The Ferris State University football team, which has won two of its last three games, will make its first-ever appearance in Erie, Pa., this Saturday (Oct. 13) as the Bulldogs go up against the Mercyhurst College Lakers in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action. The contest represents the second meeting ever between the two teams.

Head Coach Jeff Pierce: Jeff Pierce is presently in his seventh year at Ferris State and has registered a career 45-28-0 coaching record to date. In that span, Pierce has already made a mark among the school's all-time coaches by posting the best winning percentage (.616) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is two wins away from tying Sam Ketchman (1953-66) for second place in all-time victories and is 16 wins away from becoming the winningest FSU coach in history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is two wins away from tying Sam Ketchman (1953-66) among the school's all-time coaches by posting the best winning percentage (.616) in the program's history.

2001 Harlon Hill Trophy Candidate: Senior flanker Clarence Coleman (Miami, Fla./Miramar), the NCAA Division II's all-time leader in receptions, is among several NCAA Division II standouts vying for the 2001 Harlon Hill Trophy as the nation's top Division II football player. The All-America receiver has currently amassed 4,427 career receiving yards on a NCAA-II record 283 catches in 37 games at FSU while compiling 251 career receptions for 4,038 yards in conference games only. Coleman established school single-season marks for receptions (97), receiving yards (1,519) and TD's (15) last fall. His 89 catches for 1,441 yards in GLIAC games last season both represented conference records. The All-America wideout, who's both the GLIAC and FSU's all-time leader in receptions, is among several NCAA Division II standouts in his career while registering 24 career 100-yard plus receiving game performances.

All-Time Series: Mercyhurst holds a 1-0-0 series edge over Ferris State after recording a 21-10 road triumph last season (10/14/00) in the Bulldogs' 74th Homecoming contest.

Lakers leads 1-0-0
FSU Scoring Avg.: 10.0 (10 pts.)
Last MC Win: 21-10* (10/14/00)
Current Series Win Streak: 1-0-0
MC Scoring Avg.: 21.0 (21 pts.)
Most Points in a MC Win: 21 (21-10* – 10/14/00)
Differential: +11.0 (MC)
Longest Series Win Streak: 1 (MC 10/14/00)
Most Points in a FSU Win: 21-10
Most Decisive Score: MC 11 (21-10* – 10/14/00)
Last Meeting in Erie: ---
2000 MC 21-10 H
Last Meeting -- 2000: Ferris State had its homecoming spoiled as Mercyhurst, thanks to a conference-record tying six pass interceptions, recorded a 21-10 victory over the Bulldogs before 3,500 spectators at Top Taggart Field. Ferris, which outgained the Lakers in total offense 388 to 354 yards, trailed 7-0 at 11:33 of the opening quarter as MC quarterback Mac McArdile threw a 16-yard TD pass. The Bulldogs countered shortly thereafter when quarterback Kyle Park completed a slant pass to flanker Doug Searles from four yards out to tie the contest at seven-apiece with 9:44 left in the opening quarter. The Bulldogs would get no closer as the Lakers closed out the scoring en route to a 21-10 victory.

Clarence Coleman (Miami, Fla./Miramar) headed the defense with a game-high 17 tackles (11 solos). Outside linebacker Charlie Prierson and middle linebacker Luke Piepikk brought down 16 and 12 tackles, respectively. Defensive end Dave Zuiderveen and defensive tackle Ryan Morris combined for nine stops apiece. Cornerback DeRen Ellis garnered two pass interceptions.

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Joe Gorby
Sports Information Director
E-Mail: gorbyj@ferris.edu

Rob Bentley
Assistant Sports Information Director
E-Mail: bentleyr@ferris.edu

Sports Information Office
330 Oak Street, West 025, Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031
Phone 231 591-2336/3821 FAX 231 591-3775
www.ferris.edu/sports
Grand Valley State State
4 0 1.000 4 0 1.000
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Wayne State
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Ashland
2 3 .400 3 3 .500
Northwood
1 3 .250 1 3 .250
Northern Michigan
1 4 .200 2 4 .333
Findlay
1 4 .200 1 5 .167
Mercyhurst
0 4 .000 0 4 .000

LAST WEEK: Grand Valley State junior 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 over Ferris State in front of a 2,901 fans at Top Taggart Field. GVSU junior 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 senior tailback Matt Otero’s (Independence, Ohio) one-yard plunge to knot the contest at seven-all. However, the Anes-Kircus combination hooked up for the first time in eight games and 210 passing attempts that GVSU quarterback Curt Anes had a pass intercepted.

