



For Immediate Release
October 15, 2018

Mike Kern

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, Oct. 13)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota St.	3-0	1.000	111	55	6-0	1.000	236	75	4-0	2-0 W12
Illinois State	2-1	.667	105	43	5-1	.833	234	72	4-0	1-1 W2
South Dakota St.	2-1	.667	107	79	4-1	.800	242	99	4-0	0-1 W2
Missouri State	2-1	.667	81	82	4-2	.667	190	172	3-0	1-2 W1
Northern Iowa	2-1	.667	106	84	3-3	.500	187	148	1-1	2-2 W1
South Dakota	2-1	.667	94	94	3-3	.500	171	176	2-1	1-2 L1
Western Illinois	1-2	.333	68	105	2-4	.333	136	192	2-1	0-3 L2
Youngstown State	1-2	.333	62	95	2-4	.333	142	177	2-1	0-3 L1
Indiana State	0-3	.000	77	116	2-4	.333	188	188	1-2	1-2 L3
Southern Illinois	0-3	.000	41	99	1-5	.167	175	233	0-2	1-3 L5

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Oct. 13

#12 Illinois State 51, Southern Illinois 3
Missouri State 29, Indiana State 26
#2 South Dakota State 36, Youngstown St. 7
#1 North Dakota State 34, Western Illinois 7
UNI 42, #24 South Dakota 28

Saturday, Oct. 20

Indiana State at Southern Illinois, 2 pm CT
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN+ (Homecoming)
Western Illinois at RV Missouri State, 2 pm CT
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+ (Homecoming)
#7 Illinois St. at #1 N. Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT
Fargo, N.D. • ESPN+ / NBC ND
#2 South Dakota State at #25 UNI, 4 pm CT
Cedar Falls, Iowa • ESPN3 (Homecoming)
RV South Dakota at Youngstown State, 5 pm CT
Youngstown, Ohio • KELO / ESPN+

Saturday, Oct. 27

South Dakota State at Illinois State, 12 pm CT
Normal, Ill. • ESPN3
Indiana State at Youngstown State, 2 pm ET
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN+
Southern Illinois at Missouri State, 2 pm CT
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+
North Dakota State at South Dakota, 2 pm CT
Vermillion, S.D. • ESPN+ / NBC ND / Midco
UNI at Western Illinois, 1 pm CT
Macomb, Ill. • 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



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Headlines

This Week in the MVFC

Saturday marks the midway point of the 2018 MVFC schedule as all league teams will play their fourth Conference game of the season. The league will take its TV cameras to Cedar Falls, Iowa, for the UNI-South Dakota State contest (ESPN3). Brad Wells, Danan Hughes, Don Patterson and Kelly Burke will call the action from the UNI-Dome. All four other league games this week will be available on ESPN+.

Streaking

North Dakota State owns the nation's longest active winning streak in the FCS, at 12 games. The 12-game streak is fifth-longest in MVFC history.

FCS Active Win Streaks

12	North Dakota State
11	Colgate
8	Dartmouth
6	Kennesaw State
5	Princeton
5	East Tennessee State
5	Jacksonville State

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)
12	North Dakota State (2017-current)
11	Eastern Illinois (1986)
	UNI (1985)
	Southern Illinois (2009)



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 Eli Dunne, UNI

6-5, 238, Sr., Grinnell, Iowa (Grinnell High)

Dunne went 23-32 for 253 yards and four touchdowns and scored another touchdown on a one-yard run. He had completions to eight different receivers, and all caught multiple passes. Dunne's four touchdowns are a season high and the most since the win over Monmouth in the playoffs last season. Over the last two games, Dunne is 51-74 (68.9 percent) for seven touchdowns and just one interception. He also has a rushing touchdown in the last two games.

Defense

S James Hendricks, North Dakota State

6-1, 209, Jr., Bemidji, Minn. (Bemidji High)

Hendricks intercepted two passes and broke up another in North Dakota State's 34-7 road win over Western Illinois. His first interception led to a Bison field goal and his second came in the end zone to keep the Leathernecks scoreless in the second half. Hendricks made three tackles for a Bison defense that forced five turnovers and held Western Illinois to nine net rushing yards.

