



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

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## 2018 Valley Football Standings (thru Saturday, Sept. 29)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota St.	1-0	1.000	21	17	4-0	1.000	146	37	4-0	0-0 W10
Missouri State	1-0	1.000	24	21	3-1	.750	133	111	3-0	0-1 W3
Northern Iowa	1-0	1.000	33	0	2-2	.500	114	64	1-0	1-2 W2
South Dakota	1-0	1.000	31	24	2-2	.500	108	106	1-0	1-2 W1
Western Illinois	1-0	1.000	45	38	2-2	.500	113	125	2-0	0-2 W2
Illinois State	0-1	.000	21	24	3-1	.750	150	53	2-0	1-1 L1
South Dakota St.	0-1	.000	17	21	2-1	.667	152	41	2-0	0-1 L1
Indiana State	0-1	.000	0	33	2-2	.500	111	105	1-1	1-1 L1
Southern Illinois	0-1	.000	24	31	1-3	.250	158	165	0-2	1-1 L3
Youngstown State	0-1	.000	38	45	1-3	.250	118	127	1-1	0-2 L1

## Schedule/Results

### Thursday, Sept. 27

#21 UNI 33, Indiana State 0

### Saturday, Sept. 29

Missouri State 24, #9 Illinois State 21  
South Dakota 31, Southern Illinois 24  
#1 N. Dakota State 21, #3 S. Dakota State 17  
Western Illinois 45, Youngstown State 38

### Saturday, Oct. 6

#1 North Dakota State at #22 UNI, 1 pm CT  
Cedar Falls, Iowa • PSN / NBC ND / ESPN+  
RV Western Illinois at #14 Illinois St., 2 pm CT  
Normal, Ill. • NBCSCH / ESPN+  
#24 Missouri St. at RV South Dakota, 2 pm CT  
Vermillion, S.D. • ESPN3  
Southern Illinois at Youngstown State, 6 pm ET  
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN+  
Indiana State at #3 South Dakota St., 6 pm CT  
Brookings, S.D. • MidcoSN / ESPN+

### Saturday, Oct. 13

Southern Illinois at Illinois State, 2 pm CT  
Normal, Ill. • ESPN3  
Missouri State at Indiana State, 2 pm ET  
Terre Haute, Ind. • ESPN+  
Youngstown St. at South Dakota St., 2 pm CT  
Brookings, S.D. • MidcoSN / ESPN+  
North Dakota State at Western Illinois, 6 pm CT  
Macomb, Ill. • NBC ND / ESPN+  
UNI at South Dakota, 6 pm CT  
Vermillion, S.D. • MidcoSN / ESPN+

## • • 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 Wednesday 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](http://www.valley-football.org)



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## Headlines

### This Week in the MVFC

All 10 league teams are in action with five conference games on the slate, and the league will take its TV cameras to Vermillion for the Missouri State-South Dakota contest on Saturday, Oct. 6 (ESPN3). All four other league games this week will air on ESPN+

### Back to Back, Jack

Missouri State picked up its second win against a top-25 team in as many games as the Bears knocked off No. 9 Illinois State on Saturday. It marks the first time since 1989 that Missouri State had beaten ranked teams in back-to-back games. [Missouri State had beaten then No. 20 Northern Arizona in its preceding game.]

Missouri State's drought was the longest for league members (Western Illinois now holds that distinction.) Here's a list of the last time each current MVFC school has beaten ranked teams in back-to-back games:

Illinois State	Oct. 21-28, 2017
Indiana State	Sept. 27-Oct. 4, 2014
Missouri State	Sept. 15-29, 2018
North Dakota State	Dec. 15-Jan. 6, 2018
UNI	Oct. 14-21, 2017
South Dakota	Sept. 30-Oct. 7, 2017
South Dakota State	Dec. 2-9, 2017
Southern Illinois	Oct. 5-12, 2013
Western Illinois	Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1998
Youngstown State	Dec. 10-17, 2016



## ESPN APP is MVFC Digital Home

The ESPN App curates all of ESPN's incredible content into a personalized experience unique to each fan's tastes. All MVFC home games will be available through the App via "TV Everywhere" (airing on ESPN3 or ESPN+). Fans can subscribe to ESPN+ for just \$4.99 a month (or \$49.99 per year) and cancel at any time. For questions about the new ESPN App or ESPN+, please contact the ESPN customer care team at support.espn.com or 1-888-549-ESPN.

## Players of the Week

### Offense

**QB Sean McGuire, Western Illinois**

6-3, 228, Sr., Franklin, Ill. (Franklin High)

He finished Saturday's game vs. YSU 22-for-34 with four passing touchdowns (324 yards) and a rushing TD in the 45-38 win against the visiting Penguins. McGuire currently is tied for No. 1 all-time in Western's career history with 62 passing TDs.

### Defense

**FS Andrew Gray, South Dakota**

6-2, 215, Sr., New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln Way West)

Had a career-high 14 tackles (11 solo), an interception and a tackle-for-loss in leading South Dakota to a 31-24 win at Southern Illinois. Defended more than 100 plays and became the first team to hold the Salukis to less than 41 points all season. Interception came at the USD 11 in the third quarter.

**CB Darius Joseph, Missouri State**

6-0, 195, Jr., Oklahoma City, Okla.

