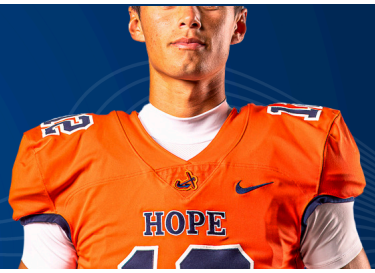
HOPE 2026 FOOTBALL GAME NOTES



GAME 11

GAME 11 | NOV. 28, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. CST | PLATTEVILLE, WI

VS.

HOPE COLLEGE
FLYING DUTCH

Record	9-1 (6-1 MIAA)
Ranking (D3FB/AFCA)	19/19
Last Game	Nov. 14, 2026 v. Trine; W, 48-14
Head Coach	Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope	83-21 (11th Season)

2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring	40.40
Opp. Scoring	14.30
Rushing Yards	2517
Opp. Rushing Yards	945
Passing Yards	2177
Opp. Passing Yards	1816
Total Offense	4694
Opp. Total Offense	2761
Penalties	53-501
Red Zone Offense (att-scores)	43-51 (38 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores)	14-20 (11 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing	Alex Thole (162-232, 2125 yds, 12 TD)
Rushing	AJ Martel (118 att., 6665 yds, 10 TD)
Receiving	Trevor Griffiths (31 rec, 575 yds, 3 TD)
Tackles	Nolan Vis (71 tot, 48 solo, 23 asst)
Sacks	Joey Mahaney (3.0)
Interceptions	Five different players (1)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE
PIONEERS

Record	9-1 (6-1 WIAC)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA)	4/5
Last Game	Nov. 14, 2026, v. Wis.-La Crosse, W 48-14
Head Coach	Ryan Munz
Record at Platteville	34-10 (4th season)

2026 TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring	39.3
Opp. Scoring	9.9
Rushing Yards	1198
Opp. Rushing Yards	466
Passing Yards	3146
Opp. Passing Yards	1490
Total Offense	4344
Opp. Total Offense	1946
Penalties	48-402
Red Zone Offense (att-scores)	45-56 (35 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores)	12-15 (11 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing	Nathan Uselding (205-276, 2806 yds, 33 TD)
Rushing	Zachary Bothun (157 att., 589 yds, 6 TD)
Receiving	Jaxson Garbisch (53 rec., 875 yds, 16 TD)
Tackles	Dominic Ohlinger (45 tot., 26 solo, 19 asst)
Sacks	Dominic Ohlinger (12.5)
Ints.	Harrison Meyer and Rob Francis (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	W, 38-3
Oct. 31	Kalamazoo **Hornets**	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium | Holland, MI	W, 48-13
Nov. 7	Calvin **Knights**	Grand Rapids, MI	L, 38-24
Nov. 14	Trine **Thunder** (Senior Day)	Ray and Sue Smith Stadium | Holland, MI	W, 48-14
Nov. 28	Wisconsin-Platteville **Thunder** (NCAA 2nd Round)	Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium | Platteville, WI	Noon CST

FOOTBALL KICKS OFF NCAA PLAYOFFS AT NO. 4 PLATTEVILLE IN SECOND-ROUND SHOWDOWN

An unprecedented third consecutiver trip to NCAA Division III playoffs kicks off in a new state for the nationally-ranked Hope College football team in the seconds round of the NCAA Division III playoffs.

The Flying Dutch will play in Wisconsin in postseason play for the first time, even though their opponent is again from the Badger State. Hope hosted Wisconsin-La Crosse in the second round last season and fell, 10-7, at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium.

Hope received an at-large berth to the Division III playoffs, as did Platteville. This is their second all-time meeting but the first since the 2002 season when the Flying Dutch won 32-20 in a game that featured two quarterbacks throwing for 400-plus yards.

The Hope-Platteville winner advances to face either Calvin University or Hardin-Simmons University in the third round on Saturday, Dec. 5, at a site to be determined. Hardin-Simmons plays at Calvin on November 28 at noon Central.

A *HOPE WIN* WOULD....

be the Flying Dutch's second playoff victory and send them into the third round for the second time in program history. Hope last reached the third round in 2024.

give the Orange and Blue a 10-win season for the second team and the second-most in program history behind an 11-1 record in 2024.

be the Flying Dutch's second in as many tries vs. Platteville, but the first since a 32-20 victory on September 21, 2002.



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.

