



Table of Contents

Head Coach	2
Assistant Coaches	3-4
At A Glance	5
Season Outlook	6-9
Roster	10-11
Returning Lettermen	12-19
Pronunciation Guide	19
2006 Game Summaries	20-24
2006 Season Statistics	25-27
2006 Season Superlatives	28
2006 Season Honors	29
Liberty League	30
Opponent Information	31-35
All-Time Series Results	36
Game-By-Game Scores	37-40
All-Time Lettermen	41-45
Block H Awards	46-47
Hobart Hall of Fame	48
Records	49-55
About Hobart and William Smith	56
Administration	57
Athletic Department Staff	58
Sports Medicine	59
Media Information	60

General Information

Location: Geneva, N.Y.
Founded: 1822
Enrollment: 1,928 with William Smith
President: Mark D. Gearan
Dean of Hobart: Eugen Baer
Interim Vice President of Student Affairs:
 Robb Flowers
Vice President of Enrollment &
Dean of Admissions: Don Emmons
Director of Admissions: John Young
Director of Athletics: Mike Hanna '68
Colors: Royal Purple and Orange
Nickname: Statesmen
Home Field (cap): Boswell Field (4,500)
Surface: Natural grass
Press Box Phone: (315) 781-3765
Sportsline: (315) 781-3557

Statesmen Online

www.hws.edu/athletics

The official online home of Hobart and William Smith Athletics contains schedules, results, news, rosters, statistics and more. For the first time in 2007, Hobart fans can watch all five home games live via the Internet. The Statesmen have teamed with ECAC.tv to bring streaming video straight to your computer. The link to each webcast can be found on the football schedule page.

2007 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 8	at Dickinson	1 p.m.
15	CARNEGIE MELLON	1 p.m.
22	*RENSELAER (TWSN)	1 p.m.
29	*at WPI	1 p.m.
Oct. 6	*at Susquehanna	7 p.m.
13	*MERCHANT MARINE	1 p.m.
20	*ST. LAWRENCE	1 p.m.
27	ALFRED	1 p.m.
Nov. 3	*at Union	Noon
10	*at Rochester	Noon

* Liberty League game
 All games are broadcast live on WEOS-FM (89.7/90.3)

2006 Results

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 9	Dickinson	W, 31-28
16	at William Paterson	W, 31-27
23	* at Rensselaer	W, 24-17
30	*WPI	W, 19-14
Oct. 14	*at Merchant Marine	W, 30-19
21	*at St. Lawrence	W, 27-7
28	at Alfred	W, 21-14
Nov. 4	*Union	L, 14-31
11	*Rochester	W, 31-21
18	#at Rowan	L, 18-20

* Liberty League game; # NCAA Playoffs

Hobart Athletics Directory

Director of Athletics

Mike Hanna '68 (315) 781-3574
 e-mail.....hanna@hws.edu

Football

Head Coach Mike Cragg (315) 781-3566
 e-mail.....cragg@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach Aaron Backhaus '00 (315) 781-3572
 Assistant Coach Matt Cutaia (315) 781-3572
 e-mail.....cutaia@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach Kevin DeWall '00 (315) 781-3716
 e-mail.....dewall@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach Jon Drach (315) 781-3669
 e-mail.....drach@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach John Manley (315) 781-3572
 e-mail.....manley@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach Terry Muffley (315) 781-3572
 e-mail.....muffley@hws.edu
 Assistant Coach Scott Yoder '01 (315) 781-3683
 e-mail.....yoder@hws.edu

Athletic Communications

Director Ken DeBolt (315) 781-3146
 e-mail.....debolt@hws.edu
 cell phone..... (315) 521-1383
 Assistant Director Megan O'Connor (315) 781-3538
 e-mail.....moconnor@hws.edu

Basketball

Head Coach Izzi Metz '98 (315) 781-3620
 e-mail.....metz@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Woody Kampmann '05 (315) 781-3747
 e-mail.....kampmann@hws.edu

Asst. Coach Dennis Pysnack (315) 781-3747
 e-mail.....pysnack@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Carl Wenzel..... (315) 781-3747
 e-mail.....cwenzel@hws.edu

Crew

Head Coach Mike Alton (315) 781-3935
 e-mail.....alton@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Mike Hoepf '05..... (315) 781-3935
 e-mail.....hoepf@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Tony Shelton..... (315) 781-3935
 Asst. Coach Ford Weiskittel..... (315) 781-3935

Cross Country

Head Coach Ron Fleury (315) 781-3565
 e-mail.....fleury@hws.edu

Lacrosse

Head Coach Matt Kerwick '90 (315) 781-3715
 e-mail.....kerwick@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach T.W. Johnson..... (315) 781-3588
 e-mail.....tjohnson@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Jim Morrissey..... (315) 781-3544
 e-mail.....morrissey@hws.edu

Golf

Head Coach Bill Quinn..... (315) 781-3565
 e-mail.....quinn@hws.edu

Ice Hockey

Head Coach Mark Taylor (315) 781-3539
 e-mail.....mtaylor@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Tom Mariano..... (315) 781-3541

