2008 Season Preview

**Offense**

**Quarterback** – Junior Eric Grozenko (6-2, 227) enters fall camp as the incumbent starter but will likely be challenged by a pair of youngsters in sophomore Kyle Foster (6-3, 200) and redshirt freshman Tom Schneider (6-3, 195). Grozenko saw action in seven contests as the team backup last year and completed 50% (8-16) of his passes for 138 yards. He should have the most knowledge of the team’s offensive system although both Foster and Schneider showed significant improvement during the Gold Spring Game. Foster led the team in only one game and did not attempt a pass last year. Meanwhile, Schneider was chosen as Tomorrow’s Team Offensive Player of the Year and tossed three TD passes in April’s Crimson & Gold Spring Game.

**Running Backs** – A number of players should battle for playing time in the backfield. Senior Paris Hogue (5-8, 194) ran for 126 yards and scored four touchdowns. Hogue will be the team’s primary starter at tailback. The speedy back is a three-year letter-winner, but has been hampered by injuries in his career. Fellow senior Leonard Curry (5-10, 255) is a three-year starter at TB’s last fall. Sophomore Charles Wasson (5-10, 209) played in 10 games as a reserve in 2007 and is a good pass blocker behind the line of scrimmage. Additionally, redshirt freshman Marvel Pridgen (5’11, 215) is coming off a solid spring and has the potential to challenge for a starting role. The Bulldogs will likely use sophomore slot receiver Santino Favot (6-0, 185) and David Johnson (5-10, 204) out of the backfield at times much like they did with former GLIAC honoree Robert Miller the last two seasons. Several other players could play in a reserve role, including junior Ryan Pieske (5-9, 186).

**Wide Receivers** – The Bulldogs lost not only Robert Miller to graduation, but also will miss the services of veteran go-guys Mike Guevara and Nate Fricke. Together, the duo hauled in 91 receptions and averaged more than 15 yards per catch a year ago. While Hogue and Johnson will contend for time at the slot receiver spot, the Bulldogs do return two guys with starting experience on the outside in senior Cole Meredith (6-0, 190) and junior Chris Wilson (6-3, 230). Meredith averaged 20.8 yards per reception last fall while Wilson’s height and frame enabled him to make 11 grabs and a pair of scores. Senior Raheem Jones-Salaam (6-0, 188) is a three-year letter-winner who can provide veteran experience as an added threat. The Bulldogs will also utilize veterans in Anthony McCray (6-3, 205) and Kevin Reber (5-11, 190) along with redshirt freshmen Damien Miller (6-0, 170) and Seth Hubbard (6-3, 180) as part of the usual rotation at the receiver positions. Receiver Brannon Moore (6-2, 215) has moved to the receiving corps and should provide added depth on the outside based on his spring performance. Sophomore Keenan Bowman (6-2, 180) will be a special teams option.

**Offensive Line** – The situation up front is completely different this time around than it was a year ago. Last fall, the Bulldogs entered camp with only one returning starter in all-GLIAC pick Bill Bourdlais and were faced with the task of finding four new starters. This year, Ferris welcomes back five linemen who started at one time or another in 2007, but must find a way to offset the loss of the unit’s top player and leader in Bourdlais. Junior Brad Mamott (6-2, 280) and sophomore Matt Wellman (6-4, 280) were both 11-game starters at the guard positions. Mamott and Wellman are both 6’2, 280, and form a solid right side with Wellman holding down fort on the left-side of the line of scrimmage. Junior Joe Doman (6-0, 291) also made all 11 starts as the squad’s center a year ago and has the ability to play all five. Sophomore Scott Shattuck (6-1, 290) should challenge for a starting role at either center or guard with senior Alex Dekok (6-2, 285) also back. Experienced senior Kyle Williams (5’9, 260) is also back. The Bulldogs will likely count on the services of several other letterwinners including seniors Tom Thornton (6-4, 295) and Josh Brenning (6-6, 285) along with sophomores Joe Volles (6-2, 270) as part of the cast.

**Defense**

**Linebackers** – The team only returned two starters in senior C.J. Lee (5-10, 209) and sophomore Kyle Williams (5-10, 190) out of the backfield at times much like they did with former all-GLIAC honoree Robert Miller the last two seasons. Several other players could play in a reserve role, including junior Ryan Pieske (5-9, 186).

**Secondary** – A number of faces return defensively in the secondary. There should be plenty of veterans in the back-half of the unit. Senior Terrell Huggins (5’11, 215) was impressive in his first season with the team last year and missed most of the season, giving junior Angelo Williams (5’11, 185) an opportunity to play full-time at the other corner. Both return this year with redshirt freshman Russell Weatherspoon (5’10, 165) expected to challenge for time on the outside. While FSU must replace talented performer Patrick Wells at one of the safety spots, plenty of depth and experience is available in juniors Chad Wilson (6-0, 197) and Santino Favot (5-11, 185) and seniors Oseloka Keys (6-3, 200) and C.J. Lee (6-3, 200). Together, the foursome give FSU both size and speed down the field. Sophomore Landon Jones (5-9, 185) and junior Chandler Smith (5-11, 185) may provide depth.

**Special Teams** – Ferris welcomes back special teamer Zane James (6-1, 213), who was an all-GLIAC Second Team performer and FSU’s Special Teams Player of the Year in 2007 after handling both the punting and kickoff chores. Redshirt freshman Dusty Greenbury (6-2, 205) should be a quality backup and senior Bush Brian (6-11, 212) may provide depth on the outside. Replacements must be found for the return chores at Guevara, Miller, Fricke and Wells combined to perform most of the duties last fall.

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