

MEDIA PACKET

Ferris state tailback needs 634 more yards

Ferris State names lab for Klett family

State cuts business expenses

Big Rapids Area Airport Industrial Park -Open for Business

Second-generation Bulldog McLean enjoys the ride

Students turn in thousands of letters against cuts

Ferris State gets set to face off against Michigan and MSU

Ferris student engineers to hold road rally

Ferris State's Jilkova named GLIAC Player Of The Year

Career opportunities touted ; Ferris State officials aim to reverse falling enrollment trend

FSU United Way fund-raiser today

Bulldogs hope to bounce back

Economy adds more jobs; unemployment rate at 6% Despite recovery sign, factory jobs disappear from U.S. employers

Ferris state tailback needs 634 more yards

Tampa Tribune (Florida)

October 12, 2003, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

FERRIS STATE TAILBACK NEEDS 634 MORE YARDS

Playing college football has been a dream come true for Derek Fudge, so being on the brink of breaking Ferris State University's career rushing record may have him pinching himself every day for the rest of the season.

Fudge, a senior tailback for the Bulldogs, had 3,558 rushing yards before Saturday's game against Michigan Tech, 634 yards shy of the record with six games remaining. Averaging just more than 153 yards per game this season, which includes a 272-yard performance in the team's opener against Hillsdale, Fudge, a former East Bay running back, stands a considerably good chance of breaking the record in coming weeks.

"He goes out every play and gives you everything he's got," said head coach and running backs coach Jeff Pierce. "But he's very humble. He's not trying to steal the show, and he works hard to be accountable for himself."

As a redshirt freshman, Fudge watched from the sidelines as another Hillsborough County graduate set the current record in 1999. Mo Harris, an alumnus of Hillsborough High, ran for 4,192 yards during his career at Ferris State.

"Mo was the world up here," Fudge said. "Whenever he touched the ball you knew something great would happen. He was exciting to watch every play."

"When he broke the record I felt the same as everyone else: It couldn't have happened to a more deserving person."

Harris is in the top 10 records in every rushing category, scoring and total offense, but just above or just below his name in the record books is the name of Fudge, the younger tailback he took under his wing.

Leaving home for college is usually a difficult time for any student, much less an athlete with high expectations. But moving more than 1,300 miles away is more complicated. Luckily, when Fudge arrived in Big Rapids, Michigan, there already were Florida players there to help him make the adjustment.

"That's a neat thing about both these young men, they fit into the community very well," Pierce said.

Local Connection

In addition to senior tailback Harris, Fudge met Jonathon Griffin, a senior tackle from Jefferson, and Clarence Coleman, a sophomore wide receiver and return specialist from Miami.

"I always went home with Mo during breaks because he had a car," Fudge said. "He'd always come by my dorm room and give us words of encouragement. Another guy who was a real role model for me was Clarence Coleman."

Because of the Florida trio's strong performances, Griffin said he felt there were a lot of high expectations for him.

"The coach tried to put me in the first time he saw me," Fudge said. "I didn't even know the plays yet."

"I've had the privilege to coach both Mo and Derek," Pierce said. "They are both outstanding. Both work very hard, both are excellent running backs and both have done it the same kind of way, by concentrating on improving themselves throughout their careers."

Eventually, Fudge settled into the offense, which controlled the ball much like his alma mater and he has been running ever since.

During the off-season, Fudge trained by running, using strength shoes and upgrading his workouts to include weighted straps of three pounds each to run "stairs, hills and everywhere."

"I came [into this season] in the best shape of my life this year," said Fudge, who, at 5-foot-81/2, 195 pounds, also spends hours in the weight room. "My hard work has paid off big time."

And though it has taken four years to learn, he has finally come to understand advice that Harris gave him in 1999.

"He told me when I'm running a play to be patient with it," Fudge said. "Now I know what he meant and I'm passing it on to the younger running backs. I'm using his words to break his record."

Earning Respect

Fudge's motto is "Working hard and keeping my mind humble, and taking the heart right out of their defense." That approach and his ready acknowledgment of the entire offense's role in his ability to run have earned him the position of team captain this year.

"He was elected by the team, which shows how people respect him for his commitment to the program over the years," Pierce said.

"As team captain, they were looking for what I have been providing all along - leadership and accountability," Fudge said. "But this year, I wanted to be more of a go-to player in the clutch. They've given me the ball and let me take over in three or four games this year."

