

The Albion Pleiad

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October 17, 2025 / Celebrating Homecoming '25 / Online Monday, Wednesday and Friday at albionpleiad.com



Albion to Face Alma at Homecoming: Behind the 100-Year Football Rivalry



Bonnie Lord
Editor-in-Chief

For Detroit senior and receiver Cam Moore, his rivalry with Alma College's football team began with a game his first year, in which Albion was defeated by three points, allowing Alma College to proceed to the NCAA championship. His sophomore year, Alma "blew out" Albion during the team's senior day.

As early as 1967, the Albion Pleiad has referred to the relationship between Alma and Albion's teams as "a football rivalry." This year, Albion faces Alma for homecoming, and the game will take place tomorrow at 1 p.m.

The Beginning of the Rivalry

The "heated rivalry" between Alma and Albion, head football coach Travis Rundle said, comes from how evenly matched the teams are. According to a football program published on Oct. 30, 1982, Albion had won 42 games against Alma since 1900, and Alma had won 30 games. The teams tied five times.

"You look back over the years, it's a pretty even deal," Rundle said. "We view ourselves as one of the top teams in the league, and I'm sure they do as well."

Albion's last win against Alma in football was in 2021.

Reading fifth-year and wide receiver Dillon Denison said his desire to defeat Alma was "set up" in the game that began a three-



Two football players play against a background of football programs featuring Albion and Alma, ranging from 1978 to 2017, courtesy of the Albion College Archives and Special Collections. According to head football coach Travis Rundle, the two teams have been playing against each other "probably as long as the conference has been around" (Illustration by Bonnie Lord).

year losing streak against Alma in 2022.

"I don't ever want to lose to them guys again," Denison said.

For Moore, the losses have been the result of Albion "beating themselves."

"Last year we were right there," Moore said. "We just let some plays slip out. But this year I'm here, it's gonna be way different."

In the past, Albion has made history against Alma. In 1994, Couch said Alma had their only loss of the year to Albion, allowing

Albion to continue to the national championship, which they would win.

Alma College's head football coach Jason Couch played on Alma's football team during that game, and said it was "quite a battle on the field." Since beginning his position as head football coach in 2018, Alma has defeated Albion four times on the field.

"The two schools have been competing against each other for a long, long time," Couch said.

Approaching Homecoming With 'Attention to Detail, Discipline'

Couch said Alma is going to "be ready to play, and hopefully we'll perform at our best." Going head-to-head with rival teams makes Albion play "a little bit harder," Rundle said.

"You have to be on top of everything, be sharp, attention to detail, discipline," Rundle said. "You have to be a lot better than when you play teams that aren't as good."

Denison added Alma has "a really good program."

"I know it's always gonna be a battle," Denison said. "It's always fun playing against them."

What will make this game different? For Denison, it's Albion's team chemistry.

"When you're a close-knit group, you'll do anything for the guys next to you," Denison said.

Moore also said team chemistry has improved, adding that this season's team has the best offensive line he's seen during his time at Albion.

"We have the team and the talent and stuff, we just have to lock in on the little details, and nobody's gonna be able to beat us," Moore said.

At homecoming, Moore said he plans to "take it out on the field, win, lose or draw."

Rundle, Moore and Denison all said they think Albion will win the game.

"We're going to win, we're going to put on a show," Denison said. "We're ready to be at home, play our football and be who we are."

Homecoming: Behind the Scenes; 'All Hands on Deck'

Jocelyn Kincaid-Beal
Managing Editor

Tents sprung far and wide; class reunions happening left and right; the smells of food wafting in from every direction; cheering and whistling heard from miles away. For most Albion alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and families, homecoming is just one week-end out of the year. But for the minds behind homecoming, planning actually begins the year before.

Senior Director of Advancement Events, Conferences and Summer Programs Nancy Chapman, one of two central planners of homecoming this year, said preparations begin with scheduling the date of homecoming, which gets finalized over a year in advance.

'We wanted to have the homecoming celebrations feel like we're all part of one community, rather than like, that group is there and everyone else is over here.'

"The next big thing," Chapman said, is to build reunion committees – in other words, to round up alumni with big graduation anniversaries happening, and arrange for them to plan their class reunions, which happen during homecoming.

