



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, Oct. 20)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota St.	4-0	1.000	139	69	7-0	1.000	264	89	5-0	2-0 W13
Northern Iowa	3-1	.750	130	93	4-3	.571	211	157	2-1	2-2 W2
Illinois State	2-2	.500	119	71	5-2	.714	248	100	4-0	1-2 L1
South Dakota St.	2-2	.500	116	103	4-2	.667	251	123	4-0	0-2 L1
Missouri State	2-2	.500	95	113	4-3	.571	204	203	3-1	1-2 L1
South Dakota	2-2	.500	111	123	3-4	.429	188	205	2-1	1-3 L2
Western Illinois	2-2	.500	99	119	3-4	.429	167	206	2-1	1-3 W1
Youngstown State	2-2	.500	91	112	3-4	.429	171	194	3-1	0-3 W1
Indiana State	1-3	.250	101	137	3-4	.429	212	209	1-2	2-2 W1
Southern Illinois	0-4	.000	62	123	1-6	.143	196	257	0-3	1-3 L6

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Oct. 20

Indiana State 24, Southern Illinois 21
Western Illinois 31, Missouri State 14
#1 North Dakota State 28, #7 Illinois State 14
#25 UNI 24, #2 South Dakota State 9
Youngstown State 29, South Dakota 17

Saturday, Oct. 27

#7 South Dakota St. at #9 Illinois St., 12 pm CT
Normal, Ill. • ESPN3
Indiana State at Youngstown State, 2 pm ET
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN+
Southern Illinois at RV Missouri State, 2 pm CT
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+
#1 North Dakota St. at South Dakota, 2 pm CT
Vermillion, S.D. • ESPN+ / NBC ND / Midco
#17 UNI at RV Western Illinois, 1 pm CT
Macomb, Ill. • ESPN+

Saturday, Nov. 3

Illinois State at UNI, 1 pm CT
Cedar Falls, Iowa • PSN / ESPN+
South Dakota at Indiana State, 1 pm ET
Terre Haute, Ind. • ESPN+
Missouri State at South Dakota State, 2 pm CT
Brookings, S.D. • Midco / ESPN+
Youngstown St. at North Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT
Fargo, N.D. • ESPN+ / NBC ND
Western Illinois at Southern Illinois, 1 pm CT
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN3

• • 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 beginning of the second half of the 2018 MVFC schedule as all league teams will play their fifth Conference game of the season. The league will take its TV cameras to Normal, Ill., for the South Dakota State-Illinois State contest (ESPN3). Adam Seidel, Danan Hughes and Kelly Burke will call the action from Hancock Stadium. 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 13 games. The 13-game streak is third-longest in MVFC history.

FCS Active Win Streaks

13	North Dakota State
11	Colgate
9	Dartmouth
6	Kennesaw State
6	Princeton
5	Towson

MVFC All-Time Win Streaks (includes playoffs):

33	North Dakota State (2012-14)
14	North Dakota State (2015-16)
13	North Dakota State (2017-current)
	Western Kentucky (2002-03)
	UNI (2006-07)
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

RB/KR Steve McShane, Western Illinois Sr., 5-8, 185, Freeport, Ill. (Freeport)

McShane finished Saturday's victory at Missouri State with 143 rushing yards on 19 attempts and also added a game-high 95 receiving yards on four receptions. The game marked his sixth career with 100-plus rushing yards and he currently manages 2,157 to sit 10th all-time in school history. McShane recorded two touchdowns on the day, one rushing and one receiving, for 271 all-purpose yards. The 271 all-purpose yards are the most by any player in the MVFC this season.

Defense

LB Duncan Ferch, UNI

Sr., 6-1, 234, State Center, Iowa (W. Marshall)

Ferch led UNI with 13 tackles, including five solo in the 24-9 win against No. 2 South Dakota State. He also tallied three pass breakups, including one at the three yard-line. The Panther defense held the vaunted SDSU rushing attack to just 51 yards on 20 carries for a 2.6 average. Saturday was the first time that SDSU was held out of the end zone since 2013.

