HOPE 2026 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES

GAME 7

GAME 7 | OCT. 24, 2026 | 1:00 P.M. EST | ALMA, MI

VS.

HOPE COLLEGE
FLYING DUTCH

Record	5-0 (2-0 MIAA)
Ranking (D3FB/AFCA)	9/9
Last Game	Oct. 17, 2026 v. Adrian; W, 24-22
Head Coach	Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope	80-20 (10th Season)

2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring	41.0
Opp. Scoring	12.17
Rushing Yards	1582
Opp. Rushing Yards	452
Passing Yards	1173
Opp. Passing Yards	916
Total Offense	2755
Opp. Total Offense	1368
Penalties	30-297
Red Zone Offense (att-scores)	26-30 (24 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores)	7-12 (5 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing	Alex Thole (93-129, 1125 yds, 4 TD)
Rushing	AJ Martel (76 att., 403 yds, 8 TD)
Receiving	Jonny Rohen-Blanton (27 rec, 363 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles	Nolan Vis (33 tot, 28 solo, 5 asst)
Sacks	Joey Mahaney (2.5)
Interceptions	Trenten Bolhouse (1)

ALMA COLLEGE
SCOTS

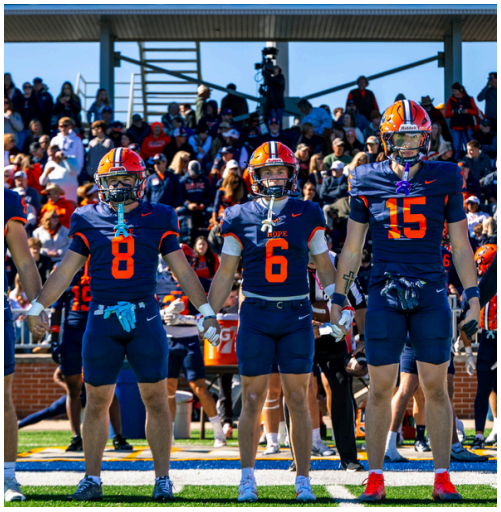
Record	2-4 (2-1 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA)	nr/nr
Last Game	Oct. 17, 2026, v. Olivet; W 55-7
Head Coach	Jason Couch
Record at Alma	53-25 (9th season)

2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring	24.00
Opp. Scoring	25.33
Rushing Yards	656
Opp. Rushing Yards	891
Passing Yards	1281
Opp. Passing Yards	1297
Total Offense	1937
Opp. Total Offense	2188
Penalties	47-462
Red Zone Offense (att-scores)	15-18 (11 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores)	18-21 (13 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing	Jason Boge (45-81, 602 yds, 4 TD)
Rushing	Braylon McDonald (51 att., 187 yds, 0 TD)
Receiving	TJ Seiler (26 rec., 331 yds, 22 TD)
Tackles	Jett King (43 tot., 11 solo, 32 asst)
Sacks	Keegan Bey (3.5)
Ints.	Andrew Bradley (2)



2026 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Denison **Big Red**	Deeds Field - Piper Stadium| Granville, OH	W, 28-14
Sept. 12	Wisconsin-Stevens Point **Pointers**	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium | Holland, MI	W, 38-10
Sept. 19	Hanover **Panthers**	Alumni Stadium | Hanover, IN	W, 27-10
Sept. 26	Albion **Britons**	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium | Holland, MI	W, 63-0
Oct. 3	Olivet **Comets**	Cutler Field | Olivet, MI	W, 66-17
Oct. 17	Adrian **Bulldogs** (One Big Weekend/Homecoming)	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium | Holland, MI	W, 24-22
Oct. 24	Alma **Scots**	Bahlke 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.

NINTH-RANKED FOOTBALL TRAVELS TO MID-MICHIGAN FOR NEXT MIAA CHALLENGE

Rising into the Top 10 in national polls for the first program history, the 6-0 Hope College football team heads to Alma, Michigan, on Saturday with its sights set on defeating the 2-4 Scots and remaining undefeated both overall and in MIAA play.

The Flying Dutch rose ninth in both the Amerifcan Football Coaches Association and D3football.com Top 25s after defeating Adrian's Bulldogs, 24-22 at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium last weekend during One Big Weekend/Homecoming. They also sit seventh in this week's NPI rankings.

This is the 99th all-time meeting between the Flying Dutch and Scots in a series that dates back to 1919. Hope leads, 60-34-4, including a 34-13 victory in 2024, the last road trip to Mid-Michigan.

