



# HOPE

2025  
FOOTBALL  
GAME NOTES



GAME 11



GAME 11 | NOV. 29, 2025 | 12:00 P.M. EST | HOLLAND, MI | RAY AND SUE SMITH STADIUM



HOPE COLLEGE  
FLYING DUTCHMEN  
9-1, 6-1 MIAA

VS.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
EAGLES  
7-2, 5-2 WIAC

Record \_\_\_\_\_ 9-1 (6-1 MIAA)  
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) \_\_\_\_\_ 18/17  
Last Game \_\_\_\_\_ Nov. 15, 2025, v. Olivet; W, 63-6  
Head Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Peter Stuursma  
Record at Hope \_\_\_\_\_ 74-19 (9th Season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game \_\_\_\_\_ 46.40  
1st Downs \_\_\_\_\_ 272  
Rushing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 2331  
Passing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 2992  
Total Offense \_\_\_\_\_ 5325  
Touchdowns \_\_\_\_\_ 64  
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 59-44  
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 23-17  
Time of Possession \_\_\_\_\_ 34:26  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ 28

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Thole (192-267, 2340 yds, 20 TD)  
Rushing \_\_\_\_\_ Trey Goike (71 att, 556 yds, 9 TD)  
Receiving \_\_\_\_\_ Jonny Rohen-Blanton (58 rec, 819 yds, 3 TD)  
Tackles \_\_\_\_\_ Colton Schreur (61 tot, 33 solo, 28 asst)  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ Liam Danitz (13)  
Interceptions \_\_\_\_\_ Owen Graham (6)

Record \_\_\_\_\_ 7-2 (5-2 MIAA)  
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) \_\_\_\_\_ 13/na  
Last Game \_\_\_\_\_ Nov. 15, 2025, v. Wisconsin-Stevens Point; W, 58-0  
Head Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Matt Janus  
Record at Wisconsin-La Crosse \_\_\_\_\_ 44-13 (6th season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game \_\_\_\_\_ 32.00  
1st Downs \_\_\_\_\_ 195  
Rushing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 1329  
Passing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 2290  
Total Offense \_\_\_\_\_ 3619  
Touchdowns \_\_\_\_\_ 37  
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 33-27  
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 25-21  
Time of Possession \_\_\_\_\_ 32:06  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ 18

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing \_\_\_\_\_ Kyle Haas (159-231, 1756 yds, 16 TD)  
Rushing \_\_\_\_\_ Gabe Lynch (106 att, 541 yds, 6 TD)  
Receiving \_\_\_\_\_ Jack Janke (65 rec, 895 yds, 10 TD)  
Tackles \_\_\_\_\_ Tyler Shaver (39 tot, 18 solo, 21 asst)  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Walsh (4.5)  
Ints. \_\_\_\_\_ Sam Baumgard, Trent Muller (3)



2025 SCHEDULE

|                                                                                       |          |                                                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|    | Sept. 6  | Loras Duhawks<br>Rock Bowl   Dubuque, IA                              | W 62-0  |
|   | Sept. 13 | Franklin Grizzlies<br>Faught Stadium   Franklin, IN                   | W 38-14 |
|  | Sept. 20 | Mount Saint Joseph Lions<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI   | W 31-28 |
|  | Sept. 27 | Alma Scots<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI                 | L 26-29 |
|  | Oct. 4   | Trine Thunder<br>Fred Zollner Athletic Stadium   Angola, IN           | W 55-35 |
|  | Oct. 18  | Kalamazoo Hornets<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI          | W 56-21 |
|  | Oct. 25  | Adrian Bulldogs<br>Docking Stadium   Adrian, MI                       | W 19-17 |
|  | Nov. 1   | Albion Britons<br>Sprinkle-Sprandel Stadium   Albion, MI              | W 62-0  |
|  | Nov. 8   | Calvin Knights<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI             | W 52-0  |
|  | Nov. 15  | Olivet Comets (Senior Day)<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI | W 63-6  |

HOPE LOOKS TO CARRY MOMENTUM FROM REGULAR SEASON INTO PLAYOFFS

The Flying Dutchmen will make back-to-back playoff appearances for the first time in program history when they host the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse on Saturday, Nov. 29, at noon at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The Flying Dutchmen aim for their second postseason victory after defeating Aurora University (Illinois), 49-21, last season.