Sailing

Head Coach Scott Ikle '84 (315) 781-3938
 e-mail.....ikle@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach M. Ashley Love (315) 781-3947

Soccer

Head Coach Shawn Griffin (315) 781-3625
 e-mail.....griffin@hws.edu
 Asst. Coach Jeff Oliver (315) 781-3536
 e-mail.....oliver@hws.edu

Squash & Tennis

Head Coach Carol Weymuller (315) 781-3645
 e-mail.....weymuller@hws.edu
 Asst. Tennis Coach Rich Lenhart (315) 781-3645

Sports Medicine

Coordinator Doug Reeland..... (315) 781-3568
 e-mail.....reeland@hws.edu
 Asst. Greg Beier (315) 781-3568
 e-mail.....beier@hws.edu
 Asst. Laura Dillaman (315) 781-3568
 e-mail.....dillaman@hws.edu

Department Secretaries

Patty Cala..... (315) 781-3077
 e-mail.....cala@hws.edu
 Helen LaVoie (315) 781-3076
 e-mail.....lavoie@hws.edu
 Sue Perry (315) 781-3075
 e-mail.....perry@hws.edu



Head Coach Mike Cragg

Statesmen Football 2007



The Cragg File

Regional Coach of the Year: 2002

Liberty League Coach of the Year:

2000, '02, '03, '04

NCAA Playoffs: 2000, '02, '04, '05, '06

ECAC Bowl Champions: 2003

Head Coaching Record

Year	Record	Pct	Conf	Pct	Finish
1995	4-6	.400	1-3	.250	4th
1996	5-5	.500	3-1	.750	2nd
1997	6-4	.600	2-2	.500	3rd
1998	6-3	.667	3-1	.750	1st
1999	5-4	.556	2-2	.500	3rd
2000	9-2	.818	3-1	.750	1st
2001	6-3	.667	2-2	.500	3rd
2002	8-2	.800	4-0	1.000	1st
2003	6-4	.600	3-1	.750	1st
2004	9-2	.818	7-0	1.000	1st
2005	9-2	.818	6-1	.857	2nd
2006	8-2	.800	5-1	.833	1st
Totals	81-39	.675	41-15	.732	

Coaching Experience

2007-	Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator, Hobart College
1995-06	Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator, Hobart College
1991-95	Defensive Coordinator, Hobart College
1986-90	Offensive Line Coach, Hobart College
1985-86	Head Coach, Corry (Pa.) H.S.
1984	Assistant Coach, Titusville (Pa.) H.S.
1983	Assistant Coach, Slippery Rock Univ.

Education

Slippery Rock University, B.S., 1983

Mike Cragg begins his 13th season at the helm of the Hobart football program with an exceptional list of career accomplishments. He has led the Statesmen to more wins than any of his predecessors and to all six of the program's postseason appearances, including three straight NCAA bids.

Cragg, who also serves as Hobart's special teams coordinator, boasts an impressive 81-39 career record (.675) and a school record 10 consecutive winning seasons. He has guided Hobart to the top of the Liberty League six times, reaching the conference's summit in four of the past five seasons.

In 2006, Hobart notched an 8-2 overall record and tied for the Liberty League lead. The Statesmen came within 10 seconds of upsetting Rowan in the NCAA Playoffs and earning a third consecutive regional semifinal appearance. The success was rewarded by the coaches of the Liberty League, who put 12 Hobart players on the all-conference teams.

In 2005, the Statesmen posted a 9-2 record. The nine wins matched the program record for wins in a season established by Hobart's 1896 and 2004 squads.

That year, Hobart led the Liberty League in turnover margin, scoring defense, rushing defense, punt returns, pass efficiency, and pass efficiency defense, while raking in the top 30 in the nation in turnover margin (21st) and scoring defense (16.5 ppg). Cragg's charges cleaned up in the postseason accolades, collecting 14 All-Liberty League honors and the Defensive Player of the Year Award (Tony Clemente '06).

Cragg, who served as the team's defensive coordinator from 1991 to 2006, directed the 2000 Statesmen into the NCAA records book. The Hobart secondary, aided by a relentless pass rush, broke the NCAA Division III record for lowest pass completion percentage allowed. Hobart opponents were successful on just 31.3 percent (79-of-252) of their pass attempts, eclipsing the old mark, 33.5, set by Plymouth State in 1987. At the close of the regular season, Cragg's defense ranked first in the nation in pass efficiency defense, sixth in scoring defense, eighth in turnover margin, and 12th in total defense.

Cragg has mentored several All-Americans, including consensus All-Americans Dave Russell

'98 and Alex Bell '05. Several Statesmen have gone on to play football professionally, including Bell who signed with the New York Giants as a free agent.

In addition to the team's on-field success, Cragg's Statesmen have received a great deal of recognition for their efforts in the classroom as well. During his tenure, four Hobart players have been named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America teams, while dozens of Statesmen have earned Liberty League All-Academic accolades.

Named the 23rd head coach of the Hobart football program in January of 1995, Cragg is one of the veteran members of the Statesmen family, joining the football staff in 1986. He also served as the head coach of the tennis team for three seasons, compiling an overall record of 36-10 and three conference championships.

