



# HOPE

## 2026 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

GAME 2



GAME 2 | SEPT. 12, 2026 | 1:00 P.M. EST | HOLLAND< MI



HOPE COLLEGE  
FLYING DUTCH  
1-0, 0-0 MIAA

VS.



WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT  
POINTERS  
1-0, 0-0 WIAC

Record \_\_\_\_\_ 1-0 (0-0 MIAA)  
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) \_\_\_\_\_ 18/20  
Last Game \_\_\_\_\_ Sept. 5, 2026, v. Denison; W, 28-14  
Head Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Peter Stuursma  
Record at Hope \_\_\_\_\_ 75-20 (10th Season)

Record \_\_\_\_\_ 1-0 (0-0 WIAC)  
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) \_\_\_\_\_ n/a  
Last Game \_\_\_\_\_ Sept. 5, 2026, v. Augsburg; W, 17-12  
Head Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Luke Venne  
Record at Stevens-Point \_\_\_\_\_ 7-24 (4th season)

### 2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring Offense \_\_\_\_\_ 28.0  
1st Downs \_\_\_\_\_ 16  
Rushing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 147  
Passing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 263  
Total Offense \_\_\_\_\_ 410  
Touchdowns \_\_\_\_\_ 4  
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 2-2  
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 1-4  
Time of Possession \_\_\_\_\_ 25:20  
Scoring Defense \_\_\_\_\_ 14.0

### 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Thole (16-24 263 yds, 1 TD)  
Rushing \_\_\_\_\_ Brody Schuiteman (9, 73 yds, 2 TD)  
Receiving \_\_\_\_\_ Kaden DeHorn (6 rec, 151 yds, 1 TD)  
Tackles \_\_\_\_\_ Nolan Vis (10 tot, 9 solo, 1 asst)  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ Tate Bezeau (1), Trenton Bolhouse (1)  
Interceptions \_\_\_\_\_ None

### 2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game \_\_\_\_\_ 17.0  
1st Downs \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
Rushing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 110  
Passing Yards \_\_\_\_\_ 99.0  
Total Offense \_\_\_\_\_ 209.0  
Touchdowns \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2  
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2  
Time of Possession \_\_\_\_\_ 30:30  
Scoring Defense \_\_\_\_\_ 12.0

### 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing \_\_\_\_\_ Ryan Thompson (11-23, 96 yds, 0 TD)  
Rushing \_\_\_\_\_ Zach Lynch (20 att, 76 yds, 1 TD)  
Receiving \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah Mott (3 rec, 29 yds, 0 TD)  
Tackles \_\_\_\_\_ Josh Kristof (15 tot, 7 solo, 8 asst)  
Sacks \_\_\_\_\_ None  
Ints. \_\_\_\_\_ Charlie Anderson (1), Orian Gauger (1)



### 2026 SCHEDULE

|                                                                                       |          |                                                                             |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
|   | Sept. 5  | Denison Big Red<br>Deeds Field - Piper Stadium   Granville, OH              | W, 28-14 |
|  | Sept. 12 | Wisconsin-Stevens Point Pointers<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Sept. 19 | Hanover Panthers<br>Alumni Stadium   Hanover, IN                            | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Sept. 26 | Albion Britons<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI                   | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Oct. 3   | Olivet Comets<br>Cutler Field   Olivet, MI                                  | 2 p.m.   |
|  | Oct. 17  | Adrian Bulldogs<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI                  | 2 p.m.   |
|  | Oct. 24  | Alma Scots<br>Bahke Field   Alma, MI                                        | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Oct. 31  | Kalamazoo Hornets<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI                | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Nov. 7   | Calvin Knights<br>Grand Rapids, MI                                          | 1 p.m.   |
|  | Nov. 14  | Trine Thunder (Senior Day)<br>Ray and Sue Smith Stadium   Holland, MI       | 1 p.m.   |

