



2021-22 Standings (thru Sunday, Dec. 26)

Non-Conf: 64-49

	Missouri Valley					Overall Records					H	A	N	L10	t25	Stk.	NET
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA							
Loyola	1	0	1.000	88.0	76.0	9	2	.818	78.9	61.1	6-0	2-0	1-2	8-2	0-1	W 5	15
Drake	1	0	1.000	73.0	66.0	9	4	.692	76.5	65.5	8-0	1-0	0-4	6-4	0-1	W 3	91
Illinois State	1	0	1.000	79.0	74.0	8	5	.615	80.4	76.8	7-2	1-1	0-2	7-3	0-0	W 4	223
Southern Illinois	1	0	1.000	54.0	52.0	7	5	.583	64.2	58.9	5-0	1-3	1-2	6-4	0-0	L 1	146
Bradley	1	0	1.000	71.0	69.0	7	6	.538	72.1	66.3	5-1	1-2	1-3	6-4	0-0	W 3	131
Missouri State	0	1	.000	74.0	79.0	8	5	.615	78.5	68.2	4-2	2-2	2-1	6-4	0-1	L 1	100
Valparaiso	0	1	.000	66.0	73.0	7	6	.538	74.2	66.5	4-3	1-2	2-1	7-3	0-0	W 2	197
Indiana State	0	1	.000	76.0	88.0	6	6	.500	73.2	71.9	4-0	1-4	1-2	5-5	0-1	W 2	176
Northern Iowa	0	1	.000	69.0	71.0	4	7	.364	71.4	68.9	2-3	2-2	0-2	4-6	1-1	L 2	154
Evansville	0	1	.000	52.0	54.0	4	8	.333	61.8	65.8	3-2	1-3	0-3	3-7	0-0	L 1	288

MVC Home Games: 4-1

Non-Conf.: 64-49 (H: 44-12; A: 12-15; N: 8-22) vs. Top-25: 1-5

Upcoming Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 28

Mount Marty at Drake (ESPN+) 7:00 p.m.
 Grambling State at S. Illinois (ESPN3) 7:00 p.m.
Prairie View A&M at Valpo (canceled)
Missouri Baptist at Southern Illinois (postponed)

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Midway (Ky.) at Indiana State (ESPN3) 6:00 p.m.
 Illinois State at #23 Wisconsin (B1G+) 7:00 p.m.
Wartburg at UNI (canceled)
Bellarmine at Bradley (canceled)

Thursday, Dec. 30

Evangel (Mo.) at Missouri St. (ESPN3) 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2

*Bradley at Indiana State (ESPN+) 12:00 p.m.
 *Evansville at UNI (ESPN+) 1:00 p.m.
 *Illinois State at Valparaiso (ESPN+) 1:00 p.m.
 *Loyola at Southern Illinois (ESPN2) 4:00 p.m.
 *Drake at Missouri State (MVC TV/E+) 7:00 p.m.

*denotes MVC game

MVC Player of the Week MVC Newcomer of the Week



**Terry Roberts
 Bradley
 6-3, 180, Jr., G
 North Amityville (NY)
 [Florida SouthWestern
 State]**

Roberts led the Braves to the Sun Bowl Invitational title last week – earning MVP honors as he averaged 24.5 points, 8.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists, 1.5 blocks and 1.0 steal, while shooting 53.6 percent from the field and 36.4 percent from 3-point range. In a come-from-behind championship game victory against host UTEP Roberts completed the most productive game of his Bradley career. He registered his first career double-double with personal-best totals of 26 points and 11 rebounds – shooting 8-of-17 from the floor and 4-of-8 from 3-point range – while also adding three assists, three blocks and one steal.

MVC Players of the Week

N15 Antonio Reeves, Illinois State
 N22 Trae Berhow, UNI
 N29 AJ Green, UNI
 D6 Shamar Givance, Evansville
 D13 Isiah Mosley, Missouri State
 D20 AJ Green, UNI
 D27 Terry Roberts, Bradley

Roberts Sweeps MVC Honors

A total of 23 players in league history have swept Player and Newcomer honors in the same week, including Bradley's Terry Roberts this week. The MVC began awarding a Newcomer of the Week during the 2003-04 season. He's only the second Bradley student-athlete to accomplish the feat.

