



HOPE

2026
FOOTBALL
GAME NOTES



GAME 4



GAME 3 | SEPT. 19, 2026 | 1:00 P.M. EST | HANOVER, IN



HOPE COLLEGE
FLYING DUTCH

VS.



HANOVER
PANTHERS

Record _____ 2-0 (0-0 MIAA)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ 17/18
Last Game ____Sept. 23, 2026, v. Stevens Point; W, 38-10
Head Coach _____ Peter Stuursma
Record at Hope _____ 76-20 (10th Season)

2026 TEAM AVERAGES

Scoring _____ 33.0
Opp. Scoring _____ 12.0
Rushing Yards _____ 207.0
Opp. Rushing Yards _____ 90.0
Passing Yards _____ 231.0
Opp. Passing Yards _____ 191.0
Total Offense _____ 438.0
Opp. Total Offense _____ 281.0
Penalties _____ 7-87.5
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 85.7 %, 6-7 (5 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 40%, 2-5 (2 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Alex Thole (36-49, 462 yds, 1 TD)
Rushing _____ Brody Schuiteman (22 att., 194 yds, 6 TD)
Receiving _____ Kaden DeHorn (8 rec, 167 yds, 1 TD)
Tackles _____ Nolan Vis (18 tot, 16 solo, 2 asst)
Sacks _____ Tate Bezeau (1-8), Trenton Bolhouse (1-6)
Interceptions _____ Trenten Bolhouse (1-29)

Record _____ 2-0 (0-0 HCAC)
Ranking (D3fb/AFCA) _____ hm/hm
Last Game ____Sept. 12, 2026, v. Maryville; W, 43-26
Head Coach _____ Matt Theobald
Record at Hanover _____ 64-37 (11th season)

2026 TEAM AVERAGES

Scoring _____ 30.0
Opp. Scoring _____ 13.0
Rushing Yards _____ 122.5
Opp. Rushing Yards _____ 119.5
Passing Yards _____ 248.5
Opp. Passing Yards _____ 141.0
Total Offense _____ 371.0
Opp. Total Offense _____ 260.5
Penalties _____ 6.5-58.5
Red Zone Offense (att-scores) _____ 66.7 %, 4-6 (3 TD)
Red Zone Defense (att-scores) _____ 60%, 3-5 (3 TD)

2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing _____ Elan Roudebush (30-53, 497 yds, 3 TD)
Rushing _____ Elan Roudebush (34 att, 117 yds, 3 TD)
Receiving _____ DJ Grinter (8 rec, 132 yds, 1 TD)
Tackles _____ Brian Wall (13 total, 8 solo, 5 asst)
Sacks _____ Keetan Burcham-Jones (2-18)
Ints. _____ Cole Shively (2-21)

HOPE AIMS FOR VICTORY AT HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FAVORITE IN NON-LEAGUE FINALE

The nationally-ranked Hope College football team travels to southern Indiana for a Week 3 matchup of 2-0 teams and preseason conference favorites.

It's also an NCAA Division III showdown 26 years in the making. Hope and Hanover last met in the 2000 NCAA Division III Playoffs on a brutally cold and wintry day at Holland Municipal Stadium (now Ray and Sue Smith Stadium). The Panthers earned a 20-3 victory despite the challenging conditions. It was the Orange and Blue's second postseason appearance and first postseason home playoff game. Quarterback JD Graves led the Hope offense; cornerback Nick Conrad the defense.

The Flying Dutch are unbeaten after the first two weeks for the third consecutive season and fourth time under head coach Peter Stuursma. Ranked 17th in this week's D3football.com poll and 18th in the latest AFCA rankings, Hope is aiming to head into MIAA play next week on a winning note.

Hope is 3-1 all-time in the MIAA-HCAC Crossover, winning the last three games: 38-14 over Franklin last season and 49-6 vs. Franklin in 2024, and 40-35 vs. Mount St. Joseph in 2023. The Orange and Blue lost to Mount St. Joseph, 33-28, in 2022. The 2025 NPI ratings determined the MIAA-HCAC crossover schedule.



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	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....

even the all-time series at one win apiece. This is the Orange and Blue's first game against Hanover in 25 years. The Panthers won the first meeting, 20-0, in Holland.

send the Flying Dutch into MIAA play next week with a 3-0 non-league record. Hope, the MIAA's preseason favorite, hosts Albion on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m.

be the 519th all-time victory in program history. The Flying Dutch enter the season with a 518-376-40 overall record (.577).



