



2006 St. Cloud State University Football Preview

2005 General Information

Name of School: St. Cloud State University
City/Zip: St. Cloud, Minn. 56301
Founded: 1869
Enrollment: 15,500
Nickname: Huskies
School Colors: Cardinal and Black
Home Stadium: Husky Stadium (2004)
Capacity: 4,198
Surface: Synthetic (OmniGrass)
Affiliation: NCAA Division II
Conference: North Central Conference
President: Dr. Roy Saigo
Director of Athletics: Dr. Morris Kurtz
Athletics Phone: 320-308-3102
NCAA Institutional Rep: Dr. Bill Hudson

History

First Year of Football: 1920
All-Time Record: 369-326-23
NCAA Playoff Appearances:
NCAA Playoff Record:
Last Appearance: 2004, NCAA First Round
Result: 20-17 double overtime loss to North Dakota

Athletic Media Relations

AMR Director/Football Contact: Anne Abicht
AMR office phone: 320-308-2141
AMR fax: 320-308-2099
Abicht Home phone: 320-253-4330
Abicht Cell phone: 320-309-1847
E-Mail Address: aabicht@stcloudstate.edu
Asst. AMR Director: Tom Nelson
Asst. AMR Director: Celest Stang

AMR Mailing address:

Athletic Media Relations Office
St. Cloud State University
Halenbeck Room 328
720 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

Team Information

2005 Overall Record: 8-3
2005 NCC record: 3-3
2005 North Central Conference finish: 5th
Letterwinners returning/lost: 46/18
Starters returning/lost: 13/12
Offensive starters returning/lost: 4/7
Defensive starters returning/lost: 7/4
Special Teams returning/lost: 2/1

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Randy Hedberg
E-Mail Address: rrhedberg@stcloudstate.edu
Alma Mater/ Yr: Minot, 1977
Record at School (yrs): 40-36 (7 years)
Career Record: 85-59-2 (16 years)
Football office phone: 320-308-3070

Assistant Coaches:

Paul Rudolph - Offensive Coordinator, Offensive Line
Scott Underwood - Defensive Coordinator, Defensive Backs, Recruiting Coordinator
Steve Gruit - Defensive Line
Steven Ctuchley - Wide Receivers
Eric Mattson - Linebackers/Strength
Brian Frana - Offensive Line
Michael Rowe - Defensive Backs
Josh Stephan - Defensive Line
Joe Ford - Linebackers
Denny Honnold - Running Backs
Michael Morrissey - Tight Ends

Athletic Trainer: Julie Alexander
Office Phone: 320-308-3827

Equipment Manager: Josh Williams
Office Phone: 320-308-2633



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St. Cloud State Media Contacts

St. Cloud Times
320-255-8770/fax: 320-255-0447
Mick Hatten, Football Reporter

SCSU Chronicle
320-308-4086

Minneapolis Star Tribune
1-800-827-8742/fax: 612-673-7774

St. Paul Pioneer Press
651-228-5518/fax: 651-228-5527

KNSI/KCLD/KCML
320-251-1450/fax: 320-251-9852

*WJON/KKSR
320-251-4422/fax: 320-251-1855
Jay Caldwell- Football Play-by-Play

** KVSC 88.1 FM
320-308-4747/fax: 320-308-5337

UTVS-TV Sports
320-308-4111/fax: 320-308-5489

Associated Press
1-800-552-7250/fax: 612-332-4245

* Commercial Game broadcast (all)

** Campus station game broadcast (select)

2006 Husky Football Schedule

Aug. 31	UM-Crookston	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 9	@Missouri Western	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	University of Mary	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 23	South Dakota*	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	@Central Washington*	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Western Washington*	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	@Augustana College*	Noon
Oct. 21	Minnesota State*#	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	@Nebraska-Omaha*	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 4	North Dakota*	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 11	@Minnesota Duluth*,	1:00 p.m.

*North Central Conference game

#Homecoming

2005 St. Cloud State Results

8-3 overall, 3-3 North Central Conference

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 27	vs. Wayne State	W, 35-0
Sept. 3	at UM-Crookston	W, 53-7
Sept. 10	at Western Washington	W, 38-20
Sept. 17	vs. Northern State^	W, 38-7
Sept. 24	at MSU-Mankato*	W, 18-14
Oct. 1	at North Dakota*	L, 14-37
Oct. 8	vs. Augustana*	W, 34-7
Oct. 15	vs. South Dakota* !	W, 24-17
Oct. 22	at Nebraska-Omaha *	L, 21-38
Oct. 29	vs. Missouri Western #	W, 31-28
Nov. 5	vs. Minnesota-Duluth*	L, 28-45

