Carleton Football Report - Week Ten

KNIGHTS, PIPERS HOOK UP IN SEASON FINALE

Carleton College plays its final game of the 2005 season, hosting Hamline University. It marks the 62nd meeting between the two schools, which first played in 1892. It is the second-most played series for the Knights besides their rivalry with St. Olaf College. The Knights are looking for their third consecutive win over the Pipers for the first time since Carleton rejoined the MIAC in 1983. The last time Carleton beat Hamline three straight times was from 1929-31.

AIRING IT OUT

Carleton set new school records for pass attempts (61) and pass completions (34) in Saturday’s loss to Gustavus. The previous mark for attempts was 54 in a 1991 contest against Bethel and the record for completions was 30, set last year against Gustavus.

A trio of quarterbacks had a hand in the record-setting performance as Darren Caspers (jr./Bemidji, Minn.) was 8-for-16 for 76 yards, first-year player Taylor Schieck (Austin, Minn.) was 5-for-10 for 80 yards and sophomore John Hollowed (Mercer Island, Wash) was 21-of-35 for 208 yards. It marked new career highs in completions, attempts and yardage for Hollowed.

KOOTSIKAS POSTS MONSTER DAY, MOVES UP CAREER CHARTS

Junior Mike Kootsikas (Rosemount, Minn.) tallied nine catches for 128 yards in Saturday’s contest against Gustavus, marking season highs in both categories. The totals pushed his career totals to 87 receptions for 1,184 yards. He ranks eighth all-time for Carleton in receptions, 13 away from seventh all-time. His receiving yardage total ranks eight yards away from moving into Carleton’s all-time top ten. He is the 14th Carleton player to record 1,000 yards receiving in a career.

BOND BOOT ONE OF LONGEST IN CARLETON HISTORY

Senior Matt Bond (Falls Church, Va./George Mason) booted a 41-yard field goal on Saturday, his career long and the seventh-longest in school history. He’s one of only six Carleton kickers to boot a field goal of 40 yards or longer. Bond is 3-for-6 on field goals and 21-for-21 on extra points this season. He ranks fifth in the MIAC in field goals made and is sixth among kickers in point scored with 30. Only two other kickers, Concordia’s Brian Halvorson and St. Olaf’s Paul Fortmann, have made longer field goals than Bond this season. The trio are the only kickers to convert field goals of 40 yards or longer.

FOSS, MUELLERLEILE CONTINUE MARCH UP TACKLES LIST

Senior Luke Muellerleile (White Bear Lake, Minn./Mahtomedi) and junior Randy Foss (Hastings, Minn.) continued their march up the Carleton top-ten tackles list. Muellerleile tallied eight stops on Saturday, moving his career total to 283 to rank eighth on the Carleton all-time list, only one back of former teammate Andrew Wld ’04, and nine back of Paul Moore ’86. Foss collected seven tackles, leaving his career total at 270 through 29 career games and placing him tenth on the all-time list, 10 back of Matt Hoffman ’97.

DUO GOES OVER 2,500 ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

Carleton had two players go over the 2,500 all-purpose yardage mark in Saturday’s game for their careers in junior Wade Thompson (Peterson, Minn./Rushford-Peterson) and sophomore R.J. Jackson (Roseville, Minn./De La Salle). Thompson has 2,588 all-
purpose yards and Jackson 2,578. Thompson ranks eight on the school’s all-time list and Jackson ninth.

**PHELPS, FOSS FORM IMPOSING DUO**

Carleton linebackers Jerad Phelps (Northfield, Minn.) and Randy Foss are one of only three pairs of teammates to rank in the MIAC’s top ten for tackles. Foss ranks sixth in the conference with 88 tackles per game and Phelps is right behind him in the tie for seventh with 8.4 stops per game. Only Augsburg’s Mike Matson (1st) and Taylor Kroger (3rd) and St. Thomas’s Andrew Ubbelohde (2nd) and Tom Frittze (9th) rank in the top ten as teammate duos.

Phelps’ performance this season has been especially impressive. After tallying nine tackles in his rookie season, Phelps is second on the squad with 76 tackles, only three behind Foss for the team lead. His 12 tackles against Bethel matched his career high and marked the third time in nine games this season he’s tallied double-digits in tackles. He is one of only two non-juniors or seniors to rank in the top ten.