Special Teams

WR Darrius Shepherd, North Dakota State Sr., 5-11, 188, Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)

Accounted for 236 all-purpose yards – fourth-most in the conference this year – in North Dakota State's 28-14 win over Illinois State. He returned two punts for 103 yards including a 69-yarder to set up a three-play touchdown drive. He also caught six passes for a career-high 126 yards and became the first NDSU player in four years with multiple 100-yard receiving games in a season. Shepherd caught a 55-yard pass leading to a touchdown on NDSU's opening drive and added a 44-yard catch on the next possession.

Newcomer

QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State

Jr., 6-2, 215, Urbandale, Iowa (Iowa)

Boyle accounted for 205 yards of total offense for the Sycamores. Boyle and ISU running back Ja'Quan Keys each passed the 100-yard mark on the ground – the first time ISU has had two 100+ yard runners in a game since 2015. Boyle finished the game with 101 yards passing on 7-of-14 passing to go with 104 yards rushing. He had a career long 52-yard gain in the third quarter. ISU snapped a 14-game losing streak in conference play with the win.

Offensive Lineman

RG Austin Hopp, Western Illinois

Fr., 6-5, 280, Minnetonka, Minn. (Minnetonka)

Hopp has been consistent at right guard where he helped the Leathernecks to 565 yards of total offense Saturday. He graded 92 percent at Missouri State with three pancakes.

Ranked vs. Ranked

Prior to games of Oct. 27, there have been 171 games in which two league teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of those 171 games, 42 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.

Still Perfect

North Dakota State (7-0), Colgate (6-0), Dartmouth (6-0) and Princeton (6-0) still have perfect records through Oct. 20. There are also five unbeaten FBS teams.

FCS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

7-0	North Dakota State
6-0	Colgate Dartmouth, Princeton

FBS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

8-0	Alabama
7-0	Clemson, Notre Dame, UCF
6-0	South Florida

Home Sweet Home

Three league schools have posted perfect marks at home this season, including North Dakota State (5-0), Illinois State (4-0) and South Dakota State (4-0). The Redbirds host nationally ranked SDSU this Saturday.

North Dakota State (14-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)
14 - North Dakota State (MVFC)
13 - Kennesaw State (Big South)
10 - McNeese (Southland)
10 - Grambling (SWAC)
9 - Monmouth (Big South)
8 - South Dakota State (MVFC)
8 - Stony Brook (CAA)

Winning in Conference

North Dakota State has won six-straight league games, and that streak is the third-best active streak in the FCS. The six-game streak is tied for 15th-best in MVFC history. NDSU established a league record with 18-straight MVFC wins from 2012-14.

NCAA Leaders, Conference Win Streaks

23 - San Diego (PFL)
8 - Colgate (Patriot)
6 - North Dakota State (MVFC)
6 - Dartmouth (Ivy)
6 - Kennesaw State (Big South)
6 - Towson (CAA)

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 2008), South Dakota is 0-2 against No. 1 teams. The Yotes did beat NDSU in 2015 when the Bison were ranked No. 2.

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

Tough Schedules

Three MVFC teams rank in the Top 18 in the FCS for toughest schedules (based on cumulative opposition and ranked by the NCAA Statistics service). UNI leads the league and is ranked No. 2 overall. A separate metrics service (Massey Ratings) has UNI with the nation's most difficult schedule. All of the league's 10 members are rated in the Top 34 in the Massey Ratings strength of schedule, including each of the top-four positions (UNI, Western Illinois, North Dakota State and South Dakota).

