

Defensive depth to lead Auggie football in 2001

By Don Stoner, Augsburg College Sports Information Coordinator

In 1996, Augsburg College finished the football season 3-7, after three straight .500-or-above campaigns. The Auggies graduated seven starters and had several question marks entering the 1997 season.

All the Auggies did in 1997 was win the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship, beat MIAC power St. John's in the team's home-opener, and make it to the NCAA Division III national playoffs for the first time in school history.

In 2000, Augsburg finished 3-7, after three straight .500-or-above campaigns. The Auggies graduated 11 starters and had several question marks facing the club entering the 2001 season. And the Auggies' 2001 home-opener is against defending national runner-up St. John's.

Déjà vu all over again in 2001?

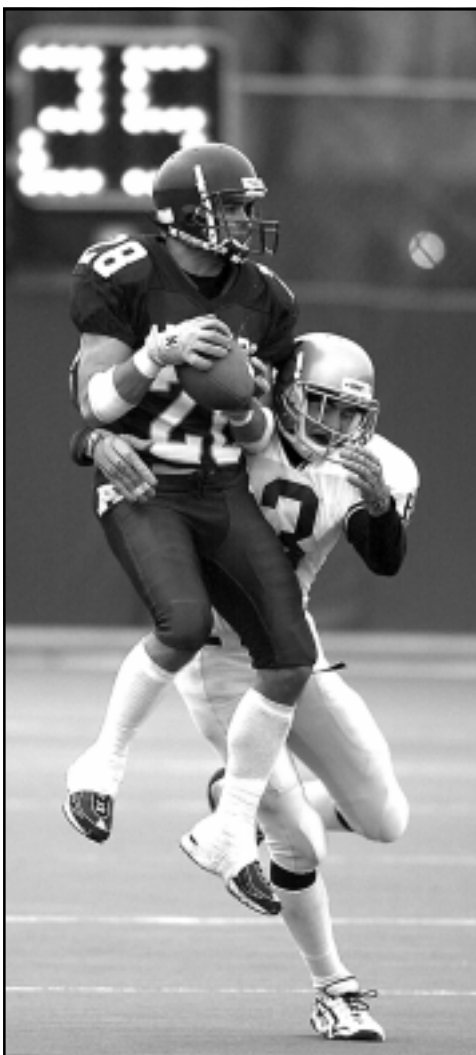
Possibly, said head coach **Jack Osberg**, entering his 11th year as Augsburg's head coach with the third-longest tenure of any coach in the MIAC. Osberg has a 49-52 career record, and his victory total puts him just nine behind **Edor Nelson's** 58 wins (1947-69) for the most in school history.

"We are coming off a tough-luck schedule last year. We didn't play very consistently last year, and that's what we have to strive for this year, consistency on both offense and defense," Osberg said. "The league is very strong and balanced, which is going to make it a challenge for us."

Offense: Question marks at skill positions, line young but deep

Just three starters return to an Auggie offense that will need to replace all but one of the skill-position players.

The biggest question mark comes at quarterback, where the Auggies will be without a veteran signal-caller for the first time in six seasons. The leading candidate to fill the post is senior **Johnny Goodale** (Sr., Buffalo, Minn.), a 5-10 scrambler who enters the 2001 campaign after three collegiate starts in his first three years. He's thrown six



Mark Johnson (28) makes a catch over a Bethel receiver during an Augsburg home game last season at Anderson-Nelson Field.



Defensive lineman Matt Chappuis (52) pursues the Carleton quarterback during a home game last season. Chappuis is on pace to become Augsburg's career sack record-holder this year.

touchdown passes in his career and has nearly 1,000 passing yards to his credit.

Dave Fransen (Jr., Farmington, Minn.), who saw spot action in four games last season, will compete with Goodale for the starting quarterback role, and **John Tieben** (Jr., Jordan, Minn.) and **Brian Eayrs** (So., Chanhassen, Minn./Chaska HS) will also contend for time at quarterback.

Two freshmen recruits with state tournament experience -- **Dan Resch** (Fr., Glencoe, Minn./Glencoe-Silver Lake HS) and **Ben Hill** (Fr., Glenwood, Minn./Minnewaska HS) -- will also compete at the quarterback spot. Glencoe-Silver Lake won the Class AA state championship last year, beating Minnewaska in the state semifinals.

