October 12, 2002 - Kalamazoo College at Hope College (MIAA Contest)

HOLLAND, Mich. - Hope scored a touchdown on the opening drive of the game and took advantage of a strong first half to eventually hold on for a 42-41 win.

Hope quarterback Phil Butler completed 17-of-19 passes with four touchdown passes in the first half and Dan Bloemers rushed for 91 first half yards en route to a 35-21 halftime advantage for the Flying Dutch.

Kalamazoo responded in the second half and continued to inch closer until Bryan Gnyp connected with T.J. Thayer on a 7-yard touchdown pass with 37 seconds left in the game to cut the deficit to one point (42-41). Having momentum and not wanting to go into overtime on the road at Hope's homecoming, the Hornets' went for the win with a two-point conversion attempt. Gnyp went back to pass and was pressured immediately, finally being forced to throw a desperation pass that went incomplete through the back of the end zone. The Hornets' ensuing onside kick attempt failed and the Flying Dutch took a knee to end the game.

Bryan Gnyp set three school records on the afternoon. The junior quarterback threw a school record five touchdowns, breaking the previous mark of four accomplished numerous times by himself, Chris Berkimer, and Gregg McDonald. Gnyp passed for 437 yards on the day, breaking the Hornets' single-game mark of 428 previously held by Gregg McDonald. Gnyp was 29-of-44 with one interception. Gnyp also broke McDonald's school record for yards of total offense in a game with 464 (437 pass, 27 rush). The previous record was 442.

T.J. Thayer made 10 catches for 187 yards and three touchdowns, the third-highest single game receiving yardage total in school history. Andy Graham had six catches for 87 yards. Ben Farkas had six catches for 78 yards and a touchdown.

Dwight White rushed for 71 yards on 17 carries and a touchdown. Matthew Jarboe had seven carries for 27 yards.

Jeremy Vanisacker led the Hornet defense with 10 tackles and an interception. Dan Derksen had nine tackles. Joe Meier, Brent Klein, and Will Solomon were each credited with sacks. Klein also had an interception.
Hope quarterback Phil Butler finished the day 21-of-27 with 343 yards, five touchdowns, and two interceptions. Dan Bloemers rushed for 141 yards on 27 carries and a touchdown. Joel Solomon led the Hope receivers with six catches for 161 yards and three touchdowns, including one for 83 yards in the first half.

Kalamazoo returns home next Saturday to celebrate homecoming. The Hornets' (3-2 / 0-1) host the Olivet College Comets (2-3 / 0-2) at 1 p.m.

Game Statistics