



For Immediate Release
Sept. 25, 2017

Mike Kern

Illinois State • Indiana State • Missouri State • North Dakota State • Northern Iowa
South Dakota • South Dakota State • Southern Illinois • Western Illinois • Youngstown State

1818 Chouteau Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 444-4360 • FAX (314) 444-4361

2017 Valley Football Standings (thru Sept. 23)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
Illinois State	1-0	1.000	34	9	3-0	1.000	123	22	1-0	2-0	W3
North Dakota State	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	168	20	2-0	1-0	W3
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	157	41	1-0	2-0	W3
South Dakota State	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	133	50	2-0	1-0	W3
Western Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	131	44	0-0	3-0	W3
Southern Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	121	64	1-0	1-1	L1
Youngstown State	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	110	37	2-0	0-1	W2
Northern Iowa	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	90	104	1-0	0-2	L1
Indiana State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-3	.000	68	106	0-1	0-2	L3
Missouri State	0-1	.000	9	34	1-3	.250	80	161	1-1	0-2	L1

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Sept. 23

#12 Illinois State 34, Missouri State 9
#2 North Dakota State 56, Robert Morris 0
#19 Western Illinois 52, Coastal Carolina 10
Memphis 44, Southern Illinois 31

Saturday, Sept. 30

*Missouri St. at #2 N. Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT
Fargo, N.D. • NBC ND / ESPN3
*#10 South Dakota at #13 W. Illinois, 3 pm CT
Macomb, Ill. • ESPN3
*#20 UNI at Southern Illinois, 6 pm CT
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN3
*#4 S. Dakota St. at #5 Youngstown St., 6 pm CT
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN3
*Indiana State at #8 Illinois State, 6:30 pm CT
Normal, Ill. • ESPN3

*denotes Conference game

Takeaways

- Youngstown State's 10-game winning streak at home is tied for the fourth-best active streak in the NCAA. North Dakota State's 10-game road winning streak is best among current streaks.
- Based on cumulative opposition (past opponents and future opponents), all 10 MVFC schools rank in the Top 20 in the NCAA for 'toughest schedules.'
- South Dakota ranks No. 4 in total offense (561.3 yards per game) to lead the league. North Dakota State (1st at 56.0 points per game) and South Dakota (5th at 52.3 ppg) are in the Top 5 in the FCS in scoring offense.
- The MVFC has the top 3 schools in the FCS for fewest passing yards allowed per game: North Dakota State (1st, 78.7 ypg); Illinois State (2nd, 100.3 ypg); and Youngstown State (3rd, 111.0).

• • Media Services • •

Players of the Week

Each week a panel will select players of the week for offense, defense, newcomer, offensive line and special teams.

MVFC Media Vault

By Tuesday of each week, the league will collect school weekly coach press conferences (audio/video links) and PDF links to weekly notes in the MVFC Media Vault.

Statistics

Interactive school and league statistics are available, courtesy of the league's partnership with SIDEARM.

Weekly Features

The league produces weekly video segments (Two Minute Drill and The Extra Point) and a bimonthly audio podcast (First and Goal). Each is available by visiting the league's web site (valleyfootball.org) - under the Multimedia tab on the main menu bar.

www.valley-football.org



facebook.com/ValleyFootball



@valleyfootball • @FCS_Insider
@ESPNCFB • @NCAA_FCS
@FCS_STATS • @HeroSportsNews

Noteworthy

MVFC Matches Rankings Records

Seven MVFC teams are ranked in the FCS Coaches top-25 poll, marking the 14th time that's happened in league history, including the third week in a row this season.

Five teams appear in the Top 10 for the first time this year (and for the third time in league history), matching a record previously established on 9/28/15 and again on 10/5/15.

Three teams are in the Top 5 of the poll for the third-straight week and fourth time in league history (also on 9/28/15).

Five Teams Perfect

The MVFC has five unbeaten teams, and there are only 15 total FCS teams without a loss.

Against the FBS

South Dakota (at Bowling Green) and Western Illinois (at Coastal Carolina) earned FBS wins this year. The league has now had two or more FBS wins in the same season in six of the past seven seasons.

On the Road

The MVFC's nine road wins in non-conference regular-season play match a league record that was established in 2007. Illinois State (at Northern Arizona on Oct. 7) has one non-conference game remaining.



Players of the Week

Co-Offense

RB Lance Dunn, North Dakota State
5-9, 211, Jr., Waterloo (Iowa) West High

Dunn scored four touchdowns on four plays in North Dakota State's 56-0 win over Robert Morris. He had scoring runs of 61, 5 and 45 yards and a 10-yard touchdown reception to total 121 all-purpose yards. Dunn is the first NDSU player to score four touchdowns in a game since the 2010 playoffs. He leads the FCS with nine TDs through three games.

