



HOPE

2025 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

GAME 5



GAME 5 | OCT. 4, 2025 | 1:00 P.M. EST | ANGOLA, IN | ZOLLNER STADIUM



HOPE COLLEGE
FLYING DUTCHMEN
3-1, 0-1 MIAA

VS.



TRINE UNIVERSITY
THUNDER
3-1, 1-0 MIAA

Record _____ 3-1 (0-1 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ 20/23
Last Game __ Sept. 27, 2025, v. Mt. St. Joseph; L, 26-29
Head Coach _____ Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope _____ 68-19 (Ninth Season)

Record _____ 3-1 (1-0 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ na/na
Last Game _____ Sept. 27, 2025, v. Albion; W, 38-35
Head Coach _____ Troy Abbs
Record at Trine _____ 70-32 (Eleventh season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 39.25
1st Downs _____ 100
Rushing Yards _____ 780
Passing Yards _____ 1172
Total Offense _____ 1952
Touchdowns _____ 21
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 24-20
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 12-8
Time of Possession _____ 34:03
Sacks _____ 8

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 26.75
1st Downs _____ 107
Rushing Yards _____ 501
Passing Yards _____ 1028
Total Offense _____ 1529
Touchdowns _____ 14
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 12-10
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 15-11
Time of Possession _____ 27:26
Sacks _____ 6

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Alex Thole (83-113, 1080 yds, 6 TD)
Rushing _____ AJ Martel (51 att, 257 yds, 4 TD)
Receiving _____ Jonny Rohen-Blanton (22 rec, 342 yds, 1 TD)
Tackles _____ Micah Bush (22 tot, 12 solo, 10 asst)
Sacks _____ Liam Danitz (4.5)
Interceptions _____ Bryce Debri, Owen Graham (2)

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ RJ West II (56-79, 632 yds, 5 TD)
Rushing _____ Cortaveon Barnett (33 att, 192 yds, 2 TD)
Receiving _____ Jermaine Williams (20 rec, 332 yds, 5 TD)
Tackles _____ Cole Basey (35 tot, 8 solo, 27 asst)
Sacks _____ Wesyn Ludwig (1.5)
Ints. _____ Roman Schrock, Jeshua Miller (2)

HOPE BACK ON THE ROAD, EYEING REBOUND AFTER OVERTIME DEFEAT TO ALMA IN MIAA OPENER

The nationally-ranked Flying Dutchmen travel to Trine University for a Week 5 showdown, seeking to bounce back after a 29-26 overtime loss to Alma College in the MIAA opener last week at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium.

Quarterback Alex Thole completed 34-of-43 passes for 291 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Defensive lineman Caleb Paarlberg led the defense with eight tackles, including 1 1/2 for loss.

This is Hope's 22nd meeting against the Thunder, winning 14 times, including the last five games: 42-6 at Hope in 2024, 38-28 at Hope in 2023, 28-21 at Trine in 2022 and 17-13 at Trine in 2021.

The Flying Dutchmen are 8-3 all-time at Trine, including victories in their last three trips. Hope won 51-0 at Trine during the 2019 season.

The Orange and Blue's last loss at Trine during the 2017 season, 50-14, and finished 8-2.

Last season, the Flying Dutchmen scored two touchdowns in the game's first three minutes and went on to topple Trine, 42-6, oo improve to 5-0 on the season. The 5-0 start was the best for the Flying Dutchmen since 1984, when Hope posted a perfect 9-0 season under Coach Ray Smith. The win was also Hope's 500th as an intercollegiate football program.



2025 SCHEDULE

	Sept. 6	Loras Duhawks Rock Bowl Dubuque, IA	W 62-0
	Sept. 13	Franklin Grizzlies Faught Stadium Franklin, IN	W 38-14
	Sept. 20	Mount Saint Joseph Lions Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	W 31-28
	Sept. 27	Alma Scots Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	L 26-29
	Oct. 4	Trine Thunder Fred Zollner Athletic Stadium Angola, IN	1:00 PM ET
	Oct. 18	Kalamazoo Hornets Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	2:00 PM ET
	Oct. 25	Adrian Bulldogs Docking Stadium Adrian, MI	1:00 PM ET
	Nov. 1	Albion Britons Sprinkle-Sprandel Stadium Albion, MI	1:00 PM ET
	Nov. 8	Calvin Knights Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	1:00 PM ET
	Nov. 15	Olivet Comets (Senior Day) Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	1:00 PM ET

A HOPE WIN WOULD....

send the Flying Dutchmen into a bye week with a 1-1 league record and keep them in the MIAA title chase.

be the sixth consecutive victory against the Trine Thunder. The last loss came on September 29 in 2018.

be the 10th consecutive victory against a school from the state of Indiana, including the season this season. IN Week 2, Hope win at Franklin, 38-14.

be the fourth consecutive season with at least four wins after Week 5 and the sixth time accomplishing the feat during head coach Peter Stuursma's tenure.



PETER STUURSMAN
HC

MEDIA AND CREDENTIALS INFORMATION

CREDENTIALS

Season media credentials can be requested by working members of the media by contacting through the Hope College Sports Information Department.

