

Football News Release



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FERRIS STATE AT ASHLAND
NOVEMBER 3, 2003

GAME FACTS

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(5-4; 4-4 GLIAC)
AT
ASHLAND EAGLES
(2-8; 2-7 GLIAC)

KICKOFF: 1:25 p.m. (EST)
STADIUM/SURFACE: Community Stadium
(6,000)/Natural Grass.

RADIO COVERAGE: WBRN-AM (1460).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State improved to 5-4 overall and 4-4 in the GLIAC with a 36-29 conference triumph over Findlay last Saturday (Nov. 1) afternoon at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Ferris presently has won four of its last six contests. Last season, FSU went 5-5 overall and placed sixth in the GLIAC with a 4-5 conference record. The Bulldogs were picked fifth in the 2003 GLIAC Preseason Coaches Poll with 80 points. Ferris has won or shared the conference title six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Ashland dropped to 2-8 overall and 2-7 in the GLIAC following a 35-24 conference loss to Indianapolis last Saturday (Nov. 1) at AU's Community Stadium in Ashland, Ohio. The Eagles, who close out their 2003 season this Saturday versus Ferris State, have dropped two straight to date and are 1-4 in home outings this campaign. Last season, Ashland posted a 2-9 overall mark with an 11th-place 2-8 league record.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 59-38-0 (.608) — (3-3-0 vs. Ashland). In his FSU coaching career, Pierce is 27-23-0 (.540) in road games, 15-6-0 (.714) in November and 54-32-0 (.628) in GLIAC contests to date.

ASHLAND – Gary Keller (Bluffton, 1973), 10th season, 51-54-0 (.486) – (3-4-0 vs. Ferris State). Keller led the Eagles to a co-Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference (MIFC) championship title in 1997.

2003 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	W 25-20
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State*	L 10-40
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan* (HF)	L 14-26
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	W 29-16
Oct. 4	Northwood*	W 40-16
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	L 30-49
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst* (HC)	W 33-7
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State*	L 31-38
Nov. 1	Findlay*	W 36-29
Nov. 8	at Ashland*	1:25 p.m.
Nov. 15	Indianapolis*	1:30 p.m.

All times are Eastern

Home games in **Bold** *GLIAC Game
(HF) – Hall of Fame (HC) – Homecoming

THE GAME: The Ferris State University football team will conclude the road portion of its 2003 schedule this Saturday (Nov. 8) as the Bulldogs take on the Ashland University Eagles in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play at Ashland, Ohio.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is midst his ninth season at Ferris State and has a current 59-38-0 career record. Pierce holds the distinction of having the second-best winning percentage (.608) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is two wins shy of becoming FSU's winningest coach and would surpass Keith Otterbein (60-39-0, 1986-94). Under Pierce, 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 10-5-0 advantage over Ferris State in a series dating back to 1967. The Eagles started out the series winning the initial seven contests before FSU countered with a four-game win streak. AU has its three-game series winning string snapped last season (11/9) as the Eagles suffered a 30-8 loss at Ferris State. The Bulldogs have been victorious in two of the last three contests at Ashland, but suffered a 59-37 setback in its most recent meeting there in 1998 (10/17). Five of the 15 meetings have been decided by eight points or less and the Bulldogs are 2-3 in those outings.

Ashland leads 10-5-0	Longest Series Win Streak: 7	1974	AU	28-10	H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 15.9 (239 pts.)	(AU 10/7/67 – 9/12/92)	1975	AU	34-10	A
AU Scoring Avg.: 21.8 (327 pts.)	Most Points in a FSU Win: 30	1990	AU	22-20	A
Differential: +5.9 (AU)	(30-8 – 11/9/02)	1991	AU	35-7	H
At Ashland: AU leads 5-2-0	Most Points in a AU Win: 59	1992	AU	15-7	A
At Big Rapids: AU leads 5-3-0	(59-37 – 10/17/98)	1993	FSU	20-6	H
First Game: AU 21, FSU 7 (10/7/67)	Most Decisive Score: FSU 26	1994	FSU	16-14	A
Last FSU Win: 30-8* (11/9/02)	(26-0 – 8/29/96) AU 28 (35-7* –	1995	FSU	20-13	H
Last AU Win: 26-22* (10/16/99)	9/14/91)	1996	FSU	26-0	A
Last Meeting in Ashland:	* – Denotes FSU home game	1997	AU	26-7	H
AU 59, FSU 37 (10/17/98)		1998	AU	59-37	A
Current Series Win Streak: 1		1999	AU	26-22	H
(FSU 11/9/02)		2002	FSU	30-8	H
	1967	AU	21-7	H	
	1969	AU	20-0	A	