Fudge said the real key to reaching the milestone will be the offensive coordinator calling for No. 3.

As his college career draws to close, Fudge wants to be remembered as the "hardest working man" on and off the field. He has earned the respect of his teammates and peers with his work ethic.

After graduation in May, Fudge will try out with pro teams to get on an NFL roster and see where he stands against backs from around the country. In any case, he will have a degree in rubber engineering and technology.

"My degree will give me a fine career," Fudge said. "Maybe I can provide some work into a new car model, or maybe even design something far-fetched. This program is just a wonderful thing."

The tailback is excited about taking control of his life in whichever direction it takes. In addition to a college degree, he will be taking with him something else he is proud of: his first car.

"It's a '91 Buick LeSabre, and it's very, very clean," Fudge said.

"Right now, it's my most memorable thing. It's something I own, something to walk away with. But graduation that will be the best memory."

And a little spot in the Ferris State Bulldogs' record book wouldn't be bad either.

Daily News (Dowagiac, MI)

October 28, 2003

Ferris State names lab for Klett family

James A. Klett of Hartford has donated \$100,000 to the materials laboratory in the new Granger Center for Construction and HVACR at Ferris State University.

Ferris Board of Trustees approved naming the materials laboratory the Klett Family Materials Laboratory at its regular board meeting Oct. 17.

Klett is a leader in the asphalt industry and a long-time member and current chairman of Ferris' College of Technology's Construction Technology and Management Advisory Committee.

His son, James "Chip" Klett, received an associate degree in civil engineering technology in 1999 and a bachelor's degree in construction management in 2001, both from Ferris.

The Granger Center, which houses Ferris' Construction Technology and Management and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration programs, is a virtual learning laboratory, allowing students enrolled in CTM and HVACR to openly view building components such as structural and wall construction along with mechanical/electrical systems including plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, heating and cooling.

It houses specialized laboratories for studying hydronic and forced-air heating, commercial refrigeration and air conditioning, metalworking, soldering, pipefitting, electrical systems, soils, hydraulics, materials testing, framing, steel structure and concrete form pouring.

It also is equipped with computer labs with the latest software.

Ferris offers two- and four-year programs in HVACR, both with 100-percent job placement.

The four-year program is the only one of its kind in Michigan and the largest and most widely recognized of only two similar programs in the United States.

The Construction Technology and Management Department offers two associate and one bachelor's degree program tailored to the needs of the construction industry.

Job placement is 100-percent, with most four-year graduates entering some level of project management or administration.

Pioneer

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

State cuts business expenses

LANSING (AP) -- Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Tuesday announced several measures to cut state spending and laid out her plan to discuss the state's budget deficit with Michigan residents.

Granholm said she will make 11 stops on her tour of the state between Wednesday and Nov 13 to talk to residents about Michigan's \$900 million budget shortfall.

"People need to understand ... that this is their money and these are their prisons. their communities and their schools." she said. "What is it that they are willing to pay for?"

This fall's gubernatorial budget tour is similar to one Granholm went on earlier this year when the state budget faced a \$1.7 billion deficit. Betsy DeVos, the Michigan Republican Party chairwoman, criticized the tour plan on Tuesday.

"While the governor continues to pontificate about jobs in Michigan, she has yet to offer any real solutions," DeVos said in a statement. "Governor Granholm was elected to lead, not just listen."

Granholm's budget tour includes one hour forums on television stations in six cities, which will be broadcast live. Audiences for the televised forums, which will include a combination of studio and other locations, will be invited by the governor's office and the television stations.

Granholm also will be on two radio calling shows and a call-in show on Michigan Government Television.

Two appearances - in Alpena and Macomb counties - will be lunch meetings with local residents, Granholm said.

PR Newswire

October 30, 2003, Thursday

Big Rapids Area Airport Industrial Park -Open for Business

Big Rapids Township today announced the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded a \$2.050 million grant to the Airport Industrial Park, located in Big Rapids Township. The grant will be used to pay for the extension of water and sewer services to serve business that locate in the park, the final phase of a six-year effort aimed at bolstering local economic development.

"These funds will go along way toward making this important project a success, and I'm glad I could be here to present it on behalf of the EDA," said Congressman Dave Camp who presented the EDA check to local leaders and project partners who gathered recently at the industrial park to mark the project's completion phase.