PARKING

Parking is available for working members of the media on the north side of Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. Please enter off of Fairbanks Avenue near the DeWitt Tennis Center.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews with coaches and student-athletes can be arranged for practices and games through the Hope College Sports Information Department.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Photography and videography is allowed at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. There is no filming allowed inside the dotted lines that surround the field during today's game.

INTERNET

Free internet is provided by Hope College for guests of the college. Search for Hope Guest on your device and use the password welcome2hope to access the internet.

HISTORY

First Season	1902
Seasons	117
All-Time Record	509-375-337
Conference Titles (Last)	23 (2024)

LAST SEASON

2024 Overall Record	11-1
2024 Conference Record	7-0
2024 Home Record	6-0
2024 Away Record	5-1

QUICK FACTS

Location	Holland, MI
Founded	1866
Enrollment	3,427 (Fall 2024)
President	Matthew A. Scogin
Athletics Director	Tim Schoonveld
Sports Information Director	Alan Babbitt
Colors	Blue (Pantone) & Orange (Pantone)
Nickname	Flying Dutchmen
Affiliations	NCAA Division III Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Conference Website	https://miaa.org
Ticket Office	616-395-7890

HOPE FOOTBALL COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Office	616-395-7860
Sports Information Director	Alan Babbitt
Email	babbitt@hope.edu
Sports Information Coordinator	Mackenzie McMahon
Email	mcmahon@hope.edu
Hope Athletics Website	athletics.hope.edu
Facebook	Hope College Football
X	@HopeCollegeFB
Instagram	@hopecollegefb

STADIUM

Football Facility	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium
Capacity	5,300+
Surface	Turf
Year Opened	1979

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Peter Stuursma
Offensive Coordinator & Quarterbacks Coach	Andrew Hawken
Defensive Coordinator & Linebackers Coach	Jacob Pardonnet
O-Line Coach & Recruiting Coordinator	Hunter Thompson
Defensive Backs Coach & Special Teams	Jinks Arnold
Wide Receivers Coach	Matt Bird
Running Backs Coach	Jim Caserta
Safeties Coach	KJ Landis
H-backs & Tight Ends Coach	Dave Lidgard
D-Line Coach	Cal Pimpton
Assistant D-Line Coach	Ted Manning
Assistant D-Line Coach	Jake Vanderveen
Student Assistants	Zay Hicks, Luke Mandsager, Ty Rynbrandt

SUPPORT STAFF

Strength & Conditioning Coach	Dan Margritz
Head Athletic Trainer	Tim Koberna
Assistant Athletic Trainers	Erik Byl, Mariah Supianowski
Managers	Rob Sterken, Andrew Tysse

NATIONALLY RANKED

The Flying Dutchmen entered Week 3 ranked 20th in the D3football.com poll and 23rd in the American Football Coaches Association poll. Hope has been as high as 15th in both polls season.

WINNING TRADITION

The Flying Dutchmen enter this afternoon with a 510-375-40 all-time record (.573), including a 246-112-6 record (.684) in MIAA conference play since 1958.

The first recorded Hope football game kicked off in 1893. Led by head coach Erasmus A. Whitenack, Hope defeated a team from the City of Holland in November. The final score and exact date of the game are unknown.

LAST WEEK

The Hope College football team saw its 16-game regular season winning streak snapped Saturday afternoon by Alma College in a stunning ending at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium, 29-26, in overtime in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association opener for both teams.

The 15th-ranked Flying Dutchmen dropped to 3-1 overall after losing their first overtime game since a 42-35 victory over then-Olivet College on Oct. 18, 2014. The Orange and Blue's last regular-season loss was to visiting Alma, 35-17, on Oct. 14, 2023.

In overtime, Alma (2-2) won the opening toss and went on defense first. Hope could not pick up a first down, so Balkon kicked his longest field goal of the season, a 30-yarder, to give the Flying Dutchmen a 26-23 lead. The Orange and Blue thought they had secured the victory on Alma's second play of overtime. What appeared to be a pass completion and a lateral that was recovered by Hope was ruled an incomplete pass, and the Scots' drive continued.

On fourth down from the Hope 2, Alma quarterback Carter St. John's pass was tipped into the air, and caught by tight end Miles Haggart at the back of the end zone for the winning score.



WEEK 3 RECAP

Defensive end Tate Bezeau (Grand Haven, Michigan / Grand Haven) tracked down elusive Mount St. Joseph University quarterback Jaxon Schreiber one last time, securing the game-clinching, fourth-down sack that earned the Hope College football team a 31-28 victory on Saturday.

The 15th-ranked Flying Dutchmen weathered a ferocious pride of Lions during the second half in front of a Ray and Sue Smith Stadium crowd of 3,013 on the inaugural Orange and Blue Weekend.

Hope scored 28 points during the fourth quarter on four touchdowns to take a 28-7 halftime lead. Senior Caden Balkon's 22-yard, fourth-quarter field goal was the difference..