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	519-376-340
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

HEARTLAND HISTORY

The Flying Dutch are 10-10-1 all-time against current members of the Heartland College Athletic Conference. Hope holds winning records of 3-0 against Anderson, 2-0 vs. Rose-Hulman, and 2-1 against Mount St. Joseph. The Orange and Blue are 1-1 vs. Manchester, 2-5-1 against Franklin, and 0-1 vs. both Bluffton and Earlham. The Flying Dutch are on a three-game winning streak in the MIAA-NCAC Crossover.

UNBEATEN START

Hope is seeking its third consecutive 3-0 start to the season under head coach Peter Stuursma. The Flying Dutch defeated Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 38-10, on Sept. 12, and won at Denison, 28-14, on Sept. 5. The victory against Stevens Point was the Orange and Blue's second all-time against a Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent.

PAVING THE WAY

Offensively, the Flying Dutch followed their line to a season-high in points and 456 yards of total offense against Wisconsin-Stevens point, including a season-best 258 rushing. Seven contributed into the rotation: seniors Tim Clay, Kemper Millis and Philip McLaurin, juniors Nolan Collins, Caleb Fisher, and Nick Saade, and sophomore Aaron Hunt.

PHENOMAL FRESHMAN

Freshman running back Brody Schuiteman has capitalized on his offensive line's work, including 121 yards rushing and four touchdowns against Stevens Points. Schuiteman is one of six in all of Division III with six rushing touchdowns for the season. Schuiteman is averaging 9.31 yards per carry.

SOUNDING DEHORN

Senior Kaden DeHorn set career highs against Denison 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 that extended the Orange and Blue's lead to 20-0 with 4:46 left in the third quarter.



PASS COMPLETE

The Flying Dutch rank 15th in the nation and first in the MIAA in completion percentage at 73.5 thanks to quarterback Alex Thole. Lake Forest is the Division III leader at 80.0%.

THIRD-DOWN SUCCESS

Hope has been efficient on third down, ranking among the NCAA Division III leaders with a 59.1 % success rate (13-22).. Led by offensive coordinator Andrew Hawken, the Flying Dutch are tied for 12th best in the nation and first in the MIAA in that category. Springfields leads the nation at 75.9 (22-29).

NO MISS WITH VIS

Sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis is flourishing through the season's two weeks, recording a team-best 18 tackles, 16 of which are solo. He posted a team-best 10 tackles against Denison. He is four tackles from matching his total as a freshman in 2025. Vis ranks sixth in Division III at eight solo tackles per game.

GETTING DEFENSIVE

Hope's defense is allowing 12.0 points per game this season, tied for 33rd best in Division III. The Flying Dutch are yielding 281.0 yards per game, ranking 55th in the nation. The Orange and Blue are plus-0.5 in turnover margin, 65th in the nation.

NEXT GAME

Hope wraps up non-league play for the 2026 season this afternoon and will turn its attention next to the MIAA opener on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m. against Albion at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The Flying Dutchmen finished first in the MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll, a unanimous favorite with all seven possible first-place votes.

RUSHING

Most Carries: 13, AJ Martel (Wisconsin-Stevens Point); 13, Brody Schuiteman (Denison)
Most Yards: 121, Brody Schuiteman (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Most TDs: 4, Brody Schuiteman (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Longest Rush: 46, Brody Schuiteman (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

PASSING

Most Completions: 20, Alex Thole (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Most Attempts: 25, Alex Thole (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Most TD Passes: 1, Alex Thole (Denison)
Longest Pass: 65, Alex Thole (Denison)

RECEIVING

Most Receptions: 6, Jonny Rohen-Blanton (Wis.-Stevens Point) 6, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)
Most Yards: 121, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)
Most TD Receptions: 1, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)
Longest Reception: 65, Kaden DeHorn (Denison)

DEFENSE

Most Tackles: 10, Nolan Vis (Denison)
Most Tackles for Loss: 1, four times)
Most Sacks: 1, Tate Bezeau and Trenton Bolhouse (Denison)
Most Interceptions: 1, Trenton Bolhouse (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

SPECIAL TEAMS

Most Field Goals: 1, Cooper Clark (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Field Goal: 36, Cooper Clark (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Punts: 3, Noah Dunckel (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
Best Punting Average: 45.0, Noah Dunckel (Mount Saint Joseph)
Longest Punt: 40.5, Noah Dunckel (Denison)
Punts Inside the 20: 2, Noah Dunckel (Wis.-Stevens Points, Denison)
Longest Punt Return: 19, Connor Knapp (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Kickoff Return: 31, Connor Knapp (Wis.-Stevens Point)