Cragg came to Hobart after serving as the head coach of the varsity football program at Corry High School in Corry, Pa. He led Corry to a third-place finish in the Erie County League in his first year, a first-ever appearance in the District X Playoffs in 1986, and was named Coach of the Year.

A 1983 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Cragg was a two-year letterwinner for the Rock at free safety and linebacker. He still owns a share of the school's single game interception record (3 vs. Edinboro, 1980). His senior season was short-circuited by a knee injury, so he got an early jump on his coaching career, assisting the Slippery Rock staff with the defensive backs.

Cragg and his wife, Holley, live in Geneva with their two children, Michael and Kristen Alexandria.



KEVIN COLTON



Kevin DeWall '00
Offensive Coordinator
Offensive Line Coach

Now in his eighth season on the Hobart sideline, Kevin DeWall is entering his fifth season as the offensive coordinator. Traditionally a program that relied heavily on its defense, he has transformed Hobart into an offensive juggernaut.

Over the past four seasons, DeWall has directed the Statesmen offense to new heights in rushing, passing, and scoring. In the four seasons prior to his promotion to offensive coordinator, Hobart averaged 140.7 yards rushing per game, 185.6 yards passing, and 24.9 points. Under his leadership, those numbers have grown to 173.0 rushing, 200.6 passing, and 27.6 points.

In 2005, DeWall's charges set team records for passing yards (2,420) and yards per pass (8.26) in a season. The Statesmen also produced the second highest numbers in total offense (4,421), points (314), touchdowns (43), and extra points (37), while leading the Liberty League passing efficiency (141.3).

During his first three seasons on the football coaching staff, DeWall coached the defensive backs.

While earning a bachelor's degree in biology (pre-med) and education, DeWall was an attackman on Hobart's Division I lacrosse team and led the defense at free safety for the football team. He helped the lacrosse program to two NCAA Tournament appearances and the 2000 Patriot League title, and aided the football program's ascent toward the pinnacle of Division III.

A native of nearby Waterloo, DeWall was the 2000 Patriot League Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year and was named to the GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.



Scott Yoder '01
Defensive Coordinator
Defensive Backs Coach

Scott Yoder is back for his seventh season as an assistant coach and his first since being promoted to defensive coordinator over the summer. The 2001 graduate of Hobart has previously coached the defensive backs and receivers.

Over the past two seasons, Yoder's secondary has been one of the best in the Liberty League. The team's three starters have earned five All-Liberty League awards, including returning starters James Alexander '08 and Mike Kaplun '08.

In 2005, Yoder's coverage unit led the Liberty League and ranked 47th in the nation in pass efficiency defense.

A year earlier, Yoder mentored a talented and deep corps of receivers, including two All-Liberty League selections. Under his direction, Dan Suozzi '05 broke the Hobart career records for receptions, yards, and receiving touchdowns.

A reliable target himself, Yoder finished his career with 108 receptions for 1,361 yards. Following the 2000 season, he earned first-team accolades from the ECAC and the Liberty League.

The economics major was also a member of the Division I Hobart lacrosse team. Yoder helped guide the Statesmen to the 2000 Patriot League Championship and the program's 23rd NCAA postseason appearance.

Yoder lives in Geneva with his wife, Alyson WS'03.



John Manley
Running Backs Coach

John Manley enters his eighth season as running backs coach. He joined the Statesmen after 14 seasons as the head football coach at Penn Yan Academy.

Over the past four seasons, Manley directed the development of two-time All-American Doug Blakowski '07. In his first season as a starter, he became just the third Statesman to rush for more than 1,300 yards in a season. His 1,364 yards on the ground rank third on the single season list, while his 5.8 yards per carry led the Liberty League.

In 2006, Blakowski ran for 1,084 yards and 14 touchdowns. Manley's apprentice ranked in the top 25 in the nation in each of the past two seasons in scoring.

At Penn Yan Academy, Manley guided the Mustangs to 13 Section V tournament appearances, including back-to-back championship game appearances in 1994 and 1995. A physical education instructor in the Penn Yan School System since 1973, he has coached the Eddie Meath All-Star Football Game three times.

Accomplished and multifaceted, Manley has coached basketball, baseball, hockey, lacrosse, track, and softball.

Manley graduated from SUNY-Brockport with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He lives with his wife, Rita, and their four children in Keuka Park.



Assistant Coaches

Muffley, Backhaus, Drach, Cutaia

Statesmen Football 2007



Terry Muffley
Defensive Line Coach

Terry Muffley is entering his ninth season as Hobart's defensive line coach. Over the past eight seasons, he has overseen the development of 14 all-conference linemen.

Last season, Muffley oversaw the strong pass rushing of end Andy Purdie '07 (7.5 sacks, 4th in LL) and the emergence of tackle Ryan Aruck '09. Aruck, a team captain this season, finished third on the squad in tackles, despite drawing frequent double teams.

In 2005, Muffley's charges made life miserable for running backs, limiting opponent's to a Liberty League low 111.9 rushing yards per game.

In addition to his responsibilities with the football team, Muffley also serves as a volunteer assistant coach for Hobart's Division I lacrosse team.

