



For Immediate Release
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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. 27)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota St.	5-0	1.000	198	83	8-0	1.000	323	103	5-0	3-0 W14
South Dakota St.	3-2	.600	154	131	5-2	.714	289	151	4-0	1-2 W1
Northern Iowa	3-2	.600	147	130	4-4	.500	228	194	2-1	2-3 L1
Western Illinois	3-2	.600	136	136	4-4	.500	204	223	3-1	1-3 W2
Illinois State	2-3	.400	147	109	5-3	.625	276	138	4-1	1-2 L2
Indiana State	2-3	.400	144	154	4-4	.500	255	226	1-2	3-2 W2
Missouri State	2-3	.400	130	162	4-4	.500	239	252	3-2	1-2 L2
South Dakota	2-3	.400	125	182	3-5	.375	202	264	2-2	1-3 L3
Youngstown State	2-3	.400	108	155	3-5	.375	188	237	3-2	0-3 L1
Southern Illinois	1-4	.200	111	158	2-6	.250	245	292	0-3	2-3 W1

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Oct. 27

#7 South Dakota State 38, #9 Illinois State 28
Indiana State 43, Youngstown State 17
Southern Illinois 49, Missouri State 35
#1 North Dakota State 59, South Dakota 14
Western Illinois 37, #17 UNI 17

Saturday, Nov. 3

#13 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 #7 S. Dakota State, 2 pm CT
Brookings, S.D. • Midco / ESPN+
Youngstown St. at #1 N. Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT
Fargo, N.D. • ESPN+ / NBC ND
Western Illinois at Southern Illinois, 1 pm CT
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN3

Saturday, Nov. 10

Illinois State at Indiana State, 12 pm CT
Terre Haute, Ind. • ESPN3
North Dakota State at Missouri State, 2 pm CT
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+
UNI at Youngstown State, 11 am CT
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN3
Western Illinois at South Dakota, 1 pm CT
Vermillion, S.D. • Midco SN / ESPN+
S. Dakota State at Southern Illinois, 1 pm CT
Carbondale, 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

The league slate heads into November, and only three regular-season weekends remain. The MVFC will take its TV cameras to Carbondale, Ill., for the Western Illinois-Southern Illinois contest (ESPN3). Lane Grindle, Adam Seidel and Kelly Burke will call the action from Saluki 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 14 games. The 14-game streak is tied for the second-longest in MVFC history. The Bison, meanwhile, own the league's three longest win streaks of all time (33, 14, 14).

FCS Active Win Streaks

14	North Dakota State
12	Colgate
10	Dartmouth
7	Kennesaw State
7	Princeton

MVFC All-Time Win Streaks (includes playoffs):

33	North Dakota State (2012-14)
14	North Dakota State (2017-current)
	North Dakota State (2015-16)
13	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

QB Matt DeSomer, Southern Illinois Sr., 6-0, 215, Lowell, Ind. (Andrean)

DeSomer rallied Southern Illinois with four-unanswered touchdowns in a 49-35 win over Missouri State. He completed 19-of-24 passes for 206 yards, 3 touchdowns and no interceptions. He also ran the ball 14 times for 92 yards. The rally started with a game-tying score at the end of the first half, when DeSomer engineered an 11-play 75-yard TD drive, culminating in a 4-yard touchdown pass to TE Nigel Kilby with 11 seconds left. SIU had no timeouts remaining on the game-tying drive.

Defense

LB Jonas Griffith, Indiana State

Jr., 6-4, 244, Louisville, Ky. (Acad. of Shawnee)

Griffith recorded a game high 14 tackles, including 11 solo stops Saturday against Youngstown State. No matter if the Penguins ran or passed, Griffith seemed to be in the play defensively. He picked up an important sack in the fourth quarter when the Penguins went for it on fourth down to put the ball back in ISU's hands. Griffith iced the game late in the fourth with an 80-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown – the first defensive score in his career.

Newcomer

QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State

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

Boyle racked up 419 yards of total offense in the Sycamore win while throwing for 325 yards and a trio of touchdowns on 17-of-28 through the air. He also added 68 yards on the ground while catching a pass for 26 yards from Jalil Kilpatrick in the second quarter. In total, Boyle finished with seven pass completions over 20 yards in the win, including a 60-yard bomb to Hendrix in the second quarter.