MSU starting cornerback Darius Joseph factored in eight total tackles, including six solo stops, in the Bears to a 24-21 home win over No. 9 Illinois State. MSU's secondary held the Redbirds' quarterbacks to just a 52-percent completion rate on the day in helping MSU to its highest-rated victory since 2005. Joseph was also a prominent presence on special teams for the Bears who completed a perfect 3-0 home stand in the month of September.

### Special Teams

**P Garret Wegner, North Dakota State**

6-0, 191, So., Lodi (Wis.) High

Averaged 47.4 yards on five punts with three inside the 20 to help North Dakota State to a 21-17 victory over South Dakota State. Wegner booted a 49-yard punt out-of-bounds at the SDSU 2 with just 1:15 left before halftime, and launched a key 54-yarder to the SDSU 7 that led to a three-and-out on SDSU's final offensive possession. Wegner ranks sixth in the FCS with a league-best 44.9 punting average and the Bison are eighth in the FCS in net punting.

### Newcomer

**QB Montgomery VanGorder, Youngstown State**

6-1, 220, Sr., Buford (Ga.) (High/Notre Dame)

VanGorder broke three single-game YSU passing records in the 45-38 loss at Western Illinois. For the game he was 33-of-57 for 418 yards and three touchdowns. He broke the school record for completions (set in 2008), attempts (set in 1968) and yards (set in 1968) in a losing effort. In the first half he had 83 yards passing on 16 attempts before throwing for 335 yards on 41 attempts in the second half as YSU scored 31 points.

### Offensive Lineman

**OL Cal Twait, UNI**

6-5, 305, Sr., Manson (Iowa)

Manson-Northwest Webster HS

Twait led the UNI offensive line unit that put up a dominant performance Thursday night at Indiana State. The Panthers rushed for 293 yards on 51 carries for 5.2 YPC. The line helped Eli Dunne to a 16-for-24 performance.

## Winning Against No. 1

When North Dakota State knocked off top-ranked and previously unbeaten James Madison in last year's FCS title game, it marked the 17th time an MVFC member had recorded a win vs. the nation's No. 1 team (9 of those 17 wins were against a fellow league member). As an MVFC member (since 1985), UNI owns a 3-6 record when playing a No. 1-ranked team, including a win against top-ranked NDSU in 2014.

Year	Team	Opponent
1992	Eastern Illinois	UNI~
1993	Illinois State	Youngstown State
1997	UNI	Youngstown State~
1997	Youngstown St.	Villanova*
1998	Western Illinois	Youngstown State~
2002	Western Kentucky	McNeese State#
2005	Illinois State	Southern Illinois~
2005	Southern Illinois	Western Kentucky~
2005	UNI	New Hampshire*
2011	Youngstown St.	North Dakota State~
2011	North Dakota St.	Sam Houston State#
2012	Indiana State	North Dakota State~
2014	UNI	North Dakota State~
2014	Illinois State	New Hampshire*
2015	North Dakota St.	Jacksonville State#
2016	South Dakota St.	North Dakota State~
2017	North Dakota St.	James Madison#

\*denotes playoffs; #FCS Championship Game

~denotes conference game

## Still Perfect

North Dakota State (4-0), Colgate (4-0), Dartmouth (3-0) and Princeton (3-0) still have perfect records through Sept. 29. Nine previously unbeaten teams lost their first games of the 2018 season last weekend.

### FCS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

4-0	Colgate, North Dakota State,
3-0	Dartmouth, Princeton

## Streaking

North Dakota State owns the nation's longest active winning streak in the FCS, at 10 games. The 10-game streak is tied for the eighth-longest in MVFC history.

### FCS Active Win Streaks

10	North Dakota State
9	Colgate
6	Dartmouth
4	four teams

### MVFC All-Time Win Streaks (includes playoffs):

33	North Dakota State (2012-14)
14	North Dakota State (2015-16)
13	Western Kentucky (2002-03)
	UNI (2006-07)
11	Eastern Illinois (1986)
	UNI (1985)
	Southern Illinois (2009)
10	Southern Illinois (2003)
	UNI (2008)
	North Dakota State (2017-current)

## Ranked vs. Ranked

Prior to games of Oct. 6, there have been 168 games in which two league teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of those 168 games, 41 times the meeting involved teams that were both ranked in the Top 10 at the same time. Nine meetings have occurred in the playoffs. The SDSU-NDSU matchup on 9/29/18 marked just the third time in league history that two teams ranked in the Top 3 played one another.

## Open Season

All 10 league teams opened MVFC action this week, in what is the 34th season of the Conference's existence. Youngstown State saw its nine-game winning streak in league openers come to an end with a loss at Western Illinois. North Dakota State (8) now has the longest active win streak in MVFC season-opening games. Southern Illinois and Missouri State played in the league's first conference game on 9/7/85.

Team	Record	Home	Away	Streak
Illinois State	15-19	6-6	9-13	L1
Indiana State	11-22	9-10	2-12	L2
Missouri St.	15-19	7-11	8-8	W1
NDSU	8-3	4-0	4-3	W8
UNI	23-11	13-2	10-9	W3
South Dakota	2-5	0-2	2-3	W2
SDSU	4-7	3-3	1-4	L2
S. Illinois	16-18	11-8	5-10	L4
W. Illinois	18-16	12-6	6-10	W1
Youngstown St.	18-4	11-0	7-4	L1

## Against Ranked FCS Teams

In non-league play, the league is 2-2 against ranked FCS teams in 2018, marking the 16th time in the league's 34-year history with multiple regular-season top-25 non-conference wins. Since 2014, league schools have combined for a 39-18 record against non-conference top-25 teams.