Team (Conference, Cumulative Opposition)	Pct.
1. Cornell (Ivy League)	.696
2. UNI (MVFC)	.621
3. Elon (CAA)	.607

11. Southern Illinois (MVFC)	.574
18. North Dakota State (MVFC)	.559

Massey Ratings, Strength of Schedule

1. UNI
2. Western Illinois
3. North Dakota State
4. South Dakota
5. New Hampshire

7. Southern Illinois
8. South Dakota State
12. Illinois State
23. Missouri State
28. Youngstown State
34. Indiana State

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

Sticking It To 'Em

QB Easton Stick has surpassed 2,000 career rushing yards (2,112), which is second among active quarterbacks. SDSU's Taryn Christion has 1,313 rushing yards, which is sixth best. Stick is one of just three MVFC QBs to reach 2,000 career yards. He needs 165 yards to overtake record-holder DeAndre Smith of Missouri State (1987-90).

FCS Leaders - Active QBs, Career Rushing

Rank, Player, Team	Yards
1. Chandler Burks, Kennesaw State	2,424
2. Easton Stick, North Dakota State	2,112
3. Daniel Smith, Campbell	1,764
4. Tyrie Adams, Western Carolina	1,614
5. Noah Johnson, Alcorn	1,370
6. Taryn Christion, South Dakota State	1,313

MVFC All-Time Rushing Yards by QB

2,276, DeAndre Smith, Missouri State, 1987-90
 2,176, Tirrell Rennie, UNI, 2010-11
2,112, Easton Stick NDSU, 2015-present
 1,880, Jeff Ryan, Youngstown State, 1998-01

Another 7-0 Start for NDSU

North Dakota State is the only in Missouri Valley Football Conference history to win its first seven games in back-to-back seasons, and the Bison have done it twice. NDSU was 15-0 in 2013 and started 2014 with nine-straight wins. The Bison started 8-0 last year and are now 7-0 this season.

Going for 5-0 in League Play

North Dakota State is looking to join 24 other teams in MVFC history that won their first five league games in a season. Twenty-two of the previous 24 earned a playoff berth, and 21 of those teams won the league crown. A league team has started 5-0 in back-to-back seasons five times: Western Illinois (87-88), UNI (94-95-96), Western Illinois (97-98), Southern Illinois (03-04) and North Dakota State (13-14). The Bison were 5-0 to start the 2017 league slate.

4-0 League Starts Are Key

North Dakota State became the 36th team in league history to start an MVFC season with a 4-0 mark after the Bison defeated Illinois State on Oct. 20, 2018. All but one of the previous 35 teams finished 2nd or better in the league standings (Western Kentucky tied for fourth place in 2005). Twenty nine of the 35 earned playoff berths, and 26 of those 35 teams won the MVFC crown.

Year Team, Note (* - denotes playoffs)

1985	*UNI was 5-0, won league
1987	*UNI was 6-0, won league
	Western Illinois started 5-0, finished 2nd
1988	*Western Illinois was 6-0, won league
1989	*MSU started 5-0, won league
1990	*MSU started 4-0, tied for title
1991	*Western Illinois started 4-0, tied for 2nd
1992	Missouri State started 4-0, tied for second
1993	Western Illinois started 4-0, tied for second
1994	*UNI was 6-0, won league
1995	*UNI started 5-0, won league
1996	*UNI was 5-0, won league
1997	*Western Illinois was 6-0, won league
1998	*Western Illinois started 5-0, won league
1999	*Illinois State was 6-0, won league
	*Youngstown St. started 4-0, finished 2nd
2000	*Western Illinois started 4-0, won league
2001	*UNI started 4-0, won league
2003	*UNI started 5-0, won league
	*Southern Illinois started 6-0, won league
2004	*Southern Illinois started 7-0, won league
2005	Western Ky. started 4-0, finished tied for 4th
	Youngstown State started 4-0, won league
2007	*UNI started 6-0, won league
2009	*Southern Illinois started 8-0, won league
	*South Dakota State started 6-0, finished 2nd
2011	*North Dakota State started 6-0, won league
	*UNI started 5-0, won league
2013	*North Dakota State started 8-0, won league
	Youngstown State started 5-0, finished 2nd
2014	*North Dakota State started 5-0, tied for title
	*Illinois State started 4-0, tied for title
2015	*Illinois State started 5-0, tied for title
2016	*South Dakota State started 4-0, tied for title
2017	*North Dakota State started 5-0, won league
2018	North Dakota State is 4-0