The Flying Dutch are coming off a thrilling, come-from-behind victory last week, rallying from a 15-point halftime deficit with 17 second-half points. The game marked the first time Hope trailed all season. The Orange and Blue did not yield a second-half first down and only allowed 53 yards after halftime.

A *HOPE WIN* WOULD....

keep the Flying Dutch atop the MIAA standings. Calvin and Trine also own 3-0 league records. Hope entered the season as the preseason favorite in the league's coaches poll.

be the Orange and Blue's 525th all-time victory in program history and their 256th in MIAA play since 1958.

be the Flying Dutch's 61st victory vs. the Scots and 27th on the road. Hope is 26-18-3 in road games against the Scots.



PETER STUURSMA
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	525-376-340
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

GAME NOTES

TOUCHDOWN MACHINE

Freshman running back Brody Schuiteman ranks second Division III standouts with 13 rushing TDs this season. He trails only Bubba Mustain of Merchant Marine, who has 14. The school record of 21 rushing touchdowns belongs to Brandan Graham.

ON THE RUN

The Flying Dutch have established one of the nation's leading rushing attacks, averaging 263.7 yards per game and ranking 12th in NCAA Division III. Three running backs are shouldering the workload:

- Brody Schuiteman, 456 yards on 70 carries
- AJ Martel, 403 yards on 76 carries.
- Troy Goike, 393 yards on 44 carries.

Goike rushed for a career-high 146 yards vs. Olivet. Schuiteman ran for a career-best 121 yards vs. Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Martel rushed for a career-high 105 yards vs. Olivet.

PAVING THE WAY

Seven linemen make up the unit's rotation: seniors Tim Clay, Kemper Millis and Philip McLaurin, juniors Nolan Collins, Caleb Fisher, and Nick Saade, and sophomore Aaron Hunt. Hope rushed at 200-plus yards four times this season. The Flying Dutch are 22nd in scoring offense (41.0) and 24th in total offense (459.2).

GOING FOR IT

Hope has been efficient on third down, ranking among the NCAA Division III leaders with a 56.3% success rate (37-52) that is 10th best in Division III. Led by offensive coordinator Andrew Hawken, the Flying Dutch also ranks eighth in the nation in fourth-down success this season at 80% (8-10).

SOUNDING DEHORN

Senior Kaden DeHorn set career highs against Denison in Week 1 by totaling 151 yards receiving and six receptions. He opened the game with a 52-yard catch on the first play from scrimmage that set up a 1-yard touchdown run from running back Brody Schuiteman. DeHorn later hauled in 65-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter.



AJ MARTEL

STINGY DEFENSE

Hope's defense has been in lockdown mode to start the season. The Flying Dutch did not allow an offensive touchdown until the fourth quarter in the first four games against Denison, Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Albion and Hanover. Led by first-year defensive coordinator Alex Smith, Hope is tied for 14th in NCAA Division III in total defense (228.0) and tied for 16th in scoring defense (12.2). The Flying Dutch also are tied for 21st in red-zone defense at 58.3%, tied for 24th in first downs allowed (82), 27th in passing yards allowed (152.7) and 31st in rushing defense (75.3).

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWN

Against Albion, senior defensive end Tate Bezeau chased down a fumble forced by safety Tyson Mann in the end zone for the Flying Dutch's first defensive score of the season. Hope ranks third in the MIAA in defensive touchdowns. Alma and Trine each have scored twice on defense this season.

NO MISS FROM VIS

Sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis is flourishing through the season's two weeks, recording a team-best 33 tackles, 25 of which are solo. He posted a team-best 10 tackles against Denison. He has already surpassed his total tackles as a freshman.

MANN UP

Senior safety Tyson Mann set a career-high in tackles against Hanover, recording a team-high eight. He recorded seven solos for a defense that limited the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference preseason favorite to a season-low 10 points one week after a winning 43-point effort against Marysville.

2026 INDIVIDUAL SUPERLATIVES

RUSHING

Most Carries: 20, AJ Martel (Adrian)
Most Yards: 146, Trey Goike (Olivet)
Most TDs: 4, Brody Schuiteman (Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Hanover)
Longest Rush: 68, Trey Goike (Olivet)

PASSING

Most Completions: 20, Alex Thole (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Most Attempts: 25, Alex Thole (Wis.-Stevens Point, Adrian)
Most TD Passes: 2 Alex Thole (Olivet)
Longest Pass: 65, Alex Thole (Denison)

RECEIVING

Most Receptions: 6, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Wis.-Stevens Point, Adrian),Kaden DeHorn (Denison)
Most Yards: 151, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)
Most TD Receptions: 2, Johnny Rohen-Blanton (2)
Longest Reception: 65, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)