QB Sean McGuire, Western Illinois
6-3, 228, Jr., Franklin (Wis.) High

At Coastal Carolina, McGuire was 17-for-19 for 276 yards, three touchdowns and zero interceptions. He also caught a nine-yard touchdown pass from wide receiver Isaiah LeSure. It was the first time since 2010 (Matt Barr, 6 passing TDs, one rushing TD, 22-for-25) that a Western Illinois quarterback recorded more touchdowns than incompletions in one game.

Defense

LB Brett Taylor
6-2, 230, Sr., Macomb (Ill.) High

Taylor led Western Illinois with eight tackles and tied for the team-best with two tackles for loss in the Leathernecks' 52-10 win over FBS-school Coastal Carolina. The senior has at least tied for the team lead in tackles in each of the last eight contests, including all three games this season. The 10 points surrendered to Coastal Carolina was Western's fewest allowed against an FBS school since shutting out Northern Illinois on Sept. 7, 1996.

Special Teams

P/K Sean Slattery, Illinois State
6-0, 230, Sr., Rockford, Illinois

Slattery was the game changer in the first half for the Redbirds, evening up the score at 6-all at the half. He native began the game with a season-long 48-yard make in the first quarter, before knocking a 28-yard field goal in the second quarter. The senior was 4-for-4 on extra point attempts and kept dangerous Missouri State kick returner Deion Holliman at bay with four touchbacks on kickoffs.

Newcomer

LB Jabril Cox, North Dakota State
6-3, 227, Fr., Kansas City (Mo.) Raytown South

Cox made a team-high eight tackles and had a fumble recovery that led to a TD in the 56-0 win over Robert Morris. He was in on one tackle for loss and made four stops on kickoff coverage (three solos) as NDSU's defense held RMU to 57 total yards and only one trip past midfield in 14 possessions.

Offensive Lineman

OL Austin Olsen, Southern Illinois
6-4, 320, Sr., Chicago (Ill.) Lincoln Way North

Olsen led SIU's offense at Memphis. The Salukis didn't surrender a sack and the offense put up 393 yards of total offense and scored 31 points. Southern averaged nearly five yards per play and took a 21-17 halftime lead against the Tigers.

The Week Ahead

All 10 league teams are in action with five conference games on the slate. Illinois State, which beat Missouri State last weekend in the opener for both schools, hopes to improve to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the league when it hosts Indiana State. And two schools will have Homecoming games this weekend, including North Dakota State and Western Illinois.

On the Air

All five league games will air on ESPN3 this weekend, with the league producing the South Dakota-Western Illinois contest at 3 pm CT. Scott Warmann, Danan Hughes and Kelly Burke will be on the call from Macomb.

Open Season

The 33rd season of MVFC action gets underway in earnest on Sept. 30 (Illinois State and Missouri State opened league play this past weekend in Springfield, Mo.) Youngstown State (8) and North Dakota State (6) have the longest active win streaks in season-opening games. YSU, in fact, is 17-3 all-time in its first league game each season. Southern Illinois and Missouri State played in the league's first conference game on 9/7/85.

Team	Record	Home	Away	Streak
Illinois State	15-18	6-6	9-12	W1
Indiana State	11-20	9-9	2-11	W3
Missouri St.	14-19	6-11	8-8	L1
NDSU	6-3	2-0	4-3	W6
UNI	21-11	13-2	8-9	W1
South Dakota	0-5	0-2	0-3	L5
SDSU	4-5	3-3	1-2	W1
S. Illinois	16-16	11-6	5-10	L2
W. Illinois	17-15	11-5	6-10	L1
Youngstown St.	17-3	10-0	7-3	W8

Against the FBS

The MVFC recorded a 2-5 record this year against FBS schools. The Conference has had at least one FBS win in each of the last eight seasons. The FCS now has nine wins against FBS schools overall in 2017. There were 10 FCS wins against FBS programs in 2016 and the FCS set a record in 2013 with 16 wins against FBS programs that year.

Idaho State 30, Nevada 28
North Carolina A&T State 35, Charlotte 31
South Dakota 35, Bowling Green 27
Liberty 48, Baylor 45
James Madison 34, East Carolina 14
New Hampshire 22, Georgia Southern 12
Tennessee State 17, Georgia State 10
Howard 43, UNLV 40
Western Illinois 52, Coastal Carolina 10

Against the FCS

The MVFC is 18-4 against FCS schools this year, which includes two road losses to ranked FCS teams, one of which (Liberty) is transitioning to FBS. CAA Football is an FCS-best 19-2 against FCS peers, and only the Big Sky (8-6), Ivy (9-2), SoCon (7-5) and Southland (6-4) have winning marks.

Road Warriors

MVFC teams have combined to post nine non-conference road wins, among the best in the league's 32-year history (the totals below also include playoff games.)

