

Tommies gain momentum

Team hopes to build on back-to-back victories

By HEATHER RULE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a rough start, the football team is on a two-game winning streak with victories against Carleton and Augsburg. The team had its first 0-4 start since 1969 before the win at Carleton Oct. 6.

St. Thomas (2-4, 2-2 MIAC) scored 27 unanswered points to rally for a 50-33 win Saturday, Oct. 13 at Augsburg. The Tommies jumped out to a 14-6 lead before trailing 33-23 early in the third quarter. They went on to score four more touchdowns in the high-scoring game marked with six lead changes. The game was just the second time in 12 seasons St. Thomas has scored 50 points on the road.

"The best thing about the win was winning with a team effort," said sophomore wide-receiver Sam Moen. "It didn't come from one person; it came from many other players."

Senior wide receiver P.J. Theisen added to the excitement by breaking a 25-year-old school career receiving record. In his career 37 games, Theisen has 177 receptions for 2,570 yards and 15 touchdowns. He credits his teammates and coaches for helping him to achieve the record.

"It's something you don't really think

about ever," Theisen said. "It's more of a team accomplishment."

He surpassed former Minnesota Viking Jim Gustafson's record of 174 receptions from 1979-82. Theisen has 11 catches in his last 12 games.

The defense continued to improve Saturday by snagging three interceptions, recovering a fumble and recording five sacks. Freshman linebacker Tony Danna had a pickoff and a sack in the game and senior defensive back Pat Sommerstad led the defense with 10 tackles. On offense, Moen made seven catches for 93 yards and a 60-yard touchdown reception. Junior quarterback David Sauer, named MIAC Offensive Player of the Week Monday, completed 35-of-46 passes for 441 yards and three touchdowns.

"The offensive line gave me plenty of time to throw, and the wide receivers and running backs made plays all afternoon," Sauer said.

The team's first win came Oct. 3 at Carleton. It was their 15th win in a row over the Knights. St. Thomas took a 12-0 lead on their way to a 19-7 win. Turnovers have haunted St. Thomas this season, but they gave up the ball only once, while taking advantage of Carleton's six turnovers.

"It was a reward for a lot of hard work," Theisen said. "It was good to finally get in the win column."

The Tommies have had a tough schedule thus far, but now that they have passed the halfway point of the season, they hope to win the rest of the way. They opened the season with a 35-10 loss Sept. 1 at Central



GRANT GRIEBENOW/THE AQUIN

Junior quarterback David Sauer prepares to throw a pass in a Oct. 13 game against Augsburg.

College in Iowa. The Tommies lost 31-23 against non-conference opponent Loras in week two. They lost 30-14 in the home opener against MIAC foe Gustavus. The Tommies saw their first win slip away as Bethel stole the lead and a close game at St. Thomas with a 19-18 win.

"That was pretty hard to take as a team," Moen said. "We're not used to losing."

St. Thomas has gone through some growing pains this season. They have a new offensive style, which has taken some adjustment. On the defensive side, the team is young, with a lot of freshman and sophomores. The younger players had a bit of a shock at the start as they adjusted to playing college football.

"They're playing really well right now," Theisen said.

When the team started practices in August, an 0-4 start was not what they saw for the beginning of the season. They thought they had a lot of potential, Sauer said.

"We had pretty high expectations coming into the season," Sauer said.

The always anticipated Tommie/John-

nie game will be Oct. 27 at St. John's. The rivalry with St. John's is a big one and a win on the road would be a huge upset against the undefeated conference-leading Johnnies.

"If we could beat St. John's that would be the next best thing to winning the conference," Sauer said.

The Tommies return home on Saturday when they host Concordia-Moorhead for their homecoming game. A third consecutive win would be a "big stepping stone" for the rest of the season, Theisen said.

Now that the team has a winning streak, they want to be undefeated the rest of the way with a 6-4 record. They have kept positive attitudes throughout the season and know that they have the potential to bring home a MIAC championship.