The lone skill-position starter returning on offense is wide receiver **Mark Johnson** (Sr., Hastings, Minn.), who has caught 11 touchdowns in his two previous Auggie campaigns after transferring from Division II South Dakota State following his freshman year. He earned second-team All-MIAC honors in 2000 by leading the team with a 16.3 yards-per-reception average and five scores.

Joining Johnson in the receiving corps will be **Sammy Gross** (Jr., Springfield, Minn.), who made significant strides as a reserve last year, with 12 receptions for a just-under 10 yards-per-catch clip. **Jamie Smith** (Jr., Oakdale, Minn./Tartan HS), who made his mark as the Auggies' primary kick and punt returner last year, will move from running back to wide receiver this season. **Mike Hill** (Jr., Glenwood, Minn./Minnewaska HS) has shown promise, and **Mark Carlson** (So., Staples, Minn./Staples-Motley HS), **Cole Bryan** (So., Buffalo, Minn.), **Jon Boeck** (Jr., Braham, Minn.) and **Shawn Johnson** (Fr., Faribault, Minn.) should also contend for receiving roles.

Tony Warren (Jr., Brainerd, Minn.) moves into the starting role at tight end, after catching four passes for 55 yards in four game appearances as a reserve last season. **Joseph**

Wessbecker (So., Victoria, Minn./Chaska HS), **Nathan Erickson** (Jr., Pine City, Minn.), **Luke Wright** (Sr., Faribault, Minn.) and **Matt Quale** (Fr., McGregor, Minn.) will also contend for time.

More question marks abound at the running back positions, where both starters will need to be replaced. **T.J. Bramwell** (Jr., Tomah, Wis.) made strong progress last year, where he rushed for 128 yards on 36 carries with two touchdowns in the first significant varsity action of his career.

"T.J. has gotten bigger and stronger, and should come in real big for us at the tailback spot," Osberg said. "I look for him to step up and have a big year."

Ben Paul (So., St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul Johnson HS) will also move into a starting running back role. Transfer **Nate Moore** (Jr., Bloomington, Minn./Richfield HS), who played at Waldorf Junior College (Iowa), will bring experience to the position, as will **Chris Boyer** (So., North Mankato, Minn./Mankato West HS), **Nick Sanchez** (So., Almond, Wis./Almond-Bancroft HS), who both shined on the junior varsity level last season. **Joe Sundt** (So., Cokato, Minn./Dassel-Cokato HS), who played hockey last season, will bring speed to the running back spot for the Auggies. Newcomers **Joe Starks** (Fr., Roseville, Minn./Totino-Grace HS), **Pat Lofboom** (Fr., Stillwater, Minn./Mahtomedi HS) and **Andrew Chanon** (So., Charlotte, N.C./Charlotte Latin School) will also add depth at running back.

The offensive line will be a bit inexperienced on the varsity level, with just two regular starters back. But it's deep, with a corps of strong juniors ready to step into starting roles. The lone senior is left guard **Brandon Ward** (Sr., Vermillion, Minn./Hastings HS). **Jesse Naughton** (Jr., Spring Lake Park, Minn.) and **Bob Eckstrom** (Jr., Elk River, Minn.) split time in a starting role at the right tackle spot. **Rich Nelson** (Jr., Eagan, Minn.) proved his versatility as a backup at several positions on the line last year, along with **Lincoln Langhorst** (Jr., Lafayette, Minn./Sibley East HS), **James Brue** (Jr., Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo HS) and **Bradley Motl** (Jr., Wausau, Wis./Wausau West HS).

"They're all versatile players who can play any position on the line," Osberg said. "There's a lot of flexibility and depth on the line, and those players will come of age for us."

Several sophomores could also contend for offensive line spots, including **Mike Davies** (So., St. Louis Park, Minn.), **Jon Dahlin** (So., St. Louis Park, Minn.), **Nate Savola** (So., Hastings, Minn.), **Luke Smith** (So., Hastings, Minn.) and **Nate Anderson** (So., Coon Rapids, Minn.). **Eric Olson** (Fr., Rush City, Minn.), **Adam Hoffman** (Fr., Hastings, Minn.) and **Ryan Koelsch** (Fr., St. Louis Park, Minn.) will add depth.

Defense: Secondary is deep, strength at line and linebackers

Augsburg's defense may be the key to moving up in the MIAC standings this year. Losing just three starters to graduation and returning skill players at virtually every position, the Auggies will aim to improve a corps that was third in the MIAC in total defense (328.78 yards per game allowed) last season.