A former scholastic coach, Muffley was a fixture on the Geneva High School sidelines for more than two decades, assisting the Panthers' football team to two league titles and the lacrosse team to three Section V crowns.

Muffley earned a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps with service in Vietnam, Muffley lives in Geneva with his wife, Cindy. They have two grown children, Patrick and Bess.



Aaron Backhaus '00
Linebackers Coach

Aaron Backhaus returns for his fourth season on the Hobart sidelines as the linebackers coach.

During his three previous seasons, nine of his Statesmen have earned All-Liberty League recognition, including 2005 Defensive Player of the Year Tony Clemente '06.

Last season, Hobart's top two tacklers were Backhaus' charges. All-conference selections Evan Hoffman '07 and Nolan Robinson '07 shared the team lead with 79 stops apiece. Additionally, Hoffman was second in the nation in forced fumbles, finishing the year with six.

As a player, Backhaus was a four-year starter at inside linebacker. The four-time All-Liberty League pick left the gridiron with 279 career tackles and six interceptions. He led the Statesmen with a career-high 98 tackles as a first-year.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Hobart in psychology in 2000, Backhaus went on to complete a master's degree in education at Alfred University.

In addition to his coaching duties, Backhaus is a counselor at the Geneva Middle School.



Jon Drach
Quarterbacks Coach

Jon Drach joined the Hobart coaching staff in April 2007. The former starting quarterback at Western Michigan will mentor the signal callers this season.

For the Broncos, he was a member of the 2000 squad that won the MAC West Division. A three-year starter, Drach enjoyed his finest season as a senior, completing a single season record 67 percent of his passes (176-118-6) for 1,499 yards and 13 touchdowns. That season he sported a 156.2 pass efficiency rating, the highest of his career.

Drach threw for a career-high 391 yards at UConn on Nov. 1, 2003, and tossed a career best five touchdowns against Central Michigan two weeks later. He also set a WSU single game record for longest completion on a 94-yard TD strike against the Chippewas.

A 2004 graduate of Western Michigan with a bachelor's degree in business finance and economics, Drach earned a spot on the Dean's List six times during his undergraduate career, was a two-time MAC All-Academic Team selection, and received Western Michigan's 2003 John Gill Scholar-Athlete Award.

Following graduation, Drach spent three years as a trader for a proprietary trading company. He broke into coaching last season as the offensive coordinator at West Aurora (Ill.) High School.



Matt Cutaia
Wide Receivers Coach

The 2007 season will mark Matt Cutaia's first with the Statesmen. The former UConn wide receiver will work with Hobart's wide receivers.

With the Huskies, Cutaia accumulated 80 receptions for 1,047 yards and three touchdowns. A starter in all four of his seasons in Storrs, Conn., his career was hampered by season-ending injuries in 2002 and 2003. Cutaia was healthy throughout his senior season and put together the most productive season of his career. He finished the campaign with 44 catches for 545 yards and a touchdown as the Huskies earned their first bowl bid, a 39-10 win over Toledo in the Motor City Bowl.

Getting a jump-start on his coaching career, Cutaia spent the spring semester of his senior year serving as an assistant wide receiver coach for UConn's spring practices. He graduated from Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in history and political science.

At Webster High School, Cutaia helped lead the Warriors to the 1999 New York State Class AA Championship. He was named to several all-star teams that season, including All-Greater Rochester and All-New York State.

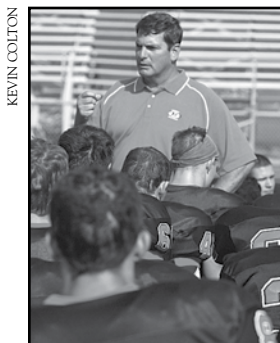
In addition to coaching the Statesmen, Cutaia is pursuing a master's degree in adolescent education from St. John Fisher.



Head Coach: Mike Cragg (Slippery Rock '83)
Record at Hobart: 81-39 (12 seasons)

Assistant Coaches:

Kevin DeWall '00, offensive coordinator/offensive line
Scott Yoder '01, defensive coordinator/defensive backs
Matt Cutaia, receivers
Jon Drach, quarterbacks
Terry Muffley, defensive line
John Manley, running backs
Aaron Backhaus '00, linebackers



KEVIN COLTON

2006 Overall Record: 8-2
Liberty League Record (Finish): 5-1 (1st)

Basic Offense: Multiple
Basic Defense: 4-4

First Year of Football: 1891
All-Time Record: 435-449-44

All-Liberty League Returnees

- **CB - James Alexander '08**
2006 Stats: 32 tkls, 6 PBU, INT (8 yds), FF
- **P - Dominick Ancona '08**
2006 Stats: 44 punts, 1,818 yds, 41.3 yds/p, 65 lg, 14 I20
- **PK - Denis Avdic '10**
2006 Stats: 21-26 PAT, 6-11 FG, 39 lg
- **DT - Ryan Aruck '09**
2006 Stats: 65 tkls, 4.5 TFL (10 yds), 0.5 sacks (1), PBU, Blk kick
- **FS - Mike Kaplun '08**
2006 Stats: 51 tkls, 1 TFL (3 yds), 3 INT (33), 4 PBU
- **LB - Jeff Sanders '08**
2006 Stats: 59 tkls, 7.5 TFL (30 yds), 3 sacks (22), 2 INT (25), 5 PBU, FF, FR

