CARLETON HITS ROAD IN SEARCH OF FIRST MIAC WIN

Carleton College plays its third road game in four contests when it heads to Minneapolis to face Augsburg College. The Knights are looking to snap an eight-game losing streak to the Auggies and gain some momentum heading into next weekend’s rivalry game with St. Olaf College. Carleton is coming off a tough but eye-opening loss to defending MIAC champion Concordia College, Moorhead, 39-31. The Knights had the ball inside the Cobbers’ 10-yard line with four chances at a potential game-tying touchdown in the final moments but couldn’t score. The Auggies, meanwhile, are 6-3 under new head coach Frank Haeger and are allowing more than 500 yards of total offense per game.

KOOTSIKAS, JACKSON MIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Sophomore running back/return man R.J. Jackson (Roseville, Minn./De La Salle) was named MIAC special teams player of the week and junior wide receiver Mike Kootsikas (Rosemount, Minn.) was the MIAC’s offensive player of the week for their performances in Saturday’s loss to Concordia.

Kootsikas caught eight passes for 105 yards and two touchdowns as Carleton nearly upset 16th-ranked Concordia-Moorhead. Kootsikas caught a 30-yard TD pass early in the first quarter to answer the Cobbers’ first score and his 25 TD reception midway through the second have the Knights a 21-2 lead. He had a big third-down catch late in the third quarter to set up a touchdown that brought Carleton within 11 points, and he had two catches on Carleton’s final drive as the Knights had four shots from the Clobber 7-yard line in the final moments to potentially tie the game.

Jackson returned a kick 81 yards for a touchdown and rolled up 227 all-purpose yards in Carleton’s loss to defending conference champions. He also rushed 16 times for 81 yards and one touchdown and added six catches for 65 yards, including a 50-yard catch-and-run that set up Carleton’s first touchdown. The kick return was his lone return of the day, as the Cobbers made a concerted effort to kick away from the speedy sophomore.

It is the fourth time in Jackson’s career he’s been named MIAC player of the week and the third time he’s been honored on special teams. It is the first MIAC player of the week award for Kootsikas.

JACKSON SECOND IN COUNTRY IN KICK RETURNS

Carleton sophomore R.J. Jackson is ranked second in all of Division III with 41.2 yards per kickoff return. The sophomore returned his third career kickoff for a touchdown in Saturday’s narrow loss to Concordia-Moorhead and was named the MIAC special teams player of the week for the third time in only 13 career games. Jackson rushed for 81 yards on 16 carries for a touchdown and caught six balls for 65 yards, giving him 227 all-purpose yards on the afternoon. He’s surpassed 200 all-purpose yards in two of Carleton’s three games. He has a career kickoff return average of 33.1 yards per return. He’s also ranked 12th in the nation in all-purpose yards per game at 194.0 yards per game. He leads the MIAC in both categories. He’s averaging 194.0 all-purpose yards per game and leads the Knights in scoring with five touchdowns.

RUNNING BACK DUO BOTH CLOSE IN ON 1,000 CAREER YARDS

The running back tandem of junior Wade Thompson and sophomore R.J. Jackson has helped the Knights average 173.3 yards rushing per game this year despite the fact the Knights have faced the nation’s eighth-ranked rush defense (St. John’s) and the MIAC’s third-ranked rush defense (Concordia). Both runners are nearing the 1,000-yard mark.
MJACKSON THOMPSON CAREER STATS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Att</th>
<th>Yds</th>
<th>Avg</th>
<th>TD</th>
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<td>Thompson</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>43.6</td>
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Mark for their careers, as Thompson enters Saturday's contest with 916 yards in 21 career games and Jackson has 977 yards in 13 career games. Only 15 players in Carleton football history have rushed for 1,000 career yards.

MUELLERLEILE BOOTS WAY INTO NATIONAL RANKINGS

Carleton punter Luke Muellerleile used his big day against St. John's to propel himself into the national top 10 in punting average, although his totals against Concordia in the home opener dropped him to 20th in the latest Division III statistical rankings. The senior's 40.2 yards-per-punt average is 20th nationally. He is one of only two MIAC punters to rank in the top 20, as Augsburg College's Nick Schliema is fifth at 43.3 yards per attempt. Muellerleile set a Carleton single-season record by averaging 38.2 yards per punt in 2004 and is currently ahead of that pace. He is Carleton's career leader with 182 punt attempts and 6,553 punt yardage.

KOOTSIKAS ONE OF MIAC'S BEST PASS CATCHERS

Junior wide receiver Mike Kootsi (Rosemount, Minn.) caught eight balls for 105 yards and two touchdowns on Saturday. It marked his third career 100+ yard receiving game in 13 career contests. In two career games against the Cobbers he has 13 receptions for 185 yards. The totals left him 165 yards shy of 1,000 career receiving yards. Only 13 other Carleton receivers have reached the 1,000-yard mark in receiving yardage, and Kootsi needs 355 yards to move into the all-time top 10 in reception yardage. The junior, playing his second year of collegiate football, ranks sixth in the MIAC in terms of receptions per game (4.67/g) and ninth in receiving yardage (51.3 yds./g).