WEEK 2 RECAP

The nationally-ranked Hope College football team delivered another dynamic first half on the road and a 2-0 start to the season. The Flying Dutchmen overpowered Franklin College (Indiana) during the opening two quarters to earn a 38-14 victory on Sept. 13

Despite challenging weather conditions, the Flying Dutchmen scored 31 consecutive points during the first half after the Grizzlies jumped to a 7-0 lead on the opening drive.

Hope finished with 509 yards in total offense, with 330 yards passing and 179 rushing. The Flying Dutchmen entered the game ranked fourth in the nation in total offense.

Junior quarterback Alex Thole (Schoolcraft, Michigan / Schoolcraft) completed 20-of-23 passes for 321 yards, two touchdowns, and one second-half interception. Junior receiver Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Rockford, Michigan / Rockford) set career-highs with 134 yards receiving and seven catches, including a 62-yarder for a game-tying touchdown.

OVERALL

Most Points: 62 (Loras)
Fewest Points: 31 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Points: 29 (Alma)
Fewest Opposing Points: 0 (Loras)
Most Total Offense: 658 (Loras)
Fewest Total Offense: 357 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most First Downs, Total: 28 (Loras)
Least First Downs, Total: 21 (Mount Saint Joseph)

RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 270 (Loras)
Fewest Rushing Yards: 161 (Alma)
Most Rushing Yards Allowed: 136 (Alma)
Fewest Rushing Yards Allowed: 1 (Franklin)
Most Rushing Attempts: 46 (Loras, Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Rushing Attempts: 23 (Franklin)
Most Rushing TDs: 8 (Loras)
Fewest Rushing TDs: 1 (Alma)
Most Opposing Rushing TDs: 2 (Alma)
Fewest Opposing Rushing TDs: 0 (Loras, Franklin, Mount Saint Joseph)
Most First Downs, Rushing: 12 (Loras)
Least First Downs, Rushing: 7 (Franklin)

PASSING

Most Passing Yards: 388 (Loras)
Fewest Passing Yards: 187 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing Yards: 367 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Yards: 121 (Loras)
Most Passing Attempts: 44 (Alma)
Fewest Passing Attempts: 19 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing Attempts: 53 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Attempts: 36 (Loras)
Most Passing Completions: 33 (Alma)
Fewest Passing Completions: 15 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing Completions: 38 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Completions: 17 (Alma)
Most Passing Touchdowns: 2 (Franklin)
Fewest Passing Touchdowns: 1 (Loras, Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing TDs: 4 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing TDs: 0 (Loras)
Most First Downs, Passing: 16 (Franklin)
Least First Downs, Passing: 10 (Mount Saint Joseph)

OTHER

Most Sacks: 5 (Franklin)
Fewest Sacks: 0 (Loras)
Most Opposing Sacks: 4 (Loras)
Fewest Opposing Sacks: 0 (Franklin)
Most Fumbles Recovered: 1 (Loras)
Most Fumbles Lost: 1 (Loras, Alma)
Most Interceptions: 3 (Alma)
Most Interceptions Thrown: 1 (Franklin, Alma)
Most Punts: 4 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Punts: 1 (Loras, Franklin)
Most Opposing Punts: 10 (Loras)
Fewest Opposing Punts: 2 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Penalties: 4 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Penalties: 2 (Loras)
Most Penalty Yards: 33 (Alma)
Fewest Penalty Yards: 25 (Franklin)
Most First Downs Allowed: 25 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Least First Downs, Allowed: 9 (Loras)

WEEK 1 RECAP

The Flying Dutchmen scored the most points ever against a collegiate opponent in a season opener during a 62-0 victory vs. Loras College (Iowa) of the American Rivers Conference on Sept. 6, surpassing a 55-7 Week 1 win vs. DePauw (Ind.) in 1977.

The Flying Dutchmen once produced 81 points against Grand Rapids Catholic Central High in the 1913 season opener. Hope also posted the back-to-back shutouts in season openers since 1978 and 1979, when they defeated Marantha (Wisconsin), 28-0 and 64-0.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Junior quarterback Alex Thole makes his fourth career start for the Flying Dutchmen this afternoon. The Schoolcraft, Mich., native and transfer from NCAA Division II Grand Valley State University has settled in quickly, completing 50-of-69 passes for 813 yards, four touchdowns and one interception. Thole ranks 14th in Division III in passing efficiency at 187.7.

Junior Jonny Rohen-Blanton and senior Travis Myers (Ada, Michigan / Forest Hills Northern) are among Thole's favorite targets. Rohen-Blanton leads Hope with 11 receptions and 213 receiving yards over two games. Myers had nine catches for 208 yards.

PASSING FANCY

The Flying Dutchmen finished the Loras game with 388 passing yards from four quarterbacks who played. the most since throwing for 352 during a 38-28 victory at home vs. Trine University in the 2023 season finale. The aerial attack led to 688 yards of total offense, the second consecutive game vs. Loras with 600+ yards of total offense.