All-Liberty League Losses

- **RB - Doug Blakowski '07**
Career Stats: 518 rush, 2,110 yds, 32 TD, 5.0 yds/rush;
38 rec, 479 yds, 2 TD, 12.6 yds/rec;
13 KOR, 224 yds, 17.2 yds/KOR
- **OL - Mike DePersis '07**
- **OL - Nino Giambrone '07**
- **LB - Evan Hoffman '07**
Career Stats: 125 tkls, 14.5 TFL (81 yds), 7.5 sacks (61),
8 PD, 6 FF, 3 FR
- **OL - Brian Ohman '07**
- **DE - Andy Purdie '07**
Career Stats: 133 tkls, 22.5 TFL (99 yds), 15.0 sacks (82),
4 PD, 4 FF, FR
- **LB - Nolan Robinson '07**
Career Stats: 250 tkls, 22.0 TFL (105 yds), 12.0 sacks (76),
15 PD, 7 FF, 2 Blk kick

Lettermen Returning: 26 (12 starters)

Offense — 11 (5 starters)

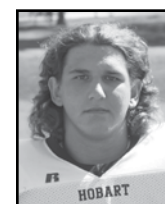
Wide Receiver: RYAN LiDRAZZAH, JAMES WRIGHT
Tight End: Matt Duliba
Tackle: PHILL PERKINS
Guard: Andrew Miller, Brian Monaco
Center: MIKE CONDON
Quarterback: Andrew Strom
Tailback: Don Gilardi, Anthony Hobaica
Fullback: DAN SPINELLA



Phill Perkins

Defense — 13 (7 starters)

Tackle: Mike Arduini, RYAN ARUCK, MIKE FARACCA
End: JIM DRURY
Inside Linebacker: Justin Hager, JEFF SANDERS, Tony Siravo
Outside Linebacker: Ryan Robinson
Defensive Back: JAMES ALEXANDER, COREY CAGE, MIKE KAPLUN, Bryan Newcomb, Chris Szymanski



Jeff Sanders

Special Teams — 5

Kick/Punt Return: Ryan LiDrazzah, James Wright
Long Snapper: Matt Duliba
Placekicker: Denis Avdic
Punter: Dominick Ancona

Lettermen Lost — 17 (10 starters)

Offense — 10 (6 starters)

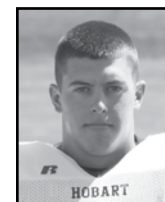
Wide Receiver: Nick Dyson, Steve Sorhaindo
Tight End: KYLE MARTIN, Ryan McWalter
Tackle: MIKE DePERSIS
Guard: NINO GIAMBRONE, BRIAN OHMAN
Center: none
Quarterback: SHAWN MIZRO
Tailback: DOUG BLAKOWSKI
Fullback: Chris Whipple



Doug Blakowski

Defense — 7 (4 starters)

Tackle: Ryan Rapaport
End: Brandon Card, ANDY PURDIE
Inside Linebacker: TYLER MASON
Outside Linebacker: Micah Coger, EVAN HOFFMAN, NOLAN ROBINSON, Dewayne Smith
Defensive Back: none



Nolan Robinson

Special Teams — 1

Kick/Punt Return: Doug Blakowski
Long Snapper: none
Placekicker: none
Punter: none

2006 starters in CAPS



The Hobart football team will have significant shoes to fill prior to the 2007 season, but graduation is predictable and the Statesmen are ready.

Coming off its fifth consecutive postseason appearance (and sixth in the past seven seasons), Hobart boasts the highest winning percentage of any Division III team in New York State since the start of the 2000 season. The Statesmen have won 77.1 percent of the time during that time frame, logging an impressive 54-16 mark.

The 2006 season was more of the same for Hobart, as the squad rattled off wins in its first seven contests, finished in a tie for the Liberty League Championship, and made the program's third consecutive NCAA Playoff appearance. While the showdown with Rowan ended in disappointment when the Profs kicked a last minute field goal to eke out a 20-18 win, the result stoked the fires of resolve in the returning Statesmen, who were ranked as high as 14th in the nation and finished 20th in the final D3football.com ranking.

Hobart Head Coach Mike Cragg—with an 81-39 record boasts more wins than any other Hobart football coach—will have some changes on his staff entering his 13th season at the helm. The defensive coordinator for the Statesmen since 1991, Cragg took over special teams and promoted Scott Yoder to defensive coordinator. Former Western Michigan quarterback Jon Drach will tutor the signal callers, while former Connecticut wide out Matt Cutaia will coach the receivers.

A year ago, the student-athletes and coaching staff spoke openly about their desire to play deep into December in the postseason, but this fall the approach will be different. Hobart will have but one goal: Win on Saturday. The old sports axiom of “concentrating on the next opponent” will be more than just a cliché for the Statesmen; it will be their sole mission.

