Carleton Football Report - Week Nine

KNIGHTS HEAD ACROSS TOWN IN SEARCH OF GOAT TROPHY

Carleton College and St. Olaf College, Northfield football foes for nearly a full century, meet for the 84th time as varsity programs in one of college football’s most unique rivals.

The Knights are trying to win back the famed “Goat Trophy” for the first time since 1996, as the Oles bring a nine-game winning streak over the Knights into the showdown. Prior to this string of Ole victories, the Knights had won six straight and 10 of 11 contests from 1985-96. [Note: For more notes on the rivalry, see page 6.]

Both teams are trying to finish the season strong. A Knights’ victory would ensure the program’s first non-losing season since 1996 and would give Carleton a chance to end the year with its first winning season since 1993. The Oles, meanwhile, could finish as high as second in the MIAC standings if they win out and Bethel loses to either Augsburg this week or St. John’s next week. The last time the Oles finished in the top two was 1991.

JACKSON TIES CARLETON TD RECORD

Junior running back R.J. Jackson (Roseville, Minn./DeLaSalle) scored on a short touchdown run in the fourth quarter of Saturday’s loss to Concordia, giving him 13 touchdowns on the season. The total matches Jim Bradford’s Carleton record of 13 touchdowns, set in 1990. Jackson also moved within four touchdowns of Carleton’s all-time touchdown record of 32, also held by Bradford. His 78 points scored this season is tied with Bradford for the Carleton single-season record, 16 behind Skye Flanagan’s 1996 total. His 168 career points scored is tied for fourth with Adam Henry ’94, 34 behind Bradford’s record of 196.

He ranks 12th in Division III with 9.8 points scored per game, which also ranks him first in the MIAC. Jackson has scored 10 rushing touchdowns, one receiving touchdown and one via a kick return this season. In his career he has 21 rushing scores, two via receiving, one on a punt return and four via kick returns. He ranks fourth all-time at Carleton in all-purpose yardage (3,593 yards) and is 136 yards shy of 2,000 rushing yards for his career. He is ninth all-time on the Carleton rushing charts.

CASPERS MOVES PAST 5,000 YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Senior Darren Caspers (Bemidji, Minn.) moved past the 5,000-yard mark in total offense with 5,030 yards in his 37th career appearance on Saturday. The total made him only the fifth Carleton player to surpass the 5,000-yard mark in total offense and left him 577 yards shy of John Nielson’s record of 5,606.

CASPERS BAGS CAREER COMPLETIONS RECORD

Senior Darren Caspers (Bemidji, Minn.) completed 15-of-28 passing for 195 yards and one touchdown with no interceptions in the Knights’ 37-7 win over Augsburg. The completion total moved his career total to 406, as he surpassed Jon Groteboer’s ’02 career record of 401. He added to that total last week and heads into his final two career games with 423 career completions.

Caspers has passed for 1,760 yards this season and is on track to become only the second quarterback in Carleton history to surpass the 2,000-yard mark in a single season. His 138 completions is fourth on Carleton’s single-season list (and one back of his own single-season best of 139 in 2004) and trails John Nielson’s 1990 record by 10 completions. He ranks third in career passing yardage (4,752 yards), seventh in touchdown

**GAME DAY**

Date: November 4, 2006
Time: 1 p.m. CST
Location: Northfield, Minn.
Site: Manitou Field
Capacity: 3,500
Surface: Natural Grass
Rankings: none

**BROADCAST INFORMATION**

Radio: KQCL 95.9 FM
Website: A live broadcast is available on Carleton’s official athletic website at www.carleton.edu/athletics/broadcasts/. Carleton sports information director Eric Sieger and Jake Zivin ’07 will be on the call.