### Years with Multiple Regular-Season Top-25 Wins

Year	Reg-Season	Playoffs	Total	MVFC Bids
1989	4-2	2-2	6-4	2
1992	2-5	2-1	4-6	1
1993	3-6	0-1	3-7	1
1996	*5-3	2-2	7-5	2
1997	3-8	5-1	8-9	2
1998	3-6	2-2	5-8	2
1999	3-3	*6-2	9-5	2
2000	3-3	0-2	3-5	2
2003	4-0	3-4	7-4	4
2007	3-3	3-2	6-5	2
2011	2-0	5-1	7-1	2
2014	*5-1	*6-1	*11-2	*5
2015	4-2	5-2	9-4	*5
2016	3-2	*6-3	9-5	4
2017	2-2	*6-3	8-5	*5
2018	2-2			

\*represents league record in each category

# 2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Oct. 1)

## vs. Non-Conference (17-12)

Home: 14-2 / Away: 3-10 / Neut: 0-0

### NCAA FCS Teams (13-5)

Big Sky .....	5-3
Cal Poly .....	1-0
Montana .....	1-1
Montana State.....	1-1
Northern Arizona .....	1-0
Northern Colorado .....	1-0
Weber State.....	0-1
CAA Football.....	1-0
Delaware.....	1-0
Independents .....	2-0
Hampton .....	1-0
North Alabama .....	1-0
Ohio Valley .....	3-1
Eastern Illinois.....	2-0
Murray State.....	1-0
SE Missouri State.....	0-1
Pioneer Football .....	1-1
Butler .....	0-1
Valparaiso.....	1-0
SWAC.....	1-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....	1-0

### NCAA FBS Teams (1-7)

ACC.....	0-1
Louisville.....	0-1
Big Ten .....	0-2
Illinois.....	0-1
Iowa.....	0-1
Big 12.....	0-3
Iowa State.....	0-0
Kansas State.....	0-1
Oklahoma State.....	0-1
West Virginia.....	0-1
Mountain West.....	1-0
Colorado State.....	1-0
SEC.....	0-1
Ole Miss.....	0-1

### Non Division I Teams (3-0)

Lincoln .....	1-0
St. Xavier.....	1-0
Quincy .....	1-0

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

UNI at #24 Montana, L, 23-26  
 South Dakota at #11 Weber St., L, 10-27  
 #15 Montana at Western Illinois, W, 31-27  
 #20 N. Arizona at Missouri State, W, 40-8

### vs. Ranked (FBS) Teams (0-2)

Missouri St. at #25 Okla. State, L, 17-58  
 Youngstown St. at #14 W. Virginia, L, 17-52

## Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series

The MVFC captured the second annual Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series, 5-3. The MVFC won last year's series, also 5-3. The home team won all eight games this year. Seven of the eight games in 2018 featured at least one ranked team (in two of the games, both teams were ranked.) The MVFC conducted one previous challenge series (with the OVC) and the MVFC won all three season series against the OVC (2003, 2004, 2005) with a combined record of 20-2 in those games.

at Montana State 26, Western Illinois 23  
 at #24 Montana 26, #12 UNI 23  
 at #1 North Dakota State 49, Cal Poly 3  
 at #3 South Dakota State 45, Montana State 14  
 at #23 South Dakota 43, Northern Colorado 28  
 at Western Illinois 31, #15 Montana 27  
 at Missouri State 40, #20 Northern Arizona 8  
 at #11 Weber State 27, #22 South Dakota 10

## Another FBS Win for the MVFC

Thanks to Illinois State's 35-19 win at Colorado State on Sept. 22, the Conference has had at least one FBS win in each of the last nine seasons. The MVFC recorded a 1-7 mark vs. the FBS this year. Below is a list of MVFC wins against FBS programs in the past nine seasons. The Conference has 45 FBS wins in its history.

2010	North Dakota State at Kansas (6-3)
2011	Indiana State at Western Kentucky (44-16) North Dakota State at Minnesota (37-24)
2012	Youngstown State at Pitt (31-17) North Dakota State at Colorado St. (22-17) Illinois State at Eastern Michigan (31-14)
2013	North Dakota State at K-State (24-21) UNI at Iowa State (28-20)
2014	North Dakota State at Iowa State (34-14) Indiana State at Ball State (27-20)
2015	South Dakota State at Kansas (41-38)
2016	Illinois State at Northwestern (9-7) North Dakota State at #11 Iowa (23-21) UNI at Iowa State (25-20) Western Illinois at Northern Illinois (28-23)
2017	South Dakota at Bowling Green (35-27) Western Illinois at Coastal Carolina (52-10)
2018	Illinois State at Colorado State (35-19)

## Nielson Nabs No. 200

South Dakota's 31-24 victory at Southern Illinois was the 200th career win for the Coyotes' Bob Nielson, who becomes the 91st college football coach to reach the plateau. He is the 17th active NCAA coach with 200 wins and is 200-94-1 in 26 seasons.