According to Senior Director of Alumni Engagement Amy Everhart, alumna '08, who co-organized this year's homecoming celebrations with Chapman, there are seven class reunions meeting at homecoming this year: 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 51st+

– also known as the "Golden Brits" reunion. Everhart added that this year's 50th reunion will be the most attended 50th reunion in her memory, and she's worked at Albion for 11 years. Chapman and Everhart both work in Institutional Advancement (IA).

"This definitely has been one of the largest registrations for homecoming," Chapman said. "We're really excited that alumni are ready to come back and be on campus and know we're moving in a good pathway forward."

Chapman added that the next phase of planning, after reunion committees are formed, is "trying to get communication ready" and ordering things like tents and tables, all of which happens in late spring.

Planning also involves looking at the bigger picture and making changes. This year, Everhart said, there will be "a lot more down at the Dow," instead of having tents and tailgating concentrated in the Ferguson parking lot, which has been the case for the last few years. Everhart added that this move was in part inspired by the parent tailgate already taking place near the Dow, on the east side of the football field.

"We wanted to have the homecoming celebrations feel like we're all part of one community, rather than like, that group is there and everyone else is over here," Everhart said.

The lunch tent, DJ, alumni board tent, kids' tent and tailgates by different groups and organizations will all be "right as you enter the Dow, kind of by the tennis courts," Everhart said.

"Our approach to homecoming is to have a menu of options for people," Everhart said.

Chapman said that homecoming "is not just for alumni, it's for our community as a whole," including Albion students, their parents and families, faculty and staff in addition to alumni.



Senior Director of Alumni Engagement Amy Everhart, alumna '08, and Senior Director of Advancement Events, Conferences and Summer Programs Nancy Chapman stand outside the front gate of the Dow. Everhart and Chapman were the minds behind planning and organizing homecoming this year (Photo illustration by Jocelyn Kincaid-Beal).

Homecoming "looks different to a lot of different people," Chapman said, and it can be challenging to incorporate all of that feedback, but planning homecoming is still "exciting."

Chapman also said that while she and Everhart are the "planning piece" of homecoming, they need "the implementation," which they turn to other offices and departments on campus for help with.

"It's so nice to have campus partners who are like, 'How can we make this happen?'" Everhart said.

One of those campus partners is the grounds crew. John Hibbs, director of grounds, said for homecoming he and his staff

"assist with the logistics of the events prior to the game and following the game."

This includes overseeing tent installations, prep work for mowing and arranging floral centerpieces for tables. That's in addition to everything grounds does to get ready for any home football game, Hibbs said, which includes setting up ticket booths, clearing all sidewalks and walkways by the football field, debris cleanup and providing parking for tailgaters. Homecoming is just a "little step further" than other home games, Hibbs said.

"We just try to be more diligent in how we present campus and the athletic area," Hibbs said.

Continued on back.

Homecoming: Behind the Scenes

Continued from front.

The grounds team also usually provides hay bales, pumpkins and mums for decoration, Hibbs added. He said he wants students to “be proud that their family’s coming and seeing where they’re staying.”

Another of Institutional Advancement’s campus partners is Metz Culinary Management. According to catering manager Pedro Hopkins II, Metz will cater for “probably 40 events total” on campus during homecoming celebrations. This ranges from simple “hot beverage stations” to the Hall of Fame dinner, which will have around 200 guests.



Everhart and Chapman stand in the entryway of the Dow. Tailgating and activity tents will be centralized around the Dow for homecoming ‘25, a change from recent years (Photo illustration by Jocelyn Kincaid-Beal).

“You can’t just do it with just a few of us managers,” Hopkins said. “We need pretty much all hands on deck.”

Hopkins said that homecoming will be “a very busy three days,” but he and his team are “ready for it.” Hopkins added that the chefs “enjoy being busy” and he himself finds enjoyment in feeding so many people.

‘I enjoy the responsibility, it feels like an honor to be able to help the campus in that capacity.’

“I enjoy the responsibility, it feels like an honor to be able to help the campus in that capacity,” Hopkins said.

Everhart said it’s rewarding to see people having fun at homecoming, and to help “facilitate that sense of community and pride.”