LAST MEETING – 2002: Ferris State registered a 30-8 conference victory over Ashland in the Bulldogs' regular-season home finale at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Tailback Derek Fudge had 250 total offensive yards and scored twice for Ferris, which held a 412-to-217-yard total offense advantage. Fudge finished the contest with a game-high 190 yards rushing on 28 carries and caught a team-best six passes for 60 yards. The Bulldogs opened the scoring with 12 minutes remaining in the first quarter on a 34-yard field goal by kicker Tom Perez to take a 3-0 lead after the first 15 minutes. Ferris proceeded to claim a 9-0 halftime lead as Fudge scored on a one-yard run to cap off an eight-play, 95-yard scoring drive with 4:34 left to go in the second quarter. FSU widened its advantage in the second half with 14 unanswered points to lead 23-0 after three quarters. Quarterback Tom Marsan hit split end Jessie Porter on an eight-yard scoring strike with 9:10 remaining in the stanza to finish a 12-play, 74-yard march. The Bulldogs then scored again less than five minutes later at the 4:24 mark as Fudge scampered 45 yards to the end zone. Ashland netted its only points at 10:23 of the fourth quarter on quarterback John Szabo's five-yard TD toss to wide receiver Trent Seay. However, Ferris scored again on a three-yard TD run by tailback Andrew Terry with 45 seconds left to account for the final margin. Terry added 49 yards on 11 carries while Marsan completed 18-of-34 passes for 169 yards. Split end Brandis Bowie chipped in with four receptions for 35 yards. For Ashland, Szabo was 20-of-35 in passing for 163 yards with flanker Kevin McMahon catching seven aerials for 69 yards. FSU's defense, which limited the Eagles to 54 yards rushing, was paced by outside linebacker Kevin Myers' game-high tying 15 tackles. Free safety Alvin Grier posted 10 stops while defensive tackle Whitney Bell had eight hits. Cornerback DeRen Ellis and strong safety Vito Ciaramellano each had a pass interception return of 31 and 18 yards, respectively.

INTERNET COVERAGE: All 2003 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.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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2003 GLIAC STANDINGS

GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF PA	W	L	Pct.	PF PA	
Saginaw Valley State	8	0	1.000	291 118	9	0	1.000	321 132	
Grand Valley State	7	1	.875	329 139	8	1	.889	338 145	
Northwood	5	3	.625	230 169	5	4	.556	244 199	
Ferris State	4	4	.500	223 221	5	4	.556	248 241	
Indianapolis	4	4	.500	198 288	5	4	.556	242 295	
Findlay	4	4	.500	157 186	5	4	.556	208 217	
Michigan Tech	4	5	.444	318 314	4	5	.444	318 314	
Mercyhurst	3	5	.375	117 226	4	5	.444	147 247	
Hillsdale	3	5	.375	215 247	3	6	.333	235 272	
Northern Michigan	3	5	.375	231 249	3	6	.333	231 311	
Wayne State	2	6	.250	192 278	3	6	.333	230 299	
Ashland	2	7	.222	157 223	2	8	.200	163 235	

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Northwood 28, at Wayne State 24*
 Indianapolis 35, at Ashland 24*
at Ferris State 36, Findlay 29*
 Saginaw Valley State 31, at Hillsdale 22*
 at Grand Valley State 51, Mercyhurst 6*
 at Northern Michigan 35, Michigan Tech 24*

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Michigan Tech at Northwood*, 12 p.m.
 Northern Michigan at Saginaw Valley State*, 12 p.m.
 Hillsdale at Findlay*, 1 p.m.
 Grand Valley State at Indianapolis*, 1 p.m.
Ferris State at Ashland*, 1:25 p.m.
 Wayne State at Mercyhurst*, 1:30 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



LAST WEEK: Senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** ran for a game-high 185 yards and scored two TD's while sophomore flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** caught seven passes for 124 yards to go with two scores as Ferris State handed the Findlay Oilers a 36-29 conference defeat Saturday afternoon at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Trailing 12-0 after the opening quarter, Ferris State proceeded to score 29 unanswered second-quarter points to claim a 29-12 halftime lead. The Bulldogs' first two scores of the game occurred on pass plays of 54 and 27 yards, respectively from junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** to **Brewster** at 14:50 and 9:08 of the quarter with the latter putting the hosts up 15-12. Ferris then widened its lead with another pair of TD's as **Fudge**, who had a game-best 183 yards rushing on 27 carries, scored on a one-yard run with 5:19 remaining before the half and then the Bulldogs hit paydirt again just 52 seconds to go in the quarter as **Marsan** tallied on a three-yard keeper. Findlay came back in the third quarter with 10 straight points to slice the deficit at 29-22 on kicker Jeff Pax's second field goal of the day, a 36-yarder, and tailback Michael Simpson caught a 24-yard TD aerial from quarterback Kevin Crooks at 7:44 to draw within seven points. FSU then went back up 36-22 on **Fudge's** 11-yard scoring run at 2:42 of the third quarter before the Oilers struck again with 6:57 remaining in the contest on a Crooks' seven-yard TD pass to wide receiver Jeff Rowe. The Bulldogs finished with 432 yards in total offense to Findlay's 412-yard total. **Marsan** was 14-of-24 in the passing department for 214 yards while Crooks completed the day with a 215-yard performance on 19-of-29 passing. Junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** claimed a game-high 23 tackles while junior defensive tackle **Whitney Bell (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area)** chipped in with 18 stops and senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** notched 15 tackles. Senior free safety **Rich Dosh (Burton/Flint Kearsley)** and senior strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester)** added 14 and 10 stops, respectively.

