/16) in Ferris' season finale. In addition to receiving MVP honors, Feasel was selected as the team's co-Most Valuable Defensive Lineman.

Senior defensive end **Bo Moore (Montrose)** shared Most Valuable Defensive Lineman Award honors as a result of notching 35 tackles (25 solos) to place 10th best on the squad while registering 15 tackles for loss (88 yards), including a team-high tying 10 sacks for minus 74 yards. Moore is currently tied for sixth nationally among the NCAA Division II's pass sack leaders while Feasel is tied for 11th. Junior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** was presented with the Most Valuable Offensive Skill Player after eclipsing the 1,000-yard single-season rushing mark for the second time in his career. The 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year gained 1,016 yards on 233 carries with 10 touchdowns in 10 games this fall which marked the 10th highest single-season rushing output in school history. He also caught a career-high and team-leading 44 passes for 386 yards. Fudge, who finished this campaign with five straight 100-yard plus game rushing performances, presently ranks fourth on Ferris' all-time rushing list with 2,792 career yards on 625 attempts. The Rich Currie EPEP (*Every Player, Every Play*) Award went to senior outside linebacker **Adam Riley (Corunna)**, who had 23 stops (14 solos) in 10 contests and placed 13th among the squad's leading tacklers. Senior tackle **Justin Giordano (Memphis)**, a three-year starter and an All-GLIAC First-Team honoree last season, earned the Eric Bennett Memorial Award as the team's Most Valuable Offensive Lineman for the second consecutive season. He started all 10 contests and was instrumental in helping a Ferris offense maintain a nationally-ranked 242.9 yards in passing offense.

Senior cornerback **DeRen Ellis (Detroit/Harper Woods Notre Dame)** earned the Most Valuable Defensive Skill Player Award for the second straight year with 30 tackles (eighth on team) and a team-best five pass interceptions for 101 yards in 10 contests. The three-time All-GLIAC defender concluded his career ranked third among FSU's all-time interception leaders with 14 pass thefts for 227 yards and two touchdowns in 38 outings. The Most Improved Offensive Player Award was presented to sophomore guard **Jeff Williams (West Branch/Ogemaw Heights)**, who started all 10 games at right guard in his first season on offense after switching from defensive tackle in spring practice. Sophomore defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)**, the recipient of the Most Improved Defensive Player Award, made the most of his initial season in a starting capacity by setting personal career highs in virtually every statistical category. Bell, who totaled four tackles in 11 outings a season ago, finished sixth in team tackles with 62 hits (31 solos) to go along with 10 tackles for a loss of 35 yards. He garnered a career-best 10 tackles apiece in road encounters versus Northwood (10/5) and Mercyhurst (10/19).

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2002 Ferris State Football Team Award Winners Announced – Add One

The Special Teams Player of the Year Award was given to redshirt freshman flanker-returner **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)**. Brewster returned 18 kickoffs for a team-leading 299 yards and had 28 punt returns for a team-high 253 yards. He was honored as the GLIAC's Specialty Teams Player of the Week with 104 yards on five punt returns, including an 89-yard touchdown return, versus Saginaw Valley State (10/26). Brewster also had 27 receptions for 288 yards and two touchdowns for the season. Redshirt frosh flanker **Dennis Cartwright (White Cloud)** and sophomore split end **Andy Thwaites (Stanton/Central Montcalm)** were co-recipients of the Outstanding Offensive Rookie Award. Cartwright was second in team receiving with 33 catches for 499 yards and two touchdowns in 10 games. He tallied a personal season-best eight receptions (127 yards) at Northwood (10/5) and his 133 yards on six catches against Saginaw Valley State (10/26) marked a season high. Thwaites totaled 411 yards in receiving on 32 grabs to go with three touchdowns. His best outing was eight catches for 82 yards and a 13-yard touchdown reception at Northwood (10/5).

Sophomore outside linebacker **Rob Mida (Chelsea)** was named the Outstanding Defensive Rookie after registering a personal career-high 92 tackles (43 solos) in 10 appearances this campaign, which was third highest among the team's tackles leaders. In his first year as a starter, Mida had three tackles for loss (18 yards) along with two pass interceptions (11 yards) and two fumble recoveries. He recorded double digits in tackles four times this season, including a career-best 17 stops at Northwood (10/5).

Receiving the Coaches Award for outstanding leadership were senior fullback **Brad Newell (Decatur)**, junior tackle-tight end **Matt McCoy (Charlotte)**, senior cornerback **Darrius Alexander (Detroit/Martin Luther King)** and senior defensive end **Michael King (Scotts/Vicksburg)**. Newell not only paved the way for Ferris' 1,000-yard plus rusher this season but caught five passes for 87 yards while McCoy proved to be a capable replacement at tackle after being moved from tight end early in the season due to a number of injuries suffered by offensive linemen. Alexander set a career high with 28 tackles (20 solos) in eight games and had a 17-yard interception return at Northern Michigan (9/21). King also turned in his most productive year as a Bulldog by racking up 50 tackles (27 solos) in nine contests to place seventh among the squad's leading tacklers. He also notched four tackles for minus 14 yards, eight quarterback hurries and recovered one fumble.

The Ken Hicks Pump Award (team spirit) went to senior free safety **Alvin Grier (Benton Harbor)**, who racked up 70 tackles (40 solo) and two pass thefts for 65 yards in 10 games this season. The three-time all-conference performer concluded his career with 305 tackles (183 solo) while finishing sixth all-time in pass interceptions at FSU with 11 total for 176 yards in 42 career contests. The Bill and Lynn Scheible Scholarship Award As Tomorrow's Team Offensive Player of the Year was awarded to freshman tailback **Devon Mitchell (Troy)** and frosh defensive end **Delvon Jackson (Madison Heights/Lamphere)** earned the Matt Sklom Memorial Tomorrow's Team Defensive Player of the Year Award.

The 11 seniors honored included cornerback **Darrius Alexander**, quarterback **Adam Burgess (Byron Center/Grand Rapids South Christian)**, cornerback **DeRen Ellis**, defensive tackle **Jason Feasel**, tackle **Justin Giordano**, free safety **Alvin Grier**, defensive end **Michael King**, defensive end **Bo Moore**, fullback **Brad Newell**, fullback **Dave Paulus (West Bloomfield/Orchard Lake St. Mary's)** and outside linebacker **Adam Riley**. Serving as team captains for the 2002 campaign on offense were **Newell** and **Giordano** while **Grier** and **Moore** captained the defense.

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