

GAME INFORMATION

STORYLINES

Not since...
This past weekend, head coach Eric Hehman and the Tiger Football team accomplished a feat that has eluded ONU teams for the last 20 seasons. They defeated MSFA Mideast opponent, Siena Heights (Mich.), 20-11 Saturday shutting out the Saints for the entire second half. The win was Olivet's third straight to start the season, something that had not been achieved by a Tiger team since the 1996 season. That same team went on to start the season 4-0. ONU will have the opportunity to match that record today with a win over another MSFA Mideast opponent, Concordia-Ann Arbor.

Today will also give the Tigers the opportunity to win their first two home games for the first time since 2007. That season ONU defeated Iowa Wesleyan and Quincy in consecutive weeks after starting 0-3 on the road. Notably, the Tigers finished 4-0 at home that season. Since 2007, the Tigers are 15-35 at Ward Field. Meanwhile, the Cardinals are 12-24 on the road in the last eight seasons.

Something has to give
Olivet Nazarene and Concordia-Ann Arbor meet today for the first time since 2014. ONU comes into today's game with a 3-0 record and Concordia-Ann Arbor brings a 2-0 mark into Ward Field. Both teams are currently in first place in their respective leagues in the Mid-States Football Association and each team has two more non-conference games before they start league play. Today's game is the third game in the all-time series. Both teams have won once; the Cardinals won 24-21 in Bourbonnais in 2014 and ONU was victorious 24-7 in Ann Arbor in 2013.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR Rashaan Gaymon (JR)
One of the top receivers in the MSFA has been the go-to target for Jordan Lawton so far through three games this season. He leads the Tigers with 16 receptions for 255 yards (85.0) and has a team-high four touchdowns. Gaymon is fifth in the MSFA in receptions per game (5.3) and sixth in yards per game (85.0). Not only does Gaymon play out wide, but he is one of the best kick returners in the NAIA. He currently is second among MSFA leaders in yards per return (24.7) and 21st in the NAIA. Gaymon is also nearing a very impressive accomplishment. He is only 73 receiving yards shy of fifth all-time in ONU history. He currently has 1,314 yards in only 17 career games.

DL Arinze Ekowa (FR)
In only three career games, Ekowa, has already been a force for the very tough Tiger defensive line. He currently is sixth on the team with 13 tackles (11 solo). Yet, he has been a force behind the line of scrimmage, tallying six tackles for loss, good for 34 yards and has three sacks (26 yards). Ekowa also has three quarterback hurries. Ekowa is leading the MSFA in tackles for loss per game (2.0) and leads the league in yards loss. He is third in sacks per game (1.0) and second in yards per sack. His efforts on the defensive line alongside his teammates have been instrumental in holding teams to only 16.3 points and 322.3 yards per game.

RB Joe Conner (SO)
The leading rusher in the MSFA will be at Ward Field on Saturday. Conner is currently averaging 123.5 yards per game after rushing for 77 yards on Saturday in a win over Trinity International. He is second in the MSFA in carries (36), yards per carry (6.9) and is tied for the lead in rushing touchdowns with five. As a freshman, Conner also led the Cardinals in rushing and for his marks he was named MSFA Mideast First Team Offense. He ran the ball 143 times for 1,052 yards and scored eight times, averaging 7.4 yards per carry. Conner will clash with a Tiger defense that has only allowed 82.3 yards per game so far in 2017, the fourth-best mark in the MSFA.

LB Andrew O'Hara (JR)
The junior linebacker was named MSFA Mideast Honorable Mention following his sophomore season. His start to his junior year has been great for the Cardinals. O'Hara leads the team with 13 tackles, two for loss (eight yards), one and half sacks and has two sacks. He also has an interception return for 21 yards, one quarterback hurry, and a fumble recovery. Last season he was third on the team with 65 tackles, which 10 were for loss (53 yards).

QUICK FACTS

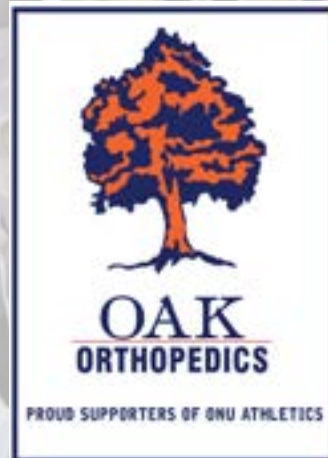
AFFILIATIONS: Olivet Nazarene: NAIA; Concordia-Ann Arbor: NAIA
CONFERENCES: Olivet Nazarene: Mid-States Football Association Midwest League; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Mid-States Football Association Mideast League
COACHES: Olivet Nazarene: Eric Hehman (Taylor), 7-7 at Olivet, 2nd season; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Joshua Schumacher (Concordia-Chicago), 18-27 at Concordia-Ann Arbor, 5th season
NICKNAMES: Olivet Nazarene: Tigers; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Cardinals
COLORS: Olivet Nazarene: Purple and Gold; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Black and Red
SERIES RECORD: Series is tied 1-1
LAST MEETING: Concordia-Ann Arbor won 24-21 on Sept. 20, 2014, game played in Bourbonnais, Ill.
ENROLLMENT: Olivet Nazarene: 4,953; Concordia-Ann Arbor: 800
PRESIDENTS: Olivet Nazarene: Dr. John C. Bowling; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Curt Gielow
DIRECTORS OF ATHLETICS: Olivet Nazarene: Gary Newsome; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Lonnie Pries
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS: Olivet Nazarene: Nick Birkey; Concordia-Ann Arbor: Zach Johnston
OLIVET ON THE INTERNET: www.onutigers.com
LIVE AUDIO/VIDEO/STATS: <http://client.stretchinternet.com/client/olivet.portal#> (only home games)

GAME FOCUS

Two of the tops defenses will take the field today. The Tigers are third in the MSFA in points allowed (16.3) and the Cardinals are tops in the league at only 13.0 per game. Meanwhile, through two games CUAA is only giving up 231.5 yards (2nd-best) to its opponents while ONU is sixth-best (322.3). ONU's rush defense is fourth among league leaders (82.3 ypg), while the Cardinals have been great against the run (82.5) and pass (149.0). ONU's defense has been great at getting to the quarterback so far, they lead the MSFA in sacks with 12. Nevertheless, CUAA has only been sacked three times.

In the MSFA rankings the Tigers and Cardinals are neck-and-neck in multiple offensive categories. In total offense, CUAA is seventh (398.5) and ONU is right behind them in eighth (366.0). When you consider each team's rushing attack they are almost identical. The Cardinals (5th) are 1.3 yards better per game than the Tigers (6th) at 164.0 per game. In the passing game, the Cardinals are tied for sixth (234.5 ypg) while ONU is eighth (203.3 ypg).

Today's game features two teams that have taken care of the ball so far in 2017. The Tigers only have three turnovers, recording their first interception last weekend and the Cardinals only have one fumble and interception to their credit. At the same time, the Tigers have a plus-three (third-best in MSFA) turnover margin compared to plus-two (fifth-best) for CUAA. These marks are in contrast from the last two times these two teams met. In their meeting in September of 2014, ONU had six lost fumbles and CUAA had two. The Cardinals also had two interceptions.



OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

GAMEDAY



September 16, 2017



(RV) OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

VS.

(RV) CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY-ANN ARBOR (MICH.)



A special thank-you to today's game sponsor



