

2011 Husky Football Outlook

The St. Cloud State football team is looking forward to the 2011 season after a very successful 2010 campaign in which the Huskies advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division II Football Playoffs. St. Cloud State played a school record 13 games, tied the school record with 10 wins, finished second in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) race and won a first round NCAA playoff game.

In 2011, St. Cloud State head coach Scott Underwood and his staff will build on the highlights of the past season. It won't be easy as the Huskies will have a difficult schedule starting with the season opener at California University of Pennsylvania which matches the #12 ranked (American Football Coaches Association Preseason Poll) Vulcans against the #13 ranked (AFCA poll) Huskies. The Vulcans were chosen as the preseason favorite to win the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) West in a vote of the league coaches. It is the sixth straight year that the Vulcans have been tabbed favorites. The Vulcans return 14 starters from last year's team that finished 10-2 and made a fourth straight NCAA Division II Football Playoff appearance.



Matt Theis

The Huskies' home opener is Sept. 10 at 6:00 p.m. against Concordia-St. Paul, a team receiving votes in the AFCA preseason poll. Two other Husky opponents this season, Winona State and Minnesota State University, Mankato also received votes in the poll. The University of Minnesota Duluth, the defending NCAA Division II Champion and the team that knocked St. Cloud State out of the 2010 playoffs will be at Husky Stadium on Oct. 29.

"Offensively we are excited about the group that we return," said Underwood. The Huskies lost

two starters in wide receiver Fred Williams who was a big part of the offense and offensive lineman Scott Ferguson. Williams was named to five All-American teams in 2010 and left the Huskies with seven receiving records that included single game, single season and career marks.

The Huskies return an offensive line that provided pass protection for quarterback Phillip Klaphake (Princeton) who began his assault on the St. Cloud State record book. The offense produced 423.6 yards per game in total offense including 227.9 yards in the air.



Scott Horvath

Several All-Conference players and seniors return on the offensive line. The returning starter at right tackle is senior, team captain and three-year starter Matt Theis (Eden Valley). Junior Andrew Anderson (Crookston) is expected to step in at left tackle after playing a back-up role to Scott Ferguson. Anderson has been in the system but hasn't seen a lot of playing time. "We hope that Andrew steps forward and provides us with the same type of stability and punch we had with Scott in there," said Underwood. Senior Scott Horvath (Eagan) is the returning starter at center. Senior Ben Larson (Eagan) is the returning starter at right guard and junior Andrew Beckmann (Waseca) is the returning starter at left guard.

At quarterback is the 2010 NSIC Offensive Newcomer of the Year Phillip Klaphake. As a redshirt first-year player last season, Klaphake threw for 2,918 yards and rushed for an additional 798



Phillip Klaphake

yards. He started all 13 games and rushed for 13 touchdowns and passed for 24 TDs. He set the single season record for total offense with 3,716 yards. "Phillip attracted a lot of attention last season and did a lot of great things running and throwing the ball," Underwood said. Underwood describes Klaphake, a team captain, as a good decision maker and athlete, and is hoping that he has an even better year than 2010. "All we are asking him to do is make progress in his second year at quarterback." At the number two position will be junior Brad Meade (Chippewa Falls, Wis.) who saw playing time in seven games last season .



Chad Peterson & Dante Steward

Senior running back Dante Steward (Milwaukee, Wis.) is back for his final year with the Huskies. Steward is a big, powerful back who ran well for the Huskies especially late in the season during the playoff run. Steward had 132 carries for 633 yards and six touchdowns in 2010. Sophomore Michael Walker (Walworth, Wis.) played as a freshman and the coaching staff is looking for him to progress as he gets more opportunities to carry the football. Last season, Walker had 34 carries for 177 yards and three touchdowns. Sophomores Chad Peterson (Spring Grove) and Damon Treat (Fairfield, Calif.) both had the opportunity to play last year due to the injury situation at running back.

"We have made adjustments to find ways to play a for us." Geiss Ill.) is an performer parts of seasons



Tyler Allery

Even

made adjustments for these guys lot of football Junior Brandon (Shorewood, All-Conference who has missed the last two due to injuries.

with the loss of

All-American wide receiver Fred Williams, the Huskies return a good deal of experience to the receiving corps. Junior Tyler Allery (Lakeville) and sophomore Eli Shoemaker (Graham, Wash.) are two receivers with experience at the position. Allery has been a steady performer for the Huskies and last season caught 27 passes for 419 yards and two touchdowns. Shoemaker had a good deal of playing time last season and the expectation is that he will get more time on the field in 2011. He caught 11 passes for 110 yards in 2010. Senior Tyler NuQuay (Champlin Park) returns and a healthy Renard Robinson (Bloomington) are among the other receivers the Huskies will be looking at for production.