Tailback Matt Otero is averaging 146.5 yards per game (293 total) in the Bulldogs’ last two outings. He rushed for a 149 yards vs. Grand Valley State (10/6) after compiling 144 yards on 27 attempts against Northwood a week earlier (9/29).

The Bulldogs are averaging 152.0 yards rushing (456 total) in three home contests this fall while registering 63.0 yards a game (189 total) in three road games. In passing, Ferris is averaging 202.3 yards an outing (607 total) at home and 265.7 yards (857 total) on the road to date.

Clarence Coleman finished his four-year career against Grand Valley State averaging 153.5 receiving yards per game (614 total) and 11.0 receptions an outing (44 catches) in four appearances. He averaged 13.9 yards per catch vs. GVSU in his career.

Free safety Rich Dosh’s 12 tackles versus Grand Valley State represents a personal career best, eclipsing his previous high of seven tackles at Saginaw Valley State earlier this fall (9/15).

Outside linebacker Charlie Pierson notched his 14th double-figure tackle output of his career and fourth this campaign with 10 stops vs. Grand Valley State (10/6). He’s presently averaging 8.1 tackles a game in 34 career contests.

Ferris State has posted a 9-12-2 (.435) all-time record against Pennsylvania schools, which includes a 2-5-2 road mark and a 7-7-0 home ledger.

FSU is averaging 244.0 passing yards per game in its first six contests this season and recorded a 244.2 yard average last season in its initial six outings. In rushing, the Bulldogs have averaged 107.5 yards an outing while registering a 136.5 yards per game average a year ago.

COLEMAN MAKES HISTORY: Clarence Coleman, the NCAA Division II’s all-time leader in pass receptions with 283 career catches to date, is 42 yards away from becoming the NCAA-II’s career leader in receiving yards. Coleman has registered a current 4,427-career yard total and would surpass the national mark held by James Roe of Norfolk State (4,468 yds. on 239 receptions, 1992-95). He’s averaging 15.6 yards per catch and 119.6 yards per game in 37 career outings.

Coleman is also listed among the national career leaders in all four NCAA divisions (I-A, I-AA, II and III), presently ranking seventh in receiving yards (4,427), ninth in yards per game (119.6), 10th in receptions (283), tied for 14th in receptions per game (7.6) and tied for 30th in touchdown receptions (38). Coleman is two catches shy of moving into a ninth-place tie with Scott Hvidstdahl (285 receptions for 4,696 yds.) of NCAA-II member Augsburg College (Minn.) on the all-time receptions list.

Up NEXT: Ferris State hosts the Michigan Tech University Huskies Saturday, Oct. 20, in conference play at FSU’s Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Opening kickoff for Ferris’ 75th Homecoming Game is slated for 2 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. 1 South Dakota State Offense-Kyle Park, Defense-DeRen Ellis, Specialty-Tom Perez, EPEP-William Foster
Sept. 8 Findlay Offense-Clarence Coleman, Defense-J.J. Moreland, Specialty-Devin Sokolowski, EPEP-Derek Fudge
Sept. 15 Saginaw Valley State Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Bo Moore, Specialty-Tim Gill, EPEP-Lamar Patterson
Sept. 29 Northwood Offense-Lamar Marsan, Defense-Charlie Pierson, Specialty-DeRen Ellis, EPEP-Matt Otero
Oct. 13 Mercyhurst
Oct. 20 Michigan Tech
Oct. 27 Northern Michigan
Nov. 3 Hillsdale
Nov. 10 Indianapolis

Home games listed in bold