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	525-377-40
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

SEASON *ACCOLADES*

SEVEN VOTED ALL-MIAA TEAMS ON OFFENSE

Seven Hope College standouts have been chosen for the 2026 All-MIAA Football Teams on offense, including two first-team honorees: running back AJ Martel and H-back Seth Luhmann. Offensive linemen Tim Clay, Aaron Hunt and Kemper Millis, wide receiver Trevor Griffiths, and running back Brody Schuiteman all received second-team accolades.

Luhmann (Rochester, Michigan / Stoney Creek) is a three-time All-MIAA First Team selection. The senior exercise science and religion major proved to be a key blocker on offense that averaged 40.4 points and 469.4 yards per game during the regular season, including 44.4 points and 491.7 yards per MIAA game.

Martel (Mason, Michigan / Mason) earned his first All-MIAA honor. The junior biochemistry and molecular biology major scored nine of his 10 rushing touchdowns in MIAA play and averaged 66.5 yards per game on the ground.

Clay (Byron Center, Michigan / Byron Center) claimed his first All-MIAA award. The senior exercise science major started at center for the Flying Dutch and helped propel one of the MIAA's top offenses.

Hunt (Hudsonville, Michigan / Hudsonville) received his first All-MIAA accolades. The sophomore started at left tackle and helped power one of the MIAA's top offenses.

Millis (Norton Shores, Michigan / Mona Shores) earned his first All-MIAA honor. The senior business major started at left guard and helped launch one of the MIAA's top offenses.

Griffiths (Stevensville, Michigan / Lakeshore) claimed his first All-MIAA award. The senior business major topped the MIAA with 82 receptions this season, totaling 575 yards and three touchdown receptions.

Schuiteman (Jenison, Michigan / Jenison) received his first All-MIAA accolade. The freshman rushed for a league-best 19 touchdowns this season, including nine against MIAA opponents that shared the league-high with Martel. He rushed for 633 yards on 107 carries over 10 games.

FOUR SELECTED TO ALL-MIAA TEAMS ON DEFENSE

Four Hope College standouts have been selected for the 2026 All-MIAA Football team, including two first-team recipients: defensive back Austin Harvey and linebacker Nolan Vis. Safety Tyson Mann and defensive lineman Tyler Radley each received second-team recognition.

Harvey (Rockford, Michigan / Rockford) claimed his third All-MIAA first-team accolade after leading the secondary for the MIAA's top-scoring defense (14.1 points per game allowed) and total defense (276.1 yards per game). The senior business major totaled 27 tackles and one interception this season. Harvey was also selected as the recipient of the Pete Schmidt Memorial Scholar-Athlete Award, recognizing his athletic achievements, perseverance, and remarkable resilience in the face of personal adversity.

Vis (Hudsonville, Michigan / Unity Christian) is an All-MIAA honoree for the first time after flourishing in his first season as a middle linebacker. The sophomore recorded career-highs in tackles (71), solo tackles (48), tackles for loss (five), and forced fumbles (2).

Mann (Grandville, Michigan / Grandville) earned his first All-MIAA award. The senior set career-highs in tackles (37) and solo tackles (26) while also intercepting one pass.

Radley (Westland, Michigan / Bay City John Glenn) claimed his first All-MIAA honor. The junior business major recorded career-highs in tackles (28) and solo tackles (12) while matching his career-best with five sacks.







WIAC FOE, WE MEET AGAIN

Hope meets an opponent from the Wisconsin Intercollegiatee Athletic Conference for the second time this season and for the consecutive NCAA Division III playoff game. In Week 2 this season, Hope defeated Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the home opener, 38-10, on September 12 behind a 24-point second half. It was the Flying Dutch's second victory against a WIAC foe in five tries and the first since a 32-20 victory at Wisconsin-Platteville on Sept. 21, 2002. Hope lost in the second round of the 2025 NCAA playoffs to Wisconsin-La Crosse, 10-7, at home. Hope and Wisconsin-Platteville will meet on the basketball court at Platteville on December 5.

LAST SECOND-ROUND VICTORY

In 2024, Hope advanced to the third round of the NCAA playoffs for the first time by topping Aurora, 49-21, on a snowy afternoon at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. Senior quarterback Ben Wellman accumulated 297 yards of total offense and five touchdowns. Wellman completed 16-of-20 passes for 208 yards and four scores. The exercise science major also rushed for 89 yards on 11 carries, second only to 95 yards on 22 carries from senior running back Tyler Amos. Hope forced five Aurora turnovers on three interceptions and two fumbles. Safety Brad Raredon led Hope with nine tackles, an interception and a fumble. The Flying Dutch advanced to face North Central and lost, 41-21, on the road. North Central went on to claim the national title.