That mission will be tested early and often. Hobart will play a 10-game schedule for the first time in a decade, dropping William Paterson from last year's slate, while adding Carnegie Mellon and Liberty League newcomer Susquehanna.

The Statesmen will begin the season with back-to-back showdowns against 2006 NCAA Playoff teams, at Dickinson (Sept. 8) and vs. the Tartans (Sept. 15). The conference schedule begins on Sept. 22, when Rensselaer—the 2006 ECAC Northeast Bowl Champions—visits Boswell Field. That game will be televised on the Time Warner Sports Network.



KEVIN COLTON

Senior cornerback Corey Cage registered 21 tackles (16 solo), six pass break ups, and two interceptions in seven games last season, his first as a starter. He missed the last three games of the season due to injury. Fully recovered, Cage is expected to once again start in a talented and deep secondary.

The middle portion of the schedule sends Hobart to WPI (Sept. 29) and Susquehanna (Oct. 6) before returning to Boswell Field for contests against Merchant Marine (Oct. 13) and St. Lawrence (Oct. 20).

The stretch run will be just as big a test as the Statesmen's first three games. Hobart will host 2006 ECAC Northwest Bowl Champion, Alfred, on Oct. 27. The Statesmen will wrap up the regular season at 2006 NCAA Playoff participant Union (Nov. 3), and at the Saxons' victim in the Northwest Bowl, Rochester (Nov. 10).

The Statesmen will return 26 lettermen, including 12 starters from last year's squad. Here's a look at Hobart position-by-position:

DEFENSIVE BACKS

On the defensive side of the ball, the Statesmen boast the most talent and depth in

the secondary. All three starters return, but senior free safety Mike Kaplun is expected to join the linebacker corps, which will open a spot for a new starter.

Cornerbacks James Alexander (7 passes defended), Corey Cage (8), and Chris Szymanski (4) all saw time in the starting line up. As seniors, Alexander and Cage are expected to start on opening day with the sophomore Szymanski, who missed the start of camp due to illness, seeing a fair amount of playing time. Senior Bryan Newcomb and junior Lance Boyington bolster the depth at corner and will be key contributors on special teams.

Sophomore Dan Pembroke and junior transfer Alex Keyes (City College of San Francisco) will battle for the nod at free safety. Pembroke has the edge heading into preseason camp by virtue of his experience in the Hobart system, but the coaching staff is excited about



the potential of the California speedster.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

Kaplun brings his 6-foot-1, 185 pound frame to play on the weak side, a spot left vacant by the graduation of All-Liberty League selection Evan Hoffman. Kaplun's coverage skills will make the linebackers tougher to beat through the air, while his 35 solo tackles last season show he's ready to step up against the run game. He'll have big shoes to fill following Hoffman's 79-tackle, 12-tackle for a loss, six-sack performance of a year ago.

Lining up opposite him is a name that will be familiar to Statesmen fans, sophomore Ryan Robinson, younger brother of two-time All-Liberty League pick Nolan '07 (250 tkl, 22 TFL, 12 sacks). The younger Robinson was a steady and reliable contributor in the spring practice and is ready to make a name for himself.

A trio of young players is positioned to support Kaplun and Robinson. First-year Fernando Jones (5-foot-11, 205 lbs.) turned in some strong performances early in camp and has quickly moved up the depth chart. Junior



Senior Mike Kaplun will move closer to the line of scrimmage in 2007. After starting at free safety last season, he'll move to outside linebacker this year.

Orlando Patterson appears ready for a breakthrough season after missing the 2005 campaign with two leg injuries and spending last season buried on the depth chart. Sophomore transfer Kevin Schweitzer (Morrisville State) was third in tackles for the Mustangs (23-21-44) and second in tackles for a loss (5 for 21 yds).

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

The lone returning starter from the 2006 linebacker unit is four-year starter Jeff Sanders. One of the team's tri-captains, his leadership will be needed to bring the linebackers together. Sanders will do more than his fair share to see that the group succeeds as evidenced by his 172 career tackles, tops among active Statesmen.

Junior Justin Hager is penciled into the other starting role. With his combination of speed and power, he'll make some exciting plays, but his lack of experience may lead to a few miscues early on.

Junior Tony Siravo and sophomore Ben Pyburn are the leading candidates to back up Sanders and Hager. Siravo excels against the run, while Pyburn's speed and athleticism makes him better on passing downs.

Both players will be challenged for playing time by first-year Kyle O'Laughlin (6-foot-1, 210 lbs.). The graduate of nearby Onondaga Central High School was a three-time All-State selection leading the Tigers to the state semifinals last year.

DEFENSIVE LINE

The strength of Hobart's defense in 2006 was up front. The guys in the trenches were second in the Liberty League in rushing defense (117.9 yds/g), second in sacks (29), and first in yards lost by sacks (194).

The front four should once again be a strength as three of four starters return from that unit. The lone loss is end Andy Purdie '07 and his team-leading 7.5 sacks.

