



For Immediate Release
December 4, 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, Dec. 1)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
North Dakota St.	8-0	1.000	328	114	12-0	1.000	505	144	8-0	4-0	W18
South Dakota St.	6-2	.750	319	203	9-2	.818	505	229	7-0	2-2	W5
Indiana State	5-3	.625	238	238	7-4	.636	349	310	3-2	4-2	W5
Northern Iowa	5-3	.625	220	177	7-6	.538	333	277	5-1	2-5	L1
Western Illinois	4-4	.500	195	199	5-6	.455	263	286	3-2	2-4	L2
Illinois State	3-5	.375	221	191	6-5	.545	350	220	5-1	1-4	W1
South Dakota	3-5	.375	217	294	4-7	.364	294	376	3-2	1-5	L1
Youngstown State	3-5	.375	174	217	4-7	.364	254	299	4-2	0-5	L1
Missouri State	2-6	.250	144	306	4-7	.364	253	396	3-3	1-4	L5
Southern Illinois	1-7	.125	197	314	2-9	.182	331	448	0-5	2-4	L3

Playoff Results/Schedule

FIRST-ROUND GAMES - NOV. 24

Montana State 35, Incarnate Word 14
James Madison 20, Delaware 6
Duquesne 31, Towson 10
Wofford 19, Elon 7
Nicholls 49, San Diego 30
UNI 16, Lamar 13
Jacksonville State 34, ETSU 27
SE Missouri State 28, Stony Brook 14

SECOND-ROUND GAMES - DEC. 1

#1 North Dakota State 52, Montana State 10
#8 Colgate 23, James Madison 20
#5 South Dakota State 51, Duquesne 6
#4 Kennesaw State 13, Wofford 10
#3 Eastern Washington 42, Nicholls 21
#6 UC Davis 23, UNI 16
#7 Maine 55, Jacksonville State 27
#2 Weber State 48, Southeast Missouri State 23

indicates playoff seed

QUARTERFINAL GAMES - DEC. 7/8

(FRI.) - #7 Maine (9-3) at #2 Weber State (10-2)
at Ogden, Utah, 7 p.m. CT (ESPN2)

#8 Colgate (10-1) #1 North Dakota State (12-0)
at Fargo, N.D., 11 a.m. CT (ESPN)

#5 S. Dakota St. (9-2) at #4 Kennesaw St. (11-1)
at Kennesaw, Ga., 1 p.m. CT (ESPN3)

#6 UC Davis (10-2) at #3 E. Washington (10-2)
at Cheney, Wash., 3 p.m. CT (ESPN3)

indicates playoff seed

Playoff Tidbits

MVFC - vs. Other Leagues

Here's how the MVFC stacks up in play-off meetings against other FCS leagues:

vs. Mid-Eastern Athletic	4	0	1.000
vs. Big South	4	0	1.000
vs. Pioneer Football League	3	0	1.000
vs. Northeast Conference	2	0	1.000
vs. Southwestern Athletic	1	0	1.000
vs. Ohio Valley Conference	17	2	.895
vs. CAA Football	18	13	.581
vs. Southland Conference	11	8	.579
vs. Big Sky Conference	18	15	.545
vs. Independents	3	3	.500
vs. Intra-conference	10	10	.500
vs. Southern Conference	10	14	.417
vs. Patriot League	2	3	.400

TOTAL 103 68 .602

2018 Playoffs	Teams	W	L	Pct.
Big South	1	1	0	1.000
Patriot	1	1	0	1.000
Big Sky	4	4	1	.800
Missouri Valley	3	3	1	.750
Ohio Valley	2	2	2	.500
Northeast	1	1	1	.500
Southern	2	1	2	.333
CAA Football	6	2	5	.286
Southland	3	1	3	.250
Pioneer	1	0	1	.000

The Power 5

In the past eight+ playoffs (2010-18), five leagues (Big Sky, CAA Football, MVFC, Southern and Southland) have combined to win 157 of 188 total games. The MVFC has 55 of those wins (35 percent).