**MUELLERLEILE EARN ACADEMIC HONOR**

Luke Muellerleile has been named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District first team. Muellerleile, a strong safety and punter for the Knights, was selected to the team as a punter for the third consecutive year. He’ll advance to the national ballot for Academic All-America® consideration. Muellerleile was one of ten MIAC players chosen to the first team. The senior, a 2004 All-MIAC second team pick as a strong safety, will start his 40th consecutive game on Saturday against Hamline University, earning him one of only a handful of Knight players to start all 40 games in his career. This season he’s averaging 39.5 yards per punt attempt, which is on track to break his own school record of 38.2 yards per punt, set in 2004. The senior was named the MIAC special teams player of the week after averaging 44.6 yards per punt in a Sept. 17 contest with St. John’s, the second-best single-game average in school history. Muellerleile, a 3.49 student in economics, earned Carleton's exemplary award for his writing portfolio. A two-time All-MIAC shortstop for Knights, he’s also a member of the Carleton student-athlete advisory committee and a volunteer for local food drive and Toys for Teens.

The ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America Teams program honors 816 male and female student-athletes annually who have succeeded at the highest level in the playing field and in the classroom. Individuals are selected through voting by CoSIDA, the College Sports Information Directors of America; a 2,000-member organization consisting of sports public relations professions for colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

**GARDNER CONTINUES TO IMPRESS**

Rookie wide receiver Chris Gardner (Gaylord, Minn./Sibley Co. East), coming off a strong showing against Bethel two weeks ago, recorded career highs of five catches for 62 yards against Gustavus last week. He also returned three kicks for 42 yards as he surpassed 100 all-purpose yards for the second consecutive week. He tallied 122 all-purpose yards against Bethel.

**BROKKE BREAKIN THINGS UP**

Junior cornerback Nick Brokke (Roseville, Minn.) currently ranks first in the MIAC in passes defended with 1.56/game. That number places him 21st nationally as well. He has four interceptions on the season, having picked off two passes against both Augsburg and Macalester. His 12 interceptions ranks fifth on Carleton’s all-time list.

Brokke was named as one of three Division III national defensive players of the week by Don Hansen’s Football Gazette on Oct. 4. Brokke tallied two interceptions and a forced fumble in the Knights’ win over Augsburg. He was also named the MIAC’s defensive player of the week.

**JACKSON SETS NEW SCHOOL RECORD**

Sophomore R.J. Jackson (Roseville, Minn./De La Salle) rushed nine times for 112 yards and two touchdowns in the Oct. 15 victory over Macalester College. The 12.4 yards-per-carry average set a new single-game Carleton record, breaking the old mark of 12.3

**BY THE NUMBERS**

| 14 | Seniors making their final appearance for the Knights. This was head coach Chris Brann’s first recruited class. |
| 61 | Pass attempts by Carleton in last week’s loss to Gustavus. The number broke the previous school record of 54 pass attempts in a 1993 contest against Bethel. |
| 34 | Completions by Carleton quarterbacks in the Knights’ loss to Gustavus, which broke the previous school record of 30 completions, also set against Gustavus last year. |
| 8th | Rank of junior wide receiver Mike Kootskias on Carleton’s all-time receptions list after he caught nine catches last week. He has 87 receptions in his career. |
| 2 | Number of players with more than 2,500 all-purpose yards for their careers on the Carleton roster: Wade Thompson and R.J. Jackson. |

**MIAC STANDINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIAC</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saint John’s</td>
<td>7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concordia</td>
<td>7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>5-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavus</td>
<td>2-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augsburg</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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**GAMES THIS WEEK**

Concordia 47, UM-Morris 10 (11/10)
Hamline at Carleton, 1 p.m.
Augsburg at St. Olaf, 1 p.m.
St. John’s at St. Thomas, 1 p.m.

**GAMES LAST WEEK**

Gustavus 33, Carleton 12
Concordia 49, St. Olaf 35
St. Thomas 35, Hamline 13

**END REGULAR SEASON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARLETON CAREER RECEPTIONS LIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 212 : Jim Bradford (212-379) 1988-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 185 : Steve Gorka (150-213) 1994-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 143 : Erik Miller (142-250) 1997-00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 117 : Jeff Scherer (117-215) 1983-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 99 : John Winter (99-172) 1981-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 99 : Mark Weshinsky (99-182) 1984-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 87 : Mike Kootskias (87-116) 2004-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 81 : Dan Nehls (81-95) 1992-96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 80 : Dan Reiter (80-116) 1997-00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
yards-per-carry set by Adam Henry '94, also set against Macalester in 1990. Jackson had a 74-yard touchdown scamper, a new career long for the football sophomore. He also returned a punt 41 yards for a touchdown, his first career punt return for a score. He's scored four special teams touchdowns in 17 career games.

