

Historic Vikings



Senior running back Joe Clark outruns a Grand Valley State defender in a Nov. 27 second-round playoff game at Kirkeby-Over Stadium. The Vikings won 38-6. Photo Courtesy of Tom Slattery – Tslat.com.



Extraordinary

In a year that marks Augustana's 150th anniversary, the Viking Football team wrote a new chapter in the College's athletic history.

With an unprecedented 11-2 record for the season, the Vikings advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, the team's deepest playoff endeavor ever, before falling to No. 1 Minnesota Duluth 24-13. Minnesota Duluth eventually went on to win the NCAA Division II championship.

Throughout the season, fans talked about the undeniable light that glowed from running back Joe Clark.

A 5' 7" senior business major from Rochester, Minn., Clark was a key figure in the team's success, including the Vikings' 38-6 playoff win over Grand Valley State (Mich.).

Clark started in all 13 games and was named to the All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference South Division first team for the third time. He was also selected to the Daktronics All-Super Regional Three second team. He set a new College career rushing record of 3,623 yards, surpassing Chris San Augustin's mark of 3,098. During his career Clark logged 753 rushing attempts and scored 46 touchdowns. He finished the 2010 season with 1,298 all-purpose yards and averaged 82.3 yards a game as the fifth-leading rusher in the NSIC. He is also the first Viking to register three 1,000-yard seasons rushing.

Vikings Football Coach Mike Aldrich was widely recognized for the team's success. He was a finalist for the Liberty Mutual Division II Coach of the Year, was named Region 5 Coach of the Year for Division II by the American Football Coaches Association and was named College Coach of the Year by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association.