GET THE SACK

Senior defensive end Liam Danitz (West Branch, Michigan / Ogemaw Heights) joined an elite club with his three-sack performance at Franklin. Only nine other Division III players recorded at least three sacks in a game this season. The most through Week 2 was four.



STOUT AGAINST THE RUN

The Flying Dutchmen's run defense has been stingy this season. Heading into Week 4, Hope ranks 11th in NCAA Division II after allowing only 40.7 rushing yards per game.

The national leader is DePauw University (Indiana), which has held opponents to negative 0.7 yards per game through three weeks.

PAT KING

Senior placekicker Caden Balkon (Byron Center, Michigan / Byron Center) set the Hope College Football career point after touchdown record at Loras.

Balkon reached 112 PATs in 22 games after making 8-of-9 attempts for the nationally-ranked Flying Dutchmen against the Duhawks. After three games, Balkon has made 121 PATs.

Nate Barnett '16 held the previous record with 111 over four seasons between 2002-05. Balkon has been Hope's placekicker since the 2023 season. The political science major previously totaled 37 PATs in 2023 and a school-record 67 last season.

MIAA PRESEASON POLL

The Flying Dutchmen were projected to contend for an MIAA title repeat this fall. Hope placed a narrow second in the 2025 MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll, totaling 11 points and placing one behind Alma College.

The Flying Dutchmen and Alma split the first-place vote, collecting four apiece. Adrian College took third with 23 points and was followed by Trine University (25), Albion College (26), The University of Olivet (42), Calvin University (43) and Kalamazoo College (44).

RUSHING

Most Carries: 17, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most Yards: 94, Trey Goike (Loras)
Most TDs: 2, AJ Martel (Loras), Mike Murphy (Loras)
Longest Rush: 55, Trey Goike (Loras)

PASSING

Most Completion: 33, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most Attempts: 44, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most Yards: 321, Alex Thole (Franklin)
Most TD Passes: 2, Alex Thole (Franklin)
Longest Pass: 62, Alex Thole (Franklin)

RECEIVING

Most Receptions: 7, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Franklin, Alma)
Most Yards: 134, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Franklin)
Most TD Receptions: 1, Travis Myers (Loras, Franklin), Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Franklin), Kal Motter (Mount Saint Joseph), Trevor Griffiths (Alma), Billy Sternberg (Alma)
Longest Reception: 62, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Franklin)

DEFENSE

Most Tackles: 9, Micah Bush (Franklin)
Most Tackles for Loss: 3.5, Liam Danitz (Franklin)
Most Sacks: 3, Liam Danitz (Franklin)
Most Ints: 2, Owen Graham (Alma)
Forced Fumbles: 0
Forced Recoveries: 1, Micah Bush (Loras)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Most Field Goals: 2, Caden Balkon (Alma)
Longest Field Goal: 30, Caden Balkon (Alma)
Most Punts: 4, Noah Dunckel (Loras, Mount Saint Joseph)
Best Punting Average: 45.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Punt: 52.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)
Punts Inside the 20: 1, Noah Dunckel (Franklin, Mount Saint Joseph, Alma)
Longest Punt Return: 52, Gavin Reames (Loras)
Longest Kickoff Return: 39, Gavin Reames (Mount Saint Joseph)

OPPONENTS

Most Carries: 20, Eddie Williams (Loras)
Most Rushing Yards: 100, Eddie Williams (Alma)
Most TD Rushes: 2 (Eddie Williams)
Longest Rush: 48, Eddie Williams (Alma)
Most Passing Completions: 36, Jaxon Schreiber (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Passing Attempts: 53, Jaxon Schreiber (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Passing Yards: 367, Jaxon Schreiber (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most TD Passes: 4, Jaxon Schreiber (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Pass: 70, Carter St. John (Alma)
Most Receptions: 14, Eli Aston (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Receiving Yards: 148, Eli Aston (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most TD Receptions: 4, Eli Aston (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Reception: 70, Zach Poff (Alma)
Most Tackles: 13, Niko Jemilo (Loras), Luke Paff (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Tackles for Loss: 5, Drew Diers (Loras)
Most Sacks: 2, Drew Diers and Niko Jemilo (Loras)
Most Interceptions: 1, Jace Dorsey (Franklin), Mar'sean Massenberg (Alma)
Most Field Goals: 1, Jace Heck (Alma)
Longest Field Goal: 22, Jace Heck (Alma)

COACHING STAFF ADDITIONS

Head coach Peter Stuursma hired three new assistant coaches during the offseason: Sam/Nickels coach Brendann Brown, defensive line coach Isiah Hicks and H//y coach Drew Peterson.

Brown played at Grand Valley State University for four seasons, earning All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2021 and 2019 as a linebacker. He totaled 125 tackles, two forced fumbles and one interception during his career. He was named GVSU's most improved defensive player in 2019. Brown played at Farmington Hills Harrison HS for Hall of Fame head coach John Harrington. Brown earned his Master's degree in Communication and Media Studies from GVSU in 2023 and his bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Studies in 2021.

Peterson played tight end for four years at Grand Valley State University, totaling 30 receptions for 239 yards and two touchdowns in 48 games played between 2021-24. A four-year letterwinner, Peterson claimed All-Academic accolades from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference four times.