CASPERS MOVES UP PASSING CHART

Junior quarterback Darren Caspers (Bemidji, Minn.) threw for 43 yards in Saturday's loss, leaving his career passing yardage total at 2,811 yards. That puts him alone in seventh on Carleton's all-time list, but he needs 1,037 yards to move past Tim Nielson '89 for sixth on the all-time list. He needs one more touchdown pass to go: onto the all-time top 10 list in that category. He ranks sixth in all-time with 268 career completions.

THOMPSON NEARS TOP 10 IN RUSHING SCORES

Junior Wade Thompson (Peterson, Minn./Rushford-Peterson) scored his 12th career rushing touchdown against St. Thomas on Oct. 22, moving him two touchdowns away from Carleton's all-time top 10. Three players are tied for eighth on the rushing touchdown list with 12 scores.

KNIGHTS STAGE SACK ATTACK AGAINST SCOTS

Carleton notched nine sacks against Macalester, led by Pat Frett's (Jr./Wilmette, Ill./Ann Arbor-Huron, Mich.) three sacks among his eight tackles against Macalester. It is the most sacks recorded in a single game by a Knight player since 1999 and is tied for the second-most in a single game in Carleton football history. Carleton held Macalester to -2 rushing yards in the win, using those nine sacks for 57 yards to hold down the Scots' ground attack. Seven different players recorded sacks for the Knights.

JACKSON, THOMPSON REACH HISTORIC MILESTONE TOGETHER

Sophomore R.J. Jackson and junior Wade Thompson have both surpassed 1,000 career rushing yards this season. Jackson moved past the milestone with 79 yards in the Oct. 1 victory over Augsburg while Thompson's 52 yards against St. Olaf on Oct. 8 pushed him past the 1,000-yard mark. The pair are the 16th and 17th, respectively, to pass the milestone. It is the first time in Carleton football history that two teammates have reached 1,000 career rushing yards in the same season.

JACKSON THIRD IN MIAC IN ALL-PURPOSE YARDS, FIFTH IN RUSHING

Carleton sophomore R.J. Jackson is ranked third in the MIAC in all-purpose yards with 145.1 yards per game and fifth in the MIAC rushing rankings with 72.7 yards per game. His eight touchdowns scored is the eighth-most among any MIAC player and he ranks fourth overall with 6.8 points per game.

Jackson is perhaps the most dangerous returner in the conference. He would lead the league in punt returns (15.8 yards/return) and kick returns (32.6 yards/return) if he had enough attempts.

He returned his first punt for a touchdown against Macalester or Oct. 15 and returned his third career kickoff for a touchdown in the Sept. 24 loss to Concordia-Moorhead.

RUNNING BACK TANDEM DRIVES KNIGHTS

This season, Carleton has used a two-running back system to get the talents of junior Wade Thompson and sophomore R.J. Jackson on the field at the same time. So far the results are positive as the Knights are averaging 132.9 yards rushing per game despite facing the MIAC's top two rushing defenses in St. John's and Concordia. The Knights rushed for a season-best 284 yards in the season opener against Beloit (Wis.), added 216 yards against St. Olaf and 199 yards against Macalester. The Knights rank sixth in the MIAC in rushing yardage per game.

MUELLERLEILE CONTINUES QUEST FOR 40-YARD SEASON AVERAGE

Carleton punter Luke Muellerleile had a stellar day punting the football against Gustavus last week, twice for an average of 45.5 yards. That raised his season average to
39.5 yards per punt. He is trying to become the first Carleton punter to average more than 40 yards per attempt in a single season. He set the Carleton single-season punting average record last year at 38.2 yards per punt.

Against St. Olaf on Oct. 8 he averaged 45.5 yards per punt on four attempts, the second-best single-game average in school history. Only Andy Quist's 46.3 yards-per-punt average in an Oct. 16, 1999, game with the University of St. Thomas is better in the Carleton record book. This season Muellerleile has notched two of the top three single-game punting averages in school history.

He is one of only three MIAC punters to rank in Division III's top 25, as Augsburg College's Nick Schlieman is ninth in the nation at 41.6 yards per attempt and St. Olaf's Paul Fortmann is 24th at 39.3 yards per attempt. Muellerleile is ranked 21st overall. He is Carleton's career leader with 207 punt attempts and 7,530 punt yardage. He enters Saturday's contest with a 36.4 yards-per-punt career average. The Carleton career record, held by Neil Volker '93, is 35.7 yards per attempt.

LARGEST ROSTER SINCE WORLD WAR II FOR KNIGHTS

This season's roster is the largest at Carleton since 1948, 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.