Non-Conference Road Wins, All-Time

11 - 2014 (11-12) [includes 4 playoff road wins]
10 - 1999 (10-10) [includes 2 playoff road wins]
9 - 2017 (9-8)
9 - 2007 (9-7) [all were in regular-season play]
9 - 2016 (9-9) [includes 2 playoff road wins]
8 - 6 times

Western Sets MVFC Record

Western Illinois' 52 points against Coastal Carolina set a league record for most points against an FBS opponent.

Most Points by MVFC School vs. FBS Foe

52 - W. Illinois (at Coastal Caro, 9-23-17, W, 52-10)
47 - Southern Illinois (at Indiana, 9-15-15, L, 48-47)
45 - Southern Illinois (at E. Mich, 9-8-02, L, 48-45)
44 - Indiana St. (at W. Kentucky, 9-17-11, W, 44-16)
44 - YSU (vs. Kent State, 9-6-97, W, 44-23)
43 - Missouri State (at Mizzou, 9-2-17, L, 72-43)
42 - UNI (at Wyoming, 9-11-93, L, 45-42)

5 in MVFC are Still Perfect

Five MVFC schools are unbeaten in 2017 (Illinois State, North Dakota State, South Dakota, South Dakota State and Western Illinois are all 3-0). In 2012, three league teams (Illinois State-5-0; North Dakota State-5-0; and Youngstown State-4-0) all started 4-0 or better before losing. That's the only time three different league teams started a season 4-0. The first time the league had as many as two 4-0 teams was in 2007 (UNI/SIU that year). Notably, only 15 unscathed FCS teams (and 24 in the FBS) remain, through games of Sept. 30.

FCS Unbeatens (15)

4-0 James Madison, North Carolina A&T
3-0 Citadel, **Illinois State, North Dakota State**
Sam Houston State, **South Dakota**
South Dakota State, Western Illinois, Wofford
2-0 Columbia, Dartmouth, Penn, Princeton, Yale

FCS Unbeatens (by conference)

5 **Missouri Valley Football**, Ivy League
2 SoCon
1 CAA Football, MEAC, Southland

2017 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Sept. 25)

vs. Non-Conference (20-9)

Home: 11-1 / Away: 9-8 / Neut: 0-0

NCAA FCS Teams (18-4)

Big Sky	5-2
Cal Poly	1-0
Eastern Washington.....	1-0
Montana State.....	1-0
North Dakota.....	1-1
Northern Arizona.....	1-0
Southern Utah.....	0-1
Big South	0-1
Liberty.....	0-1
Northeast.....	4-0
Central Connecticut.....	1-0
Duquesne	1-0
Robert Morris	2-0
Ohio Valley	4-1
Eastern Illinois.....	1-1
Murray State.....	1-0
Southeast Missouri State.....	1-0
Tennessee Tech.....	1-0
Pioneer Football	3-0
Butler	1-0
Drake.....	2-0
SWAC.....	2-0
Mississippi Valley State	2-0

NCAA FBS Teams (2-5)

ACC.....	0-1
Pittsburgh	0-1
American.....	0-1
Memphis.....	0-1
Big 12.....	0-1
Iowa State.....	0-1
Mid-American	1-0
Bowling Green	1-0
SEC.....	0-2
Missouri	0-1
Tennessee	0-1
Sun Belt	1-0
Coastal Carolina.....	1-0

vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (2-2)

#2 NDSU at #6 Eastern Washington, W, 40-13
Missouri State at #11 North Dakota, L, 34-0
#10 North Dakota at #23 South Dakota, W, 45-7
Indiana State at #19 Liberty, L, 42-41

vs. Ranked (FBS) Teams (0-1)

Indiana State at #21 Tennessee, L, 42-7

7 MVFC Teams in Top 25

Seven MVFC teams are ranked in the same week for the third-straight time. HERO Sports' BennettRank is also listed and is a computer predictive metric that ranks all FCS teams. The Sagarin ranking ranks all 254 Division I teams, but the number listed is each team's position within the FCS.

Team	FCS	STATS	HERO	SAG.
North Dakota State	2	2	2	1
South Dakota State	4	4	4	3
Youngstown State	5	6	3	4
Illinois State	8	12	5	7
South Dakota	10	10	12	6
Western Illinois	16	13	9	5
UNI	20	rv	28	12
Southern Illinois	--	rv	33	18
Indiana State	--	--	48	59
Missouri State	--	--	71	72

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS, but also ranks ahead of a number of FBS leagues, including the Mountain West (West Division), the C-USA (both the East and West divisions), the MAC (East Division), and the Sun Belt.

Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

1. MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL
2. CAA Football
3. Southern
4. Big Sky
5. Ohio Valley

Nation's Top Defenses

North Dakota State and Illinois State rank 1-2 in the FCS in total defense. The Bison are also tops in rushing (27.7 ypg allowed) and passing defense (78.7 ypg allowed).

FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Team (Conf.)	Rec.	YPG
1 North Dakota State (MVFC)	3-0	106.3
2 Illinois State (MVFC)	3-0	156.3
3 South Carolina State (MEAC)	1-2	204.0
4 James Madison (CAA)	4-0	231.8
5 The Citadel (SoCon)	3-0	237.0

Efficiency Leaders

QB Chris Streveler of USD (4th, 173.5 rating) and QB Sean McGuire of Western Illinois (6th, 171.8 rating) are among the national FCS leaders. The league single-season record: Steve Beard, UNI (169.5 in 1996).

Among the Best All-Time

The MVFC's 20-9 (.690) non-conference record would rank third-best all-time in league history, behind 2014 (35-12, .745) and 1999 (30-12, .714). The 2014 season includes a 7-1 playoff non-conference record, and the 1999 season includes a 5-2 playoff slate against non-league teams. The .690 regular-season record is fifth-best in league annals (with one game left).

MVFC vs. Non-Conference, All-Time

Year	Overall	Reg-Season	Playoffs
*2014	35-12 (.745)	28-11 (.718)	7-1
*1999	30-12 (.714)	25-10 (.714)	5-2
2017	20-9 (.690)	20-9 (.690)	
1996	27-13 (.675)	25-11 (.694)	2-2
2003	28-14 (.667)	25-10 (.714)	3-4
1985	24-12-1 (.662)	23-11-1 (.671)	1-1
*2002	25-13 (.659)	21-13 (.618)	4-0
1991	24-12-2 (.658)	23-10-2 (.686)	1-2
2007	26-14 (.650)	23-12 (.657)	3-2
1986	22-12-1 (.643)	21-11-1 (.652)	1-1
*2016	25-14 (.641)	19-11 (.633)	6-3

*league team reached title game that year; playoff column does not include intra-conference meetings

Making a Point

Three league schools rank in the Top 5 in the FCS in fewest points allowed. South Dakota (7th, 13.7) Western Illinois (11th, 14.7) and South Dakota State (18th, 16.7) also represent the league in the Top 20.

FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Team (Conf.)	Rec.	YPG
1 North Dakota State (MVFC)	3-0	6.7
2 Illinois State (MVFC)	3-0	7.3
3 Saint Francis (Northeast)	2-1	8.3
4 James Madison (CAA)	4-0	12.0
5 Youngstown State (MVFC)	2-1	12.3

2017 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S4	S11	S18	S25
Illinois State	18	15	14	12	8
Indiana St.	rv	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--	--
NDSU	2	2	2	2	2
UNI	18	21	18	24	20
S. Dakota	rv	rv	23	13	10
SDSU	4	4	4	4	4
S. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	rv	rv
W. Illinois	25	22	20	19	13
Youngstown	8	6	5	5	5

*Rank represents highest position in the two polls (STATS or FCS Coaches polls)



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (3-0, 1-0 MVFC)

S2	Butler	W, 45-0	1-0, 0-0
S16	at Eastern Illinois	W, 44-13	2-0, 0-0
S23	*at Missouri State	W, 34-9	3-0, 1-0
S30	*Indiana State	ESPN3	6:30 p.m.
O7	at Northern Arizona	Pluto TV	TBA
O14	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O21	*South Dakota (HC)	CSN / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O28	*at Youngstown State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N4	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	Noon
N11	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N18	*North Dakota State	CSN / ESPN3	Noon

*MVFC game

Third Quarter Dominance

With the game tied to start the second half, the Redbirds quickly set the tone for the remainder of the game to secure the 34-9 win. Not only did Illinois State tie a school record of 28 points in the third quarter while scoring a touchdown on every possession, but the Redbirds did not allow a single first down or any yardage to the Bears in the quarter. Markel Smith and James Robinson rushed for touchdowns before quarterback Jake Kolbe called his own number and rushed for his own. With seven seconds on the clock, Kolbe found Anthony Fowler in the end zone for a 28-yard score to tie the program record for points in the third quarter.

Blocking the Bears

Despite giving up an early touchdown, the Redbirds' defense held the Bears to a mere nine points in the Valley opener, thanks to a blocked PAT and kick in the matchup. Senior Matt McCown cut the Bears' opening drive short by stopping the extra point early in the first quarter. Fellow senior Adam Conley kept the momentum in favor of the Redbirds by blocking a 26-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter. The Redbirds had just three blocked kicks all of last season, and are well on their way to passing that total this season.

