



## **2009 St. Cloud State University Football Preview**

### **2009 General Information**

Name of School: St. Cloud State University  
City/Zip: St. Cloud, Minn. 56301  
Founded: 1869  
Enrollment: 16,882  
Nickname: Huskies  
School Colors: Cardinal and Black  
Home Stadium: Husky Stadium (2004)  
Capacity: 4,198  
Surface: Synthetic (OmniGrass)  
Affiliation: NCAA Division II  
Conference: Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference  
President: Dr. Earl H. Potter  
Director of Athletics: Dr. Morris Kurtz  
Athletics Phone: 320-308-3102  
NCAA Institutional Rep: Dr. Bill Hudson  
**Website: [www.stcloudstate.edu/athletics](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/athletics)**

### **History**

First Year of Football: 1920  
All-Time Record: 383-345-23  
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](mailto:aabicht@stcloudstate.edu)  
Asst. AMR Director: Tom Nelson  
Asst. AMR Director: Celest Stang  
Graduate Assistants: Aaron Bjorkstrand, Aaron Swenson

### **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**

2008 Overall Record: 7-4  
2008 NSIC record: 7-3 NSIC; 5-1 NSIC North  
2008 NSIC finish: T-4th; 2nd-NSIC North  
Letterwinners returning/lost: 19/25  
Starters returning/lost: 7/16  
Offensive starters returning/lost: 5/6  
Defensive starters returning/lost: 2/9  
Special Teams returning/lost: 0/1

### **Team Captains**

Paul Denne, Senior Linebacker  
Brian Kampa, Senior Defensive Back

### **Coaching Staff**

Head Coach/Special Teams Coord.: Scott Underwood  
E-Mail Address: [stunderwood@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:stunderwood@stcloudstate.edu)  
Alma Mater/ Yr: Augustana College / 1988  
Record at School (yrs): 7-4 (One-year)  
Career Record: 7-4 (One-year)  
Football office phone: 320-308-4113

### **Assistant Coaches:**

Doug Patterson - Co-Offensive Coordinator/O-Line  
Ian Shoemaker - Co-Offensive Coordinator/QB's  
Jim Louis - Defensive Coordinator/DB's  
Steve Gruit - Defensive Line  
Carlin Shoemaker - Offensive Graduate Assistant/Receivers  
Bryon Thomas - Offensive G.A./Running Backs  
Matt Vitzthum - Offensive G.A./Tight Ends  
Dan Lemke - Defensive G.A./Outside Linebackers  
Trey Dill - Defensive G.A./Inside Linebackers  
Cortez Evans - Volunteer Assistant/Defensive Line

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

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



## 2009 St. Cloud State University Football, Page 2

### Returning Statistical Leaders

#### RUSHING

	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Brandon Geiss	10	178	840	42	798	4.5	10	43	79.8
Jack Machacek	9	57	298	7	291	5.1	2	33	32.3
Mitch Watkins	11	54	229	58	171	3.2	6	43	15.5

#### PASSING

	GP	Effic	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng	Avg/G
Mitch Watkins	11	119.0	145-260-16	55.8	1828	13	65	166.2
Derek Stripling	4	79.4	1-2-0	50.0	7	0	7	1.8

#### RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Fred Williams	11	49	659	13.4	6	49	59.9
C.A. Norblom	11	6	59	9.8	1	18	5.4
Houston Niesche	10	6	46	7.7	0	12	4.6
Brandon Geiss	10	5	113	22.6	1	65	11.3

### 2008 Returning Starters...

**Offense (5):** Scott Ferguson, Left Tackle; Fred Williams, Wide Receiver; Houston Niesche, Tight End; Brandon Geiss, Running Back; Mitch Watkins, Quarterback.