OPPONENTS

Most Carries: 14, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most Rushing Yards: 68, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most TD Rushes: 1, Brian Rager (Denison)
Longest Rush: 24, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most Pass Completions: 32, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most Pass Attempts: 43, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most Passing Yards: 278, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most TD Passes: 1, Ryan Thompson (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Pass: 37, Brian Rager (Denison)
Most Receptions: 9, AJ Winders (Denison)
Most Receiving Yards: 92, AJ Winders (Denison)h
Most TD Receptions: 1, Ben Wollersheim (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Reception: 37, AJ Winders (Denison)
Most Field Goals: 1, Tyler Soldermann (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Field Goal: 39, Tyler Soldermann (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Punts: 6, Dakota Stroud (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Longest Punt: 52, Dakota Stroud (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Punts Inside 20: None
Longest Kickoff Return: 20, Kade Koroneos (Denison)
Most Tackles: 10, Paul Morris (Wicson-Stevens Point)
Most Sacks: 1, twice (both by Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Tackles for Loss: 2, Denver Treleven (Wis.-Stevens Point)
Most Interceptions: 1, Thomas Hansen (Denison)

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 will debut Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. and will provide fans with an in-depth look at MIAA football each week through highlights, expert analysis, exclusive interviews and stories from across the conference. The MIAA Pulse will be available on WXSP-TV, WOOD-TV+, and each MIAA member institution's video platform.

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.

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.



BRODY SCHUITEMAN

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 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 Dunkel, 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: 38 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Points: 28 (Denison)
 Most Opposing Points: 14 (Denison)
 Fewest Opposing Points: 10 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Most Total Offense: 466 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Total Offense: 410 (Denison)
 Most First Downs, Total: 26 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Least First Downs, Total: 16 (Denison)

RUSHING

Most Rushing Yards: 267 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Rushing Yards: 147 (Denison)
 Most Rushing Yards Allowed: 112 (Denison)
 Fewest Rushing Yards Allowed: 68 Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Most Rushing Attempts: 42 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Rushing Attempts: 28 (Denison)
 Most Rushing TDs: 5 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point))
 Fewest Rushing TDs: 2 (Denison)
 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: 199 (Wisconsin Stevens Point)
 Most Opposing Passing Yards: 278 (Denison)
 Fewest Opposing Passing Yards: 104 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most Passing Attempts: 25 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Passing Attempts: 16 (Denison)
 Most Opposing Passing Attempts: 43 (Denison)
 Fewest Opposing Passing Attempts: 32 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most Passing Completions: 20 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Passing Completions: 626 (Denison)
 Most Opposing Passing Completions: 32 (Denison)
 Fewest Opposing Passing Completions: 13 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most Passing Touchdowns: 1 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Passing Touchdowns: 1 (Denison)
 Most Opposing Passing TDs: 1 (Denison)
 Fewest Opposing Passing TDs: 0 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most First Downs, Passing: 10 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Least First Downs, Passing: 8 (Denison)

OTHER

Most Sacks: 2 (Denison, Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Sacks: None
 Most Opposing Sacks: None
 Fewest Opposing Sacks: 0 (Denison, Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most Fumbles Recovered: 1 (Denison)
 Most Fumbles Lost: 1 (Denison)
 Most Interceptions: 1 (Wis.-Stevens Point)
 Most Interceptions Thrown: 1 (Denison)
 Most Punts: 3 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Punts: 2 (Denison)
 Most Opposing Punts: 6 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Fewest Opposing Punts: 2 (Denison)
 Most Penalties: 6 (Denison)
 Fewest Penalties: 5 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Most Penalty Yards: 70 (Denison)
 Fewest Penalty Yards: 31 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)
 Most First Downs Allowed: 21 (Denison)
 Least First Downs, Allowed: 12 (Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

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 (Jenison, Michigan / Jenison) 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.

Senior wide receiver Kaden DeHorn (Caledonia, Michigan / Caledonia) and sophomore running back Trey Goike (White Lake, Michigan / Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep) also scored for the Orange and Blue. DeHorn set career highs with 151 yards receiving and six receptions.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis (Hudsonville, Michigan / Unity Christian) 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 in front of a Van Andel Soccer Stadium crowd of 3,373.