Special Teams

P Brady Hale, South Dakota State

6-3, 210, Sr., Yankton, S.D. (Yankton High)

Hale averaged 42.6 yards on seven punts, booting a season-long 57-yarder and landing two attempts inside the 20-yard line, as the Jackrabbits dominated on special teams en route to a 36-7 Hobo Day victory over Youngstown State on Oct. 13. Hale also handled kickoff duties for the first time this season, recording touchbacks on three of his seven attempts.

Newcomer

QB Brady Davis, Illinois State

6-4, 210, Jr., Columbus, Mississippi (Memphis)

Davis tied a career-best with four touchdown passes in a 51-3 Homecoming victory over Southern Illinois. With over 400 yards gained on the ground by Redbird backs, Davis was not asked to do much through the air but completed 10-of-15 passes for 118 yards and the four scores. The quartet of TD passes tied his career-best set earlier in the season in a win over Eastern Illinois, and he now has 14 on the season with just one interception. Davis also picked up several first downs on the ground, with a long run of 25 yards.

Offensive Lineman

LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois State

6-10, 315, So., Geneseo, Illinois (Geneseo)

Himmelman graded out the highest among a group of Illinois State lineman that has a extremely productive day in a 51-3 victory over Southern Illinois. Himmelman and crew helped both James Robinson (202) and Markel Smith (145) set new career single-game rushing bests, as the Redbirds combined to rush for 409 yards on the ground against the Salukis. Himmelman also helped protect MVFC Newcomer of the Week Brady Davis, who tied his career-high with four passing touchdowns.

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 top-rated team (9 of those 17 wins were against a fellow league member). As an MVFC member (since 1985), Illinois State owns a 3-5 record against No. 1 teams, claiming wins against Youngstown State (1993), Southern Illinois (2005) and New Hampshire (2014). The 'Birds are at No. 1 NDSU this weekend.

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 (6-0), Colgate (6-0), Dartmouth (5-0) and Princeton (5-0) still have perfect records through Oct. 13.

FCS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

6-0	Colgate, North Dakota State,
5-0	Dartmouth, Princeton

Tough Schedules

Seven MVFC teams rank among the Top 33 in the FCS for toughest schedules (based on cumulative opposition). UNI leads the league and is ranked No. 3 overall.

Team (Conference, Cumulative Opposition)	Pct.
1. Cornell (Ivy League)	.708
2. Elon (CAA)	.630
3. UNI (MVFC)	.617
4. Harvard (Ivy League)	.612
5. Princeton (Ivy League)	.604
10. Southern Illinois (MVFC)	.583
16. North Dakota State (MVFC)	.567
25. South Dakota State (MVFC)	.545
26. Western Illinois (MVFC)	.541
26. Missouri State (MVFC)	.541
33. Youngstown State (MVFC)	.525
52. Illinois State (MVFC)	.482
73. South Dakota (MVFC)	.459
103. Indiana State (MVFC)	.403

Home Sweet Home

Three league schools have posted perfect marks at home this season, including North Dakota State (4-0), Illinois State (4-0), South Dakota State (4-0) and Missouri State (3-0). Missouri State (Homecoming vs. Western Illinois) and North Dakota State (vs. nationally ranked Illinois State) are at home this week.

North Dakota State (13-straight) and South Dakota State (8-straight) boast two of the longest active home win streaks in the FCS. San Diego (19) has the current longest home win streak among FCS schools.

NCAA Leaders, Home Win Streaks

19 - San Diego (PFL)
13 - North Dakota State (MVFC)
13 - Kennesaw State (Big South)
10 - McNeese (Southland)
10 - Grambling (SWAC)
8 - South Dakota State (MVFC)
8 - Monmouth (Big South)

Ranked vs. Ranked

Prior to games of Oct. 20, there have been 169 games in which two league teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of those 169 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.

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 Sept. 29, 2018. It marked 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.]