Rushing Touchdown Trifecta

For the third time this season, the Redbirds' offense scored at least three rushing touchdowns. In Illinois State's previous two games, the scoring was spread among all quarters. However, the Redbirds' controlled the third quarter against Missouri State, rushing for three touchdowns consecutively. Markel Smith scored from six yards before James Robinson ran for an eight-yard touchdown. Jake Kolbe completed the trifecta with a seven-yard touchdown run, solidifying the win. Robinson and Smith have each rushed for at least one touchdown in each of the Redbirds' wins this season, further solidifying the two-headed rushing attack for ISU.



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (0-3, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	Eastern Illinois	L, 20-22	0-1, 0-0
S9	at #21 Tennessee	L, 7-45	0-2, 0-0
S16	at #19 Liberty	L, 41-42	0-3, 0-0
S30	*at #8 Illinois State	ESPN3	7:30 p.m. ET
O7	*North Dakota State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
O14	*South Dakota	ESPN3	3:00 p.m. ET
O21	*Southern Illinois (HC)	ESPN3	3:00 p.m. ET
O28	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	3:00 p.m. ET
N4	*Youngstown State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
N11	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
N18	*at UNI	ESPN3	5:00 p.m. ET

*MVFC game

Historic Through The Air

QB Cade Sparks – in conjunction with holder Jeremy Patterson, who had a 31-yard passing TD to TE Jacquet McClendon on a fake FG – broke the single-game team passing record at Indiana State with 436 yards passing, eclipsing the previous record of 433 vs. Quincy in 2013. Sparks owned 405 yards of that total, the second-best game in school history, falling just short of Mike Perish's 2014 record of 407 vs. Eastern Kentucky in the FCS Playoffs. Of Sparks' 405 passing yards, 260 of those went to Bob Pugh, marking the second-best game in ISU history and fifth-best in the history of the Valley. Pugh, in conjunction with McClendon's 115 yards receiving, recorded just the second game in Indiana State history with multiple 100-yard receivers – the second in as many years after Miles Thompson (147) and Robert Tonyan Jr. (131) did it at Southern Illinois in 2016.

Monster Day by Pugh at Liberty

Bob Pugh put up the second-best single-game performance in school history with 260 yards and two TDs on eight catches – the best at ISU since 1955 (319, Bill Griffith, vs. Evansville) and the fifth-best in the history of the MVFC (best since Illinois State's Laurent Robinson set the league record at 292 vs. Indiana State in 2005).

One-Possession Losses

Indiana State stands at 0-3, but ISU's two FCS non-conference games this season have come down to the final possession in heartbreaking fashion. In the season opener vs. Eastern Illinois, sophomore kicker Jerry Nunez barely missed a 48-yard field goal that would have given ISU a comfortable lead, yielding a game-winning drive starting with 1:52 left and ending with a Panther touchdown with three seconds left in EIU's 22-20 win on opening night. This past Saturday at No. 19 Liberty, Indiana State seemed poised to profit from a timeout miscue by the Flames, marching down to the Liberty six with five seconds remaining and down 42-41. Nunez lined up for a 23-yard try, but Liberty was able to get a hand on the kick to end the game and survive.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (1-3, 0-1 MVFC)

S2	at Missouri	L, 43-72	0-1, 0-0
S9	at #11 North Dakota	L, 0-34	0-2, 0-0
S16	Murray State	W, 28-21	1-2, 0-0
S23	*#12 Illinois State	L, 9-34	1-3, 0-1
S30	*at #2 North Dakota St.	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
O14	*at Western Illinois	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O21	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O28	*Indiana State (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N4	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N11	*UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N18	*at Youngstown State	ESPN3	11:00 a.m.

*MVFC game

Bears Show Progress in MVFC Opener

After being outscored by a combined 75-2 margin in their previous two meetings with Illinois State, Missouri State put together a strong effort for three quarters of Saturday's MVFC opener against the Redbirds. MSU outgained ISU by a combined margin of 311 to 247 yards in the first, second and fourth quarters. The Bears also totaled 17 first downs to the 12th-ranked Redbirds' 12 over the same stretch and outscored ISU by a 9-6 margin.

Earl Cracks Top 10

With four catches for 73 yards in the Bears' MVFC opener with Illinois State, senior receiver Malik Earl (1,504 yards) moved past three Bears to move into MSU's career top 10 for receiving yardage. Earl climbed to ninth on the chart, passing Anthony Pegues (1,445), Steven Rush (1,461) and Mark Marcos (1,486) with his performance Saturday. He enters the week just 199 yards away from Jeff Hewitt in the No. 8 position on the chart.

