The Ferris State University football team closes out the home portion of its 2002 season this Saturday (Nov. 9) as the Bulldogs host the Ashland University Eagles in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) action at Big Rapids, Mich.

**Head Coach Jeff Pierce:** Jeff Pierce, who has a 53-33-0 career coaching record, has made his mark among the school's all-time coaches by presently having the second best winning percentage (.616) in the program's history. The 1995 GLIAC Coach-of-the-Year is eight wins shy of becoming FSU's winningest coach, surpassing 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 '95 semifinal-round appearance.

**All-Time Series:** Ashland has a 10-4-0 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. Presently, AU has won the last three meetings and the two teams haven’t met since since 1999 (10/6) when the Eagles won 26-22 to spoil Ferris’ homecoming. Only five of the 14 games have been decided by eight points or less with the Bulldogs sporting a 23-3 mark in those outings.

**Ashland Leads 10-4-0**

| FSU Scoring Avg. | 14.9 | 209 pts. |
| AU Scoring Avg. | 22.8 | 319 pts. |
| Differential | -7.9 | (UA) |

**Most Points in a FSU Win:**

| 26-0 | 8-29/96 |

**At Big Rapids: AU leads 5-2-0**

| Most Points in a FSU Win: | 59 |

**At Ashland: AU leads 5-2-0**

| Most Points in a FSU Win: | 59-37 | 10/17/98 |

**First Game:**

| AU 21, FSU 7 |
| Most Decisive Score: | FSU 26 |

**Last FSU Win:**

| 26-0 | 8-29/96 |

**Last AU Win: 26-22**

| 10/16/99 |

**Last Meeting in Big Rapids:**

| AU 26, FSU 22* | 10/16/99 |

**Current Series Win Streak:**

| 3 |

**LAST MEETING – 1999:** Ferris State had its homecoming spoiled as Ashland recorded a 26-22 victory over the Bulldogs at Top Taggart Field. FSU, which trailed 26-7 with 14:56 remaining in the contest, rallied for 15 unanswered fourth-quarter points on a 55-yard TD pass from quarterback Matt McCarthy to split end Clarence Coleman on the 13:11 mark. Ferris narrowed the deficit to 26-20 with 5:34 left in the game on McCarthy's one-yard TD run and then registered a two-point safety with 1:23 remaining after AU's punter ran out-of-bounds in the end zone. The Bulldogs marched down the field on the ensuing Eagles' kickoff and were on the opponent's four-yard line with less than a minute left in the contest. Unfortunately, FSU wasn't able to score in three opportunities as AU strong safety Scott Parks intercepted McCarthy's pass in the end zone to squelch the comeback. The Eagles had taken a 10-7 lead after the opening quarter on a 30-yard field goal and a 68-yard fumble recovery for a TD with just 24 seconds left in the quarter which put the visitors ahead to stay. Ferris' score came on a McCarthy TD pass to Coleman with 5:36 showing on the scoreboard clock in the first quarter. AU then accounted for the lone scores in both the second and third quarters on a 42-yard TD pass play and a one-yard TD run as the Eagles held a 23-7 advantage after three quarters. FSU tailback Mo Harris rushed for a game-high 201 yards on 24 carries as the Bulldogs totaled 505 yards in total offense to the Eagles' 376-yard total. McCarthy threw for 293 yards (1,137 yds.), including 123.0 yards on the ground (492 yds.) and 161.2 in passing (645 yds.).

**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Phone 231 591-2336/3821 FAX 231 591-3775

www.ferris.edu/sports
2002 GLIAC STANDINGS

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LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

at Saginaw Valley State 48, Hillsdale 20*

at Northwood 41, Wayne State 27*

at Michigan Tech 34, Northern Michigan 13*

at Indianapolis 35, Ashland 14*

at Findlay 28, Ferris State 21*

Grand Valley State 62, at Mercyhurst 24*

SATURDAY, Nov. 9
Northwood at Michigan Tech*, 12 p.m.
Mercehurst at Wayne State*, 12 p.m.
Saginaw Valley State at Northern Michigan*, 1 p.m.
Ashland at Ferris State*, 1:30 p.m.
Findlay at Hillsdale*, 2:30 p.m.
Indianapolis at Grand Valley State*, 7 p.m.

2002 GLIAC PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

PLACE TEAM POINTS
1. Grand Valley State (10) 126
2. Saginaw Valley State (2) 112
3. Ferris State 87
4. Indianapolis 86
5. Ashland 86
6. Michigan Tech 69
7. Northwood 68
8. Northern Michigan 43
9. Hillsdale 42
10. Findlay 33
11. Wayne State 22
12. Mercyhurst 17

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: Despite a career-high 396 passing yards from sophomore quarterback Tom Marsan (Evergreen Park, Ill.), Ferris State had its three-game winning streak halted as the Bulldogs dropped a 28-21 conference decision to nationally-ranked Findlay last Saturday in front of 1,300 fans at Donnell Stadium in Findlay, Ohio. FSU jumped on the scoreboard first with 13:17 left in the first quarter as sophomore tailback Andrew Terry (Kentwood/Grand Rapids Creston) scored from 10 yards out to give the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead. The Oilers then exploded for three back-to-back TD's.

