



GAME 1 | SEPT. 6, 2025 | 1 P.M. CT | DUBUQUE, IA | ROCK BOWL

ON THE AIR



WATCH: [YOUTUBE](#)



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

VS.



LORAS COLLEGE
DUHAWKS
0-0, 0-0 CCIW

Record _____ 0-0 (0-0 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ 20/20
Last Game ____ Dec. 7, 2024, v. North Central; L, 21-41
Head Coach _____ Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope _____ 65-18 (Ninth Season)

2024 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 42.75
1st Downs _____ 310
Rushing Yards _____ 3,437
Passing Yards _____ 2,659
Total Offense _____ 6,096
Touchdowns _____ 72
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 65-51
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 26-17
Time of Possession _____ 32:18
Sacks _____ 31

2024 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Ben Wellman (137-209, 2,197 yds, 22 TD)
Rushing _____ Chance Strickland (143 att, 946 yds, 18 TD)
Receiving _____ Grant Holtzer (42 rec, 1,052 yds, 11 TD)
Tackles _____ Cole Luhmann (87 tot, 36 solo, 51 asst)
Sacks _____ Liam Danitz (4.0)
Interceptions _____ Brad Raredon (5)

Record _____ 0-0 (0-0 American Rivers)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ na/na
Last Game ____ Nov. 16, 2024, v. Wartburg; L, 69-14
Head Coach _____ Steve Helminiak
Record at Loras _____ 39-63 (12th season)

2024 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 20.60
1st Downs _____ 167
Rushing Yards _____ 994
Passing Yards _____ 1988
Total Offense _____ 2,982
Touchdowns _____ 28
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 26-19
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 51-44
Time of Possession _____ 29:06
Sacks _____ 19

2024 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Joey Helminiak (124-203, 1,409 yds, 13 TD)
Rushing _____ Justin Stephens (112 att, 412 yds, 3 TD)
Receiving _____ Jaheem Haynes (35 rec, 401 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles _____ BJ Adamchik (68 tot, 40 solo, 28 asst)
Sacks _____ Henry Ivers (4.5)
Interceptions _____ Brandon Phelps (2)



2025 SCHEDULE

	Sept. 6	Loras DuHawks Rock Bowl Dubuque, IA	1:00 PM CT
	Sept. 13	Franklin Grizzlies Faught Stadium Franklin, IN	1:30 PM ET
	Sept. 20	Mount Saint Joseph Lions Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	1:00 PM ET
	Sept. 27	Alma Scots Ray and Sue Smith Stadium Holland, MI	1:00 PM EST
	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 Sprankle-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

FOOTBALL KICKS OFF SEASON WITH REMATCH AT LORAS

The 20th-ranked Hope College football team heads to the heartland to begin the 2025 season, traveling to Dubuque, Iowa, to face Loras College for the second consecutive season.

Change in today’s college football is a constant, and the Flying Dutchmen are contending with it, too, after a historic season of their own. Head coach Peter Stuursma said it was a productive weekend.

“We got a chance to experience a lot of football and watch what’s going on: how teams adapt, how teams address sudden change, how teams address, so many new names and faces, everybody’s doing it,” Stuursma said. “We really feel like winning the day, winning the next play,

having the opportunity to go practice today on a beautiful day is the only thing we can control. That’s what we’re really focused on. We have some big shoes to fill, but we’ve got people with big feet.”

The approach is one Hope used last season to earn the first 10-0 regular season in program history, the 23rd MIAA championship, and the first NCAA Division III playoff victory. The Flying Dutchmen finished 11-1 after reaching the third round and losing to the eventual national champion, North Central College (Ill.). Hope graduated a talented senior class, including two All-Americans. The Flying Dutchmen will be younger this season, with a roster of 125 that features 45 freshmen, 34 sophomores, 28 juniors, and 18 seniors.

A HOPE WIN would....

be the second season-opening victory in a row and the fourth in five seasons. Hope is 46-67-2 all-time in season openers, including a 3-5 mark during head coach Peter Stuursma’s tenure.

be Peter Stuursma’s 68th in 84 games at the helm at Hope, his alma mater. Stuursma’s win percentage is .783.



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	508-375-337
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	3,369 (Spring 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 the season ranked in both the American Football Coaches Association and D3football.com national polls for the first time.

Hope finished 20th in each poll.

