



HOPE

2025 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

GAME 10



GAME 10 | NOV. 15, 2025 | 1:00 P.M. EST | HOLLAND, MI | RAY AND SUE SMITH STADIUM



HOPE COLLEGE
FLYING DUTCHMEN
8-1, 5-1 MIAA

Record _____ 8-1 (5-1 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ 16/17
Last Game _____ Nov. 8, 2025, v. Calvin; W, 52-0
Head Coach _____ Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope _____ 73-19 (9th Season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 44.56
1st Downs _____ 239
Rushing Yards _____ 1986
Passing Yards _____ 2641
Total Offense _____ 4627
Touchdowns _____ 55
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 52-43
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 23-17
Time of Possession _____ 34:56
Sacks _____ 25

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Alex Thole (176-241, 2340 yds, 18 TD)
Rushing _____ AJ Martel (100 att, 503 yds, 10 TD)
Receiving _____ Jonny Rohen-Blanton (51 rec, 677 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles _____ Colton Schreur (56 tot, 29 solo, 27 asst)
Sacks _____ Liam Danitz (12)
Interceptions _____ Owen Graham (6)

VS.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OLIVET
COMETS
1-8, 1-5 MIAA

Record _____ 1-8 (1-5 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ na/na
Last Game _____ Nov. 8, 2025, v. Albion; L, 58-42
Head Coach _____ Erik leutter
Record at Olivet _____ 1-8 (1st season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 26.30
1st Downs _____ 179
Rushing Yards _____ 755
Passing Yards _____ 2370
Total Offense _____ 3125
Touchdowns _____ 32
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 31-24
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 45-37
Time of Possession _____ 31:08
Sacks _____ 22

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Charlie Grant (105-192, 1251 yds, 12 TD)
Rushing _____ Jaylan Johnson (114 att, 554 yds, 5 TD)
Receiving _____ Rashawn Mersier (50 rec, 628 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles _____ Javon Peterson (76 tot, 41 solo, 35 asst)
Sacks _____ Carlton Freeman (7)
Ints. _____ Aaren McCray (2)



2025 SCHEDULE

	Sep. 6	Loras Duhawks Rock Bowl Dubuque, IA	W 62-0
	Sep. 13	Franklin Grizzlies Faught Stadium Franklin, IN	W 38-14
	Sep. 20	Mount Saint Joseph Lions Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	W 31-28
	Sep. 27	Alma Scots Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	L 26-29
	Oct. 4	Trine Thunder Fred Zollner Athletic Stadium Angola, IN	W 55-35
	Oct. 18	Kalamazoo Hornets Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	W 56-21
	Oct. 25	Adrian Bulldogs Docking Stadium Adrian, MI	W 19-17
	Nov. 1	Albion Britons Sprinkle-Sprandel Stadium Albion, MI	W 62-0
	Nov. 8	Calvin Knights Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	W 52-0
	Nov. 15	Olivet Comets (Senior Day) Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	1:00 PM ET

FOOTBALL TO CLOSE OUT REGULAR SEASON VS. OLIVET AND CELEBRATE SENIORS THIS SATURDAY

It's Senior Day at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium! The 8-1 Flying Dutchmen will close out their regular season against the University of Olivet. Hope will honor the 21 seniors that left a mark on the program.

Hope is coming off a 52-0 victory vs. Calvin University last week, the first home game in the new football rivalry between the two schools. The Flying Dutchmen shut out back-to-back opponents for the first time since 1983 and extended a scoreless stretch of 10 quarters for the defense. Hope allowed 152 total yards of offense to the Calvin Knights and turned them over three times under the lights at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium.

On the offensive side of the ball, another "spread the love" game that saw 10 different ballcarriers and 11 different pass catchers, including quarterback Alex Thole who caught a pass on a trick play halfway through the first quarter. Hope, which leads the conference in time of possession, controlled the ball for 38 minutes, 42 seconds and improved to 2-0 against the Knights.

The Flying Dutchmen lead the all-time series with Olivet, 60-20-1. Hope will look to keep its playoff hopes alive with a victory against the Comets. The Flying Dutchmen are strong candidate for an at-large berth even if they don't earn the MIAA's automatic bid.

A HOPE WIN WOULD....

make it eight straight victories against Olivet. The last loss in the series came in 2016 (15-13).

make it four straight Senior Day victories. The last Senior Day loss came to Albion in 2021. Hope will honor the 18 outstanding seniors this Saturday before the game.

give the Flying Dutchmen a chance at a share of the MIAA championship. A Hope win, and an Adrian College victory at Alma College, would force a three-way tie atop the league standings.



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 hopetransforms to access the internet.