This year, North Dakota State picked up its second-straight top-25 win on Oct. 6, after beating South Dakota State and UNI on successive weekends.

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	Sept. 29-Oct. 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

2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Oct. 15)

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

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

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

MVFC Has Top Two Spots in Poll

North Dakota State (1) and South Dakota State (2) hold the top two positions in the STATS FCS Top-25 rankings again this week. It marks the fifth time in league history that we've had the top two spots:

Sept. 12, 2005 - Southern Illinois (1), W. Kentucky (2)
 Sept. 19, 2005 - W. Kentucky (1), Southern Illinois (2)
 Final 2014 - North Dakota State (1), Illinois State (2)
 Oct. 8, 2018 - N. Dakota State (1), S. Dakota State (2)
 Oct. 15, 2018 - N. Dakota State (1), S. Dakota State (2)

4 Teams Ranked in Top 25

After defeating #24 South Dakota this past weekend, UNI is back in the top-25 STATS poll (at #25). The Panthers are in the rankings with North Dakota State (1/1), South Dakota State (2/3) and Illinois State (7/8). Missouri State and South Dakota are also receiving votes this week in both polls.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Sagarin	Massey	HERO
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1
SDSU	2	3	3	3	8
ILS	8	7	4	5	9
UNI	25	rv	5	8	19
MSU	rv	rv	17	17	10
USD	rv	rv	16	18	35
WIU	--	--	28	24	41
YSU	--	--	35	43	85
SIU	--	--	37	45	65
INS	--	--	42	50	52

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

- CAA Football
- Big Sky
- Southern
- Ivy League
- Ohio Valley
- Southland

2018 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S3	S10	S17	S24	O1	O8	O15
Illinois State	20	19	18	15	9	14	12	7
Indiana St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	rv	rv	24	rv	rv
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	12	18	18	22	21	22	rv	25
S. Dakota	rv	23	22	rv	rv	rv	24	rv
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
S. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--
W. Illinois	rv	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)

Stig Coaches 250th Game

South Dakota State's John Stiegelmeier marked his 250th game as head coach with a 36-7 victory over Youngstown State. In 22 seasons, Stiegelmeier has led the Jackrabbits to a 152-98 career record (.608 winning percentage), including a 57-26 mark in MVFC contests.

Leaders in Turnover Margin

North Dakota State has played two straight games without a turnover and the Bison are tied with Weber State and Colgate for the FCS lead with a plus-10 turnover margin. NDSU has scored a conference-best 66 points off 14 opponent turnovers. Illinois State is right behind with a plus-9 margin and only two turnovers committed this year.

Kicking It

A pair of league schools are among the Top 5 nationally in net punting. South Dakota State ranks No. 4 in the FCS (41.0), while Missouri State is right behind (40.5).

FCS Leaders - Scoring

Rank, Team (Conf.)	NET
1. Mercer (SoCon)	42.65
2. Kennesaw State (Big South)	42.08
3. Charleston Southern (Big South)	41.83
4. South Dakota State (MVFC)	41.00
5. Missouri State (MVFC)	40.54

In the Red Zone

UNI is one of just four schools in the FCS to convert on every Red Zone opportunity this year. The Panthers have 16 TDs and six FGs on their 22 trips through four games. Indiana State (6th in the FCS), Illinois State (11th), South Dakota State (t14th) and North Dakota State (t14th) also rank in the Top 15.

FCS Leaders - Red Zone Offense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	RZ	TD	FG	Pct.
1. Elon (CAA)	21	13	8	1.000
1. Davidson (PFL)	18	18	0	1.000
1. Fordham (Patriot)	9	7	2	1.000
1. UNI (MVFC)	22	16	6	1.000
6. Indiana St. (MVFC)	24	17	6	.958
11. ILS (MVFC)	28	22	4	.929
14. SDSU (MVFC)	25	20	3	.920
14. NDSU (MVFC)	25	20	3	.920

FCS Efficiency Leaders

South Dakota State continues to lead the FCS in pass efficiency (208.76 rating).