Junior tri-captain Ryan Aruck will anchor the middle. He was third on the team in tackles in '06 (65), but that number doesn't do justice to the chaos he caused opposing linemen, drawing double and triple teams to contain him. Sophomore Mike Faracca will occupy the other tackle spot. Hobart football's Rookie of the Year recorded 28 tackles.

Senior Derek Peterson and sophomore Mike Arduini are expected to complete the two-deep at tackle. Peterson is a versatile athlete, who has played seemingly everywhere on the offensive and defensive lines, while Arduini is looking to build on a solid first-year



Senior defensive end Jim Drury enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2006, recording career-highs in tackles (29), tackles for a loss (5.5), and sacks (5.0).

campaign. Peterson may move out to end if sophomore Anthony Shaw continues his meteoric development that began in the spring and continued through camp.

Bookending the line will be senior Jim Drury and sophomore Kwame Lovell. Drury emerged as a strong pass rusher last season, logging 29 tackles, including five sacks. Lovell was robbed of his first collegiate season by injury, but is back in prime condition and ready to fulfill the potential as one of the prized recruits of the Class of 2010.

Sophomore Tony Guidetti suffered a knee injury in the preseason, but is expected to be the top back up when he returns. In the meantime, first-years Chris Luber (6-foot-4, 215 lbs.) and James Rayhill (6-foot-3, 185 lbs.) will fill that role. Both are undersized speed rushers who have impressed the coaching staff with their ability to absorb the intricacies of the defensive schemes. Luber helped North Babylon High School to the Long Island Championship as a sophomore, while Rayhill was a 2006 All-State selection for Grand Island High School.

KEN DERBOUT

KEVIN COLTON



KEVIN COLTON



Junior wide receiver Ryan LiDrazzah has 62 receptions for 888 yards and nine touchdowns entering this season. He's on pace for 124 career receptions which would place him fourth on Hobart's all-time list. A special teams contributor as well, LiDrazzah was fourth in the Liberty League in kick return average in 2006.

QUARTERBACK

The question on everyone's mind is how will Hobart replace the record breaking abilities of two-time All-Liberty League quarterback Shawn Mizro? In three seasons as a starter, he completed 455 passes for 6,097 yards, and 61 touchdowns, compiling a passer rating of 149.57, all career records.

The answer is senior tri-captain Andrew Strom. He played at least one series in nine games last season, completing 6-of-10 passes for 48 yards. While Mizro was a classic pocket passer, Strom has the added ability to take off and run, as evidenced by his 90 rushing yards (7.5 yds/att). While Offensive Coordinator Kevin DeWall keeps his plans to utilize Strom's quickness closely guarded, fans can expect Strom to showcase his athletic ability in both the running and passing games.

Junior Rich Doyle and sophomore P.J. Overdorf are the leading candidates to earn the second spot on the depth chart. At 6-foot-1

and 6-foot-2, respectively, they are classic pocket passers with strong arms capable of stepping in and leading the offense.

TAILBACK

The second question on everyone's mind is who will replace two-time All-American running back Doug Blakowski? He averaged 5.0 yards per carry during his career, gaining 2,610 yards and scoring 32 touchdowns. With back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons to close out his career, Blakowski became the first Hobart back to accomplish that feat since 1999.

The coaching staff expects the answer to be running back by committee, at least to start the season. Senior Don Gilardi and junior Anthony Hobaica return. Both are under-

sized, strong backs who excel at making tacklers miss.

Gilardi is the team's top returning rusher, having carried the ball 37 times for 230 yards last season. He's averaged 6.3 yards per carry through his first three seasons, and he has big gain potential every time he touches the ball. Gilardi has posted a 55-yard touchdown run in each of the past two seasons despite only carrying the ball a total of 44 times.

Hobaica also has a solid rushing average, 4.4 yds/att. He returned to preseason camp a day late because he was completing a summer internship with the Seattle Seahawks Department of football operations.

The primary challenger to these two overclassmen is expected to be Andrew Marlier. A transfer from Division I Illinois State, he is a bigger back (6-foot, 200 lbs.) the likes of which the Statesmen haven't had in quite some time. While he's new to Hobart's system, Marlier's athleticism and bruising running style will help

him get into the rotation at tailback early.

FULLBACK

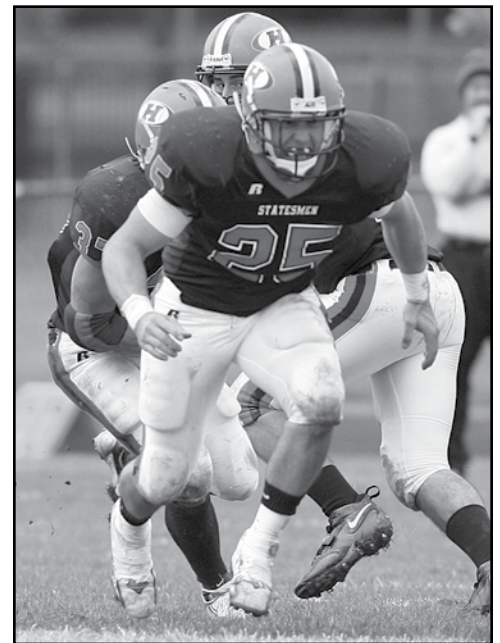
Senior Dan Spinella is the returning starter at fullback, although he tended to split snaps 50/50 with Chris Whipple '07 last year. Spinella is very athletic (he also plays for Hobart's Division I lacrosse team) which makes him a threat to run and catch passes.