Hope capped off another stellar season on Nov. 15 defeating The University of Olivet, 63-6, on Senior Day. The Orange and Blue went 9-1 on the season and 6-1 in the MIAA, earning an at-large bid for the Division III playoffs. This will be the first matchup ever between Hope and La Crosse (7-2).

The Orange and Blue carry a six-game winning streak into the playoffs and have won 20 of their past 22 games.

Wisconsin-La Crosse has also been on an impressive tear, making the playoffs the past five seasons under head coach Matt Janus in a loaded Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. This year, the WIAC has put four teams in the playoffs, the most of any conference in Division III this season.

The winner will face off against the winner of today's game between defending national champion North Central College (Illinois) and Hanover College (Indiana). North Central beat Hope in last season's third round, 42-21.

A HOPE WIN WOULD....

be the second postseason victory in program history. Hope is 1-6 all-time in the NCAA playoffs following previous appearances in 2024, 2019, 2006, 2003, 2000 and 1986.

be back-to-back years with a playoff victory. This would be the first time Hope has won a playoff game in back-to-back years.

the first win ever against the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.



**PETER STUURSM**  
**HC**

## MEDIA AND CREDENTIALS INFORMATION

### CREDENTIALS

Season media credentials can be requested by working memers 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<br>Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association |
| Conference Website          | <a href="https://miaa.org">https://miaa.org</a>                    |
| Ticket Office               | 616-395-7890                                                       |

## HOPE FOOTBALL COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

|                                |                                                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Office                         | 616-395-7860                                               |
| Sports Information Director    | Alan Babbitt                                               |
| Email                          | <a href="mailto:babbitt@hope.edu">babbitt@hope.edu</a>     |
| Sports Information Coordinator | Mackenzie McMahon                                          |
| Email                          | <a href="mailto:mcmahon@hope.edu">mcmahon@hope.edu</a>     |
| Hope Athletics Website         | <a href="http://athletics.hope.edu">athletics.hope.edu</a> |
| 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 Supianoski |
| Managers                      | Rob Sterken, Andrew Tysse   |



## WINNING TRADITION

The Flying Dutchmen enter this afternoon with a 516-375-40 all-time record (.576), including a 252-112-6 record (.689) 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. The score is unknown.

## TOUGH TO SCORE ON

Hope is tied for 26th in NCAA Division III in scoring defense at 15.0 points per game. The Flying Dutchmen have shut out at least three opponents in a single season for the first time in 47 years, blanking Loras College, 62-0, Albion College, 62-0, and Calvin University, 52-0. In 1978, Hope blanked four foes that season, including Maranatha Baptist College by a 28-0 margin in then opener, then four in a row late in the season: then-Olivet College, 48-0, Adrian College, 7-0, and Alma College, 16-0.

## SACK ATTACK

Senior defensive lineman Liam Danitz has emerged as one of NCAA Division III's top pass rushers, ranking fourth in the nation with 13 sacks and seventh with 19 tackles for a loss. The exercise science major has set career-highs in both categories. Westminster's Jeremiah Belizaire tops the nation with 16 sacks. Benedictine's Brian Pritt is second with 15. Aurora's JP Chaney ranks third with 14.

## RUN STOPPERS

Hope has been stingy against the run this season, holding opponents to 58.9 rushing yards this season and ranking the Flying Dutchmen ninth in rush defense in Division III. The school record for rush defense is 51.3 yards per game allowed in 1979. The Flying Dutchmen rank 26th in total defense at 260.5 yards per game allowed.

## POSSESSION IS KEY

Fueled by a stingy defense and a high-producing offense, 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, 9 seconds per game. The national leader is Springfield College at 35:48.



## 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.

## QB1 AT HOPE

Junior Alex Thole threw for the second-most among MIAA quarterbacks with second in the MIAA in passing yards at 2,640, only 94 fewer than Adrian College's Noah Beaudrie. The transfer from Grand Valley State University has completed 192-of-267 passes with 20 touchdowns and a league-leading 175.9 efficiency rating. Thole has thrown five interceptions.

## RECEIVING DEPTH

Quarterback Alex Thole has utilized a number of receivers in Hope's passing attack. Junior Jonny Rohen-Blanton finished third among MIAA players with 819 receiving yards after collecting 58 catches and three touchdowns. Senior Travis Myers placed ninth in the league with 627 receiving yards with 35 catches and five touchdowns. Junior Kaden DeHorn is another threat (423 yards on 24 receptions).