SCORING THREAT

Freshman running back Brody Schuiteman finished the 10-game regular season with 19 rushing touchdowns, second most in program history and tied for fourth-most in NCAA Division III during the regular season. Ironically, he trails someone from his hometown of Jenison, in the Hope annals. Brandon Graham, Jenison Public Schools superintendent, holds the Hope record of 21. set during the 1996 season. Quarterback Mason Opple (2018) and running back Chance Strickland (2024) are tied for third now with 18 rushing touchdowns apiece.



ON THE RUN

The Flying Dutch have established one of the nation's leading rushing attacks, averaging 251.7 yards per game and ranking 14th in NCAA Division III after the regular season Three running backs are shouldering the workload:

- AJ Martel, 665 yards on 118 carries;
- Brody Schuiteman, 622 yards on 107 carries;
- Troy Goike, 594 yards on 79 carries.

Goike rushed for a career-high 146 yards vs. Olivet in Week 5. Schuiteman ran for a career-best 121 yards vs. Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Week 2. Martel rushed for a career-high 105 yards vs. Olivet.

PAVING THE WAY

Seven linemen have made up the 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 six times this season, including a season-high 410 yards against Olivet.

GOING FOR IT

Hope has been efficient on third down, ranking among the NCAA Division III leaders with a 52.9% success rate (62-119) that is 10th best in Division III. The Flying Dutch also were tied for ninth in the nation in fourth-down success this season at 70.6% (12-17). Hope ranks 19th in first downs, totaling 247 on the season.

2026 INDIVIDUAL SUPERLATIVES

RUSHES
20 AJ Martel vs Adrian (10/17/2026) YARDS
RUSHING
146 Trey Goike at Olivet (10/03/2026)
TD RUSHES
4 Brody Schuiteman at Hanover (09/19/2026) 4 Brody Schuiteman vs Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
LONGEST RUSH
79 Jack Bullock vs Kalamazoo (10/31/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS
32 Alex Thole at Calvin (11/07/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS
20 Alex Thole at Calvin (11/07/2026)
20 Alex Thole vs Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
PASSING YARDS
286 Alex Thole at Alma (10/24/2026)
TD PASSES
3 Alex Thole vs Trine (11/14/2026) 3 Alex Thole at Alma (10/24/2026)
LONGEST PASS
82 Alex Thole vs Kalamazoo (10/31/2026)
RECEPTIONS
8 Trevor Griffiths at Calvin (11/07/2026)
YARDS RECEIVING
151 Kaden DeHorn at Denison (09/05/2026)
TD RECEPTIONS
2 Jonny Rohen-Blanton at Olivet (10/03/2026)
LONGEST RECEPTION
82 Trevor Griffiths vs Kalamazoo (10/31/2026)
PUNTS
6 Noah Dunckel vs Adrian (10/17/2026)
PUNTING AVG
40.5 Noah Dunckel at Denison (09/05/2026)
LONGEST PUNT
54 Noah Dunckel at Calvin (11/07/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20
2 Noah Dunckel at Calvin (11/07/2026)
2 Noah Dunckel vs Adrian (10/17/2026)
2 Noah Dunckel vs Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
2 Noah Dunckel at Denison (09/05/2026)
LONGEST PUNT RETURN
23 Connor Knapp at Alma (10/24/2026)
LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN
33 Connor Knapp vs Albion (09/26/2026)
TACKLES
14 Mike Murphy at Calvin (11/07/2026)
SACKS
2 Patrick Rowland at Olivet (10/03/2026)
TACKLES FOR LOSS
3.5 Nolan Vis at Alma (10/24/2026)

GAME *NOTES*



MIAA WEEKLY HONOREE: OCTOBER 26

Sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis was named MIAA Football Defensive Athlete of the Week on October 26 after keying the ninth-ranked Flying Dutch's 38-3 win at Alma College, where they held the Scots to a season-low three points and their second-fewest total yards gained, 205. The sophomore recorded a career-high and team-best 12 tackles, including seven solos and a career-high 3 ½ tackles for loss.