**Defense (2):** Brian Kampa, Strong Safety; Chuck Merritt, Defensive Tackle.

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	-----Tackles-----				TFL/Yds	Sacks	---Pass Def-----				Fumbles			Blkd		
	GP	Solo	Ast	Total			No	Yds	Int	Yds	BrUp	PD	QBH		Rcv	Yds
Paul Denne	11	23	28	51	5.0/22	2.5-18	1-27	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kampa	11	22	11	33	1.5/5	-	1-6	2	3	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	
Gyangelo Bradden	10	18	11	29	0.5/2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Chuck Merritt	11	15	13	28	6.0/28	2.0-20	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Tyler Niedfeldt	9	11	9	20	2.0/20	-	1-22	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Josh Popanda	11	11	8	19	7.0/18	1.0-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tony Kubes	7	15	1	16	2.0/4	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	



## **2009 St. Cloud State University Football Page 3**

### **2008 Honors**

**SCSU Head Coach Scott Underwood:** Scott Underwood (Augustana College, 1988) was introduced as Head Coach of Husky Football on March 25, 2008. Underwood is the 12th head football coach in the history of Husky football. Underwood had been the Huskies defensive coordinator since 2001.



In 2008, his first season at the helm, Underwood guided the Huskies to a 7-4 overall record, fourth place in the NSIC with a 7-3 mark and second place in the NSIC North Division with a 5-1 record. The Huskies had a senior class of 25 players and the seven wins marked the most victories for the Huskies since winning eight games in 2005.

The Husky defense, led by Underwood ranked among the best in the North Central Conference in the last seven seasons of the league. In 2002, SCSU led the NCC in rushing defense, giving up 77.1 yards per game. Ten defensive players have earned All-North Central Conference first team honors with Underwood, including Charlie Cosgrove, the 2005 Defensive Lineman of the Year. The Huskies were co-winners of the NCC title in 2002 and hosted a first round NCAA Division II playoff game in 2004, the year that Husky Stadium opener.

Success has followed Underwood at each of his coaching stops. Prior to joining the St. Cloud State staff in 2001, Underwood was the inside linebackers coach at the University of North Dakota for four seasons, and coached two NCAA playoff teams. From 1993 to 1996, he served as the defensive coordinator at the University of Sioux Falls. The University of Sioux Falls advanced to the playoffs during three of those seasons and won the NAIA Division II National Championship in 1996.

Underwood began his coaching career at his alma mater, Augustana College, where he spent five seasons as the defensive secondary coach, following a four-year career at defensive back for the Vikings from 1984 to 1988. In 1988, Underwood coached in an NCAA playoff game. In 1989, with Underwood as an assistant coach, the Vikings advanced to the NCAA playoffs, losing to St. Cloud State at Selke Field.

A native of Marion, Iowa, Underwood has a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Augustana College and a master's degree in health, physical education, and recreation from the University of South Dakota.

#### **Awards Continued:**

##### ***Ed Johnson Award***

*Matt Theis, OL, Redshirt First Year*

##### ***Lifter of the Year Award***

*Cody Anderson Norblom, TE, Junior*

*Jim Siegle, DE, Sophomore*

✓ **Ryan Kees: 2008 Draddy Trophy Finalist**  
**2008 AFCA Division II Coaches' All-America Team**  
**Cactus Bowl All-Star Game Participant**