24th-Straight Year with Two+

In 2018, the league had two (or more) representatives in the FCS playoffs for the 24th-straight season:

2018 FCS Playoff Participation

Big Sky (4): Weber St. (9-2); Eastern Washington (9-2); Montana St. (7-4); UC Davis (9-2)
Big South (1): Kennesaw State (10-1)
CAA (6): Maine (8-3); Delaware (7-4); Elon (6-4); JMU (8-3); Stony Brook (7-4); Towson (7-4)
MVFC (3): North Dakota State (11-0); South Dakota State (8-2); UNI (6-5)
Northeast (1): Duquesne (8-3)
Ohio Valley (2): Jacksonville State (8-3); Southeast Missouri State (8-3)
Patriot League (1): Colgate (9-1)
Pioneer Football League (1): San Diego (9-2)
Southern (2): Wofford (8-3); ETSU (8-3)
Southland (3): Nicholls State (8-3); UIW (6-4); Lamar University (7-4)

Playoff Bids - MVFC History

The MVFC has had a league-record five teams selected to the playoffs three times (2014, 2015, 2017). In the past five seasons, the MVFC has had a total of 22 bids. CAA Football set a record this year with 6 bids in the same season (they had achieved 5 bids three previous times).

Playoff Selections - MVFC History

5 - 3x (2014, 2015, 2017)
4 - 2x (2003, 2016)
3 or more - 9x (03, 06, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
2 or more - 27 times (in 34 seasons)
2 or more playoff bids every year since 1995

Advancing to the Semifinals

Since the playoff bracket expanded to 20 teams in 2010 (3 years) and 24 in 2013 (5+ years), an MVFC team has reached the semifinals 10 times. Notably, only six leagues have had a semifinal team in the past eight tournaments (below). (Only 7 leagues have had a semifinal team since 2000, as Colgate represented the Patriot League in 2003.)

10 - MVFC (NDSU 7x, ILS 1, SDSU 1, YSU 1)
8 - CAA (JMU 2x, UNH 2x, Delaware 1, Towson 1, Villanova 1, Richmond 1)
5 - Big Sky (Eastern Washington 4x, Montana)
5 - Southland (Sam Houston State 5x)
3 - SoCon (Ga. Southern 3x)
1 - OVC (Jacksonville State)

2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Dec. 4)

vs. Non-Conference (20-13)

Home: 17-2 / Away: 3-11 / Neut: 0-0

NCAA FCS Teams (16-6)

Big Sky	6-4
Cal Poly	1-0
UC Davis.....	0-1
Montana	1-1
Montana State.....	2-1
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
Northeast.....	1-0
Duquesne	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
Southland	1-0
Lamar.....	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 (3-3)

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
 #23 Montana St. at NDSU, W, 52-10
 UNI at #7 UC Davis, L, 16-23

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

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

Dominance By Decade

The MVFC is 55-24 since 2010 in the playoffs -- better than any other league. Over the last four-plus years the MVFC has a 36-17 record in the playoffs, which includes seven intraconference games, meaning the league is 29-10 vs. other leagues in that span.

By Decade	*85-89	90-99	00-09	10-pres.	ALL
MVFC	6-6	18-16	24-22	55-24	103-68
Big Sky	8-11	23-20	24-21	23-24	90-81
Big South	0-0	0-0	0-1	11-12	11-13
CAA	2-8	16-23	47-29	39-35	108-101
MEAC	0-2	4-9	0-11	0-8	8-32
Northeast	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-9	2-9
Ohio Valley	6-9	7-16	1-14	9-16	33-61
Patriot	0-0	1-5	6-12	7-10	14-27
Pioneer	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-6	2-6
Southern	14-9	36-20	35-19	20-23	109-75
Southland	13-6	16-20	9-17	20-21	63-68
Great West	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-0	1-2
SWAC	0-6	0-6	0-0	0-0	0-18
Ind.	22-14	29-13	3-2	0-0	64-45

*does not include pre-MVFC seasons (1978-84)

Top-Rated Conference

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

Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

1. MISSOURI VALLEY

- CAA Football
- Big Sky
- Southern
- Ivy
- Ohio Valley
- Southland
- Big South
- Northeast
- Patriot

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. The two playoff matchups this year did not count toward the series.

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

In the Round of 16

Since the playoff bracket expanded to 20 teams in 2010 (3 years) and 24 in 2013 (6 years), the MVFC has had a minimum of two teams in the Round of 16 every year. Five MVFC teams made the Round of 16 in 2014.

5 - 2014
 4 - 2015, 2017
 3 - 2012, 2016, 2018
 2 - 2010, 2011, 2013

In the Round of 8

Since the playoff bracket expanded to 20 teams in 2010 (3 years) and 24 in 2013 (6 years), the MVFC has had a minimum of two teams in the quarterfinals seven times. Twice the league has had three quarterfinal teams (2015 and 2016).

3 - 2015, 2016
 2 - 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2018
 1 - 2010, 2013

Against Ranked FCS Teams

In non-league play, the league was 2-2 during the regular season against ranked FCS teams, 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 40-19 record against non-conference top-25 teams (counting the playoffs).