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).

CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

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 league play in 2024, 2019 and 2009 and 5-0 in 2000, 1987, 1984, 1982, 1981, 1978 and 1973.

A SEASON 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.

STATISTICAL GREATNESS

In addition to lofty rankings in both national polls, Hope stood among the best in several statistical categories during the 2024 regular season:

- 1. Scoring Defense, 8.3 ppg;
- 1. Third-Down Conversion, .661;
- 1. Blocked Punts Allowed, 0;
- 2. Red-Zone Defense, .528
- 4. Total Defense, 214.5 ypg;
- 4. Total Offense, 531.1 ypg;
- 4. Rushing Offense, 302.7;
- 4. Rushing Defense, 40.8;
- 5. Kickoff Returns, 26.36;
- 5. Sacks Allowed, 5;
- 6. First Downs Offense, 270;
- 8. Passing yards per completion, 16.20;
- 12. Turnovers Lost, 8;
- 17. First Downs Defense, 142;
- 18. Scoring Offense, 44.3

BIG SHOES

The Flying Dutchmen graduated a pair of All-Americans in linebacker Cole Luhmann and right tackle Dylan Clem. Both were selected to the American Football Coaches Association All-America Teams for NCAA Division III. Luhmann was one of three first-team linebackers. Clem was one of five second-team lineman.

Luhmann and Clem are the third set of Hope teammates to earn All-America accolades in the same season.

Luhmann also garnered All-America honors from the Associated Press.

Clem made the D3football All-America Third team.

OVERALL

Most Points: 49 (4 times, last, vs. Aurora)

Fewest Points: 34 (Alma)

Most Opposing Points: 21 (Aurora)

Fewest Opposing Points: 0 (Loras and Adrian)

Most Total Offense: 662 (Loras)

Fewest Total Offense: 486 (Trine)

Most Opposing Total Offense: 307 (Alma)

Fewest Opposing Total Offense: 123 (Loras)

RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 391 (Rose Hulman and Loras)

Fewest Rushing Yards: 253 (Trine)

Most Rushing Yards Allowed: 119 (Franklin)

Fewest Rushing Yards Allowed: 11 (twice: Kalamazoo, Loras)

Most Rushing Attempts: 50 (Rose-Hulman)

Fewest Rushing Attempts: 38 (Trine)

Most Opposing Rushing Attempts: 41 (Franklin)

Fewest Opposing Rushing Attempts: 22 (Kalamazoo)

Most Rushing TDs: 6 (three times: Trine, Franklin, Loras)

Fewest Rushing TDs: 2 (Alma, Albion)

Most/Fewest Opposing Rushing TDs: 0 (six times)

PASSING

Most Passing Yards: 271 (Loras)

Fewest Passing Yards: 137 (Rose-Hulman)

Most Opposing Passing Yards: 229 (Alma)

Fewest Opposing Passing Yards: 103 (Franklin)

Most Passing Attempts: 31 (twice: Alma, Loras)

Fewest Passing Attempts: 15 (Franklin)

Most Opposing Passing Attempts: 43 (Kalamazoo)

Fewest Opposing Passing Attempts: 16 (Franklin)

Most Passing Completions: 19 (Alma)

Fewest Passing Completions: 9 (Franklin)

Most Opposing Passing Completions: 24 (Kalamazoo)

Fewest Opposing Passing Completions: 9 (Franklin)

Most Passing Touchdowns: 4 (Kalamazoo)

Fewest Passing Touchdowns: 0 (Trine)

Most Opposing Passing TDs: 2 (twice: Kalamazoo, Alma)

Fewest Opposing Passing TDs: 0 (Loras and Adrian)

OTHER

Most Sacks: 5 (Albion)

Fewest Sacks: 1 (twice: Alma, Rose-Hulman)

Most Opposing Sacks: 1 (Kalamazoo, Alma)

Fewest Opposing Sacks: 0 (five times: Albion, Trine, Rose-Hulman, Franklin, Loras)

Most Fumbles Recovered: 1 (twice, Rose-Hulman, Franklin)

Most Fumbles Lost: 2 (Franklin)

Most Interceptions: w (Aurora)

Most Interceptions Thrown: 1 (Trine, Loras)

Most Punts: 3 (twice: Trine, Alma)

Fewest Punts: 0 (Loras)