LARGEST ROSTER SINCE WORLD WAR II FOR KNIGHTS

This season's roster is the largest at Carleton since 1949, the year after World War II ended and all the men returned home from the war fronts to college. Of these 82 players, 40 are returning letterwinners and 24 have started at least part-time. Thirty-three are first-year players, which is believed to be the largest recruiting class in Carleton history.

LAST TIME: AUGSBURG 42, CARLETON 10 - OCT. 2, 2004

Rookie running back R.J. Jackson tallied 195 all-purpose yards, including a thrilling 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the first quarter, but the Carleton offense couldn't get in gear in falling to Augsburg, 42-10.

The Knights tied the game at 7-7 late in the first quarter when Jackson fielded a kickoff on the far side, turned it upfield and broke through a number of would-be tacklers in racing in for his first collegiate touchdown. The 95-yard return was the second-longest in school history, as Robert Richey returned a kickoff 96 yards against Knox College (Ill.) in 1967.

Trailing 14-7, the Knights received the ball at their own 40-yard line after a short punt. The hosts looked to be inside the 10-yard line after a Jackson 10-yard carry, but a holding penalty moved the ball back to the 20. A run for no yards, a botched snap from center and pass to Wade Thompson forced the Knights into a field goal try and Pat Barry '05 converted from 29 yards.

It looked like that may be the score at the half, but Carleton's punt protection broke down, forcing punter Luke Muellerleile to scramble and throw a pass which fell incomplete. The gaffe gave the Auggies the ball at Carleton's 16-yard line and they scored two plays later with less than a minute remaining in the half.

The Auggies expanded on their lead immediately in the second half, as a 52-yard kickoff return gave them the ball at Carleton's 26-yard line. They would score four plays later to lead 28-10. Carleton couldn't muster any sort of attack in the third quarter despite holding the ball for more than 10 minutes in the quarter.

The Auggies took two more scores in the fourth, although Muellerleile's interception early in the quarter thwarted another potential scoring drive.

Jackson tallied 45 yards rushing on 13 carries, caught three passes for 50 yards and added 102 yards in kickoff returns. Thompson carried 16 times for 40 yards and Darren Caspers was 15-for-27 for 139 yards with no interceptions. Thompson caught five passes

BY THE NUMBERS

41.2 Kickoff return yardage average by R.J. Jackson, which ranks second in all of Division III. Jackson racked up 227 all-purpose yards against Concordia, including an 81-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

20 Consecutive career starts by junior quarterback Darren Caspers. That streak is in jeopardy, as Caspers has an injured shoulder and may not start.

40.2 Punting average of Luke Muellerleile, which would break his own school single-season record.

6 Number of penalties by Carleton over its first three contests. The Knights are the least penalized team in the MIAC.

3 Number of defensive players with more than 100 career tackles. Strong safety Luke Muellerleile (253), cornerback Nick Brokke (224) and linebacker Randy Foss (217) have all surpassed the 200-tackle mark for their careers.

MIAC STANDINGS

as of Sept. 23 contests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIAC</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Games This Week

Hamline at St. John's, 1 p.m.
Gustavus at Concordia, 1 p.m.
St. Thomas at St. Olaf, 1 p.m.
Carleton at Augsburg, 1 p.m.

Games Last Week

Bethel vs. Hamline
St. Thomas vs. Augsburg
Concordia vs. Carleton
St. Olaf vs. Macalester

Games Next Week

St. John's at Bethel, 1 p.m.
Concordia at Hamline, 1 p.m.
St. Olaf at Carleton, 1 p.m.
Augsburg at Gustavus, 1 p.m.

CARLETON CAREER PASSING YARDAGE LIST

1. 5429 - C.G. Shrop (1929-39, 1941-49), 1994-97
2. 4806 - Ted Kneuder (1911-12, 1914-15), 1938-93
3. 4792 - Terry Ely (1929-31, 1933-35), 1938-93
4. 4742 - Todd Nickichick (1929-30, 1933-34), 1938-93
5. 4678 - John Nelson (1929-31, 1933-35), 1938-93
6. 3837 - Tim Nielsen (1929-30, 1933-34), 1938-93
7. 2697 - Bill Ford (1929-31, 1933-35), 1938-93
8. 2493 - Darrell Caspers (1929-31, 1933-35), 1938-93

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for 20 yards and Mike Kootsikas tallied three catches for 45 yards.

Randy Foss paced all players with 11 stops, six solo. Ben Olson ’05 added nine stops and Muellerleile chipped in with seven tackles and one interception. Adam Witt also tallied seven tackles.

Augsburg was led by junior quarterback Marcus LeVesseur, who set a new Augsburg record with four rushing touchdowns. He tallied 295 yards of total offense, running for four scores and throwing for two more. The Auggies outgained Carleton 350-231 and sacked Carleton four times.