## 5 Teams Ranked in Top 25

After winning back-to-back games against top-25 teams, Missouri State is back in the Top 25 for the first time since September 2014 (coaches poll), clocking in at No. 24 in the STATS FCS rankings this week. The Bears were last ranked in the STATS poll in the preseason poll of 1997. NDSU and SDSU remain at No. 1 and No. 3, respectively in the STATS poll, while Illinois State and UNI are also ranked.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Sagarin	Massey	HERO
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1
SDSU	3	4	3	3	5
ILS	15	14	5	10	11
UNI	22	22	4	7	9
MSU	24	RV	16	18	18
USD	RV	RV	13	14	30
WIU	RV	RV	19	12	27
YSU	-	-	24	37	47
SIU	-	-	27	44	44
INS	-	-	58	63	69

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

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

1. MISSOURI VALLEY
2. CAA Football
3. Big Sky
4. Southern
5. Ivy League
6. Ohio Valley
7. Southland

## 2018 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S3	S10	S17	S24	O1
Illinois State	20	19	18	15	9	14
Indiana St.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri St.	-	-	-	rv	rv	24
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	12	18	18	22	21	22
S. Dakota	rv	23	22	rv	rv	rv
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3
S. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	-	-	-
W. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	rv	rv	rv
Youngstown	24	rv	-	rv	rv	-

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



## Another League Shutout

UNI shut out Indiana State, 33-0, this past Thursday, in what was the 41st shutout in league play (in the MVFC's 34th season). It marks the ninth shutout for UNI over a league opponent. Coupled with its 44-0 win over Hampton, UNI has now outscored its opponents 91-0 in the past nine quarters (including a 14-0 advantage in the fourth quarter vs. Iowa). The back-to-back shutouts are the first for the Panthers since 2008.

### UNI shutouts in Conference play

UNI 13, Illinois State 0 (1990)
UNI 22, Missouri State 0 (1991)
UNI 13, Southern Illinois 0 (1995)
UNI 42, Missouri State 0 (2008)
UNI 28, Indiana State 0 (2008)
UNI 34, Western Illinois 0 (2009)
UNI 40, Western Illinois 0 (2012)
UNI 41, Missouri State 0 (2015)
UNI 33, Indiana State 0 (2018)

## Jacks Lead the Nation

Through games of Sept. 29, South Dakota State leads the nation in total offense, averaging 598.3 yards per game. Southern Illinois is No. 5 nationally.

### FCS Leaders - Total Offense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
<b>1 South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>598.3</b>
2 Princeton (Ivy League)	565.0
3 Davidson (Pioneer)	555.4
4 Eastern Washington (Big Sky)	554.6
<b>5 Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>537.3</b>

## A Familiar Spot for NDSU

North Dakota State ranks No. 3 in the FCS in total defense, yielding just 231.5 yards per game. The Bison have led the league in five of the past six seasons, and NDSU led the nation in both 2012 and 2017. NDSU ranks fourth in the FCS in scoring defense. The Bison have led the MVFC in that category in each of the past eight seasons and topped the nation in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

### FCS Leaders - Fewest Yards Allowed/Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1 Dartmouth (Ivy League)	188.3
2 James Madison (CAA)	222.6
<b>3 North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>231.5</b>
4 Jacksonville State (OVC)	240.3
5 Alcorn (SWAC)	242.4

### FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1 Colgate (Patriot)	5.0
2 James Madison (CAA)	8.2
3 Princeton (Ivy League)	8.7
<b>4 North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>9.3</b>
5 Dartmouth (Ivy League)	9.3

## Kicking It

Three league schools rank among the FCS best in net punting. South Dakota State tops the MVFC and ranks 4th in the NCAA, averaging 41.56. Missouri State (5th) and North Dakota State (8th) also rank in the Top 10.

### FCS Leaders - Net Punting

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1 Kennesaw State (Big South)	45.00
2 Mercer (SoCon)	42.10
3 Southeastern La. (Southland)	41.96
<b>4 South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>41.56</b>
<b>5 Missouri State (MVFC)</b>	<b>41.42</b>
6 New Hampshire (CAA)	41.41
7 Harvard (Ivy League)	41.38
<b>8 North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>41.13</b>

## In the Red Zone

UNI is one of just 5 schools in the FCS to convert on every Red Zone opportunity this year. The Panthers have 11 TDs and five FGs on their 16 trips through four games. Indiana State (10th in the FCS) and South Dakota (12th) have each scored on all but one of their Red Zone trips this year.

### FCS Leaders - Red Zone Offense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	RZ	TD	FG	Pct.
1 Fordham (Patriot)	3	2	1	1.000
1 Cornell (Ivy)	6	4	2	1.000
<b>1 UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.000</b>
1 Elon (CAA)	14	10	4	1.000
1 Davidson (Pioneer)	10	10	0	1.000
<b>10 Indiana State</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.938</b>
<b>12 South Dakota</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.933</b>

## Turnovers a Key

Two league schools rank among the Top 5 in the FCS in turnover margin (and 5 rank in the Top 15). Illinois State ranks second nationally (+2.25), while South Dakota State is 5th (+2.00). Notably, three MVFC schools rank in the Top 6 for fewest turnovers lost, including South Dakota State (t3), Illinois State (t3) and Indiana State (t6).

