



2014
CONCORDIA BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL
BITING
BACK





Concordia Bulldogs Football

#CUNEfootball

2014 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 at Sterling College 6 p.m.

2013 Record: 9-3



Sept. 13 *at Hastings College 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 2-8



Sept. 20 (Fan Appreciation) *Midland University 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 4-6



Sept. 27 Dakota State University 6 p.m.

2013 Record: 2-8



Oct. 4 (Homecoming) *Dordt College 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 2-9



Oct. 11 *at Nebraska Wesleyan University 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 6-4



Oct. 18 (Parent's Day) *Northwestern College 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 8-3



Oct. 25 *at Doane College 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 5-5



Nov. 1 *at Morningside College 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 11-2



Nov. 8 (Senior Day) *Dakota Wesleyan 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 8-3



Nov. 15 *at Briar Cliff University 1 p.m.

2013 Record: 4-7





ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: twitter.com/cunebulldogs
Facebook: facebook.com/concordiabulldogs
YouTube: youtube.com/concordiabulldogs

GENERAL INFORMATION

School: Concordia University, Nebraska
Location: Seward, Neb.
Address: 800 N Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434
Founded: 1894
Enrollment: 2,200
Nickname: Bulldogs
School Colors: Navy and White
Home Field: Bulldog Stadium
Seating Capacity: 2,500
Affiliation: NAIA
Conference: Great Plains Athletic Conference

President: Dr. Brian Friedrich
Director of Athletics: Devin Smith
Head Athletic Trainer: Randy Baack
Athletic Department Phone: (402) 643-7328

PROGRAM HISTORY

First Season: 1925
All-Time Overall Record: 326-373-25
All-Time GPAC Record: 55-76
Last Postseason Appearance: 2001
Winningest Coach: Courtney Meyer (70-115-1)
Number of Head Coaches: 9
Most Wins, Season: 2001 (10-2)
Undefeated Seasons: 3 (1931, 1944, 1945)

FOOTBALL STAFF

Head Coach: Vance Winter (6th season)
Alma Mater: Dakota State University
Coaching Record: 23-31 (All at Concordia)
Office Phone: (402) 643-7349

ASSISTANT COACHES:

Curran White, Asst. Head Coach/Off. Coordinator/O-Line
Patrick Daberkow - Def. Coordinator/Linebackers
Corby Osten - Special Teams/D-Line/JV Head Coach
Wade Halvorsen - Defensive Backs
Reggie Corbin - Wide Receivers
Harold Pester - Tight Ends
Karl Miller - Defensive Backs
Courtney Meyer - Kickers/Punters

Equipment & Operations Manager: Zach Fisher
Athletic Trainer: TJ Schmidt

2013 RESULTS

7-4 overall, 5-4 GPAC - T-5th

9/5	at William Jewell	W, 30-15
9/14	*Hastings	W, 26-21
9/21	*at Midland	W, 35-14
9/28	at Dakota State	W, 24-0
10/5	*at Dordt	W, 32-0
10/12	*Nebraska Wesleyan	W, 19-3
10/19	*at Northwestern	L, 28-30
10/26	*Doane	L, 7-28
11/2	*Morningside	L, 31-48
11/9	*at Dakota Wesleyan	L, 13-24
11/16	*Briar Cliff	W, 45-7

2013 IN THE NAIA RANKINGS

Week 1 (Sept. 16): RV
Week 2 (Sept. 23): 20th
Week 3 (Sept. 30): 17th
Week 4 (Oct. 7): 15th
Week 5 (Oct. 14): 14th
Week 6 (Oct. 21): 16th
Week 7 (Oct. 28): 25th
Week 8 (Nov. 4): RV



Bulldog Stadium



Bulldogs look to build on breakthrough 2013 season

In many ways 2013 represented a breakthrough campaign for Concordia football. In head coach Vance Winter's fifth season, the Bulldogs raced out to a 6-0 record and were ranked as high as No. 14 in the national poll. The team's 7-4 record marked the program's first winning season since sharing the GPAC title in 2001.

Concordia's first loss, a 30-28 classic at eventual playoff qualifier Northwestern, began a four-game skid and took it out of playoff contention in what was mostly a thrilling year. However, that period of frustration has Winter and company determined for better in 2014.

"We were all disappointed with some of the close losses we had last season, but we also know that for us taking the next step is a lot harder," Winter said. "There are enough steps and challenges going from being bad to OK, but taking the next step from being OK to being a playoff contender is difficult. That's our goal."

With 14 starters returning (eight offense, six defense), Concordia may be primed for even better in 2014.

Quarterbacks

Von Thomas, now with 23 career starts under his belt, is the unquestioned leader of the offense. In 2013 he set a program record for total offense in a single season and has piled up nearly 5,000 total yards in his two seasons as the starting quarterback. His most impressive traits, according to Winter, are his leadership qualities.

"I'm more impressed and more proud of him for an outside-of-football maturation standpoint," Winter said. "He's grown as a person. The talent's always been there. You never know how a guy's going to perform under pressure situations. He shows toughness, work ethic – all those characteristics."

There is competition behind Thomas. Junior Garrett Folchert held down the No. 2 spot on the depth chart throughout the 2013 campaign but he'll have young quarterbacks like redshirt freshman T.J. Austin nipping at his heels.

Running backs

There's much more certainty at the running back position than at this time a year ago. The sophomore duo of Trey Barnes (464 rush yards, seven touchdowns) and Bryce Collins (704 rush yards, 11 touchdowns) combined for 1,168 yards and 18 touchdowns on the ground last season. The two rookie backs were a big reason why Concordia possessed the ball for nearly 35 minutes per game in 2013.