CASPERS MOVING UP PASSING CHARTS

Junior quarterback Darren Caspers made his 20th consecutive start in Saturday’s loss to Concordia. With his 9-of-14 performance for 109 yards and two touchdowns, he moved his career passing yardage total to 2,493 yards. This places him eighth on the Carleton career passing list. Last year he passed for 1,448 yards and eight touchdowns, completing 52.3 percent of his passes. His two touchdown tosses against the Cobbers leaves him with 15 TD passes, two away from cracking Carleton’s all-time top 10 in that category. He ranks seventh all-time with 233 career completions.

MUELLERLEILEI MIAC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Carleton senior Luke Muellerleilei (White Bear Lake, Minn./Mahtomedi) was named this week’s MIAC special teams player of the week two weeks ago after puntng eight times for 357 yards in Saturday’s loss to St. John’s, an average of 44.6 yards per punt. Included in this total were two punts of more than 40 yards earlier in the game that helped Carleton in the field position battle, a 59-yarder in the second quarter and a 65-yard boomer in the fourth. The 357 yards punting is a school record, the average is the second-best single-game average in school history and the 65-yard boot is tied for the fourth longest in school history. Also Carleton’s starting free safety, Muellerleilei tallied seven tackles and an interception in the contest. It marked the second time in his career that Muellerleilei has been named the MIAC special teams player of the week. It was the second time this season a Carleton player has earned MIAC special teams player of the week honors as R.J. Jackson (Su./Roseville, Minn./De La Salle) earned the same honor for his week one performance against Beloit College (Wis.).

KNIGHTS MORE EXPERIENCED GROUP IN 2005

It will be an experienced group that takes the field for Carleton in the 2005 season. On offense, only sophomore left guard Sam Larsen is in his first season as a starter, although rookie receiver Matt Frank is making his third start today or injured senior Ben Cooprider, who may still see time. Frank and offensive lineman Jon Nelson are the only two first-year players to crack the offensive two-deep. On the defensive side of the ball, youth was served a bit more as the unit has three players — sophomore end James Clark, tackle Kaizen Yang and linebacker Jerad Phelps — are making their third career starts. In addition, rookies John Hanks (end), Tim Kane (end), Ty Thorsen (cefensive back), Drew Ziller (defensive back) and Nick Cesarek (cornerback) cracked the two-deep.

JOTTINGS

Senior Luke Muellerleilei (White Bear Lake, Minn./Mahtomedi) tallied a team-high 13 tackles and recovered a fumble on Saturday. The total was four shy of his career high of 17, set against Bethel last year. It is the 10th time in 33 career games he’s tallied 10 or more tackles in a game. He leads the team with 27 tackles... Sophomore James Colbenson (Rushford, Minn./Rushford-Peterson) had his best game of the young 2005 season, tallying seven tackles (six solo) and forcing a fumble, which he recovered, with 2:41 left in the game that gave the Knights a chance to tie the game in the final moments... Senior Matt Bond (Falls Church, Va./George Mason) booted his first career field goal, a 34-yard attempt, that brought Carleton within one score of the Cobbers early in the fourth quarter. The attempt was only the second of his career. Bond is a perfect 10-for-10 on PAT attempts this season and is second on the team with 13 points. He also added his second career interception and first of the season at the end of the first half... Carleton’s 31 points scored against the Cobbers is the most the Knights have scored in the series since the first meeting, a 74-0 win on Oct. 1, 1921.
TRIO OF DEFENDERS IN 200-TACKLE CLUB

Seniors Luke Muellerleile and Nick Brokke and junior Randy Foss have all tallied 200 tackles for their career. Muellerleile leads the group with 253 stops, followed by Brokke at 221 and Foss at 217. Brokke has added eight career interceptions, while Muellerleile has six picks.

RUN GAME IMPROVED UNDER BRANN

Since Chris Brann's arrival at Carleton, the Knights have made significant strides in their rushing attack. They rolled up 284 yards rushing in the win over Beloit (Wis.) in week one and have surpassed the 200-yard mark as a team in three of their last eight games. Carleton's rushing attack was ranked in the nation's top 10 after week one but slipped to 118th in the country after managing only 49 yards against St. John's and 81 yards against Concordia. The Knights hope their run game can get healthy against an Augsburg defense which has allowed 2173 yards rushing per game in its first three contests.

KINGT'S FOOTBALL LIVE ON AIR, OVER INTERNET

For the second consecutive season, all 10 Carleton football games will be broadcast live on KQCL 95.9 FM/Power 96 out of Faribault, Minn. Award-winning sports director Gordy Kosfeld will be on the call in his second season as the voice of the Knights. Additionally, all the games will be carried live via the internet with Carleton's internet broadcast partner, Stretch Internet. Listeners can log on to Knights Online at www.carleton.edu/athletics and click on broadcasts to listen to Carleton football from anywhere in the world. The games are also archived on Knights Online for fans' listening pleasure after the game.

HOMECOMING TILT WITH OLES NEXT WEEK

Carleton celebrates Homecoming 2005 by hosting archrival St. Olaf College on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. in Laird Stadium. The match-up is the 83rd meeting between the two Northfield colleges in the "Battle for the Goat Trophy."