FCS Leaders - Team Pass Efficiency Rating

Team (Conf.)	Points
1. South Dakota State (MVFC)	208.76
2. Princeton (Ivy League)	181.30
3. Kennesaw State (Big South)	181.05

What's the Rush?

Headlined by Indiana State's Ja'Quan Keys (3rd in the FCS at 132.0 yards per game), the MVFC has a stable of runningbacks among the national leaders. James Robinson of Illinois State is 6th, followed by D.J. Davis of Southern Illinois (18th) and Tevin McCaster of Youngstown State (22nd).

FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Calvin Turner Jr, Jacksonville (PFL)	150.0
2. Ryan Fulse, Wagner (NEC)	147.1
3. Ja'Quan Keys, Indiana St. (MVFC)	132.0
4. Joe Protheroe, Cal Poly (Big Sky)	131.3
5. Aaron Shampklin, Harvard (Ivy)	131.0
6. James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)	130.5
18. D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois (MVFC)	104.3
22. Tevin McCaster, Youngstown (MVFC)	99.2

A Passing Fancy

With 88 career TD passes, QB Taryn Christion of South Dakota State is the MVFC's career leader in TD passes, surpassing the 78 thrown by Illinois State's Matt Brown from 2009-12. He has also surpassed Brown for the all-time MVFC mark for total offense.

MVFC Career Leaders, Total Offense

10,986, Taryn Christion, SDSU, 2015-present
10,952, Matt Brown, Illinois State, 2009-12
9,838, Brock Jensen, NDSU, 2010-13
9,579, Eric Sanders, UNI, 2004-07
9,460, Kurt Hess, Youngstown State, 2010-13

FCS Leaders - Active Total Offense Leaders

Rank, Player, Team	Yards
1. Devlin Hodges, Samford	13,856
2. Gage Gubrud, Eastern Washington	11,026
3. Taryn Christion, SDSU	10,986
4. Anthony Lawrence, San Diego	10,613
5. Easton Stick, North Dakota State	8,957
6. Sean McGuire, Western Illinois	8,773

MVFC Leaders - Career TD Passes

88, Taryn Christion, South Dakota St., 2015-pres.
78, Matt Brown, Illinois State, 2009-12
77, Ryan Helming, UNI, 1997-00
75, Kurt Hess, Youngstown State, 2010-13
72, Brock Jensen, North Dakota State, 2010-13
70, Easton Stick, North Dakota State, 2015-pres.
70, Eric Sanders, UNI, 2004-07
65, Sean McGuire, Western Illinois, 2015-present
65, Joel Sambursky, Southern Illinois, 2002-05
65, Austin Sumner, South Dakota State, 2011-14

MVFC Leaders - Career Passing Yards

10,591, Matt Brown, Illinois State, 2009-12
9,675, Taryn Christion, SDSU, 2015-present
9,458, Austin Sumner, S. Dakota State, 2011-14
9,089, Ryan Helming, UNI, 1997-00
9,012, Eric Sanders, UNI, 2004-07
8,926, Kurt Hess, Youngstown State, 2010-13
8,598, Brock Jensen, N. Dakota State, 2010-13
8,478, Sean McGuire, Western Ill., 2015-pres.

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 Andrew 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

Oct. 8

Offense – QB Easton Stick, North Dakota State
 *Defense – FS Andrew Gray, South Dakota
 Special Teams – PK Chase Vinatieri, SDSU
 Newcomer – QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State
 Offensive Lineman – Wyatt Wozniak, Indiana State

Oct. 15

Offense – QB Eli Dunne, UNI
 Defense – S James Hendricks, North Dakota State
 Special Teams – P Brady Hale, South Dakota State
 Newcomer – QB Brady Davis, Illinois State
 Offensive Lineman – LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois St.