*North Central Conference game

! Homecoming #Hall of Fame Game

^Parent's Day



2006 Husky Football Outlook

St. Cloud State returns most of its experience on the defensive side of the ball in 2006 as 17 players including seven starters return from the 2005 defensive two-deep. The Huskies will be solid up front with four returning players in senior defensive lineman Jordan Kroll (Mukwonago, WI) and senior defensive tackle Joe Niehaus (Osakis) on the inside and sophomore Ryan Kees (Eagan) and senior Barrett Flatt (Hastings) on the outside. Kroll, Niehaus and Flatt are returning starters and Kees was the back-up end to All-Conference player Charlie Cosgrove last season. Cosgrove led the Huskies in tackles for loss with 15.5 and quarterback sacks with 7.5 and became SCSU's all-time leader in both categories. Kroll tallied 36 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and 6.5 quarterback sacks in 2005. Niehaus notched 30 tackles, 4.5 TFL, and 2.5 quarterback sacks. Flatt made 26 tackles, 9.5 TFL and six sacks.

At linebacker, the coaching staff has moved two players to the inside in sophomore Jeremy Garding (St. Cloud) and senior Kelly Gilchrist (Minneapolis). Gilchrist started at WILL backer last season and tallied 32 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks. They will be competing with junior Aaron LaPointe (Elk River), sophomore Nolan Oliver (Moorhead), and junior Ross Olson (Fargo, ND) on the inside. LaPointe was a starter last season who tallied 43 tackles and had one interception, and Oliver was the back-up to All-NCC player Mark Henderson. Henderson led the Huskies in tackles the last three seasons, including a team high 86 in 2004. Olson missed the season after suffering a season ending injury during the preseason. Garding and Gilchrist are very athletic, can run well, and will be valuable additions on the inside. Outside, the Huskies have three players vying for positions in sophomores Matt McLagan (Minneapolis) and Michael Graham (Oakdale), and redshirt first year David Kamin (Menomonee, Falls, WI). McLagan and Graham saw playing time during the 2005 season.

The safety position returns to solid ground with seniors Mitchell Denne (St. Cloud), Justin Biebighauser (Nisswa) and Tate Wheeler (Neenah, WI) working the two positions. A key position for the Huskies, as the safety is responsible for making most of the defensive calls. Denne missed several games last year because of injury and finished the season with 34 tackles and one interception. Denne has 11 career interceptions which ranks him eighth on SCSU's all-time list. Wheeler is the Huskies leading returner in tackles as he notched 83 last season. He also led the team in interceptions with four. Biebighauser has 38 tackles and three interceptions in 2005. At the corners, the Huskies return junior Philip Hedlof (Blomkest), sophomores Tyler Krueger (Milwaukee, WI), Matt Jensen (Mequon, WI), and Darius Dotch (St. Paul), and redshirt first year Marcus Jenkins (Long Branch, NJ), an athletic group of players. Hedlof, a starter, was third in team tackles last season with 61 and had one interception. Krueger notched 30 tackles and three interceptions. Jensen and Dotch had some valuable playing time during the season. The Husky defense accounted for 16 interceptions in 2005.

Offensively, the Huskies return a strong nucleus of players on the offensive line. The skill positions will have several new faces as quarterback Daniel Kaczor (St. Cloud), running back Matt Birkel (Ellsworth, WI), and wide receivers Ryan Koch (Madison, WI), Ed DeShazer (Milwaukee, WI), and Daryn Ploeckelman (Mukwonago, WI) have completed their eligibility. Kaczor led the Huskies to the 2004 NCAA playoffs. In two seasons as a starter, he threw for 4,625 yards and 43 touchdowns, only the seventh Husky to pass for over 4,000 yards in a career. Birkel is SCSU's all-time rushing leader with 4,920 yards. DeShazer (139 catches, 2,125 yds, 19 TDs), Koch (192 catches, 2,706 yds, 33 TDs) and Ploeckelman (66 catches, 834 yds, 8 TDs) combined for 5,665 receiving yards and 60 touchdowns during their careers.

Junior Mike Hammerseng (Minnetonka) and sophomore Jon Quesnell (Eagan) are competing at the quarterback position. Hammerseng stepped in at quarterback during the tenth game of the season and started the final game when Kaczor suffered a season ending shoulder injury. He led the Huskies to a 31-28 win on Oct. 29, completed 11 of 16 passes for 154 yards and two touchdowns. In his first collegiate start the following week against Minnesota Duluth, Hammerseng completed 26 of 49 passes for 320 yards. Quesnell was given a medical redshirt after breaking both wrists on a special teams play early in the season.

The new quarterback will be well defended as the offensive line returns five players including three starters. Junior Matt Plautz (Appleton, WI) and sophomores Adam Koss (Stoughton, WI) and Ryan Knoll (St. Paul) are the returning starters. Gone are left tackle Jon Scovill (Wayzata) and center Henry Smith (Minneapolis). The Huskies return senior tight ends Aaron Frana (Mantorville) and Anders Johnson (St. Cloud). Frana is a transfer and Johnson saw playing time behind departed senior John Hackett Prairie Du Chien, WI), and made four catches for 36 yards in 2005.

