

June 6, 2023

Mayville State University Head Football Coach Rocky Larson

Report on roster sizes, White Hat donations, impact of the White Hats, 2023 season preview

- Three-game winning streak in 2022
- All American Quarterback – Tim Salmon
- Offensively
 - Broke five school records
 - Passing yards in a game against Nebraska Wesleyan
 - Touchdown passes in a game
 - Led the country in passing yards a game
 - Joshua Portillo broke the all-time record for receiving yards in a career
 - Reece Smith broke the single game receiving record with 270 yards vs. VCSU
- Team GPA
 - Fall 2.95
 - Spring 3.01
- Volunteered over 800 hours in the community
- Will be hosting our first-ever youth camp this summer
- Held a youth night for all the local towns to come and over 80 kids participated
- We brought in new kids at the semester break.
- Signed 54 new student-athletes in the current class and counting
- The team raised \$93,000 as a football program last year.
- Graduated seven seniors and will have six seniors next year. There will be 43 in 2024-25 as our first class comes through to graduate
- We had 66 players participate in spring football this year.
- This will be one of the most important years for the program and White Hat Club. We need to start replacing our class of 43 seniors this year in order to not take a dip going forward.
- This upcoming year, we will have 14 coaches on staff, including student coaches, which includes the hiring of Scott Olsen.
- The program signed students from Hillsboro, Central Valley, May-Port CG, Thompson, and Hatton-Northwood to protect the borders.

Roster Size - The total number of players on the roster was 32 when we took over the program in 2019. This year, we are anticipating between 110 and 115 student-athletes on the roster. The program graduated seven seniors last year, all of whom were holdovers from the previous staff. Next year's senior class is only six, due to the extra COVID year.

Investment of White Hat Funds - This was the year we knew we were going to need the White Hat Fund for scholarships. Here is an example: our QB, RB, 3WR, and both TE are all going to be seniors in schools. Due to the COVID rule, all of these young men are going to play the fifth year. We have an influx of young kids in our program, but few kids leaving the program, which is a positive and a negative. We are planning to use \$65,000 of White Hat funds next year to help to continue to grow the roster, not only to be competitive in the North Star, but also nationally. This next recruiting class is vital to the stability of Mayville State Football, due to such a large number of our student-athletes graduating in 2024-2025.

Impact of the White Hats on Comet Football - The White Hats have allowed us to do so much in the past 40 months since taking over the program. **Words cannot describe how powerful this group has become. Our football program thanks very one of you for your help and investment in Comet Football.** The wins are coming. We built the program from the ground up, and we finally have a good foundation.

Our door is always open. If anyone ever wants to stop in, please do so. One of the things that I am most proud of as the head football coach at Mayville State is our Team GPA getting to 3.01. We are getting it done in the classroom, and this will translate to the field. I am also very proud of being able to retain a majority of our staff over the last three seasons. This is vital to the success of a rebuilding program.

2023 Season Outlook - The season outlook is good after an up-and-down off-season. A sign of the times, both presentation College and Iowa Wesleyan closed their doors. Finlandia, scheduled as our first game, also shuttered. To say scheduling was a mess is an understatement. Through the conference and many meetings, we did manage to schedule 11 games with five of them being home. This is great news as we were at four or three home games at one point. However, we start out the season as travelers with three-straight overnight trips to Montana State-northern, Dickinson, and Nebraska Wesleyan. That three-week run is followed by Farmers Bowl/Homecoming on September 16 versus Waldorf. With a large junior class and 56 student-athletes signed so far, we look forward to the season ahead. Thank you to everyone for sticking with us. We are excited to see you at The Berg this fall!