### FCS Leaders - Turnover Margin

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Avg.
1 Dartmouth (Ivy League)	2.33
t2 Illinois State (MVFC)	2.25
t2 Northwestern State (Southland)	2.25
t2 Colgate (Patriot)	2.25
<b>t5 South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2.00</b>

### FCS Leaders - Fewest Turnovers Lost

Rank, Team (Conf.)	No.
t1 Princeton (Ivy League)	0
t1 Cornell (Ivy League)	0
<b>t3 South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>1</b>
t3 North Carolina Central (MEAC)	1
<b>t3 Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>t6 Indiana State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>

## 2018 Players of the Week

### Sept. 4

Offense – RB Bruce Anderson, North Dakota State  
 Defense – LB Alex Gray, South Dakota  
 Special Teams – WR/RS Dakota Caton, Indiana St.  
 Newcomer – QB Brady Davis, Illinois State  
 Offensive Lineman – OC Tanner Volson, NDSU

### Sept. 10

Offense – QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota  
 Defense – WR Cade Johnson, South Dakota State  
 Defense – DE Darin Greenfield, South Dakota  
 Special Teams – P Brady Hale, South Dakota State  
 Newcomer – QB Brady Davis, Illinois State  
 Offensive Lineman – OL Marquis Prophete, MSU

### Sept. 17

Offense – RB Ja'Quan Keys, Indiana State  
 Defense – LB Tyler Lovelace, Missouri State  
 Special Teams – RB/RS Steve McShane, WIU  
 Newcomer – WR John Brunner, Western Illinois  
 Offensive Lineman – RG Edward Miller, SDSU

### Sept. 24

Offense – QB Easton Stick North Dakota State  
 Defense – DB Devin Taylor, Illinois State  
 Special Teams – P J.T. Bohlken, Illinois State  
 Newcomer – WR Deion McShane, UNI  
 Offensive Lineman – LT Dillon Radunz, NDSU

### Oct. 1

Offense – QB Sean McGuire, Western Illinois  
 Defense – FS Alex Gray, South Dakota

CB Darius Joseph, Missouri State  
 Special Teams – P Garret Wegner, North Dakota St.  
 Newcomer – QB Montgomery VanGorder, YSU  
 Offensive Lineman – Cal Twait, UNI

\* - denotes National Player of the Week



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

S1	St. Xavier (Ill.)	W, 46-0	1-0, 0-0
S8	Eastern Illinois	W, 48-10	2-0, 0-0
S22	at Colorado State	W, 35-19	3-0, 0-0
S29	*at Missouri State	L, 21-24	3-1, 0-1
O6	*Western Illinois	NBCSCH/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O13	*Southern Illinois (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O20	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O27	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N3	*at UNI	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N10	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N17	*Youngstown State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Interceptions Mounting

Through four games, the Illinois State defense has become accustomed to recording interceptions. ISU forced a pair of interceptions for the second-straight week and upped its season total to eight, one shy of the nine the Redbirds recorded all of last season. The first one came right before halftime, as Devin Taylor intercepted a pass down the sidelines to stop the Bears from driving late in the first half. The other came after the Redbirds cut the lead to 10-7, then Luther Kirk intercepted a pass at the Bears 31-yard line that he returned to the 19-yard line to put the Redbirds in the red zone that scored a go ahead touchdown early in the third quarter.

### Redbird Deja Vu

The Redbirds scored their first touchdown of the game against Missouri State in the third quarter, when quarterback Brady Davis found Spencer Schnell in the corner of the end zone for a five-yard touchdown. After a Luther Kirk interception gave the Redbirds the ball right back in great field position, Davis and Schnell connected for another touchdown on the same exact play with the same exact result, as Schnell made the grab in the same corner from four-yards out to put the Redbirds up 14-10 at the time. With his two touchdowns, Schnell upped his season total to four to lead the team and Davis has now thrown 10 touchdowns on the season to six different receivers.

### Quest for a State Championship

Four teams from the Land of Lincoln appear on the 2018 Illinois State football schedule, and the Redbirds would like to bring home a 'state championship' with solid performances against their in-state foes. The Redbirds have already defeated in-state opponents this year, as they opened with a 46-0 victory of Saint Xavier and then beat Eastern Illinois by a score of 48-10 the following week in the annual Mid-America Classic. Over the next two weeks, Illinois State will battle two more long-time rivals, when they welcome Western Illinois this week and host Southern Illinois on Homecoming to wrap up the slate of games.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (2-2, 0-1 MVFC)

A30	Quincy	W, 49-0	1-0, 0-0
S8	at Louisville	L, 7-31	1-1, 0-0
S15	at Eastern Illinois	W, 55-41	2-1, 0-0
S27	*#21 UNI	L, 0-33	2-2, 0-1
O6	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	7:00 p.m. ET
O13	*Missouri State (HC)	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
O20	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O27	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
N3	*South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N10	*Illinois State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
N17	*at Western Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Keys Surpasses 1,000 Yards Rushing

Redshirt senior Ja'Quan Keys entered 2018 with 519 yards' career rushing yards in two seasons, and with 492 yards after five weeks, the Hammond Louisiana native has surpassed the 1,000-career rushing mark. Keys has averaged 123 yards per game this season with his biggest output of the year coming at Eastern Illinois when he rushed for 234 yards and four touchdowns.

