The GAME: The Ferris State University football team will conclude its 2004 season this Saturday (Nov. 6) after noon as the Bulldogs entertain the nationally-ranked Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals in a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) tilt at Big Rapids, 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 .606 winning percentage ranks second on the school’s all-time charts to only Wallie Hein’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 has a 15-13-1 lead over Saginaw Valley State in a series which started in 1975 (10/4) with the Cardinals claiming a 31-28 victory in Big Rapids. SVSU has presently won four of the last six meetings, but is 2-4 in its last six appearances at FSU. In that period, Ferris is averaging 26.7 points a contest (160 total) to SVSU’s 25.0 points per game (150 total). Eleven of the last 26 meetings have been decided by four points or less, including seven of the last 14.

Furthermore, 16 meetings between the two teams have been decided by eight points or less and of the last 26 meetings have been decided by four points or less, including seven of the last 14.

THE LAST MEETING – 2003: Saginaw Valley State quarterback Mark Radlinski passed for a school-record 391 yards as the Cardinals overcame a 24-7 halftime deficit with 31 second-half points to register a 38-31 win over Ferris State before a SVSU Wickes Stadium crowd of 5,175 fans at University Center, Mich. Ferris scored the contest’s initial 21 points with the first two occuring on TD’s by cornerback Ryan Carruthers on a first-quarter 46-yard interception return and middle linebacker Luke Piękpok’s second-quarter 16-yard fumble return at 10:35. The Bulldogs then scored with 2:14 left in the half as quarterback Tom Marsan connected with flanker Brandis Bowie on a nine-yard TD pass play after strong safety Vito Ciaramellano picked off another tipped Radlinski pass and ran 17 yards to the SVSU nine-yard line. Following an 11-yard TD pass from Radlinski with 40 seconds to go, FSU recovered a Radlinski fumble which set up a 31-yard field goal by kicker Tom Perez with three seconds left in the half. The Cardinals scored 17 unanswered second-half points, including 10 third-quarter points to get within 24-17 after three quarters. Running back Damien Bridges, who rushed for 120 yards, scored his first of three TDs on a two-yard run with 48 seconds remaining in the third quarter. SVSU tied the game at 24-all with 13:07 left on Radlinski’s 11-yard TD strike to wideout Glenn Martinez, who caught 11 passes for 234 yards. On the ensuing drive, the Bulldogs regained the lead as Marsan hit flanker Carlton Brewerster for a 10-yard TD pass to make it 31-24 at the 10:53 mark. SVSU rallied to tie the contest at 31-31 after 7:14 remaining on Bridges’ one-yard TD plunge. The Cardinals proceeded to score the game-winner on Bridges’ five-yard TD run with 1:36 left in the game. The Bulldogs were outgained 589 to 265 yards in total offense. Marsan threw for 200 yards on 15-of-27 passing while Brewerst had six catches for 50 yards and Bowie four for 46 yards as the Cardinals held tailback Derek Fudge to 39 yards on the ground. Outside linebacker Kevin Myers and defensive tackle Whitney Bell had 16 and 12 tackles, respectively.

– more –
Bell has compiled nine double-figure game tackle outings in 41 career contests.

- Ferris State is guaranteed a winning season for the ninth time in its last 13 seasons and its second consecutive to date. FSU has posted four straight non-losing campaigns to date. The Bulldogs reeled off five consecutive winning seasons from 1992-96.
- Redshirt freshman punter Levi Slager (Polo, Ill.) is averaging 37.3 yards per attempt (857 total yds. on 11 punts) in his last three contests. Slager's 2,202 yards in 60 attempts this season is presently ninth highest among Ferris' all-time single-season leaders.
- Andrew Terry posted his fifth 100-yard plus single-game rushing performance this fall with a 131-yard performance at Northwood. Terry has rushed for a career-high 1,229 yards on 261 carries this year, which currently ranks seventh highest on FSU's all-time single-season rushing leaders list.
- Mike Klobucher, who has a team-leading 127 tackles in 10 outings this season, is within 19 tackles of registering his 200th career tackle. He has produced 73 more stops this fall than a season ago (54 total) in 11 contests.
- Kevin Myers notched his 22nd double-digit game tackle output with his 12 stops at Northwood. Myers has generated six such tackles performances this season after compiling eight such outings in 2003. He averaged 11.5 tackles per game (46 total) in his four series meetings against Northwood.
- Among this week's NCAA Division II statistical leaders, Carlton Brewster ranks seventh in receiving yards (110.6 ypg.), ninth in receptions (7.3 rpg.) and 19th in all-purpose yards (150.3 ypg.).
- Andrew Terry is 19th in rushing (122.8). Defensively, Mike Klobucher is 10th in tackles (11.8 avg.) and 19th in solo stops (6.3 avg.) while Kevin Myers is 15th in solo tackles (6.4 avg.) and 17th in total stops (11.4 avg.).
- Jim Skodak ranks 22nd in passes defensed (1.5 avg.).

Season Finales: The Bulldogs are 14-6-0 (.700) in regular-season finale contests dating back to 1985, which includes a 9-5-0 (.643) mark since 1990. FSU has presently lost its last two season finales (2002-03), both to Indianapolis, 17-14 (11/16/02) and 35-20 (11/15/03). In regular-season finales at home since 1986, Ferris State is currently 6-3-0 (.667).

Home Finales: Ferris State has compiled a 14-5-0 (.737) record in its final home regular-season appearance campaign since 1985. FSU sports a 10-7-0 (.588) mark since 1990 and has won three of its last five such outings.

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).

DATE OPPONENT BULLDOGS-OF-THE-WEEK
Aug. 28 Grand Valley State Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Levi Slager, EPEP-Mike Klobucher
Sept. 4 at Ashland Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Jim Skodak, Specialty-Dan Boulter, EPEP-Ryan Kaul
Sept. 11 Hillsdale Offense-Carlton Brewster, Defense-Mike Klobucher, Specialty-Cory Strader, EPEP-Jason Davis
Sept. 18 at Indianapolis Offense-Ryan Kaul, Defense-Kevin Myers, Specialty-Matt Desmarais, EPEP-Andrew Terry
Sept. 25 at Mercyhurst Offense-Andrew Terry, Defense-Whitney Bell, Specialty-Ben Keur, EPEP-Jereld Sawyer
Oct. 9 at Northern Michigan Offense-Kevin Teeple, Defense-Rob Mida, Specialty-Keur, EPEP-Myers
Oct. 30 at Northwood Offense-Andrew Terry, Defense-Jesse Schnitker, Specialty-Brad Morris, EPEP-Whitney Bell
Nov. 6 Saginaw Valley State Home games listed in bold

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