Most Opposing Punts: 9 (Trine)

Fewest Opposing Punts: 3 (Alma, Adrian)

Most Penalties: 14 (Alma)

Fewest Penalties: 3 (Aurora)

Most Opposing Penalties: 5 (three times: Alma, Rose-Hulman, Franklin)

Fewest Opposing Penalties: 0 (Loras)

Most Penalty Yards: 128 (Alma)

Fewest Penalty Yards: 32 (Aurora)

Most Opposing Penalty Yards: 45 (Alma)

Fewest Opposing Penalty Yards: 0 (twice: Loras, Albion)

REGULAR SEASON SUCCESS

Hope has won 13 consecutive regular-season games, covering two seasons.

The Flying Dutchmen's last regular-season loss was 35-17 at home to Alma College on Oct. 14, 2013.

ALL-TIME VS. LORAS

The Flying Dutchmen are facing Loras for the third time overall and for the third consecutive seasons.

Hope leads the all-time series, 2-0, winning 49-0 last season and 42-28 in 2023. This is the Flying Dutchmen's first visit to Loras.

This is Hope's first trip to Iowa since the 2021 season. The Flying Dutchmen lost in Week 2 at Coe College, 28-21.

AMERICAN RIVERS HISTORY

The Flying Dutchmen are 4-4 all-time against teams from the American Rivers Conference:

- 2-0 vs. Loras;
- 1-1 vs. Coe;
- 1-1 vs. Wartburg;
- 0-2 vs. Central.

KEY RETURNERS

The Flying Dutchmen return three 2024 All-MIAA selections, including All-MIAA first team and D3football All-Region Third Team cornerback Austin Harvey (Rockford, Mich. / Rockford HS).

Two All-MIAA second-team honorees also return for Hope: H-back Seth Luhmann (Rochester Hills, Mich. / Stoney Creek) and defensive lineman Caleb Paarlberg (Caledonia, Mich. / Caledonia).

Harvey recorded a career-high 21 tackles in 10 games as a sophomore, including a collegiate-best 3 1/2 for loss. The cornerback also collected a career-high four passes defended and one sack. Harvey has 28 career tackles in 16 games.

Luhmann, whose brother was a 2024 All-American, caught a collegiate-best three touchdowns last season. The H-back also reached career-highs with 10 receptions and 123 receiving yards in while primarily serving as a run blocker.

Paarlberg collected a collegiate-best 34 tackles in 12 games last season, including 10 solo. The defensive lineman has been durable, totaling 76 career tackles in 32 games.



NEW QUARTERBACK

Junior transfer Alex Thole makes his first career start for the Flying Dutchmen this afternoon.

Thole spent the past three seasons as a reserve at NCAA Division II Grand Valley State University, playing in 15 games.

The Schoolcraft, Mich., native completed 23-of-42 passes for the Lakers, finishing with 368 yards passing, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Thole also rushed for 28 times for 36 yards at Grand Valley State, a perennial national and GLIAC power.

"Alex has really taken off. In fact, the last week or so in practice, he's really separated himself," head coach Peter Stuursma said. "He's doing a nice job of picking up things and guys are responding to that."

SUPPORTING CAST

Quarterback Alex Thole will have a deep group of receivers, including four with at least 10 catches last season: 5-9 junior Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Rockford, Mich. / Rockford), 6-5 junior Eli VanderVeen (Hudsonville, Mich. / Hudsonville), 5-10 junior Trevor Griffiths (Stevensville, Mich. / Lakeshore).

Sophomores Kal Motter (Lawton, Mich. / Lawton) and AJ Martel (Mason, Mich. / Mason) top the Week 1 depth chart at running back.

Hope will feature three new starting offensive linemen, including both tackles. Senior center Rob MacAleese (Brownstown, Mich. / Oscar A. Carlson) and junior guard Timothy Clay (Byron Center, Mich. / Byron Center) are leaders up front.

"We have an unusual stat: 13 offensive linemen played over 100 snaps last year. That's pretty unique," head coach Peter Stuursma said. "We lost good players, including an All-American, but we have a good nucleus of guys who played a lot on the offensive line."