Hicks was elevated into an expanded role after serving as a student assistant during the 2024 season. He played on the defensive line for three years. He graduated from Hope with a bachelor's degree in special education.

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

In 2024, Hope claimed an MIAA title for the 23rd time in program history last season and was outright champs for the 15th time. The Flying Dutchmen won all of their league games for the 10th time. Hope went 7-0 in MIAA play in 2024, 2019 and 2009 seasons, and 5-0 in 2000, 1987, 1984, 1982, 1981, 1978 and 1973.

A 2024 TO REMEMBER

The Flying Dutchmen accomplished a lot during the 2024 season, including the first 10-0 regular season in the 122-year history of the program. Hope clinched the mark with a 48-12 victory at The University of Olivet on Nov. 16, 2024.. It was the Flying Dutchmen's third unbeaten regular season



in school history. The Flying Dutchmen went 8-0-1 in 1975 and 9-0 in 1984, both under legendary head coach Ray Smith.

Hope went on the post the first NCAA Division III playoff victory in program history with a 49-21 victory against Aurora University (Ill.) in the second round. The Flying Dutchmen lost to eventual national champion North Central College (Ill.), 41-21, in the third round. The Flying Dutchmen outscored opponents by a 492-163 margin during the 2024 season. Hope scored at least 40 points eight times, with a season-low of 34 during a 34-13 victory at Alma on Sept. 28. The Flying Dutchmen shut out two foes and held seven to single digits. Hope also broke six school records: points, touchdowns, rushing touchdowns, total offense, rushing yards and first downs.

HISTORY BOOK

Dr. Todd Harburn's passion for Hope College, history and college football runs deep like a go route. The 1978 Hope graduate and former football student-athlete for the Flying Dutchmen has authored "'Every college ought to have a...football eleven': Hope College Football, Earliest coaches and teams 1893-1919", a 152-page book about how the now-proudly NCAA Division III and Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association program kicked off. Dr. Harburn, who also served as the team physician for the Flying Dutchmen for two decades before retiring in 2022, is proud to provide a "small supplement" to previous Hope Athletics history books authored by Gordon Brewer '48 and Tom Renner '67.

The book can be purchased through the Hope College Bookstore. All proceeds benefit the Hope Athletics Orange and Blue Fund.

2025 STANDINGS

	MIAA	OVERALL
ADRIAN	1-0	4-0
ALMA	1-0	2-2
CALVIN	1-0	4-0
TRINE	1-0	3-1
HOPE	0-1	3-1
ALBION	0-1	2-2
KALAMAZOO	0-1	3-1
OLIVET	0-1	0-4

2025 MIAA PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

1. ALMA (10 points, 4 1st place)
2. HOPE (11 points, 4 1st place)
3. ADRIAN (23)
4. TRINE (25)
5. ALBION (26)
6. OLIVET (42)
7. CALVIN (43)
8. KALAMAZOO (44)

HOPE FOOTBALL CAREER LEADERS

TOUCHDOWNS

Brandon Graham (1994-1997) _____ 49 TD (all rush)
David Brooke (2004-2007) _____ 48 TD (46 rush, 2 rec)
Mason Oppe (2017-2019) _____ 46 TD (45 rush, 1 rec)

RUSHING

Brandon Graham (1994-1997) _____ 4,362 yards
David Brooke (2004-2007) _____ 3,635 yards
Shawn Jackson (2010-2013) _____ 3,289 yards

TOTAL OFFENSE

Phil Butler (2000-2003) _____ 8,810 yards
Jake Manning (2005-2008) _____ 6,855 yards
Mason Oppe (2017-2019) _____ 6,765 yards

YARDS PASSING

Phil Butler (2000-2003) _____ 8,510 yards
Jake Manning (2005-2008) _____ 6,930 yards
Michael Atwell (2010-2013) _____ 6,094 yards

PASS RECEPTIONS

Brian Adloff (1997-2001) _____ 211 receptions
Kyle Dietrich (2007-2010) _____ 177 receptions
Taylor Brynaert (2011-2014) _____ 165 receptions



PETER STUURSMAS *HEAD COACH*

In eight seasons, head coach Peter Stuursma '93 has guided the Hope College football team to a 68-18 overall record, including a 43-9 mark in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association games.

The Flying Dutchmen have won three MIAA titles — outright championships in 2024 and 2019 and a co-championship in 2021 — and finished in second place three times during his tenure.

In 2024, Stuursma led Hope to the first 10-0 regular-season in program history and was named both the American Football Coaches Association Region 5 and MIAA Coach of the Year. He also guided the Flying Dutchmen to their first postseason win with a 49-21 second-round victory vs. Aurora University.

Hope recorded the second nine-win season in team history in 2019 when the Flying Dutchmen made their fifth NCAA Division III playoff appearance. Stuursma is Hope's seventh head football coach. He followed Dean Kreps (1995-2015), Ray Smith (1970-94), Russ DeVette (1955-69), Al Vanderbush (1946-54), Bud Hinga (1931-42) and Jack Schouten (1920-30).