**teams that went undefeated in league play*

2018 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S3	S10	S17	S24	O1	O8	O15	O22
Illinois State	20	19	18	15	9	14	12	7	9
Indiana St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	rv	rv	24	rv	rv	rv
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	12	18	18	22	21	22	rv	25	17
S. Dakota	rv	23	22	rv	rv	rv	24	rv	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	7
S. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--
W. Illinois	rv	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)*

5 on STATS Payton Watch List

On Thursday (Oct. 18), RB James Robinson of Illinois State was added as a nominee to the STATS Payton Award Watch List. He joins four others from the MVFC who were named as nominees to the Watch List in the preseason. Joining Robinson from the Conference are RB Bruce Anderson of North Dakota State, QB Taryn Christion of South Dakota State, RB Tevin McCaster of Youngstown State and QB Easton Stick of North Dakota State.

6 on STATS Buchanan Watch List

On Thursday (Oct. 18), DB Andrew Gray of South Dakota was added as a nominee to the STATS Buchanan Award Watch List. He joins five others from the MVFC who were named as nominees to the Watch List in the preseason, including Darin Greenfield of South Dakota, Robbie Grimsley of North Dakota State, Greg Menard of North Dakota State, Christian Rozeboom of South Dakota State and Khalen Saunders or Western Illinois.

Picking It

Robbie Grimsley of North Dakota State ranks second among active players with 13 career interceptions. That's tied for 11th on the all-time MVFC list.

FCS Career Active Leaders - Interceptions

Ind., Team	PPG
1. Jimmy Moreland, James Madison	14
2. David Leising, Dayton	13
2. Robbie Grimsley, North Dakota State	13
4. Tyler Castillo, Colgate	11
4. Isiah Swann, Dartmouth	11

Rice Award Watch List

UNI redshirt freshman Chris Kolarevic is one of 15 players from around the FCS named to the Jerry Rice Award Watch List released on Oct. 11 by STATS. Kolarevic is one of just four defensive players on the list and the only player from the Missouri Valley Football Conference to be honored.

Freshman Tackle Leaders

UNI's Chris Kolarevic leads all FCS freshmen and ranks eighth overall with 10.8 tackles per game this season.

FCS Freshman Leaders - Tackles Per Game

Ind., Team (Conf.)	TPG
8. Chris Kolarevic, UNI (MVFC)	10.8
27. Jarrett Nagy, Presbyterian (Big South)	9.3
34. Robby Hauck, Montana (Big Sky)	9.1
51. Ty Harris, Western Caro. (SoCon)	8.7

4 Teams Ranked in Top 25

UNI jumped eight spots from No. 25 to No. 17 in the STATS FCS rankings after the Panthers defeated previously No. 2 ranked South Dakota State. North Dakota State continues to have its unanimous stranglehold in both polls while South Dakota State and Illinois State are also ranked.

Team	STATS	AFC	Sagarin	Massey	HERO
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1
SDSU	7	8	4	5	12
ILS	11	9	5	6	11
UNI	17	23	3	4	15
MSU	rv	-	25	23	26
WIU	rv	-	20	17	25
USD	-	-	21	24	50
YSU	-	-	27	35	73
SIU	-	-	34	54	70
INS	-	-	41	40	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 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

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, both UNI (South Dakota and South Dakota State) and North Dakota State (South Dakota State and UNI) have earned back-to-back wins vs. a Top 25 team.

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. 13-20, 2018
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 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. Bohlen, 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.