RUSHING

Most Carries: 28, Chance Strickland at Alma

Most Yards: 179, Chance Strickland at Alma

Most TDs: 4, Chance Strickland vs. Loras

Longest Rush: 80, Ben Wellman vs. Loras

PASSING

Most Completion: 19, Ben Wellman at Alma

Most Attempts: 30, Ben Wellman at Alma

Most Yards: 261, Ben Wellman at Alma

Most TD Passes: 4, Ben Wellman (twice: Albion, Aurora)

Longest Pass: 80, Ben Wellman at Kalamazoo

RECEIVING

Most Receptions: 7, Grant Holtzer at Alma

Most Yards: 180, Grant Holtzer at Alma

Most TD Receptions: 3, Grant Holtzer at Kalamazoo

Longest Reception: 80, Grant Holtzer at Kalamazoo

DEFENSE

Most Tackles: 10, Cole Luhmann vs. Adrian

Most Tackles for Loss: 2.5, Caleb Paarlberg vs. Albion

Most Sacks: 1.5, Carter Strong vs. Albion

Most Interceptions: 1 (12 times, Brad Raredon, vs. Adrian, Albion, Trine, Franklin Aurora; Sam Cochran vs. Kalamazoo, Alma; Bryce Debri vs. Olivet, Aurora; Trevor Hansen vs. Aurora; Austin Harvey vs. Calvin; Jack Jacobs vs. Calvin; Lorenzo Vitti vs. Alma, Tyson Mann vs. Rose-Hulman)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Most Field Goals: 2 (Caden Balkin at Alma)

Longest Field Goal: 31, Caden Balkin at Alma

Most Punts: 3 (twice: Peter Costa vs. Trine and at Alma)

Best Punting Average: 46.0, Peter Costa vs. Franklin

Longest Punt: 46.0, Peter Costa vs. Franklin

Punts Inside the 20: 2, Peter Costa vs. Trine

Longest Punt Return: 14, Travis Myers vs. Trine

Longest Kickoff Return: Tyler Amos at Rose-Hulman (87, TD)

OPPONENTS

Most Carries: 19, Jay Smith, Rose-Hulman

Most Rushing Yards: 53, Jay Smith, Rose-Hulman

Most TD Rushes: None

Longest Rush: 24, Colby Taylor-Browning

Most Passing Completions: 24, Josh Nichols, Kalamazoo

Most Passing Attempts: 43, Josh Nichols, Kalamazoo

Most Passing Yards: 229, Carter St. John, Alma

Most TD Passes: 2, (twice: Josh Nichols, Kalamazoo, and Carter St. John, Alma)

Longest Pass: 55, Carter St. John, Alma

Most Receptions: 8, Daniel Huery, Rose-Hulman

Most Receiving Yards: 124, Devon Frenchko, Alma

Most TD Receptions: 1, (nine times, last - Colby Taylor-Browning and Trevor Smith, Albion)

Longest Reception: 55, Devon Frenchko, Alma

Most Tackles: 15, Owen Kelly, Loras

Most Tackles for Loss: 2, Adam Stapleton, Kalamazoo

Most Sacks: 1 (twice, last - Corey Garrison, Kalamazoo)

Most Interceptions: 1 (twice, last - Daniel Budway, Trine)

Most Field Goals: 1, Emory Roberts, Kalamazoo

Longest Field Goal: 25, Emory Roberts, Kalamazoo

EYE ON DEFENSE

The Flying Dutchmen will integrate key veterans with several newcomers on defense.

At defensive end, junior Tate Bezeau (Saline, Mich. / Saline) and sophomore transfer Christian Herrema (Rockford, Mich. / Rockford) are Week 1 starters. Sophomore Jake Punches (Farwell, Mich. / Clare) joins Caleb Paarlberg up front. Herrema played for Division II Hillsdale College last season.

Seniors Micah Bush (Hudsonville, Mich. / Unity Christian), Colton Schreur (Wayland, Mich. / South Christian) and Bryce Debris (DeWitt, Mich. / DeWitt) will have expanded opportunities at the linebacker position.

Junior Lorenzo Vitti (Detroit, Mich. / Divine Child) and sophomore Jack Jacobs (East Lansing, Mich. / Lansing Catholic) join Harvey in the secondary. Senior Owen Graham (Caledonia, Mich. / Caledonia) and junior Tyson Mann (Byron Center, Mich. / Grandville) are among the top safeties.