Keying the interior attack will be All-American candidate **Matt Chappuis** (Sr., Faribault, Minn.), a three-year starter on the defensive line. He had seven sacks in nine games last season, bringing his career total to 20.5, the third-most in school history. The school record, 28.5, was set by **Bob Anderson** from 1992-95. Chappuis earned first-team All-MIAC honors, his second all-conference honor of his career.

"He is a very talented player," Osberg said. "We need Matt to step up and be a dominant defensive lineman in the MIAC. He has a great ability to rush the passer and be a strong force on the line."

Joining Chappuis on the defensive line will be returning starters **Kyle Koch** (Jr., Austin, Minn.) and **Dave Sherry** (Sr., Hastings, Minn.). Sherry, a second-team All-MIAC player last season, accumulated five sacks last year, while Koch had eight tackles for loss.

Other players who will contend for spots on the line will be returners **Derek Kuhlman** (Jr., Rush City, Minn.), **Nate Bremseth** (Jr., Fountain, Minn./Fillmore Central HS) and **Sam Harmer** (So., Silver Bay, Minn./Kelley HS), along with newcomers **Kyle Howard** (So., Waseca, Minn.) and **Micheal Reger** (Jr., Rogers, Minn./Buffalo HS).

Tom Stefanacci (So., St. Louis Park, Minn.), a transfer from Bemidji State, will move to defensive line, and newcomers **Joe Cullen** (Fr., Coon Rapids, Minn.), **Chike Ochiagha** (Fr., Savage, Minn./Holy Angels HS), **Jake Renze** (Fr., Waseca, Minn.), **Ty Closson** (Fr., Northfield, Minn.) and **Ray McCoy** (Fr., St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul Central HS) will add depth at the position.

The linebacking corps is where Augsburg has its most depth returning, Osberg said, keyed by returning starter **Scott Archambault** (Sr., Faribault, Minn.). He quietly had a strong season for the Auggies from the strong side last year, with 40 tackles (29 solo) and a team-leading two interceptions. **Mitch Theisen** (Sr., Waverly, Minn./Buffalo HS) battled injuries last season but still managed 18 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss.

Brandon Fox (So., Sanborn, Minn./Springfield HS), **Adam Leiter** (Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn./Blaine HS), **Andy Stephenson** (Jr., Red Wing, Minn.), **Kyle Voelz** (So., Morgan, Minn./Cedar Mountain HS) and **Tim Stowe** (So., Faribault, Minn.) all return at linebacker. Newcomers **Jon Kozitza** (So., North Mankato, Minn./Mankato West HS), a transfer from the University of Minnesota, and **John Golnitz** (Fr., Green Bay, Wis./Preble HS) will join the linebacking unit.

All four secondary starters return, but it's a group that needs to show some improvement and cut down on the big plays, Osberg noted. The Auggies had just eight interceptions last year while giving up 16 passing touchdowns.

"We've got to stop the big plays, which we didn't do well last year. We need more consistent play in the secondary," Osberg said. "We need big things to happen from these guys."

Brent Peroutka (Sr., Faribault, Minn.) leads the way in the secondary, as a three-year starter. He moved from cornerback to free



Shane Gunderson (47) tips away a pass, while teammate Luke Wittrock (46) looks on, during an Augsburg home game against Bethel last season. Both Gunderson and Wittrock return to the Auggie defensive secondary this season.

safety last year and was the team's leader in tackles (71, 42 solo), to go with one interception and 10 pass break-ups. He has earned second-team All-MIAC honors the last two seasons.

Shane Gunderson (Sr., Faribault, Minn.) transferred to Augsburg last season after five years away from college athletics. The Big Ten baseball Player of the Year and All-American in 1995 while at the University of Minnesota, Gunderson was drafted and played five years of minor league baseball in the Minnesota Twins organization. But he returned to college football last year and shined in the Auggie strong safety spot, with 55 tackles (40 solo) and an interception to earn second-team All-MIAC honors.

Both cornerbacks also return -- **Luke Wittrock** (Sr., Boone, Iowa), who had two interceptions and 10 pass break-ups last year in his first year at Augsburg; and **Larry Lyden** (Sr., New Brighton, Minn./Irondale HS), who was second on the team in total tackles (70, team-high 54 solo) last season. **Chad Scheitel** (Jr., Worthington, Minn.) received a medical redshirt last season and will be a candidate for one of the spots, along with **Chad Thorp** (Sr., New Prague, Minn.).