Oct. 22

Offense – RB/KR Steve McShane, Western Illinois
 Defense – LB Duncan Ferch, UNI
 Special Teams – WR/KR Darrius Shepherd, NDSU
 Newcomer – QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State
 Offensive Lineman – RG Austin Hopp, W. Illinois

* - denotes National Player of the Week



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (5-2, 2-2 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 #1 North Dakota St.	L, 14-28	5-2, 2-2
O27	*#7 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

Robinson Still Rolling

On the week he was named to the STATS FCS Walter Payton Award Watch List, James Robinson faced possibly his toughest test of the season in the form of the vaunted North Dakota State defense. Heading into the game, the Bison were only allowing 84.8 yards per contest and had only allowed one running back to rush for over 100 yards. Robinson recorded his third-consecutive 100-plus yard effort and his fifth in the last six games when he rushed for 128 yards and a TD. He averaged 6.4 yards per carry and his 128 yards are the most for a back against the vaunted NDSU defense so far this season.

Tough Stretch

Coming off a hard-fought loss at No. 1 North Dakota state last week, the Redbirds return home to host top-10 ranked South Dakota State (4-2) this week at Hancock Stadium. To make matters worse, the Redbirds then travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Nov. 3 to face a ranked Northern Iowa team, who defeated the Jackrabbits at home last weekend and will certainly make a jump in the national polls.

Redbirds Rank Among the Best

ISU boasts the seventh-best scoring defense in the country (14.3 points per game) and is fourth in team pass efficiency defense (97.52). The Redbirds also rank fourth in the country in turnovers lost (4) and 10th in turnover margin (1.14).

Mr. Reliable

Throughout his career at ISU, Spence Schnell has been one of the most reliable players on the field and his numbers this year are proving that once again. He recorded 112 yards on five receptions with a TD against the Bison, his second 100-plus yard performance of the season. Schnell is currently tied for first in the MVFC in receptions (38) and receptions per game (5.4) and ranks second with 584 receiving yards and six TDs. Schnell moved up to No. 5 on the ISU career receptions list (148) and into the top 10 in career receiving yards at No. 10 (1,742).



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (3-4, 1-3 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	W, 24-21	3-4, 1-3
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 267.6 yards on the ground per game. Much of that total comes from Ja'Quan Keys who is third in the country with 135.4 rushing yards per game. In total, Keys has 948 yards on the ground through seven games and has scored 13 touchdowns. In 11 games in 2017, ISU totaled 1,185 yards and this season in seven games, the Sycamores have racked up 1,873 yards.

Red Zone Success

One of the keys this season for the Sycamores has been their success when entering the red zone. ISU ranks 19th nationally and has scored in the red zone 27-of-30 times for a 90 percent average. Last season, ISU entered the red zone just 19 times over 11 games with only nine touchdowns. This season, the Sycamores have 20 touchdowns and seven made field goals through seven games.

The Streak Comes to an End

Indiana State football snapped a 14-game MVFC losing streak dating back to 2016 Saturday afternoon after the Sycamores defeated Southern Illinois, 24-21 to spoil the Saluki Homecoming. The win marked the first MVFC win for head coach Curt Mallory and the fourth straight against SIU in Carbondale. The Sycamores moved to 4-1 inside Saluki Stadium with the lone loss coming during its inaugural year of 2010.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (4-3, 2-2 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	L, 14-31	4-3, 2-2
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

Garbutt Grinds

Junior linebacker Angelo Garbutt has been the Bears' top tackler of late, registering double-figure stops in three straight ball games. Garbutt registered a game-high 12 tackles this week against Western Illinois, including seven solo stops and 2.5 tackles for loss. In conference games this fall, he is averaging 10.0 tackles per game with 4.5 tackles for loss. His 22 assisted tackles ranks third in the league in Valley contests.