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.

The victory ensured the third consecutive 2-0 start to the season for the Flying Dutch. Hope wraps non-league play next week at Hanover College in the MIAA's crossover with the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. Hanover, the HCAC preseason favorite, is also 2-0.

Sophomore linebacker Nolan Vis (Hudsonville, Michigan / Unity Christian) 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.

2026 STANDINGS

	MIAA	OVERALL
HOPE	0-0	2-0
ALMA	0-0	0-2
ADRIAN	0-0	2-0
CALVIN	0-0	2-0
TRINE	0-0	1-1
ALBION	0-0	0-2
KALAMAZOO	0-0	0-2
OLIVET	0-0	2-0

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 Oppe (2017-2019) _____ 46 TD (45 rush, 1 rec)

RUSHING

Brandon Graham (1994-1997) _____ 4,362 yards
David Brooke (2004-2007) _____ 3,635 yards
Shawn Jackson (2010-2013) _____ 3,289 yards

TOTAL OFFENSE

Phil Butler (2000-2003) _____ 8,810 yards
Jake Manning (2005-2008) _____ 6,855 yards
Mason Oppe (2017-2019) _____ 6,765 yards

YARDS PASSING

Phil Butler (2000-2003) _____ 8,510 yards
Jake Manning (2005-2008) _____ 6,930 yards
Michael Atwell (2010-2013) _____ 6,094 yards

PASS RECEPTIONS

Brian Adloff (1997-2001) _____ 211 receptions
Kyle Dietrich (2007-2010) _____ 177 receptions
Taylor Brynaert (2011-2014) _____ 165 receptions



ALEX THOLE



PETER STUURSMAS *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 University.

Hope recorded the second nine-win season in team history in 2019 when the Flying Dutchmen made their fifth NCAA Division III playoff appearance. Stuursma is Hope's seventh head football coach. He followed Dean Kreps (1995-2015), Ray Smith (1970-94), Russ DeVette (1955-69), Al Vanderbush (1946-54), Bud Hinga (1931-42) and Jack Schouten (1920-30).

Stuursma has deep ties to Hope College and the Flying Dutchmen football program. As a student-athlete, Stuursma served as co-captain for the Hope College football team during his senior season. He was a running back and special teams player. Stuursma received the team's Allan C. Kinney award after the 1992 season despite playing in only three games due to an injury. The award, presented annually since 1971 and named in memory of football player Allan C. Kinney, who died of cancer in his senior year in 1967, honors a senior player for maximum contribution to the football program. As a coach, Stuursma served as the Flying Dutchmen's defensive coordinator during the 1999 season before becoming a teacher and head football coach at East Grand Rapids. Hope claimed a share of the MIAA title in the 1999 season with a 5-1 league record while allowing only 18.1 points per game and scoring 32.6. Stuursma also was Hope's recruiting coordinator that football season as well as an assistant track coach for the 1999-2000 year.

At East Grand Rapids High School, the Pioneers flourished on the field under Stuursma's guidance. His teams went 162-34 with 13 state playoff appearances during his 16-season tenure. They claimed Michigan High School Athletic Association state titles in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2003, and 2002. They also reached the state semifinals twice. Stuursma was named Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Year in 2008 and High School Football Coaches Association Division 3 Football Coach of the Year in 2010, 2009 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2002. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in March of 2020. Stuursma also served as principal at East Grand Rapids Middle School from 2005 to 2016. He was assistant principal at East Grand Rapids High School from 2002 to 2004. He taught social studies and physical education for three years prior to becoming an administrator. Stuursma graduated from Hope College in 1993, completing the secondary teacher education program, majoring in physical education and minoring in social studies. In 1998, he earned a master's degree in physical education / sports administration from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1997, Stuursma worked as a graduate assistant on the NCAA Division II National Champion Northern Colorado football team.

YEAR-BY-YEAR AS HEAD COACH

YEAR	RECORD	NOTES
2025	9-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2024	11-0-0	1st in MIAA
2023	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2022	6-4-0	T-3rd in MIAA
2021	8-2-0	T-1st in MIAA
2020	DNP	Pandemic
2019	9-2-0	1st in MIAA
2018	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2017	8-2-0	2nd in MIAA
2016	7-3-0	3rd in MIAA

COACHING *STAFF*



ANDREW HAWKEN

Offensive Coordinator and
Quarterbacks Coach

Andrew Hawken has served as the offensive coordinator for the Hope College football team since the 2017 season. He also coaches the quarterbacks. From 2017 through 2023, Hawken also coached the H-Backs and tight ends.