The park is a designated Renaissance Zone, which means businesses in the zone enjoy a virtually tax-free environment until 2017, paying no Michigan Single Business Tax, personal property taxes or Michigan utility taxes during this period.

Big Rapids Township Supervisor Maxine McClelland, said the EDA funds came at the right time and are the result of hard work and persistence by community leaders who view the industrial park as a key factor in bringing quality employers and jobs to the community.

"I am so proud of what we've been able to accomplish by working together," said McClelland. "Today marks the realization of a shared vision to create an industrial and commercial zone to rival that of anywhere in the U.S., and to compete for the kinds of employers that add value to our community, its citizens and the quality of life in Mecosta County."

Conveniently located adjacent to U.S. 131 at exit 142 and to Roben-Hood airport, the Airport Industrial Park encompasses 130 acres, zoned for commercial and manufacturing, and already has vital services installed, such as electrical power, natural gas, fiber optic cable and fire protection.

With the final phase of the project now underway, the Airport Industrial Park will also meet criteria for certification by the Michigan Economic Developers Association, important criteria for marketing the park to a wide range of commercial and industrial real estate professionals and business development staffs across the U.S.

While construction of water and sewer services will be completed in 2004, McClelland says a number of prospective businesses are looking at the park and could be accommodated with services at any time.

"We're ready for business, anytime, and we're confident we've got what it takes to make businesses that locate here successful," said McClelland who notes one of the Big Rapids area's biggest assets: Ferris State University.

"FSU's corporate and professional development center and technology transfer program really set us apart, and can offer employers top-notch skill development for their employees. The partnership that FSU brings to this project, and to the community, is invaluable."

The Mecosta County Development Corporation (MCDC), Mecosta County Area Chamber of commerce, City of Big Rapids, Big Rapids Area Industrial Development corporation, Big Rapids Township and Green Township have partnered on the industrial park project. Invaluable assistance has been provided by Congressman Camp's office, along with Sen. Michelle McManus, Rep. Rick Johnson and former State Senator Joanne Emmons.

"This project is a major achievement in our effort to diversify the economic base of Mecosta County," said MCDC Director Jonathan Scott. "With it ready for business, Mecosta County says 'We're pro-business and want you here.'"

The Airport Industrial Park is being marketed nationwide by C.B. Richard Ellis Real Estate. For information about locating in the Park, contact 1-866-MECOSTA, or online, visit www.mecostaedc.com .

Pioneer

Thursday October 30, 03

Second-generation Bulldog McLean enjoys the ride

By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer

BIG RAPIDS - Emily McLean, with a quick study of her family history, might well have been destined to become a Ferris State Bulldog.

Even though McLean grew up several hours away in Rogers City, near the tip of the state's Lower Peninsula, the Bulldog sophomore third baseman always has had a wealth of knowledge of Ferris State University.

Think about it: Emily's mother, Mary, came to FSU and was a member of the first Bulldog softball team in 1973; her father, John, played basketball, football and baseball for Ferris; and her older brother, Max, currently is a senior in business management at FSU.

McLean, a second-generation Bulldog athlete, is excited about the team Ferris will send to the diamond in the fall of 2004.

When McLean, a two-time all-state performer at Rogers City, looked at colleges, two jumped out at her: Ferris and Michigan State. She wisely chose to weigh her options carefully.

An ornamental horticulture technology major, a ticket to her career goal of owning a nursery and landscaping business, McLean had to balance her academic interests against her ambition of a college softball career.

"For me, choosing a college came down to either going to Michigan State or going to Ferris," said McLean, who batted .549 with 67 hits, six home runs, 18 doubles, eight triples and 49 runs batted in during 33 games for the Hurons. "I knew I wanted that particular degree, but I also wanted the chance to play college softball.

"Michigan State and Ferris were the only two schools that had my program. ... So, my decision came down to those two schools." Emily's mom, Mary, helped broker the deal.

Mary McLean contacted FSU head coach Keri Becker about a Bulldog softball alumni function she noticed on the Internet. Not long into the conversation, Becker asked Mary if she had a daughter named Emily, who was a pretty good high school player at Rogers City. She did.

Emily's high school coach, Charlie Fairbanks, also knew Becker and made a push from his end as well to help seal the deal. "He really did a lot to help me and my mum. did a lot as well," said McLean, 19, who earned team Most Valuable Player honor and was named Female Athlete of the year as a senior at Rogers City on the softball diamond.

"After that, I came for a visit; I liked the campus, I liked the way things sounded when I talked to everyone and I liked the coaches and girls on the team."