Special Teams

K Jerry Nunez, Indiana State

Jr., 5-11, 185, Naples, Fla. (Naples HS)

Nunez hit 3-of-4 field goals in the victory at Youngstown State. Trailing 7-0 to the Penguins, Nunez nailed a 41-yard field goal to put the Sycamores on the board, before adding a 30-yard field goal in the second. The Naples, Florida native pushed the Sycamore lead to 16-10 at halftime after splitting the uprights on a game-long 45-yard field goal with 48 second left in the first half. Nunez was also a perfect 4-for-4 on PAT attempts for the Trees.

Offensive Lineman

C Tanner Volson, North Dakota State

6-4, 306, Sr., Balfour, N.D. (Drake-Anamoose)

Volson had four knockdowns and did not allow a hurry or sack. He earned coaching grades of 100 percent on assignment and 83 percent technique as NDSU put up a season-high 560 yards of total offense. The Bison rushed for 384 yards and five touchdowns averaging 8.0 yards per carry, and the offensive line provided protection for quarterback Easton Stick's 176 yards passing and three TDs. The Bison held the ball for more than 13 minutes in the third quarter and had nearly 37 minutes in time of possession.

Magic Number = 1

North Dakota State can earn at least a share of the 2018 MVFC title and the league's automatic berth into the NCAA playoffs with a win this weekend against Youngstown State. The Bison hold a two-game advantage over three teams in the standings (UNI, SDSU and Western Illinois). NDSU would win the tiebreaker in the event it ties any of those three teams.

Title Town

Should North Dakota State earn this year's MVFC crown, it would mark a league-record eighth-straight Conference title (shared or outright), and that would be second-only to UNI's 16. The Panthers had a streak of seven-straight titles from 1990-96.

Total Titles	Last
UNI	16 2011
North Dakota State	7 2017
Southern Illinois	5 2009
Western Illinois	5 2002
Illinois State	3 2015
Eastern Illinois	2 1995
Missouri State	2 1990
Youngstown State	2 2006
South Dakota State	1 2016
Western Kentucky	1 2002

Still Perfect

North Dakota State (8-0), Colgate (7-0), Dartmouth (7-0) and Princeton (7-0) still have perfect records through Oct. 27. Dartmouth and Princeton play each other Nov. 3. There are also four unbeaten FBS teams.

FCS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

8-0	North Dakota State
7-0	Colgate, Dartmouth, Princeton

FBS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

8-0	Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame
7-0	UCF

Home Sweet Home

Two league schools are perfect at home this season: North Dakota State (5-0) and South Dakota State (4-0). A total of 30 FCS teams are unbeaten at home this year.

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 (20) has the current longest home win streak among FCS schools.

NCAA Leaders, Home Win Streaks

20 - San Diego (PFL)
14 - North Dakota State (MVFC)
13 - Kennesaw State (Big South)
11 - McNeese (Southland)
11 - Grambling (SWAC)
9 - Monmouth (Big South)
8 - South Dakota State (MVFC)
8 - Stony Brook (CAA)

5-0 League Start for NDSU

North Dakota State became the 25th team in league history to start an MVFC season with a 5-0 mark after the Bison defeated South Dakota on Oct. 27. 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 six times: Western Illinois (87-88), UNI (94-95-96), Western Illinois (97-98), Southern Illinois (03-04), North Dakota State (13-14) and North Dakota State (17-18). Twelve previous league teams have started MVFC play 6-0, and all of those teams won the title and qualified for the NCAA playoffs.

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
1994	*UNI was 6-0, won league
1997	*Western Illinois was 6-0, won league
1999	*Illinois State was 6-0, won league
2003	*UNI started 5-0, won league
	*Southern Illinois started 6-0, won league
2004	*Southern Illinois started 7-0, won league
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
2015	*Illinois State started 5-0, tied for title
2017	*North Dakota State started 5-0, won league
2018	North Dakota State is 5-0

**teams that went undefeated in league play*

Another 8-0 Start for NDSU

North Dakota State is the only in Missouri Valley Football Conference history to win its first eight 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 8-0 this season. Only nine teams in MVFC history have started a season 8-0 or better.