## STRAIGHT TO THE POINT: HOPE HOSTS WIAC FOE FOR ORANGE AND BLUE WEEKEND, HOME OPENER

The nationally-ranked Hope College football team aims for its third consecutive 2-0 start to a season on Saturday during the home opener on Orange and Blue Weekend at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The Flying Dutch face Wisconsin-Stevens Point from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Hope is coming off a 28-14 victory at Denison University in Week 1 that was head coach Peter Stuursma's 75<sup>th</sup> all-time victory in 95 games at his alma mater. Senior Kaden DeHorn recorded career-highs with 151 receiving yards and six receptions, including a 65-yard, third-quarter strike from quarterback Alex Thole.

The 50th season-opening victory in 116 seasons moved the Orange and Blue up to 18<sup>th</sup> in this week's D3football.com national rankings and dropped to 20<sup>th</sup> in the AFCA poll.

The Flying Dutch started a 9-2 last season with victories against Loras, 62-0, in Week 1 and Franklin, 38-14, in Week 2. In 2024, the Orange and Blue won, 49-0 vs. Loras in Week 1 and 49-6 vs. Franklin, 49-6, in Week 2.

Head coach Peter Stuursma has a 7-2 record in Week 2 games during his tenure, including Week 2 victories in the past four seasons. Hope lost to Coe, 28-21, in 2021 and Defiance, 18-6, in 2016, his first season.

### A HOPE WIN WOULD....

be the 518<sup>th</sup> all-time victory in program history. The Flying Dutch enter the season with a 517-376-40 overall record (.576).

be the Orange and Blue's second against WIAC opponent. Hope defeated Wisconsin-Platteville, 32-20, on Sept. 21, 2002. The Flying Dutch are 1-4 against WIAC teams, including a 9-7 loss at home to Wisconsin-La Crosse during the 2025 NCAA Division III playoffs.

be the 76<sup>th</sup> victory in head coach Peter Stuursma's tenure.



**PETER STUURSMAN**  
HC

## MEDIA AND CREDENTIALS INFORMATION

### CREDENTIALS

Single game credentials can be requested by working members of the media by contacting the Hope College Sports Information Department. [Website](#)

### 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                  | 118         |
| All-Time Record          | 519-377-337 |
| Conference Titles (Last) | 23 (2024)   |

### LAST SEASON

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 2025 Overall Record    | 9-2 |
| 2025 Conference Record | 6-1 |
| 2025 Home Record       | 4-2 |
| 2025 Away Record       | 5-0 |

## 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 Dutch                                                       |
| 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  | Alex Smith                 |
| O-Line Coach & Recruiting Coordinator      | Hunter Thompson            |
| Cornerbacks Coach & Special Teams          | Jinks Arnold               |
| Wide Receivers Coach                       | Matt Bird                  |
| Running Backs Coach                        | Jim Caserta                |
| Safeties Coach                             | KJ Landis                  |
| H/Y Coach                                  | Curt Copeland              |
| D-Line Coach                               | Isaiah Hicks   Jari Brown  |
| Nickels and Sams Coach                     | Jeremy Gasper              |
| Student Assistants                         | Ben Adkins, Granden Kinnie |

## SUPPORT STAFF

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Strength & Conditioning Coach | Dan Margritz              |
| Head Athletic Trainer         | Erik Byl                  |
| Assistant Athletic Trainers   | Mariah Supianoski         |
| Managers                      | Rob Sterken, Andrew Tysse |

## WINNING TRADITION

The Flying Dutch enter this afternoon with a 517-376-40 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.