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	1-1	3-3	3

*represents league record in each category

Stick a Top 3 Finalist for Payton

North Dakota State QB Easton Stick was named on Monday, Dec. 3, as one of the top three finalists for the STATS FCS Walter Payton Award recognizing the Offensive Player of the Year in the Football Championship Subdivision. Stick joins Kennesaw State QB Chandler Burks and Samford QB Devlin Hodges as the top three vote-getters. The winner will be announced at the STATS FCS awards banquet Friday, Jan. 4, in Frisco.

MVFC TOP AWARD WINNERS (announced Nov. 21)

Bios include regular-season statistics only



OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

QB Easton Stick, North Dakota State, Sr.

Walter Payton Award nominee...Second in FCS history for wins as starting quarterback (45-3)...Leads MVFC and ranks second in FCS for passing efficiency (171.1), yards per attempt (9.69) and yards per completion (16.23)...Second in the conference for passing touchdowns (22) ranks third in rushing touchdowns (11)...Second among current MVFC quarterbacks for rushing yards (402)...Went 129-for-216 passing for 2,094 yards...Three-time MVFC Offensive Player of the Week...Sat out the fourth quarter in six lopsided victories...Broke North Dakota State career records for total yards (10,283), total touchdowns (117) and passing TDs (82)...Second in MVFC history for rushing yards (2,248) and touchdowns (35) by a quarterback...Two-time All-MVFC honorable mention.



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LB Jabril Cox, North Dakota State, So.

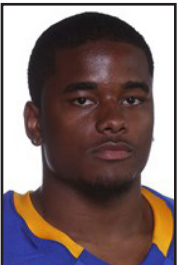
Buck Buchanan Award nominee...2017 MVFC Newcomer of the Year and Freshman of the Year...2017 All-MVFC second team...2017 HERO Sports Freshman All-American...Current North Dakota State co-leader with 68 total tackles including 42 solo stops...Has 8.0 tackles for loss, 4.0 sacks, 5 quarterback hurries, 4 interceptions and 3 pass breakups...INT return TDs in back-to-back games against North Alabama and Delaware...Fifth in FCS with 147 INT return yards...Has made 16 consecutive starts at linebacker...Career totals of 21.0 tackles for loss, 8.5 sacks and 11 passes defended in 26 games.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State, Jr.

Made debut in week three at EIU coming off an injury and started the next nine ... Finished the season with 1,627 yards passing on 128-of-205 attempts through the air for a 62.4 completion percentage to rank tops in the MVFC and 19th nationally ... Finished with 12 passing touchdowns and a 145.5 passer efficiency rating ... Finished second on the team with 610 yards rushing and six rushing touchdowns ... Rushed for a career high 187 yards and two touchdowns against South Dakota ... Finished with four total touchdowns against No. 3 South Dakota State (two passing, two rushing) in an overtime loss on the road ... Led the Sycamores to a program record 569 yards of total offense at SDSU ... Accounted for a school record seven total touchdowns (five passing, two rushing) in a triple overtime win against South Dakota ... Led the team to five-straight victories to close out the 2018 season to finish 7-4 overall and a third-place finish in the MVFC after an 0-11 season in 2017.



FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

RB Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State

Finished the regular season with a string of three consecutive 100-yard-plus games to take over team rushing lead with 777 yards ... earned MVFC Newcomer of the Week honors the final two weeks of the regular season after rushing for 188 yards and three touchdowns at Southern Illinois, followed by career-best 253 yards with three touchdowns against South Dakota ... averaging 11.6 yards per carry and all eight touchdown runs have covered at least 24 yards, including six of 40-plus yards ... also caught four passes for 84 yards and a touchdown



'BRUCE CRADDOCK' COACH OF THE YEAR

Curt Mallory, Indiana State

After an 0-11 season in 2017, Mallory completed the biggest turnaround in college football, leading the Sycamores to a 7-4 finish, a third-place finish in the Missouri Valley Football Conference and a national ranking. Coming into the year, Indiana State was picked to finish last in the MVFC with just one voter not picking the Sycamores to finish 10th. Two of the Sycamores three conference losses came by three points, including an overtime loss at No. 3 South Dakota State and a loss against Missouri State. The Sycamores are one of 18 FCS programs to win four road games this season, including three road games in a five-game winning streak to end the season.