Winning in Conference

North Dakota State has won seven-straight league games, and that streak is the third-best active streak in the FCS. The seven-game streak is tied for 11th-best in MVFC history. NDSU established a league record with 18-straight MVFC wins (2012-14).

NCAA Leaders, Active Conference Win Streaks

24 - San Diego (PFL)
9 - Colgate (Patriot)
7 - North Dakota State (MVFC)
7 - Dartmouth (Ivy)
7 - Kennesaw State (Big South)

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

Just Stop It

Three league players average better than 10.0 tackles per game this year, including Indiana State's Jonas Griffith (12.1), UNI's Chris Kolarevic (10.8) and Indiana State's Katrell Moss (10.1). The trio rank among the Top 14 in the FCS. Two MVFC players, meanwhile, rank among the Top 7 among active players in the FCS with 300+ career tackles. With 306 career stops, SDSU's Christian Rozeboom is the active leader among juniors. He ranks 5th-highest overall.

FCS Leaders - Total Tackles Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	TPG
1. Dante Olson, Montana (Big Sky)	14.9
2. Zach Hall, Southeast Mo. St. (OVC)	13.4
3. Langston Tunson, Hou. Bapt (Southland)	12.7
4. Jonas Griffith, Indiana St. (MVFC)	12.1
5. Drew Snouffer, Valparaiso (PFL)	11.9
9. Chris Kolarevic, UNI (MVFC)	10.8
14. Katrell Moss, Indiana St. (MVFC)	10.1

FCS Active Leaders - Career Tackles

Rank, Team	TT
1. Dylan Weigel, ETSU	395
2. Gunnar Scholoto, Austin Peay	331
3. Drew Snouffer, Valparaiso	319
4. Troy Reeder, Delaware	307
5. Christian Rozeboom, South Dakota St.	306
6. Jack Ryan, Campbell	302
7. Armand Dellovade, Youngstown St.	301

Ranked vs. Ranked

Prior to games of Nov. 3, there have been 172 games in which two league teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of those 172 games, 43 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.

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 1997), Youngstown State is 2-5 against No. 1 teams. The Penguins beat NDSU in 2011 when the Bison were No. 1. That game (27-24) was in Fargo (Nov. 12).

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

Scoring on Defense

With four defensive scores, Southern Illinois is tied for second nationally. North Dakota State (3) and UNI (3) are just behind and are among 18 schools in the FCS with three or more defensive scores this year.

FCS Leaders - Defensive Scores

Rank, Team (Conf.)	TDs
1. Stony Brook (CAA)	6
2. Southern Illinois (MVFC)	4
2. James Madison (CAA)	4
2. Charleston Southern (Big South)	4
2. Houston Baptist (Southland)	4
6. (13 teams tied, including NDSU, UNI)	3

2018 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S3	S10	S17	S24	O1	O8	O15	O22	O29
Illinois State	20	19	18	15	9	14	12	7	9	13
Indiana St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	rv	rv	24	rv	rv	rv	--
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	12	18	18	22	21	22	rv	25	17	rv
S. Dakota	rv	23	22	rv	rv	rv	24	rv	--	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	7	7
S. Illinois	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
W. Illinois	rv	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)

2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Oct. 29)

Tough Schedules

Three MVFC teams rank in the Top 16 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. 4 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 39 in the Massey Ratings strength of schedule, including each of the top-five spots (UNI, Western Illinois, North Dakota State, South Dakota and South Dakota State).

Team (Conference, Cumulative Opposition)	Pct.
1. Cornell (Ivy League)	.692
2. Elon (CAA)	.620
3. Harvard (Ivy League)	.606
4. UNI (MVFC)	.590
10. Southern Illinois (MVFC)	.570
16. North Dakota State (MVFC)	.557

Strength of Schedule Ratings, Massey Ratings

1. UNI
2. Western Illinois
3. North Dakota State
4. South Dakota
5. South Dakota State
10. Illinois State
12. Southern Illinois
26. Missouri State
30. Youngstown State
39. Indiana State

Sticking It To 'Em

QB Easton Stick has surpassed 2,000 career rushing yards (2,191), which is second among active quarterbacks. SDSU's Taryn Christion has 1,319 rushing yards, which is seventh best. Stick is one of just three MVFC QBs to reach 2,000 career yards. He needs 86 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	2,526
2. Easton Stick, North Dakota State	2,191
3. Tyrie Adams, Western Carolina	1,782
4. Daniel Smith, Campbell	1,764
5. Noah Johnson, Alcorn	1,451
6. Troy Andersen, Montana State	1,399
7. Taryn Christion, South Dakota State	1,309