## TRIPLE THREAT

The Flying Dutchmen averaged 233.1 rushing yards per game this season, ranking second in the MIAA. Three Hope running backs rank among the top eight in the MIAA:

5. Trey Goike, 556 yards (71 carries) 7.8 yards per carry;
6. Kai Motter, 521 yards (71 carries) 7.3 yards per carry;
8. AJ Martel, 503 yards (100 carries) 5.0 yards per carry.

## OVERALL

Most Points: 63 (Olivet)  
 Fewest Points: 19 (Adrian)  
 Most Opposing Points: 35 (Trine)  
 Fewest Opposing Points: 0 (Loras, Albion, Calvin)  
 Most Total Offense: 696 (Olivet)  
 Fewest Total Offense: 320 (Adrian)  
 Most First Downs, Total: 35 (Albion)  
 Least First Downs, Total: 18 (Adrian)

## RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 345 (Olivet)  
 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, Olivet)  
 Most Opposing Rushing TDs: 2 (Alma)  
 Fewest Opposing Rushing TDs: 0 (Loras, Franklin, Mt St Joseph, Trine)  
 Most First Downs, Rushing: 16 (Olivet)  
 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)

## PAT KING

Placekicker Caden Balkon is Hope's all-time PAT leader with 164 in 31 games over three seasons. The senior set the career mark during the season opener at Loras, reaching 112 PATs in 22 games after making 8-of-9 attempts against the Duhawks. Nate Barnett '16 held the previous record with 111 over four seasons between 2002-05. Balkon heads into today with 160 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.

## MIAA DEFENSIVE MVP

Senior defensive lineman Liam Danitz co-headlined the 2025 All-MIAA Football Team as the MIAA's Defensive MVP, as selected by the league's coaches, becoming the 29th Flying Dutchmen standout to claim MVP honors. The senior exercise science major led the MIAA with 1.29 sacks per seven league games, totaling nine sacks, including seven solo. His disruptive presence at the line of scrimmage consistently set the tone for the MIAA's No. 1 total defense and second-ranked scoring defense. Danitz followed former teammate Cole Luhmann as an MIAA Defensive MVP after Luhmann earned the distinction last season.

## ALL-MIAA

The Flying Dutchmen placed 11 on the 2025 All-MIAA Football Team, beginning senior defensive lineman Liam Danitz, the MIAA Defensive MVP. Danitz was joined by six other All-MIAA First Team honorees and four All-MIAA Second Team selections from Hope. Kicker Caden Balkon, safety Owen Graham, cornerback Austin Harvey, H-back Seth Luhmann, center Rob MacAleese and defensive lineman Caleb Paarlberg also made the first team. Linebacker Bryce Deбри, receiver Jonny Rohen-Blanton, linebacker Colton Schreur and quarterback Alex Thole earned second-team honors. Harvey, Luhmann and Paarlberg claimed All-MIAA recognition for the second time in their careers. The All-MIAA honors was the first for Balkon, Graham, MacAleese, Deбри, Rohen-Blanton, Schreur and Thole.



## D3FOOTBALL TEAM OF THE WEEK

Hope College 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. Schreur, a business major, recorded a season-high 10 tackles, including five solo, for the nationally ranked Flying Dutchmen during a 19-17 victory at No. 25 Adrian College. Hope held the Bulldogs to a season-low 217 yards of total offense and shut them out in the second half. Schreur also broke up a pass on a fourth-down stop in the end zone and added a half-tackle for loss. The Team of the Week, presented by Scoutware, is D3football.com's weekly honor roll. Now in its 27th season, it recognizes the top performance at each position from the previous week.

## MIAA ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Two Flying Dutchmen garnered MIAA Athlete of the Week accolades this season: return Gavin Reames and defensive lineman Liam Danitz.

**Nov. 10:** Reames was named the MIAA Special Teams Athlete of the Week. The senior business major helped the Flying Dutchmen record a 52-0 victory over rival Calvin University in the first game of The Rivalry played on Hope's campus. Reames returned one kickoff for 23 yards and five punts for 67 yards.

**Oct. 6:** Danitz was selected as the MIAA Football Defensive Athlete of the Week for the first time after recording nine tackles, two sacks and two fumble recoveries during a 55-35 Flying Dutchmen victory at Trine University on Saturday. The exercise science major finished with 2 ½ tackles for loss.

