

Football News Release



Joe Gorby
Athletics Communications Director
E-Mail:gorbyj@ferris.edu

Rob Bentley
Assistant Athletics Communications Director
E-Mail:bentleyr@ferris.edu

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FERRIS STATE AT GRAND VALLEY STATE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

ATHLETICS HOTLINE: (231) 591-2375

GAME FACTS

FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS
(1-0; 0-0 GLIAC)

AT

GRAND VALLEY STATE LAKERS
(1-0; 0-0 GLIAC)

KICKOFF: 7 p.m. (EDT)

STADIUM/SURFACE: Arend D. Lubbers Stadium
(6,344)/Prescription Athletic Turf

RADIO COVERAGE: WBRN-AM (1460) – John Smith
(play-by-play), Ted Halm (color commentary).

THE RECORDS: Ferris State recorded a 25-20 season-opening non-conference triumph over Hillsdale last Saturday (Sept. 6) evening at HC's Frank "Muddy" Waters Stadium in Hillsdale, Mich. Last season, FSU compiled a 5-5 overall mark and placed sixth in the GLIAC with a 4-5 conference record. The Bulldogs were 4-1 at home and 1-4 on the road last fall. In 2001, FSU posted a 7-4 overall mark and a third-place 7-3 GLIAC record. Ferris has won or shared the conference championship six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

Grand Valley State won its season opener with a 9-6 overtime victory over California-Davis last Saturday (Sept. 6) night at UC's Toomey Field in Davis, Calif. With the victory, the Lakers have presently won 27 straight regular-season games and 34 of their last 35 outings overall. A season ago, GVSU claimed its first-ever NCAA-II National Championship title as the Lakers bested Valdosta (Ga.) State, 31-24, in the championship contest (12/14) at Florence, Ala. GVSU concluded the 2002 campaign at 14-0 overall and posted a first-place 9-0 conference mark for the second consecutive season.

THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 55-34-0 (.618) — (2-5-0 vs. Grand Valley State). Pierce has a 26-20-0 (.565) coaching mark in road games and is 19-14-0 (.576) in September contests.

GRAND VALLEY STATE – Brian Kelly (Assumption, Mass., 1983), 13th season, 105-34-2 (.752) – (6-4-1 vs. Ferris State).

2003 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	W 25-20
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State*	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan* (HF)	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	12 p.m.
Oct. 4	Northwood*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	1 p.m.
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst* (HC)	2 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State*	12 p.m.
Nov. 1	Findlay*	1:30 p.m.
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 opens Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play on the road this Saturday (Sept. 13) night as the Bulldogs go up against nationally top-ranked and 2002 NCAA Division II National Champions the Grand Valley State University Lakers in Allendale, Mich.

HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE: Jeff Pierce is currently in his ninth season at Ferris State and has registered a 55-34-0 career coaching record. Pierce has already made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the second-best winning percentage (.618) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is also six wins shy of becoming FSU's winningest coach and would surpass Keith Otterbein (60-39-0, 1986-94). 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 has a 18-12-1 lead over Ferris State in the series, which commenced in 1971 (10/9) with a 57-0 FSU home victory. The Bulldogs are 3-2-0 in their last five road 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 2-8-0 in games between 11 and 30 points. In the last five meetings at Allendale, FSU is averaging 27.0 points (135 total) per game to GVSU's 20.2 points an outing (101) for a +6.8 point differential.

GVSU leads 18-12-1 (57-0* – 10/9/71)	1981	GV	46-12	A
FSU Scoring Avg.: 20.7 (642 pts.)	1982	GV	38-35	H
GVSU Scoring Avg.: 26.2 (813 pts.)	1983	GV	52-21	A
Differential: +5.5 (GVSU)	1984	FSU	13-11	H
At Big Rapids: GVSU leads 10-5-1	1985	GV	27-21	H
At Allendale: GVSU leads 8-7-0	1986	GV	30-22	A
First Game: FSU 57, GVSU 0*	1987	GV	21-5	H
(10/9/71)	1988	GV	36-20	A
Last FSU Win: 48-23 (11/13/99)	1989	GV	28-0	H
Last GVSU Win: 63-17* (10/6/01)	1990	GV	42-12	A
Last Meeting in Allendale:	1991	GV	28-6	H
GVSU 21, FSU 20 (10/7/00)	1992	FSU	23-0	A
Current Series Win Streak: 2	1993	Tie	17-17	H
(GVSU 10/7/00 – 10/6/01)	1994	FSU	27-21	A
Longest Series Win Streak: 7	1995	FSU	30-21	H
(GVSU 10/5/85 – 10/19/91)	1996	GV	36-17	A
Most Points in a FSU Win: 57	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