MVFC All-Time Rushing Yards by QB

2,276, DeAndre Smith, Missouri State, 1987-90
2,191, Easton Stick NDSU, 2015-present
 2,176, Tirrell Rennie, UNI, 2010-11
 1,880, Jeff Ryan, Youngstown State, 1998-01

3 Teams in Top 14

Although the league only has three ranked teams this week, all three are in the Top 14 of both polls. North Dakota State continues to have its unanimous stranglehold in both polls while South Dakota State and Illinois State are also ranked. UNI and Western Illinois are receiving votes.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Sagarin	Massey	HERO
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1
SDSU	7	7	3	4	5
ILS	14	13	4	12	15
UNI	rv	rv	5	11	21
WIU	rv	-	17	17	25

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin Rankings), and also ranks ahead of a two 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
2. CAA Football
3. Big Sky
4. Southern

Here's a look at this week's AFCA coaches top-25 poll, with other metrics denoted, including Sagarin ratings, Massey ratings, and Sagarin strength of schedule. Although not receiving votes in the coaches rankings, Western Illinois is rated high in the metrics (Sagarin: 17; Massey: 17; Sagarin SOS: 2).

AFCA Coaches Top-25 Poll

Team	Sagarin	Massey	SOS
1. North Dakota State	1	1	5
2. Kennesaw State	9	15	95
3. James Madison	2	2	49
4. Eastern Washington	7	7	24
5. Weber State	10	9	20
6. Elon	12	13	13
7. South Dakota State	3	4	12
8. Wofford	19	20	65
9. UC Davis	8	3	30
10. Jacksonville State	14	21	84
11. Colgate	13	10	101
12. McNeese	48	32	56
13. Illinois State	4	12	6
14. Princeton	6	6	110
15. Towson	20	14	46
16. Delaware	11	8	37
17. NC A&T	33	39	99
18. Stony Brook	18	16	40
19. Central Arkansas	25	27	72
20t. Dartmouth	16	5	83
20t. Nicholls	24	23	44
22. Sam Houston St.	38	42	76
23. East Tennessee St.	54	41	58
24. SE Missouri State	30	22	55
25. North Dakota	22	19	35
26. Maine	37	31	45
27. Idaho State	21	18	10
28. Chattanooga	35	37	66
29. UNI	5	11	1

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.

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

Oct. 29

Offense – QB Matt DeSomer, Southern Illinois
 Defense – LB Jonas Griffith, Indiana State
 Special Teams – K Jerry Nunez, Indiana State
 Newcomer – QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State
 Offensive Lineman – OC Tanner Volson, NDSU

* - denotes National Player of the Week



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (5-3, 2-3 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	L, 28-38	5-3, 2-3
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

Edgar Makes it Look Easy

Redshirt freshman Andrew Edgar has made the game look easy in his first season on the field for the Redbirds. Last week against No. 7 South Dakota State, the Chicago native set career highs in receptions (9), yards (202) and touchdowns (2) against the Jackrabbits. He caught a career-long 81 yard touchdown pass from Brady Davis on the first play from scrimmage and added his second touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The 200-plus yard receiving performance was the first for the Redbirds since 2015 and Edgar went over 100 yards for the second time this season. Through eight games, Edgar has caught 29 passes for 561 yards and four touchdowns for the Redbirds.

Flipping the Field

Special teams play is vital to a team's success, and thanks to some strong punting by JT Bohlken, the Redbirds have been successful in the punting game. The Jefferson City, Missouri, native has been impressive in his first full season as the team's primary punter, averaging 44.0 yards per punt. That mark leads Valley Football and is No. 8 in the FCS, and Bohlken also leads the league in punts over 50 yards (17) and punts downed inside the 20 yard line (16).

The Captain Takes Charge

An injury to starting quarterback Brady Davis just before halftime pushed senior captain Jake Kolbe into action to start the second half against South Dakota State. No stranger to playing in tough situations in his career, Kolbe inherited a 21-point deficit and did everything he could to get his team back into the game. The Naperville, Illinois, native completed 65 percent of his passes and threw for 183 yards and three touchdowns against the Jackrabbits in his most extensive action of the season.