D27, 2021 - Terry Roberts, Bradley
 D9, 2019 - DeAndre Williams, Evansville
 F18, 2019 - Tulio Da Silva, Missouri State
 J28, 2019 - Keandre Cook, Missouri State
 J21, 2019 - Brady Ellingson, Drake
 J14, 2019 - Tulio Da Silva, Missouri State
 D3, 2018 - Nick Norton, Drake
 J2, 2018 - Miliik Yarbrough, Illinois State
 D18, 2017 - Miliik Yarbrough, Illinois State
 F26, 2017 - Landry Shamet, Wichita State
 J2, 2017 - Alize Johnson, Missouri State
 N28, 2016 - Darrell Brown, Bradley
 N28, 2016 - Aundre Jackson, Loyola
 N14, 2016 - Alize Johnson, Missouri State
 D16, 2013 - Milton Doyle, Loyola
 J2, 2007 - Marico Stinson, Indiana State
 F13, 2006 - Bryan Mullins, Southern Illinois
 J24, 2005 - Lorenzo Gordon, Illinois State
 J3, 2005 - Kyle Wilson, Wichita State
 D27, 2004 - Eric Coleman, UNI
 F23, 2004 - Erik Crawford, UNI
 J19, 2004 - Brooks McKowen, UNI
 J12, 2004 - Blake Ahearn, Missouri State

The Week Ahead

MVC men's basketball programs enter the final week of the calendar 15 games over .500 in non-league play (64-49) with five non-league tilts on the slate over the next three days.

16-0 Stretch Fuels MVC

From Dec. 15-Dec. 21, MVC men's basketball teams recorded a 16-0 non-league record. That resulted in a jump in the Conference NET ratings. The Missouri Valley Conference is currently ranked No. 11 in the NET, and the league also continues to sit at No. 11 in the KenPom ratings.

Notably, the league's best non-conference stretch last year was just five-straight wins. To put the current 16-0 stretch in historical perspective only once in the past 10 seasons has the league had a non-league winning streak that was at least half the current streak. From Nov. 12-15, 2017, the Conference went 8-0 within a stretch of 11 wins in 12 games. Below are the longest win streaks in non-league play in the past 20 years.

- 16-0 – Dec. 15-21, 2021
- 12-0 – Dec. 9-Dec. 15, 2004
- 11-0 – Nov. 18-Nov. 20, 2005
- 9-0 – Dec. 8-12, 2006 (included two top-25 wins)
- 8-0 – Nov. 12-15, 2017
- 8-0 – Dec. 22-23, 2010
- 8-0 – Dec. 2-5, 2003

Paused

Eight league schools – Bradley, Drake, Evansville, Indiana State, UNI, Southern Illinois, Valparaiso, and Loyola – have seen their non-league schedules impacted by COVID pauses. As of Dec. 27, a total of 13 games have been adjusted or canceled.

Games Canceled/Postponed: 13
 Games Not Made Up: 9
 Games Added (new opponents): 3
 Rescheduled (same opponent/diff. date): 1

Recapping Last Season

The MVC played a full 90-game conference schedule (and was the only Division I league to do so). The MVC had 32 game-date shifts in league play since Christmas and rescheduled 17 games during the process.

Non-Conference Games Permitted: 90
 Non-Conference Games Scheduled: 68
 Games Cancelled/Added: 25/24
 Conference Games Scheduled/Played: 90/90
 MVC Games Postponed/Rescheduled: 17/17
 Total MVC Games Moved: 32
 Regular-Season MVC Games Canceled: 0

League Play Re-Starts

After Missouri Valley men's basketball schools started MVC play on Dec. 1/2 with a single contest – Conference play begins in earnest on Sunday, Jan. 2. The Dec. 1 start to league play is the earliest on record (see below).