As for her parents, a pair of Bulldog athletics alumni, pressure was not an issue. "They supported me and were behind whatever decision I made, but I know they liked the fact I was going to continue to play softball," McLean smiled.

She was pretty excited to continue her playing career as well. After all, in high school, she had a career batting average of .462 with 217 hits and broke six Huron records, including: home runs, total bases, RBIs, hits, at-bats and games played. McLean did it all in the hometown she has grown to cherish during her youth.

Rogers City, located on the sandy beaches of Lake Huron some four-to-six hours northeast of Big Rapids, allows her to feel at peace whenever she's in her hometown.

"It's a small town where everyone knows you, but it is so gorgeous," said McLean, who spent this past summer working for her mom and dad (a medical technician and a pharmacist) at The Medicine Shop in Rogers City.

"When I was going through high school, I always said, 'man, I just want to get out of this town' and when I finally did, I wanted to come back.

"It took me a year to realize what I had (growing up in Rogers City), and no matter where you live ... its home. McLean is making a home away from home for herself in Big Rapids. As a freshman this past spring, she batted .245 in 20 of 48 games (18 starts) with 13 hits, three home runs, two doubles and six RBI.

In the spring to come, McLean and her teammates feel a high degree of optimism. The Bulldogs are hungry to build on a campaign last season in which they finished with a record of 18-29-1.

Ferris has some freshmen who have come in and injected new life and bolstered the talent level, while McLean and the rest of the Bulldogs are a year more experienced and hungrier.

"I am very excited about the team this season," she said. "We've got some good recruits who have come in hungry and ready to work.

"I think we have a team this year that's going to click not only on the field, but also off the field, and that's exciting."

Students turn in thousands of letters against cuts

LANSING - University presidents and lobbyists have failed in recent years to persuade the governor and lawmakers from reducing state spending on higher education to balance the budget, but a group of college students hope to have a better luck.

The Association of Michigan Universities, a group of students from Michigan's 15 public universities, started the Higher Education Letter Project, also known as HELP.

The project got 2,000 college students to e-mail their local lawmakers, encouraging them to spare higher education from a new round of cuts. The \$1.79 billion higher education budget for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 is 2.3 percent smaller than last year's overall \$1.83 billion spending plan.

"Higher education cannot continue to be a punching bag for legislators," Ahmed Baset, a student at Michigan State University and the director of budgetary affairs for the university's student government, said at a news conference. The state's 15 public universities raising their tuition an average 10 percent this fall so an average 30-credit academic year for undergraduates from Michigan cost \$5,919.

A number of college students at Tuesday's news conference said the tuition increases were making it too expensive for some of their friends to attend college. Others said cuts were hurting the quality of their education.

Kyle Ortiz, a 20-year-old political science senior at Northern Michigan University, said he had to take two tests sitting on the classroom floor because there were too many people in the room.

The Association of Michigan Universities may do another letter-writing campaign this year with faculty and staff from the state's public universities, said Hrant Hratchian, chairman of the organization and a graduate student at Wayne State University.

The group's efforts come at a good time as Gov. Jennifer Granholm begins an 11-stop tour across the state to discuss ways to balance the budget with state residents. The governor and legislators are considering ways to resolve a \$900 million budget shortfall this fall. Granholm plans to meet with Republican legislative leaders after the budget tour to come up with a budget-cutting executive order.

The Grand Rapids Press

Friday, October 31, 2003

Ferris State gets set to face off against Michigan and MSU

By Joe Conklin

The Grand Rapids Press

They've been to New York and Alaska the last two weekends, so four consecutive games in Michigan look good to the Ferris State Bulldogs.

There's a catch, however. The opponents will be Michigan State and Michigan.

The Bulldogs will play Michigan State in a home-and-home series starting tonight in East Lansing. A similar set is scheduled for next weekend against the Wolverines.

They are Ferris State's only games this season against MSU and U-M. All three teams were picked to lead the Central Collegiate Hockey Association in two preseason polls, but they've had mixed results in the first month.

The Bulldogs are 2-4 overall and fell out of the national Top 15 after losing two games to Alaska-Fairbanks last weekend. They're 1-3 in the CCHA as they defend the first regular-season title in school history.

"We're not playing very well right now," coach Bob Daniels said. "We didn't play with much passion in Alaska. If we can't be passionate the next two weeks, we've got a real problem."