## NEW DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Alex Smith was introduced as Hope College's defensive coordinator on Feb. 12, 2026. The native of Portland, Oregon, played defensive end and linebacker at Central Michigan University between the 2009 and 2013 seasons and was a four-year letterwinner for the Chippewas after being recruited out of Barrington High School in Chicago. Smith holds a Master's of Education degree from the University of Texas at Arlington (2025) and a bachelor's degree in physical education and health from Central Michigan (2013). After graduating from CMU, Smith went into coaching and has spent the last 11 seasons coaching at the high school level in Michigan, primarily as a defensive coordinator, elevating his defenses' play wherever he has coached. Most recently, Smith served as defensive coordinator at East Kentwood High School for two seasons. Last fall, East Kentwood reached the state semifinals for the third time in program history at the Division 1 level. The Falcons, who finished with a 10-3 record and doubled their win total from the previous season, recorded 21 takeaways — 16 more than Smith's first season.

## CAMPBELL TROPHY NOMINEE

Wide receiver Jonny Rohen-Blanton is Hope's College 2026 nominee for the National Football Foundation's William V. Campbell Trophy® award in college football. The senior is a business major who has 1,307 receiving yards and 106 receptions in 29 games. Rohen-Blanton, who has been a key contributor on the Flying Dutch's last two NCAA Division III playoff-qualifying teams, earned All-MIAA Second Team accolades last season as well as MIAA Academic Honor Roll distinction for the third time. Named in honor of the late William V. Campbell, the former chairman of Intuit, former



player and head coach at Columbia University and the 2004 recipient of the NFF's Gold Medal, The William V. Campbell Trophy® recognizes an individual as the absolute best in the country for his academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. Selected by the NFF Awards Committee in October, the finalists and the winner are all honored at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner in December at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York City. Each finalist receives an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship as a member of the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Class.

## MIAA FOOTBALL ON TV

The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association is bringing fans closer to the action with the launch of The MIAA Pulse, a new weekly football television program produced by Calvin Video Productions throughout the 2026 MIAA football season. The 30-minute program will debut Thursday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m. and will provide fans with an in-depth look at MIAA football each week through highlights, expert analysis, exclusive interviews and stories from across the conference. The MIAA Pulse will be available on WXSP-TV, WOOD-TV+, and each MIAA member institution's video platform, giving fans multiple ways to follow the conference's football season. The program is presented by Van Wyk Risk Solutions along with Culver's and People Driven Technology.

## POSTSEASON SUCCESS

Hope started a new tradition during the 2025 season, making back-to-back trips to the NCAA Division III Playoffs for the first time in program history. The Flying Dutch fell to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 9-7, at home at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium after advancing to the third round in 2024.

## OVERALL

**Most Points:** 63 (Olivet)  
**Fewest Points:** 7 (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**Most Opposing Points:** 35 (Trine)  
**Fewest Opposing Points:** 0 (Loras, Albion, Calvin)  
**Most Total Offense:** 696 (Olivet)  
**Fewest Total Offense:** 250 (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**Most First Downs, Total:** 35 (Albion)  
**Least First Downs, Total:** 16 (Wisconsin-La Crosse)

## RUSHING

**Most Rushing Yards:** 345 (Olivet)  
**Fewest Rushing Yards:** 65 (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**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, Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**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, Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**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:** 2 (Olivet)  
**Most Punts:** 7 (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**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)

## MIAA PRESEASON FAVORITE

The 19th-ranked Hope College football team leads the 2026 MIAA Football Preseason Coaches Poll, receiving all seven possible first-place votes and finishing with seven points. Coaches could not vote for their team in the eight-team poll. The Flying Dutch finished ahead of Alma College (15 points), Adrian College (17 points and 1 first-place vote), Calvin University (28), Trine University (29), Albion College (40), Kalamazoo College (42), and The University of Olivet (48).

## AFCA PRESEASON RANKINGS

The Hope College football team debuted in the American Football Coaches Association NCAA Division III Preseason Poll at 19th. The Flying Dutch totaled 351 points in the AFCA poll, the most among four MIAA teams that received votes. North Central College (Illinois), the 2025 national runner-up, topped this season's AFCA poll with 1,322 points and 50 of 53 possible first-place votes.