- 12-1-2021 – Southern Illinois at Evansville
- 12-1-2021 – UNI at Bradley
- 12-1-2021 – Missouri State at Illinois State
- 12-1-2021 – Indiana State at Loyola
- 12-2-2021 – Valparaiso at Drake
- 12-2-1950 – Houston at Bradley
- 12-4-2002 – Creighton at UNI

Winning the First One a Key

Since 1993-94, only four teams (UNI, a 2009 co-champ, Loyola in 2018, Drake in 2019 and UNI in 2020) have won at least a share of the MVC regular-season title without winning the league opener. In fact, 25 of the last 30 regular-season champs (or co-champs) have opened 2-0 or better in MVC play, with UNI (2008-09 and 2019-20), Wichita State (2011-12), Loyola (2017-18) and Drake (2018-19) the exceptions. In 2018-19, Drake became the first regular-season champ since 1992-93 to start league play with back-to-back defeats.

0-2 Starts in Conference Play

Before Drake accomplished the feat in 2018-19, the league had not had a regular-season champ (or co-champ) start an MVC season with two-straight losses since the 1992-93 season when Illinois State started 0-2 in league play before winning the league race with a 13-5 MVC mark. No team in MVC history has started league play 0-3 and gone on to win or share the regular-season title.

NET Rankings Leaders

Loyola leads the league in the latest installment of the NET ratings, at No. 15. Last year, three league schools ranked in the Top 100 of the NET. Loyola was 10; Drake was 43; and Missouri State finished at 97. The league had four teams in the Top 150. This year, the league currently has five teams rated 150 or better.

MVC – NET Ranking Leaders

- 15 - Loyola
- 91 - Drake
- 100 - Missouri State
- 131 - Bradley
- 146 - Southern Illinois
- 154 - UNI

2021-22 Pre-Season Poll

School (First-Place Votes)	Total
1. Drake (29)	411
2. Loyola (8)	363
3. UNI (6)	354
4. Missouri State	325
5. Southern Illinois	228
6. Bradley	171
7. Valparaiso	151
8. Evansville	148
9. Indiana State	147
10. Illinois State	68

FIRST TEAM

- AJ Green, UNI (MVP)
- Tyreke Key, Indiana State
- Isiah Mosley, Missouri State
- Roman Penn, Drake
- Gaige Prim, Missouri State

SECOND TEAM

- Marcus Domask, Southern Illinois
- ShanQuan Hemphill, Drake
- Ben Krikke, Valparaiso
- Austin Phylfe, UNI
- Lucas Williamson, Loyola

THIRD TEAM

- Shamar Givance, Evansville
- Ja'Shon Henry, Bradley
- Lance Jones, Southern Illinois
- Rienk Mast, Bradley
- Braden Norris, Loyola

KenPom Leaders

The MVC is No. 11 as a league in the KenPom rankings (through Dec. 26). Three MVC teams are in the Top 100, including Loyola (22), Missouri State (75), and Drake (86).

KenPom Conference Rankings

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Big 12 | 9. WCC |
| 2. Big Ten | 10. Atlantic 10 |
| 3. SEC | 11. Missouri Valley |
| 4. Big East | 12. Conference USA |
| 5. ACC | 13. Southern |
| 6. Pac 12 | 14. CAA |
| 7. American | 15. Mid-American |
| 8. Mountain West | 16. Sun Belt |

Home Cooking

After a slow start at home in non-conference play, league teams have picked up the pace in Conference arenas. Through games of Dec. 5, MVC teams had a 25-11 home record in non-conference play. Since then, MVC teams are 19-1 at home to lift the full-season non-conference home record to 44-12 (through games of Dec. 16). Last season, Valley schools posted a 34-2 home record in non-league games, and the MVC was 55-6 at home the year prior.