Seth Noreen

"We hope that our experience will carry us at the tight end position this season," said Underwood. The Huskies have four tight ends with the ability to see significant playing time. Senior All-Conference player Nick Angellotti (Wauconda, Ill.) leads the returners with 13 catches for 172 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Seth Noreen (Avon) came on for the Huskies at the end of the season and according to Coach Underwood had a great off-season. "We are really looking forward to Seth having his best year as a senior." A couple of young players round out the position as sophomore Corey Henne (Brookfield, Wis.) and redshirt first-year Tony Schmitz (Sartell) return. Henne played in all 13 games last season and made great progress during spring football. Schmitz has a lot of ability and the coaches are looking for him to take a step forward in his growth at the position.

According to Underwood the Huskies have the potential to be a very strong defensive unit even after losing starters on the interior. The returning group brings a good deal of experience to the line. Returning to the front line are seniors Joel Godfredsen (Armstrong, Iowa) Adam Shaf-

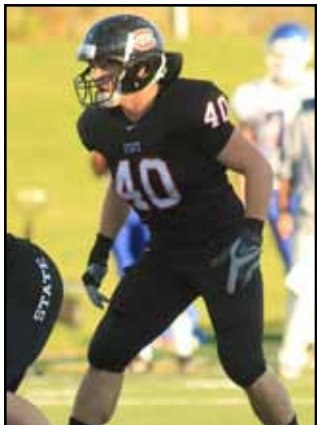
fer (Dubuque, Iowa) and Matt Schwartz (Forest Lake), juniors Chris Rupe (Batavia, Iowa) and Ross Kees (Eagan) and redshirt first-year Jeff Bias (Racine, Wis.). Senior Stefan Geissler (Cadott, Wis.) who made the move from running back to defensive end is expected to contribute on the line. Godfredsen notched eight tackles for loss and 3.5 quarterback sacks last season. "We lost some guys but I think we have some great additions at the positions and are more athletic than we have been," said Underwood.



Joel Godfredsen

Underwood feels that the Huskies are as deep as they have ever been since he arrived on campus

at linebacker especially at the inside position. The lead-off guy at inside linebacker is senior and team captain Thomas Gruis (Clear Lake, Iowa) with the most amount of experience. Senior Cody Kave (Waukesha, Wis.) and junior Thomas Johnson (Little Canada) bring additional experience and both have been starters.



Thomas Gruis

Sophomore Todd Bestgen (Rochester) had a great spring and is expected to do well in 2011. Seniors Chris Key (Libertyville, Ill) and Mark Martin (Milwaukee, Wis.) are among the returning players with experience. Martin was a starter at WILL last season and tallied 38 tackles.

The Husky coaching staff will be trying to find the right fit of players at the outside linebacker position. They will be looking at five positions in the secondary and zombie spots where the players are interchangeable. Senior captain and All-Conference player Tony Kubus (New Prague) is the Huskies leading tackler from a year ago. He

had a team high 85 tackles that included 8.5 tackles for loss, five fumble recoveries, four quarterback sacks, and three pass interceptions.



Tony Kubus

Senior Joe Everson (Lakeville), juniors Brad Wigness (Marshfield, Ill.) and Marvin Matthews (Roseville) and sophomore Rashad West (Woodbury) all return with playing experience in the secondary. Younger players with developing talent include redshirt first year players Kyle Risinger (Excelsior) and Josh Sanks (St. Augustine, Fla.), and sophomores Eric Poggenburg (Cedarburg, Wis.) and Jack Moro (Brookfield, Wis.).



Tyler Aldridge

The special teams unit is anchored by junior Tyler Aldridge (Woodbury) the returning kicker and punter. An All-Conference selection, Aldridge made nine of 15 field goal attempts, 55 of 56 PATs and averaged 37.8 yards a punt. Senior Matt Compton (Owatonna) battled an injury last season and could handle the punting duties. Three players have experi-

ence in long snapping duties including Noreen, Schwartz and Rupe. A group of healthy running backs along with West and Kubus can handle the returns.