DEFENSE

Most Tackles: 10, Nolan Vis (Denison, Adrian)
Most Tackles for Loss: 2.5, Joey Mahaney (Hanover), Patrick Rowland (Olivet)
Most Sacks: 2, Patrick Rowland (Olivet)
Most Interceptions: 1, Trenton Bolhouse (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Most Field Goals: 1, Cooper Clark (Wis.-Stevens Point), Avery Umphrey (Olivet)
Longest Field Goal: 36, Cooper Clark (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Punts: 6, Noah Dunckel (Adrian)
Best Punting Average: 45.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Punt: 40.5, Noah Dunckel (Denison)
Punts Inside the 20: 2, Noah Dunckel (Denison, Wis.-Stevens Point, Adrian)
Longest Punt Return: 19, Connor Knapp (Wis.-Stevens Point), Quentin Edwards (Olivet)
Longest Kickoff Return: 33, Connor Knapp (Albion)

OPPONENTS

Most Carries: 21, Sebastian Boswell (Adrian)
Most Rushing Yards: 103, Sebastian Boswell (Adrian)
Most TD Rushes: 1, Brian Rager (Denison), Ronnie Fergurson (Adrian)
Longest Rush: 24, Brian Rager (Denison), Ronnie Ferguson (Adrian)
Most Pass Completions: 34, Eian Roudebush (Hanover)
Most Pass Attempts: 50, Eian Roudebush (Hanover)
Most Passing Yards: 278, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most TD Passes: 1, four (Stevens Point, Hanover, Olivet, Adrian)
Longest Pass: 44, Sebastian Boswell (Adrian)
Most Receptions: 9, AJ Winders (Denison)
Most Receiving Yards: 92, AJ Winders (Denison)
Most TD Receptions: 1, four (Stevens Point, Hanover, Olivet, Adrian)
Longest Reception: 44, Braiden Whitaker (Adrian)
Most Field Goals: 1, three (Wis.-Stevens Point, Hanover, Olivet)
Longest Field Goal: 39, Tyler Soldermann (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Punts: 8, Chcis Bowman (Albion)
Longest Punt: 60, Nick Stoner (Hanover)
Punts Inside 20: 2, Nick Stoner (Hanover)
Longest Kickoff Return: 100, Riley Dunbar (Adrian)
Most Tackles: 10, Paul Morris (Wicson-Stevens Point
Most Sacks: 1, four (Wis.-Stevens Point - twice, Olive, Adrian)
Most Tackles for Loss: 3, Dewayne WIlliams (Albion)

GAME NOTES

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 business major 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. 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. The 30-minute program airs weekly on Thursdays 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.

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 Universsity of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 9-7, at home at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium after advancing to the third round in 2024.

DEBUT IN 1893

The first recorded Hope College 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. Controversy on a national level over the nature of the hard-contact game kept organized football at Hope sidelined until 1902.



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.

D3FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL

The Hope College football team kicked off the 2026 season 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.

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.

2026 TEAM SUPERLATIVES

OVERALL

Most Points: 66 (Albion)
Fewest Points: 27 (Hanover)
Most Opposing Points: 22 (Adrian)
Fewest Opposing Points: 0 (Albion)
Most Total Offense: 669 (Olivet)
Fewest Total Offense: 319 (Adrian)
Most First Downs, Total: 35 (Olivet)
Least First Downs, Total: 16 (Denison, Adrian)

RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 419 (Olivet)
Fewest Rushing Yards: 63 (Hanover)
Most Rushing Yards Allowed: 112 (Denison)
Fewest Rushing Yards Allowed: 68 Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Most Rushing Attempts: 57 (Albion)
Fewest Rushing Attempts: 28 (Denison)
Most Rushing TDs: 7 (Albion)
Fewest Rushing TDs: 3 (Denison, Adrian)
Most Opposing Rushing TDs: 1 (Denison)
Fewest Opposing Rushing TDs: 0 (Wisconsin-Stevens Points)
Most First Downs, Rushing: 15 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Least First Downs, Rushing: 7 (Denison)

