

# Football News Release



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**FERRIS STATE AT HILLSDALE**

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2003**

## GAME FACTS

**FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS**

**(0-0; 0-0 GLIAC)**

AT

**HILLSDALE CHARGERS**

**(0-0; 0-0 GLIAC)**

**KICKOFF:** 7 p.m. (EDT)

**STADIUM/SURFACE:** Frank "Muddy" Waters Stadium (8,500)/Prescription Athletic Turf

**RADIO COVERAGE:** WBRN-AM (1460) – John Smith (play-by-play), TBA (color).

**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. For those interested, a link will be established on Ferris' Athletics homepage website ([www.ferris.edu/sports](http://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](http://www.ferris.edu/sports/bulldogwebcasts).

**THE RECORDS:** Ferris State compiled a 5-5 overall mark a season ago and placed sixth in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings with a 4-5 conference mark. 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. The Bulldogs have won or shared the conference championship six of the last 11 years, including five straight (1992-96).

**Hillsdale** notched a 4-7 overall record and placed tied for seventh in the GLIAC with a 4-6 conference ledger. The Chargers were 3-2 at home and 1-4 in road encounters last season.

**THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 54-34-0 (.614) — (6-2-0 vs. Hillsdale). Pierce presently has registered a 25-20-0 (.556) coaching mark in road games and is 18-14-0 (.563) in September contests.

**HILLSDALE – Keith Otterbein** (Hillsdale, 1979), 2nd season, 4-7-0 (.364); Career – 11th season 64-46-3 (.579) – (0-1-0 vs. Ferris State).

### 2003 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS (0-0, 0-0 GLIAC)

Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State*	7 p.m.
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Northern Michigan* (HF)</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	12 p.m.
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Northwood*</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	1 p.m.
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Mercyhurst* (HC)</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State*	12 p.m.
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Findlay*</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>
Nov. 8	at Ashland*	1:25 p.m.
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Indianapolis*</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>

All times are Eastern  
Home games in **Bold** \*GLIAC Game  
(HF) – Hall of Fame (HC) – Homecoming

**THE GAME:** The Ferris State University football team kicks off the 2003 campaign and its 95th season of varsity competition this Saturday (Sept. 6) night as the Bulldogs battle the Hillsdale College Chargers in non-conference action at Hillsdale, Mich.

**HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE:** Jeff Pierce begins his ninth season at Ferris State and has registered a current 54-34-0 career coaching record. Pierce has already made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the second-best winning percentage (.614) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is also seven 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:** Ferris State trails Hillsdale 19-14-1 in their all-time series as both teams will square off for the 35th time this Saturday. FSU has won 10 of the last 14 contests, including seven of the last nine outings to date. The Bulldogs are 5-1-1 in their last seven appearances at HC after going 0-5 in the previous five road meetings. During that seven-game span, Ferris has averaged 26.7 points (187 total) while the Chargers have scored at a 20.4 points per game clip (143 total) for a +6.3-point differential. Prior to last year (9/7), the last time FSU played Hillsdale in a season-opening contest was in 1975 (9/6) when the Bulldogs dropped an 11-2 road decision under coach Nick Coso.

<b>Hillsdale leads 19-14-1</b>		10/11/80 – 10/15/88)	1979	FSU	19-0	H
FSU Scoring Avg.: 15.4 (525 pts.)	<b>Most Points in a FSU Win:</b> 38	(38-21 – 11/3/01)	1980	HC	7-0	A
HC Scoring Avg.: 20.5 (698 pts.)	<b>Most Points in a HC Win:</b>	52 (52-0 – 10/16/82)	1981	HC	20-17	H
Differential: +5.1 (Hillsdale)	<b>Most Decisive Score:</b> FSU 19	(19-0* – 10/13/79); HC 52 (52-0	1982	HC	52-0	A
<b>At Big Rapids:</b> HC leads 10-8-0		– 10/16/82)	1983	HC	27-14	H
<b>At Hillsdale:</b> HC leads 9-6-1		* – Denotes FSU home game	1984	HC	20-8	A
<b>First Game:</b> HC 44, FSU 0			1985	HC	24-15	A
(9/27/46)			1986	HC	23-20	H
<b>Last FSU Win:</b> 33-21* (9/7/02)			1987	HC	34-15	A
<b>Last HC Win:</b> 23-14* (11/4/00)			1988	HC	37-10	H
<b>Last Meeting in Hillsdale:</b>			1989	FSU	24-22	A
FSU 38, HC 21 (11/3/01)			1990	FSU	14-10	H
<b>Current Series Win Streak:</b> 2			1991	FSU	23-16	A
(FSU 11/3/01 – 9/7/02)			1992	HC	36-14	H
<b>Longest Series Win Streak:</b> 5			1993	Tie	13-13	A
(FSU 9/24/94 – 10/31/98); 9 (HC			1994	FSU	14-10	H
			1995	FSU	17-10	A
			1996	FSU	20-7	H
			1997	FSU	35-21	A
			1998	FSU	24-21	H
			1999	HC	40-37	A
			2000	HC	23-14	H
			2001	FSU	38-21	A
			2002	FSU	33-21	H

