

# 100 YEARS OF WILDCAT

**1904** — NMU's first football team, under coach William McCracken, goes 2-1-0. The team played at the County Fairgrounds field on Wright Street.

**1915** — Northern's football squad begins to play on a field behind Kaye Hall (now the university's east entrance). NMU officially took ownership of this field in 1928.



**1916** — Coach Wayne "W.B." McClintock leads the first football team to score more than 100 points in a season. Team posts a 4-2-0 record.

**1918** — No varsity football due to World War I.

**1920 & 1921** — NMU meets Michigan Tech for the first time on the gridiron. NMU loses both games (13-20, 0-26). In 1921, Northern beats MTU for the first time, 7-6. The rivalry officially begins.

**1922** — Charles "C.B." Hedgcock becomes football coach. Hedgcock will coach the squad until 1937, making him the longest-serving NMU gridiron coach (15 years).



**1929** — Northern enjoys its first undefeated season of a campaign of more than three games (4-0-2).

**1938** — Morgan Gingrass sets NMU and NAIA records for most yards returned from pass interceptions in a game (160 yards vs. UW-Oshkosh).

**1943-45** — No varsity football due to World War II.

**1947** — Northern begins play on the new Memorial Field (located where the Berry Events Center now stands). Quarterback Cliff Puckett is the first-ever recipient of the program's Most Valuable Player Award.

**1948 & 1949** — Record-setting and tying years for shutouts by a Wildcat team (4). The same number of shutout victories would be attained in 1958.

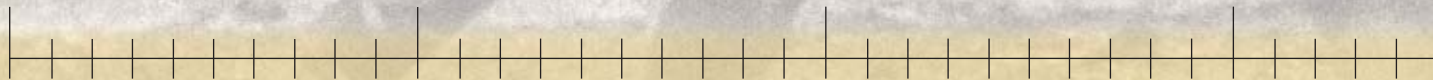
**1956** — Under Coach Lloyd Eaton, Wildcats celebrate their first undefeated season (7-0-1) since 1929. Eaton is chosen the NAIA Coach of the Year. Quarterback Tom Schwalbach becomes the first NMU player to receive All-America status (Associated Press All-America Honorable Mention).

**1960** — NMU advances to the NAIA playoffs, tying Lenoir Rhyne College, 20-20, but losing on total yardage. Coach F.L. "Frosty" Ferzacca is named the NAIA Coach of the Year. He will receive this honor four times (1960-63-64-65).

**1962** — Tackle Jack Mauro becomes the first Wildcat selected to a first-team All-America squad, chosen to the NAIA team. Halfback Tom Neumann was named to the honorable mention contingent.

**1966** — Offensive guard Curt Marker is the first Wildcat selected to play in the Blue-Gray Game.

**1967** — Under Coach Rollie Dotsch, Wildcats go 9-0-0 and advance to the NAIA playoffs before losing to Fairmont State College, 21-7.



*1900s*

*1920s*

*1940s*



# FOOTBALL, 1904-2004



Jack Mauro (1962)

**1969** — Jim Danilko sets NMU and NCAA-II records for most yards returned from pass interceptions in a season with 296.

**1972** — Guy Falkenhagen is NMU's first Academic All American, selected to the first team.



Curt Marker (1966)



**1975** — The Wildcats win the NCAA Division II title, beating Western Kentucky, 16-14, with Steve Mariucci at quarterback. Coach Gil Krueger is named the Chevrolet NCAA Division II Coach of the Year. Center Dan Stencil becomes first Kodak All-American, selected to the first team.

**1975-76** — The Wildcats set a record for most consecutive victories (18).

**1976** — NMU is knocked out of NCAA Division II playoffs when Akron wins the first-ever overtime game in NCAA-II history, 29-26.

**1977** — Quarterback Steve Mariucci is selected the team's Most Valuable Player, the only Wildcat to be voted MVP for three consecutive years.

**1980** — Wildcats advance to NCAA Division II playoffs but are eliminated in 27-26 loss to Santa Clara.

**1981** — Under Coach Bill Rademacher (a former Wildcat great), the 'Cats go 10-0-0 during the regular season. Northern beats Elizabeth City (N.C.) 55-6 in the first round of the NCAA-II playoffs before losing 62-0 to Southwest Texas.

**1987** — NMU advances to the second round of the NCAA-II playoffs and beats Angelo State 23-20 in overtime before losing to Portland State 13-7. Running back Steve Avery is the GLIAC Player of the Year; defensive back Jerry Woods, the GLIAC Specialist of the Year; and Herb Grenke, the GLIAC Coach of the Year.



Jim Danilko (1969)

**1991** — The Superior Dome becomes the home of the Wildcat football team.

**1996** — Matt Hoard is voted the MIFC Player of the Year and Offensive Back of the Year.

**1997** — Punt return specialist Brian Pinks sets NMU and NCAA-II records for most career yards returned (1,228).



Guy Falkenhagen (1972)

**2000** — Marc Dugas is named the GLIAC Offensive Lineman of the Year.



**2002** — Current head coach Doug Sams is hired to lead the Wildcat football program.



Steve Mariucci (1977)

*1960s*

*1980s*

*2000s*