**ON-LINE INFORMATION**

Carleton: www.carleton.edu/athletics
St.Olaf: www.stolaf.edu/athletics

**SERIES INFORMATION**

Series: St. Olaf leads 43-39-1
Last meeting: St. Olaf 44, at Carleton 14
Current streak: St. Olaf, 9 games

**CARLETON (4-4, 2-4 MIAC)**

Sept. 9 at UM-Morris W 50-14
Sept. 16 Macalester College W 52-0
Sept. 23 Bethel University* W 14-7
Sept. 30 at St. John’s University* L 19-29
Oct. 7 at University of St. Thomas* L 19-29
Oct. 14 Hamline University* (HC) W 37-7
Oct. 21 at Augsburg College* W 20-14
Nov. 4 at St. Olaf College* 1 p.m.
Nov. 11 Gustavus Adolphus* 1 p.m.

* indicates MIAC contest

**ST. OLAF (6-2, 4-2 MIAC)**

Sept. 2 at Valley City State (N.D.) W 28-14
Sept. 9 Luther College (Iowa) W 35-16
Sept. 16 Hamline University* W 21-6
Sept. 23 Augsburg College* W 68-17
Sept. 30 at Gustavus Adolphus* W 41-14
Oct. 7 #3 St. John’s Univ.* L 21-27
Oct. 14 at Concordia-Moorhead* W 28-9
Oct. 21 at Bethel Univ.* L 29-5
Nov. 4 Carleton College* 1 p.m.
Oct. 21 at Univ. of St. Thomas* 1 p.m.

* indicates MIAC contest
passes (26) and fifth in total offense (5,030 yards) on Carleton’s career lists.

FOSS CONTINUES MOVE UP TACKLES CHART
Senior Randy Foss (Hastings, Minn.) currently sits at 326 total tackles for his career, needing 13 tackles over his final two games to surpass John Haberman ’89 for third all-time at Carleton. Scott Klein’s ’97 359 tackles stands as the current school record.

NOTES ON CARLETON-ST. OLAF MATCH-UP
St. Olaf possesses the top offense in the MIAC, averaging over 427 yards and 38 points per game. Those totals are good enough for tenth and sixth in the nation, respectively... The Oles offense under Chris Meidt has not finished lower than fourth in the MIAC in his five seasons. In contrast, the St. Olaf defense has not finished higher than fifth in those five seasons... Eight Oles have been named MIAC player of the week thus far this season, while four Knights have been also earned that honor... St. Olaf has one of the best special teams units in the conference. The Oles are the top ranked punting team, the top ranked kickoff return team, third in kickoff coverage and second in field goal percentage. They have also blocked three punts and one extra point in 2006... Carleton and St. Olaf rank 2.50 overall in special teams units in the conference. The Oles units are ranked first in all catagories, while four Knights have been also earned that honor... St. Olaf has one of the best special teams units in the conference. The Oles are the top ranked punting team, the top ranked kickoff return team, third in kickoff coverage and second in field goal percentage. They have also blocked three punts and one extra point in 2006... Carleton and St. Olaf rank second and third, respectively, in red zone defense in the MIAC rankings... Carleton senior linebacker Adam Rossow and St. Olaf senior defensive lineman Peter Nelson sang in the same quartet during their senior year at Le Sueur-Henderson High School.

FRANK MIAC’S LEADING RECEIVER, NEARING CARLETON RECORDS
Sophomore wide receiver Matt Frank (Caledonia, Minn.) continues to have a breakout season for the Knights in 2006. The Caledonia native is fourth in the nation in receiving yards per game with 107.6 and 19th in the nation in receptions per game with 6.5. He leads the MIAC in yardage and is second in receptions. He is threatening the Carleton single-season receptions record of 69, set by Jim Bradford ’92 in 1989. He is also on track to break the 1,000-yard mark, as Bradford did it in 1989 and 1990. He currently ranks fifth in Carleton single-season history in receiving yardage (861 yards) and seventh in catches (52).