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (4-4, 2-3 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	W, 43-17	4-4, 2-3
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

Turning the Corner

Coming off an 0-11 season a year ago, the Sycamores were picked to finish last in the Missouri Valley Football Conference with just one vote not assuming the worst in 2018. The Sycamores are now 4-4 on the season and have won a pair of MVFC games. The win at Youngstown State Saturday marked the first time that ISU has won two consecutive road Valley games since 2014 and the first time since 2016 that the Sycamores have won consecutive games.

Red Zone Success

One of the keys this season for the Sycamores has been their success when entering the red zone. ISU ranks 12th nationally and has scored in the red zone 29-of-32 times for a 91 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.

Right Place - Right Time

For the third time this season, safety Jamal Jones recovered a fumble on defense. The Carrollton, Texas, product ranks second in the nation and tops in the Missouri Valley Football Conference in fumble recoveries after scooping and running into Youngstown State territory during a win against the Penguins. Jones also recorded five solo stops and a pass breakup against the Penguins.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (4-4, 2-3 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	L, 35-49	4-4, 2-3
N3	*at #7 S. 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

Huslig Makes His Mark

Peyton Huslig accounted for 419 yards of total offense, including a career-high 404 passing yards, in last week's game against Southern Illinois. Both efforts rank No. 3 all-time in Bears' single-game history and were the best numbers by a Bears QB since A.J. Porter's 460 passing yards and 426 total offensive yards against Illinois State in 2003. Likewise, his four TD passes against the Salukis tie for the fifth-most ever in a game by a Bears' signal caller, and most since Brodie Lambert's five touchdown tosses against WIU in 2015. His 27 completions and 46 pass attempts in the SIU game also rank seventh and fifth, respectively, all-time on the MSU single-game list. The game was Huslig's fifth 200-yard passing game of the season and eighth of his 19-game career.

Zo on the Go

Sophomore wide receiver Lorenzo Thomas gathered in eight passes for 173 yards against Southern Illinois on Saturday – both career highs – and extended his streak of double-figure reception games to seven straight. Seven of his receptions against the Salukis went for first downs with catches of 44, 39, 32 and 17 yards among his many highlights on the day, averaging 21.6 yards per reception.

Drive for Five

The Bears, now 4-4 overall, head into the month of November looking for their fifth win of the season, a milestone that would be a first under fourth-year head coach Dave Steckel and MSU's first five-win season since 2013. Missouri State has three ranked foes on its November slate, including this week's game at South Dakota State and a date with top-ranked North Dakota state on Nov. 10 in the home finale.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (8-0, 5-0 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	W, 59-14	8-0, 5-0
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 Strike Quick in win at USD

North Dakota State needed just 21 offensive plays to open a 28-0 lead early in the second quarter and the Bison scored on 9 of 13 drives in last week's 59-14 win at South Dakota. Easton Stick passed for three first-half touchdowns and finished 12 of 19 for 176 yards while rushing seven times for 79 yards and two TDs in three quarters of play. Five of NDSU's scoring drives took four plays or less as the Bison ran eight offensive plays of 20-plus yards and put up a season-high 560 yards of total offense. Lance Dunn notched his ninth career 100-yard game and second of the season with 12 carries for 114 yards. Jabril Cox had five tackles, a sack, two tackles for loss and a 34-yard interception return all in the first quarter before finishing with a team-high nine tackles.

Stick Sets NDSU Passing Record

Easton Stick's three first-half touchdown passes at South Dakota set a new NDSU career record with 73 touchdown passes, topping the mark of 72 set by Brock Jensen from 2010-13. Stick moved into fifth place in MVFC history, immediately behind Youngstown State's Kurt Hess (4th at 75, 2010-13). With another five total touchdowns at USD, Stick has been responsible for 106 career TDs and is one shy of Jensen's NDSU-record 107 career TDs responsible for.