### A Much Better Margin

Indiana State turned the ball over 29 times in 2017 and opponents converted those miscues into 103 points. The Sycamore defense forced 16 turnovers - nine fumbles and seven interceptions - which were converted into 23 points. The Sycamores have forced four turnovers (4 FF, 1 INT) through four games in 2018, but have turned the ball over just twice time - a fumble against Quincy to open the season and an interception against UNI.

### Rushing Attack Strong

The rushing attack - it has been one of the best parts of ISU's game this season. Indiana State has run the ball for 999 yards on the ground in four games, averaging 249.8 yards per contest. Ja'Quan Keys holds nearly half the total rushing yards for the Sycamores with 492 while Christian Covington and Titus McCoy each have tallied more than 150 yards on the ground each. On the flip side, the ISU defense has held opponents to 147.8 yards per game on the ground.



## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS**

(3-1, 1-0 MVFC)

A30	at #25 Oklahoma State	L, 17-58	0-1, 0-0
S6	Lincoln (Mo.)	W, 52-24	1-1, 0-0
S15	#20 Northern Arizona	W, 40-8	2-1, 0-0
S29	*#9 Illinois State	W, 24-21	3-1, 1-0
O6	*at South Dakota	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O13	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O20	*Western Illinois (HC)	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O27	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N10	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N17	*at UNI	ESPN+	4:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Hey Down Shake Down

Since the Bears' season opener at Oklahoma State, MSU has held its opponents to a 25.6 percent conversion rate on third down. In weeks 2-4, Missouri State foes are a combined 11-for-43 on third down opportunities, allowing just three third-down conversions apiece to its last two opponents. Conversely, the Bears are 15-for-34 – 41.2 percent – on third down in that span.

### Huslig Breaks Into Top 10

After passing for 232 yards against Illinois State, MSU quarterback Peyton Huslig (2,794) moved up to 11th on the Bears' career passing yardage chart, passing Frank Miller (2,725) and Jay Rodgers (2,741) in just his 15th career game. The junior signal caller also cracked MSU's all-time top 10 for total offense (3,590), surpassing Kent Stringer (3,526) for the No. 10 spot on the list.

### Quest for Four

With the club's first back-to-back wins over ranked foes since 1989, the Bears capped a perfect three-game home stand with Saturday's win over Illinois State. Missouri State now seeks to win four games in a row for the first time since 2013, a stretch the Springfield club began with a 38-21 home win over South Dakota. The Bears start a two-game conference road swing this week at South Dakota against a Coyotes team that has been absent from the Missouri State schedule since 2015.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON**

(4-0, 1-0 MVFC)

S1	Cal Poly	W, 49-3	1-0, 0-0
S15	North Alabama	W, 38-7	2-0, 0-0
S22	Delaware	W, 38-10	3-0, 0-0
S29	*#3 South Dakota State	W, 21-17	4-0, 1-0
O6	*at UNI	NBC ND/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O13	*at Western Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*Illinois State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O27	*at South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*Youngstown State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N10	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N17	*Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Bison Take Back Dakota Marker

NDSU won the Dakota Marker for the first time since 2015 with a 21-17 victory over South Dakota State. Darrius Shepherd caught a 41-yard TD pass in the second quarter to give NDSU its first lead 14-7, and the Bison went ahead for good early in the fourth quarter when Easton Stick's five-yard run capped an eight-play, 80-yard drive. Jabril Cox and Robbie Grimsley each made eight tackles and Jalen Allison intercepted a pass in the end zone to highlight NDSU's defensive effort. The Bison converted 8 of 16 third-down opportunities; SDSU was 3 of 12. The Bison lead the Dakota Marker series 9-6 since its beginning in 2004.

### Shepherd Reaches 2,000-Yard Mark

Senior wide receiver Darrius Shepherd surpassed 2,000 career receiving yards in last week's win over South Dakota State. Shepherd had five catches for a career-high 118 yards and now ranks seventh in NDSU history with 2,003 receiving yards. He is 229 yards behind Warren Holloway (2008-11) for sixth place on that list.

### Bison Among Best in Red Zone

North Dakota State leads the MVFC in red zone defense this year allowing opponents inside the 20-yard line just four times with one touchdown and one field goal. This week's opponent, Northern Iowa, is a perfect 16 of 16 scoring in the red zone with 11 touchdowns. NDSU has converted 16 of 18 red zone chances with 14 TDs and two field goals.

### Bison Winning Line of Scrimmage

NDSU leads the Missouri Valley Football Conference with 15 sacks and the Bison rank seventh in FCS averaging 3.75 sacks per game. Defensive tackle Cole Karcz leads the Bison with four sacks and defensive end Greg Menard has three. NDSU is also the league leader in sacks allowed (3), rushing offense (274.2) and rushing defense (99.0) through four contests.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(2-2, 1-0 MVFC)

S1	at Montana	L, 23-26	0-1, 0-0
S15	at Iowa	L, 14-38	0-2, 0-0
S22	Hampton	W, 44-0	1-2, 0-0
S27	*at Indiana State	W, 33-0	2-2, 1-0
O6	*North Dakota State	PSN/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O13	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*South Dakota St. (HC)	ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O27	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N3	*Illinois State	PSN/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N10	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.
N17	*Missouri State	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Ground and Pound

Trevor Allen rushed for a career-high 180 yards and two touchdowns. Early in the second half, Allen found the end zone with just under 12 minutes to play in the third on an 18-yard run that ended in an exclamation point when Allen powered through a defender to cross the goal line. He found the end zone again with 4:58 left in the third on a 16-yard run to cap an eight-play 90-yard drive. Along with Allen's big day, Marcus Weymiller also ran for 90 yards. The Panthers had 265 rushing yards. It was the first time UNI has rushed for more than 200 yards since the 2017 playoff game against Monmouth.