“Our defensive line is back. Replacing an All-American and a four-year starter at linebacker is a huge thing, but on the back end, we return some corners,” head coach Peter Stuursma said. “We lost a great group, but we’re excited about the group we have.”

SPECIAL TEAMS REPORT

Hope is counting on a veteran kicker and newcomers to fortify special teams this season.

Junior Caden Balkon (Byron Center, Mich. / Byron Center) returns to lead the unit. In 2024, Balkon made a school-record 67 PATs, surpassing Sam Allbritten’s 2019 total of 60. Balkon also made four field goals in nine attempts.

Balkon also averaged 56.7 yards per kickoff last season.

COACHING STAFF ADDITIONS

Head coach Peter Stuursma hired three new assistant coaches during the offseason: Sam/Nickels coach Brendann Brown, defensive line coach Isaaih 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.



In high school, Brown played at Farmington Hills Harrison 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.

Hicks was elevated into an expanded role after serving as a student assistant during the 2023 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.

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.

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
HOPE	0-0	0-0
ALMA	0-0	0-0
ALBION	0-0	0-0
ADRIAN	0-0	0-0
CALVIN	0-0	0-0
KALAMAZOO	0-0	0-0
OLIVET	0-0	0-0
TRINE	0-0	0-0

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 65-17 overall record, including a 43-8 mark in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

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**
0-0, 0-0 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMa**
RECORD AT HOPE: 65-17

HOPE 2024 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
BEN WELLMAN	124	182	1	68.13	20	184.55
ZACH TRAINOR	31	58	0	53.45	4	44.20

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
CHANCE STRICKLAND	136	926	6.8	18	49	102.11
TYLER AMOS	110	883	7.9	12	44	79.27
BEN WELLMAN	56	538	9.1	8	80	46.36

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
GRANT HOLTZER	37	949	25.65	7	80	86.27
JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON	31	295	9.52	3	23	26.82
ELI VANDERVEEN	13	280	21.54	3	56	28.0

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG
PETER COSTA	18	650	36.11

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG	PATs
CADEN BALKON	4	8	50	42	64-66

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
TRAVIS MYERS	3	22	7.33	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
TYLER AMOS	6	212	35.33	1

OPPONENT **BREAKDOWN**



**LORAS
DUHAWKS**
0-0, 0-0 CCIW



**HEAD COACH
STEVE HELMINIAK**
RECORD AT LORAS: 37-55

LORAS 2024 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
JOEY HELMINIAK	124	203	9	61.08	13	176.13
EVAN ENGLAND	36	51	1	70.59	0	125
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JUSTIN STEPHENS	112	382	3.4	3	68	42.44
CARTER CAHILL	112	346	3.1	6	27	43.25
TANNER GILE	53	190	3.6	2	21	38
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JAHEEM HAYNES	35	401	11.46	3	51	40.10
BROCK COUCH	31	394	12.71	5	61	43.78
IAN BROSHOUS	32	385	12.03	1	38	55

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME ONE V. LORAS COLLEGE

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-BACK	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
	44	Patrick Rowland	Jr.	6-2	229
DT	11	Caleb Paarlberg	Sr.	6-2	258
	53	Micah McCurry	Sr.	6-4	251
DE	91	Christian Herrema	So.	6-4	240
	43	Tyler Radley	So.	6-1	234
LB	6	Micah Bush	Sr.	5-10	210
	51	Nolan Vis	Fr.	5-11	207
LB	28	Colton Schreuer	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	9	Tyson Mann	Jr.	6-1	184
	25	Trenton Bolhouse	So.	6-3	189
S	42	Owen Graham	Sr.	5-11	215
	18	Mason Gougis	So.	5-11	185
CB	13	Austin Harvey	Jr.	6-1	196
	4	Jack Jacobs	So.	6-1	177
CB	2	Lorenzo Vitti	Jr.	6-0	175
	7	Caleb Clinger	Jr.	5-9	166