"They've both (Bryce Collins and Trey Barnes) had a great offseason and worked very hard," Winter said. "Bryce has



Von Thomas

put on some weight and is really explosive in the weight room, doing some great things out here every week. Trey is also continuing to gain size and strength."

Sophomore Demarques Saulberry of Beamont, Texas, could also see carries in a deep backfield. Saulberry caught Winter's attention with a big spring performance. At fullback, the Bulldogs have starter Jerad Leifeld back.

Receivers

With three of four players listed at flanker or split end from last year's final two deep having moved on, there are plenty of opportunities for newcomers in the competition to catch passes from Thomas. Among holdovers, junior Riley Herren of Lone Tree, Colo., popped in the spring and may have the inside track on one starting spot. Winter and his staff are also excited about several freshmen who will be counted on to make early impacts.

"There's some talent in that group," Winter said. "The thing is we're going to be young and inexperienced there. We lost Jeff Balz and Derek Klaus who were mainstays for us the past two years at receiver. I'm excited to see some of the guys step up that went through this spring."

Tight Ends

The tight position is in good hands with junior Josh Slechta, who recorded career highs with 23 catches for 322 yards in



2013.

"Slechta going into his junior year we expect him to really come into his own and be the consistently dominant player he can be," Winter said. "All the tools are there and he's shown a lot of great things. We're really excited about him becoming a dominant player."

Offensive Line

The offensive line returns almost entirely intact with only honorable mention all-GPAC center Dylan Klassen departing. The unit will be anchored by senior right guard Josh Powell, a second team all-conference pick in 2013. He'll see familiar faces around him in left tackle Glennon Manning, left guard Ben Baldur, center Adam Aschenbrenner (three starts in 2013) and right tackle Sawyer Birtell. Winter and the staff like the progress of the sophomore Birtell, who has ideal size at 6-6, 300 pounds.

"We were pleased with those guys in the spring," Winter said. "I think we've got a group that's physical and continues to get better. It's not very often you get a chance to grow and play in a couple-year period with a group of guys. They had a good spring."

Defensive Line

An experienced defensive line, including senior stalwarts Alex Melius and Kyle Rakow, figures to be the anchor of another strong defensive unit. Junior Michael Gill (7.5 tackles for loss, three sacks) is an emerging star who will make life tough on opposing offensive lines. There's also huge sophomore Ronald Jackson, who is a space-eating nose guard. This group figures to be stout against the run. Winter hopes it can also put more pressure on the quarterback.

"That's a group that could be very good," Winter said. "It's a physical group. I think Michael Gill has a chance to be really, really good. He's a very strong explosive guy. Kyle and Alex have played a lot of football. I'd like to see both of those guys step up and make more plays rushing the passer and get a few more sacks."

Linebackers

The linebacker spot will see the most transition with first team all-conference standout Langston Jones having graduated and Drew Baxter moving back to his more natural safety spot. The only starter remaining is Nakemm Evans, who coaches hope is ready for a breakout season. One of the stars of the spring was senior Michael Carroll, who now has his opportunity to grab the spotlight after serving as a backup to Jones in 2013. Newcomers could also see time in coordinator Patrick Daberkow's 3-4 scheme.

"I was pleased with how they played in the spring," Winter said. "It was one of those areas where we had some question marks going into the spring but if those guys continue to improve at the rate they did in the spring, we're going to be fine. I think Nakemm coming back more experienced

and having a defined role – I think he's going to have a good year. I thought Michael Carroll was one of our best players in the spring."

Secondary

Despite the losses of GPAC Defensive Player of the Year Darnell Woods at safety and all-conference corner Derek Blessing, the Bulldogs feel good about a secondary that last season led the NAIA in fewest passing yards allowed per game. Junior Tait Sibbel (team high five INTs in 2013) enters his third year as a starter at safety and is joined by Baxter, who converts back to the position he played prior to 2013. Senior Landon Oelke has starting experience and can play either corner or safety. Sophomore Matt Keener (2 INTs, 1 TD) could lock down another corner spot. Adam Vogt, a four-year member of the Concordia basketball team, has joined the football squad and also figures to be right in the mix at corner.

"Those two guys give you a lot of confidence back there," Winter said of Baxter and Sibbel. "They're going to do the right thing, get our defense lined up right, communicate well and be physical guys in the back end. Landon Oelke has been our junkyard dog. He's just a really good football player. We feel comfortable lining him at a lot of spots."

Specialists

Second team all-conference junior kicker Adam Meirose is the only returner among a group that has been a big part of Concordia's improvement over the past few seasons. The Bulldogs will break in a new punter with the graduation of Joe Marshall. They also must replace electrifying return man Derek Blessing. There are a host of players in the running such as Trey Barnes, Bryce Collins, Eddie Narvaez, Adam Vogt and incoming freshman Jordan Slough, a Nebraska Shrine Bowl participant.



Michael Gill



COACHING EXPERIENCE

Concordia University

Head Coach, 2009 - present

Defensive Coordinator, 2007-08

Linebackers, 2005-06

Peru State College

Defensive Coordinator/LBs, 2004

Wayne State College

Linebackers, 2002-03

Dakota State University

Running Backs, 2000-01

EDUCATION

Dakota State University

Bachelor's in Physical Ed, 2002
(Minor in History)

Wayne State College

Master's in Sport Management, 2004

HOMETOWN

Miller, S.D.