The Bulldogs traveled all day Sunday after losing at Alaska-Fairbanks 4-1 on Saturday night. They were back on the ice Monday to prepare for Michigan State, which swept Western Michigan last weekend to improve to 3-3 overall and 2-2 in the CCHA.

"We've had a lot of travel by bus and plane the last two weeks and that may have been a factor," Daniels said. "That's not going to be the case now. We need to find an identity as a team."

Junior Mike Brown, the first-team all-CCHA goalie last season, needs one win to set a Ferris State career record with 43.

"Mike has played well," Daniels said. "There wasn't much more he could have done in Alaska."

Both the MSU and U-M games in Big Rapids are sold out. The No. 4-ranked Wolverines are 6-1 overall and 3-1 in the CCHA.

Pioneer

Weekend, November 1&2, 2003

Ferris student engineers to hold road rally

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University's student chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers is sponsoring a road rally to be held on Saturday beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. on the same day at the Burger King restaurant on State Street in Big Rapids.

Drivers will navigate the Big Rapids area with a map to find designated landmarks and checkpoints along the route. The funds generated will go to finance the annual SME trip to a manufacturing facility to observe that facility's processes.

Entry fee is \$15 per vehicle with first prize of \$200 and many consolation prizes for other participants.

Pioneer

Weekend, November 1& 2, 2003

Ferris State's Jilkova named GLIAC Player Of The Year

Bay City- Senior captain Barbora Jilkova Ferris State University team has Great Lakes Conference announcement made today (Oct. 28) by the league office. The league's 11th head coaches participated in the balloting process.

Jilkova, who is the 10th Ferris player and first since Jennifer Garvey in 2000 to claim the league's highest individual honor, also garnered first-team All-GLIAC kudos and was one of two Bulldog players to receive all-conference recognition as sophomore Laura Schaefer attained second-team all league laurels. Nine athletes were named to both the first and second-team squads.

A four-time (1999-03) first-team All-GLIAC honoree, Jilkova compiled a 14-5 overall singles record and was 20-4 in doubles action during the fall campaign for league runner-up Ferris State. The three-time regional doubles champion (2000-01 and 2003) presently ranks fourth on both the school's career singles and doubles victory lists with a 79-29 (.731) singles mark and a 95-31 (.754) doubles ledger.

Jilkova, a 2001-02 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II Doubles All-America performer, teamed with Schaefer to claim the 2003 ITA Great Lakes Region Doubles Championship in Indianapolis, Ind. (9/21). The duo then placed seventh overall in the 2003 ITA National Small College Championships (10/16-19) at Corpus Christi, Texas.

One of only two All-America performers in school history, Jilkova paired with Garvey (1998-02) and compiled Ferris' third-best single-season doubles record (29-4) along with the program's top single-season doubles victory percentage (.879) during the 2001-02 campaign en route to a fifth-place finish at the 2001 ITA National Small College Tennis Championships in Plano, Texas. Jilkova concluded her four-year GLIAC career with a combined 85-10 (.895) league regular-season singles and doubles record.

Schaefer was 12-5 overall in singles play and 20-4 in doubles competition this fall. The 2002 All-GLIAC Honorable Mention pick registered both a 9-1 singles and doubles record in league play this campaign, including a 4-0 mark at the number two singles flight.

Ferris State concluded the fall campaign with an 11-2 overall mark under fourth-year head coach Dave Ramos. The Bulldogs, who have presently won 183 of their last 187 league regular-season matches, placed second overall at the 2003 GLIAC Championships held last weekend (Oct. 24-25) at the Midland Community Tennis Center in Midland.

Crain's Communication Rubber & Plastics News

November 3, 2003, Monday

Career opportunities touted ; Ferris State officials aim to reverse falling enrollment trend

Sherri Begin

Industry support for the National Elastomer Center on Ferris State University's campus continues five years after its inception, but so does declining enrollment.

Officials heading the rubber and plastics program on campus hope they've found a way to stop the downward trend.

The program hosted its first Career Day Oct. 17, and about 250 high school students and 29 counselors and teachers attended the event. The department had to turn away another 100, said Auggie Gatt, an assistant instructor in the program and veteran of Avon Automotive Americas and Gates Corp.

Students watched as Gatt and the program's other instructor, Allied Signal Inc. veteran Matthew Yang, ran tabletop experiments and walked them through the rubber and plastics processing equipment.