PASSING

Most Passing Yards: 263 (Denison)
Fewest Passing Yards: 115 (Hanover)
Most Opposing Passing Yards: 278 (Denison)
Fewest Opposing Passing Yards: 35 (Albion)
Most Passing Attempts: 25 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Adrian)
Fewest Passing Attempts: 17 (Albion)
Most Opposing Passing Attempts: 43 (Denison)
Fewest Opposing Passing Attempts: 21 (Albion)
Most Passing Completions: 20 (Wisconsin Stevens Point)
Fewest Passing Completions: 11 (Albion)
Most Opposing Passing Completions: 32 (Denison)
Fewest Opposing Passing Completions: 11 (Albion)
Most Passing Touchdowns: 3 (Olivet)
Fewest Passing Touchdowns: 0 (Albion)
Most Opposing Passing TDs: 1 (Denison)
Fewest Opposing Passing TDs: 0 (Wis.-Stevens Point, Albion)

OTHER

Most Sacks: 8 (Olivet)
Fewest Sacks: 0 (Wis-Stevens Point, Adrian)
Most Opposing Sacks: 2 (Stevens-Point, Adrian)
Fewest Opposing Sacks: 0 (Denison, Hanover, Adrian)
Most Fumbles Recovered: 1 (Denison)
Most Fumbles Lost: 1 (Denison)
Most Interceptions: 1 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Interceptions Thrown: 1 (Denison)
Most Punts: 6 (Adrian)
Fewest Punts: 2 (Denison, Albion)
Most Opposing Punts: 6 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Fewest Opposing Punts: 2 (Denison)
Most Penalties: 8 (Stevens Point, Olivet)
Fewest Penalties: 0 (Albion)
Most Penalty Yards: 105 (Stevens Point)
Fewest Penalty Yards: 0 (Albion)
Most First Downs Allowed: 21 (Denison)
Least First Downs, Allowed: 4 (Albion)

GAME RECAPS

WEEK 1 RECAP

The big Orange (and Blue) sacked the Big Red to kick off the 2026 college football season on a sweltering, 80-degree Saturday in Granville, Ohio.

The No. 19 Hope College football team powered past Denison University 28-14 behind offensive touchdowns in each quarter and timely defensive stops against the Big Red. The MIAA's unanimous preseason favorite never trailed and overcame two turnovers, including a fumble in the end zone that resulted in a Denison touchdown.

Freshman running back Brody Schuiteman rushed for a game-high two touchdowns, including a game-clinching 46-yard jaunt on fourth down with 4:13 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis recorded a game-high 10 tackles, including nine solo. The Flying Dutch surrendered 390 yards but forced two turnovers and held Denison to 1-of-4 scoring possessions inside the red zone.

WEEK 2 RECAP

Facing an opponent from a formidable NCAA Division III conference, the nationally-ranked Hope College football team tackled the challenge successfully. The Flying Dutch delivered in all three phases of the game during the Orange and Blue Weekend home opener on Saturday, earning a 38-10 victory against the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium.

It was Hope's second victory against a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference foe in five tries and the first since a 32-20 victory at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on Sept. 21, 2002. The WIAC has produced six national champions and five national runner-ups this decade.

Sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis recorded a team-high eight tackles. The defense yielded only 162 yards of total offense: 64 on the ground and 98 through the year. Offensively, the Orange and Blue followed their line to a season-high in points and 456 yards of total offense, including a season-best 258 rushing.

WEEK 3 RECAP

On a sweltering afternoon in southern Indiana, the nationally ranked Hope College football team beat the heat and an unbeaten opponent in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association-Heartland Collegiate Conference Crossover. The Flying Dutch powered past HCAC preseason favorite Hanover Col lege, 27-10, on Saturday, using a stout defense and a robust ground game to close non-league play with a 3-0 record.

Led by safety Tyson Mann, the Orange and Blue did not allow an opposing offensive touchdown until the fourth quarter for the third consecutive game despite playing in 90-degree temperatures on artificial turf even warmer. Mann finished with a team-high eight tackles, including one for loss.

Offensively, Hope averaged 6.2 yards per carry while outrushing the Panthers, 261-63. Freshman Brody Schuiteman led the charge with his second consecutive 100-yard game, running for 120 yards and four touchdowns on 19 carries.

It was Schuiteman's second consecutive game with four rushing touchdowns. Schuiteman now has 10 rushing touchdowns this season, ranking him among the NCAA Division III leaders.

WEEK 4 RECAP

Many hands carried the unbeaten Hope College football team to a commanding MIAA opening performance.

Using eight touchdown scorers and 32 tacklers, the nationally ranked Flying Dutch shut out Albion College for the second consecutive season, rolling to a 63-0 victory in front of a sunny Smith Stadium Poster Day crowd of 2,838.

Hope, the MIAA's preseason favorite in the league's coaches poll, racked up a season-high 513 yards of total offense and held the Britons to just 66 yards total.