Untested sophomores Dan Bittner and Rob Nieves are also expected to see time in the backfield. Bittner is a punishing blocker, while Nieves' stock has shot up thanks to impressive showings in the early days of preseason camp.

WIDE RECEIVER

All-Star caliber receivers senior James Wright and junior Ryan LiDrazzah will give Strom a pair of reliable targets this season. A steady possession receiver, Wright is averaging 14.7 yards per catch over his career, while LiDrazzah is a converted running back that uses his speed to beat teams deep (long receptions of 68 and 53 yards in the past two years) and his versatility (12 rushes for 46 yards) to keep them guessing.

Hobart's experience will drop off considerably after the starters. Juniors Zach Schulz and Joe Cowan and sophomore Tyler Vincent will battle for playing time in spread formations. Vincent and Schulz both stand 6-foot-2 providing big targets that present match up



KEVIN COLTON

Senior fullback Dan Spinella is averaging 4.4 yards per play during his career. An exceptional athlete, he'll be one of the top Division I faceoff men when the lacrosse season rolls around in the spring.



challenges to smaller corners, while Cowan is slightly smaller (6-foot) but has played big in the preseason.

TIGHT END

The Statesmen graduated their top two tight ends in Kyle Martin and Ryan McWalter. Martin (career: 19 rec., 258 yds, 5 TDs) was one of the best all-around tight ends in the Liberty League, while McWalter was a converted quarterback who worked hard to earn quality playing time.

However, there won't be a noticeable drop off as junior Matt Duliba is ready to pick up the slack. He's a strong blocker who's made steady progress as a receiver. He caught his first collegiate pass, the game's final touchdown, in the win over Rochester last season.

The back up role is expected to fall on the shoulders of David Degan. A very intelligent student-athlete, he was a nominee for the Wendy's High School Heisman and the National Football Foundation Western New York Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Junior Mike Ehmke and first-year James West will add depth at tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The most important question everyone should be asking is, who's going to provide the blocking? Hobart will be without the services of All-Liberty League linemen Mike DePersis '07, Nino Giambrore '07, and Brian Ohman '07.

The answer begins with returning starters senior Phill Perkins and junior Mike Condon. The team's top pass blocker, Perkins is a three-year starter at left tackle, who earned All-Liberty League honors in 2005 and merited the same last season. Condon started at center a year ago, but will move out to right tackle after hitting the weight room all summer.

Expect sophomore Brian Monaco, the team's No. 6 lineman last season, to start at right guard. He's a smart, hard-working player with the potential to be a three-year starter. Classmate Andrew Miller is projected to hold down the left guard spot. He's very strong and has made steady progress learning the blocking schemes.

Junior Rick Riggi added 10 pounds and worked hard in the weight room over the summer, earning the first look at center.

Always a key to the success of the line, depth will come from untested players this season. Senior Pat Carberry and sophomore Angelo Catalano will back up at the guard and tackle positions, respectively.

Sophomore Sean Kluber will miss the start

of the season due to injury, but is expected to provide support at center when he returns to the line up.

Additional support is expected from the Class of 2011 in the form of Geneva native Kelvin Cruz (6-foot, 295 lbs.) and Muamer Torlak (6-foot-3, 250 lbs.).

SPECIAL TEAMS

Hobart's special teams play is expected to be a strength this season with starters returning at every key position.

Senior Dominick Ancona made the preseason watch list for the Gilburg Award, presented to the nation's top punter. The All-Liberty League selection finished fifth in the nation last season with a 41.3 yards per punt average, helping the Statesmen finish 10th in net punting (34.39 yds/p). He also handles kickoffs and, unlike the prototypical kicker, isn't afraid to challenge blockers and make tackles. In fact, Ancona was tied for the team lead with a pair

of fumble recoveries, both on kickoffs.

The place kicking duties will fall on the shoulders of sophomore Denis Avdic. Fourth in the League in scoring, he earned All-Liberty League honorable mention after converting 6-of-11 field goals and 21-of-26 PATs. Blessed with a strong leg, Avdic boomed a 39-yard field goal in his Hobart debut against Dickinson.

LiDrazzah is one of several options to return kickoffs this year. He was fourth in the conference last season, averaging 23.2 yards per return. The coaches are also auditioning Hobaic and Marlier for the role.

On punt returns, Wright was a steady option a year ago, finishing fourth in the league with 6.8 yards per return. Unflappable under pressure, Wright was the first choice because he could be counted on to protect the football. To add some big play potential to punt returns, LiDrazzah, Marlier, and Schulz may also get the chance to field punts.



Senior punter Dominick Ancona led the Liberty League and was fifth in the nation in 2006 in punting average at 41.3 yards. The exceptional average, which included a career-long punt of 65 yards, earned him a spot on the preseason watch list for the Gilburg Award, presented to the nation's top punter.

KEVIN COLTON