Meeting of the Maroons

Missouri State will meet its oldest Valley rival this weekend when the Bears entertain Southern Illinois for the 41st time. The series between the two maroon-clad programs began in 1965 and sits even with each team winning 20 games. Missouri State, which has won three of the last five meetings, is averaging 31.8 points per game against SIU over the last five meetings. The Bears are 11-8 all-time against the Salukis at Robert W. Plaster Stadium.

Versus the Land of Lincoln

The Bears will be playing their third straight home game against Illinois teams this weekend when they host Southern Illinois in the 41st meeting between the maroon-clad rivals. MSU's began league play with a 24-21 home win over Illinois State before dropping a 31-14 home decision to Western Illinois last week. This is the third time in program history (1990 and 1992) the Bears have played three straight home games against teams from the Land of Lincoln. Ironically enough, MSU's only other home game this season was against Lincoln University.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (7-0, 4-0 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	*#7 Illinois State	W, 28-14	7-0, 4-0
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

Target Field Tickets on Sale Nov. 8

The NDSU football team will host Butler in the 2019 season opener at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at Target Field presented by Pioneer. Tickets go on sale to the general public at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, with special presale opportunities for season ticket holders beforehand. General seating will range from \$20 to \$58 and tickets will only be available through the Minnesota Twins. Student tickets will be made available at a later date through NDSU. For more information, visit TwinsBaseball.com/football.

Klieman Third in NDSU Coaching Wins

North Dakota State head coach Chris Klieman has moved into a tie with Ron Erhardt for third in all-time coaching wins at NDSU. Klieman is 61-6 in his fifth season trailing Craig Bohl (104-32 from 2003-2013) and Rocky Hager (91-25-1 from 1987-1996). Erhardt was 61-7-1 from 1966-1972.

Bison Winning Streak at 13

North Dakota State owns the longest active winning streak in the FCS at 13 games, which is tied with Western Kentucky (2002-2003) and Northern Iowa (2006-2007) for third longest in Missouri Valley Football Conference history behind NDSU's streaks of 33 wins (2012-2014) and 14 wins (2015-2016).

Active 2,000-Yard Rushers

North Dakota State is the only FCS team in the nation with three active 2,000-yard rushers. Lance Dunn (2,590) ranks eighth, Bruce Anderson (2,494) is 11th and Easton Stick (2,112) is 24th. North Dakota's John Santiago (3,643) and Brady Oliveira (2,496) along with James Madison's Marcus Marshall (2,494) and Cardon Johnson (2,355) are the only other active 2,000-yard rushing duos in FCS.



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(4-3, 3-1 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	*#2 South Dakota State	W, 24-9	4-3, 3-1
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

Panthers on a Roll

UNI is 4-1 over the last five games and is now in sole possession of second place in the Missouri Valley Football Conference at 3-1.

Scoring on Defense

The Panthers scored a defensive touchdown for the third time in four Missouri Valley Conference games. Against Indiana State, Duncan Ferch scored on a pick-6, against South Dakota, Brawntae Wells recovered a fumble in the endzone and Saturday Xavier Williams returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown.

Red Zone Efficiency

UNI continues its streak of red-zone scoring. The Panthers are now 24-for-24 on the year of red zone chances one of just two perfect teams in the FCS. UNI scored a touchdown and a field goal Saturday to remain perfect. The Panthers are have eight rushing touchdowns, nine passing TDs and seven field goals.

Errthum Having a Year

UNI PK Austin Errthum has the highest kickoff average (63.4 yards), the fewest return yards (299 yards), the highest net (42.1 yards) and the most touchbacks (23) of any kicker in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. He also has the highest percentage of field goals made in the MVFC at 9-of-11 for 81.8 percent on the year.

Dunne Showing Steady Hand

Eli Dunne is 119-of-191 (63.3 percent) on the season for 1,424 yards and 13 touchdowns. He has thrown just two interceptions on the season. In conference play, he has been even more efficient, throwing 90-of-120 (66.7 percent) for 1,009 yards and eight touchdowns. He has just one pick in conference play on the season.



SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(3-4, 2-2 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	L, 17-29	3-4, 2-2
O27	*#1 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

Greenfield's Big Night

It wasn't all bad for the Coyotes at Youngstown State Saturday. The defense, after giving up two short-field touchdowns and 22 points in the second half, pitched a shutout in the second. The Coyotes' all-American defensive end Darin Greenfield finished with 10 tackles (9 solo) including two sacks and forced two turnovers via the fumble. He was also credited with three hurries. Greenfield has moved up to fourth on South Dakota's all-time sack list with 18.0, and is eighth on USD's career TFL list with 37.0.

Simmons Seventh in Passing

South Dakota quarterback Austin Simmons passed for a season-low 158 yards at a cold, windy and rainy Stambaugh Stadium Saturday, ending a streak of three straight 325-yard efforts. He remains the top passer in the Valley and seventh nationally at 297.4 yards per game. His 2,085 yards in seven games this season is the sixth-highest in USD single-season history.

Top-Ranked Bison Next

South Dakota returns home to host top-ranked North Dakota State this week in a 2 p.m. kickoff inside the DakotaDome. It is the Coyotes' first matchup against a top-ranked team since 2014, when USD hosted NDSU in Vermillion. South Dakota topped NDSU 24-21 in Fargo back in 2015 and lost 28-21 the following year at home in 2016. The only other team to beat the Bison during the regular season since then is South Dakota State.



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(4-2, 2-2 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 #25 UNI	L, 9-24	4-2, 2-2
O27	*at #9 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

TC 10K

Taryn Christion ended the Oct. 20 game at Northern Iowa with an even 10,000 career passing yards. Christion completed 25-of-50 passes for 325 yards in the contest, marking the third time this season and 13th time in his career he topped the 300-yard mark in a game. However, Christion's streak of 17 consecutive games with a touchdown pass was snapped in last week's game. His streak began with a two-touchdown performance against Drake on Sept. 16, 2017. Christion will look to add to his list of school records this week at Illinois State as he enters Saturday's contest with 722 career completions, 15 behind the mark currently held by Austin Sumner (737 completions from 2011-14).

Other Long Streaks End

Two other long streaks came to an end in the Jackrabbits' 24-9 loss at Northern Iowa on Oct. 20. SDSU was held without a touchdown for the first time in five years, ending a streak of 65 consecutive games since a 20-0 loss to North Dakota State on Sept. 28, 2013. The Jackrabbits also failed to force a turnover against UNI, ending a streak of 20 consecutive games dating back to late in the 2016 season in which they recorded either an interception or fumble recovery.

Vinatieri Ties Field Goal Mark

Junior kicker Chase Vinatieri tied the South Dakota State record for longest field goal with a 57-yarder in the fourth quarter of the Jackrabbits' Oct. 20 game at Northern Iowa. He accounted for all nine Jackrabbit points in the game as he also booted field goals of 37 and 47 yards. The SDSU record was first set by Parker Douglass in a 2007 game against Stephen F. Austin. Vinatieri's previous career long was a 55 yards, which also came against Northern Iowa in a 2017 Football Championship Subdivision playoff game.

The 57-yarder ties for the third-longest in MVFC history (UNI's Mackenzie Hoambrecker established the record in 2002 with a 59-yarder against Missouri State; and Eastern Illinois' Rich Ehmke had a 58-yarder against UNI in 1986.)



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(1-6, 0-4 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	L, 21-24	1-6, 0-4
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

DJ Davis - MVFC All-Purpose Leader

RB D.J. Davis (5-8, 168, Jr.) is a prolific rusher, receiver and return man, who leads the league in All-Purpose yardage per game (155.9). He is sixth all-time at SIU with 3,692 career all-purpose yards (1,305 rushing, 687 receiving, 1,683 return). He opened the season with four-straight 100-yard rushing games and has five on the season. The last Saluki with five 100-yard games in a season was Malcolm Agnew in 2014.

