



HOPE

2026 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES



GAME 1



GAME 1 | SEPT. 5, 2026 | 1:00 P.M. EST | GRANVILLE, OH



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

VS.



DENISON UNIVERSITY
BIG RED
0-0, 0-0 NCAC

Record _____ 0-0 (0-0 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ 19/19
Last Game ___ Nov. 29, 2025, v. Wisc.-LaCrosse; L, 9-7
Head Coach _____ Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope _____ 74-20 (10th Season)

Record _____ 0-0 (0-0 NCAC)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ n/a
Last Game _____ Nov. 15, 2025, v. John Carroll; L, 41-28
Head Coach _____ Jack Hatem
Record at Denison _____ 98-54 (17th season)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 42.82
1st Downs _____ 288
Rushing Yards _____ 2396
Passing Yards _____ 3177
Total Offense _____ 5573
Touchdowns _____ 65
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 49-61
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 19-26
Time of Possession _____ 06:14:18
Sacks _____ 30

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Alex Thole (1214-303, 2825 yds, 21 TD)
Rushing _____ AJ Martel (106 att, 516 yds, 10 TD)
Receiving _____ Jonny Rohen-Blanton (65 rec, 885 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles _____ Colton Schreur (76 tot, 40 solo, 36 asst)
Sacks _____ Liam Danitz (15)
Interceptions _____ Owen Graham (6)

2025 TEAM STATISTICS

Points per game _____ 31.20
1st Downs _____ 238
Rushing Yards _____ 665
Passing Yards _____ 3485
Total Offense _____ 4150
Touchdowns _____ 45
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 30-42
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 28-35
Time of Possession _____ 05:06:40
Sacks _____ 10

2025 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Tyler Green (407-468, 3440 yds, 29 TD)
Rushing _____ Blayton Reid (139 att, 484 yds, 6 TD)
Receiving _____ Grayson Kerscher (78 rec, 1239 yds, 12 TD)
Tackles _____ Colton Morrow (63 tot, 24 solo, 39 asst)
Sacks _____ Jonathon Hagle (2.0)
Ints. _____ Thomas Hansen (3)

HOPE KICKS OFF SEASON IN THE BUCKEYE STATE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2005

The 19th-ranked Hope College football team opens the season in the state of Ohio for the first time in 21 years with a non-league game at Denison University from the North Coast Athletic Conference. The Flying Dutch last kicked off in the Buckeye State in 2005, falling at John Carroll University, 38-13.

Hope is playing Denison for the fifth time overall and the first time since a 17-14 home victory for the Orange and Blue in 1989. The Flying Dutch trail the series, 1-2-1. The two teams previously met in 1988, 1973 and 1972. Hope tied at Denison, 15-15, in 1988. The Flying Dutch lost, 26-18, at home in 1973 and, 33-19, on the road in 1972.

Hope starts another promising season ranked 19th in both the American Football Coaches Association and D3football.com preseason polls. The Orange and Blue also topped the MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll as unanimous favorite with seven first-place votes. Coaches could not vote for their teams.

Last season, Hope finished with a 9-2 overall record after qualifying for the NCAA Division III Playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history. The Flying Dutch return five All-MIAA selections, including two first-team honorees: tight end/H-back Seth Luhmann and defensive back Austin Harvey.



2026 SCHEDULE

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

A HOPE WIN WOULD....

be the 517th all-time victory in program history. The Flying Dutch enter the season with a 516-376-40 overall record (.575).

mark the 50th season-opening victory in program history. Hope is 49-64-2 in openers and has won the season's first time the past two seasons. The Orange and Blue won at Loras College, 62-0, last season and at home vs. Loras, 49-0, in 2024.

be head coach Peter Stuursma's 75th victory as head coach.



PETER STUURSM
HC

MEDIA AND CREDENTIALS INFORMATION

CREDENTIALS

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

PARKING

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

INTERVIEWS

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

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

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

INTERNET

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

HISTORY

First Season	1902
Seasons	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 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	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 516-376-40 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.

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.

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.



AFC 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 in the preseason poll. Hope totaled 173 points.

North Central College (Illinois), the 2025 national runner-up, topped the D3football.com Top 25.

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).

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)

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 from Rockford, Michigan (Rockford) 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.

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.



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 Panches, 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 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
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).

FLYING DUTCHMEN *BREAKDOWN*



**HOPE
FLYING DUTCH**
0-0, 0-0 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMa**
RECORD AT HOPE: 74-20

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

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME ONE VS. DENISON

OFFENSE

QB	4	Alex Thole	Sr.	5-10	173
	16	Jonathan Pittman	So.	6-2	222
RB	8	AJ Martel	Jr.	5-9	200
	21	Trey Goike	So.	5-9	194
LT	73	Aaron Hunt	So.	6-4	256
	68	Brendan Syrba	So.	6-2	277
LG	56	Kemper Millis	Sr.	6-0	303
	72	Braden Hembree	So.	6-0	294
C	63	Caleb Fisher	Jr.	6-1	290
	74	Mason Irmiter	So.	5-9	282
RG	75	Timothy Clay	Sr.	6-1	260
	71	Phillip McLaurin	Sr.	6-0	278
RT	62	Nick Saade	Jr.	6-4	324
		OR			
	61	Nolan Collins	Jr.	6-2	276
H/Y	40	Seth Luhmann	Sr.	5-11	232
	17	Cameron Peterson	Jr.	5-9	209
WR	1	Eli VanderVeen	Sr.	6-4	221
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
WR	6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	Sr.	5-9	180
	2	Trevor Griffiths	Sr.	5-10	169
WR	15	Kaden DeHorn	Sr.	6-6	239
	14	Charlie Norton	So.	6-3	200

DEFENSE

DE	43	Tyler Radley	Jr.	6-1	241
	11	Jude Osunaiye	So.	6-1	216
DT	48	Jake Punches	Jr.	6-0	245
	99	Jacob Reynolds	Sr.	6-0	276
DT	69	Tate Bezeau	Sr.	6-1	275
	55	Jayden Libema	Jr.	6-2	266
DE	23	Joey Mahaney	Sr.	6-4	224
	42	Christian Herrema	Jr.	6-3	234
LB	41	Connor Brittnall	So.	6-0	216
	50	Drew Bartos	So.	6-0	203
LB	5	Nolan Vis	Sr.	5-11	206
	29	Aidan Decker	So.	6-2	214
LB	12	Dom Cassise	So.	6-3	191
	24	Wyatt Hicks	Jr.	5-9	189
S	25	Trenton Bolhouse	Jr.	6-3	193
	4	Mason Gougis	Jr.	5-11	187
S	9	Tyler Mann	Sr.	6-0	174
	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
CB	13	Austin Harvey	Sr.	5-10	190
	14	Caleb Clinger	Sr.	5-9	166
CB	3	Louis Bosscher	Jr.	6-1	188
	15	Matt Toole	Jr.	6-0	168

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK	91	Gavin Rabideau	Fr.	5-11	163
	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
KO	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
	91	Gavin Rabideau	So.	5-11	163
HOLD	6	Jonny Rohen-Blanton	Sr.	5-9	180
	16	Jonathan Pittman	So.	6-2	222
LS	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
	70	Ian McGrath	Fr.	5-11	232

P	26	Noah Dunckel	So.	5-11	209
	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
KR	9	Micah Carefelle	So.	5-10	188
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
PR	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
	9	Micah Carefelle	Fr.	5-10	188