Backing up the secondary will be a strong corps, including: **Andy Peper** (Jr., Maplewood, Minn./St. Croix Lutheran HS), **Luke Carlson** (So., Dassel, Minn./Dassel-Cokato HS), **Boe Barlage** (So., Farmington, Minn.), **Lloyd Booyer** (So., Minneapolis, Minn./Washburn HS), **Jake Schmiesing** (So., North Mankato, Minn./Mankato West HS), **Jon Fahler** (Jr., Shakopee, Minn.), **Joe Holman** (Jr., Springfield, Minn.) and **Andy Matzke** (Fr., Faribault, Minn.).

Special Teams: New kicker needed, punter and returners are back

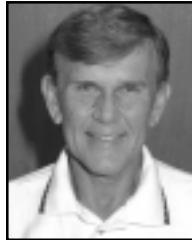
Brent Peroutka returns with the most punting experience. The team's primary punter the last two seasons, Peroutka has averaged 31.0 yards per punt through his career. **Shane Gunderson** and recruit **John Golnitz** will also contend for the punting role.

Tim Mauseth (Sr., Kenyon, Minn./Kenyon-Wanamingo HS) is the leading candidate to fill the kicking role. He was the team's primary kickoff kicker last year, his first year at Augsburg after transferring from Wisconsin-River Falls. **Mike Pontius** (Sr., Champlin, Minn./Anoka HS) will also contend for the placekicking spot.

Jaime Smith will be the likely candidate to return both kicks and punts for the Auggies. He averaged 16.7 yards per kickoff return and 6.4 yards per punt return in 2000. **Gunderson** and **T.J. Bramwell** also had extensive experience at kickoff returns last year. Offensive lineman **Rich Nelson** returns as the team's starting long snapper.

Head Coach Jack Osberg

Jack Osberg (Augsburg '62) has been the architect of a rebirth of Augsburg College football since he was named head coach in 1991. The program has grown in both numbers and victories, and in 1997, Osberg accomplished what no Augsburg football coach had ever done before -- winning the MIAC championship and qualifying for the NCAA Division III national playoffs, while engineering the best record (10-2) in school history.



Osberg enters his 11th season with the Auggies with a 49-52 career record, the second-most wins in school history, behind **Edor Nelson's** 58 wins (58-118-10) from 1947-69. He has the third-longest tenure among current MIAC football coaches, behind St. John's **John Gagliardi** and Bethel's **Steve Johnson**.

A dynamic, personable motivator who earns respect and admiration from players, fellow coaches, alumni and fans, Osberg has remained close to his alma mater's gridiron fortunes for the past four decades.

A graduate of Minneapolis Washburn High School, Osberg was a standout football player at Augsburg from 1958-61, earning induction into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1979. Osberg, a nose guard-offensive guard, was named All-MIAC twice, and was selected MVP, team captain and Lutheran All-American.

After graduating from Augsburg in 1962, Osberg began his coaching career at Minneapolis Roosevelt HS, serving seven years as an assistant coach (1962-70), before taking one year off (1968-69) to serve as a graduate assistant on **Bob Devaney's** staff at Nebraska. While at Roosevelt, he coached a student-athlete who would later earn fame on both a statewide and national level -- **James Janos**, aka Minnesota Gov. **Jesse "The Body" Ventura**.

In 1971, Osberg was named head coach at Wayzata (Minn.) High School, where he served for six seasons. In 1977, he returned to his alma mater to join the Auggie coaching staff,



Jack Osberg talks to his team after an Augsburg home game last season. Osberg enters his 11th season as the Auggies' head coach, and has earned a reputation as one of the top coaches in the MIAC.

Augsburg Football Head Coaching History

Conrad Eklund (1926-32)	15-22-5	Edor Nelson (1947-69)	58-118-10
James Pederson (1933-34)	0-10	Ed Saugestad (1970-71)	2-16
Dan Elmer (1939)	0-4	Bill Caris (1972-75)	19-19
Bob Carlson (1940-41, '46)	3-17-1	Al Kloppen (1976-85)	29-67-3
Phil Kildahl (1942)	0-6	Bill Hunstock (1986-90)	4-45-1
Len Velandier and		Jack Osberg (1991-present)	49-52
Luther Gronseth (1945)	0-3	Note: No varsity program 1935-38, 1943-44	

serving eight seasons as Augsburg's defensive coordinator (1977-84).