✓ **Cale Pulczynski: 2008 NSIC Defensive Player of the Year**

✓ **Rocky Horn: Allstate AFCA Good Works Team**

**ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Five First Team**

*Ryan Kees, Sr., Mechanical Engineering*

*David Kamin, Sr., Accounting*

##### **All-NSIC Academic Team**

*Nick Angellotti*

*David Kamin*

*Ryan Kees*

*Jake Machacek*

*Justin Delgado*

*Brian Kampa*

*Tyler Krueger*

*Joe Winandy*

##### **All-NSIC North Division Football Team**

*Cody Anderson-Norblom, TE, First Team*

*Brian Cristan, PK/P, First Team*

*Darius Dotch, LB, First Team*

*Scott Ferguson, OL, First Team*

*Brandon Geiss, RB, First Team*

*Ryan Kees, DE, First Team*

*Adam Koss, OL, First Team*

*Matt McLagan, LB, First Team*

*Cale Pulczynski, DE, First Team*

*Fred Williams, WR, First Team*

##### **All-NSIC North Division Football Team**

*Tom Conboy, DL, Second Team*

*Jeff Dirkes, OL, Second Team*

*Matt Jensen, DB, Second Team*

*Nate Johnson, WR, Second Team*

*David Kamin, LB, Second Team*

*Paul Denne, LB, Honorable Mention*

*Ryan Knoll, OL, Honorable Mention*

*Tyler Krueger, DB, Honorable Mention*

##### **2008 Football Gazette NCAA Division II All-Super Region Three Team**

*Cody Anderson-Norblom, Third Team*

*Ryan Kees, Third Team*

##### **Harry Jackson Offensive Player of the Year**

*Brandon Geiss, RB, Freshman*

##### **Dan Neubauer Defensive Player of the Year**

*Cale Pulczynski, DE, Senior*

##### **Dan Pridon Special Teams Player of the Year**

*Brian Cristan, PK/P, Senior*

##### **Ben Nelson Offensive Scout Player of the Year**

*Andrew Beckmann, OL, Redshirt First Year*

##### **Shane Rohman Defensive Scout Player of the Year**

*Brad Wignes, DB, Redshirt First Year*

##### **Keith Nord Award**

*Matt McLagan, LB, Senior*

##### **Gridiron Pride Award**

*Ryan Kees, DE, Senior*



## 2009 St. Cloud State University Football Page 4

### St. Cloud State Media Contacts

St. Cloud Times  
320-255-8770/fax: 320-255-0447  
Brian MacPherson, Football Reporter

SCSU Chronicle  
320-308-4086  
Tyler Ohmann - Sports Editor

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  
Don Lyons - Sports Director

WJON/KKSR  
320-251-4422/fax: 320-251-1855  
Jay Caldwell- Sports Director

\*\* KVSC 88.1 FM  
320-308-4747/fax: 320-308-5337  
Peter Tomala & Matt Bishop - Co-Sports Directors

UTVS-TV Sports  
320-308-4111/fax: 320-308-5489  
Chelsie Allen- Sports Director

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

\* Commercial Game broadcast (all)  
\*\* Campus station game broadcast (select)

### 2009 Husky Football Schedule

<b>Aug. 27</b>	<b>Augustana College*</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 3	at University of Maine	7:00 p.m. ^
Sept. 12	at Wayne State College*	1:00 p.m.
<b>Sept. 19</b>	<b>Northern State University*</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
Sept. 26	at Upper Iowa University*	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Bemidji State University*	1:00 p.m.
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>Minnesota, Crookston*</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>(Homecoming)</b>	
Oct. 17	at Minnesota Duluth*	1:00 p.m.
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>University of Mary*</b>	<b>2:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>(Hall of Fame Game)</b>	
Oct. 31	at MSU Moorhead*	2:00 p.m.
<b>Nov. 7</b>	<b>Minnesota State University*</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>

^Eastern Time

\*NSIC Game

### 2008 Husky Football Results

**7-4 overall, 7-3 NSIC, 5-1 NSIC North**

Aug. 28	at Augustana College*	L, 10-13 ot
Sept. 6	at North Dakota	L, 17-31
<b>Sept. 13</b>	<b>Wayne State College*</b>	<b>W, 31-17</b>
Sept. 20	at Northern State University*	W, 17-12
<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>Upper Iowa University*</b>	<b>W, 54-28</b>
	<b>(Family Weekend)</b>	
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Bemidji State University*</b>	<b>W, 48-14</b>
Oct. 11	at Univ. of Minnesota, Crookston*	W, 48-7
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Minnesota Duluth*</b>	<b>L, 21-38</b>
	<b>(Homecoming)</b>	
Oct. 25	at University of Mary*	W, 14-7
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>MSU Moorhead*</b>	<b>W, 42-7</b>
Nov. 8	at Minnesota State University*	L, 7-16

\*Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Game



St. Cloud State University Huskies  
 St. Cloud State Combined Team Statistics (as of Jun 03, 2009)  
 All games