**LAST MEETING – 2002:** Ferris State snapped a five-game season-opening losing streak by outscoring Hillsdale 23-7 in the second half en route to a 33-21 non-conference triumph before 4,896 fans at Top Taggart Field. The Bulldogs reeled off 10 unanswered third-quarter points and accounted for all of the quarter's scoring to overcome a 14-10 halftime deficit. Trailing 21-20 with under 11 minutes remaining in the contest following a 14-yard HC TD pass play from quarterback Bill Skelton to tight end Ike Dougherty, Ferris took the lead for good (26-21) at the 6:43 mark as quarterback Tom Marsan hooked up with split end Brandis Bowie on a 28-yard scoring strike. Tailback Derek Fudge's third rushing TD of the contest, a one-yard plunge with 1:35 left to go accounted for the game's final points. A one-yard TD run by tailback Kevin Clive gave the Chargers a 7-0 lead after the opening quarter before FSU countered with 10 straight points to open the second quarter. Kicker Tom Perez's 24-yard field goal at 11:39 and Fudge's three-yard TD run with 6:10 remaining before halftime put the hosts ahead 10-7. The score remained that way until defensive back Mitch May picked off a Marsan pass and returned the pigskin 22 yards to the end zone with 40 seconds remaining as HC claimed a 14-10 halftime advantage. Ferris, which generated 403 yards in total offense to Hillsdale's 187 yards, was led by Fudge's 148 yards rushing and career-high three TD's. Marsan threw for 237 yards on 25-of-41 passing while flanker Delano McKinney was on the receiving end of seven aerials for 72 yards and Bowie had six catches for 75 yards. Clive totaled 100 yards on the ground in 26 attempts to lead the Chargers' offense. Defensive tackle Jason Feasel led the Bulldogs with nine tackles while junior middle linebacker Luke Piepkow had eight stops. Strong safety Vito Ciaramellano and outside linebacker Kevin Myers tallied seven tackles apiece.

– more –

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**ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS**

**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
Wayne State	0	0	.000	0 0	1	0	1.000	38 21
<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>0 0</b>
Grand Valley State	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Hillsdale	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Mercyhurst	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Northern Michigan	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Northwood	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Saginaw Valley State	0	0	.000	0 0	0	0	.000	0 0
Ashland	0	1	.000	14 27	0	1	.000	14 27

**LAST WEEK'S RESULTS**

at Michigan Tech 27, Ashland 14\*  
 at Findlay 51, Tiffin (Ohio) 31  
 at Wayne State 38, Gannon 21

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 6**

Northwood at Saginaw Valley State, 12 p.m.  
 Indianapolis at St. Joseph's (Ind.), 1 p.m.  
 Mercyhurst at West Virginia Wesleyan, 1 p.m.  
 Northern Michigan at Northern Iowa, 5 p.m.  
 Edinboro (Pa.) at Ashland, 7 p.m.  
**Ferris State at Hillsdale, 7 p.m.**  
 Grand Valley State at California-Davis, 9 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
<b>5.</b>	<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>80</b>
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.

**BULLDOG BITES:** Ferris State returns 37 letterwinners from a season ago, including 16 starters – eight on offense, five on defense and three on special teams. The Bulldogs return 35 four or fifth-year seniors this fall.

New faces on the sidelines this season will be graduate assistant coach **Kyle Park** and volunteer assistant coach **Harry VandenBrink**, who has over 30 years of coaching experience. Park, the older brother of FSU's junior tackle **Kevin Park (Goshen, Ind.)**, was a two-year (2000-01) starting quarterback at Ferris and presently ranks sixth among the school's career passing leaders with 3,474 yards.

Three Hillsdale coaches with FSU ties will be appearing on the sidelines this Saturday. Second-year head coach Keith Otterbein spent nine seasons (1986-94) in the same capacity at Ferris and directed the Bulldogs to three consecutive Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference (predecessor of the GLIAC) titles and three straight NCAA Division II Playoff appearances. HC offensive coordinator Barry Fagan was an assistant at FSU for eight years (1987-95) and defensive coordinator Cary Marquell for one season (2001).

Junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)**, who currently ranks fifth among the program's all-time passing yard leaders with 3,887 yards (321-609) in 19 career games, is coming off his most productive campaign in a Ferris uniform. The left-handed signal-caller threw for a career-high 2,350 yards (sixth best in school history) and 10 TD's in as many games last season. He also totaled six 200-yard plus single-game passing performances, including a 396-yard, two TD effort at Findlay (11/2).

Senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)**, a two-time (2000 & 2002) All-GLIAC Second-Team pick and the 2000 GLIAC Freshman of the Year, is 284 rushing yards shy of tying Tyree Dye (1990-91/93-94) for third place on the school's all-time rushing leaders list. Fudge has accumulated 2,792 career yards (93.1 ypg.) with 20 TD's in 30 contests while Dye amassed a 3,076-yard total on the ground to go along with 51 TD's in his career. Last fall, Fudge rushed for 1,016 yards (10th single-season best in FSU history) and 10 TD's while leading the

Bulldogs in receiving with 44 catches for 386 yards (38.6 ypg.).

Senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** has attained the century mark in tackles the last two seasons to date. Piepkow, a second-team All-GLIAC honoree last season, placed second among the 2002 Bulldog tackles leaders with 100 stops after compiling a team-high 110 stops the previous campaign. He's 45 tackles away from tying Steve Krispinsky's (1973-75) 13th-place 306 career stops on FSU's all-time tackles list. Piepkow's father (Ralph) and uncle (Tom Prichard) both played football at Ferris State.

The Bulldogs' starting linebacking corps of **Piepkow** along with outside backers in juniors **Kevin Myers (Midland)** and **Rob Mida (Chelsea)** returns intact this fall. The trio combined for 34.1% (304-892) of the team's total tackles output last season with Myers' team-best 112 tackles in 10 games leading the way. Mida garnered a FSU third-place and a career-high 92 hits last year in 10 contests.

**SEASON OPENERS:** The contest at Hillsdale represents the 93rd season opener for Ferris State since 1900 (no scores available 1912 & 1916). The Bulldogs are 38-49-5 (.429) in season-opening contests and have won eight of their last 14 openers. FSU is 3-5 in such games under head coach Jeff Pierce with the first two being Bulldog victories – 20-13 vs. Ashland (9/9/95) and 26-0 at Ashland (8/29/96). Ferris then dropped five straight – 26-7 vs. Ashland (8/28/97), 17-10 at Winona State (9/5/98), 55-35 at North Dakota State (9/2/99), 24-13 at Indiana, Pa. (9/2/00) and 34-24 at South Dakota State (9/1/01) before registering a 33-21 season-opening triumph over Hillsdale last season (9/7/02). In road openers, Ferris is 13-31-2 (.304) since 1920 and has lost four straight to date with the last win occurring 8/29/96 with a 26-0 conference triumph at Ashland.

**UNDER THE LIGHTS:** Ferris sports a current 24-36-4 (.406) record in night contests dating back to 1961. The Bulldogs are 8-17-2 (.333) on the road and 16-19-2 (.459) in home outings. FSU posted a 1-2 mark in evening affairs a season ago.

**A NEW LOOK:** The Bulldogs will have a different appearance when they take to the field as a result of new uniforms, both home and away. The 2003 FSU football senior group initiated a fundraising project and raised over \$18,000 towards the purchase of new jerseys and pants. Ferris will also don maroon helmets with the Bulldog script this fall after previously wearing gold helmets with the script. Serving as fundraising co-chairs were guard-long snapper **Matt Desmarais (Jackson/Lumen Christi)** and **Luke Piepkow**.

**PRESEASON RECOGNITION:** Senior tackle **Matt McCoy (Charlotte)** has been named to the *Detroit Free Press'* All-Michigan Small College Football Preseason Team. The 6-8, 290-pound 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. McCoy was among 15 GLIAC school representatives to be selected to the 24-member squad.

**CAPTAINS NAMED:** Serving as 2003 captains will be **Derek Fudge** and **Matt McCoy** on offense while **Luke Piepkow** and strong safety **Vito Ciarameallano** will lead the defensive unit.

**UP NEXT:** Ferris State opens Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action Saturday, Sept. 13, as the Bulldogs square off against archrival Grand Valley State University Lakers, the 2002 NCAA National Champions and two-time defending GLIAC Champions. Opening kickoff is set for 7 p.m. (EDT) at GVSVU's Arend D. Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, 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	
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State	
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Northern Michigan</b>	
Sept. 27	at Wayne State	
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Northwood</b>	
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech	
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Mercyhurst</b>	
Oct. 25	at Saginaw Valley State	
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Findlay</b>	
Nov. 8	at Ashland	
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Indianapolis</b>	

Home games listed in **bold**

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