Off the field, Osberg taught biology in the Wayzata school district for 20 years and was recognized for his teaching excellence there. He has also served as a Sunday School teacher and a youth coach in softball and hockey. Osberg is currently an instructor in Augsburg's Health and Physical Education department.

Osberg resides in Plymouth, Minn., with his wife, **Nina**, who recently retired from teaching at Wayzata HS. They have six children: **Rich, Jennifer, Peter, Jeff, James** and **Anne**, and four granddaughters: **Grace, Johanna, Lydia** and **Zoe**.

Roger Lipelt, Co-Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs Coach

A veteran coach for more than 30 years in Minnesota high school football, **Roger Lipelt** (Hamline '65) joins the Augsburg coaching staff for his second season in the collegiate ranks, coaching the running backs. He will also share offensive coordinator duties with **Drew Privette**, handling the running game.

For 21 years, Lipelt was the head coach at Wayzata (Minn.) HS, where he led the Trojans to three state tournament berths (1981, 1986, 1995) before retiring after the 1998 season. He also coached Wayzata's boys' tennis team for 18 years, guiding the team to two Class AA state titles (1993, 1999). Prior to coming to Wayzata, Lipelt was the football head coach at Worthington (Minn.) HS. Earlier in his football coaching career, he served as head coach at West Concord (Minn.) HS and as an assistant coach at Owatonna (Minn.) HS.

A native of Owatonna, Minn., Lipelt earned his degree in history education from Hamline University in 1965 and his master's degree in political science from Winona State University in 1970. Lipelt and his wife, **Joanne**, have three daughters -- **Heather, Heidi** and **Holly** -- and three grandchildren -- **Josie, Rosemary** and **Jake** -- and live in Plymouth, Minn.



Drew Privette, Co-Offensive Coordinator/Receivers Coach/Men's Athletic Recruiting Coord.

Drew Privette (Augsburg '89) begins his 10th season as an Augsburg coach, and sixth as Augsburg's men's athletic recruiter in 2000. Privette was named offensive coordinator for the Auggies in 1999. This year, he will share offensive coordinator duties with **Roger Lipelt**, handling the passing game.

On the football field, Privette was a standout receiver for Augsburg and twice was named to the All-MIAC team. Privette set several Augsburg receiving records, two of which -- career receptions (146) and catches in a game (14) -- stood until 1997, when they were broken by **Scott Hvistendahl**. Privette is now third all-time in career pass receptions (146), fourth all-time in career reception yards (1,792) and fifth in career receiving touchdowns (13). His 54 receptions in 1987 is fourth-best in school history. Privette was also an All-MIAC right winger for the Auggies' men's hockey team.

The Duluth native, a 1985 graduate of Duluth Denfeld HS, returned to Augsburg after coaching hockey for one season at St. Paul Johnson HS, and one year at St. Bernard's HS. He lives in White Bear Lake, Minn., with his wife, **Molly**, and daughter **Anna**, 6.



**Jim Roback,
Defensive Coordinator**

Jim Roback (Augsburg '63), who was inducted into Augsburg's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990, joined the Augsburg staff in 1995 as defensive coordinator.

Roback, a native of Columbia Heights, Minn., taught and coached in Anoka-Hennepin School District 11 for 34 years at both Anoka (8 years) and Coon Rapids (26 years) high schools. He was an assistant on the 1983 Coon Rapids Class AA state championship football team and has also helped coach teams and individuals to prep state tournaments in baseball, basketball and track & field. After starring in baseball and football for Augsburg, Roback played professional baseball for one year in the Minnesota Twins' organization. Roback and his wife, **Pat**, live in Anoka, Minn., and have four grown children -- **Paul, Jill, Joni** and **Peter**. All were active in college athletics.



Joe Rhode, Linebackers

Joe Rhode (Wisconsin-La Crosse '95) enters his first season as an Augsburg assistant coach, guiding the linebackers. As a linebacker at Wisconsin-La Crosse, Rhode was a member of Eagle teams that won the Division III national title in 1992 and reached the semifinals in 1993. He also participated in track and field and baseball while at Wisconsin-La Crosse. In his first two football seasons, spent at Harper Junior College (Ill.), he was a member of two league title teams and teams that finished second (1990) and first (1991) in the NJCAA national championship game. A native of Antioch, Ill., Rhode earned his bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Wisconsin-La Crosse, and earned his MBA in 1998. Rhode, 29, and his wife **Amy** live in St. Louis Park, Minn.