* - denotes National Player of the Week



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (5-1, 2-1 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	W, 33-16	4-1, 1-1
O13	*Southern Illinois	W, 51-3	5-1, 2-1
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

Ground and Pound

The Redbird running back duo of James Robinson and Markel have combined to give opposing defenses fits all season, and they partnered to help ISU rush for over 400 yards in their 51-3 Homecoming win over Southern Illinois. Each set career highs and scored a touchdown, as Robinson (202) and Smith (143) tallied 345 of the team's 409 rushing yards against the Salukis. It marked the second time in as many seasons that each rushed for over 100 yards in the same contest and the 409 gained on the ground were the fifth-most for a Redbird team in school history.

Spreading the Wealth

For the second time this season, Redbird QB Brady Davis tossed four touchdown passes as ISU rolled to its win over Southern Illinois. Davis also made sure to spread the wealth around to his receivers, as four different pass catchers hauled in scores on the afternoon. Andrew Edgar was the first recipient, as he hauled in his second score of the year on a 10-yard pass in the second quarter. Just two minutes later, Davis found tight end Robert Gillum in the end zone for a three-yard touchdown, also his second of the year. Braxton Haley capped off the explosive second quarter with his first touchdown reception at ISU, a four-yard score just before half. Mr. Reliable Spencer Schnell was the final beneficiary of Davis' generosity on the day, as he hauled in a 16-yard grab for his fifth score of the season. Overall, seven different ISU players have caught a touchdown this season.

State Champions

Each year, one of the goals set forth by the Redbird seniors is to win the 'state championship' by defeating in-state rivals Eastern Illinois, Southern Illinois and Western Illinois. It's a task that has proved elusive, having not accomplished the feat since 2015. However, ISU made it look easy in 2018 by outscoring their in-state rivals 132-29 in the victories over the Panthers, Salukis and Leathernecks. The home victories also helped the Redbirds improve to 30-5 overall at Hancock Stadium since 2013 when the facility renovation was completed.



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (2-4, 0-3 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 #3 South Dakota St.	L, 51-54 (ot)	2-3, 0-2
O13	*Missouri State	L, 26-29	2-4, 0-3
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

Rushing Attack Strong for the Trees

The offense for the Sycamores is night and day when compared to last year's squad. The rushing attack is ranked 10th in the nation with 263.3 yards on the ground per game. Much of that total comes from Ja'Quan Keys who is third in the country with in rushing yards per game with 132. In total, Keys has 782 yards on the ground through six games and has scored 11 touchdowns. In 11 games in 2017, ISU totaled 1,185 yards and this season in just six games, the Sycamores have racked up 1,580 yards. Freshen Christian Covington adds to the attack with 246 yards while quarterback Ryan Boyle (199) and Titus McCoy (180) each have over 150 yards on the ground.

Red Zone Success

One of the keys this season for the Sycamores has been their success when entering the red zone. ISU ranks sixth nationally and has scored in the red zone 23-of-24 times for a 95.8 percentage. Last season, ISU entered the red zone just 19 times over 11 games with only nine touchdowns. This season, the Sycamores have 15 touchdowns and five made field goals in just five games.

What a Win Would Mean

The Sycamores travel to Carbondale this weekend to take on Southern Illinois. An Indiana State win would end a streak of 14-straight Missouri Valley Football Conference losses. A win would also notch second-year head coach Curt Mallory's first MVFC win. The last conference win for ISU came in 2016 when the Sycamores knocked off the Salukis, 22-14.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (4-2, 2-1 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	L, 28-35	3-2, 1-1
O13	*at Indiana State	W, 29-26	4-2, 2-1
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

Homecoming Triple Dose

MSU's return to Plaster Stadium this weekend will mark the club's third straight homecoming game this October. The Bears began the month as South Dakota's homecoming foe on Dakota Days, and then played spoiler last week in Terre Haute for Indiana State's homecoming game. This weekend's home game against Western Illinois continues a homecoming tradition on the Springfield campus that began in 1921. The Bears are 3-2 against the Leathernecks on homecoming, most recently dropping a 38-35 decision in 2016 despite a school-record five touchdown passes from senior quarterback Brody Lambert.