## RUSHING

**Most Carries:** 17, Alex Thole (Alma)  
**Most Yards:** 104, Trey Goike (Trine)  
**Most TDs:** 3, Trey Goike (Olivet)  
**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 10

A determined and senior-led Hope College football team capped a ferocious six-game run to close the regular season on Nov. 15, bolstering its bid for an at-large berth to the NCAA Division III playoffs with a 63-6 victory against the University of Olivet at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The nationally-ranked Flying Dutchmen (9-1) reached the nine-win mark for the second consecutive season and the third time under head coach Peter Stuursma with a Senior Day victory. The Flying Dutchmen outscored opponents 304-79 during their winning streak. The Orange and Blue also posted back-to-back shutouts and went 11 quarters without giving up a point. Against Olivet, Hope allowed only a touchdown on a 43-yard halfback pass from Caleb Rudd 3 minutes, 49 seconds into the second quarter. Sophomore defensive lineman Jake Punches blocked the PAT kick for a 21-6 Hope lead. Seven different Flying Dutchmen scored touchdowns. Freshman running back Trey Goike posted career bests with 104 rushing yards and three scores on runs of 50, 8 and 13 yards.

## WEEK 9

The Hope College football team lit up the scoreboard and the Saturday night sky on a historic Nov. 8 evening at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The nationally ranked Flying Dutchmen provided all the fireworks in the first on-campus meeting of The Rivalry, defeating Calvin University 52-0 in front of 5,651 fans, one of the largest home crowds in program history. Hope, ranked No. 16 in both the D3football.com and AFCA polls, scored touchdowns on its first three possessions and added four more touchdowns and a field goal. Defensively, the Flying Dutchmen recorded back-to-back shutouts for the first time since 1983. Hope limited Calvin to a season-low 152 yards of total offense and forced three interceptions. Senior linebacker Colton Schreur led the team with eight tackles. Hope's offense delivered as well, totaling 557 yards and 33 first downs while averaging 6.8 yards per play and displaying balance with seven different Flying Dutchmen scoring touchdowns.



**ALEX THOLE**  
QB

## WEEK 8

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. The Flying Dutchmen dominated from start to finish at Albion, recording their second shutout of the season. Over 54 offensive plays, Albion totaled 13 rushing yards and 68 passing yards. Senior Liam Danitz led the charge with seven tackles and 1½ sacks.

## WEEK 7

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. At Adrian, the Flying Dutchmen held the Bulldogs to a season-low 217 yards of total offense and overcame an early 10-0 deficit. A fourth-down stop and a three-and-out on successive Adrian drives during the fourth quarter set up the game-winning drive. Hope's defense delivered several critical stops after halftime. Each team had only four possessions combined during the third and fourth quarters. Following a Koronnis Davis interception that thwarted a potential Flying Dutchmen scoring drive at the Adrian 1-yard line, Punches sacked Adrian quarterback Noah Beaudrie in the end zone for a safety on second-and-6 to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 17-16 with 8:05 remaining in the third quarter. Hope sacked Beaudrie three times during the game.

## WEEK 6

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

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

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

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. 20. Senior Caden Balkon's 22-yard field goal with seven minutes remaining in the fourth quarter was the difference.

## WEEK 2

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

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.

## 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      | 7-0  | 8-2     |
| HOPE      | 6-1  | 9-1     |
| ADRIAN    | 5-2  | 8-2     |
| CALVIN    | 4-3  | 7-3     |
| TRINE     | 3-4  | 5-5     |
| OLIVET    | 1-6  | 1-9     |
| KALAMAZOO | 1-6  | 4-6     |
| ALBION    | 1-6  | 3-7     |

## 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 STUURSMAN HEAD COACH

In nine seasons, head coach Peter Stuursma '93 has guided the Hope College football team to a 74-19 overall record, including a 49-10 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 four 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 FCS Bryant University.



### 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 cornerbacks and serves as special teams coordinator.



### 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, twice earning All-GLIAC honors as a linebacker.



### ISAIAH HICKS

Defensive Line Coach

Isaiah Hicks '25 joined the Hope College Football staff before the 2024 season as a student assistant coach. He was named the defensive line coach before the 2025 season. Hicks played on the defensive line for the Flying Dutchmen for three years.