Stuursma has deep ties to Hope College and the Flying Dutchmen football program. As a student-athlete, Stuursma served as co-captain for the Hope College football team during his senior season. He was a running back and special teams player. Stuursma received the team's Allan C. Kinney award after the 1992 season despite playing in only three games due to an injury. The award, presented annually since 1971 and named in memory of football player Allan C. Kinney, who died of cancer in his senior year in 1967, honors a senior player for maximum contribution to the football program. As a coach, Stuursma served as the Flying Dutchmen's defensive coordinator during the 1999 season before becoming a teacher and head football coach at East Grand Rapids. Hope claimed a share of the MIAA title in the 1999 season with a 5-1 league record while allowing only 18.1 points per game and scoring 32.6. Stuursma also was Hope's recruiting coordinator that football season as well as an assistant track coach for the 1999-2000 year.

At East Grand Rapids High School, the Pioneers flourished on the field under Stuursma's guidance. His teams went 162-34 with 13 state playoff appearances during his 16-season tenure. They claimed Michigan High School Athletic Association state titles in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2003, and 2002. They also reached the state semifinals twice. Stuursma was named Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Year in 2008 and High School Football Coaches Association Division 3 Football Coach of the Year in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2002. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in March of 2020.

Stuursma also served as principal at East Grand Rapids Middle School from 2005 to 2016. He was assistant principal at East Grand Rapids High School from 2002 to 2004. He taught social studies and physical education for three years prior to becoming an administrator. Stuursma graduated from Hope College in 1993, completing the secondary teacher education program, majoring in physical education and minoring in social studies. In 1998, he earned a master's degree in physical education / sports administration from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1997, Stuursma worked as a graduate assistant on the NCAA Division II National Champion Northern Colorado football team.

Prior to his stop at Northern Colorado, Stuursma taught and coached at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central High School for three years. He was head coach of the Rangers hockey team and assistant coach for the football team. Stuursma and his wife, Amy, also a '93 Hope graduate, have three children: Hannah, Robbie, and Mitchell.

YEAR-BY-YEAR AS HEAD COACH

YEAR	RECORD	NOTES
2025	3-1-0	-----
2024	11-0-0	1st in MIAA
2023	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2022	6-4-0	T-3rd in MIAA
2021	8-2-0	T-1st in MIAA
2020	DNP	Pandemic
2019	9-2-0	1st in MIAA
2018	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2017	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2016	7-3-0	3rd in MIAA

COACHING *STAFF*



ANDREW HAWKEN
Offensive Coordinator and
Quarterbacks Coach

Andrew Hawken has served as the offensive coordinator for the Hope College football team since the 2017 season. He also coaches the quarterbacks. From 2017 through 2023, Hawken also coached the H-Backs and tight ends.



JACOB PARDONNET
Defensive Coordinator and
Linebacker Coach

Jacob Pardonnet '18 joined the Hope College Football coaching staff in April 2022. Prior to coming to Hope, Pardonnet was on the coaching staff at NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.



HUNTER THOMPSON
Offensive Line Coach and
Recruiting Coordinator

Hunter Thompson joined Hope College Football as the offensive line coach prior to the 2021 fall season. In February 2022, he moved into a full-time position that included a role as recruiting coordinator.



JINKS ARNOLD
Cornerbacks Coach and Special
Teams Coordinator

Jinks Arnold joined the Hope College football coaching staff for the 2023 season. He coaches defensive backs and serves as special teams coordinator. During the 2023 season, Arnold also coached safeties.



MATT BIRD
Wide Receivers Coach

Matt Bird joined the Hope College Football coaching staff prior to the 2022 season as wide receivers coach. Bird brings a winning pedigree to the Flying Dutchmen after serving as head coach at two high schools for 16 seasons and winning 88 games.



JIM CASERTA
Running Backs Coach

Jim Caserta joined the Hope College Football coaching staff for the 2017 season. He coaches running backs. Caserta coached quarterbacks from 2017-2013. Prior to coming to Hope, Caserta coached football at the high school level for 35 seasons in Michigan and Ohio.



KJ LANDIS
Safeties Coach

KJ Landis joined the Hope College football coaching staff prior to the 2024 season as a safeties coach. Landis previously served as defensive coordinator at Grandville High School the past four seasons.



BRENDANN BROWN
Nickels and Sam Coach

Brendann Brown joined the Hope College Football coaching staff as Sam and Nickels coach for the 2025 season. Brown played at Grand Valley State University for four seasons, earning All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2021 and 2019 as a linebacker. He totaled 125 tackles, two forced fumbles and one interception during his career. He was named GVSU's most improved defensive player in 2019.



ISIAH HICKS
Defensive Line Coach

Isaiah Hicks '25 joined the Hope College Football staff before the 2024 season as a student assistant coach and was named the defensive line coach before the 2025 season. Hicks played on the defensive line for the Flying Dutchmen for three years. He graduated from Hope with a bachelor's degree in special education.