RECORD :	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(7-4-0)	(4-1-0)	(3-3-0)	(0-0-0)
CONFERENCE.....	(7-3-0)	(4-1-0)	(3-2-0)	(0-0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(0-1-0)	(0-0-0)	(0-1-0)	(0-0-0)

DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
*Aug 28, 2008	at Augustana (SD)	LOT	10-13	4217
Sep 06, 2008	at North Dakota	L	17-31	9143
*Sep 13, 2008	WAYNE STATE COLLEGE	W	31-17	3191
*Sep 20, 2008	at Northern State	W	17-12	3654
*Sep 27, 2008	UPPER IOWA	W	54-28	4011
*Oct 04, 2008	BEMIDJI STATE	W	48-14	3815
*Oct 11, 2008	at Minnesota, Crookston	W	48-7	327
*Oct 18, 2008	#9 MINNESOTA DULUTH	L	21-38	5102
*Oct 25, 2008	at University of Mary	W	14-7	1879
*Nov 01, 2008	MSU MOORHEAD	W	42-7	3899
*Nov 07, 2008	at Minnesota State	L	7-16	1532

RUSHING	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Geiss, Brandon	10	178	840	42	798	4.5	10	43	79.8
Graham, Michael	11	77	480	7	473	6.1	6	85	43.0
Machacek, Jake	9	57	298	7	291	5.1	2	33	32.3
Watkins, Mitch	11	54	229	58	171	3.2	6	43	15.5
Luckey, Adam	6	33	120	10	110	3.3	0	17	18.3
NuQuay, Tyler	1	4	83	0	83	20.8	1	70	83.0
Stripling, D	4	3	59	6	53	17.7	0	41	13.2
Williams, Fred	11	2	4	4	0	0.0	0	4	0.0
TEAM	5	5	0	21	-21	-4.2	0	0	-4.2
Total.....	11	413	2113	155	1958	4.7	25	85	178.0
Opponents.....	11	406	1770	401	1369	3.4	16	62	124.5

PASSING	GP	Effic	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng	Avg/G
Watkins, Mitch	11	119.02	145-260-16	55.8	1828	13	65	166.2
Stripling, D	4	79.40	1-2-0	50.0	7	0	7	1.8
Norblom, C.A.	11	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM	5	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Johnson, Nate	11	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total.....	11	117.37	146-265-16	55.1	1835	13	65	166.8
Opponents.....	11	100.50	170-310-14	54.8	1665	9	63	151.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Williams, Fred	11	49	659	13.4	6	49	59.9
Rysewyk, Cody	11	30	268	8.9	1	28	24.4
Johnson, Nate	11	27	472	17.5	2	48	42.9
Parker, Tony	9	11	115	10.5	1	31	12.8
Norblom, C.A.	11	6	59	9.8	1	18	5.4
Niesche, H	10	6	46	7.7	0	12	4.6
Geiss, Brandon	10	5	113	22.6	1	65	11.3
Graham, Michael	11	5	55	11.0	0	33	5.0
Luckey, Adam	6	3	25	8.3	0	12	4.2
Horn, Rocky	3	1	16	16.0	1	16	5.3
Jensen, Ryan	9	1	7	7.0	0	7	0.8
Machacek, Jake	9	1	4	4.0	0	4	0.4
Watkins, Mitch	11	1	-4	-4.0	0	0	-0.4
Total.....	11	146	1835	12.6	13	65	166.8
Opponents.....	11	170	1665	9.8	9	63	151.4

FIELD GOALS	FGM-FGA	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	Lg	Blk
Cristan, Brian	8-13	61.5	1-1	2-4	4-7	1-1	0-0	40	0

SCORING	TD	FGs	Kick	Rush	Rcv	Pass	DXP	Saf	Points
Geiss, Brandon	11	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	66
Cristan, Brian	0	8-13	38-40	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	62
Williams, Fred	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	42
Graham, Michael	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	36
Watkins, Mitch	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	36