Dusty Froyum, Defensive Line

Dusty Froyum (Augsburg '98) joins the Augsburg coaching staff for his fourth year, moving to defensive line responsibilities after three years as an offensive line coach. Froyum was one of the best offensive linemen in school history, protecting an offense that threw for nearly 7,000 yards during his tenure (1993-97). He was a co-captain of the 1997 MIAC championship team that advanced to the NCAA Division III national playoffs for the first time in school history, earning first-team All-MIAC honors that season. A native of Cologne, Minn., and a 1994 graduate of Waconia HS, Froyum earned Academic All-MIAC Honor Roll honors his senior season. He recently earned his law degree from the Hamline University Law School in St. Paul, Minn.



Mark Dean, Defensive Backs

Mark Dean (St. Cloud State '99) joins the Augsburg staff for his first season as a defensive backs coach. Dean, a native of Faribault, Minn., was a four-year starter in the defensive backfield at St. Cloud State, along with being a sprinter on the Huskies' track and field team. He was part of a North Central Conference-champion 400-meter relay squad in 1998. In high school, Dean was a four-sport athlete, earning all-state honors in baseball and track and field, and all-conference honors in baseball, football, track and field and hockey. He graduated from St. Cloud State in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in advertising.



Ron Scott, Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line

Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame member **Ron Scott** (Augsburg '62) joins the Auggies football coaching staff for his fifth season. Scott, who played center for the Auggies during the 1959-61 seasons, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995. Scott is a veteran of the coaching ranks in Minnesota high schools. He coached three years at Comfrey, four years as an assistant at Coon Rapids and 19 years as a head coach at Coon Rapids, where he won the 1983 Minnesota Class AA state title and was named state coach of the year. He was inducted into the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990, and served as president of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association in 1980. Scott taught at Comfrey and Coon Rapids high schools for 13 years, served as counselor / dean at Coon Rapids HS for 12 years, and was assistant principal at Anoka HS for 10 years. Scott, who has been married to his wife, **Karen**, for 43 years, has four grown children -- **Roxanne, Susan, Peter** and **Jon** -- and nine grandchildren -- **Woody, Greta, Anne, Nick, Ben, Colby, Jake, Kirby** and **Luke**.



Derrin Lamker, Quarterbacks

Derrin Lamker (Augsburg '98), who quarterbacked the Auggies to the 1997 MIAC football championship, returns to Augsburg for his third season as an assistant coach. As the Auggies' signal-caller from 1993-97, Lamker virtually rewrote the Augsburg passing record book, holding all but one single-game, single-season and career passing marks. He completed 550 of 1,022 passes for 6,624 yards and 46 touchdowns. The yardage total is 11th in history among all Minnesota college quarterbacks. Leading the Auggies to a 10-2 record, the 1997 MIAC football title and the school's first-ever berth in the NCAA Division III national playoffs, Lamker was named MIAC Player of the Year on a vote of conference coaches. Lamker, now a physical education teacher at Robbinsdale Armstrong HS, was the offensive coordinator for Armstrong's football team in 1998.



Drew Dehnicke, Defensive Line

Drew Dehnicke (Minnesota '01) joins the Augsburg football coaching staff for his first season, guiding the defensive line. Dehnicke spent three seasons as a defensive end for the Minnesota Golden Gophers football team. The Gophers advanced to two bowl games during Dehnicke's tenure, the Sun Bowl in the 1999 season and the Micron / PC Bowl in 2000. A native of Coon Rapids, Minn., Dehnicke was a two-sport athlete in high school, playing both baseball and football. Dehnicke earned his bachelor's degree in applied economics from Minnesota in 2001.



Darrell Wiese, Assistant Coach/ Assistant Men's Athletic Recruiting Coordinator

Darrell Wiese (Augsburg '59) begins his sixth year as assistant athletic recruiter and assistant football and baseball coach for Augsburg. Wiese, who served as a volunteer assistant in Augsburg's athletic programs for many years, has recruiting duties primarily in southern and southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.



Wiese attended Augsburg from 1956-59 and was a member of the 1959 Augsburg baseball team that tied St. Thomas and St. Mary's for the MIAC baseball title. Wiese and his wife, **Arllys**, live in rural Northfield, Minn. They have two grown children-- son **Jim** and daughter **Karla** -- and four grandchildren -- **Ben, Jake, Nick** and **Jon**.