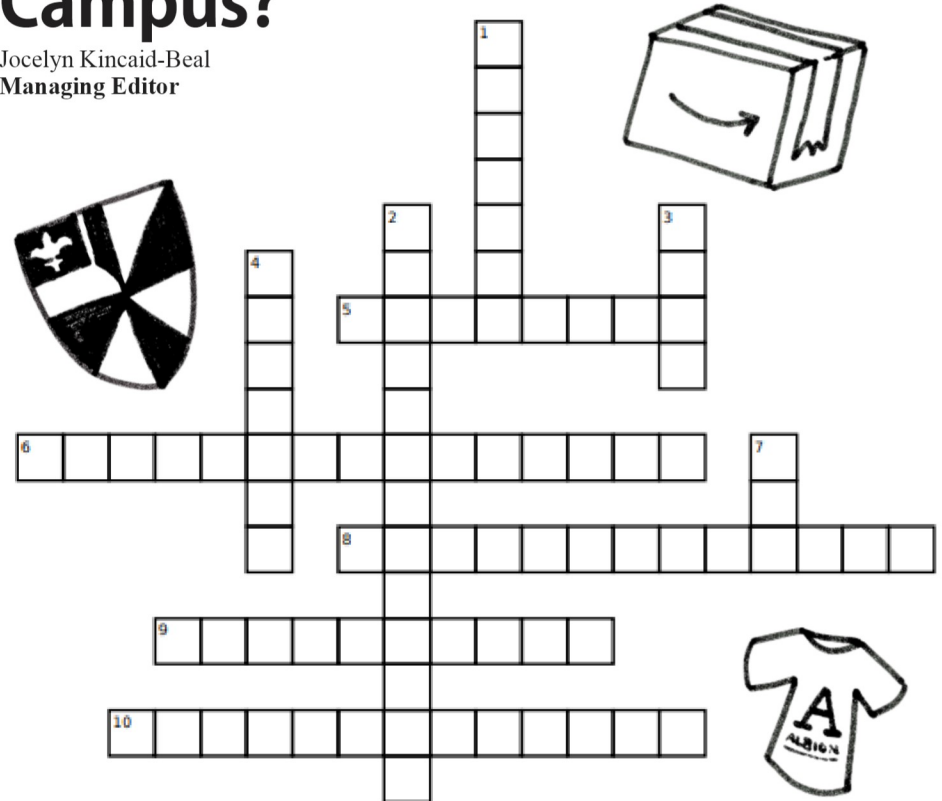
“Albion is a place that means a lot to our alumni, and it means a lot to them to come back and celebrate with their classmates and with other alumni from throughout the years, and to meet our current students,” Everhart said.

Bonnie Lord also contributed reporting to this story.



Crossword: What’s New on Campus?

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- Across:**
5. The new name of Albion’s campus bookstore.
 6. Three “royal Britons” will be announced as this at halftime on homecoming.
 8. An event happening Oct. 18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
 9. Albion’s new Title IX coordinator.
 10. A new addition to the campus post office.

- Down:**
1. A new sectioned-off area in Kresge Gymnasium for Albion fans.
 2. The allergen-free section in Baldwin, new as of this semester.
 3. The team Albion football will be playing at their next home game on Nov. 1.
 4. The next production by Albion’s theatre department, premiering Nov. 13.
 7. The acronym for the office previously known as Campus Life.

Find the answer key at albionpleiad.com

Beyond the Bleachers: Non-Sporting Homecoming Events



People stand, talk, tailgate and otherwise enjoy the various events of homecoming. Throughout the weekend, there are many events beyond athletics to enjoy (Illustration by Noah Guevara).

Heidi Faramelli
Features/Opinions Editor

Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Activities Lucas Beal said homecoming weekend “is a time to reflect on the past and see how to move forward, while also creating new traditions and memories with new people.”

Oct. 17 and 18 are filled with various events, from a block party to reunions. For those not interested in sports, these are all the non-athletic activities occurring during homecoming weekend.

The agenda for the full weekend of activities, including alumni games and other sporting events, is available on Albion’s homecoming website.

Friday, Oct. 17

The Brit Shop Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
The Brit Shop, located on the KC first floor, recently extended its hours after a grand opening Oct. 13.

