

Calvin College Men's Soccer Notes for NCAA III Final Four

***First Time Around** - Calvin is making its first-ever trip to the NCAA III Final Four in men's soccer. Calvin is the second team from the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) to advance to the Final Four in men's soccer as Alma also achieved the feat in 1999. Interestingly, Calvin and Alma shared the 1999 MIAA title but Alma gained the MIAA's automatic bid due a head-to-head tiebreaker edge that year, forcing the Knights to stay home from the post-season tournament. Alma's head coach in 1999 was current Messiah head women's soccer coach Scott Frey who will also be in San Antonio this weekend.

***NCAA III Tournament History** - Calvin is making its ninth appearance in the NCAA III Tournament including its fifth under current head coach Chris Hughes. Heading into the NCAA III Final Four, Calvin is 7-7-3 all-time in NCAA III Tournament play including 4-3-3 under Hughes.

***Meet The Coach** – Calvin is under the direction of head coach Chris Hughes who is in his eighth year as the Calvin men's soccer (varsity) coach. Prior to taking over the varsity position in 2002, Hughes served as Calvin's junior varsity coach for eight years. A 1992 Calvin graduate, Hughes was a four-year member of the Calvin men's soccer team and was a three-year starter on defense. As a senior in 1990, Hughes was named to the All-MIAA first team as a defender and was a part of MIAA championship teams in 1987 and 1990. Heading into the Final Four, Hughes has a won-loss record at Calvin of 117-38-15 for a winning percentage of .718. Heading into the 2009 season, Hughes was ranked 21st nationally in terms of winning percentage for active Division III men's soccer coaches. Hughes has led Calvin to five MIAA titles, five trips to the NCAA III Tournament and was named the Great Lakes Regional Coach of the Year in 2004.

***Like Father/Like Son** – Calvin features a pair of father/son combinations that have now both worn a Calvin soccer uniform. Randy Heethuis – father of Calvin junior forward Brad Heethuis was a member of the Calvin men's soccer team from 1980-1983 and was a part of two Calvin teams that reached the NCAA III Tournament including the national quarterfinals in 1980. Brian Broekhuizen, father of Calvin freshman forward Joe Broekhuizen – was a member of the Calvin men's soccer team from 1978 to 1981, was a teammate of Randy Heethuis for two years, was a member of MIAA championship teams in 1978, 1979 and 1981 and Calvin's NCAA III Tournament team of 1980 that reached the quarterfinals.

***Unity at Calvin** – Randy Heethuis is the head boys and girls soccer coach at Hudsonville Unity Christian High School in suburban Grand Rapids and has led his boys soccer program to Michigan (MHSAA) Division II state titles in 2007 & 2009 (2) and his girls soccer program to MHSAA Division III state titles in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 (5). Heethuis has six of his former players suiting up for the Calvin men's soccer program this year including brothers Luke and Nick Holtrop, Kyle Billin, Tyler Vegter, Brad Heethuis and Scott Hooker. (Randy) Heethuis also has four of his former players from the Unity Christian girls soccer program playing for the Calvin women's soccer program that reached the national quarterfinals this year.

***Shootout Success** – Calvin is 2-0 in shootouts this year, defeating Wartburg (IA) 3-2 in a second round shootout and then downing Transylvania (KY) 4-3 in a shootout on November 21 in the national quarterfinals.

***Bringing It With Bratt** – Calvin junior goalkeeper Ryan Bratt has been Calvin's goalie in both shootout victories this year. Bratt was Calvin's third string goalkeeper for much of the year behind Jared Rushlau and Michael Dolan but was pressed into starting duty in Calvin's regular season finale against rival Hope because of injuries to both Rushlau and Dolan and has since fashioned a 3-0-2 record in goal. Bratt is a graduate of Silver Spring, Maryland. He is a graduate of Washington Christian Academy.

***Wins vs Wheaton** – In early September, Calvin defeated non-conference rival Wheaton (IL) 2-1, giving the Knights their first win over the Thunder since 1992. Calvin then defeated Wheaton 2-1 in a first round NCAA III Tournament game at Wheaton on November 13, marking Calvin's first-ever victory at Wheaton in men's soccer. It also marked Calvin's first-ever season sweep of the Thunder in men's soccer.

***MIAA Titles** – This fall, Calvin captured its league-leading 20th MIAA title in men's soccer. Heading into the final week of MIAA play (the MIAA does not have a post-season tournament), Calvin's MIAA title hopes were very much in doubt as the Knights trailed Hope by three points with two games left to play. Calvin then defeated Trine 3-2 while Hope tied Olivet 0-0 to allow Calvin to move within a point of Hope. Calvin then moved past Hope for the league title by defeating Hope 1-0 in the regular season finale for both teams, giving the Knights the league crown by two points.

***51 Years and Counting** – Calvin recently celebrated its 50th year of varsity men's soccer with its first year coming in 1959. In 51 years of men's soccer (heading into Final Four competition), Calvin has an overall record of 509-248-68 overall record for a winning percentage of .644.

CALVIN MEN'S SOCCER IN THE NCAA III TOURNAMENT

1980

Calvin 4, DePauw, Ind. 3 (First round)
Calvin 1, Ohio Wesleyan 0 (Regional finals)
Scranton, Pa. 1, Calvin 0 (Quarterfinals)

1981

Ohio Wesleyan 4, Calvin 2 (First Round)

1987

Ohio Wesleyan 2, Calvin 1 (First Round)

1991

Calvin 2, Kenyon 0 (First Round)
Ohio Wesleyan 2, Calvin 1 (Second Round)

2004

Wartburg 1, Calvin 0 – OT – (Second Round)

2005

Calvin 4, Edgewood 0 (First Round)
Calvin 2, Ohio Wesleyan 1 (Second Round)
Calvin 0, Fredonia State 0 - OT Tie – Fredonia State wins penalty kick shootout 3-2. (Third Round)

2007

John Carroll 1, Calvin 0 (First Round)

2008

Carnegie-Mellon 3, Calvin 0 (First Round)

2009

Calvin 2, Wheaton (IL) 1 (First Round)
Calvin 0, Wartburg 0 – OT Tie - Calvin wins penalty kick shootout 3-2 (Second Round)
Calvin 2, Carnegie-Mellon 1 (Third Round)
Calvin 1, Transylvania 1 – OT Tie – Calvin wins penalty kick shootout 4-3 (Quarterfinals)