For the Ages

MVC men's basketball teams are experienced in 2021-22. Below is the average age for each team's roster and corresponding preseason pick by coaches, media and SIDs. Drake's Tremell Murphy is the league's elder statesman (born 4/27/1997). The Bulldogs, notably, had four players who hit 24 prior to the start of the season. Only two other players in the MVC hit their 24th birthday prior to the start of the 2021-22 campaign (Keith Clemons of Loyola and Eron Gordon of Valparaiso).

	Avg. Age	Starters	Pick
Drake	21.96	22.92	1
Evansville	21.39	22.73	8
Valparaiso	21.30	22.41	7
Southern Illinois	21.36	22.07	5
Loyola	21.45	21.85	2
Missouri State	21.40	21.26	4
Indiana State	21.11	21.11	9
Illinois State	20.85	21.09	10
UNI	20.87	21.05	3
Bradley	20.72	21.02	6

Prediction represents preseason poll placement; Average age as of Dec. 27, 2021. Current rosters adjusted to reflect known injuries to regular starters.

Young Guns

Two MVC men's basketball coaches rank among the youngest in Division I this season, including Drew Valentine of Loyola (1) and Bryan Mullins of SIU (4).

Drew Valentine, Loyola	05/25/1991
Austin Claunch, Nicholls	11/17/1989
Solomon Bozeman, Ark.-Pine Bluff	12/18/1987
Bryan Mullins, Southern Illinois	01/13/1987
Preston Spradlin, Morehead State	12/30/1986
Greg Paulus, Niagara	07/03/1986

Alma Mater Coaches

Two MVC coaches are leading their alma maters (Dan Muller at Illinois State and Bryan Mullins at Southern Illinois). Two other MVC coaches played at another MVC school (Dana Ford of Missouri State played at Illinois State, and Darian DeVries of Drake played at UNI). In MVC history, there have been eight head coaches to lead their alma maters.

	as Player	as Coach
Darian DeVries	UNI	Drake
Dana Ford	Illinois State	Missouri State
Dan Muller	Illinois State	Illinois State
Bryan Mullins	S. Illinois	S. Illinois

Loyola's Home Streak

Loyola will enter the New Year with a 28-game win streak at Gentile Arena, the fifth-longest, active streak in the country (through games of Dec. 26).

- 58 - Gonzaga
- 41 - Liberty
- 35 - Prairie View
- 33 - Houston
- 28 - Loyola**
- 21 - Abilene Christian
- 20 - Baylor

BU .. Tourney Champs

The Braves won the Weststar Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational last week - earning victories over Sam Houston, 87-61, and host UTEP, 73-66, to claim the title. It marks the sixth regular-season tournament crown for the Braves in school history - also collecting titles at the 1937 Rock Island Tournament, 1950 Sugar Bowl, 1966 Sugar Bowl, 1983 River City Shootout and 2018 Cancun Challenge. Junior Terry Roberts was named Tournament MVP after averaging 24.5 points, 8.0 rebounds and 4.0 assists, while classmate Malevy Leons also collected All-Tournament Team honors.

DU .. DeVries Climbs Charts

Drake's Darian DeVries' 79 wins are already sixth most in school history despite ranking 12th in total games coached. The 79 wins over the last three-plus seasons are the most in any three year-plus period in school history. Since World War II, he is fifth among coaches in wins with the fewest games coached among that group as well. His winning percentage is the highest of any Drake coach that has coached multiple seasons by more than 10 percentage points. During the past three seasons, Drake is 26-4 in December including a 6-1 mark this season.

UE .. Getting Better

Since his freshman campaign, Jawaun Newton has seen his game evolve in every way possible. As a junior, his scoring saw the largest leap from 5.5 PPG as a sophomore to 13.5 PPG. In his fourth year with the program, it is his rebounding which has been the next jump. His average has risen in each season (FR-2.2, SO-2.8, JR-4.4, SR-6.0).