FAMILY

Wife: Tanya

Children: Jackson & Clara

COACHING RECORD

2009: 3-7 overall, 3-7 GPAC

2010: 4-7 overall, 3-7 GPAC

2011: 4-7 overall, 3-6 GPAC

2012: 5-6 overall, 4-5 GPAC

2013: 7-4 overall, 5-4 GPAC

TOTAL: 23-31 overall, 18-29 GPAC

CAREER INFLUENCES

- Parents
- College head coach Scott Hoffman (Dakota State)
- College DC Monty Roe
- Courtney Meyer (Concordia football HC 1990 - 2008)

FAVORITE PRO TEAMS

Minnesota Twins

Minnesota Vikings



BIO

Vance Winter completed his fifth season as head football coach at Concordia University in 2013. He was named to his current post in December of 2008. He owns a career record of 23-31 overall and 18-29 in GPAC action in his five seasons as head coach of the Bulldogs.

Since his promotion to head coach, Winter has progressively built up the program into a playoff contender. In 2013 the Bulldogs began the season at 6-0 and rose as high as No. 14 in the national rankings. Concordia finished 7-4, marking the program's first winning season since 2001.

Over the last 19 games, Winter has guided Bulldog football to a record of 12-7. Included in that stretch was a momentum-building upset of No. 11 Northwestern on Oct. 13, 2012. Then on Oct. 12, 2013, the Bulldogs took down No. 22 Nebraska Wesleyan, 19-3, in the NAIA Game of the Week. Concordia completed 2013 with a record of 3-1 against its GPAC Nebraska rivals.

Winter is the ninth head coach in the university's nearly 90 years of football history. He was promoted from within, having served previously on the Bulldog staff for two years as the defensive coordinator and two years as the linebackers' coach.

During his coaching career, Winter has made stops at Peru State College (defensive coordinator, linebackers 2004-05), Wayne State College (linebackers 2002-04), and Dakota State University (running backs 2000-01).

Winter was a four-year letter winner while playing middle linebacker for Dakota State University. A team captain in 1999, Winter was a two-time honorable mention all-conference linebacker for the Trojans and the team's leading tackler in 1998 and 1999.

Winter earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Dakota State University in 2002 and a master's degree in sport management from Wayne State in 2004. Winter lives in Seward, Neb., with his wife Tanya, son Jackson and daughter Clara.



CURRAN WHITE, Assistant Head Coach/Off. Coordinator

Curran White completed his second season as the Bulldogs' assistant head coach/offensive coordinator in 2013.

Under White's direction, the offense has improved steadily in both seasons. The Bulldog attack went from an average of 16.7 points per game and 249.5 yards per game in 2011 (prior to White's arrival) to 24.0 points and 306.5 yards per contest in 2012. In 2013 Concordia made another leap, averaging 26.4 points and 360.0 yards per game.

Under White's tutelage, playmaking quarterback Von Thomas has blossomed. The junior signal caller has piled up 4,808 yards of total offense over the past two seasons. Thomas broke single-season school records for total offense (2,508 yards), completions (197), pass attempts (334) and completion percentage (59.0).

White came to Concordia after spending seven seasons as the offensive line coach/run game coordinator at Missouri Valley College (MVC). Prior to that, coach White spent four seasons at Wayne State College, first as graduate assistant (2001-02), then as an assistant coach (2003-05).

PATRICK DABERKOW, Def. Coordinator, Linebackers

Patrick Daberkow completed his seventh year with the Bulldogs in 2013. He spent three seasons as the secondary coach and has spent four years as defensive coordinator for the Bulldogs. Daberkow is also the football program's recruiting coordinator and works with the linebackers.

The 2013 Concordia defense reached impressive heights under Daberkow's direction. 2013 GPAC Defensive Player of the Year Darnell Woods led a unit that ranked No. 1 in the NAIA in pass defense (134.7), No. 5 in total defense (285.5) and No. 5 in scoring defense (17.3). Woods joined defensive lineman Dylan Heithoff and Linebacker Langston Jones with first team all-GPAC honors. Safety Tait Sibbel received second team recognition.

In Daberkow's four years as defensive coordinator, Concordia has produced a total of 13 first or second team defensive selections. Woods became the school's first ever GPAC Defensive Player of the Year.

In 2012, the Concordia defense limited opponents to 22.6 points per game (33rd in the NAIA) and a respectable 356.3 yards per game while forcing 23 turnovers on the season. Woods emerged as a star, picking off five passes and earning first team all-conference honors.



CORBY OSTEN, Special Teams, D-Line, JV Head Coach

Corby Osten finished his sixth season as an assistant coach with the Concordia University football program in 2013. Osten, a native of Columbus, Neb., is the special teams coordinator and defensive line coach for the varsity squad. He is also head coach for the junior varsity team at Concordia.

Osten led a Concordia special teams unit that ranked among the nation's best in 2012. The Bulldogs' Derek Blessing led the NAIA with 388 punt return yards and three punt return touchdowns and kicker Kenny Zoeller racked up the second most field goals nationally with 15. As a team, Concordia ranked fourth in the NAIA in average yards per punt return (16.6) and 11th in average yards per kick return (22.9).

The 2013 unit came through with solid contributions once again. Blessing received first team all-conference honors as a kick and punt returner and sophomore kicker Adam Meirose replaced Zoeller and earned second team all-GPAC honors.