Flexing Muscle in Punting Game

North Dakota State's punt teams have been flipping the field in recent weeks. Return specialist Darrius Shepherd is the second-ranked punt returner in FCS with an average of 19.2 yards per return including a 38-yarder at South Dakota that would have been a 75-yard TD before a penalty. Shepherd had two returns for 103 yards two weeks ago against Illinois State. Meanwhile, punter Garret Wegner took advantage of all four opportunities last week at South Dakota averaging 50.2 yards per punt including 53- and 58-yard boots on his first two attempts. Wegner ranks 10th in FCS and is second in the league with a 43.7 punting average. He's averaged 44.3 yards over the past three weeks and NDSU has allowed zero punt return yards in that span.



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(4-4, 3-2 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	L, 17-37	4-4, 3-2
N3	*#13 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 Look to Close Strong

UNI is now 3-2 in Missouri Valley Conference play and tied for second in the standings with South Dakota State and Western Illinois. The Panthers still have tough tests on the slate in Illinois State, Youngstown State and Missouri State. Two of the three games are at home with the lone road game remaining at Youngstown State on Nov. 10.

First Red Zone Miscue

For the first time this season, the Panthers failed to score on a trip to the red zone. UNI is now 27-29 (.931 percent) which is still tops in the Missouri Valley Football Conference and seventh in the FCS.

Errthum Continues to Shine

UNI kicker Austin Errthum has the longest average, net and has kicked the most touchbacks of any kicker in the conference. He is also 10-13 on the season in field goals which is third in the Missouri Valley Conference.

First Meeting Since 2015

The Panthers meet the Illinois State for the first time since the 2015 season when the Panther fell to the Redbirds 21-13 in Normal.



SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(3-5, 2-3 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	L, 14-59	3-5, 2-3
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

Simmons is Yotes' First 100-Yard Rusher

In addition to leading the Valley in passing this season, quarterback Austin Simmons became the Coyotes' first 100-yard rusher. Running mainly quarterback draws and bolstered by a 62-yard touchdown run, Simmons ran for a game-high 115 yards against North Dakota State last weekend. He is the third player and first quarterback to rush for 100 yards against the Bison this season. Four of the Coyotes' seven longest runs in 2018 are from Simmons.

Cochrane, Reed Emerging on Defense

All-Valley performers Darin Greenfield and Andrew Gray have stolen most of the headlines defensively this season, but sophomore line-backer Jack Cochrane and sophomore safety Elijah Reed have stood out of late. Cochrane has compiled 23 tackles in his last two games and is tied for the team lead with Gray with 64. Reed, starting in place of an injured Phillip Powell, has posted double-digit tackles in back-to-back games, and is now fourth on the team in tackles.

Hot Indiana State Team Next

South Dakota looks to snap a three-game skid Saturday in Terre Haute, Indiana, against a team the Coyotes downed 56-6 last season. Indiana State is coming off its best win of the season, a 43-17 road win at Youngstown State, and is 4-4 on the year. USD beat Indiana State 33-30 in double overtime two years ago in Indiana and has won three in a row in the series.



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(5-2, 3-2 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	W, 38-28	5-2, 3-2
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

Second-Half Surges

SDSU has a long history of peaking in the second half of the league season since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2008. With their 38-28 victory Oct. 27 at Illinois State, the Jackrabbits have compiled a 32-9 record in the second half of the league schedule over the past 10-plus seasons, running the table with four wins in both 2013 and 2017 en route to Football Championship Subdivision playoff berths. SDSU has posted a 3-1 record in the second half seven other times, with its worst showing a 2-2 mark in 2010.

Johnson Hits Century Mark Again

Jackrabbit wide receiver Cade Johnson topped the 100-yard mark for receiving yards for the fourth time this season by catching eight passes for 131 yards and a touchdown in SDSU's 38-28 road win at Illinois State on Oct. 27. Johnson's touchdown covered 81 yards late in the second quarter, capping a 21-point outburst in a span of 3 minutes and 12 seconds that gave the Jackrabbits a 28-7 halftime lead. Johnson's touchdown was his MVFC-leading ninth of the season.

Defending the Run

The SDSU defense held an opponent to less than 100 rushing yards for the second time this season, limiting Illinois State to 81 yards on 29 carries (2.8 ypc) in their Oct. 27 matchup. The Jackrabbits shut down the Redbirds' running back tandem of James Robinson and Markel Smith, who managed only a combined 15 yards on 18 carries. SDSU held Montana State to 29 net yards on the ground on 23 attempts (1.3 ypc) in the Jackrabbits' Sept. 8 season opener.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(2-6, 1-4 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	W, 49-35	2-6, 1-4
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

Salukis on Record Pace

SIU's offense averages 25.6 first downs per game, which is on pace to break the school record of 24.8 first downs (2015). Southern recorded 70 first downs in Weeks 3-4. The 37 versus SEMO was a school record and the 33 versus South Dakota ranked fourth all-time.