## D3FOOTBALL POLL

The Hope College football team will kick off the 2026 season among the nation's elite. The Flying Dutch are ranked 19th in the D3football.com Top 25, the highest among four MIAA teams that received votes. Hope totaled 173 points. North Central College (Illinois), the 2025 national runner-up, topped the D3football.com Top 25.

## QB1 IS BACK

Senior quarterback Alex Thole is back as the signal caller after completing 214-of-303 passes for 2,825 yards and 21 touchdowns during his 2025 debut. The 2,825 passing yards ranks third all-time in Hope history. Thole received All-MIAA Second Team accolades as a junior after transferring from Grand Valley State University. He also rushed for 148 yards and four touchdowns on 85 carries. This season, Thole returns six of his top seven receivers from last season. Senior Jonny Rohen-Blanton led the Orange and Blue last season in receiving yards (885) and receptions (65). Seniors Kaden DeHorn and Trevor Griffiths posted 24 and 23 receptions, respectively, last season.



MASON GOUGIS

## KEY RETURNERS

Hope returns five All-MIAA selections, including two first-team honorees: senior tight end/H-back Seth Luhmann and senior defensive back Austin Harvey.

The Flying Dutch also have two returning All-MIAA Second Team recipients: senior quarterback Alex Thole and senior receiver Jonny Rohen-Blanton.

## MIAA ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Thirty-four Hope College football student-athletes made the 2025-26 MIAA Academic Honor Roll: Braylen Amos, Caden Balkon., Dennis Belmonte, Trenten Bolhouse, Connor Brintnall, Micah Bush, Nolan Collins, Landen Conrad, Noah Dunckel, John Goldie, Owen Graham, Christian Herrema, Wyatt Hicks, Aaron Hunt, Tyson Mann, Austin Martel, Ian McGrath, Phillip McLaurin, Kallon Motter, Travis Myers, Caleb Paarlberg, Jonathan Pittman, Jake Punches, Gavin Reames, Jacob Reynolds, Jonny Rohen-Blanton, Nicholas Saade, Dallas Sauser, William Sternberg, Eli VanderVeen, Nolan Vis, Lorenzo Vitti, Liam Young, and Gavin Zbytowski.

The 36th annual Academic Honor Roll consists of athletic letterwinners who maintained a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the academic year. Faculty representatives of the MIAA member colleges administer the academic awards program.

## 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:** 15, Colton Schreur (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**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:** 7, Noah Dunckel (Wisconsin-La Crosse)  
**Best Punting Average:** 45.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)  
**Longest Punt:** 52.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)  
**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)



## PETER STUURSMAN *HEAD COACH*

In 10 seasons, head coach Peter Stuursma '93 has guided the Hope College football team to a 75-20 overall record, including a 49-10 mark in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association games. The Orange and Blue have made three playoff appearances, including in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history (2024 and 2025).

The Flying Dutch 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.

### YEAR-BY-YEAR AS HEAD COACH

| YEAR | RECORD | NOTES         |
|------|--------|---------------|
| 2025 | 9-2-0  | 2nd in MIAA   |
| 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.



### ALEX SMITH

Defensive Coordinator and  
Linebacker Coach

Alex Smith was introduced as Hope College's defensive coordinator on Feb. 12, 2026. After graduating from CMU, Smith went into coaching and has spent the last 11 seasons coaching at the high school level in Michigan.



### 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.



### CURT COPELAND

Tight Ends/H Coach

Curt Copeland '03 returned to the Hope College Football coaching staff a tight ends/H-backs coach before the 2026 season.



### 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.



### JARI BROWN

Defensive Line Coach

Jari Brown joined the Hope College Football coaching staff before the 2026 season as a defensive line coach. Brown currently serves as a high school physical education teacher at East Kentwood's freshman campus. He worked as a corrections officer for Washtenaw County in southeast Michigan for 14 1/2 years before pursuing a career in education.



### JEREMY GASPER

Nickels and Sams 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).