BULLDOG BITES: **Derek Fudge** eclipsed the 1,000-yard single season rushing mark for the second consecutive season with his 183-yard performance against Findlay and currently has totaled 1,147 yards (5.1 avg.) on 226 attempts in nine games this fall. Fudge is 80 yards shy of matching his career-best 1,227 rushing yards set in his 2000 freshman campaign. The FSU back is 61 rushing yards away from reaching the 4,000-yard plateau in his career and has a present 3,939 career yards total in 39 outings. Fudge needs 254 yards shy to become the school's all-time leading rusher and trails only Mo Harris (1996-99; 4,192 career yds.) for the top honor.

The Bulldogs are averaging 30.8 points in four home contests this season and have outscored the opposition 123 to 78. In five road outings, Ferris has posted a 25.0 points per game average with its opponents holding a 163 to 125 points advantage.

Whitney Bell is averaging 15.0 tackles per game in his last two appearances with a pair of double-digit tackle efforts at Saginaw Valley State (10/25) and against Findlay (11/1). Bell racked up a career-best 18 tackles (14 solos) versus Findlay after garnering 12 stops at SVSU. He has compiled five career double-figure tackle game performances to date.

Tom Marsan notched his fourth straight 200-yard or more passing game this fall with a 214-yard effort against Findlay. Marsan is averaging 206.0 passing yards a game (1,236 total yards) in his last six outings which have all been at least 144 yards or more through the air.

Kevin Myers' 23 tackles versus Findlay last Saturday represents a personal career high, surpassing his 17 stops set last season (10/5) at Northwood. Myers, who has posted 14 career double-figure game tackle performances, came within three tackles of tying the Top Taggart Field record of 26 stops set by FSU All-America linebacker Monty Brown versus Grand Valley State (10/19/91).

Luke Piepkow is nine tackles shy of equaling Charles Anderson's (1995-98) sixth-place 376 total tackles on the school's all-time tackles leaders list. Piepkow has accumulated 367 career stops (185 solos) in 37 contests. He's four tackles away from matching his career and team-lead-ing 110 tackles (52 solos) set in the 2001 season.

With its victory over Findlay, Ferris has now won six of the last eight series meetings which includes four of the past five. FSU also extended its current series home win string to four straight and hasn't lost a home contest to the Oilers since 1969 (10/25) by a 20-3 score.

Rich Dosh set a personal career high with his 14 tackles versus Findlay, which eclipsed his 12 stops set against Grand Valley State in 2001 (10/6). The FSU defender has four double-digit tackle contests this fall, including back-to-back efforts to date - 11 tackles (six solos) at Saginaw Valley State (10/25).

Carlton Brewster's 124 receiving yards on seven catches against Findlay represents a personal career high, bettering his 100 yards on 14 receptions at Michigan Tech earlier this campaign (10/11).

Among this week's NCAA Division II national individual leaders, **Derek Fudge** ranks 11th in rushing (127.4 ypg.), 18th in scoring (9.3 ppg.) and 27th in all-purpose yards (142.7 ypg.). Defensively, **Kevin Myers** is listed fifth in total tackles (12.1 avg.) while **Luke Piepkow** ranks 14th (11.0).

Myers is first in solo tackles (8.1 avg.) while **Piepkow** and **Whitney Bell** are tied for eighth place (6.3 avg.). In pass sacks, **John Hazle** is seventh (1.1 avg.) while **Bell** ranks 27th (0.8 avg.). **Bell** is 19th in tackles for loss (1.8 avg.) and **Hazle** is 25th (1.7 avg.).

Road Finales: The Bulldogs are 26-25-1 (.509) in regular-season road finales since 1950 and had won 10 consecutive such contests prior to losing a 17-14 decision at Indianapolis last season (11/16).

UP NEXT: Ferris State concludes the 2003 campaign next Saturday, Nov. 15, as the Bulldogs host the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds in GLIAC action. Opening kickoff for Senior Day is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. (EST) at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich.

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
Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-John Hazle, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State	Offense-Andy Thwaites, Defense-Luke Piepkow, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Rich Dosh, Specialty-Corey Scheick, EPEP-Rob Mida
Sept. 27	at Wayne State	Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Pat Smith, Specialty-Carlton Brewster, EPEP-Allen Feigel
Oct. 4	Northwood	Offense-Tom Marsan, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Casey Danford, EPEP-Vito Ciaramellano
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech	Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Vito Ciaramellano, Specialty-Justin Rudy, EPEP-Matt McCoy
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst	Offense-Jim Bockheim, Defense-Whitney Bell, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Rob Mida
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State	Offense-Tom Marsan, Defense-Whitney Bell, Specialty-Justin Rudy, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Nov. 1	Findlay	Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Nick Beaudry, EPEP-Whitney Bell

Nov. 8 at Ashland
Nov. 15 Indianapolis
 Home games listed in **bold**