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	Jr.	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 ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	NO.	NAME	POS.
0	Liam Danitz	DL	21	Bryce Deбри	LB
0	Connor Knapp	WR	21	Trey Goike	RB
1	Keaton Hendricks	CB	22	Maddox Greenfield	CB
1	Eli VanderVeen	WR	22	Kai Motter	RB
2	Lorenzo Vitti	CB	23	Tommy Bauss	TE/H
2	Trevor Griffiths	WR	23	Joey Mahaney	LB
3	Easton Phipps	LB	24	Denny Belmonte	LB
3	Jonathan Pittman	QB	24	Will Seniura	RB
4	Jack Jacobs	CB	25	Trenten Bolhouse	S
4	Alex Thole	QB	25	Mike Murphy	RB
5	Travis Myers	WR	26	Noah Dunkel	RB
5	Colton Schreur	LB	26	Wyatt Hicks	LB
6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	WR	27	Dom Cassise	LB
6	Micah Bush	LB	28	Cam Peterson	TE/H
7	Gavin Reames	WR	29	Aidan Decker	LB
7	Landon Conrad	S	29	Easton Suidinski	RB
8	AJ Martel	RB	30	Caden Balkon	K/P
8	Harrison Shepherd	S	30	Granden Kinnie	LB
9	Noah Guenther	QB	31	Drew Bartos	LB
9	Tyson Mann	S	31	Daniel Klein	K/P
10	Louis Bosscher	CB	33	Noah Dumon	LB
10	Liam Young	WR	34	Will Berglund	TE/H
11	Caleb Paarlberg	DL	35	Ethan Cotsonika	K/P
11	Billy Sternberg	TE/H	36	Matt Toole	CB
12	Jack Bullock	QB	37	Charlie Markee	WR
12	Dom Giovannini	QB	38	Zach Hop	TE/H
13	Austin Harvey	CB	39	Bryson Stephenson	RB
13	Alek Wickstrom	QB	40	Seth Luhmann	TE/H
14	Caleb Clinger	CB	41	Gavin Zbytowski	LB
14	Charlie Norton	WR	42	Owen Graham	S
15	Kaden DeHorn	WR	43	Tyler Radley	DL
16	Isaiah Buckner	LB	44	Nolan Vis	LB
16	Dallas Sauser	QB	45	Cooper Clark	K/P
17	Keegan McIntyre	WR	46	Robbie Ermanni	S
17	Peter Paarlberg	LB	47	Carson Ostrander	DE
18	Mason Gougis	S	48	Jake Punches	DL
18	Tyson Williams	QB	49	Connor Brintnall	LB
19	Bryce Collins	CB	50	Kaeden Berg	OL
19	Alex Fernandez	QB	51	Patrick Rowland	DL
20	Caden Brownell	TE/H	52	Cam Breuker	OL
20	Tyler Gavette	S	53	Micah McCurry	DL
			55	Jaydon Libema	DL

2025 HOPE ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	NO.	NAME	POS.
56	Kemper Millis	OL	78	Josh Pritzlaff	OL
57	Ron London	OL	79	Griffin Bloch	OL
58	Owen Sweeney	OL	80	Ben Adkins	WR
59	Rob MacAleese	OL	81	Caden Vanden Berge	DL
60	Warren Asher	DT	82	Skye VanderKuyl	TE/H
61	Nolan Collins	OL	83	Maurice Streeter	WR
62	Nick Saade	OL	84	Aiden O'Brien	WR
63	Caleb Fisher	OL	85	Braylen Amos	WR
64	Ben Finch	OL	87	Jack Goldie	TE/H
65	Braden Hembree	OL	88	Ethan Steffke	WR
66	Jack Wilson	DL	89	Ethan Steffke	WR
67	Max Lawson	OL	90	Collin Jones	DL
68	Brayden Syrba	OL	91	Christian Herrema	DL
69	Tate Bezeau	DE	93	Diego Coipel	DL
70	Ian McGrath	LS	94	Garrett Langmo	DE
71	Phillip McLaurin	OL	95	Ty Ratliff	DL
72	Brett Showers	OL	96	Isaac VanderVeen	DE
73	Aaron Hunt	OL	97	Jude Osanaiye	DE
74	Mason Irmiter	OL	98	Brandon Soltis	K/P
75	Timothy Clay	OL	99	Jacob Reynolds	DL
76	Ethan Murphy	OL			
77	Jeremyah Libema	OL			

TEAM COMPARISON



NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

CATEGORY	HOPE	LORAS
Rushing Offense	4th	48th
Rushing Defense	4th	23rd
Total Offense	4th	16th
Scoring Offense	18th	7th
Passing Offense	77th	16th
Total Defense	4th	12th
Scoring Defense	T1st	21st
Red-Zone Offense	89th	42nd
Red-Zone Defense	4th	10th
Net Punting	68th	228th
Punt Returns	211th	55th
Kickoff Returns	5th	12th
Turnover Margin	T38th	32nd
Time of Possession	21st	107th

