

# Football News Release



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**MERCYHURST AT FERRIS STATE**

**OCTOBER 13, 2003**

## GAME FACTS

**MERCYHURST LAKERS  
(3-3; 2-3 GLIAC)**

**AT**

**FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS  
(3-3; 2-3 GLIAC)**

**KICKOFF:** 2 p.m. (EDT)

**STADIUM/SURFACE:** Top Taggart Field (6,200)/  
Artificial Turf (AstroTurf 12).

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

**THE RECORDS:** Ferris State is 3-3 overall and 2-3 in the GLIAC following a 49-30 conference setback to Michigan Tech last Saturday (Oct. 11) at MTU's Sherman Field in Houghton, Mich. Ferris, which had its two-game winning streak snapped with the loss, is 1-1 at home this campaign. 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).

**Mercyhurst** improved to 3-3 overall and 2-3 in the GLIAC with a 17-10 conference victory over Ashland last Saturday (Oct. 11) at MC's Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. The Lakers, who are 1-2 in away games this season, snapped a three-game losing skid with the win. Mercyhurst was selected 12th in this season's conference polls with 14 points. MC was 2-9 overall last season, which included a 12th-place 1-9 GLIAC record.

**THE COACHES: FERRIS STATE – Jeff Pierce** (Ferris State, 1979), 9th season, 57-37-0 (.606) — (1-2-0 vs. Mercyhurst). In his FSU coaching career, Pierce is 30-15-0 (.667) in home games, 22-12-0 (.647) in October and 52-31-0 (.627) in GLIAC contests to date.

**MERCYHURST – Marty Schaezle** (Bucknell, 1983), 2nd season, 5-12-0 (.294) – (0-1-0 vs. Ferris State). He previously spent five seasons as an assistant at NCAA Division IAA Bucknell.

### 2003 FERRIS STATE SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Sept. 6	at Hillsdale	W 25-20
Sept. 13	at Grand Valley State*	L 10-40
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Northern Michigan* (HF)</b>	<b>L 14-26</b>
Sept. 27	at Wayne State*	W 29-16
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Northwood*</b>	<b>W 40-16</b>
Oct. 11	at Michigan Tech*	L 30-49
<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 celebrates its 77th Homecoming this Saturday (Oct. 18) as the Bulldogs host the Mercyhurst College Lakers in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play at Big Rapids, Mich.

**HEAD COACH JEFF PIERCE:** Jeff Pierce is midst his ninth season at Ferris State and has a current 57-37-0 career record. Pierce holds the distinction of having the second-best winning percentage (.606) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is four 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:** Mercyhurst has a 2-1-0 series edge over Ferris State. The Bulldogs are averaging 328.7 yards in total offense (986 total yds.) while the Lakers have compiled a 347.0 yard average (1,041 total yds.). FSU has passed for an average of 229.3 yards (688 total yds.) and rushed for a 99.3-yard average (298 total yds.). Conversely, MC has compiled a 130.3 rushing average (391 total yds.) while throwing for 216.7 yards (650 total yds.) per contest.

### Mercyhurst leads 2-1-0

FSU Scoring Avg.: 14.3 (43 pts.)

MC Scoring Avg.: 19.7 (59 pts.)

Differential: +5.4 (MC)