At wide receiver, the Huskies have added two junior college transfers in Tony Parker (Little Falls) and Derrick Sedin (Santa Maria, CA) and look forward to the return of sophomore Zach Stover (Eagan) who missed last season with a leg injury. Among the returning receivers are junior Ryan Jensen (Underwood), and sophomores Cody Rysewyk (Green Bay, WI) and Nate Johnson (Austin). Jensen made 13 catches for 126 yards and one touchdown in 2005. Rysewyk had four catches for 74 yards and one TD, and Johnson had two catches for 85 yards and one touchdown.

At running back the Huskies have to find a replacement for SCSU's all time rushing leader Matt Birkel. Junior Dan Kamin (Menomonee Falls, WI) has been a capable back-up but didn't play in 2005 because of an injury. During the 2004 season, Kamin rushed for 237 yards and three touchdowns.

Outlook Continued on next page.....



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SCSU Head Coach Randy Hedberg:

SCSU head coach Randy Hedberg (Minot State 1977) completed his seventh season with the Huskies in 2005. He has a current record of 40-36 at SCSU and is 85-59-2 overall in 16 years as a collegiate coach. He netted his 75th career coaching win against UND on October 2, 2004 and his 30th with the Huskies. The Huskies won the NCC title in 2002, which marks the second time in team history that SCSU has won the NCC title. In 2004 SCSU posted an 8-3 record, and hosted the University of North Dakota in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. The Parshall, N.D. native has been the head coach at Minot State (1982-89), assistant coach at Central Missouri State (1990-95), and an assistant coach at North Dakota (1996-98). Hedberg was an honorable mention All-America quarterback at Minot State. He was drafted by Tampa Bay of the NFL in 1977, and played with the Bucs through 1978. He also played with the Oakland Raiders (1979) and Green Bay Packers (1980).



Assistant Coaching Staff: The 2006 assistants include Paul Rudolph (Off. Coordinator/Off. Line), Scott Underwood (Def. Coordinator/Secondary/Recruiting Coordinator), Steve Gruit (Defensive Line), Steve Crutchley (Wide Receivers), Eric Mattson (Linebackers/Strength & Conditioning), Brian Frana (Offensive Line), Michael Rowe (Defensive Backs), Josh Stephan (Defensive Line), Joe Ford (Linebackers), Denny Honnold (Running backs), Derek Johnson (Running Backs) and Ryan Mills (Tight Ends) will be with the Huskies for spring drills.

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Senior Pat Neumuth (Waukesha, WI) and sophomore Brian Cristan (Mahtomedi) return at punter and sophomore Jon Gutierrez (Beloit, WI) will be the place kicker in 2006. Neumuth and Cristan shared punting duties in 2005. Neumuth booted 28 punts for 1,029 yards and Cristan had 14 punts for 508 yards. Gutierrez was used primarily for kick-offs and was one-of-two in field goals and three-of-three in PATs. Gutierrez replaces Shawn Braunagel (Fargo, ND) who has completed his eligibility. Braunagel is SCSU's career leader in place kicking with 212 career points. He finished his career with 27 field goals and 131 of 140 PATs.

2005 St. Cloud State Individual Honors...

AFC A Division II Coaches' All-American Team
Charlie Cosgrove

CollegeSportsReport.com All-Division II Defensive Team
Charlie Cosgrove - Second Team
CollegeSportsReport.com All-Division II Offensive Team
Ryan Koch - First Team
Matt Birkel - Third Team

D2Football.com Northwest All-Region Team
Matt Birkel - First Team
Charlie Cosgrove - First Team
Ryan Koch - Second Team
John Hackett - Honorable Mention
Mark Henderson - Honorable Mention

Daktronics, Inc., Division II All-Northwest Region Team
Matt Birkel - First Team
Charlie Cosgrove - First Team
Tate Wheeler - Honorable Mention

National Football Foundation Draddy Trophy Finalist
Ryan Koch

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Football Team
Ryan Koch

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Five Team
Ryan Koch - First Team
Daniel Kaczor - Second Team
Mark Henderson - Second Team

Academic All-North Central Conference Team
Ryan Koch
Daniel Kaczor
Mark Henderson

NCC Commissioner's Academic Football Honor Roll
Shawn Braunagel
Brad Burns
Trey Dill
Mark Henderson
Nate Johnson
Daniel Kaczor
Ryan Kees
Ryan Koch
Aaron LaPointe
Joe Niehaus
Scott Peters
Daryn Ploeckelman
Cody Rysewyk
Clint Walters

Harlon Hill Trophy Candidate
Matt Birkel - Top 26

Cactus Bowl Participants
Matt Birkel
Charlie Cosgrove