2014 ROSTER

Concordia Bulldogs Football | 2014

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Hometown
1	Sandy Fisher	DB	Jr.	Lakewood, Colo.
2	Nakemmm Evans	LB	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
2	Brett James	WR	RS-Fr.	Kearney, Neb.
3	Matt Keener	DB	So.	El Segundo, Calif.
3	Demetrius Hood	WR	Fr. RS	Leander, Texas
4	Adam Vogt	DB	Sr.	Syracuse, Neb.
5	Adam Meirose	K	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb.
6	Jared Garcia	WR	RS-Fr.	Humble, Texas
6	Michael Hedlund	DB	So.	O'Neill, Neb.
7	Zach Moje	WR	RS-So.	Pilger, Neb.
8	Eddie Narvaez	DB	So.	Panorama City, Calif.
8	DeMarques Saulberry	RB	So.	Beaumont, Texas
9	Bryce Collins	RB	So.	Boerne, Texas
10	Von Thomas	QB	RS-Sr.	Miami, Fla.
11	TJ Austin	QB	RS-Fr.	Angleton, Texas
12	Justin Haun	WR	RS-Jr.	Fenton, Mo.
13	Brandon Namuth	DB	Jr.	Lewellen, Neb.
13	Davon Hodge	QB	RS-So.	Dallas, Texas
14	Chase Murman	QB	RS-So.	Glenvil, Neb.
15	Chase Gonzalez	QB	RS-Fr.	Denair, Calif.
16	Garrett Folchert	QB	Jr.	Ogallala, Neb.
17	Jonathan Foster	RB	So.	Concordia, Mo.
18	James Ferguson	RB	Sr.	Columbus, Neb.
19	Creighton Pearse	QB	Jr.	Kearney, Neb.
23	Mark Bender	DB	So.	Humphrey, Neb.
25	Landon Oelke	DB	Sr.	Dalhart, Texas
26	Caleb Wehling	DB	So.	Liberal, Kan.
29	Tait Sibbel	DB	Jr.	O'Neill, Neb.
30	Collin Christiansen	DL	Sr.	Palmer, Alaska
31	Jerad Leifeld	RB	RS-So.	Humphrey, Neb.
33	Drew Baxter	DB	RS-Sr.	Rockwall, Texas
33	Landon Stouffer	RB	So.	David City, Neb.
34	Trey Barnes	RB	So.	Seward, Neb.
35	Devin Elley	RB	Sr.	Hastings, Neb.
36	Mark-Andrew Reynolds	RB	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
37	Clay Mauro	LB	Jr.	Ely, Nev.
39	Christopher Hendricks	DB	So.	Cedar Park, Texas
41	Michael Carroll	LB	Sr.	Aliso Viejo, Calif.
44	Joseph Scott	LB	So.	Highland, Calif.
45	Geoff Kleinschmit	LB	Sr.	St Helena, Neb.
46	Brennan Talcott	LB	Sr.	Pheonix, Ariz.
47	Josh Slechta	TE	Jr.	Kennard, Neb.
49	Seth Fitzke	TE	So.	Seward, Neb.
50	Josh Powell	OL	RS-Sr.	Kenesaw, Neb.
53	Adam Aschenbrenner	OL	Sr.	Malcolm, Neb.
53	Dakota Coon	LB	RS-So.	North Platte, Neb.
54	Lane Johnson	OL	So.	Stilwell, Okla.
55	Colin Elley	DL	Sr.	Hastings, Neb.
58	Patrick Skwara	LB	So.	Boerne, Texas
60	Seth Schlenger	LS	Jr.	Colorado Springs, Colo.
60	Corey Washington	OL	RS-Fr.	Houston, Texas
61	Trey Anderson	OL	So.	Lincoln, Neb.
61	Dylan Pierquin	DL	RS-Fr.	Antwerp, Belgium
62	Hallick Lehmann	OL	So.	Albion, Neb.
65	Keddrick Fuselier	OL	So.	Humble, Texas
66	Andrew Crist	OL	So.	Springfield, Mo.
67	Austin Faulstich	OL	Sr.	Sedalia, Mo.
68	Glennon Manninger	OL	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
69	Justin Kathman	OL	Sr.	Juniata, Neb.
70	Sawyer Birtell	OL	Jr.	Madison, Neb.
72	Theo Sheridan	OL	RS-Jr.	Long Beach, Calif.
74	Brian Gorman	OL	Jr.	Colorado Springs, Colo.
75	Ben Balduc	OL	Jr.	Roanoke, Texas
76	Darvin Woods	OL	Jr.	Phoenix, Ariz.
78	Aaron Watson	OL	So.	Mims, Fla.
79	Jose Garcia	DL	So.	Brule, Neb.
80	Mitch Kreifels	WR	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
81	Riley Herren	WR	Jr.	Lone Tree, Colo.
82	Trent Good	WR	RS-Jr.	Gothenburg, Neb.
83	Cameron Christiansen	TE	So.	Palmer, Alaska
84	Nathan Scoggins	WR	So.	Prosper, Texas
85	Brandon Luetchens	WR	So.	Murdock, Neb.