Teachers and counselors returned to the classroom to learn how to run simple, fun polymeric experiments under the enthusiastic tutoring of the Polymer Ambassadors, a group of industry veterans that travels around the country to educate people and promote the field.

"When you graduate you can move anywhere you want" with a rubber and/or plastics technology degree, Robert G. Speirs III, chairman of the rubber and plastics department at Ferris State University, told the students.

"How about Florida? There's jobs there," he said. "Colorado might be a little tougher, but we've got jobs there, too."

The opportunities are endless, Speirs told the students. "Frankly, I'm amazed at where some of the alumni from here are now, careerwise, and I've been here 16 years."

Students in the program are enthusiastic. In fact, a senior, Kathy Frank, single-handedly planned the Career Day. It's getting them in the door that's the problem, Gatt said.

There are only 48 students enrolled in the rubber and plastics program, down from almost 60 two years ago. The drop is in spite of 10 \$1,000 scholarships sponsored each year by the Rubber Manufacturers Association, in-state tuition rates for those in the rubber and plastics program and the \$45,000 to \$50,000 starting salaries recent graduates have commanded, Gatt said.

Almost half-23-of the students in the program carry dual majors in rubber and plastics technology to make themselves more marketable, Gatt said. But there should be no problem finding jobs for any of the rubber and plastic program graduates, he added, even with a soft economy.

Stan Smith, a consultant to Federal-Mogul Corp. and member of the rubber program's advisory board, agreed, saying, "We've got jobs in the rubber industry for as many students as you can push out of here."

Getting students in the front door is the problem, he said, and it's something everyone in the industry can help change. The rubber and plastics programs get tremendous support in terms of donated materials, equipment and guest lecturers, Gatt said, from companies including Cabot Corp., DSM Copolymer Inc., DuPont Co., ExxonMobil Chemical Co., Federal-Mogul and Goodyear.

"I've not spent one dollar of the university's budget for materials since the center opened," Gatt said. "Even though these are hard times, I just have to pick up the phone."

But promoting the industry as an exciting, viable career option is something that hasn't been done enough, he said.

Two years ago, the rubber and plastics department at Ferris surveyed 250 of its current and past students to find out how they became interested in the program. The top answer? Somebody in the industry talked to them about it. The No. 2 answer was that one of their relatives told them about it, and the third highest response was that a graduate of the program talked to them.

At least five alumni from the program returned for the Ferris State career fair: Brandon Kopke, who is now with Flexible Products Co.; Russell Craft, who is with Rhein Chemie Corp.; Wes Laney with Federal-Mogul; and Nick Langmesser and Ryan Schook from Freudenberg-NOK G.P.

Plymouth, Mich.-based Freudenberg-NOK hosted an open house Oct. 29 for high school guidance counselors and science teachers from a five-county area around Detroit. Paulstra CRC Corp. also is considering a similar event in the spring, Gatt said.

Auggie Gatt, an instructor at the National Elastomer Center on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., led experiments and tours of the facility for about 250 high school students, teachers and counselors who visited for Career Day on Oct. 17. Travis Balduc, a student in the rubber program at Ferris State University's National Elastomer Center, demonstrates rubber mixing.

Pioneer

Thursday, November 6, 2003

FSU United Way fund-raiser today

An Evening Gown competition will be held at 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday) in the Rankin Center Dome Room. Registration forms are available in Rankin Center room 255.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the United Way. The event is sponsored by Ferris State University Student Government and the Vice President for Student Affairs Office.

The event is the brainchild of FSU student Sarah Jennings, a junior in psychology and a member of the 2003 homecoming court.

Winners in each category will receive a \$100 gift certificate. Jennings challenges contestants to don their best gowns; audience members will vote using donations, which will be given to the United Way.

Grand Rapids Press

Thursday, November 06, 2003

Bulldogs hope to bounce back

It won't be the projected showdown between high-ranking teams, but that hasn't diminished the intensity for this weekend's Ferris State-Michigan hockey series.

The Bulldogs will attempt to end a four-game Central Collegiate Hockey Association losing streak when they host the Wolverines Friday night. The slump has frustrated the defending CCHA regular-season champions, who were picked to finish in the top three this year.

"Our focus this week is on performance," Ferris State coach Bob Daniels said. "If we play well, the wins will take care of themselves. We're a fragile team right now. We need to get our confidence back and we took a step in that direction last Saturday."