CASPER REACHES MILESTONE IN TOTAL OFFENSE

Junior Darren Caspers tallied 59 yards passing and 12 yards rushing in limited action in the Oct. 15 win at Macalester. The totals left him with exactly 3,000 yards of total offense for his career. He is only the eighth Carleton player to reach that milestone. He tacked on 110 yards of total offense last week, leaving his career total at 3,293 yards and 157 yards shy of passing Adam Henry '94 for seventh on Carleton's all-time list.

LAST TIME: CARLETON 14, HAMLIN 7, NOV. 13, 2004

Rookie running back R.J. Jackson rushed for a Carleton first-year record 228 yards as Carleton held off host Hamline, 14-7, in the season finale for both squads.

Jackson's total was the second-best in school history and the most by a Carleton back in more than 40 years. He finished the season with 681 rushing yards, also a Carleton first-year single-season record. Only Jack Bostrom's 243 yards rushing against Moravian College on Nov. 9, 1963, tops Jackson's single-game total.

Carleton (1-8, 2-8 MIAC) scored twice in the first half and had many more chances, as they were inside Hamline's 20-yard line on six occasions but scored just twice. They were stopped inside the 1-yard line and a controversial pass interference penalty in the second quarter negated another great scoring chance. They also turned the ball over inside the red zone twice.

The Knights defense was more than up to the task, especially in the first half when they limited the Pipers to a meager 73 yards of total offense. All told, the Pipers drive into Carleton territory only three times the entire game, twice on their final two possessions of the contest.

Carleton had a great chance to score on its opening drive, but fumbled the ball away at the Hamline 10-yard line. The defense forced a three-and-out and the offense converted a 10-play, 87-yard drive, with Darren Caspers sneaking in from 1 yard to put Carleton ahead 7-0. Jackson broke off runs of 17, 23 and 37 yards on the drive.

Hamline's best first-half scoring chance came after the teams traded punts. The hosts embarked on a long drive into the start of the second quarter, moving inside the Carleton 30-yard line. Matt Sevcik '05 and Ben Olson '05 combined on a key sack, however, and a fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

On the ensuing drive the Knights marched down the field to the Hamline 6-yard line. Caspers threw a fade pass in the end zone for Mike Kootsikas, who was flagged for a pass interference penalty despite being knocked to the ground himself. Carleton was forced to try a field goal, and back-up kicker Matt Bond, filling in for the injured Pat Barry '05 was wide right from 34 yards and the Pipers dodged another bullet.

Two plays later the Carleton defense came up big again when Adam Witt knocked the ball loose and Sevcik jumped on the ball, giving the Knights possession at the Hamline 24-yard line. A key Caspers-to-A.J. Cookas (Burnsville, Minn./Apple Valley) 17-yard...
completion on fourth down kept the drive alive, but two shots from inside the 3-yard line netted but two yards and the Knights squandered another chance.

The Knights defense again had the answer, forcing another quick series from Hamline. This time the Knights' offense took advantage as Caspers snuck in from one yard on fourth down with 33 seconds left in the half, although Jackson picked up 29 of the 30 yards on the drive.

It appeared Carleton might put the game out of reach midway through the third quarter when James Colbenson picked off his second pass in as many weeks, bringing it back to the Hamline 30-yard line. The Knights fumbled the ball right back, however, snuffing out Carleton's best scoring chance of the second half.

Neither team could muster any sustained offensive drive for most of the second half. Hamline made things interesting by marching 74 yards in 13 plays, scoring on a 22-yard pass play with 1:37 left.

Carleton recovered the ensuing on-side kick, but couldn't run out the clock and gave the ball up on downs at the Hamline 33-yard line with 33 seconds left. The Pipers maneuvered into Carleton territory, but Luke Muellerleile intercepted a desperation toss in the end zone on the final play of the game, sealing Carleton's second consecutive win over the Pipers.

Carleton outgained Hamline, 391-233, and held a staggering time of possession spread of 35:10-24:50. Carleton was only 2-for-5 in red-zone scoring chances, fumbled the ball six times (losing it twice) and had 66 penalty yards, its highest amount since the season opener. The Knights were also 4-of-16 on third-down conversions but 4-for-7 on fourth down.

Caspers finished the day 13-of-23 for 105 yards with no interceptions. He added 53 yards rushing to his two scores on the ground. The completion total left him with 139 completions on the season, the third-most in school history. His 1,448 passing yards rank 12th on Carleton's single-season list. His 52.3 percent completion rate is third-best in school single-season history. Kootsikas was his top target again, hauling in eight receptions for 69 yards, leaving him with 47 catches for 681 yards on the season. He needed only 19 more yards to become only the seventh different player in school with 700 or more receiving yards in a season. His 47 catches does crack Carleton's single-season top 10.