2014 ROSTER

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86	DeMarcus	Hollier	WR	So.	Houston, Texas
88	Cody	Eitzmann	WR	RS-Jr.	Hardy, Neb.
89	Clinton	Gardels	TE	So.	Wilcox, Neb.
91	Kinser	Gergen	LB	So.	Geneva, Neb.
92	Dylan	Helberg	TE	Jr.	McCook, Neb.
93	Ronald	Jackson	DL	So.	Houston, Texas
95	Michael	Winckler	DL	So.	Fremont, Neb.
96	Michael	Gill	DL	Jr.	Ogallala, Neb.
97	Kyle	Rakow	DL	Sr.	Pleasant Dale, Neb.
98	Alex	Melius	DL	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.
99	Nolan	Schroeder	DL	So.	Davenport, Neb.
Fr.	Wendell	Adams		Fr.	Spring, Texas
Fr.	Jacob	Bierbaum		Fr.	Seward, Neb.
Fr.	Kiyoshi	Brey		Fr.	Winchester, Calif.
Fr.	Benjamin	Browne		Fr.	Billings, Mont.
Fr.	Shannon	Canty		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Matthew	Chilman		Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev.
Fr.	Rosten	Coon		Fr.	Casa Grande, Ariz.
Fr.	Caleb	Daniels		Fr.	Leander, Texas
Fr.	Josh	Davis		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Michael	Deaver		Fr.	Sidney, Neb.
Fr.	Jacob	Deaville		Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev.
Fr.	Benjamin	Deis		Fr.	Fountain, Colo.
Fr.	Josh	Eckhoff		Fr.	East Peoria, Ill.
Fr.	Kelby	Feddern		Fr.	Atkinson, Neb.
Fr.	Sebastian	Garces		Fr.	Boerne, Texas
Fr.	Grady	Gardner		Fr.	Grand Island, Neb.
Fr.	Derek	Gentrup		Fr.	Albion, Neb.
Fr.	Jeffrey	Glines		Fr.	Taylor Ridge, Ill.
Fr.	Charles	Greene		Fr.	Columbia, S.C.
Fr.	Khaleeq	Griffin		Fr.	Houston, Texas
Fr.	Erik	Hansen		Fr.	Wichita, Kan.
Fr.	Carey	Harrison		Fr.	Winchester, Calif.
Fr.	Parker	Hasenkamp		Fr.	Hiawatha, Kan.
Fr.	Christopher	Hurley		Fr.	Seward, Neb.
Fr.	Zachary	Jackson		Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Fr.	Darick	Jones		Fr.	Clearwater, Kan.
Fr.	Grady	Koch		Fr.	Doniphan, Neb.
Fr.	Jacob	Lodwig		Fr.	Lakewood, Colo.
Fr.	D'Mauria	Martin		Fr.	Converse, Texas
Fr.	Ryan	Maser		Fr.	Little Canada, Minn.
Fr.	Drake	Moore		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Greg	Moore		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Jorge	Nicasio		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Sam	Noonan		Fr.	Eagle, Neb.
Fr.	Chris	Osborn		Fr.	Hamburg, Iowa
Fr.	Logan	Otte		Fr.	Katy, Texas
Fr.	Malik	Palmore		Fr.	Sierra Vista, Ariz.
Fr.	J.R.	Rascon		Fr.	Tucson, Ariz.
Fr.	Austin	Reese		Fr.	Melissa, Texas
Fr.	Louvell	Rogers II		Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Fr.	Shane	Scott		Fr.	Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
Fr.	Wade	Scripter		Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Fr.	Jordan	Slough		Fr.	Doniphan, Neb.
Fr.	Clavacia	Smith		Fr.	Los Angeles, Calif.
Fr.	Patrick	Spicer		Fr.	Johnson Lake, Neb.
Fr.	Kolton	Stone		Fr.	McCook, Neb.
Fr.	Caleb	Stults		Fr.	Littleton, Colo.
Fr.	Garrison	Swain		Fr.	Sarasota, Fla.
Fr.	George	Swain		Fr.	Sarasota, Fla.
Fr.	Justus	Thompson		Fr.	Parker, Colo.
Fr.	Arthur	Tuason		Fr.	Norco, Calif.
Fr.	Ryland	Weeks		Fr.	Pearland, Texas
Fr.	Riley	Wiltfong		Fr.	Doniphan, Neb.
RS	William	Richardson		Fr.	San Antonio, Texas
RS	Justin	Snow		Fr.	Cypress, Texas
RS	Michael	Grau		Jr.	Lawton
TR	Christopher	Miller		RS-So.	Hopkins, S.C.
TR	Aivery	Scheffer		RS-Fr.	Cedar Park, Texas
TR	Mario	Thomas		RS-Fr.	Pearland, Texas



Starters Returning - Offense: 8; Defense: 6; Special Teams: 1

OFFENSE

DEFENSE



Trey Barnes • RB • So.
6-1 • 215 • Seward, Neb.
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 136 carries, 464
yards, 7 TDs.



Drew Baxter • S • Sr.
6-0 • 210 • Rockwall, Texas
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 42 tackles (3.5 for
loss), 4 PBU's in 11 starts.



Bryce Collins • RB • So.
5-9 • 205 • Boerne, Texas
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 181 carries, 704
yards, 11 TDs



Nakemm Evans • LB • Sr.
6-2 • 245 • Lincoln, Neb.
2013: 35 tackles (5.5 for
loss), 2 PBU's in 9 games.



Adam Meirose • K • Jr.
5-10 • 190 • Lincoln, Neb.
2013: Second Team All-
GPAC; 9/13 FGs (Long 37),
31/33 PATs, 58 points.



Michael Gill • DL • Jr.
6-0 • 265 • Ogallala, Neb.
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 49 tackles (7.5 for
loss), 3 sacks.



Josh Powell • OL • Sr.
6-0 • 270 • Kennesaw, Neb.
2013: Second Team All-
GPAC.



Landon Oelke • CB • Sr.
6-0 • 190 • Dalhart, Texas
2013: 39 tackles, 3 PBU's.



Josh Slechta • TE • Jr.
6-5 • 250 • Kennard, Neb.
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 23 catches, 322
yards, 1 TD.



Kyle Rakow • DL • Sr.
6-3 • 250 • Pleasant Dale, Neb.
2013: 29 tackles (4.0 for
loss), 1 sack, 3 PBU's.



Von Thomas • QB • Sr.
6-2 • 190 • Miami, Fla.
2013: Honorable Mention
All-GPAC; 1,947 pass yards,
13-8 TD-INT ratio, 59%
comp., 561 rush yards, 3
rush TDs.



Tait Sibbel • S • Jr.
6-2 • 205 • O'Neill, Neb.
2013: Second Team All-
GPAC; 54 tackles (1.5 for
loss), team high 4 INTs, 2
PBU's.

KEY LOSSES: CB/KR/PR **Derek Blessing** (First Team All-GPAC), DL **Dylan Heithoff** (First Team All-Conference), LB **Langston Jones** (First Team All-Conference), OL **Dylan Klassen** (Honorable Mention All-Conference), LB **Colton Schneider** (Honorable Mention All-Conference), DB **Darnell Woods** (First Team All-America; GPAC Defensive Player of the Year; First Team All-Conference).