FRANK HAS MONSTER DAY AGAINST PIPERS
Matt Frank posted his best day as a Knight, catching 11 passes for 139 yards in Carleton’s loss to Hamline on Oct. 14. The 11 receptions is tied for the second-most in school history, two behind three-time All-American Jim Bradford’s ’92 13 catches against St. Thomas in 1990. He is the seventh different Carleton receiver to notch 10 or more catches in a single game and only two—Bradford and Erik Miller ‘01—have done it more than once. Frank’s 11 receptions are the most by a Knight since Bradford’s record-setting effort.

KNIGHTS BACK IN TOP FIVE IN DIVISION III IN TURNOVER MARGIN
Carleton finished +1 in the turnover battle against Concordia, improving their turnover margin to +1.8/game. The mark ranks third in the country, with Central (Iowa) ranking first at +2.1/game. The Knights’ passing offense is ranked 18th in the country at 258.0 yards and the defense is ranked 44th in points allowed at 14.9.

ODDS ‘N ENDS
Carleton’s four losses have come by a combined 24 points, and three (St. Thomas, Hamline and Concordia) have been by less than a touchdown each... With one more victory, the Knights will have their first non-losing season since 1996, which was also their last five-win season. Two more wins earns the Knights their first winning season since 1993... Randy Foss has 38 career starts heading into Saturday’s contest. Only a select number of Carleton players have started all 40 games in their careers... Adam Rossow made his first start since the 2004 season and recorded a season-best seven stops. He has 12 tackles.
over the last two games... Drew Ziller recorded his second double-digit tackle game against Concordia, making a career-high 11 stops... Carleton, which ranks in the top three in the MIAC in opponents' third-down conversion, allowed Concordia to convert on 8-of-14 third downs last week... Wade Thompson is two yards shy of 3,000 all-purpose yards for his career. He ranks sixth all-time at Carleton in the category.

**CASPERS POSTS RARE CAREER DAY AGAINST JOHNNIE DEFENSE**

Darren Caspers threw for a career-high 314 yards in Carleton's loss at St. John's. It marked the second time in his career that Caspers has surpassed the 300-yard passing mark and the first time since the 2003 NCAA Playoffs the Johnnies had allowed a 300-yard passer, a span of 28 games.

**MORE ON CARLETON'S BETHEL WIN**

The Knights' win over Bethel on Sept. 23 marked their biggest upset since the Knights beat top-ranked St. Thomas during the 1986 season, which put the Knights on the proverbial MIAC map. The Royals were ranked 31st in the Football Gazette Division III poll at the time and were also receiving votes in the D3Football.com top 25 poll. The Royals were picked to finish fourth in the MIAC coaches' preseason poll while the Knights were slotted ninth.

**LAST TIME OUT: COBBERS GROUND OUT WIN OVER KNIGHTS**

Chris Gardner (So./Gaylord, Minn./Sibley Co. East) caught five passes for a career-high 107 yards, including a 40-yard touchdown pass and Matt Frank added five grabs for 99 yards, but visiting Concordia-Moorhead rushed for 257 yards in edging Carleton, 25-20.

R.J. Jackson added 64 yards rushing for Carleton and tied the Knights' single-season touchdown record in the process with 13.

Kevin Williamson scored three times, carrying 16 times for 66 yards and halfback Corey Johnson and quarterback Jesse Nelson added 83 and 72 yards rushing, respectively, as the Cobbers ended a two-game losing streak.

Quarterback Darren Caspers paced Carleton by tallying 203 yards on 17-of-33 passing.

The Knights struck first on a trick play, as back-up quarterback John Hollowed (Jr./Mercer Island, Wash.) took an inside handoff, stepped back and fired a 49-yard strike to Gardner. The Cobbers answered right back by marching the ball down the field. Using the run exclusively, the Cobbers took nine plays and scored on an Adam Swingdorf 2-yard burst. The Cobbers took the lead midway through the second quarter, as Williamson bowled in from two yards out. The extra-point attempt was blocked and the Cobbers led 13-7 at the half.

Carleton looked like it might regain the lead early in the third, as Caspers hit Frank on a 42-yard pass down to the Clobber 28-yard line. A pass interference call on a ball thrown to Gardner put the Knights at the Cobber 16, but Concordia stiffened and forced a field goal attempt that the Knights missed from 37 yards.