MIAA WEEKLY HONOREE: OCTOBER 5

Freshman kicker Avery Umphrey was namie MIAA Special Teams Athlete of the Week on October 5 following his effort during a 66-17 victory at Olivet. Umphrey scored 12 points during the Flying Dutch's 66-17 victory at The University of Olivet, kicking a 28-yard field goal to open the scoring, then booted all nine PAT attempts for the second consecutive game, including six when Hope outscored the Comets 42-0.

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.

SOUNDING DEHORN

Wide receiver 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.

ARCHITECTS

Offensive coordinator Andrew Hawken and defensive coordinator Alex Smith have guided Hope to great heights this season. Hawken, who played football at Michigan State, has served in his role since the 2017 season. Smith, who played football at Central Michigan, is in his first season at Hope.

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.

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.

PRESEASON RANKINGS

The Hope College football team debuted in both the American Football Coaches Association and D3football Preseason Polls 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. Hope totaled 173 points in the D3football preseason rankings, the highest among four MIAA teams that received votes.

2026 TEAM *SUPERLATIVES*

RUSHES
57 Albion (09/26/2026)
YARDS RUSHING
419 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH
10.0 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
TD RUSHES
7 Albion (09/26/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS
32 at Calvin (11/07/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS
20 at Calvin (11/07/2026)
20 Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
YARDS PASSING
286 at Alma (10/24/2026)
YARDS PER PASS
11.9 at Alma (10/24/2026)
TD PASSES
3 Trine (11/14/2026)
3 at Alma (10/24/2026)
3 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS
81 Kalamazoo (10/31/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE
669 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY
10.3 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
POINTS
66 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
SACKS BY
8 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
FIRST DOWNS
35 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
PENALTIES
8 at Calvin (11/07/2026)
8 at Olivet (10/03/2026)
8 Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
PENALTY YARDS
105 Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
TURNOVERS
2 at Hanover (09/19/2026) 2 at Denison (09/05/2026)
PUNTS
6 Adrian (10/17/2026)
PUNTING AVG
40.5 at Denison (09/05/2026)
LONG PUNT
54 at Calvin (11/07/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20
2 at Calvin (11/07/2026)
2 Adrian (10/17/2026)
2 Wis.-Stevens Point (09/12/2026)
2 at Denison (09/05/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN
23 at Alma (10/24/2026)

INDIVIDUAL *PROFILE*

All-MIAA Linebacker Nolan Vis Anchors Football's Stingy Defense

Recognizing the formation he scouted on film, Hope College linebacker Nolan Vis utilized his elite mental acuity and physical attributes to deliver a signature tackle for loss during a close game earlier this season.

On first down, Vis sprinted between the center and left guard to tackle Alma College running back Easton Hood behind the line of scrimmage for a 1-yard loss at the Scots' 5-yard line. Two plays later, the Flying Dutch forced one of nine Alma punts after Vis recorded a half-sack on second down and another tackle after a 2-yard carry on third down. The three-and-out — with Hope protecting a 7-3 lead late in the first quarter — epitomizes what the All-MIAA First Team linebacker brings to the field, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Alex Smith said.



"We had been talking about what to do when you get this formation in this situation. They ran the play that we were thinking it was going to be. He triggered and made a huge tackle for loss," Smith said. "Nolan, knowing the situation, thinking back to the details that we coached up throughout the week, then actually doing it on the field at a high level and playing fast, that's who he is."

Vis will lead the 19th-ranked Flying Dutch into the NCAA Division III playoffs next week, when they face a second-round showdown with fourth-ranked University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"It means a lot," Vis said of Hope qualifying for postseason for the third consecutive season for the first time in program history. "I love all these guys, especially the seniors. It means a lot being able to keep it going for them."

Vis recorded a team-high 71 tackles this season, including a team-best 48 solos. The 5-11, 206-pound sophomore from Hudsonville anchors the MIAA's No. 1 scoring and total defense. Head coach Peter Stuursma said he is thrilled Vis lines up for the Hope orange and blue. "We started recruiting Nolan as a freshman at the high school football powerhouse, Unity Christian," Stuursma said. "He has been an absolute joy to coach. It has been awesome to watch his progression on the field and as he develops and perfects his leadership skills. As a sophomore all-conference linebacker, the sky is the limit for Nolan. He is driven individually and wants his team to be awesome."

Vis quickly established himself as a reliable force for a linebacker unit that not only graduated three linebackers after a successful 2025 season, but also for a defense that started the season with a new coordinator. Smith said it did not take him long to realize how much of a playmaker Vis could be.