2013 HONOR ROLL

Concordia Bulldogs Football | 2014

TREY BARNES

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

DREW BAXTER

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

DEREK BLESSING

- First Team All-GPAC (KR/PR)
- Honorable Mention All-GPAC (DB)
- GPAC Defensive POW (Oct. 14)
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska (KR)
- Beyond Sports Network Preseason First Team All-America

MITCHELL CHERNEY

- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete

BRYCE COLLINS

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

CHEVARIUS CURRY-FELIX

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

COLIN ELLEY

- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete

DEVIN ELLEY

- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete

MICHAEL GILL

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Ne-

braska Honorable Mention

CODY HAWK

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

DYLAN HEITHOFF

- First Team All-GPAC
- 2013 Capital One Academic All-District® 3
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska
- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete

LANGSTON JONES

- First Team All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska

DYLAN KLASSEN

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

ADAM MEIROSE

- Second Team All-GPAC

JOEL NEWTON

- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete

JOSH POWELL

- Second Team All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska Honorable Mention

COLTON SCHNEIDER



Josh Slechta

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC

TAIT SIBBEL

- Second Team All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska Honorable Mention

JOSH SLECHTA

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska Honorable Mention

VON THOMAS

- Honorable Mention All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska

DARNELL WOODS

- AFCA-NAIA First Team All-America
- GPAC Defensive Player of the Year
- First Team All-GPAC
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-NE Defensive Honorary Captain
- Omaha World-Herald NAIA All-Nebraska
- Beyond Sports Network First Team All-America
- Beyond Sports Network Preseason Honorable Mention All-America
- D2 vs. NAIA Challenge participant

SPENCER ZYSSET

- Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete



Darnell Woods



Biting back: the rebuild of Bulldog football

By Jake Knabel, Director of Athletic Communications

NOTE: The following feature first appeared in Concordia University's winter edition of the Broadcaster.

Fifth-year Concordia head football coach Vance Winter stood before the Bulldog Booster Club gathering the Tuesday following the conclusion of the 2013 season unfulfilled and unsatisfied – albeit for much different reasons than the ones that caused feelings of emptiness after the 2008 campaign. “I’m not ready for it to be over,” Winter said just a few days after pummeling Briar Cliff to close the 2013 year with a 7-4 record.

The disappointment set in because Concordia came up, in all likelihood, two wins and perhaps just a few plays short of securing its first appearance in the NAIA playoffs since 2001. But proper reflection yields the realization of just how far the program has come since Winter received the promotion to head coach prior to the 2009 season.

At that time Concordia was coming off a rough 1-9 season – the last under 19-year head coach Courtney Meyer (the program's winningest coach). Winter, a four-year assistant under Meyer, understood that the program would have to endure additional growing pains when he officially took over on Dec. 16, 2008.

“We knew it would take a little time because we were a long ways from competitive in 2008,” Winter said. “We were obviously hopeful that (the turnaround) would happen sooner. I was a part of that 2008 season as defensive coordinator and I knew firsthand how far we had to go to become a competitive program.”

Since going 11-24 in his first 35 games as head coach, Winter and the Bulldogs are 12-7 over their last 19 games. This season they raced out to a 6-0 start and peaked as high as No. 14 in the NAIA coaches' poll. Five years after being regularly stomped on by the big boys of the conference, the Bulldogs were biting back and sat tied atop the league standings.

“This was a very long and slow process, and credit for this year's team can be given to players and coaches as far back as 2010,” said senior defensive lineman Dylan Heithoff. “I would say the two main reasons for Concordia's rise is the change in attitude and work ethic that was instilled by the players and coaches when we entered the

program in 2010, and the level of talent that the coaches have been able to recruit over the past four years.” The plan Winter and his staff had laid out prior the 2009 season had come to fruition. They had been successful in pulling in recruits who were eager to work hard and ready to buy in.

“We have been very intentional since the start in creating a culture of family, accountability, unselfishness and work ethic,” Winter said. “These four things have been the staple of our program every season since we started in 2009 and are just as significant in our program now. As our overall team depth and talent has improved the wins and the competitiveness of our program has also improved, but we are a family first and foremost.”

Of course, putting a plan into thought or writing is one thing – putting that plan into action is another. Winter had been given the controls of a team that lost many games by lopsided tallies in 2008. These scores weren't lost on opposing coaches who went up against Concordia in recruiting battles.

In his honesty, Winter admits that talented recruits were going to have to take a leap of faith and look past those struggles. That did not stop him from making a push for talented, high-character young men from far and wide.

One of the team's most important recruits in recent seasons hails from The Sunshine State.

“During my recruitment process I didn't really care about the team's previous records,” said junior quarterback Von Thomas. “I wanted to meet the coaching staff. We stayed in contact for a while which was a good thing. It showed that they were interested as much as I was. Our coaches were very approachable. They made me feel welcome on my visit which is hard for someone from Miami to adapt to.”

There have also been plenty of key





additions from within the state, such as Heithoff (Elgin, Neb.), electrifying returner Derek Blessing (Ogallala, Neb.), offensive lineman Josh Powell (Kennesaw, Neb.) and tight end Josh Slechta (Kennard, Neb.).

The likes of Blessing and Heithoff saw past the won-lost records. Something special was being constructed.

"We all knew that the football team was struggling and was in a rough place," Heithoff said. "But Coach Winter remained optimistic, claiming that the only way to go was up and that big changes were being made during the season and offseason. The positive energy from all of the coaches was contagious, which allowed me to become sold on the direction of the football program."