ALEX SMITH

Defensive Coordinator and
Linebacker Coach

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



HUNTER THOMPSON

Offensive Line Coach and
Recruiting Coordinator

Hunter Thompson joined Hope College Football as the offensive line coach prior to the 2021 fall season. In February 2022, he moved into a full-time position that included a role as recruiting coordinator.



JINKS ARNOLD

Cornerbacks Coach and Special
Teams Coordinator

Jinks Arnold joined the Hope College football coaching staff for the 2023 season. He coaches cornerbacks and serves as special teams coordinator.



MATT BIRD

Wide Receivers Coach

Matt Bird joined the Hope College Football coaching staff prior to the 2022 season as wide receivers coach. Bird brings a winning pedigree to the Flying Dutchmen after serving as head coach at two high schools for 16 seasons and winning 88 games.



JIM CASERTA

Running Backs Coach

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



KJ LANDIS

Safeties Coach

KJ Landis joined the Hope College football coaching staff prior to the 2024 season as a safeties coach. Landis previously served as defensive coordinator at Grandville High School the past four seasons.



CURT COPELAND

Tight Ends/H Coach

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



ISAIAH HICKS

Defensive Line Coach

Isaiah Hicks '25 joined the Hope College Football staff before the 2024 season as a student assistant coach. He was named the defensive line coach before the 2025 season. Hicks played on the defensive line for the Flying Dutchmen for three years.



JARI BROWN

Defensive Line Coach

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



JEREMY GASPER

Nickels and Sams Coach

Drew Peterson joined the Hope College Football staff as the H/Y coach for the 2025 season. Peterson played tight end for four years at Grand Valley State University, totaling 30 receptions for 239 yards and two touchdowns in 48 games (2021-24).

HOPE FOOTBALL *DEPTH CHART*

GAME THREE VS. HANOVER

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
	61	Nolan Collins	Jr.	6-2	276
H/Y	40	Seth Luhmann	Sr.	5-11	232
	17	Cameron Peterson	Jr.	5-9	209
WR	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195
	0	Connor Knapp	So.	6-1	204
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	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	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

K	16	Cooper Clark	So.	6-2	182
	89	Avery Umphrey	Fr.	5-11	163
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
	83	Ian McGrath	Fr.	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
	9	Micah Carefelle	So.	5-10	188
PR	0	Connor Knapp	So.	6-1	204
	10	Liam Young	Jr.	6-0	195

FLYING DUTCH *BREAKDOWN*



**HOPE
FLYING DUTCH**
2-0, 0-0 MIAA



**HEAD COACH
PETER STUURSMa**
RECORD AT HOPE: 76-20

HOPE 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
ALEX THOLE	36	49	1	73.47	1	231

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
BRODY SCHUITEMAN	22	194	8.8	6	46	97.0
AJ MARTEL	21	122	5.8	1	25	61.0
TREY GOIKE	15	96	6.4	1	33	48.0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
JONNY ROHEN-BLANTON	9	89	9.89	0	24	44.50
KADEN DEHORN	8	167	20.88	1	65	83.50
TREVOR GRIFFITHS	5	93	18.60	0	37	46.50

PUNTING	NO	YDS	AVG
NOAH DUNCKEL	5	193	38.60

FIELD GOALS	FGM	FGA	%	LONG
COOPER CLARK	1	1	100.0	36

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
CONNOR KNAPP	1	19	19.0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
CONNOR KNAPP	2	55	27.5	0

OPPONENT **BREAKDOWN**



**HANOVER
PANTHERS**

2-0, 0-0 HCLC



**HEAD COACH
MATT THEOBALD**

RECORD AT HANOVER: 64-37

HANOVER 2026 STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING	COMP	ATT	INT	PCT	TD	YPG
EIAN ROUDEBUSH	30	53	2	56.60	3	248.50

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
EIAN ROUDEBUSH	34	117	3.4	3	55	58.8
JOSH WILLIAMS	18	76	4.2	0	13	38.0
DON DUNNNING	14	25	1.8	1	6	12.5

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	Lg	AVG/G
DJ GRINTER	8	132	16.5	1	64	66.0
JACK PENNINGTON	5	102	20.4	1	76	51.0
SCOTTY JOHNSON	5	59	11.8	1	38	29.5