Ferris State (2-6 overall, 1-5 in the CCHA) lost to Michigan State 4-2 on Saturday before a sellout crowd of 2,493 at Ewingleben Ice Arena. That came on the heels of an 8-0 loss in East Lansing on Friday that had the Bulldogs reeling from the 33-second mark when the Spartans scored their first goal.

"We never recovered and it was 4-0 before we knew what hit us," Daniels said. "Michigan State scored again early in Saturday's game, but we weathered the storm and played much better. That's what we're building on this week."

The Bulldogs led 2-1 entering the third period before MSU scored three consecutive goals to win.

Ferris State was the surprise team of college hockey last season when it earned a high national ranking, won the CCHA and reached the second round of the NCAA tournament where it lost to eventual national champion Minnesota.

Hobey Baker Award finalist Chris Kunitz and captain Troy Milam led a strong senior class. They departed, leaving both a talent and leadership void the Bulldogs are still trying to fill.

No. 4-ranked Michigan (7-1, 3-1) has won six straight games and appears certain to qualify for the NCAA tournament for a record 14th consecutive season. The Wolverines have reached the Frozen Four three years in a row.

Coach Red Berenson is 513-242-53 in his 20th season in Ann Arbor, including a 46-18-1 mark against Ferris State. The Wolverines are led by sophomore forwards Jeff Tambellini and Andrew Ebbett with nine points each. Sophomore goalie Al Montoya is 7-1 with a 2.62 goals against average.

The teams will meet again Saturday night at Yost Ice Arena.

FREE PRESS WASHINGTON

November 8, 2003

Economy adds more jobs; unemployment rate at 6% Despite recovery sign, factory jobs disappear from U.S. employers

BY KEN MORITSUGU

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. economy added jobs for the third straight month in October as the unemployment rate dipped to 6 percent, the strongest evidence to date that the economic recovery is real and gaining strength.

"The jobless recovery is history," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, N.C.

The Labor Department's monthly employment report, released Friday, showed a net gain of 126,000 jobs in October. That's more than twice the gain analysts expected.

The Labor Department also revised its estimates for the previous two months. They now show an increase of 35,000 jobs in August and 125,000 in September. Earlier reports had indicated a job loss in August and a smaller gain in September.

The major disappointment in the report was that the country lost another 24,000 manufacturing jobs -- the 37th consecutive month that part of the economy has contracted.

The job growth was enough to edge the unemployment rate down from 6.1 percent in August and September to 6 percent last month.

"People who have lost work should have hope," President Bush told students and teachers at a Winston-Salem, N.C., community college on Friday. "The economy's growing. New jobs are being created."

Because Michigan is a major manufacturing state, its unemployment rate has consistently been higher than the national average. It was 7.4 percent in September. The figure for October will be released later this month.

The recession officially ended in November 2001, but the economy continued to struggle for more than a year and half.

Growing by fits and starts, it lost another million jobs on top of the 1.6 million lost during the recession. Economists and Democrats called it the jobless recovery.

Tax cuts and low interest rates kept the weak recovery alive. But a recovery ultimately needs to create jobs to last. Jobs boost consumer spending, creating additional demand that companies meet by hiring more workers in what becomes a cycle that reinforces itself.

"The three consecutive months of employment gains is the confirmation that a self-sustaining economic recovery is here to stay," said Sung Won Sohn, the Minneapolis-based chief economist at Wells Fargo bank.

Job growth will have to be stronger, though, to bring the unemployment rate down further.

Treasury Secretary John Snow called Labor's report "encouraging," but added, "We must do more, as job creation has yet to take hold to the extent that it must for every person who wants a job to find one."

As optimism about the economy picks up, people who had given up looking for a job will start filling out applications again. Statistically, this drives up the size of the total labor force, so the unemployment rate could actually rise for a while unless job growth is super strong.

As a rule of thumb, the economy needs to create about 150,000 jobs a month just to keep up with population growth. That means monthly job growth must exceed 150,000 to bring the unemployment rate down.

The unemployment rate for African-Americans was 11.5 percent in October and 7.2 percent for Hispanics. The rate for whites was 5.1 percent and for Asians 6.1 percent, though it's not directly comparable for technical reasons. Teenage unemployment was 17.1 percent.

Tampa Tribune (Florida)

October 12, 2003, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

FERRIS STATE TAILBACK NEEDS 634 MORE YARDS

Playing college football has been a dream come true for Derek Fudge, so being on the brink of breaking Ferris State University's career rushing record may have him pinching himself every day for the rest of the season.