Davis Leads MVFC in All-Purpose Yards

RB D.J. Davis is a prolific rusher, receiver and return man, who leads the league in All-Purpose yardage per game (149.6). He is fifth all-time at SIU with 3,798 career all-purpose yards (1,401 rushing, 697 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.

S Jeremy Chinn Fills at CB

S Jeremy Chinn (6-2, 211, Jr.) has started 25-straight games for the SIU — the longest active starting streak on the team. Last Saturday, he made his first-career start at cornerback, as the Salukis played the game without their top four corners. In the last 20 games, Chinn has six interceptions and six forced fumbles. A preseason All-MVFC pick, he is tied for second all-time at Southern in forced fumbles (6), trailing only Tyler Williamson (8, 2012-14).

Dawg Bites

- QB Matt DeSomer needs 123 yards to become just the second QB in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in his career. Joel Sambursky (2001-05) rushed for 1,100 yards. He has rushed for 100 yards 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 65 tackles, including 56 stops in the last six games. He had 11 as a freshman last year. Notree also has 5.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, and two interceptions.
- With 848 rushing yards this year, D.J. Davis has more yards on the ground than any SIU running back since Jewel Hampton had 1,121 yards in 2011.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (4-4, 3-2 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	W, 37-17	4-4, 3-2
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

Racked Up on Ranks

Western is in its third consecutive season with at least two wins over a ranked opponent. The Leathernecks have taken on four 'Top 25' teams this year and are 2-2 with wins over Montana and UNI

No. 15/16 Montana | W, 31-27 (WIU scored two TDs in the first 2:13 of the game and two in the final five minutes in the comeback win)

No. 14/15 Illinois State | L, 16-33 (Western held a 16-12 edge through the third quarter before allowing 21 unanswered points in the fourth)

No. 1 North Dakota State | L, 7-34 (NDSU scored half their points on takeaways)

No. 17/23 Northern Iowa | W, 37-17 (Max Norris and Isaiah LeSure recorded two touchdowns each; Norris on the ground and LeSure through the air)

Key to Success

All four Leatherneck victories this season have one common theme – they committed fewer turnovers than the opposition. Western is 4-0 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 323.9 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).

Swenson Stops

Pete Swenson leads the Missouri Valley Football Conference and ranks second in the nation with 16.0 tackles for loss. He notched a season-high 3.5 TFL at Illinois State and ranks eighth all-time in program history with 41 in his career. Swenson also ranks fifth in the Leathernecks' history books with 22.5 career sacks. He's gotten his hands on the opposing quarterback in all but one game this season.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (3-5, 2-3 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	L, 17-43	3-5, 2-3
N3	*at #1 N.Dakota State	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

McCaster Likes Home Cooking

Senior TB Tevin McCaster picked up his fifth 100-yard rushing performance of the season with a 165-yard effort against Indiana State. McCaster has rushed for more than 100 yards in each of the Penguins' five home games this season. He had 166 against Butler, 141 vs. Valparaiso, 116 vs. Southern Illinois and 176 vs. South Dakota besides his 165-yard performance last Saturday vs. Indiana State. In YSU's five home games, he has 764 yards on 140 carries and has scored five touchdowns.

Dellovade Reaches 300 Career Tackles

Senior LB Armand Dellovade recorded the 300th tackle of his career in the third quarter against Indiana State. Dellovade entered the game against Indiana State just eight tackles shy of 300 before finishing with nine stops against the Sycamores. He is just the 13th player to be credited with 300 tackles as a Penguin and the first since Jeremiah Wright finished with 308 from 2003-07. Dellovade is just seven tackles back of Wright for 12th place in YSU history.

Savon Applying Pressure

Senior DT Savon Smith has been playing some of the best football of his career as of late. In the past three games, he has 14 tackles, 6.5 TFLs and four sacks. He 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. This past week, he had two sacks against Indiana State.