Concordia saw immediate, but gradual progress in its results on the field. Winter's first team (2009) went 3-7, followed by records of 4-7, 4-7, 5-6 and 7-4 in 2013. The major turning point seemed to come on Oct.

"I don't think there's any doubt about where we're going."

-Head coach Vance Winter

13, 2012, when Concordia upset then No. 11 Northwestern, 17-16, on homecoming in Seward for the team's fourth-straight win.

The momentum spilled over into 2013 with the Bulldogs bursting onto the national scene. They hosted an NAIA national game of the week, garnered the GPAC's Defensive Player of the Year (Darnell Woods) and brought back memories of the glorious 2001 season.

"They bought into the challenge of turning a program around and making a difference," Winter said of his 2013 seniors. "We sold these guys on the quality of the education, the special campus community that Concordia is, and the opportunity to turn a program around. I am grateful to each and every one of them for their commitment and loyalty throughout the process because there have been moments of doubt."

Doubt no more. Concordia football is back.

Said Winter at that same Tuesday booster club outing, "I don't think there's any doubt about where we're going."





INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

RUSHING

Yards, Season

1,265 - JaMaine Lewis (2007)

Yards, Career

3,658 - Cleve Wester (1982-85)

Touchdowns, Season

13 - Cleve Wester (1984)

PASSING

Yards, Season

2,150 - Jarrod Pimentel (2001)

Yards, Career

6,435 - Jarrod Pimentel (1998-2001)

Touchdowns, Season

17 - Rod Giesselman (1970)

Touchdowns, Career

49 - Jarrod Pimentel (1998-2001)

RECEIVING

Pass Receptions, Season

62 - Eric Pralle (1990)

Pass Receptions, Career

168 - Ross Wurdeman (1998-2001)

Yards, Season

951 - Clarence Woods (1988)

Yards, Career

2,458 - Ross Wurdeman (1998-2001)

Touchdowns, Season

10 - Brian Naber (1970)

Touchdowns, Career

24 - Ross Wurdeman (1998-2001)

Courtney Meyer



WINNINGEST SEASONS

2001 -- 10-2, .833 (Courtney Meyer)

1981 -- 9-1, .900 (Larry Oetting)

1944 -- 8-0, 1.000 (Herb Meyer)

1954 -- 8-1, .889 (Herb Meyer)

1970 -- 8-1, .889 (John Seevers)

1931 -- 7-0, 1.000 (Walter Hellwege)

1960 -- 7-1, .875 (Ralph Starenko)

1953 -- 7-1-1, .833 (Herb Meyer)

1954 -- 7-1-1, .833 (Herb Meyer)

1949 -- 7-1-1, .833 (Herb Meyer)

1972 -- 7-2, .778 (John Seevers)

1962 -- 7-2, .778 (Ralph Starenko)

1983 -- 7-3, .700 (Larry Oetting)

1982 -- 7-3, .700 (Larry Oetting)

1979 -- 7-3, .700 (Larry Oetting)

2013 -- 7-4, .636 (Vance Winter)

2000 -- 7-4, .636 (Courtney Meyer)

*1945 team went 6-0 for coach Herb Meyer

ALL-TIME COACHING RECORDS

70-115-1 -- Courtney Meyer (1990-2008)

63-64-1 -- Larry Oetting (1977-89)

62-34-8 -- Herb Meyer (1941-54)

40-32-9 -- Walter Hellwege (1925-40)

31-32-3 -- John Seevers (1970-76)

27-17 -- Ralph Starenko (1959-63)

25-27-3 -- Ronald Harms (1964-69)

23-31 -- Vance Winter (2009--)

11-21 -- Kenneth Schroeder (1955-58)





2013 STATISTICS

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RUSHING	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
Bryce Collins	11	181	704	3.9	11	27	64.0
Von Thomas	11	132	561	4.2	3	30	51.0
Trey Barnes	11	136	464	3.4	7	30	42.2
Mitch Reed	5	31	165	5.3	1	30	33.0
Luke Glenn	3	17	62	3.6	0	14	20.7
Jeff Balz	9	4	57	14.2	2	18	6.3

PASSING	G	Effic	Att	Comp	Int	%	Yds	TD	Long	Avg/G
Von Thomas	11	116	334	197	8	59.0	1947	13	36	177

RECEIVING	G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Curry-Felix	11	36	392	10.9	5	34	35.6
Derek Klaus	11	29	249	8.6	0	30	22.6
Josh Slechta	9	23	322	14.0	1	31	35.8
Brian Serra	10	22	258	11.7	1	35	25.8
Jeff Balz	9	21	188	9.0	3	32	20.9
Deshawn Eure	9	14	149	10.6	0	36	16.6
Bryce Collins	11	14	83	5.9	0	15	7.5
Trey Barnes	11	13	111	8.5	0	24	10.1
Jerad Liefeld	10	12	92	7.7	2	24	9.2
Jordan Larrington	7	9	80	8.9	1	23	11.4

FIELD GOALS	FGs	Long	PATs	Points
Adam Meirose	9/13	37	31/33	58

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	Blkd
Joe Marshall	44	1620	36.8	58	0	3	14	0
Geoff Kleinschmit	6	224	37.3	58	1	1	2	0

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Derek Blessing	22	276	12.5	0	38