Hot Start

The Bears are off to a 4-2 start for the first time since 2007. Coach Dave Steckel's troops start a two-game home stand this weekend in hopes of extended their good fortune to 5-2 for the first time since 2004. This season, the Bears have also been fast starters on the field, putting up points in the first quarter in five straight games while scoring the game's first points three times in the last four contests.

New Bears Lead Ground Attack

Missouri State's ground attack got a lift from some maroon rookies in Saturday's win at Indiana State with Donovan Daniels (So., St. Louis, Phoenix (Ariz.) College) and Jeremiah Wilson (Fr., Kansas City, Mo.) doing the heavy lifting. Daniels had 62 yards on 15 carries with a pair of first-half touchdowns of 1 and 10 yards, while Wilson carried 14 times for 62 yards with a team-best 18-yard run on the day.

First Time, Best Time

Lorenzo Thomas' touchdown reception in the corner of the end zone with 16 seconds remaining in Saturday's win at Indiana State marked his first career TD grab as a Bear. The sophomore from Jasper, Texas, snagged 15 receptions as a true freshman in 2017 and has a team-high 21 catches this year, the last of which was the game-winner in Terre Haute.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (6-0, 3-0 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 #22 UNI	W, 56-31	5-0, 2-0
O13	*at Western Illinois	W, 34-7	6-0, 3-0
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

Defense Sparks Win at Western Illinois

North Dakota State scored 17 points off five Western Illinois turnovers in a 34-7 victory last week. Linebacker Dan Marlette scored on a 38-yard fumble return off a strip sack by cornerback Marquise Bridges to make it 17-7 as the Bison scored 31 straight points. Safety James Hendricks had two of NDSU's four interceptions including one in the end zone to keep the Leathernecks scoreless in the second half. Linebacker Levi Jordheim tied a season high with seven tackles including a sack, and the Bison had seven tackles for loss in holding Western Illinois to nine net rushing yards on 18 attempts.

Stick 2 Passing TDs Shy of Record

Fourth-year starter Easton Stick is 40-3 as NDSU's starting QB and has moved into third on the NDSU career lists for pass attempts (806), completions (483) and yards (6,915). Stick's 70 career passing TDs rank sixth in conference history and second in NDSU history behind Brock Jensen (72 from 2010-13). Stick's 8,957 yards of total offense are second behind Jensen's 9,838, and Stick is also second in career TDs responsible for with 101 behind Jensen's 107.

Shepherd Moving Up

Senior wide receiver Darrius Shepherd has moved into sixth place in career receptions at North Dakota State with 148, passing Ryan Smith (2010-13). Shepherd needs two catches to pass RJ Urzendowsky for fifth on that list. Shepherd ranks seventh at NDSU with 2,162 receiving yards just 70 shy of sixth-place Warren Holloway (2008-11) and he ranks eighth with 16 TD catches behind Kole Heckendorf (17 from 2005-08) and Eric Nelson (18 from 1997-00).



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(3-3, 2-1 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	*#1 North Dakota State	L, 31-56	2-3, 1-1
O13	*at #24 South Dakota	W, 42-28	3-3, 2-1
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

Nation's Toughest Schedule

The Panthers have played the toughest schedule in the FCS to date, according to the Massey Ratings. UNI is ranked first with Western Illinois, Elon, South Dakota and Weber State rounding out the top five. Massey also has the Panthers ranked eighth overall.

Favorite Receivers?

UNI Quarterback Eli Dunne has a favorite receiver... All of them. Five athletes have caught 14 or more passes from Dunne and six have receiving touchdowns. Briley Moore leads the way with 23 receptions for 317 yards and three TDs. Over the last two games, Dunne is 51-74 (68.9 percent) for seven passing touchdowns and a rushing touchdown with just one interception. Dunne leads the Missouri Valley Conference in completion percentage (68.4 percent) and touchdown passes (seven) in conference games. The Panther defense stepped up big in the Panthers win. UNI held South Dakota to just 41 yards rushing and tallied nine tackles for loss and five sacks.

Neal Starring on Defense for UNI

Rickey Neal Jr., last year's leader for sacks, is back on top of the league. He currently has 3.5 sacks in conference games which is tied for the lead in the MVFC.



SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(3-3, 2-1 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	*#24 Missouri State	W, 35-28	3-2, 2-0
O13	*UNI	L, 28-42	3-3, 2-1
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

Austin to Allen Catching Fire

Junior QB Austin Simmons leads the Valley and ranks seventh nationally with 1,927 yards passing, which thru six games ranks 10th in South Dakota single-season history. Junior receiver Dakarai Allen leads the Valley and ranks 39th nationally with 490 yards receiving. Allen has been the top USD receiver in four consecutive games. He has 22 catches for 414 yards and three touchdowns in that span.

Collins Leads FCS in Passes Defended

South Dakota has been without senior CB Isaac Armstead since week one, but sophomore Mark Collins Jr. has been solid on the other side all season. In addition to ranking sixth on the team in tackles, Collins Jr. has 11 pass breakups to go with one interception. He leads the nation in passes defended with an average of 2.4 per game.

Turnovers Costly Against UNI

South Dakota ranked in the top 10 nationally in turnover margin heading into last week's game against UNI, but lost the battle 3-0 in its loss to the Panthers. The Coyotes had turned it over four times all season, but two fumbles and an interception led directly to 21 points. UNI scored on drives of 4 and 25 yards, and recovered one of the fumbles in the end zone for a score.

On to Youngstown

South Dakota looks to bounce back and improve to 3-1 in the Valley Saturday in a 6 p.m. (EDT) kickoff against Youngstown State in Ohio. It will be the Coyotes' fourth consecutive road night game to start the season and fifth night game overall. USD topped Youngstown State 31-28 on a last-minute field goal a year ago in Vermillion.



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(4-1, 2-1 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	W, 54-51 (ot)	3-1, 1-1
O13	*Youngstown State	W, 36-7	4-1, 2-1
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

Dual Threat

For the 17th time in his career, South Dakota State quarterback passed for and rushed for touchdowns in the same game as he accounted for three touchdowns (1 passing, 2 rushing) in the Jackrabbits' 36-7 victory over Youngstown State on Oct. 13. Christion's passing touchdown was a 23-yard strike to Cade Johnson in the first quarter. He helped seal the Jackrabbit victory with touchdown runs of 49 and 11 yards in the fourth quarter. His 89 rushing yards on five carries set a season high and marked his fifth-highest rushing total in a game in his career. Christion became the MVFC's all-time leader in total offense on his 49-yard touchdown run and ended the day with 10,986 career yards, surpassing the previous record of 10,952 yards by Illinois State's Matt Brown from 2009-12.

Wilson Steps Up

After starting running back Isaac Wallace was lost to injury late in the first quarter Oct. 13 against Youngstown State, freshman C.J. Wilson emerged as the Jackrabbits' top rusher. Wilson went on to gain a career-best 119 yards on 16 carries, breaking off a 41-yard run late in the first half to set up a touchdown and later scoring his first career rushing touchdown on a 48-yard burst up the middle in the third quarter. For the season, Wilson is averaging 6.8 yards per carry, gaining 271 yards on 40 carries.

Limited Returns

South Dakota State has excelled on special teams so far this season and enters the week ranked in the top 15 among FCS programs in both kickoff return and punt return defense. The Jackrabbits have limited the opposition to an average of 16.59 yards per kickoff return (13th nationally) and 2.4 yards per punt return (ninth nationally).



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(1-5, 0-3 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	L, 14-17	1-4, 0-2
O13	*at #12 Illinois State	L, 3-51	1-5, 0-3
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

Leonard Tops MVFC in Catches

With seven more catches last week at Illinois State, WR Raphael Leonard (6-2, 193, Sr.) leads the MVFC with 35 receptions and has already surpassed last year's season total of 34 catches. He has caught at least one pass in all 17 games he has played at Southern. Prior to SIU, Leonard played at East Mississippi Community College football team in 2016, where he was part of Season 2 of the popular Netflix documentary Last Chance U.