"There's still a shot we could win the conference," Sauer said. "In any given week any team can beat another team in this conference."

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GRANT GRIEBENOW/THE AQUIN

The men's crew team trains for this weekend's Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. The team begins rowing down the Minnesota River for practices around 5:30 a.m. five days a week.

Crew heads to world's second-largest race

By CHRIS NORDENSON
STAFF WRITER

The tight-knit St. Thomas crew team is sending 23 of its top rowers to Boston to compete in the 43rd annual Head of the Charles Regatta on Oct. 20 and 21.

"This is a race where anything can happen," senior men's captain Josh Redman said. "You just kind of see who gets bumped, who gets penalized and who crashes."

The regatta is the second-largest rowing competition in the world. More than 7,500 athletes from around the globe will compete in 55 different events. The two-day competition attracts up to 300,000 spectators.

The St. Thomas men's and women's teams will compete in the collegiate eight event, which features boats of eight rowers, and the men will also race in the collegiate four, with four rowers per boat. This is the largest group that St. Thomas has ever sent to the nation's premiere fall regatta.

The men's team competed in last year's collegiate eight and finished 22nd out of 58 universities. They earned a guaranteed spot in this year's event. The women are looking to improve on their 44th place finish last year. They received an invitation to this year's event through a lottery spot.

This year there are 42 teams entered in the women's and men's collegiate eight events. There are 31 teams entered in the men's collegiate four.

The teams have competed in two events so far this year, the first being the Death Row Regatta. Senior Andrea Peterson described the Death Row Regatta as a laidback race that is mainly just for fun.

"It is an 18-mile long race that starts in Superior Bay and finishes in the St. Louis River," Peterson said. The men's collegiate eight finished under two hours while the women's collegiate eight finished in a little more than two hours.

The second event was the Head of The Rock Regatta Oct.

7, which is a 5-kilometer race in which St. Thomas sent two women's collegiate eight teams, while the men sent one collegiate eight team and one collegiate four team. The women finished 19th and 22nd out of 23 teams. The men's collegiate eight team finished 5th out of 14 teams while the men's collegiate four finished 13th out of 15 teams.

"Notre Dame beat us by three-tenths of a second for fourth place," Redman said. "It just shows you what kind of sport crew is."

The crew team was supposed to participate in another event hosted by the University of Minnesota called the Head of The Mississippi, but that race was cancelled because of the 35W bridge collapse.

"It was our home regatta and it's kind of frustrating that we couldn't take advantage of that," Redman said.

For the past two weeks, senior coxswain Amanda Nomsen has been looking at a map of the Charles River and a second-by-second guide on how to steer

the courses.

"Some of us will be out [on the Charles River] on Thursday night and then most of us will be there on Friday morning," Nomsen said. "Hopefully on Friday we can do a practice run, so that we can kind of get a feel for the course."

Peterson, Nomsen and Redman described the Head of the Charles as a coxswain race. There are a lot of turns and it isn't easy to turn the eight-person boat.

"The turns are really sharp," Redman said. "The bridges are very narrow and you can only fit one boat at a time, where as in the Mississippi you can fit like five boats at a time."

Crew is a physically exhausting sport, which requires getting up very early to practice.

"Crew team is a lifestyle. We don't do the things [typical] college kids do," Peterson said. "We are in bed by nine or 10 because we have to be on the river at 5:30 a.m."

Peterson is making this a family event as she will compete in

the women's collegiate category and her dad will compete in the master's double event with the Duluth Rowing Club.

Each member of the crew team has to pay for his or her own way to Boston. For this trip the whole team is flying, but for other events the team rents vans.

"The women's goal is to get an automatic bid to next year's event, which means that we need to finish within the top five percent," Nomsen said.

The men's team has had a big rivalry over the last few years with the University of Minnesota. Last year in Boston the men's team finished 15 seconds ahead of the University of Minnesota team.

"It's pretty cool to say we get to go to Boston this year and the University of Minnesota doesn't," Peterson said. "We are just a Division III school and they are Division I."

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