### 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.



### 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 (2021-24).



# FLYING DUTCHMEN *BREAKDOWN*



**HOPE  
FLYING DUTCHMEN**  
9-1, 6-1 MIAA



**HEAD COACH  
PETER STUURSMa**  
RECORD AT HOPE: 74-19

## HOPE 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

| PASSING       | COMP | ATT | INT | PCT   | TD | YPG    |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|-------|----|--------|
| ALEX THOLE    | 192  | 267 | 5   | 71.91 | 20 | 264.00 |
| DALLAS SAUSER | 20   | 28  | 0   | 71.43 | 0  | 34.57  |

| RUSHING    | ATT | YDS | AVG | TD | Lg | AVG/G |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| TREY GOIKE | 71  | 556 | 7.8 | 9  | 55 | 61.78 |
| KAL MOTTER | 71  | 521 | 7.3 | 6  | 80 | 57.89 |
| AJ MARTEL  | 100 | 503 | 5.0 | 10 | 19 | 55.89 |

| RECEIVING           | REC | YDS | AVG   | TD | Lg | AVG/G |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|----|----|-------|
| JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON | 58  | 819 | 14.12 | 3  | 62 | 81.90 |
| TRAVIS MYERS        | 35  | 627 | 17.91 | 5  | 80 | 62.70 |
| KADEN DEHORN        | 2   | 423 | 17.63 | 2  | 48 | 42.30 |

| PUNTING      | NO | YDS | AVG   |
|--------------|----|-----|-------|
| NOAH DUNCKEL | 26 | 959 | 36.88 |

| FIELD GOALS  | FGM | FGA | %     | LONG | PATs  |
|--------------|-----|-----|-------|------|-------|
| CADEN BALKON | 6   | 12  | 50.00 | 45   | 51-55 |

| PUNT RETURNS | NO | YDS | AVG   | TD |
|--------------|----|-----|-------|----|
| GAVIN REAMES | 18 | 183 | 10.17 | 0  |

| KICKOFF RETURNS | NO | YDS | AVG   | TD |
|-----------------|----|-----|-------|----|
| GAVIN REAMES    | 19 | 475 | 25.00 | 0  |

## OPPONENT **BREAKDOWN**



**WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
EAGLES**  
7-2, 5-2 WIAC



**HEAD COACH  
MATT JANUS**  
RECORD AT WISC-LA CROSSE: 44-13

## WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE 2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

| PASSING   | COMP | ATT | INT | PCT   | TD | YPG    |
|-----------|------|-----|-----|-------|----|--------|
| KYLE HAAS | 159  | 231 | 6   | 68.83 | 16 | 195.11 |

  

| RUSHING     | ATT | YDS | AVG | TD | Lg | AVG/G |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| GABE LYNCH  | 106 | 541 | 5.1 | 6  | 40 | 67.63 |
| BRAEDON OTT | 52  | 298 | 5.7 | 2  | 45 | 37.25 |
| OWEN LEITEL | 47  | 208 | 4.4 | 1  | 23 | 26.00 |

  

| RECEIVING      | REC | YDS | AVG   | TD | Lg | AVG/G |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------|----|----|-------|
| JACK JANKE     | 65  | 895 | 13.77 | 10 | 67 | 99.44 |
| TYLER BOWMAN   | 31  | 377 | 12.16 | 4  | 49 | 41.89 |
| MARKO RAJKOVIC | 20  | 196 | 9.80  | 3  | 63 | 21.78 |



## TEAM COMPARISON



## NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

| CATEGORY           | HOPE   | WISCONSIN-LACROSSE |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Rushing Offense    | 12th   | 108th              |
| Rushing Defense    | 8th    | 83rd               |
| Total Offense      | 2nd    | 59th               |
| Scoring Offense    | 10th   | 65th               |
| Passing Offense    | 18th   | 56th               |
| Total Defense      | 26th   | 72nd               |
| Scoring Defense    | T 26th | 63rd               |
| Red-Zone Offense   | 78th   | T 87th             |
| Red-Zone Defense   | 85th   | 195th              |
| Net Punting        | 140th  | 20th               |
| Punt Returns       | 62nd   | T 164th            |
| Kickoff Returns    | 62nd   | 199th              |
| Turnover Margin    | T 13th | T 64th             |
| Time of Possession | 5th    | 39th               |

## LEAGUE RANKINGS

### HOPE RANKINGS

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

### WIS-LACROSSE RANKINGS

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

## SERIES HISTORY

**SERIES:** 0-0  
**IN HOLLAND:** 0-0  
**IN LA CROSSE:** 0-0