LAST MEETING – 2001: Grand Valley State quarterback Curt Anes set a GLIAC single-game record with eight TD passes, including six in the first half as the Lakers posted a 63-17 road victory at FSU's Top Taggart Field. GVSU wide receiver David Kircus also set a conference mark with five TD receptions -- 25, 10, 57, 43 and 14 yards. The game was close in the opening quarter as Ferris countered GVSU's TD with one of its own at the 6:17 mark on tailback Matt Otero's one-yard plunge to knot the contest at seven-all. The Anes-Kircus combination hooked up for the second time in the quarter on a 10-yard TD pass play to give the visitors a 14-7 lead after 15 minutes of play. The Bulldogs drew within 14-10 on Tom Perez's 27-yard field goal with just under 12 minutes remaining in the second quarter before the Lakers proceeded to reel off 28 unanswered points to claim a 42-10 halftime lead. GVSU added 21 more second-half points, including 14 in the third quarter, to go up 56-10 after three quarters. A 13-yard TD pass from quarterback Tom Marsan to flanker Clarence Coleman with 1:34 left concluded the game's scoring. The Lakers totaled 587 yards while Ferris netted a 302-yard total. Otero rushed for a game-high 149 yards while Coleman had nine receptions for 81 yards. Marsan completed 17-of-29 passes for 133 yards and a TD. For GVSU, Anes threw for 301 yards on 21-of-27 passing while Kircus had eight catches for 169 yards. Free safety Rich Dosh and middle linebacker Luke Piepkow posted a game-best 12 tackles each.

NOTE – Last season's game was cancelled due to the tragic death of a FSU football student-athlete (Matt Sklom) during a Sept. 12th practice.

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

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

210 Sports Drive, SPC 002, Big Rapids, MI 49307-2741
Phone 231 591-2336/3821 FAX 231 591-3775

www.ferris.edu/sports

2003 GLIAC STANDINGS

	GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Michigan Tech	1	0	1.000	27	14	1	0	1.000	27	14
Findlay	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	51	31
Indianapolis	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	44	7
Wayne State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	38	21
Ferris State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	25	20
Grand Valley State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	9	6
Mercyhurst	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	30	21
Saginaw Valley State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	1.000	30	14
Hillsdale	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	20	25
Northern Michigan	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	0	62
Northwood	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	.000	14	30
Ashland	0	1	.000	14	27	0	2	.000	14	27

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Saginaw Valley State 30, Northwood 14
 Indianapolis 44, at St. Joseph's (Ind.) 7
 Mercyhurst 30, at West Virginia Wesleyan 21
 at Northern Iowa 62, Northern Michigan 0
 Edinboro (Pa.) 12, at Ashland 6
Ferris State 25, at Hillsdale 20
 Grand Valley State 9, at California-Davis 6 OT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Findlay at Wayne State*, 12 p.m.
 Saginaw Valley State at Michigan Tech*, 1 p.m.
 Northern Michigan at Mercyhurst*, 1:30 p.m.
 Hillsdale at Indianapolis*, 2 p.m.
 Ashland at Northwood*, 7 p.m. (at Midland High School)
Ferris State at Grand Valley State*, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

*GLIAC Game
 All Times are Eastern



2003 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1.	Grand Valley State (8)	117
2.	Saginaw Valley State (4)	114
3.	Findlay	92
4.	Northern Michigan	83
5.	Ferris State	80
6.	Northwood	79
7.	Indianapolis	61
8.	Hillsdale	60
9.	Ashland	38
10.	Michigan Tech	28
11.	Wayne State	26
12.	Mercyhurst	14

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.

LAST WEEK: Senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)** rushed for a career-high 276 yards on 42 carries and scored two TD's, including the game winner on a 14-yard scamper with 4:15 left in the game as Ferris State pulled out a 25-20 season-opening non-conference victory over the Hillsdale Chargers Saturday night before 4,500 fans at HC's Frank "Muddy" Waters Stadium in Hillsdale, Mich. The Bulldogs trailed 20-17 entering the fourth quarter and drew within 20-19 after registering a two-point safety at the 5:53 mark. Sophomore flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** then proceeded to return a Chargers' punt 43 yards which eventually set up **Fudge's** game-winning score. HC marched down the field to FSU's 26-yard line in the time remaining, but the Bulldogs knocked down quarterback Bill Skelton's pass in the end-zone in the final seconds to ensure the win. Ferris jumped out to a 14-0 first-quarter advantage as **Fudge** scored on a two-yard run and sophomore flanker **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** caught a 22-yard TD pass from junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**. HC then responded on a 24-yard TD interception return by Jim Barr to get within 14-7 at the end of opening quarter. The Chargers then scored again at 11:02 of the second quarter on a 23-yard Matt Menchinger field goal before FSU countered with one of its own as senior kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 25-yard field goal put the Bulldogs up 17-10 with 4:32 left in the first half. However, HC tied the contest on the ensuing kickoff as Chad Gurica returned the ball 90 yards for a TD. The hosts proceeded to take a 20-17 lead with 2:38 remaining in the third quarter on Menchinger's 43-yard field goal before Ferris rallied with eight unanswered fourth-quarter points. For the contest, FSU generated 545 yards in total offense while Hillsdale posted a 227-yard total as the Bulldog defense held the Chargers to 102 yards on the ground. **Marsan** was 17-of-30 in the passing department for 231 yards and a TD despite throwing three interceptions. **Bowie** paced the receiving corps with seven catches for 127 yards and a TD. Defensively, junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** led the way with 15 tackles (nine solo)

while senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** and junior defensive end **John Hazle (St. Johns)** notched 13 and 10 tackles, respectively.

BULLDOG BITES: **Derek Fudge** needs eight rushing yards to tie Tyree Dye (1990-91/93-94; 3,076 yds.) for third place on FSU's all-time charts. Fudge currently has accumulated 3,068 career yards and 22 TD's in 31 contests. He's also two points away of tying Buzz McNally (1959-60; 146 pts.) for 12th place on Ferris' career scoring leaders list and is 19 total offensive yards shy of equalling Bill Costner's (1978-80) ninth-place 3,122 career yard total.
Brandis Bowie's 127 receiving yards at Hillsdale marked a personal career best, bettering his 75-yard effort in last season's (9/7) opener versus the Chargers. His seven catches (54 yards) matched his high set at Mercyhurst last season (10/19).
Tom Perez is within three field goals of tying Mike Panasuk (1987-90) for fifth place on the school's all-time list. Perez has connected on 18 of 31 career attempts while Panasuk converted 21 of 43 field goal chances.
Derek Fudge's 276 rush yards at Hillsdale surpassed his previous career high of 213 yards set at Indianapolis (11/11) during his freshman year in the 2000 season. Fudge has presently totaled 14 100-yard plus single-game rushing performances in his career. In the HC game, Fudge moved ahead of Tyree Dye (3,796 yds.) into fourth place among the Bulldogs' all-time all-purpose yardage leaders and has compiled 3,934 career yards to date.
Kevin Myers, a 2002 All-GLIAC Second-Team pick, has totaled nine career double-digit single-game tackle performances and has posted double figures in stops his last four outings dating back to last season. Myers, who had a team-high 112 tackles last fall, is averaging 14.0 stops per game (56 total) during that four-game span.

FUDGE NAMED OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK: **Derek Fudge** has been selected this week's GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week and co-*D2Football.com* Offensive Player of the Week as a result of his career-best 276-yard, two TD rushing performance at Hillsdale. Fudge, who achieved the same honor a year ago (9/7) with a 148-yard rushing and three TD performance in a 33-21 Bulldog season-opening win over the Chargers, shared *D2Football.com* Player of the Week honors with Winona (Minn.) State wide receiver Chris Samp.

CONFERENCE OPENERS: FSU is 8-14-1 (.369) in conference openers since 1980 and sports a 4-6-1 road mark in those games during that period. Meanwhile, Ferris sports a 7-6 record in its second game of each season dating back to 1990.

UNDER THE LIGHTS: Ferris has compiled a 25-36-4 (.415) record in evening contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 9-17-2 (.357) on the road and 16-19-2 (.459) in home outings.

PRESEASON RECOGNITION: Senior tackle **Matt McCoy (Charlotte)** has been named to the *Detroit Free Press'* All-Michigan Small College Football Preseason Team. The lineman earned both All-GLIAC Honorable Mention and GLIAC All-Academic accolades last season. A former tight end, McCoy was a FSU Coaches Award co-recipient a season ago.

UP NEXT: Ferris State continues GLIAC play Saturday, Sept. 20, as the Bulldogs host the Northern Michigan University Wildcats in Ferris' fourth annual Hall of Fame Game. Opening kickoff for the 2003 home opener is set for 7 p.m. (EDT) at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. The contest also represents the annual Fireworks Night outing as a post-game fireworks display will immediately follow the contest's conclusion.

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	
Sept. 20	Northern Michigan	
Sept. 27	at Wayne State	
Oct. 4	Northwood	
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech	
Oct. 18	Mercyhurst	
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State	
Nov. 1	Findlay	
Nov. 8	at Ashland	
Nov. 15	Indianapolis	

Home games listed in **bold**