LEAGUE RANKINGS

HOPE RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	1st
Passing Offense	5th
Total Offense	1st
Scoring Offense	1st
Rushing Defense	1st
Passing Defense	1st
Total Defense	1st
Scoring Defense	1st
Net Punting	3rd
Punt Returns	7th
Kickoff Returns	1st
Time of Possession	2nd

LORAS RANKINGS

Rushing Offense	2nd
Passing Offense	1st
Total Offense	1st
Scoring Offense	1st
Rushing Defense	2nd
Passing Defense	1st
Total Defense	2nd
Scoring Defense	1st
Net Punting	8th
Punt Returns	4th
Kickoff Returns	1st
Time of Possession	4th

SERIES HISTORY

SERIES: This is the first meeting of the teams

AT HOLLAND: 0-0

AT NAPERVILLE: 0-0

2025 TRAVEL ROSTER

HOPE FLYING DUTCHMEN

NO.	NAME	POS.	NO.	NAME	POS.	NO.	NAME	POS.	NO.	NAME	POS.
0	Liam Danitz	DL	10	Louis Bosscher	DB	30	Caden Balkon	K/P	60	Sonny DiFonzo	OL
0	Zach Trainor	QB	10	Liam Young	WR	31	Luke Palmer	LB	65	Aden Smith	OL
1	Eli VanderVeen	WR	11	Caleb Paarlberg	DL	33	Jack Jacobs	DB	68	Connor Bovia	OL
1	Jack Lamancusa	DL	11	Billy Sternberg	TE/H	34	Maddox Greenfield	DB	69	Tate Bezeau	DL
2	Trevor Griffiths	WR	12	Grant Holtzer	WR	35	Ian Domzalski	S			
2	Lorenzo Vitti	DB	13	Austin Harvey	DB				70	Dylan Clem	OL
3	Tyler Amos	RB	14	Tyler Stezowski	S	40	Seth Luhmann	TE/H	72	Brett Showers	OL
4	Sam Cochran	S	15	Kaden DeHorn	WR	42	Owen Graham	S	73	Luke Marsh	OL
4	Ben Wellman	QB	17	Luke Stewart	LB	45	Andrew Debri	LB	75	Timothy Clay	OL
5	Trevor Hansen	DB	18	Tyson Williams	QB	48	Jake Punches	DL			
5	Travis Myers	WR	19	Adam Cassel	TE/H	49	Colton Schreur	LB	82	Skye VanderKuyl	TE/H
6	Micah Bush	LB							83	Oatis Ackermann	DL
6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	WR	21	Bryce Debri	LB	50	Cole Luhmann	LB	87	Jack Goldie	TE/H
7	Gavin Reames	WR	22	Kal Motter	RB	52	Ethan Kirkland	OL			
8	Brad Raredon	S	24	Denny Belmonte	LB	53	Micah McCurry	OL	90	Carter Strong	DL
8	AJ Martel	RB				56	Kemper Millis	DL	97	DeShawn Robinson	DL
9	Chance Strickland	RB				59	Rob MacAleese	OL	98	Peter Costa	K/P
9	Tyson Mann	S									

PRONUNCIATIONS

0	Lee-um Dan-its	10	Bosch err	30	K Den Ball cunn	60	Dee Fonz oh
0	Trainer	11	Par el burg	35	Ian Dom zall ski	65	Ay don
1	Van Durr Veen	11	Stern burg			68	Bo V uh
1	Lamb an cue suh	12	Holtzs ur	40	Lou men TE/H	69	Be Zo
2	Vit eee	14	Stuh Zow Ski	45	Deb ree		
3	A Mows	15	Kay den	49	Skure	70	Clemm
4	Cock run	19	Adam Castle				
6	Rowin' Bland ton			50	Lou men	82	Van Durr Kyle
7	Reams (like paper quantity)	21	Deb ree	53	My cuh Mick Curry	83	Ack urr men
8	Rear Done	22	Ma turr	56	Mill iss		
8	Marr Tell	24	Bell mon tee	59	Mac Ah Lease	98	Cost uh