The Game: The Ferris State University football team will close out the road portion of its 2004 regular-season schedule this Saturday (Oct. 30) as the Bulldogs face the nationally-ranked Northwood University Timberwolves in a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) matchup at Midland, Mich.

Head Coach Jeff Pierce: Tenth-year head coach Jeff Pierce became Ferris State's all-time winningest coach as a result of the Bulldogs' 23-17 overtime conference victory at Ashland this season (Sept. 4). The 1995 GLIAC Coach of the Year surpassed Keith Otterbein (60-39-3, 1986-94) for the top honor and his .617 winning percentage ranks second on the school's all-time charts to Walker Smith's (1924-26, 625 12-7-1). 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 maintains a 16-14-0 series lead over Northwood in a series which commenced in 1972. FSU has won 14 of the last 17 meetings, including 10 of the past 12 contests after NU was victorious in 11 of the previous 13 games. Ferris is averaging 37.5 points per game (450 total) in its last 12 contests to Northwood's 21.0 (252 total) for a +16.5 point margin. The Bulldogs are 5-2 in their last seven outings at NU and have averaged 34.3 points a game (240 total) while the Timberwolves have scored at an 18.7 points per contest (131 total) clip. Ferris is 12-9 (.571) all-time in meetings decided by 11 points or more (100 total) and is 4-5 (.444) in contests determined by 10 points or less (1-3 on the road).

Game Facts

Ferris State Bulldogs

At

Northwood Timberwolves

Kickoff: 12 p.m. (EDT)

Stadium/Surface: Hantz Stadium (3,000)/Natural Grass.


Last Week: Ferris State suffered a 28-6 loss to nationally eighth-ranked Michigan Tech last Saturday (Oct. 23) in FSU's 78th Homecoming contest at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. Ferris sports a 4-1 road ledger to date this season winning its first seven contests.

Northwood both tied for the conference title in 1983, 12th season, 66-42-0 (.611) — (7-20-0 vs. Ferris State). Riepma is a four-time GLIAC Coach of the Year recipient and the second all-time winningest coach in NU history.

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The Coaches: Ferris State – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 10th season, 66-42-0 (611) — (7-2-0 vs. Northwood). Pierce is 32-24-0 (.571) at home, 62-35-0 (.639) in conference games and 2-0 vs. Northwood. Pierce is 32-24-0 (.571) at home, 62-35-0 (.639) in conference games and 2-0 vs. Northwood.

Northwood – Pat Riepma (Hillsdale, 1983), 12th season, 65-57-2 (.532) – (2-9-0 vs. Ferris State). Riepma is a four-time GLIAC Coach of the Year recipient and the second all-time winningest coach in NU history.

The Coaches: Ferris State – Jeff Pierce (Ferris State, 1979), 10th season, 66-42-0 (611) — (7-2-0 vs. Northwood). Pierce is 32-24-0 (.571) at home, 62-35-0 (.639) in conference games and 25-15-0 (.625) in October during his coaching career.

Northwood – Pat Riepma (Hillsdale, 1983), 12th season, 65-57-2 (.532) – (2-9-0 vs. Ferris State). Riepma is a four-time GLIAC Coach of the Year recipient and the second all-time winningest coach in NU history.

Northwood, which is ranked 13th in this week's American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) poll, registered a 35-14 conference victory over nationally 10th-ranked Grand Valley State last Saturday (Oct. 23) night at GVSU's Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, Mich. NU started out this season winning its first seven contests and is 3-0 at home this fall. A season ago, the Timberwolves finished 6-5 overall and finished tied for fourth in the GLIAC.

Ferris has won or shared the conference championship six of the last 12 years, including five straight (1992-96).

FSU Scoring Avg.: 25.7 (770 pts.)

NU Scoring Avg.: 20.9 (627 pts.)

At Midland: Tied at 8-4-0

At Big Rapids: FSU leads 8-6-0

First Game: FSU 20, NU 3* (10/28/72)

Last FSU Win: 40-16* (10/4/03)

Last NU Win: 41-24 (10/5/02)

Last Meeting in Midland: NU 41, FSU 24 (10/5/02)

Last Meeting in Big Rapids: FSU 28-14 A (9/29/72)

Current Series Win Streak: 1 FSU 20, NU 17 A (10/7/72)

Longest Series Win Streak: 6 FSU 42, NU 17 A (10/4/03)

http://www.ferris.edu/sports
Last Week's Results

Michigan Tech 8 ... 2004 GLIAC Standings

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Last Week's Results

Ashland 28, at Wayne State 21*

Ferris State at Saginaw Valley State*. 12 p.m.