TEAM STATISTICS	SCSU	OPP
FIRST DOWNS.....	175	167
Rushing.....	81	73
Passing.....	76	80
Penalty.....	18	14
RUSHING YARDAGE.....	1958	1369
Yards gained rushing...	2113	1770
Yards lost rushing....	155	401
Rushing Attempts.....	413	406
Average Per Rush.....	4.7	3.4
Average Per Game.....	178.0	124.5
Tds Rushing.....	25	16
PASSING YARDAGE.....	1835	1665
Att-Comp-Int.....	265-146-16	310-170-14
Average Per Pass.....	6.9	5.4
Average Per Catch.....	12.6	9.8
Average Per Game.....	166.8	151.4
Tds Passing.....	13	9
TOTAL OFFENSE.....	3793	3034
Total Plays.....	678	716
Average Per Play.....	5.6	4.2
Average Per Game.....	344.8	275.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YARDS...	34-825	53-871
PUNT RETURNS: #-YARDS...	37-395	16-118
INT RETURNS: #-YARDS....	14-190	16-198
FUMBLES-LOST.....	13-5	19-8
PENALTIES-YARDS.....	72-557	64-557
PUNTS-AVG.....	58-35.6	74-36.5
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME..	28:32	31:21
3RD-DOWN CONVERSIONS....	45/142	48/164
4TH-DOWN CONVERSIONS....	6/14	13/22

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kamin, David	2	44	22.0	1	41
Jensen, Matt	2	0	0.0	0	0
Krueger, Tyler	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dotch, Darius	1	28	28.0	1	28
Patrick, Kenny	1	0	0.0	0	0
Denne, Paul	1	27	27.0	0	27
Street, Mike	1	15	15.0	0	15
Kieffer, Bryce	1	2	2.0	0	2
Niedfeldt, T	1	22	22.0	0	22
Kampa, Brian	1	6	6.0	0	6
McLagan, Matt	1	46	46.0	0	46
Total.....	14	190	13.6	2	46
Opponents.....	16	198	12.4	0	51

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	Blkd
Cristan, Brian	58	2064	35.6	64	8	14	14	0
Total.....	58	2064	35.6	64	8	14	14	0
Opponents.....	74	2702	36.5	68	4	7	11	1

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kubes, Tony	20	199	9.9	0	34
Hansmann, Matt	10	139	13.9	0	26
Horn, Rocky	4	53	13.2	0	21
Williams, Fred	3	4	1.3	0	4
Total.....	37	395	10.7	0	34
Opponents.....	16	118	7.4	0	34

KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Williams, Fred	17	442	26.0	1	85
Geiss, Brandon	5	110	22.0	0	27
Horn, Rocky	4	106	26.5	0	37



St. Cloud State University Huskies  
 St. Cloud State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Dec 18, 2008)  
 All games