HISTORY

First Season	1902
Seasons	117
All-Time Record	510-375-337
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

TOUGH TO SCORE ON

The Flying Dutchmen have shut out at least three opponents in a single season for the first time since 1978. Hope blanked four foes that season, including Olivet College (48-0), Adrian College (7-0) and Alma College (16-0) in successive weeks.

WINNING TRADITION

The Flying Dutchmen enter this afternoon with a 515-375-40 all-time record (.575), including a 251-112-6 record (.688) 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.

QB1 AT HOPE

Junior Alex Thole is second second in the MIAA in passing yards at 2,340, only 20 fewer than Adrian College's Noah Beaudrie. Thole has completed 176-of-241 passes with 18 touchdowns and a league-leading 176.7 efficiency rating.

TRIPLE THREAT

The Flying Dutchmen are averaging 215.8 rushing yards per game, second in the MIAA. Three Hope running backs rank among the Top 10 in the MIAA for rushing yards:

6. Kal Motter, 463 yards (63 carries) 7.3 yards per carry;
7. Trey Goike, 452 yards (60 carries) 7.5 yards per carry;
8. AJ Martel, 503 yards (100 carries) 5.0 yards per carry.

D3FOOTBALL TEAM OF THE WEEK

Linebacker Colton Schreur was selected to the D3football.com Team of the Week on Oct. 28. The senior earned the honor for the first time in his career after posting 10 tackles during a 19-17 victory at No. 25 Adrian College on Oct. 25.

POSSESSION IS THE KEY

The Flying Dutchmen have been winning the time of possession battle at an elite level this season, ranking fifth in NCAA Division III at 34 minutes 18 seconds per game. The national leader is Springfield College at 36:11.



ON THE OFFENSIVE

The Flying Dutchmen have racked up yards unlike few NCAA Division III teams this season, producing 513.2 yards of total offense per game that ranks fifth. The national leader is University of Wisconsin-River Falls from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at 598.9 yards per game.

PAT KING

Placekicker Caden Balkon set the Hope College Football career point after touchdown record at Loras. The senior reached 112 PATs in 22 games after making 8-of-9 attempts for the nationally-ranked Flying Dutchmen against the Duhawks. Nate Barnett '16 held the previous record with 111 over four seasons between 2002-05. Balkon, who heads into today with 155 PATs, has been Hope's placekicker since the 2023 season. The political science major previously totaled 37 PATs in 2023, a school-record 67 last season and 51 this season.

SACK ATTACK

Defensive end Liam Danitz is getting to the quarterback at a MIAA-leading pace this season. The senior already has set a career-high with 12 sacks this season. Danitz also is tin second place in NCAA Division III for sacks this season. Brian Pritt of Benedictine College (Illinois) is the national leader with 13.

RUN STOPPERS

Hope has been stingy against the run this season, holding opponents 63.2 rushing yards this season and ranking the Flying Dutchmen 12th in rush defense in NCAA Division III. The Flying Dutchmen rank 27th in total defense at 262.0 yards per game allowed and rank 32nd in scoring defense at 15.0 points game allowed.

RUSHING

Most Carries: 17, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most Yards: 103, Kal Motter (Trine)
Most TDs: 2, AJ Martel (Loras, Trine, Kalamazoo), Mike Murphy (Loras)
Longest Rush: 80, Kal Motter (Albion)

PASSING

Most Completion: 33, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most Attempts: 44, Alex Thole (Alma)
Most TD Passes: 4, Alex Thole (Trine)
Longest Pass: 80, Alex Thole (Trine)

RECEIVING

Most Receptions: 8, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Calvin)
Most Yards: 134, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Franklin)
Most TD Receptions: 1, Travis Myers (Loras, Franklin, Kalamazoo), Jonny Rohen Blanton (Franklin), Kal Motter (Mount Saint Joseph), Trevor Griffiths (Alma), Billy Sternberg (Alma), Jack Goldie (Kalamazoo)
Longest Reception: 80, Travis Myers (Trine)

DEFENSE

Most Tackles: 10, Colton Schreur (Trine, Adrian)
Most Tackles for Loss: 3.5, Liam Danitz (Franklin, Albion)
Most Sacks: 3, Liam Danitz (Franklin)
Most Ints: 2, Owen Graham (Alma, Kalamazoo, Albion)
Forced Fumbles: 1, Caleb Paarlberg (Trine), Austin Harvey (Trine)
Forced Recoveries: 2, Liam Danitz (Trine)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Most Field Goals: 2, Caden Balkon (Alma)
Longest Field Goal: 45, Caden Balkon (Adrian)
Most Punts: 6, Noah Dunckel (Trine)
Best Punting Average: 45.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Punt: 52.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Josepg)
Punts Inside the 20: 2, Noah Dunckel (Trine)
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 (Mt Saint Joseph), RJ West (Trine)
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), Jack Boike (Adrian)
Longest Field Goal: 27, Jack Boike (Adrian)

WEEK 8 RECAP

The Hope College football team treated itself to a record-setting 62-0 victory at Albion College over Halloween weekend, erupting for the Flying Dutchmen's most points ever scored against the Britons and their largest margin of victory in the 96-game series. On defense, Hope shut out Albion for the 13th time after allowing only 81 yards of total offense.