The Bulldogs were of back-to-back TD's.

Ferris State's Brandis Bowie (Saginaw/Sexton) on a 25-yard TD pass play with 3:42 remaining in the quarter and then at the 2:18 mark, Marsan connected with freshman flanker Carlton Brewer (Grand Rapids/Creston) caught four passes for 71 yards. Junior tailback Derek Fudge (Gibsonston, Fla./East Bay) rushed for 115 yards on 21 attempts. For the Oilers, Campbell led all rushers with 40 carries for 198 yards and Fraser completed 11-of-25 passes for 140 yards. Junior middle linebacker Luke Piepkow (Clark Lake/Jackson Lumen Christi) and sophomore outside linebacker Kevin Myers (Midland) each totaled 16 tackles while senior free safety Alvin Grier (Benton Harbor) chipped in with 13 stops.

BULLDOG BITES: Luke Piepkow is eight tackles shy of matching his personal career-best 110 tackles set last season. Piepkow has attained 92 stops (49 solo) in eight games this season for an 11.5 tackles per game average. Piepkow notched his 13th double-digit tackle single-game performance of his career with 16 stops (10 solo) at Findlay, which represents the second highest output in his FSU career. He garnered a career-best 18 tackles at Northern Michigan earlier this season (10/5).

Tom Marsan moved into fifth place on FSU's all-time passing yardage list with his 396-yard throwing effort at Findlay last Saturday and surpassed Kyle Park (1998-01; 3,474 yds.) in the process. The signal-caller has currently accumulated 3,588 career passing yards and is averaging 211.1 yards per game on a 53.0 (287-542) career completion percentage in 17 contests. Marsan is now 3,271 yards away from tying Doug Arnold (1989-92; 6,805 yds.) for fourth place on the career chart.

Derek Fudge is within 246 rushing yards from tying Chris Pulliams (1993-96; 2,743 yds.) for fourth place among Ferris’ career rushing leaders. Fudge, who has four 100-yard plus rushing performances this season, has registered 2,497 career rushing yards in 28 games and is averaging 89.2 yards on the ground a game.

Tom Marsan’s 396 passing yards at Findlay was only 45 yards shy of tying FSU’s single-game passing mark held by current Bulldog assistant coach Matt McCarthy, who threw for 441 yards at Hillsdale (10/30/99). The 300-yard plus passing effort also marked the third of Marsan’s career and surpassed his previous high of 377 yards set at Northwood earlier this campaign (10/5).

Alvin Grier needs seven more tackles to register his 300th career stop and is averaging 7.3 hits per game in 40 career contests. The three-time all-conference defender has amassed 293 career stops, which includes 177 solo hits. This season, Grier has garnered 58 tackles in eight outings and his career best was as a frosh in 1999 when he racked up 92 tackles (51 solos) in 10 outings.

In the last four games, Derek Fudge is averaging 103.8 yards on the ground per contest with 415 total yards on 104 carries. Fudge has currently registered back-to-back 115-yard single-game rushing efforts against Saginaw Valley State (10/28) and at Findlay (11/2).

Tom Marsan has currently notched the 11th highest single-season passing performance in the program’s history with his 2,051 passing yards this campaign. Marsan, whose 1,537 passing yards a season ago previously ranked 15th best, is 39 yards shy of tying Dave DenBraber’s 10th-place 2,090-yard total set in 1986.

UP NEXT: Ferris State concludes the 2002 campaign on the road next Saturday, Nov. 16, as the Bulldogs battle the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds in GLIAC action. Opening kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. (EST) at UI’s Key Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.

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. 7 Hillsdale
Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Jason Feasel, Speciality-Tom Perez, EPEP-Carlton Brewer
Sept. 21 Northern Michigan
Offense-Brand Newell, Defense-Jason Feasel, Speciality-Jim Skodak, EPEP-Kevin Myers
Sept. 28 Wayne State
Offense-Austin Malloy, Defense-Whitney Bell, Speciality-Dennis Cartwright, EPEP-Matt McCoy
Oct. 5 Northwood
Oct. 12 Michigan Tech
Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Rob Mida, Speciality-Cory Strader, EPEP-Justin Sherrod
Oct. 19 Mercyhurst
Offense-Matt McCoy, Defense-DeRen Ellis Speciality-Tim Gill, EPEP-Bo Moore
Oct. 26 Saginaw Valley State
Offense-Dennis Cartwright, Defense-Jason Feasel, Speciality-Carlton Brewer, EPEP-Justin Giordano
Nov. 2 Findlay
Offense-Derek Fudge, Defense-Luke Piepkow, Speciality-Frank Sherrod, EPEP-Dennis Cartwright
Nov. 9 Ashland
Indianapolis FBRelease.11/5/02.FBnews