Welcome Desk Open – 12 to 5 p.m.
Senior Director of Alumni Engagement Amy Everhart, alumna ‘08, said the welcome station will be in the KC, but they’ll be “encouraging people to head down to the Dow” because many homecoming events will be there, something that’s “new this year.”

Brit Talks – 2 to 4 p.m.
Everhart said Brit Talks occurs annually, and several alumni will be speaking “about their career path.” This year, Brit Talks will be in the living room on the Mudd Library’s first floor.

James L. Curtis Institute for Race and Belonging Mixer – 3 to 3:45 p.m.
Belonging Lounge, KC second floor

Communication Studies Alumni Panel and Networking Event – 3:30 to 5 p.m.
Olin, rooms 111 and 112

Art and Art History Reception, Alumni Exhibition – 5 to 7 p.m.
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

Kresge Dedication – 5 to 6 p.m.
Kresge Gymnasium

Athletics Hall of Fame – 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Everhart said Hall of Fame inductees are celebrated annually at homecoming, adding this year, there are eight individual inductees, as well as the 1998 football team, all of whom will be inducted in Upper Baldwin.

Kaos in the KC – 7 to 11 p.m.
Beal said the event will feature massage therapists, crafts and a Halloween movie marathon, adding that students can play video games and watch the eSports team compete.

ESports vs. St. Xavier – 8 p.m.
Belonging Lounge

Saturday, Oct. 18

Admission Fall Open House – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Associate Director of Campus Experiences Daria Bloomfield Eble, alumna ‘20, said generally “prospective seniors” participate in the open house, which will take place in the Science Complex Atrium.

“It’s just an introduction to campus, and it’s kind of a cool day to have visitors on campus because they get to see when campus is a little more lively and all the alumni are back,” Bloomfield Eble said.

Welcome Tent Open – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Green space south of the KC

Homecoming Bird Walk – 9 to 11 a.m.
Whitehouse Nature Center

Kappa Delta Open House – 9 to 11 a.m.
Kappa Delta lodge, Cass Street

Delta Tau Delta, Coffee and Donuts – 9 to 11 a.m.
Grassy area, northwest corner of Hannah/ Ditzler and Erie Street

Kappa Alpha Theta Open House – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Kappa Alpha Theta lodge, Cass Street

Tau Kappa Epsilon Open House – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tau Kappa Epsilon House

Kids’ Tent – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Everhart said the kids activities, which will take place near the boathouse off of Hannah Street at the Dow, will include pumpkin painting, friendship bracelets, a bounce house and more.

“That’ll all be right by the football stadium, which I think will feel really nice,” Everhart said. “People will be able to come and go, and watch the game.”

Tailgating – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Everhart said in the past, tailgating has been in the Ferguson lot, but the football parent tailgate goes “all out,” so all tailgating has been shifted, and will now take place in the grassy area at the Dow entrance.

The website adds that individual tailgates are “permitted in the Ferguson lot” on a “first come, first served” basis.

Alumni Band Check-In – 10 a.m.
Goodrich Chapel

Kinesiology Lounge Dedication – 10 to 11 a.m.
Science Complex

Pleiad Open House – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Pleiad Office, KC 405

Alpha Xi Delta Open House – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Alpha Xi Delta lodge, Cass Street

The Brit Shop Open – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
KC first floor

Delta Gamma Open House – 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Delta Gamma lodge, Cass Street

Tailgate Competition – 11 a.m.
Grassy area at the Dow entrance

Delta Tau Delta, Philanthropy Event – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grassy area, northwest corner of Hannah/ Ditzler and Erie Street

Alpha Chi Omega Open House – 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Alpha Chi Omega lodge, Cass Street

Lunch Tent Open – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
The Dow, near the sand volleyball court

BSA Block Party – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Secretary of the Black Student Alliance (BSA) James Grey, Chicago senior, said last year was their first year doing the block party, adding that it had a “very good turnout.”

This year, Grey said the event, which will take place at Umbrella House on Cass Street, will have food, games, an aux battle, a chance for people to showcase skills and time for students to connect with alumni.

Homecoming Concert – 7:30 p.m.
Goodrich Chapel

Class Reunions – Saturday Evening
Locations vary depending on class, with information posted on the reunions website.