MVC Players of the Week

Player	Newcomer
N15 Antonio Reeves, Illinois St.	Thomas Kithier, Valparaiso
N22 Trae Berhow, UNI	Ryan Schwieger, Loyola
N29 AJ Green, UNI	Antoine Smith Jr., Evansville
D6 Shamar Givance, Evansville	Terry Roberts, Bradley
D13 Isiah Mosley, Missouri State	Ben Coupet Jr., Southern Illinois
D20 AJ Green, UNI	Jaylen Minnett, Missouri State
D27 Terry Roberts, Bradley	Terry Roberts, Bradley

MVC vs. Other Conferences

Thru Sunday, Dec. 26

Conf.	W-L
America East.....	1-2
American.....	1-3
ACC.....	0-1
Atlantic Sun.....	3-1
Atlantic 10.....	4-3
Big East.....	1-1
Big Sky.....	0-0
Big South.....	0-0
Big Ten.....	0-2
Big 12.....	0-1
Big West.....	0-0
Colonial.....	3-1
C-USA.....	5-3
Horizon.....	3-1
Ivy.....	0-1
Metro Atlantic.....	0-0
Mid-American.....	4-6
MEAC.....	1-1
Mountain West.....	0-2
Northeast.....	0-0
Ohio Valley.....	6-5
Pac-12.....	2-1
Patriot.....	1-0
SEC.....	1-3
Southern.....	0-1
Southland.....	0-1
SWAC.....	5-1
Summit.....	5-2
Sun Belt.....	1-2
West Coast.....	0-3
Western Athletic.....	5-1
Non Division I.....	12-0
TOTAL	64-49
Vs. Power Six*	4-9
<i>*ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, SEC, Pac-12</i>	

Vs. Top 25	W-L
at #7 Purdue (Indiana State).....	0-1
at #16 Arkansas (UNI).....	0-1
vs. #10 Alabama (Drake).....	0-1
vs. #19 Auburn (Loyola).....	0-1
at #16 St. Bonaventure (UNI).....	1-0
#12 BYU (at Missouri State).....	0-1
TOTAL	1-5

MVC Teams in In-Season Tourneys This Season

Bradley (Paradise Jam)	0-3
Bradley (Sun Bowl Invitational)	2-0
Drake (ESPN Events International)	0-3
Evansville (Gulf Coast Showcase)	0-3
Illinois State (Cancun Challenge)	1-2
Indiana State (Myrtle Beach Invitational)	1-2
Loyola (Bad Boy Mowers Battle 4 Atlantis)	1-2
Missouri State (Naples Invitational)	2-1
UNI (Diamond Head Classic)	0-2
Southern Illinois (Paradise Jam)	1-2
Valparaiso (Nassau Championship)	2-1

TOTALS ***10-21**
*includes games played at campus sites



ILS .. Strong Thru 13

Through the first 13 games of the 2021-22 season, Illinois State's Antonio Reeves has scored 270 points, which is the ninth-most points through the first 13 games of a season in program history, just behind the 275 scored by Tarise Bryson to start the 2000-01 season.

INS .. Lineup Limbo

The Sycamores have used seven different starting lineups in 10 games this season. No starting lineup combination has been used more than three times.

LUC .. Quick Start

Drew Valentine's 9-2 start is the best by a Loyola first-year coach through 11 games since Tom Haggerty also won nine of his first 11 contests in 1945-46.

MSU .. Approaching 1,000

The Bears have a pair of players rapidly approaching 1,000 career points at Missouri State. Gaige Prim (Sr., Aurora, Colo.) has accumulated 983 points in 65 games at MSU, while Isiah Mosley (Jr., Columbia, Mo.) has racked up 974 points in 69 games. Missouri State's 1,000-Point Club currently has 29 members, most recently joined by Jarred Dixon who reached, his 1,000th point on Dec. 22, 2018.

UNI .. Phyfe Catching His Dad

Austin Phyfe is 71 points from passing his father, Steve Phyfe, in career points scored for the Panthers. Steve Phyfe, who played at UNI from 1987-90 and was part of the program's first-ever NCAA Division I Tournament team, scored 912 career points for the Panthers, ranking 55th in program history.