"I heard that Nolan was one of the few linebackers who played meaningful downs the previous season and a ton about his work ethic, his practice habits, and all of those like little things that don't take a lot of talent," Smith said. "When I got here, and I started to work with him, I saw how talented he was. That's when it was apparent to me that he was pretty special because, in my opinion, when you have the guys who do all those controllable things at a high level like the film, lifting, and the attention to detail — and then you're also talented — that's when you have someone pretty special."

Smith, a former Central Michigan University linebacker and defensive end, rapidly gained the trust of Vis and his defensive teammates. "When I first met him, I knew he knew his stuff right away. He's a football junkie, and he's really passionate about coaching," Vis said. "Also, you could kind of tell he had a chip on his shoulder. He's just a real hard worker and wants to win."

Vis appreciates how Smith puts him and the entire defense in position to succeed. The memorable sequence from a 38-3 victory at Alma Smith described started in practice, Vis said. "He wants us linebackers to play downhill, fit the run when we need to, then also be able to play in space and defend the pass," Vis said.

NCAA PLAYOFF *HISTORY*

2025
Wis.-La Crosse 10, Hope 7, second round

2024
Hope 49, Aurora, Ill. 21, second round
North Central, Ill. 41, Hope 21, third round

2019
Wartburg, Iowa 41, Hope 3, first round

2006
Mount Union, Ohio 49, Hope 0, first round

2003
Wheaton, Ill., 55, Hope 45, first round

2000
Hanover, Ind., 20, Hope 3, first round

1986
Augustana, Ill., 34, Hope 10, first round

MIAA *CONFERENCE*

2026 STANDINGS

	MIAA	OVERALL
CALVIN	7-0	10-0
HOPE	6-1	9-1
TRINE	5-2	7-3
ADRIAN	3-4	5-5
ALMA	3-4	3-7
KALAMAZOO	2-5	3-7
ALBION	2-5	2-8
OLIVET	0-7	3-7



2026 SEASON RECAPS

WEEK 1

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.

WEEK 2

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 Wisconsin-Platteville in 2002.

WEEK 3

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 Hanover Col lege, 27-10, using a stout defense and a robust ground game to close non-league play with a 3-0 record. The Orange and Blue did not allow an opposing offensive touchdown until the fourth quarter for the third game in a row.

WEEK 4

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 at hoime. 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.



WEEK 5

A second-half Orange and Blue eruption launched the nationally ranked Hope College football team to a 66-17 victory at The University of Olivet on Saturday. The Flying Dutch rushed for a season-high 419 yards and finished with a season-best 669 yards of total offense. Hope also outscored the Comets 42-0 after halftime on their homecoming, bursting open a close score with six touchdowns during the third and fourth quarters. Defensively, the Orange and Blue held Olivet to 70 second-half yards on 35 plays and 204 yards. The Flying Dutch's total marked their highest single-game total since 459 during a 63-17 victory at Kalamazoo College on Oct. 28, 2023.

WEEK 6

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 11th-ranked 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. The Orange and Blue overcame their first deficit of the season, and it was a large one. Adrian seized a 22-7 halftime lead. The Flying Dutch shut out Adrian during the second half and allowed only 53 total yards after halftime.

WEEK 7

Hustling past a defender, Hope College wide receiver Trevor Griffiths sprinted untouched down the middle of the field, caught Alex Thole's long pass in stride, and ran 76 yards for a go-ahead touchdown. Only more Flying Dutch points followed as ninth-ranked and unbeaten Hope rolled to a 38-3 win over Alma College on Saturday. The visiting Flying Dutch (7-0, 4-0 MIAA) dominated on defense and offense, holding the Scots to a season-low in points and outgaining them, 498-205. Propelled by Griffith's longest play from scrimmage, the first play after Alma's Jace Heck kicked a career-long 47-yard field goal with 1:21 remaining in the first quarter, Hope tacked on three more touchdowns and a season-high two field goals

WEEK 8

Running back Brody Schuiteman continued his meteoric rise up among Hope College football's all-time leaders as the ninth-ranked Flying Dutch soared to a 48-13 victory against visiting Kalamazoo College on Saturday. Schuiteman gave the Orange and Blue three of their first four touchdowns, giving him 17 rushing TDs, just four behind Brandon Graham's 1996 single-season record. The freshman entered the game tied for first in NCAA Division III in rushing scores. Hope's defense excelled against Kalamazoo, shutting out the Hornets (3-5, 2-3 MIAA) for the first three quarters. The Flying Dutch, led by sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis, allowed only four downs during the first half.