**At Big Rapids:** MC leads 1-0-0

**At Erie:** Tied at 1-1-0

**First Game:** MC 21, FSU 10\* (10/14/00)

**Last FSU Win:** FSU 19, MC 13 OT (10/19/02)

**Last MC Win:** 25-14 (10/14/01)

**Last Meeting in Big Rapids:** MC 21, FSU 10\*  
(10/14/00)

**Current Series Win Streak:** 1 (FSU 10/19/02)

**Longest Series Win Streak:** 2 (MC 10/14/00 –  
10/13/01)

**Most Points in a FSU Win:** 19 (19-13 OT –  
10/19/02)

**Most Points in a MC Win:** 25 (25-14 – 10/13/01)

**Most Decisive Score:** FSU 6 (19-13 OT –  
10/19/02); MC 11 (21-10\* – 10/14/00) & (25-14 –  
10/13/01)

\* – FSU home game

2000 MC 21-10 H

2001 MC 25-14 A

2002 FSU 19-13† A

† – Overtime

**LAST MEETING – 2002:** Ferris State tailback Derek Fudge's 12-yard TD run in overtime propelled the Bulldogs to a 19-13 victory over Mercyhurst before 500 spectators at Tullio Field in Erie, Pa. The Bulldogs' win snapped a two-game series losing skid to the Lakers. The hosts jumped out to a 7-0 first-quarter lead as quarterback Jim Schuler, who threw for 240 yards on 19-of-40 passing, connected with wide receiver Tim Siemon on a 24-yard scoring strike. However, Ferris countered with 6:05 left in the quarter as cornerback DeRen Ellis scored a TD on a 68-yard interception return to tie the game after 15 minutes of action. The Bulldogs proceeded to go ahead 10-7 at the second quarter's 1:29 mark when kicker Tom Perez's 22-yard field goal split the uprights. FSU then claimed a 13-10 halftime advantage when Perez booted a 33-yarder as time expired, which was preceded by a 27-yard field goal from kicker Vinny Repucci with 19 seconds remaining in the second quarter. Repucci accounted for only second-half scoring on a 30-yard field goal with 7:16 left in the third quarter as the Lakers knotted the game at 13-all after regulation. MC had the ball first in overtime but Schuler was sacked for a seven-yard loss by defensive end Bo Moore on first down and Repucci eventually missed a field goal attempt from 48 yards out. The Bulldogs quickly went on the offensive in their extra-session possession as the Lakers were penalized for pass interference on the first play which gave Ferris possession at the host's 12-yard line. Fudge, who led all rushers with 65 yards on 21 carries, then scored his game-winning TD. FSU quarterback Tom Marsan completed 20-of-36 passes for 148 yards while split end Brandis Bowie had seven receptions for 54 yards as the Bulldogs notched 232 total offensive yards to MC's 311-yard total. Simeon's nine catches for 82 yards led all receivers in the contest. Defensively, outside linebacker Rob Mida garnered a game-high 13 tackles, middle linebacker Luke Piepkow had 11 while defensive tackle Whitney Bell and outside linebacker Kevin Myers chipped in with 10 stops apiece. DeRen Ellis posted a pair of pass interceptions in the game.

**FERRIS VERSUS PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS:** Ferris State is 10-13-2 (.440) all-time against Pennsylvania schools, which includes a 7-7-0 home ledger and a 3-6-2 road mark.

**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](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).

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2003 GLIAC STANDINGS

	GLIAC					OVERALL				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Grand Valley State	5	0	1.000	225	85	6	0	1.000	234	91
Saginaw Valley State	5	0	1.000	188	45	6	0	1.000	218	59
Findlay	3	2	.600	87	114	4	2	.667	138	145
Northwood	3	2	.600	154	81	3	3	.500	168	111
Hillsdale	3	2	.600	134	135	3	3	.500	154	160
Indianapolis	2	3	.400	117	218	3	3	.500	161	225
<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.400</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.500</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>167</b>
Mercyhurst	2	3	.400	77	118	3	3	.500	107	139
Northern Michigan	2	3	.400	144	149	2	4	.333	144	211
Michigan Tech	2	4	.333	205	216	2	4	.333	205	216
Wayne State	1	4	.200	88	166	2	4	.333	126	187
Ashland	1	5	.167	88	156	1	6	.143	94	168

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Saginaw Valley State 35, Findlay 7\*  
 at Northwood 52, Indianapolis 7\*  
 Hillsdale 49, at Wayne State 26\*  
**at Michigan Tech 49, Ferris State 30\***  
 Grand Valley State 50, at Northern Michigan 20\*  
 at Mercyhurst 17, Ashland 10\*

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Michigan Tech at Wayne State\*, 12 p.m.  
 Northern Michigan at Ashland\*, 1:25 p.m.  
**Mercyhurst at Ferris State\*, 2 p.m.**  
 Findlay at Indianapolis\*, 2 p.m.  
 Northwood at Hillsdale\*, 2:30 p.m.  
 Saginaw Valley State at Grand Valley State\*, 7 p.m.



www.gliac.org

\*GLIAC Game  
 All Times are Eastern



**LAST WEEK:** Michigan Tech celebrated its Homecoming with 521 yards in total offense as the Huskies claimed a 49-30 conference win over Ferris State in front of the sixth-largest crowd ever (2,554) at MTU's Sherman Field in Houghton, Mich. Following a scoreless opening quarter, Michigan Tech built a 21-3 halftime lead with three TD's in the second quarter. Tailback Chris Lomasney put the Huskies on the board first with a two-yard run at 13:17 and then tight end DeVon Allen hauled in a two-yard pass from quarterback Dan Mettlach 2:49 later to give MTU a 14-0 advantage. Following Ferris State senior kicker **Tom Perez's (Lewiston/Johannesburg-Lewiston)** 37-yard field goal with 5:13 left to go in the quarter, Mettlach scored again on a 22-yard run with 48 seconds left to give the Huskies a 21-3 halftime margin. That would be the first of three rushing touchdowns on the day for Mettlach, who finished the game with 72 rushing yards and 255 passing yards. In the third quarter, both teams traded scores with Mettlach running three yards for a TD at the 8:34 mark before the Bulldogs answered as junior quarterback **Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.)** connected with sophomore flanker **Carlton Brewster (Grand Rapids/Creston)** on a four-yard TD pass play with 3:54 remaining in the quarter to draw within 28-10. Tech proceeded to build a 35-10 advantage by the quarter's 3:35 mark as wideout Brad Ruhanen caught a Mettlach pass and ran it 65 yards for a TD. Senior tailback **Derek Fudge (Gibonston, Fla./East Bay)**, who had 74 yards rushing on 20 carries, scored from three yards out on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 35-17 before MTU tailback Lee Marana answered on the Huskies' next drive with a two-yard TD run. Ferris mounted a comeback with back-to-back passing TD's midway through the fourth quarter to draw within 42-30 as **Brewster** and senior flanker **Avery Hicks (Hollywood, Fla./Miramar)** both caught a pair of Marsan TD passes of 13 and 20 yards, respectively, with the latter occurring at 6:24. Ferris State got the ball back just 45 seconds later on an MTU fumble, but the Huskies' defense held on four downs. Mettlach sealed the win five plays later with 2:20 remaining on an eight-yard scamper. The Bulldogs rolled up 440 yards in total offense, which included **Marsan's** 297-yard, three TD passing on a 32-of-51 performance. **Brewster** led all receivers with 14 receptions for 100 yards and also had seven kickoff returns for 109 yards. Sophomore flanker **Brandis Bowie (Lansing/Sexton)** had 69 receiving yards on four catches while **Hicks'** five receptions were good for 67 yards. Defensively, senior strong safety **Vito Ciaramellano (Rochester Hills/Rochester)** claimed a game-high 19 tackles (14 solos) while senior middle linebacker **Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi)** totaled 17 stops (12 solos). Junior outside linebacker **Kevin Myers (Midland)** also cracked the double-figure tackle column with 16 tackles.