WEEK 7 RECAP

An unflinching defense and a clutch kicker propelled the Hope College football team to a 19-17 victory at Adrian College on Saturday in a showdown between nationally ranked teams. The Flying Dutchmen shut out the unbeaten Bulldogs after halftime while scoring five decisive points on a third-quarter safety by sophomore defensive lineman Jake Punches and a 45-yard field goal by senior kicker Caden Balkon with 10 seconds remaining.

WEEK 6 RECAP

Safety Owen Graham and the Hope College football team enjoyed one big weekend. The senior intercepted two passes in a game for the second time in three games, delivering during an early swarming effort that propelled the Flying Dutchmen to a 56-21 victory over Kalamazoo College on Oct. 18. The Orange and Blue finished with 544 yards of total offense, with 260 on the ground and 284 through the air.

WEEK 5 RECAP

Two recovered fumbles and three fourth-quarter touchdowns over a span of six minutes helped the Hope College football team secure a 55-35 victory at Trine University on Oct. 4. The Flying Dutchmen erupted for their highest-scoring game against the Thunder.

WEEK 4 RECAP

The 15th-ranked Hope College football team saw its 16-game regular season winning streak snapped on Sept. 27 by Alma College in a stunning ending at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium, 29-26, in overtime in the MIAA opener for both



teams In overtime, Alma (2-2) won the opening toss and went on defense first. Hope could not pick up a first down, so senior Caden 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 after Alma appeared to fumbled the second play of overtime. Officials instead the play 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 tracked down elusive Mount St. Joseph University quarterback Jaxon Schreiber one last time, securing the game-clinching, fourth-down sack that earned the Flying Dutchmen a 31-28 victory on Sept. 30. Senior Caden Balkon's 22-yard, fourth-quarter field goal was the difference.

WEEK 2 RECAP

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.

WEEK 1 RECAP

The Flying Dutchmen scored the most points ever against a collegiate opponent in a season opener during a 62-0 victory at Loras College (Iowa) of the American Rivers Conference on Sept. 6. Hope also posted the back-to-back, season-opening shutouts since 1978 and 1979, when they defeated Marantha College (Wisconsin), 28-0 and 64-0.

OVERALL

Most Points: 62 (Loras, Albion)
Fewest Points: 19 (Adrian)
Most Opposing Points: 35 (Trine)
Fewest Opposing Points: 0 (Loras, Albion, Calvin)
Most Total Offense: 665 (Albion)
Fewest Total Offense: 320 (Adrian)
Most First Downs, Total: 35 (Albion)
Least First Downs, Total: 18 (Adrian)

RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 316 (Albion)
Fewest Rushing Yards: 134 (Adrian)
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: 0 (Adrian)
Most Opposing Rushing TDs: 2 (Alma)
Fewest Opposing Rushing TDs: 0 (Loras, Franklin, Mt St Joseph, Trine)
Most First Downs, Rushing: 15 (Adrian)
Least First Downs, Rushing: 2 (Albion)

PASSING

Most Passing Yards: 388 (Loras)
Fewest Passing Yards: 168 (Adrian)
Most Opposing Passing Yards: 367 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Yards: 68 (Albion)
Most Passing Attempts: 44 (Alma)
Fewest Passing Attempts: 19 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing Attempts: 53 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Attempts: 11 (Albion)
Most Passing Completions: 33 (Alma)
Fewest Passing Completions: 15 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Opposing Passing Completions: 38 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Fewest Opposing Passing Completions: 11 (Albion)
Most Passing Touchdowns: 4 (Trine)
Fewest Passing Touchdowns: 1 (Loras, Mount Saint Joseph, Calvin)
Most Opposing Passing TDs: 4 (Mount Saint Joseph, Trine)
Fewest Opposing Passing TDs: 0 (Loras, Albion)
Most First Downs, Passing: 17 (Calvin)
Least First Downs, Passing: 2 (Albion)