DEFENSIVE LEADERS	GP	-----Tackles-----				-Sacks-	---Pass Def---			-Fumbles-		Blkd	
		Solo	Ast	Total	TFL/Yds		No-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	QBH	Rcv-Yds	FF	Kick
9 McLagan, Matt	11	48	22	70	8.5-56	4.5-41	1-46	4	5	.	.	.	.
36 Kamin, David	11	44	24	68	4.0-18	2.0-15	2-44	3	.	2-0	.	.	.
22 Dotch, Darius	11	35	21	56	9.5-46	1.0-8	1-28	1	3	1-4	1	.	.
31 Krueger, Tyler	11	41	15	56	0.5-3	.	2-0	3	.	1-0	.	.	.
50 Denne, Paul	11	23	28	51	5.0-22	2.5-18	1-27	1	.	.	.	.	.
94 Pulczinski, Cale	11	22	14	36	12.0-64	8.0-50	.	1	5	.	1	2	.
93 Kees, Ryan	10	20	14	34	5.5-12	1.0-2	.	1	6	2-0	2	.	.
13 Kampa, Brian	11	22	11	33	1.5-5	.	1-6	2	.	1-0	.	.	.
23 Jensen, Matt	11	16	14	30	1.0-3	.	2-0	2	.	.	1	.	.
38 Bradden, Gyangelo	10	18	11	29	0.5-2	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
60 Merritt, Chuck	11	15	13	28	6.0-28	3.0-20	.	1	2	.	.	.	.
27 Kieffer, Bryce	8	20	6	26	1.5-6	.	1-2	2	.	.	1	.	.
92 Conboy, Tom	10	12	13	25	4.5-16	1.0-7	.	.	.	1-0	1	.	.
20 Niedfeldt, Tyler	9	11	9	20	2.0-20	.	1-22	2	.	.	.	.	.
58 Popanda, Josh	11	11	8	19	7.0-18	1.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
33 Kubes, Tony	7	15	1	16	2.0-4	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
30 Patrick, Kenneth	11	11	3	14	.	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.
96 Ibrahim, Ahmed	11	7	6	13	3.5-6	1.0-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95 Vasquez, Justin	11	7	4	11	2.5-6	1.5-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
47 MacPherson, Justin	9	6	3	9	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45 Key, Chris	11	5	4	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
24 Everson, Joe	7	6	2	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
40 Pawlitzke, Derek	9	3	4	7	1.5-12	1.5-12	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
44 Siegle, Jim	9	3	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
29 Cristan, Brian	11	5	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52 Svenkeson, D'Angelos	4	3	2	5	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
41 Magembe, Richard	10	3	2	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
34 Hansmann, Matt	5	4	.	4	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
51 Street, Mike	3	3	1	4	0.5-2	.	1-15	.	.	.	.	.	.
2 Geiss, Brandon	10	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
46 Gruis, Thomas	3	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6 Rysewyk, Cody	11	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
63 Shaffer, Adam	3	1	2	3	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3 Machacek, Jake	9	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
54 Asquith, Doug	3	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16 Chavers, Bryan	3	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
91 Schwartz, Matt	5	1	.	1	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
57 Cole, Titus	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
42 Godfredsen, Joel	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25 Dill, Trey	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5 Skay, Luke	5	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
67 Dirkes, Jeff	10	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11 Watkins, Mitch	11	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
76 Theis, Matt	8	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM TEAM	5	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
86 Angellotti, Nick	9	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99 Ashley, Leopold	2	1	.	1	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90 Winandy, Joe	8	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total.....	11	462	266	728	83-364	28-187	14-190	27	23	8-4	10	2	.
Opponents.....	11	425	292	717	51-134	5-43	16-198	36	17	5-99	5	.	.



### 2009 Husky Football Outlook

A new coach and a new conference spelled success for the St. Cloud State University football team in 2008 and now the Huskies are looking toward a successful 2009 season.

Scott Underwood (Augustana College, 1988) was introduced as the new head coach in March of 2008 and guided the Huskies to a 7-4 overall record, a 7-3 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) record, and a 5-1 NSIC North Division record. The seven wins marked the most for the Huskies since winning eight in 2005.

With 25 seniors and a strong defense, the Huskies expected to have some success going into their first season in the NSIC. In contrast to last year, this year's Huskies have nine seniors and only seven starters returning, including five on offense. "The big thing is that going into last season we knew we were going to have with 25 seniors," said Underwood. "You really change that for this year as far. As for the defensive side of the ball there will be at least nine new faces out there. Offensively, our skill spots have all-conference types of players. Our hope is that our offense will start out strong and try to carry our defense, and let them catch up in terms of playing experience."

The Huskies will be challenged early as they will face three playoff teams in the first three weeks of the schedule. "We open with the Mineral Water Bowl Champion (Augustana), play a Division IAA playoff team (Maine) and then face a DII playoff team (Wayne State)," Underwood said. "There is no easy start for us to try to get our feet on the ground."

Offensively, the Huskies look to expand. "Having Ian (Shoemaker) and Doug (Patterson) as our two offensive coordinators, I think we are trying to expand a little bit more offensively to what fits the talent of our players," said Underwood. "We were pretty vanilla at trying to institute an offense last year. Now we are trying to refine the things we think we can do based on our players talents and attributes."