TED MANNING
Assistant Defensive Line Coach

Ted Manning joined the Hope College Football coaching staff as a defensive line coach in July 2020. Manning has been involved with football throughout his professional career, coaching a total of 43 high school seasons at six schools. He was an assistant coach at Schoolcraft High School for 35 seasons from 1986 to 2007.



DREW PETERSON
H/Y Coach

Drew Peterson joined the Hope College Football staff as the H/Y coach for the 2025 season. Peterson played tight end for four years at Grand Valley State University, totaling 30 receptions for 239 yards and two touchdowns in 48 games played between 2021-24. A four-year letterwinner, Peterson claimed All-Academic accolades from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference four times.

FLYING DUTCHMEN *BREAKDOWN*



**HOPE
FLYING DUTCHMEN**
3-1, 0-1 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMa**
RECORD AT HOPE: 68-19

HOPE 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
ALEX THOLE	84	113	2	75.00	6	276.0
TYSON WILLIAMS	2	3	0	66.67	0	48.0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
AJ MARTEL	51	257	5.0	4	19	64.25
TREY GOIKE	17	165	9.7	1	55	55.0
KAL MOTTER	35	141	4.0	2	12	35.25

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON	22	342	15.55	1	62	85.50
TRAVIS MYERS	1	291	18.19	2	44	72.75
KAL MOTTER	9	122	13.56	1	28	30.50

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG
NOAH DUNCKEL	11	388	35.27

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG	PATs
CADEN BALKON	4	5	80.0	30	19-21

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
GAVIN REAMES	2	56	28.0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
GAVIN REAMES	10	245	24.50	0

OPPONENT **BREAKDOWN**



**TRINE
THUNDER**
3-1, 1-0 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
TROY ABBS**
RECORD AT TRINE: 70-32

TRINE 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
RJ WEST II	56	79	1	70.89	5	158.0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
CORTAVEON BARNETT	33	192	5.8	2	25	64.0
SALEEM FELDER	29	127	4.4	1	12	31.75
MICKEY DARING	14	59	4.2	1	15	14.75

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JERMAINE WILLIAMS	20	332	16.60	5	87	83.0
RASHAWN STREET	19	262	13.79	2	70	65.50
OWEN HEBBERD	17	139	8.18	0	22	34.75

TEAM COMPARISON



NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

CATEGORY	HOPE	TRINE
Rushing Offense	49th	131st
Rushing Defense	20th	134th
Total Offense	14th	82nd
Scoring Offense	29th	T106th
Passing Offense	30th	50th
Total Defense	75th	155th
Scoring Defense	T61st	T145th
Red-Zone Offense	117th	T81st
Red-Zone Defense	T41st	T99th
Net Punting	T137th	T137th
Punt Returns	2nd	147th
Kickoff Returns	78th	156th
Turnover Margin	T36th	T38th
Time of Possession	24th	182nd

LEAGUE RANKINGS

HOPE RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	4th
Passing Offense	2nd
Total Offense	1st
Scoring Offense	3rd
Rushing Defense	2nd
Passing Defense	6th
Total Defense	3rd
Scoring Defense	4th
Net Punting	4th
Punt Returns	1st
Kickoff Returns	4th
Time of Possession	1st

TRINE RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	7th
Passing Offense	4th
Total Offense	7th
Scoring Offense	7th
Rushing Defense	7th
Passing Defense	4th
Total Defense	6th
Scoring Defense	5th
Net Punting	5th
Punt Returns	8th
Kickoff Returns	6th
Time of Possession	7th

SERIES HISTORY

SERIES: 14-7-0

AT HOLLAND: 6-4-0

AT ANGOLA: 8-3-0

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME FIVE VS. TRINE

OFFENSE

QB	4	Alex Thole	Jr.	5-10	190
	16	Dallas Sauser	Jr.	6-2	167
RB	22	Kal Motter	So.	5-10	194
	8	AJ Martel	So.	5-10	195
LT	72	Brett Showers	Sr.	6-6	307
	73	Aaron Hunt	Fr.	6-4	263
LG	56	Kemper Millis	Sr.	6-1	315
	61	Nolan Collins	So.	6-2	273
C	59	Rob MacAleese	Sr.	6-1	266
	63	Caleb Fisher	So.	6-1	273
RG	75	Timothy Clay	Jr.	6-1	249
	71	Phillip McLaurin	Jr.	6-1	273
RT	77	Jeremyah Libema	So.	6-2	270
	62	Nick Saade	So.	6-4	326
H/Y	40	Seth Luhmann	Jr.	6-0	225
	11	Billy Sternberg	Sr.	6-0	215
WR	1	Eli VanderVeen	Jr.	6-5	208
	15	Kaden DeHorn	Jr.	6-5	232
WR	6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	Jr.	5-10	182
	2	Trevor Griffiths	Jr.	5-10	168
WR	5	Travis Myers	Jr.	6-1	175
	10	Liam Young	So.	6-1	193