**BULLDOG BITES:** **Carlton Brewster** established a pair of personal career single-game highs at Michigan Tech with his 14 catches for 100 yards. His previous best was seven receptions at Northwood last season (10/5/02) and 71 receiving yards at Findlay (11/2/02).

**Avery Hicks** recorded his best effort in a Bulldog uniform at Michigan Tech with personal bests in catches (five) and receiving yards (67) to go along with his first collegiate TD (20-yard pass reception).  
**Vito Ciaramellano's** 19 tackles (14 solos) at MTU Saturday represents a career high, besting his 13-tackle output at Grand Valley State earlier this fall (9/13).  
**Tom Perez's** second-quarter field goal in the MTU contest marked the 21st of his career and moved him into a fifth-place tie with Mike Panasuk (1987-90), who converted 21 of 43 career field goals. Perez has made good on 21 of 37 career attempts to date.  
**Tom Marsan's** season-high 297 passing yards against Michigan Tech was his most since last season (11/2) when he threw for a career-high 396 yards (19-39) at Findlay. The signal-caller has presently recorded 12 career 200-yard plus passing game efforts, including three 300-yard plus performances. Marsan's 51 pass attempts at MTU was the second highest total in his career, trailing his 55 tosses (37 completions) at Northwood a season ago (10/5).  
**Luke Piepkow**, who currently ranks eighth among FSU's all-time tacklers leaders with 339 career stops (170 solos) in 34 contests, is averaging 12.0 tackles per game (36 total stops) in the Mercyhurst series and has posted double digits in each of the three meetings. He notched 12 hits (six solos) in the 2000 game followed by 13 tackles (seven solos) in 2001. In last fall's contest, Piepkow was in on 11 stops (four solos).  
**Derek Fudge** is 160 rushing yards away from attaining the 1,000-yard mark in a single season. Fudge, who has registered 840 yards on the ground in 160 attempts this campaign, needs 368 more yards to reach the 4,000-yard rushing mark and his 3,632 career yard total is second on the school's all-time charts to Mo Harris (1996-99; 4,192 career yds.).  
 Among this week's NCAA II national individual leaders, **Derek Fudge** ranks sixth in rushing (140.0 ypg.), 10th in scoring (10.0 ppg.) and 14th in all-purpose yards (156.8 ypg.). **Luke Piepkow** is listed sixth in total tackles (12.2 avg.) while **Kevin Myers** ranks 15th (11.0 avg.) in that statistical category and fifth in solo tackles (6.7 avg.). Junior defensive end **John Hazle (St. Johns)** is 23rd in pass sacks (0.9 avg.) and tied for 33rd in forced fumbles (0.33 avg.) with **Myers**.  
 The Bulldogs have compiled a 47-17-1 (.731) record in their final five regular-season outings per season since 1990. Ferris went 3-2 last fall and 4-1 the season prior highlighted by a four-game winning streak.

**HOMECOMING GAMES:** Ferris State is 30-27-2 (.525) in Homecoming contests dating back to 1931 and has won 11 of its last 14, including the last two to date. FSU recorded a 21-14 overtime triumph over Michigan Tech in last season's contest (10/12) after notching a 35-0 win against the Huskies the previous year (10/20/01). The Bulldogs lost a 21-10 decision to Mercyhurst in the 2000 contest (10/14). FSU's longest Homecoming winning string is seven games (1990-96) and its longest losing streak is nine (1981-89). Ferris posted a 19-6 win over Albion in its first Homecoming affair (10/17/31).

**UP NEXT:** FSU visits the nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals Saturday, Oct. 25, at SVSU's Wickes Memorial Stadium in University Center, Mich. Opening kickoff for the GLIAC contest is set for 12 p.m. (EDT).

**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
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Northern Michigan</b>	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
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Northwood</b>	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
<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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