Punter Muellerleile had another stellar day booting the football, averaging 44.0 yards per kick and cementing himself as Carleton's single-season record holder in punting average at 38.2 yards per boot.

Carleton's defense was paced by Randy Foss with 10 stops. Serick added nine tackles with two sacks and the fumble recovery in his final contest as a Knight. Colbenson notched a career-best eight tackles and Witt added six stops with two sacks and the forced fumble.

JOTTINGS

The Knights recorded season-highs for passing yardage (364) and total plays (91) and matched their season-high for downs with 25. The 91 plays tied for fourth-most in school history and is the most the team has run since 1993.... Carleton's 364 yards passing was the sixth-most in school history and the most since the Knights threw a school-record 494 yards in a 1998 contest against St. Thomas. Three of Carleton's top six passing yardage totals have come against Gustavus.... Rookie Drew Ziller (Byron, Minn./Rochester Lourdes), making his first career start, tallied an interception to snuff out a Gustavus scoring chance late in the first quarter after the Gusties had blocked a Carleton punt. He ended the day with eight tackles, five solo... Carleton was shut out 'or the first time in 22 games in its Oct. 29 loss at Bethel. St. John's was the last team to shut out the Knights, 44-0 on Oct. 11, 2003.... After committing only eight turnovers in their first four games, the Knights have turned the ball over 18 times in their last five games.... Sophomore linebacker Eric Paul (Lake Forest, Ill.) blocked a Bethel punt early in the third quarter, which was recovered by first-year player Ty Thorsen (Moorhead, Minn.). Thorsen returned it 14 yards to the Bethel 36-yard line, nearly returning it all the way for a score.... Drew Ziller, seeing his first significant action of the season, tallied eight tackles and one pass break up against St. Thomas three weeks ago.... Rookie wide-out Matt Frank (Caledonia, Minn.) tallied seven catches for 88 yards and one touchdown in his first game against arch rival St. Olaf. The first-year player had four of his seven catches on the final drive of the first half, as his 20-yard TD grab put the Knights within a pair of scores right before halftime....
half, as his 20-yard TD grab put the Knights within a pair of scores right before halftime. Ten different Knights had receptions against St. Olaf, a season high... Carleton rushed for 216 yards against St. Olaf, its highest total of the season against a MIAC foe... Carleton is the second-least penalized team in the MIAC, having committed out 28 penalties in eight contests. It did commit a season-high six infractions against St. Thomas. By contrast, St. Olaf, the most-penalized team in the MIAC, has been flagged for 72 infractions in eight games, 55 more penalties per game than Carleton.

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. Muellerleileile leads the group with 283 stops, followed by Foss at 270 and Brokke at 248. Brokke has added 12 career interceptions, while Muellerleileile 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, added 216 yards in the loss to St. Olaf and barely missed their third 200-yard game as the Knights rolled up 199 yards against Macalester on Oct. 15. They have surpassed the 200-yard mark as a team in four of their last 12 games and nine times since the start of the 2003 season, a span of 26 games.

ASSISTANT JEPPSON INTO STATE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
Carleton assistant coach Neal Jeppson, the former head baseball coach at Burnsville High School and the Knights’ offensive line coach, was inducted in the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame on Oct. 29. Joining Jeppson in the year’s induction class was Dean Bowyer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Dennis Denning (Cretin-Derham Hall, now at University of St. Thomas), Dean Jaacks (Windom), Jim Luther (Edina), Lowell Searcy (Brainerd), Dale Welter (Chaska) and Max West (Brownton). Jeppson retired from teaching at Burnsville high school in 2003 where he was the head baseball coach from 1974-2002. During that time, Jeppson’s teams won 291 games, advanced to the state tournament three times, in 1981, 1983 and 1989 and won two Lake Conference titles. Jeppson is a past winner of the Dick Siebert Award and was a section coach of the year three times. While at Burnsville, Jeppson was also an assistant football coach for the Blaze. A 1968 graduate of Concordia Moorhead, he earned his master’s degree at South Dakota State University in 1971.

KNIGHTS’ 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. [Note: This week’s game will be available online only, as KQCL has a conflict with Minnesota high school football playoffs.]

NEXT UP: 2006 SEASON
Carleton opens its 2006 season at the University of Minnesota, Morris, on Sept. 9, 2006 in Morris, Minn. The Knights’ home opener will be the next week, Sept. 16, 2006, against Macalester College.