2018 all-Missouri Valley Football Conference Team

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: QB Easton Stick, NDSU | **DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** LB Jabril Cox, NDSU
NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State | **FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:** RB Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State
'BRUCE CRADDOCK' VALLEY FOOTBALL COACH OF THE YEAR: Curt Mallory, Indiana State

FIRST TEAM

QB --	Taryn Christion, South Dakota State	6-2	225	Sr.	Sioux Falls (S.D.) Roosevelt High
	Easton Stick, North Dakota State	6-2	221	Sr.	Omaha (Neb.) Creighton Prep High
RB --	Ja'Quan Keys, Indiana State	5-10	220	Sr.	Hammond (La.) Perry Meridian High
	Tevin McCaster, Youngstown State	5-10	195	Sr.	New Castle (Pa.) High
	James Robinson, Illinois State	5-10	220	Jr.	Rockford (Ill.) Lutheran High
FB --	Clint Ratkovich, Western Illinois	6-1	210	So.	Crete (Ill.) Crete-Monee High
WR--	Cade Johnson, South Dakota State	5-10	180	So.	Papillion (Neb.) Bellevue West High
	Spencer Schnell, Illinois State	5-9	180	Sr.	Elkhart (Ind.) High / University of Ohio
	Darrius Shepherd, North Dakota State	5-11	188	Sr.	Blue Springs (Mo.) High
TE --	Briley Moore, Northern Iowa	6-3	242	Jr.	Blue Springs (Mo.) High
OL --	Zack Johnson, North Dakota State	6-6	316	Jr.	Blaine (Minn.) Spring Lake Park High
	Tiano Pupungatoa, South Dakota State	6-5	310	Sr.	River Falls (Wis.) High / U.S. Military Academic Preparatory School
	Cal Twait, Northern Iowa	6-5	305	Sr.	Manson (Iowa) Manson-Northwest Webster High
	Tanner Volson, North Dakota State	6-4	306	Sr.	Balfour (N.D.) Drake-Anamoose High
	Gavin Wiggins, Youngstown State	6-4	310	Sr.	Philadelphia (Pa.) Roman Catholic High
PK --	Austin Errthum, Northern Iowa	5-10	180	Sr.	Kalona (Iowa) Mid-Prairie High / Drake
LS --	Steven Wethli, Youngstown State	6-0	230	Sr.	New Castle (Pa.) High
DL --	Darin Greenfield, South Dakota	6-3	240	Jr.	Sheldon (Iowa) High
	Greg Menard, North Dakota State	6-2	240	Sr.	Lakeville (Minn.) North High
	Rickey Neal Jr., Northern Iowa	6-1	241	Sr.	Racine (Wis.) Horlick High
	Khalen Saunders, Western Illinois	6-2	310	Sr.	St. Louis (Mo.) Parkway Central High
LB --	Jabril Cox, North Dakota State	6-3	231	So.	Kansas City (Mo.) Raytown South High
	Jonas Griffith, Indiana State	6-4	220	So.	Louisville (Ky.) Academy of Shawnee
	Christian Rozeboom, South Dakota St.	6-2	230	Jr.	Sioux Center (Iowa) High
	Pete Swenson, Western Illinois	6-3	230	Sr.	Mason City (Iowa) Clear Lake High
DB--	Jordan Brown, South Dakota State	6-1	200	Sr.	Scottsdale (Ariz.) Paradise Valley High
	Jeremy Chinn, Southern Illinois	6-2	211	Jr.	Fishers (Ind.) High
	Robbie Grimsley, North Dakota State	6-0	194	Sr.	Hutchinson (Minn.) High
	Luther Kirk, Illinois State	6-2	195	Jr.	Garland (Texas) High
	Xavior Williams, Northern Iowa	5-11	175	So.	Burlington (Iowa) Notre Dame High
P --	Garret Wegner, North Dakota State	6-0	191	So.	Lodi (Wis.) High
RS --	Darrius Shepherd, North Dakota State	5-11	188	Sr.	Blue Springs (Mo.) High