Another Highlight for Holliman

Deion Holliman added yet another notable achievement to his Missouri State resume Saturday against Illinois State with a 53-yard scoring run on the game's third play from scrimmage. The career-long run marked the first rushing touchdown of Holliman's career, making him the first Bear with career touchdowns by a rush, pass reception and kick return since 2005, when Lee Baker accomplished the feat. Holliman is believed to be the first Bear on record to record touchdowns via a rush, pass, kickoff return and punt return in his career. Holliman now has nine career touchdowns, four of which have come via kick returns, ranking second in school history behind Cornelius Perry's five returns (all on kickoffs) for scores.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (3-0, 0-0 MVFC)

S2	Mississippi Valley State	W, 72-7	1-0, 0-0
S9	at #6 Eastern Washington	W, 40-13	2-0, 0-0
S23	Robert Morris	W, 56-0	3-0, 0-0
S30	*Missouri State (HC)	NBC ND / ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
O7	*at Indiana State	NBC ND / ESPN3	Noon
O14	*at Youngstown State	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
O21	*Western Illinois	NBC ND / ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
O28	*UNI	NBC ND / ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
N4	*at South Dakota State	NBC ND / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N11	*South Dakota	NBC ND / ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
N18	*at Illinois State	NBC ND / ESPN3	Noon

*MVFC game

Stick Moving Up Record Book

Junior quarterback Easton Stick has moved into fifth place all-time in career passing yards at NDSU with 3,864 yards. Stick also ranks fifth in passing TDs (36), sixth in completions (288), seventh in attempts (475).

No Picks

Quarterback Easton Stick has not yet thrown an interception this season and has 85 straight passing attempts without a pick dating back to last year's national quarterfinal win over South Dakota State. Stick had a streak of 113 attempts without interception over a seven-game span in his freshman year 2015. NDSU's school record is 143 passing attempts without interception by Carson Wentz in seven games from the 2014 semifinals into 2015.

Dunn Leads FCS in Touchdowns

Junior running back Lance Dunn scored four touchdowns on four plays against Robert Morris and has taken over the FCS lead with eight rushing TDs and nine total TDs this season. Dunn is the leading rusher in the Missouri Valley Football Conference and ranks fifth nationally with 133.7 ypg and 10th with 401 yards.

Defense Sparks Rout of RMU

North Dakota State converted three consecutive first-quarter turnovers into points and went on to a 56-0 win over Robert Morris last week, the first NDSU shutout victory since November 2015 against Missouri State. Logan McCormick and Dan Marlette forced fumbles, and Tre Dempsey had a 23-yard interception return for touchdown as the Bison stormed out to a 35-0 lead in the first quarter. NDSU held Robert Morris to 57 yards of total offense, four first downs and only one trip past midfield in 14 possessions.



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(1-2, 0-0 MVFC)

S2	at Iowa State	L, 24-42	0-1, 0-0
S9	Cal Poly	W, 45-38 (ot)	1-1, 0-0
S16	at Southern Utah	L, 21-24	1-2, 0-0
S30	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
O7	*Western Illinois (HC)	PSN / ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O14	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O21	*Youngstown State	PSN / ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
O28	*at North Dakota State	ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
N4	*South Dakota	PSN / ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N11	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N18	*Indiana State	ESPN3	4:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Need to Know for Week Five

UNI has taken the last three meetings in the SIU series, with two wins at home and one on the road. SIU last won in 2013, after downing the Panthers in overtime, 24-17. The Panthers will be seeking back-to-back road wins in Carbondale for the first time since winning three-straight games in 1992, 1994 and 1996. Head coach Mark Farley is 14-4 coming off of a bye week.

Turnover Streak Up to 12 Games

The Panther defense continued its success in producing turnovers on Saturday, as the UNI D posted its 12th-consecutive game forcing at least one turnover. The streak dates back to last season's game against Eastern Washington. The Panther defense earned a turnover in 10 of 11 games in 2016, with the contest against Montana being the only game without forcing a turnover.

Conference Openers for the Panthers

UNI is 21-11 in Missouri Valley Football Conference openers since the league started in 1985. The Panthers are also 10-6 in conference openers under the direction of Mark Farley. The Panthers had lost four-straight MVFC openers, before last season's win over SIU.

Punt Battle in Carbondale

Saturday's game in Carbondale will feature two of the nation's best punters, as UNI's Sam Kuhter and SIU's Lane Reazin face off. Reazin leads the nation with a 47.8 average this season, while Kuhter is in striking distance with an average of 45.3 yards per punt to rank sixth overall. The two squads are also among the nation's best for net punting as well, with SIU ranking first with a 43.9 average and UNI ranking fourth with a 41.8 clip.



SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(3-0, 0-0 MVFC)

S2	at Drake	W, 77-7	1-0, 0-0
S9	at Bowling Green	W, 35-27	2-0, 0-0
S16	#10 North Dakota	W, 45-7	3-0, 0-0
S30	*at #13 Western Illinois	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O7	*Youngstown State (HC)	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O14	*Indiana State	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O21	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O28	*Southern Illinois	Midco / ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
N4	*at UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N11	*at North Dakota State	ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
N18	*South Dakota State	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Yotes Enter Top 10

South Dakota football has entered the top 10 of the FCS Coaches Poll for the first time following the team's first 3-0 start at the Division I level. The Coyotes have beaten Drake, Bowling Green (FBS) and, most recently, then-No. 10 North Dakota in a 45-7 thrashing inside the DakotaDome. The Coyotes and Western Illinois are competing in the only FCS matchup this weekend featuring a pair of 3-0 teams. It is also one of four FCS matchups featuring top 25 teams.

Another Fast Start

After one quarter of play, South Dakota led Drake 28-0, led Bowling Green 21-3, and led North Dakota 17-0. In addition to outscoring its foes 66-3 in the first quarter, the Coyotes have outgained them 583-230. That's an average of 8.5 yards per play compared to 4.4 yards per play. Quarterback Chris Streveler has accounted for eight first-quarter touchdowns (4 passing, 4 rushing).

Defending the Run

Improving a run defense that surrendered 250 yards per game a year ago was a topic of discussion throughout the offseason and during fall camp. The Coyotes have allowed a total of 256 yards rushing with one touchdown thru three games. That includes a minus-7 effort in the opener at Drake, and limiting North Dakota to 102 yards on 30 attempts. Opponents are averaging 2.6 yards per carry.

It's Worth Repeating

QB Chris Streveler continues to lead the nation in points responsible for with 13 touchdowns thru three games (7 passing, 6 rushing). He is averaging 280 yards thru the air and 76 yards on the ground. He has yet to commit a turnover in 88 pass attempts and 50 rushing attempts. In 13 starts at USD, Streveler has accounted for 44 TDs.



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(3-0, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	Duquesne	W, 51-13	1-0, 0-0
S9	at Montana State	W, 31-27	2-0, 0-0
S16	Drake	W, 51-10	3-0, 0-0
S30	*at #5 Youngstown State	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
07	*Southern Illinois	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
014	*UNI (HC)	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
021	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
028	*at Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N4	*North Dakota State	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N11	*Illinois State	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N18	*at South Dakota	Midco / ESPN3	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Bye-Week Success

South Dakota State will open league action this Saturday at Youngstown State after its lone bye week of the 2017 regular season. The Jackrabbits have benefitted from an in-season week off by compiling an 8-3 record following a bye week since moving to the FCS ranks in 2004.

Going the Distance

Cade Johnson's 95-yard kickoff return for touchdown Sept. 16 against Drake marked the first time an SDSU player returned a kickoff for touchdown in nearly five years. Tyrel Kool returned the opening kickoff of an Oct. 13, 2012, game against Western Illinois 100 yards for a score.

Versus Ranked Opponents

Since moving to the Football Championship Subdivision in 2004, the Jackrabbits have posted a 27-38 overall record against ranked FCS opponents. SDSU went 4-1 against ranked FCS opponents during the 2016 season, defeating Western Illinois, North Dakota State, Youngstown State and Villanova. The lone loss came in a playoff rematch at North Dakota State. Of the 65 previous matchups against a ranked opponent, 32 have been in a regular season Missouri Valley Football Conference game. The Jackrabbits have compiled a 17-15 record in those matchups.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(2-1, 0-0 MVFC)

S9	Mississippi Valley State	W, 55-3	1-0, 0-0
S16	at SE Missouri State	W, 35-17	2-0, 0-0
S23	at Memphis	L, 31-44	2-1, 0-0
S30	*#20 UNI	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
07	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
014	*Illinois State (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
021	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
028	*at South Dakota	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
N4	*Missouri State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N11	*Youngstown State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N18	*at Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

No Sacks Allowed

Southern's offensive line has only surrendered one sack all season long. The Salukis lead the MVFC and rank second nationally in sacks allowed per game. SIU allowed 24 sacks in the first seven games of 2016 (3.4 sacks per game); the Salukis have allowed only six sacks in the seven games since (0.86 sacks per game). Memphis had recorded 17 sacks in their previous six games, dating back to 2016, but SIU held Memphis without a sack on Saturday.

Worst to First

Southern Illinois ranked last in the MVFC last season in net punting at 33.8 yards per punt. This year, the Salukis are ten full yards better per punt at 43.93, which not only leads the MVFC, it also leads the nation. Punter Lane Reazin is averaging an astounding 47.8 yards per punt this year, which also leads the nation. In addition to Reazin, the cover team has been flawless—Memphis tried returning all five punts on Saturday but only averaged 2.0 yards per return.