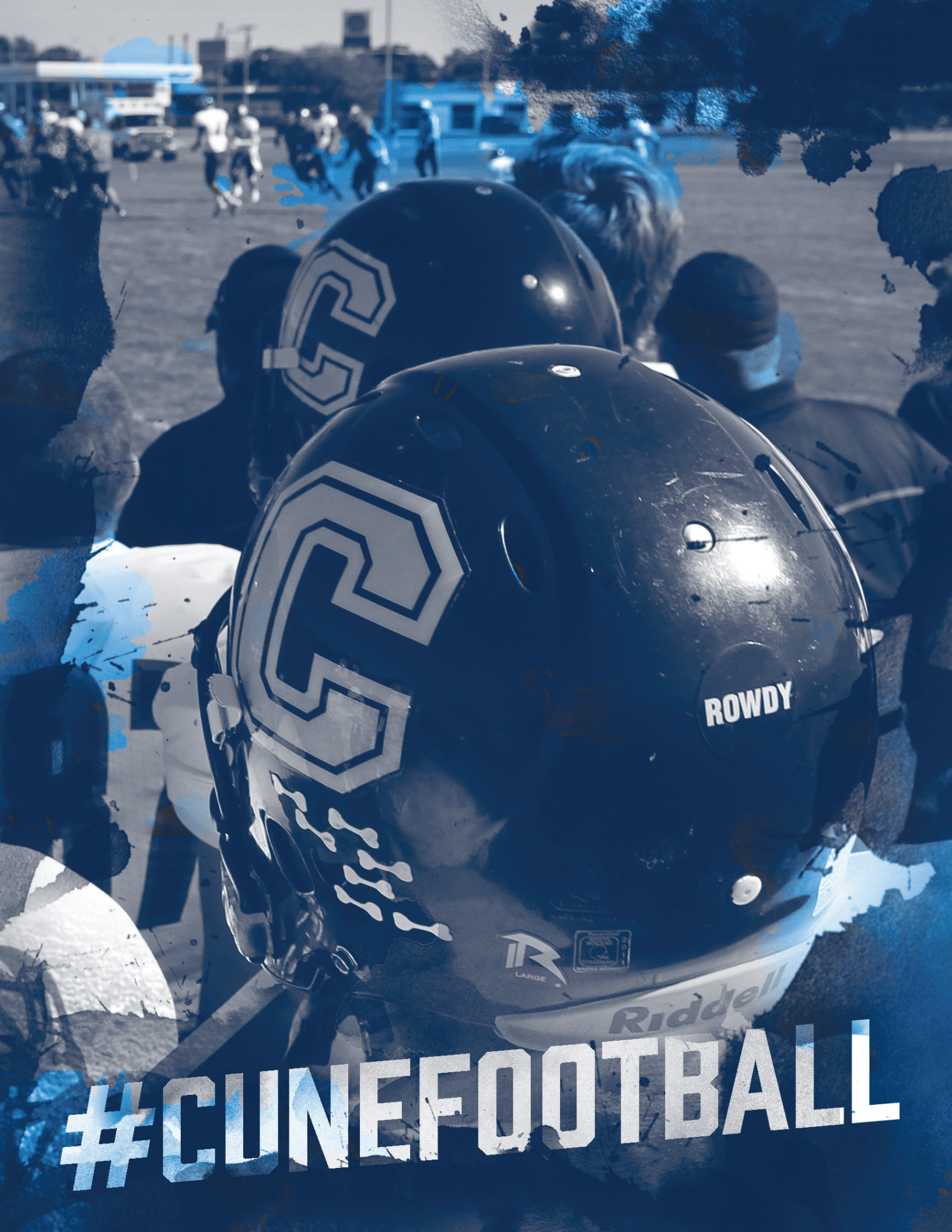
KICK RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Derek Blessing	18	403	22.4	0	85
Hunter King	9	138	15.3	0	22

DEFENSE	TKL	SKS	TFL	PBU	INT
Darnell Woods	88	0	1	2	1
Langston Jones	80	1	5	0	0
Tait Sibbel	54	0	1.5	2	4
Michael Gill	49	3	7.5	0	0
Colton Schneider	48	0.5	3	3	0
Drew Baxter	42	0.5	3.5	4	0
Dylan Heithoff	42	5.5	10.5	1	0
Landon Oelke	39	0	0	3	0
Derek Blessing	37	0	1	6	2
Nakemm Evans	35	1.5	5.5	2	0
Kyle Rakow	29	1	4	3	0
Cody Hawk	28	1	4.5	1	1
Alex Melius	25	0	1	0	0
Joseph Scott	19	0	1.5	1	0
John Lee	15	0	0.5	3	2
Bruce Hicks	14	0	0	4	1
Matt Keener	12	0	1	1	2
Clay Mauro	8	0	1	0	1

TEAM STATISTICS	CNC	OPP
SCORING	290	190
--Points Per Game	26.4	17.3
FIRST DOWNS	240	187
--Rushing	115	77
--Passing	100	86
--Penalty	25	24
NET RUSHING YARDAGE	2005	1650
--Yards Gained Rushing	2282	1873
--Yards Lost Rushing	277	223
--Rushing Attempts	515	415
--Average Per Rush	3.9	4
--Average Per Game	182.3	150
--TDs Rushing	24	10
NET PASSING YARDAGE	1955	1490
--Att/Comp/Int	337/198/8	302/148/14
--Average Per Pass	5.8	4.9
--Average Per Catch	9.9	10.1
--Average Per Game	177.7	135.5
--TDs Passing	13	12
TOTAL NET OFFENSE	3960	3140
--Total Plays	852	717
--Average Per Play	4.6	4.4
--Average Per Game	360	285.5
KICK RETURNS: NO./YARDS	32/630	44/645
PUNTS RETURNS: NO./YARDS	26/308	21/323
INTS RETURNS: NO./YARDS	14/156	8/68
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.7	14.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.8	15.4
FUMBLES/LOST	16/9	15/8
PUNTS/AVG	53/34.8	61/36.2
PENALTIES/YARDS	84/809	72/710
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	34:36	25:24
3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	86/186	49/150
4RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	13/25	9/24



Derek Blessing



#CUNEFootball