Defensively, Underwood feels that as the season progresses, the Huskies will gradually be a decent time on that side of the ball. "We have some players that had to sit behind Ryan Kees (invited to Detroit Lions camp) and NSIC Defensive Player of the Year Cale Pulczynski, who in another situation would have had a lot of playing time." Underwood said. "We lack some game playing experience but we do feel we have talent on the defensive side of the ball. We have some players that have had roles on special teams in the past."

Quarterback: The Huskies return senior Mitch Watkins (Jerseyville, Ill) at quarterback. Watkins was the starter in all 11 games last season and completed 145 passes for 1,828 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also rushed for six touchdowns. "We expect him to be more aggressive than he was a year ago. Last year I think he had an average year and now we expect him to lead us," said Underwood. Behind Watkins is senior Derek Stripling (Wabasso) who played in four games, completed one pass for 50 yards and rushed for 53 yards. "Derek has some experience and is starting to play with more confidence." The third quarterback is Brad Meade (Chippewa Falls, Wisc.) a freshman last season who, according to the coaching staff made progress during the spring.

Running Back: The running backs are led by the return of First

Team All-Conference player Brandon Geiss (Shorewood, Ill.) Geiss is the first true freshman to start for the Huskies since 2001 season when kicker Shawn Braunagel started. Geiss rushed for 798 yards and ten touchdowns in 2008. He also went over the 100-yard mark three times. "Brandon is obviously very talented and I think with more experience and confidence we can expect more things from him," added Underwood. A healthy Jake Machacek (Eagan) returns to the line up for the Huskies. Machacek carried the ball 57 times for 291 yards and two touchdowns in 2008. "We have a healthy Jake Machacek. I think in the spring he really showed us what we recruited him for three years ago. He's physical and an effort kid. He is very tough. We are excited for him." The Huskies added transfer Stefan Geissler (Cadott, Wisc.) who is coming off an injury and will give the Huskies a more physical presence as he is a bigger back. With a combination of the above mentioned players, the Huskies feel comfortable in any three of the players and could go to a two-back set at times.

Wide Receiver: The Huskies enter 2009 with limited experience at the receiver spot with one exception. Junior Fred Williams (Milwaukee, Wisc.), an All-NSIC First Team pick will carry a majority of the load at the receiver position. "We lack experience as we graduated five players from that spot," said Underwood. Williams led the Huskies in receiving in 2008, making 49 catches for 659 yards and six touchdowns. Look for sophomore Collin Miller (Northfield) and converted quarterbacks Rob Evans (Franklin, Wisc.) and Tye Dill (St. Cloud) to fill in the position.

Tight End: A quartet of players return to the tight end position in 2009. Seniors Houston Niesche (Colorado Springs, Colo.) and Cody Anderson Norblom (Minneapolis), junior Nick Angellotti (Wauconda, Ill) and sophomore Seth Noreen (Avon) all return. Anderson Norblom is a First Team All-Conference pick who caught six passes for 59 yards and a touchdown a year ago. Niesche also caught six passes. "We really expect Cody and Nick to be the first two guys on the field depending on Houston's health. We might play a lot of two tight end sets and those guys can play a lot of different spots. Watching Cody in the spring, he might be more valuable flexed out as a wide out. We have a plethora of talent at tight end when healthy," said Underwood.

Offensive Line: The Huskies lost four starters on the line from last year. It all starts with the return of First Team All-Conference tackle Scott Ferguson (Bowmanville, Ont.) who was a starter last year. The next players with experience are sophomores Matt Theis (Eden Valley) and Matt Harrington (Plymouth) at guard. Others with experience include sophomores Scott Horath (Eagan) at center and Ben Larson (Eagan) at tackle. Junior Jason Terres (Cold Spring) has moved from the defensive line to the O-line and junior Tyler Illikainen (Wayzata) also returns. Sophomore Andrew Beckmann (Waseca) is a player the coaching staff feels will be a great one by the time he is done here.