DEFENSE

DE	69	Tate Bezeau	Jr.	6-3	248
	0	Liam Danitz	Sr.	6-5	227
DT	48	Jake Punches	So.	6-0	246
	55	Jayden Libema	So.	6-2	270
DT	11	Caleb Paarlberg	Sr.	6-2	258
	53	Micah McCurry	Sr.	6-4	251
DE	43	Tyler Radley	So.	6-1	234
	81	Caden Vanden Berge	Jr.	6-4	240
LB	6	Micah Bush	Sr.	5-10	210
	28	Nolan Vis	Fr.	5-11	207
LB	5	Colton Schreuer	Sr.	5-11	198
	41	Gavin Zbytowski	So.	6-0	209
LB	21	Bryce Debri	Sr.	5-11	196
	27	Dom Cassise	Fr.	6-1	192
S	9	Tyson Mann	Jr.	6-1	184
	25	Trenton Bolhouse	So.	6-3	189
S	42	Owen Graham	Sr.	5-11	215
	20	Tyler Gavette	So.	5-10	191
CB	13	Austin Harvey	Jr.	6-1	196
	4	Jack Jacobs	So.	6-1	177
CB	2	Lorenzo Vitti	Jr.	6-0	175
	10	Louis Bosscher	So.	6-1	189

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK	30	Caden Balkon	Sr.	5-11	200
	32	Daniel Klein	Fr.	6-0	158
HOLD	6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	Jr.	5-10	182
	5	Travis Myers	Sr.	6-1	175
LS	70	Ian McGrath	Fr.	5-11	232
	25	Mike Murphy	So.	5-10	212

P	26	Noah Dunckel	So.	5-11	209
	32	Daniel Klein	Fr.	6-0	158
KR	7	Gavin Reames	Sr.	6-1	200
	10	Liam Young	So.	6-1	193
PR	7	Gavin Reames	Sr.	6-1	200
	10	Liam Young	So.	6-1	193

2025 HOPE TRAVEL ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.
0	Liam Danitz (dan its)	CB
0	Connor Knapp (nap)	WR
1	Keaton Hendricks	CB
1	Eli VanderVeen	WR
2	Lorenzo Vitti (vee-tee)	CB
2	Trevor Griffiths	WR
3	Jonathan Pittman	QB
4	Jack Jacobs	CB
4	Alex Thole (rhymes w/hole)	QB
5	Travis Myers	WR
5	Colton Schreur (skure)	LB
6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton (row-hen)	WR
6	Micah Bush (my-cuh)	LB
7	Landon Conrad	S
7	Gavin Reames (reams)	WR
8	AJ Martel (Mar-tell)	RB
9	Tyson Mann	S
10	Louis Bosscher (baugh-sure)	CB
10	Liam Young (lee-um)	WR
11	Caleb Paarlberg (Parl-burgh)	DL
11	Billy Sternberg	H/Y
13	Austin Harvey	CB
14	Charlie Norton	WR
15	Kaden DeHorn (kay din)	WR
16	Dallas Sauser (saucer)	QB
18	Mason Gougis (goo-giss)	S
18	Tyson Williams	QB
20	Caden Brownell	H/Y
20	Tyler Gavette (guh-vet)	S
21	Bryce Debri (deb ree)	LB
21	Trey Goike (goy-key)	RB
22	Maddox Greenfield	S
22	Kal Motter (mott-ure)	RB
23	Joey Mahaney (muh-hay-nee)	S
24	Tommy Bauss (boss)	H/Y
24	Denny Belmonte (bell-man-tee)	LB

#	NAME	POS.
25	Trenten Bolhouse (boll-house)	S
25	Mike Murphy	RB
26	Noah Dunckel (dunk-ell)	P/RB
27	Dom Cassise (cuh-see-say)	LB
28	Nolan Vis (rhymes w/hiss)	LB
30	Caden Balkon(ball-ken)	K
32	Daniel Klein	K
40	Seth Luhmann (lew-man)	H/Y
41	Gabin Zbytowski (zibb-two ski)	LB
42	Owen Graham	S
43	Tyler Radley (rad-lee)	DL
48	Jake Punches	DL
49	Connor Brittnell (brit-knell)	LB
53	Micah McCurry	DL
55	Jayden Libema (lie-bee-muh)	DL
56	Kemper Millis (mill-iss)	OL
59	Rob MacAleese (mac-uh-lease)	OL
61	Nolan Collins	OL
62	Nick Saade (sod-day)	OL
63	Caleb Fisher	OL
65	Braden Hembree (hem-brie)	OL
69	Tate Bezeau (bee-zo)	DL
70	Ian McGrath (mich-graph)	LS
71	Phillip McLaurin (mick-lore-in)	OL
72	Brett Showers	OL
73	Aaron Hunt	OL
75	Timothy Clay	OL
77	Jeremyah Libema (lie-bee-muh)	OL
81	Caden Vanden Berge	H/Y
82	Skye VanderKuyt (van-der-kyle)	H/Y
84	Aiden O'Brien	WR
85	Braylen Amos	WR
87	Jack Goldie	H/Y
97	Jude Osanaiye (Oh-san-away)	DL
99	Jacob Reynolds	DL