Home Night Games

Southern Illinois hosts Northern Iowa on Sept. 30 for the Family Weekend game. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. in Saluki Stadium. Since lights were re-installed in McAndrew Stadium prior to the 2002 season, the Salukis are 31-8 under the lights in Carbondale, including a 12-5 mark in MVFC play. SIU and UNI have only met under the Carbondale lights twice in that span. SIU beat No. 12 UNI 42-13 in 2002 and beat No. 5 Northern Iowa 27-24 in 2008.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (3-0, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	at Tennessee Tech	W, 41-14	1-0, 0-0
S9	at Northern Arizona	W, 38-20	2-0, 0-0
S23	at Coastal Carolina	W, 52-10	3-0, 0-0
S30	*#10 South Dakota (HC)	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O7	*at UNI	ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O14	*Missouri State	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O21	*at North Dakota State	ESPN3	2:30 p.m.
O28	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N4	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	Noon
N11	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	Noon
N18	*Southern Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

A Record-Breaking Start

Western Illinois started their season 3-0 for the third time in school history, including the second straight under coach Charlie Fisher. The victory over the Chanticleers also marks the first time in program history that the Leathernecks recorded three straight road wins to start the season. Their previous best, with three straight road contests to start the year, was a 2-1 mark to begin the 1927 campaign.

Leathernecks Throttle FBS Coastal

Western Illinois scored 45 unanswered en route to a 52-10 victory over FBS-school Coastal Carolina, the Leathernecks' eighth win all-time over an FBS school. The 42-point win was Western Illinois' largest margin of victory against an FBS school in program history (previous best of 22 points at Eastern Michigan in 2003). With last year's win at Northern Illinois, the Leathernecks also won back-to-back contests against FBS squads for the first time since 2002 and 2003 (Northern Illinois and Eastern Michigan).

McGuire Enjoys Huge Day in Conway

QB Sean McGuire set a program record with 264.9 yards per game in 2016, however, he had averaged just 172.5 yards passing in the first two games of the 2017 season. At Coastal Carolina, McGuire was 17-for-19 for 276 yards, three touchdowns and zero interceptions. He also caught a nine-yard touchdown pass from wide receiver Isaiah LeSure. It was the first time since 2010 (Matt Barr, 6 passing TDs, one rushing TD, 22-for-25) that a Western Illinois quarterback recorded more touchdowns than incompletions in one game.

Sanders' Run Enters Program's Top 10

RB Devon Sanders' 80-yard TD run midway through the fourth quarter entered Western Illinois' top-10 for longest play in program history. Sanders' touchdown gallop is the fifth-longest play in school history, and it marks the first 75-plus yard run for the Leathernecks since Frisman Jackson scored a 77-yard touchdown run, setting a Western Illinois record by a quarterback, at Southern Illinois in 2000.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (2-1, 0-0 MVFC)

S2	at Pittsburgh	L, 21-28 (ot)	0-1, 0-0
S9	Robert Morris	W, 30-0	1-1, 0-0
S16	Central Connecticut St.	W, 59-9	2-1, 0-0
S30	*#4 South Dakota State	ESPN3	7:00 p.m. ET
O7	*at South Dakota	ESPN3	3:00 p.m. ET
O14	*North Dakota State	ESPN3	7:00 p.m. ET
O21	*at UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m. ET
O28	*Illinois State (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m. ET
N4	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
N11	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m. ET
N18	*Missouri State	ESPN3	Noon ET

*MVFC game

September Home Win Streak

The Penguins have won 20 straight home games in the month of September dating back to the start of the 2009 season. Since losing to Florida International in overtime on Sept. 11, 2004, YSU is 30-1 in September at Stambaugh Stadium. The lone loss was a final-play defeat to Liberty in 2008 (31-28). The streak includes 4 MVFC victories.

Four Starting QBs on Roster

The Penguins have four players on their roster who have started at quarterback at one point or another during their YSU careers. What's impressive is they have all won a game as a starter and they have started in a span of 17 games. The Penguins are 13-4 in those contests. Sophomore QB Nathan Mays made his first career start against Central Connecticut and earned the win. YSU had three different starters a year ago and all won games - Hunter Wells, Ricky Davis and Trent Hosick.

Defense Flips Switch

The Penguins allowed 21 points in the first half at Pittsburgh and since that time YSU has surrendered just 16 points in 10 quarters. YSU blanked the Panthers in the second half of the season opener before Pitt scored a touchdown in overtime. The Penguins shutout Robert Morris on Sept. 9 for their first shutout since 2012. YSU held CCSU scoreless in the first half before allowing a touchdown and field goal in the second half.

Sack Attack Continues

The Penguins had a tall task following up last year's 49-sack effort. So far, so good on the pressure front as YSU has 10 sacks through the first three games. YSU has had at least three sacks in each of the first three games this season. The Penguins had a high of four against Robert Morris and had three each vs. Pittsburgh and Central Connecticut State. Six different players have a sack this year while DEs Fazson Chapman and Justus Reed have each had sacks in the first three games. Reed had two in the win over RMU on Sept. 9.