Defensive Line: Junior tackle Chuck Merritt (Aurora, Ill) is the top returning player on the defensive line. Merritt played in all 11 games last season. He tallied 28 tackles, including three quarterback sacks and six tackles for loss. Junior Josh Popanda (Twin Lakes, Wisc.) played more towards the end of the season and according to Underwood has come a long way and the coaching staff is expecting a big year out of him. Popanda played in 11 games and garnered 19 tackles, including seven TFL and a quarterback sack. Other players with some experience on the line include



sophomore Adam Shaffer (Dubuque, IA) and junior Joe Winandy (Mazomanie, Wisc.) at defensive end. Redshirt Ross Kees (Eagan) returns and junior Jim Siegle (Long Prairie) has been converted from a linebacker to defensive end. A couple of young players who will gain some experience include sophomore Matt Schwartz (Lino Lakes) and junior Titus Cole (Glendale, Wisc.) at defensive tackle.

**Inside Linebacker:** Senior co-captain Paul Denne (St. Cloud) gets things started at linebacker. He is the top returning player in terms of tackles as he played 11 games last season and notched 51 tackles. He also had five TFL, 2.5 quarterback sacks and an interception. Senior Gyangelo Bradden (Minneapolis) and sophomore Thomas Gruis (Clear Lake, Iowa) also have playing experience, as does junior D'Angelos Svenkeson (St. Paul).

**Outside Linebacker:** Junior Justin McPherson (Menasha) and sophomore Chris Key (Libertyville, Ill) will get things started on the outside. Both had nine tackles last season.

**Secondary:** Senior co-captain Brian Kampa (Sartell) brings the experience to the secondary. He played in 11 games last season and tallied 33 tackles. He had in interception and a fumble recovery. Junior Tyler Niedfeldt (Plymouth, Wisc.) and sophomore Tony Kubus (New Prague) provide some experience in the secondary. Niedfeldt had 20 tackles in nine games and an interception last season. Kubus had 16 tackles, having played in seven games.

**Corner:** According to Coach Underwood the Huskies are pretty young at the corner. Sophomores Marvin Mathews (Roseville), Matt Hansmans (Forest Lake) and Joe Everson (Lakeville) will be at the corners. Hansmann played some in the secondary last year and was on returns while Everson played some special teams a year ago. The coaching staff hopes that newcomer Wade Williams (Waupun, Wisc.) will get some snaps.

**Special Teams:** "We reload a little bit here," said Underwood. Four-year kicker and punter Brian Cristan has graduated. Junior Justin Delgado (Burlington, Wisc.) and sophomore Tyler Aldrich (Woodbury) will handle the kicking chores for the Huskies. Delgado was two for two on extra point attempts last year. Sophomore Matt Compton (Owatonna) is a transfer from the University of South Dakota who punted for the Huskies during the spring.

**Returns:** Fred Williams and Brandon Geiss are back on kick returns. Williams had 17 kick returns for 442 yards and one touchdown last season. Geiss ran back five returns for 110 yards. Tony Kubus and Matt Hansmann both did well last season on punt returns until getting hurt. Kubus had 20 returns for 199 yards and Hansmann ten returns for 139 yards.

According to Underwood the NSIC looks to be very strong and competitive in 2009. "Whoever can stay healthy and get off to a good start, can obviously do well." Underwood looks for Minnesota State, Minnesota Duluth, Augustana, Winona and Wayne State to be towards the top. However he cautions that anybody can beat anybody on any given day. "There is not any easy game," said Underwood.



*Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference*

### **NSIC Features Divisonal Play in Football**

With the expansion of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference to a 14-team league on July 1, 2008, the NSIC Football schedule will be broken into two seven-team divisions (North and South). Each team will play ten league games that will count towards the NSIC Overall Champion as well as six divisional games that will count towards the NSIC North/South Championship. In all, three championships will be awarded as an Overall Champion, North Division Champion and South Division Champion will be crowned. Of the 18 NSIC sports sponsored in 2008-09, football is the only one to have divisions.

#### **North Division**

Bemidji State,  
University of Mary  
Minnesota, Crookston  
Minnesota Duluth  
MSU Moorhead  
Northern State  
St. Cloud State

#### **South Division**

Augustana College  
Concordia University, St. Paul  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Southwest Minnesota State  
Upper Iowa  
Wayne State  
Winona State