Dawg Bites

- QB Matt DeSomer has rushed for 100 yards twice this year and three times in his career, tying the school record for career 100-yard rushing games by a quarterback, set by Fred Gibson in 1987-88.

- LB Bryce Notree (6-2, 235, So.) leads the team with 58 tackles, including 49 stops in the last five games. He had 11 as a freshman last year. Notree also has 5.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, and an interception.

- SIU's defense ranks 15th in the nation in sacks per game (2.86). The team's 20 sacks is on pace to top last year's mark of 23 sacks.

- SIU's quarterbacks are the team's No. 2 and No. 3 leading rushers — Matt DeSomer (254) and Sam Straub (148). They have accounted for 27 percent of the team's rushing yardage.

- K Nico Gualdoni (6-0, 227, So.) is 9-for-11 on field goals in his career, with a career long of 39 yards, and 33-for-33 on PATs. He is (9-for-10) inside of 40 yards and had his first miss from that range last Saturday vs. Indiana State.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (3-4, 2-2 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	W, 31-14	3-4, 2-2
O27	*#17 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

McShane in the Western Record Book

Running back and return specialist Steve McShane has etched his name in several categories of Western's record book this season. He cracked the top 10 in all-purpose yards and rushing touchdowns in the Leathernecks' MVFC opener against Youngstown State, and the game also saw him tab the eighth-longest rush in pro-program history as it took him 14 seconds to travel 75 yards for a TD.

Western Career Rankings

All-Purpose (6th) | 3,611 | 2,157 rushing, 926 receiving, 528 returns

Rushing Touchdowns (10th) | 18 TDs

Touchdowns (6th) | 18 rushing TDs, 9 receiving TDs, 2 return TDs

Key to Success

All three of Leatherneck victories this season have one common theme – they committed fewer turnovers than the opposition. The team is 3-0 when it takes care of the ball, highlighted by a 45-38 victory over Youngstown State, where it didn't commit a single turnover while recording three.

Holding Firm

Western lays claim to one of the best defenses in the MVFC, currently ranking third in the Valley, 20th in the nation, in total defense with 326.6 yards allowed per game. In its first road victory, the team allowed 283 yards of total offense while holding Missouri State to a season-low 14 points. Western held nearly a 21-minute edge in time of possession (38:13 vs. 21:47).



YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (3-4, 2-2 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	W, 29-17	3-4, 2-2
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

Savon the Day

Senior defensive tackle Savon Smith had the best game of his YSU career in the Penguins' 29-17 win over South Dakota. Smith was credited with a career-high seven total tackles and had a career-best six solo stops. He had a career-best three tackles for losses, two sacks and a pair of quarterback hurries against the Coyotes. It marked the second time in his career that he recorded a pair of sacks in a game – 2016 vs. UNI. In the past two games, he has 11 tackles, nine of which are solo stops, and five TFLs.

McCaster Over 2,500 Yards

With a season-best 176-yard rushing performance against South Dakota, senior tailback Tevin McCaster has now rushed for 2,506 yards in his YSU career. Against the Coyotes, McCaster had a career-high 36 carries as he went over the 100-yard mark for the fourth time this season. In 2018, he has 771 yards on 171 carries and seven touchdowns. In the win over USD, he also had the first receiving touchdown of his YSU career.

Silver Star

YSU honored the 25th anniversary of its 1993 National Championship Team last Saturday against South Dakota. As one of the tributes, YSU dons silver Y stickers on their football helmets. It was the second time in the past three years the Penguins wore the silver Y's and are now 2-0 with wins over UNI (2016) and South Dakota (2018). Ironically, QB Nathan Mays didn't start either game, but was called upon to finish them. Against UNI in 2016, he led two fourth-quarter touchdown drives in a 14-10 come-from-behind win. Against South Dakota, he came on in the fourth quarter to help seal the win by rushing six times for 76 yards, including a career-long 50-yard run.