Anthony Knighton - Sack Leader

DE Anthony Knighton is the active team leader in career sacks (12.0) and TFL (18.0). In 2017, he was runner-up for MVFC Freshman of the Year after recording 6.5 sacks. This year, he leads SIU with 5.5 sacks. He has started all 17 games in his career and also has two forced fumbles, five pass breakups and one blocked kick.

Dawg Bites

- LB Bryce Notree leads the team with 56 tackles, including 37 stops in the last four games. He had 11 as a freshman last year. Notree also has 4.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, one INT and three QB hurries.
- SIU's defense has 19 sacks and 44 TFL through six games and is on pace to top last year's marks of 23 sacks and 65 TFL.
- RB Jonathan Mixon (5-11, 230, Sr.) is the team's active scoring leader with 16 career touchdowns (96 points). He has missed three games this year due to injury.
- Twelve different players have scored touchdowns for SIU this season, including three players on defense.
- QB Matt DeSomer has rushed for 100 yards twice in his career. The school record for career 100-yard rushing games by a quarterback is three, set by Fred Gibson in 1987-88.
- TE Logan Crouse made his first career start on Saturday at Illinois State. He is a 22-year-old true freshman who played three seasons of pro baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers farm system prior to SIU.
- K Nico Gualdoni (6-0, 227, So.) improved to 9-for-10 on field goals in his career, with a career long of 39 yards, and 30-for-30 on PATs. He has not missed inside of 40 yards.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (2-4, 1-2 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 #14 Illinois State	L, 16-33	2-3, 1-1
O13	*#1 North Dakota State	L, 7-34	2-4, 1-2
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

Troubling Turnovers

Western is 2-0 on the season when committing fewer turnovers than its opponent and 0-3 when committing more. The Leathernecks are coming off of a season-high five turnovers against North Dakota State and didn't commit a single turnover in their 45-38 victory over Youngstown State.

The Big Man

Khalen Saunders posted a career-high 11 tackles against North Dakota State to mark his first career game in double figures. He finished the outing with 3.5 TFLs that combined for a loss of 20 yards, which included 2.5 sacks. Saunders currently ranks ninth all-time in Western history with 16 career sacks, and he's also known to line up for the offense from time-to-time. The 6-foot, 300-pound defensive lineman's first career catch versus Youngstown State (9/29) resulted in a touchdown, and he recorded the team's first TD of the season in 2017 with a one-yard rush.

1K for LeSure

Isaiah LeSure's stellar performance against No. 1 North Dakota State also captured a career milestone. He recorded his 10th career receiving touchdown in the matchup, the most on Western's active roster, while also surpassing 1,000 career receiving yards. LeSure finished the game with a career-high 170 receiving yards, and currently manages 1,012 career yards on 72 receptions.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (2-4, 1-2 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	W, 17-14	2-3, 1-1
O13	*at #2 South Dakota St.	L, 7-36	2-4, 1-2
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

Secondary Improvement

The Penguins have turned a corner in the secondary the past two games allowing a total of 183 yards passing and just 19 completions. Through the first four games, YSU had allowed an average of 274.5 yards per contest. On three occasions in the first four games the Penguins allowed more than 250 yards passing. YSU held Southern Illinois to 105 passing yards and South Dakota State to 78.

Payne Train

A bright spot for the Penguins on offense has been the emergence of true freshman wide receiver Natavious Payne. In the past two games, he has six rushes for 45 yards and caught five passes for 49 yards. Against Southern Illinois he had a career-best four catches for 33 yards and at SDSU had five rushing attempts for 38 yards and caught a pass for 16 yards. On the year he has eight catches for 110 yards and a touchdown.

In Memoriam

The Youngstown State Athletic Department is mourning the loss of former Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Joe Malmisur, who passed away on Saturday evening. Malmisur, who was YSU's Athletic Director for 11 years, was 89 years old. Malmisur, a native of Youngstown and graduate of East High School, served as the Athletic Director at Youngstown State from July 1, 1983 through June 30, 1994. He served as the school's Athletic Director during the Penguins' football National Championship titles in 1991 and 1993 and stayed active for many years in the department following his official retirement.