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: 5 (Albion)
Most Interceptions Thrown: 1 (Franklin, Alma, Adrian)
Most Punts: 4 (Mount Saint Joseph, Adrian)
Fewest Punts: 1 (Loras, Franklin, Kalamazoo, Albion)
Most Opposing Punts: 10 (Loras)
Fewest Opposing Punts: 2 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Most Penalties: 10 (Trine)
Fewest Penalties: 2 (Loras)
Most Penalty Yards: 56 (Trine)
Fewest Penalty Yards: 21 (Adrian)
Most First Downs Allowed: 25 (Mount Saint Joseph)
Least First Downs, Allowed: 9 (Loras, Albion)

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
ALMA	6-0	7-2
HOPE	5-1	8-1
ADRIAN	5-1	8-1
CALVIN	3-3	6-3
TRINE	2-4	4-5
OLIVET	1-5	1-8
KALAMAZOO	1-5	4-5
ALBION	1-5	3-6

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
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**
8-1, 5-1 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMa**
RECORD AT HOPE: 73-19

HOPE 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
ALEX THOLE	176	241	3	73.03	18	260.00
DALLAS SAUSER	17	25	0	68.00	0	34.67

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
AJ MARTEL	100	503	5.0	10	19	55.89
KAL MOTTER	63	463	7.3	6	80	57.88
TREY GOIKE	60	452	7.5	6	55	56.50

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON	51	677	13.27	3	62	75.22
TRAVIS MYERS	33	591	17.91	5	80	65.67
KADEN DEHORN	22	371	16.86	2	48	41.22

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG
NOAH DUNCKEL	25	916	36.64

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG	PATs
CADEN BALKON	6	11	54.55	45	51-55

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
GAVIN REAMES	14	166	11.86	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
GAVIN REAMES	18	460	25.56	0

OPPONENT **BREAKDOWN**



**OLIVET
COMETS**
1-8, 1-5 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
ERIK IEUTER**
RECORD AT OLIVET: 1-8

OLIVET 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
CHARLIE GRANT	105	192	8	54.70	12	178.70

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JAYLAN JOHNSON	114	554	4.9	5	75	61.60
DORIAN FREEMAN	44	156	3.5	1	18	19.50
DANIEL AVILA	28	92	3.3	2	16	15.30

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
RASHAWN MERSIER	50	628	12.60	3	39	69.80
WADE BRASHERS	44	592	13.50	7	52	65.8
NOAH BATES	22	292	13.30	3	34	41.70

TEAM COMPARISON



NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

CATEGORY	HOPE	OLIVET
Rushing Offense	25th	58th
Rushing Defense	10th	73rd
Total Offense	5th	58th
Scoring Offense	17th	43rd
Passing Offense	24th	5th
Total Defense	38th	187th
Scoring Defense	t-46th	135th
Red-Zone Offense	t-69th	54th
Red-Zone Defense	121st	t-104th
Net Punting	151st	116th
Punt Returns	t-48th	28th
Kickoff Returns	73rd	120th
Turnover Margin	t-15th	t-52nd
Time of Possession	10th	t-42nd

MIAA RANKINGS

HOPE RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	2nd
Passing Offense	2nd
Total Offense	2nd
Scoring Offense	1st
Rushing Defense	2nd
Passing Defense	2nd
Total Defense	2nd
Scoring Defense	2nd
Net Punting	7th
Punt Returns	3rd
Kickoff Returns	1st
Time of Possession	1st

OLIVET RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	3rd
Passing Offense	8th
Total Offense	5th
Scoring Offense	4th
Rushing Defense	3rd
Passing Defense	7th
Total Defense	5th
Scoring Defense	5th
Net Punting	5th
Punt Returns	2nd
Kickoff Returns	5th
Time of Possession	6th

SERIES HISTORY

SERIES: 60-20-1
AT HOLLAND: 30-8-1
AT OLIVET: 30-12-0

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME TEN VS. OLIVET

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
	43	Tyler Radley	So.	6-1	234
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	0	Liam Danitz	Sr.	6-5	227
	81	Caden Vanden Berge	Jr.	6-4	240
LB	6	Micah Bush	So.	5-10	210
	28	Nolan Vis	Fr.	5-11	207
LB	5	Colton Schreur	Sr.	5-11	198
	3	Easton Phipps	So.	6-0	198
LB	21	Bryce Debri	Sr.	5-11	196
	27	Dom Cassise	Fr.	6-1	192
S	25	Trenton Bolhouse	So.	6-3	189
	22	Maddox Greenfield	So.	5-10	182
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
KO	32	Daniel Klein	Fr.	6-0	158
	30	Caden Balkon	Sr.	5-11	200
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 Duncel	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