### Strong Defense

The Panther defense held Indiana State to 294 offensive yards and forced ISU into just the second turnover of the season. The Panthers also held the Sycamores out of the end zone for the first time this season. The last time UNI shut out two consecutive opponents was 11/8/2008 (Missouri State, 42-0) and 11/15/2008 (Indiana State, 28-0)

### Strong Second-Half Team

So far this season, UNI has outscored its opponents 43-0 in the fourth quarter. The Panthers have outscored opponents 85-17 in the second half. And coupled with back-to-back shutouts, the Panthers outscored the last two opponents 77-0 and have now not allowed a point in nine consecutive quarters (fourth quarter vs. Iowa).



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(2-2, 1-0 MVFC)

S1	at Kansas State	L, 24-27	0-1, 0-0
S8	Northern Colorado	W, 43-28	1-1, 0-0
S15	at #11 Weber State	L, 10-27	1-2, 0-0
S29	*at Southern Illinois	W, 31-24	2-2, 1-0
O6	*Missouri State (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O13	*UNI	Midco/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*at Youngstown State	KELO/ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
O27	*North Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N10	*Western Illinois	Midco/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*at South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Nielson Nets 200

South Dakota head coach Bob Nielson became the 91st college football coach to win 200 games with the Coyotes' 31-24 victory at Southern Illinois Saturday. Of those 200 wins, 100 came at Minnesota Duluth where he won two NCAA Division II national championships. Nielson has 14 wins in two-plus seasons at South Dakota. He stands as the 17th active NCAA coach with 200 victories.

### It's Dakota Days

The Coyotes host Missouri State in their annual Dakota Days (homecoming) game Saturday inside the DakotaDome. It is the 102nd Dakota Days game, and USD holds a 63-33-5 record on D-Days weekend. South Dakota has won 13 of its last 17 homecoming contests including a 31-28 victory against Youngstown State last season. USD beat Missouri State 17-14 for Dakota Days back in 2013.

### It's Missouri State

South Dakota and Missouri State are meeting for the first time since 2015. The teams met four times from 2012-15 and the home team has held serve in all four matchups in the series. The Coyotes have won eight of 11 inside the DakotaDome dating back to 2016.

### Simmons Second in Passing

Junior quarterback Austin Simmons ranks second nationally in passing yards per game at 315.5. In the third quarter alone Saturday at Southern Illinois, he threw for 219 yards on 8 of 9 passing with three touchdowns, quickly flipping a 17-10 halftime deficit into a 31-17 lead. Simmons has passed for nine touchdowns and ran for two more thru four games.





## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(2-1, 0-1 MVFC)

S1	at Iowa State	Canceled	0-0, 0-0
S8	Montana State	W, 45-14	1-0, 0-0
S15	Ark.-Pine Bluff	W, 90-6	2-0, 0-0
S29	*at #1 N. Dakota State	L, 17-21	2-1, 0-1
O6	*Indiana State	Midco/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O13	*Youngstown State (HC)	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O20	*at UNI	ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O27	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N3	*Missouri State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N10	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Big-Play Isaac

Isaac Wallace continued to break off big runs, scoring on a 61-yard touchdown run in the third quarter of the Jackrabbits' Sept. 29 game at North Dakota State. For the season, Wallace is averaging 14.4 yards per carry, gaining 332 yards on only 23 carries. His three touchdowns this season have covered 58, 79 and 61 yards. Although he ranks 15th in the FCS with an average of 110.7 rushing yards per game, Wallace does not have enough attempts to qualify for the FCS lead in rushing yards per carry. He has gained 302 yards on only 14 carries — 21.6 ypc — over the last two contests.

### Top Receiving Tandem

The duo of Cade Johnson and Adam Anderson have emerged as the top receiving tandem in the Missouri Valley Football Conference in the first third of the 2018 season. Each has recorded consecutive 100-yard games this season, with Johnson also catching at least one touchdown pass in all three games en route to leading the Football Championship Subdivision in scoring at 14.0 points per game with seven touchdowns. A sophomore, Johnson also leads the MVFC with an average of 121.0 receiving yards per game. Anderson, a junior who ranks second in the league with an average of 105.3 yards per game, hauled in a career-high eight catches in last week's game at North Dakota State. The only other NCAA football team with more than one receiver averaging 100-plus yards per game is Division III Puget Sound, which has three.

### Tough Against the Pass

The Jackrabbit defense has held the opposition to less than 50 percent passing through the first three games of the season. SDSU's three opponents have combined to complete only 31-of-67 passes (46.2 percent) for 477 yards. Of the 36 incomplete passes thrown by the opposition, 17 have resulted in passes defensed by the Jackrabbits — five interceptions and 12 pass breakups.