SIU .. Schedule Update

Southern Illinois has replaced Missouri Baptist with Grambling State on Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. In its last game (at San Francisco), J.D. Muila had a career high 11 points and made 5-of-7 shots. Ben Coupet Jr. added 12 points and made two of the team's 3-pointers.

VALPO .. No Quit Attitude

Valpo rallied from 11 points down to beat Eastern Michigan 67-55 on Dec. 20. That represented the 18th time during the Matt Lottich Era (sixth season) that Valpo has erased a double-figure deficit to come away victorious. It marked the second such victory this season (Tulane).

BU .. Wardle Reaches 100

With Bradley's two wins at the Sun Bowl Invitational last weekend, Brian Wardle collected his 99th and 100th career BU wins. Wardle is the eighth coach in school history to reach the 100-win milestone and now owns 195 career victories in 12 years on the sideline at Bradley and Green Bay.

DU .. Home Streak at 31

Drake has won 31 consecutive non-conference home games following a dominant 87-50 victory over Chicago State last Wednesday.

ILS .. High Shooting Pair

There are 30 student-athletes in the country this season that stand inside of the top-55 in the country in both three-point makes and three-point field goal percentage. Of that group, only ISU and Rice have two different student-athletes among the 30, as Antonio Reeves (22nd in makes per game, 17th in percentage) and Josiah Strong (52nd in makes per game, and 28th in percentage) are each in the top-55 in the two categories.

MSU .. Well-Oiled Offense

The Bears have one of the nation's most-efficient offensive squads, ranking 20th in effective FG% (.557) and 46th in offensive efficiency (108.6), according to KenPom, while ranking 8th in the NCAA rankings in FT% (.798), 27th in 3-point% (.381), 35th in total FG% (.479) and 57th in scoring (78.5).

UNI .. Green Climbs Charts

AJ Green ranks second in minutes per game (34:43) in the MVC, the 55th best average in the NCAA. He leads the MVC in career three-point field goals among active players with 206. Drake's D.J. Wilkins ranks second with 200.

VALPO .. Beacons Heating Up

Valpo has won four of its last five games and owns a 6-2 record over its last eight. The team's Dec. 22 victory over William & Mary helped Valpo climb above .500 for the first time since the end of the 2019-2020 season. The 88-66 victory over the Tribe was the program's largest margin of victory against a Division-I team since beating SIUE by that same differential on Dec. 9, 2020.

Top Performances Last Week

Antonio Reeves, Illinois State – In the team's only game during the nomination period, Reeves had his first career double-double with 21 points, 10 rebounds and four assists, helping Illinois State to an 81-64 win over UTSA. Reeves was 9-of-14 from the field in the game, while converting on 3-of-7 3-point shots in the 17-point win.

Ayo Akinwale, Drake – Scored 14 points on 5-for-7 shooting from the field against Chicago State. Finished 4-for-6 from shooting beyond the arc. Dished out a team-best four assists.

Nate Heise, UNI – Heise led the Panthers averaging 17 points a game in UNI's two games at the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic, highlighted by a career-high 19 points against Wyoming. The freshman guard posted the third highest shooting percentage from the floor in the entire tournament at 66.7%, and dished out 6.5 assists over the holiday event.

Xavier Bledson, Indiana State – Dropped in a career-high 21 points – the first 20+ point scoring output from the guard during his time at ISU. Bledson shot 7-for-13 from the field, including a pair of 3-pointers in the win while grabbing five rebounds and dishing out five assists. On the defensive end, Bledson was able to pick up four steals to set another career-high mark.

Keivon Taylor, Valparaiso – Averaged 16.5 points per game over two contests this week to lead Valpo to victories over Eastern Michigan and William & Mary. He shot 70.6 percent for the week (12-of-17) while knocking down 3s at a 61.5 percent clip (8-of-13). Taylor drained four 3s in each contest, becoming the first Valpo player to hit four or more 3s in back-to-back games since Ryan Fazekas in February 2020.