Fudge, a senior tailback for the Bulldogs, had 3,558 rushing yards before Saturday's game against Michigan Tech, 634 yards shy of the record with six games remaining. Averaging just more than 153 yards per game this season, which includes a 272-yard performance in the team's opener against Hillsdale, Fudge, a former East Bay running back, stands a considerably good chance of breaking the record in coming weeks.

"He goes out every play and gives you everything he's got," said head coach and running backs coach Jeff Pierce. "But he's very humble. He's not trying to steal the show, and he works hard to be accountable for himself."

As a redshirt freshman, Fudge watched from the sidelines as another Hillsborough County graduate set the current record in 1999. Mo Harris, an alumnus of Hillsborough High, ran for 4,192 yards during his career at Ferris State.

"Mo was the world up here," Fudge said. "Whenever he touched the ball you knew something great would happen. He was exciting to watch every play."

"When he broke the record I felt the same as everyone else: It couldn't have happened to a more deserving person."

Harris is in the top 10 records in every rushing category, scoring and total offense, but just above or just below his name in the record books is the name of Fudge, the younger tailback he took under his wing.

Leaving home for college is usually a difficult time for any student, much less an athlete with high expectations. But moving more than 1,300 miles away is more complicated. Luckily, when Fudge arrived in Big Rapids, Michigan, there already were Florida players there to help him make the adjustment.

"That's a neat thing about both these young men, they fit into the community very well," Pierce said.

Local Connection

In addition to senior tailback Harris, Fudge met Jonathon Griffin, a senior tackle from Jefferson, and Clarence Coleman, a sophomore wide receiver and return specialist from Miami.

"I always went home with Mo during breaks because he had a car," Fudge said. "He'd always come by my dorm room and give us words of encouragement. Another guy who was a real role model for me was Clarence Coleman."

Because of the Florida trio's strong performances, Griffin said he felt there were a lot of high expectations for him.

"The coach tried to put me in the first time he saw me," Fudge said. "I didn't even know the plays yet."

"I've had the privilege to coach both Mo and Derek," Pierce said. "They are both outstanding. Both work very hard, both are excellent running backs and both have done it the same kind of way, by concentrating on improving themselves throughout their careers."

Eventually, Fudge settled into the offense, which controlled the ball much like his alma mater and he has been running ever since.

During the off-season, Fudge trained by running, using strength shoes and upgrading his workouts to include weighted straps of three pounds each to run "stairs, hills and everywhere."

"I came [into this season] in the best shape of my life this year," said Fudge, who, at 5-foot-81/2, 195 pounds, also spends hours in the weight room. "My hard work has paid off big time."

And though it has taken four years to learn, he has finally come to understand advice that Harris gave him in 1999.

"He told me when I'm running a play to be patient with it," Fudge said. "Now I know what he meant and I'm passing it on to the younger running backs. I'm using his words to break his record."

Earning Respect

Fudge's motto is "Working hard and keeping my mind humble, and taking the heart right out of their defense." That approach and his ready acknowledgment of the entire offense's role in his ability to run have earned him the position of team captain this year.

"He was elected by the team, which shows how people respect him for his commitment to the program over the years," Pierce said.

"As team captain, they were looking for what I have been providing all along - leadership and accountability," Fudge said. "But this year, I wanted to be more of a go-to player in the clutch."

They've given me the ball and let me take over in three or four games this year."

Fudge said the real key to reaching the milestone will be the offensive coordinator calling for No. 3.

As his college career draws to close, Fudge wants to be remembered as the "hardest working man" on and off the field. He has earned the respect of his teammates and peers with his work ethic.

After graduation in May, Fudge will try out with pro teams to get on an NFL roster and see where he stands against backs from around the country. In any case, he will have a degree in rubber engineering and technology.

"My degree will give me a fine career," Fudge said. "Maybe I can provide some work into a new car model, or maybe even design something far-fetched. This program is just a wonderful thing."

The tailback is excited about taking control of his life in whichever direction it takes. In addition to a college degree, he will be taking with him something else he is proud of: his first car.

"It's a '91 Buick LeSabre, and it's very, very clean," Fudge said.

"Right now, it's my most memorable thing. It's something I own, something to walk away with. But graduation that will be the best memory."

And a little spot in the Ferris State Bulldogs' record book wouldn't be bad either.