The Knights would score on their next possession, as Caspers hit Gardner in stride behind the Cobber defensive secondary for 52 yards, and on the next play Hollowed hit Matt Topoff (Sr./Andover, Minn./Blaine) on a tackle-eligible play for a 4-yard touchdown and the Knights led 14-13, after the successful extra point.

The Cobbers quickly responded, going 54 yards on 10 plays, led by Nelson's feet and arm. He rushed for 40 of the 54 yards on the drive and had a big pass completion on third-and-12 to keep the drive alive.

Concordia essentially put the game away on its next drive. Facing third-and-9 from the Cobber 34, Nelson hit Nick Alton for 15 yards, and two plays later Johnson ripped off a 23-yard run. Williamson finished off the drive five plays later and the visitors led 25-14.

The Knights rallied, though, going 69 yards on 12 plays, with Caspers hitting Frank for 18 yards on a fourth-down play from midfield and then Caspers scrambling for 20 more yards down to the Cobber 10. Jackson punched it in from the 2-yard line and the Knights trailed by only a score. The defense got the ball back, but the offense was unable to pick up a first down, coming up a yard shy on fourth down from their own 43 and the Cobbers were able to run out the clock.

Drew Ziller (So./Byron, Minn./Rochester Lourdes) led the Knights' defense with 11 tackles and James Colbenson (Jr./Rushford, Minn./Rushford-Peterson) added nine stops, six solo, with a fumble recovery.
Kootsikas, Topeff Keep Knight Trend as Players of the Week

Carleton senior offensive tackle Matt Topeff (Andover, Minn./Blaine) and senior free safety Mike Kootsikas (Rosemount, Minn.) were named the MIAC’s offensive and defensive players of the week after Carleton’s upset of Bethel.

Topeff, a former tight end, caught a key pass that set up Carleton’s first touchdown and then threw the eventual game-winning touchdown pass of 53 yards as Carleton upset Bethel, 17-14. With the Knights trailing, 7-3, midway through the second quarter, Topeff took a lateral from Darren Caspers, rumbling down to the 2-yard line. Carleton eventually scored to take a 10-7 at halftime. With the Knights trailing midway through the fourth quarter, Topeff took a lateral from Caspers and hit wide receiver Matt Frank for a 53-yard TD. Topeff was part of an offensive effort that had only one turnover.

Kootsikas, who had started his previous 22 career games at wide receiver, tallied six tackles, two pass breakups and an interception in his second career start at free safety. Kootsikas, who didn’t play football his rookie season, ranks in Carleton’s all-time top 10 tackles, two pass breakups and an interception in his second career start at free safety.

Caspers: MIAC’s Co-Offensive Player of the Week

Senior Darren Caspers was named the conference co-offensive player of the week after throwing for a career-high five touchdowns in Carleton’s victory over Macalester.

Caspers finished the game 10-of-15 for 248 yards with scoring passes of 5, 19, 7, 72 and 60 yards. All of his action came in the first half, as the Knights rolled to a 38-0 halftime lead. He posted what is believed to be a Carleton school-record single-game efficiency rating of 315.55. His performance helped lead Carleton to a 52-0 win over the Scots and retain the Book of Knowledge trophy for the fourth consecutive year.

Ramler’s Coaching Start One of Best Ever at Carleton

A search of the Carleton football archives by student assistant Adam Rossow ’07 revealed that rookie head coach Kurt Ramler’s 3-0 start is the best in 72 years. George Gibson started his Carleton 5-0 in 1934 and led the Knights to a 6-1 overall record that season.