WEEK 9

The Flying Dutch suffered their first loss in the fledgling series on Saturday, losing the MIAA and nationally ranked showdown at Calvin University, 38-24, on Saturday in front of a sold-out Knights Stadium crowd of 3,786. It was the first game in The Rivalry on Calvin's campus. Hope — ranked eighth in this week's American Football Coaches Association poll and ninth by D3football — gave up two fourth-quarter touchdown passes that broke a 24-24 deadlock. The Flying Dutch fell to 8-1 on the season and 5-1 in MIAA play.. Senior receiver Trevor Griffiths caught a career-high eight passes for 117 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Alex Thole. Thole completed 20-of-32 passes for 245 yards but was sacked four times.

WEEK 10

The Hope College football team quickly pushed past the frustration of a tough loss one week earlier and giving up a touchdown in the opening series at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The 19th-ranked Flying Dutch soared to a 48-14 Senior Day victory against seven-win Trine University, riding a surge of six consecutive touchdowns. The Flying Dutch held Trine to 311 yards of total offense, the Thunder's second-fewest yards of the season. Hope grabbed a 27-7 halftime lead on touchdowns from receiver Charlie Norton (27-yard catch), AJ Martel (9-run run), Braylen Amos (50-yard catch), and Brody Schuiteman (1-yard run). Sophomore linebacker Aiden Decker made the most of his first start, recording a game-high 12 tackles, including 2 ½ for loss, and intercepting one pass.





PETER STUURSMA *HEAD COACH*

In 10 seasons, head coach Peter Stuursma '93 has guided the Hope College football team to a 83-21 overall record, including a 55-10 mark in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association games. The Orange and Blue have made four playoff appearances, including in three successinve seasons for the first time in program history (2024-2026).

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 five 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 Orange and Blue 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*
2026	9-1-0	2nd in MIAA
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

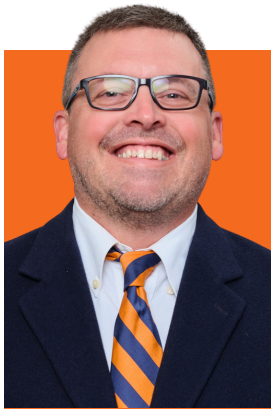
Jim Caserta joined the Hope College Football coaching staff for the 2017 season. He coaches running backs. Caserta coached quarterbacks from 2017-2013. Prior to coming to Hope, Caserta coached football at the high school level for 35 seasons in Michigan and Ohio.



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
FLYING DUTCH
9-1, 6-1 MIAA



HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMA
RECORD AT HOPE: *83-21*

HOPE 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
ALEX THOLE	162	232	2	69.8	12	212.5
JACK BULLOCK	4	5	0	80.0	1	8.6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
AJ MARTEL	118	665	5.6	10	30	66.5
BRODY SCHUITEMAN	107	622	5.8	19	46	62.2
TREY GOIKE	79	594	7.5	3	68	58.4

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
TREVOR GRIFFITHS	31	575	18.5	3	82	57.5
KADEN DEHORN	28	448	16.0	2	65	44.8
AJ MARTEL	21	173	13.1	0	25	17.3

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	I-20
NOAH DUNCKEL	28	964	34.4	54	10

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG	PAT
AVERY UMPHREY	4	5	80.0	32	44-48

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG
CONNOR KNAPP	17	149	8.76	0	23

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG
CONNOR KNAPP	15	364	24.2	0	33

TEAM COMPARISON

NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

CATEGORY	HOPE	WIS.-PLATTEVILLE
Total Offense	19th	34th
Rushing Offense	13th	T-145th
Passing Offense	104th	7th
Scoring Offense	23rd	30th
Total Defense	41st	3rd
Rushing Defense	52nd	2nd
Pass Defense	75th	21st
Red-Zone Offense	T-49th	T-69th
Red-Zone Defense	T-59th	T-156th
Net Punting	179th	2nd
Punt Returns	115th	124th
Kickoff Returns	55th	136th
Turnover Margin	T-60th	T-60th
Time of Possession	29th	2nd



HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME 11 VS. WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

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	2	Trevor Griffiths	Sr.	5-10	169
	0	Connor Knapp	So.	6-1	204
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	7	Braylon Amos	Jr.	5-9	163
	3	Jonathan Pittman	So.	6-2	222
LS	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
	22	Mike Murphy	Jr.	5-10	199

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