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(1-3, 0-1 MVFC)

A30	at Murray State	W, 49-10	1-0, 0-0
S8	at Ole Miss	L, 41-76	1-1, 0-0
S15	SE Missouri State	L, 44-48	1-2, 0-0
S29	*South Dakota	L, 24-31	1-3, 0-1
O6	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
O13	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O20	*Indiana State (HC)	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O27	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N10	*South Dakota State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### D.J. Davis Reaches 100 Yards Again

RB D.J. Davis (5-8, 168, Jr.) has become SIU's feature back, surpassing 100 yards in all four games this season. The last Saluki to do that was Deji Karim, who had five-straight 100-yard games in 2009. Also a prolific receiver and return man, Davis is just the eighth player in school history to surpass 3,000 all-purpose yards. He has 3,340.

### Chinn Creates Turnovers

S Jeremy Chinn has created 11 turnovers in the last 16 games. In the last 17 games, Chinn (6-2, 211, Jr.) has five interceptions and six forced fumbles. A preseason All-MVC pick, he is tied for second all-time at Southern in forced fumbles (6), trailing only Tyler Williamson (8, 2012-14). Chinn has started 21-straight games at safety for SIU — the longest active starting streak on the team. He is second on the team in tackles (26) this season.

### Anthony Knighton is SIU's Sack Leader

DE Anthony Knighton (6-4, 253, So.) leads SIU with 3.5 sacks and 5.5 tackles for loss. He had sacks on back-to-back plays versus SEMO on Sept. 15. Knighton was a Freshman All-American by HERO Sports and Phil Steele Magazine and the runner-up for MVFC Freshman of the Year in 2017. He started all 11 games and set SIU freshman records with 11.0 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks.





## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (2-2, 1-0 MVFC)

A30	at Montana State	L, 23-26	0-1, 0-0
S8	at Illinois	L, 14-34	0-2, 0-0
S15	#15 Montana	W, 31-27	1-2, 0-0
S29	*Youngstown State	W, 45-38	2-2, 1-0
O6	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O13	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O27	*UNI	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N3	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N10	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*Indiana State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### McGuire & Milestones

Sean McGuire is closing in on Western's career marks in passing yards and touchdowns. He currently ties the TD record with 62 while sitting second all-time in yards (8,049). Paul Singer, who played at Western from 1985-88, sits atop the record book in passing yards (8,257), completions (678), attempts (1,231) and touchdowns (62). McGuire matched his career-high with four touchdowns thrown in the Leathernecks' Missouri Valley Football Conference opener against Youngstown State. He was named the MVFC Offensive Player of the Week for the game, adding a rushing TD while completing 22 of his 34 passes with no interceptions.

### Momma, There Goes That Man

Running back and return specialist Steve McShane is on the bend of claiming a top 10 spot on the Leathernecks' career rushing yards list. He moved to ninth all-time in all-purpose yards (3,080) and 10th in rushing touchdowns (17) in the Leathernecks' MVFC opener against Youngstown State. The YSU game also saw McShane tab the eighth-longest rush in program history as it took him 14 seconds to travel 75 yards for a TD. Brian Knuckles is 10th on Western's career rushing list with 2,158 yards, and McShane is currently managing 1,987.

### The Best in the FCS

Western is the only school in the FCS to have a pair of linebackers ranked in the top-15 in solo tackles per game. Quentin Moon leads the nation with 7.3 stops while Zach Glisan ties for 11th with 6.5. Moon also ties for eighth in the FCS with a pair of forced fumbles.



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (1-3, 0-1 MVFC)

S1	Butler	L, 21-23	0-1, 0-0
S8	at #14 West Virginia	L, 17-52	0-2, 0-0
S15	Valparaiso	W, 42-7	1-2, 0-0
S29	*at Western Illinois	L, 38-45	1-3, 0-1
O6	*Southern Illinois [HC]	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O13	*at South Dakota St.	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O20	*South Dakota	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O27	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
N3	*at North Dakota St.	ESPN+	3:30 p.m. ET
N10	*UNI	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET
N17	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Montgomery Takes Flight

Against Western Illinois, quarterback Montgomery VanGorder threw for a school-record 414 yards and had a school-best 33 completions. He set another school record with his 57 attempts. The previous school mark for yards (391) was set by Denny Klembara on Oct. 12, 1968 vs. Pensacola Naval Academy. The previous best for completions was 32 set by Brandon Summers on Sept. 27, 2008 vs. Liberty. The high for attempts was also set by Klembara who attempted 54 passes vs. Akron on Nov. 22, 1968.

### McCaster Nears 30 TDs

With a pair of rushing touchdowns against Western Illinois, senior tailback Tevin McCaster now has 29 rushing touchdowns in his YSU career. He is tied for ninth and is one shy of tying Jody Webb for ninth in school history. He is three shy of moving into seventh place. McCaster now has 2,154 yards and is 18th in school history in career rushing yards.

### Dellovade Ties Career High

Senior linebacker Armand Dellovade tied his career high with 15 tackles at Western Illinois. Against the Leathernecks, Dellovade had seven solo stops and eight assists in the contest. His other 15-tackle performance came at UNI last season. He now has 273 total tackles in his YSU career which ranks 17th in school history. He is just one tackle shy of YSU co-Defensive Coordinator Donald D'Alesio who ranks 16th with 274. He is three shy of cracking the top 15. Only one YSU player (Jeremiah Wright) has finished with more than 300 tackles in a career since the end of the 2000 season.