The Orange and Blue also blanked Albion in consecutive meetings for the first time in the series' 97-game history. Hope won, 62-0, at Albion last season while giving up 81 yards.

MIAA CONFERENCE

2026 STANDINGS

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

2026 MIAA PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

1. **HOPE (7 points, 7 1st place)**
2. ALMA (15 points)
3. ADRIAN (17 points, 1 1st place)
4. CALVIN (28 points)
5. TRINE (29 points)
6. ALBION (40)
7. KALAMAZOO (42)
8. OLIVET (46)

HOPE FOOTBALL CAREER LEADERS

TOUCHDOWNS

Brandon Graham (1994-1997)	49 TD (all rush)
David Brooke (2004-2007)	48 TD (46 rush, 2 rec)
Mason Opple (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 Opple (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

GAME *RECAPS*

WEEK 6 RECAP

With one final Orange and Blue push at the Adrian College 18-yard line for a first down, a lively One Big Weekend could finally end in celebration.

The Hope College football team ran out the final 1 minute and 42 seconds after running back AJ Martel's second-down carry for 15 yards, giving Flying Dutch fans, alums, and families on their special weekend a 24-22 victory against Adrian College in front of a Smith Stadium crowd of 5,004.

Hope — 11th in this week's AFCA NCAA Division III poll and 12th in the D3football.com poll — upped its record to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in MIAA play. The Flying Dutch remained tied atop the MIAA standings with Calvin University and Trine University.

The Orange and Blue overcame their first deficit of the season, and it was a large one. Adrian seized a 22-7 halftime lead.

"Credit to our guys," head coach Peter Stuursma said. "In the halftime locker room, the last thing I said to our guys — and I heard it from all of our position coaches — 'Don't panic, you can't change the complexion of the game in one play right now. Go step by step and take things that come to you.' Our guys hung in there and hung in there. Our guys had a will to win, and we did."

The decisive two points came on a safety with 5 minutes, 48 seconds remaining in regulation.

After an Adrian pre-snap penalty wiped out a 4th-and-1 stop at the Bulldogs' 20-yard line, Hope lined up again. This time, Adrian chose to punt but snapped the ball out of the end zone to launch the Orange and Blue ahead, 24-22. The Bulldogs (2-4, 0-3 MIAA) never had another offensive snap.

The Flying Dutch shut out Adrian during the second half and allowed only 53 total yards after halftime.


MIKE MURPHY


SETH LUHMANN





PETER STUURSMA *HEAD COACH*

In 10 seasons, head coach Peter Stuursma '93 has guided the Hope College football team to a 76-20 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 Univerity.

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).

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME SEVEN VS. ALMA

OFFENSE

QB	4	Alex Thole	Sr.	5-10	173
	3	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	75	Timothy Clay	Sr.	6-1	260
	63	Caleb Fisher	Jr.	6-1	290
RG	71	Phillip McLaurin	Sr.	6-0	278
	78	Josh Pritzlaff	So.	6-2	305
RT	61	Nolan Collins	Jr.	6-2	276
	62	Nick Saade	Jr	6-4	324
H	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
	92	Davis Hutt	Fr.	6-2	221
LB	22	Mike Murphy	Jr.	5-10	199
	41	Connor Brintnall	So.	6-0	216
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	Tyson 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

K	89	Avery Umphrey	Fr.	5-11	163
	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
KO	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
	89	Avery Umphrey	Fr.	5-11	163
HOLD	3	Jonathan Pittman	So.	6-2	222
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
LS	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
	83	Ian McGrath	So.	5-11	232

P	26	Noah Dunckel	So.	5-11	209
	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
KR	0	Connor Knapp	So.	6-1	204
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
PR	0	Connor Knapp	So.	6-1	204
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195

HOPE
FLYING DUTCH
6-0, 3-0 MIAA



HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMA
RECORD AT HOPE: *80-20*

HOPE 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
ALEX THOLE	93	129	2	72.09	4	187.5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
AJ MARTEL	76	403	5.3	8	25	61.17
BRODY SCHUITEMAN	70	456	6.5	13	46	76.0
TREY GOIKE	44	393	8.9	3	68	65.5

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON	27	363	13.44	3	36	60.5
KADEN DEHORN	17	232	13.65	1	65	38.67
AJ MARTEL	12	109	9.08	0	25	18.17

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG
NOAH DUNCKEL	15	531	35.40

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG
AVERY UMPHREY	1	2	50.0	28

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG
CONNOR KNAPP	10	71	7.10	0	19

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG
CONNOR KNAPP	8	176	22.00	0	33