Jackson Sets School Record with 6 Tds in Victory

Junior running back R.J. Jackson had an unbelievable record-setting performance in Carleton’s season opener, scoring six touchdowns in the first half in leading the Knights past UM-Morris, 50-14. Jackson set a new Carleton single-game record by scoring six touchdowns (on only 12 touches) in leading Carleton to a victory in new head coach Kurt Ramler’s debut. Jackson’s scores came on touchdown runs of 11, 30, 2 and 1 yards, a 46-yard screen pass and a 93-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. He broke the previous Carleton record of five touchdowns and 30 points scored in one game, held jointly by Skye Jackson ’98, set against St. Thomas in 1996, and Jim Bradford ’92, set against Gustavus in 1990. Jackson played only one series in the second half as Carleton scored on its first five possessions of the game in taking a 41-7 lead at halftime. For the game he tallied 69 yards rushing on only 10 carries, 46 yards receiving and 93 yards on the kickoff return, leaving him with 208 all-purpose yards. He was named the MIAC offensive player of the week and to D3Football.com’s national “Team of the Week.”

Last Time, Oct 8, 2005: Oles Roll Past Knights for Ninth Straight

The Carleton College football team turned the ball over on downs three times, threw three interceptions, lost two fumbles, and missed a field goal as they fell to crosstown rival St. Olaf College, 44-14.

Matt Frank caught seven passes for 88 yards and a touchdown, and R.J. Jackson rushed for 60 yards. All of his action came in the first half, as the Knights rolled to a 38-0 halftime lead. For the game he tallied 69 yards rushing on only 10 carries, 46 yards receiving and 93 yards on the kickoff return, leaving him with 208 all-purpose yards. He was named the MIAC offensive player of the week and to D3Football.com’s national “Team of the Week.”

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Quick Facts

School: Carleton College
Location: Northfield, Minn.
Affiliation: NCAA Division III
Conference: MIAC
President: Robert A. Oden, Jr. (O-deen)
Athletic Director: Leon Lunder
Phone: (507)646-4052
Sports Information Director: Eric Sieger
Phone: (507)646-4185
Fax: (507)646-5550
Cell: (507)646-1355
Web: www.carleton.edu/athletics/
Email: esieger@carleton.edu
Head Coach: Kurt Ramler
Phone: (507)646-4054
Fax: (507)646-7040

Alma Mater/Year: St. John's (Minn.)/1997
Record at school (years): 4-4 (first season)
Career record (yrs.): same
Overall record last year: Mick Ramboldt (Defensive Backs)
Gerald Young (Defensive Line)
Bill Lund (Defensive Coordinator)

Telephone: (507)646-7040
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Cell: (507)646-1355
Web: www.carleton.edu/athletics/
Email: esieger@carleton.edu
Head Coach: Kurt Ramler
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Fax: (507)646-7040

Next Up: Knights Wrap Up 2006 Slate at Laird Stadium

Carleton College
Northfield, Minn.

Carleton ends its 2006 season by hosting Gustavus Adolphus College on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. A win for the Knights would guarantee the Knights their first non-losing season since 1996, which was also their last five-win season. Carleton sports information director Eric Sieger is tentatively slated to be on the call, as the game will most likely be offered on Knights Online only.

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Inside the Carleton–St. Olaf Series

**All-Time Scores**

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<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>19-27</td>
</tr>
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<td>35-42</td>
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<td>6-28</td>
</tr>
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<td>45-0</td>
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<td>16-40</td>
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<td>21-34</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Carleton</td>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>14-44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series Notes**

• The teams played numerous times prior to 1918, the first official meeting, but the 1919 St. Olaf squad is considered its first true varsity squad.
• The 87-year-old rivalry has fostered traditions. The winning team takes home “the Goat” (as in “we got your goat”), a wooden trophy created by a St. Olaf carpenter in 1918.

**Inside the Numbers**

- St. Olaf leads series 43-39-1 through end of 2005 season
- Longest win streak, St. Olaf: 9 (1964-72, 1997-2005)
- Most points scored, Carleton: 51 (1993)
- Most points scored, St. Olaf: 49 (1980, 2002)
- Most points scored, both teams: 99 (Car 51, SOC 48, 1993)
- Shutouts by Carleton: 9
- Shutouts by St. Olaf: 12