Ferris State at Northwood*, 12 p.m.

Findlay at Ashland*, 1 p.m.

Wayne State at Gannon*, 1 p.m.

St. Joseph’s (Ind.) at Indianapolis, 2 p.m.

Mercyhurst at Hillsdale*, 2:30 p.m.

Grand Valley State at Northern Michigan*. 7 p.m.

Last Week: Ferris State dropped its 78th Homecoming contest last Saturday afternoon as the Bulldogs fell to nationally eighth-ranked Michigan Tech, 28-6, at FSU's Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich. FSU trailed throughout the contest as Michigan Tech scored 14 first-quarter points and never looked back. The Huskies tallied at 4:57 left in the first quarter on a quarterback Dan Mettich 29-yard TD pass to wide receiver Kirk Williams. Then, MTU went up by two TD's on tailback Lee Marana's one-yard run with 39 seconds remaining in the frame. Ferris was able to get on the board at the second quarter's 14:49 mark when junior flanker Carlton Brewer (Grand Rapids/Creston) made a spectacular one-handed catch of junior quarterback Ryan Kaul's (Clarkston) pass near midfield and raced in for the score to complete a 67-yard TD pass play. The extra-point kick attempt by freshman kicker Ben Keur (Muskogon/Oakridge) was blocked. FSU had reached the Huskies' 23-, 20- and 39-yard lines on three subsequent second-quarter possessions but failed to score. The second half was a battle for field position until the Huskies converted early in the fourth quarter (13:07) as a MTU interception set up a two-yard TD run by Marana. The Huskies then iced the game by completing a 13-play, 80-yard drive which culminated when Marana ran into the end zone from two yards out with 5:25 left to go in the contest. Ferris State was outgained 363 to 202 yards in total offense as the Huskies limited the Bulldogs to 47 yards rushing. Brewer led FSU with a game-high eight receptions for 125 yards and one yard shy of tying for 10th place on the school’s single-season rushing leaders list with John Hogarth. Terry has now compiled double-digit tackles in eight of the Bulldogs’ nine games this season. He’s averaging 14.7 tackles per game. Senior outside linebacker Brad Bigelow (Alma) registered his first career pass interception last Saturday against MTU and tallied a 13-yard return. He also contributed with four tackles in the contest.

Ferris State dropped to 30-32-2 (484) in Homecoming games and had its three-game Homecoming winning string halted with the setback to Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs have won 11 of their last 15 Homecoming encounters to date.

Sophomore defensive end Jerald Sawyer (Sault Ste. Marie/Sault Area) tied his season high with six tackles vs. MTU, which matched his game total at Mercyhurst (9/25). He had a combined five total tackles in eight games a season ago.

Junior free safety Jason Machalak (Clinton Township/Clintondale) turned in a career-high six stops against Michigan Tech. His previous game high was two stops on three occasions.

Among this week’s NCAA Division II statistical leaders. Carlton Brewer ranks fifth in both receptions (7.9 rpg.) and receiving yardage (119.8 ypg.) while being listed 17th in all-purpose yards (160.1 ypg.). Andrew Terry is 16th in rushing (122.0). Defensively, Mike Klobucher is seventh in total tackles (12.2 avg.) and 11th in solo stops (6.7 avg.) while Kevin Myers is 16th in total tackles (11.3 avg.) and 22nd in solo stops (6.1 avg.). Jim Skodak ranks 20th in passes defensed (1.6 avg.).

Season Road Finales: The Bulldogs are 27-25-1 (.519) in regular-season road games finishes since 1950 and have won 11 of their last 12 outings, which includes a 17-10 conference win at Ashland last season (11/8). In 1991 (11/16), FSU dropped a 16-10 decision at St. Joseph's (Ind.).

Up Next: Ferris State concludes its 2004 regular season next Saturday, Nov. 6, hosting the nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State Cardinals in the conference finale. Opening kickoff is set for 1 p.m. (EDT) at FSU’s Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, Mich.

Internet Coverage: All 2004 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.

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).