SECOND TEAM

QB --	Ryan Boyle, Indiana State	6-2	215	Jr.	Urbandale (Iowa) Downing Catholic High / University of Iowa
RB --	Bruce Anderson, North Dakota State	5-11	210	Sr.	Ruskin (Fla.) Newsome High
	D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois	5-8	168	Jr.	Pompano Beach (Fla.) American Heritage High
	Lance Dunn, North Dakota State	5-9	208	Sr.	Waterloo (Iowa) West High
FB --	Brock Robbins, North Dakota State	6-1	248	Jr.	Cavalier (N.D.) High
WR --	Dakarai Allen, South Dakota	6-1	185	Jr.	Largo (Fla.) High
	Raphael Leonard, Southern Illinois	6-2	193	Sr.	Starkville (Miss.) High / East Mississippi Community College
	Isaiah LeSure, Western Illinois	6-3	180	Sr.	Mount Horeb (Wis.) High
TE --	Ben Ellefson, North Dakota State	6-3	249	Jr.	Hawley (Minn.) High
OL --	Drew Himmelman, Illinois State	6-10	315	So.	Geneseo (Ill.) High
	Vitas Hryniewicz, Youngstown State	6-4	300	Sr.	Somerset (N.J.) Immaculata High
	Marquis Prophete, Missouri State	6-5	318	Sr.	Florissant (Mo.) McCluer North High
	Dillon Radunz, North Dakota State	6-6	299	So.	Becker (Minn.) High
	Wyatt Wozniak, Indiana State	6-3	290	Jr.	Cypress (Texas) Cypress Woods High
PK --	Jerry Nunez, Indiana State	5-11	185	Jr.	Naples (Fla.) High
LS --	Bradey Sorenson, South Dakota State	6-2	225	So.	Yankton (S.D.) High
DL --	Bryce Douglas, Northern Iowa	6-0	304	Sr.	Plainfield (Ill.) High
	Ryan Earith, South Dakota State	6-4	255	Jr.	Papillion (Neb.) Papillion-La Vista South High
	Anthony Knighton, Southern Illinois	6-4	253	So.	Fort Pierce (Fla.) Central High
	Savon Smith, Youngstown State	6-1	300	Sr.	Syracuse (N.Y.) Henninger High
LB --	Armand Dellovade, Youngstown State	6-0	215	Sr.	Imperial (Pa.) West Allegheny High
	Duncan Ferch, Northern Iowa	6-1	234	Sr.	State Center (Iowa) West Marshall High
	Quentin Moon, Western Illinois	6-2	232	Sr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Pike High
	Katrell Moss, Indiana State	5-11	220	Jr.	Indianapolis (Ind.) Warren Central High
DB --	Justin Fitzpatrick, Western Illinois	6-1	200	Sr.	O'Fallon (Mo.) Fort Zumwalt High
	Andrew Gray, South Dakota	6-2	215	Sr.	New Lenox (Ill.) Lincoln Way West High
	Rondell Green, Indiana State	6-0	180	Sr.	Bowling Green (Ky.) Warren Central High
	James Hendricks, North Dakota State	6-1	209	Jr.	Bemidji (Minn.) High
	Devin Taylor, Illinois State	6-1	200	So.	Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High
P --	Brady Hale, South Dakota State	6-3	210	Sr.	Yankton (S.D.) High
RS --	Steve McShane, Western Illinois	5-8	185	Sr.	Freeport (Ill.) High

Honorable Mention

ILS: LS Paul Monaco, P JT Bohlken, RS Christian Uphoff • **INS:** OL Isaiah Edwards, OL Tate Leavitt, WR Dante Hendrix • **MSU:** LB Angelo Garbutt, LB McNeece Egbim, TE Jordan Murray, WR Tyler Currie • **NDSU:** DB Jalen Allison, DL Derrek Tuszka, DL Cole Karcz, PK Cam Pedersen • **UNI:** RB Marcus Weymiller, OL Jackson Scott-Brown, TE Elias Nissen • **USD:** OL Cody Jennings, OL Mason Scheidegger, QB Austin Simmons • **SDSU:** FB Luke Sellers, OL Evan Greeneway, WR Adam Anderson • **SIU:** LB Bryce Notree, TE Nigel Kilby, WR Landon Lenoir • **WIU:** DB Xavier Rowe, QB Sean McGuire, RB Steve McShane • **YSU:** DB Chrispin Lee, DL Shereif Bynum, TE Miles Joiner



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For Immediate Release • Contact: Mike Kern • Nov. 27, 2018

Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Newcomer Team; Boyle Takes Newcomer Honor; Strong Jr. Tabbed Top Freshman

ST. LOUIS — QB Ryan Boyle of Indiana State has been named the Missouri Valley Football Conference Newcomer of the Year, and RB Pierre Strong Jr. of South Dakota State is the league's Freshman of the Year. They head a list of 26 student-athletes named to the 2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Newcomer Team. League coaches, sports information directors and a media panel selected the team.

Boyle, a transfer from Iowa, made debut in Week Three (at Eastern Illinois) after coming off an injury. He started the next nine games and finished the season with 1,627 yards passing on 128-of-205 attempts through the air for a 62.4 competition percentage to rank tops in the MVFC and 19th nationally. Boyle had 12 passing touchdowns and a 145.5 passer efficiency rating. He also was second on the team with 610 yards rushing and six rushing touchdowns. He led the Sycamores to a program record 569 yards of total offense at SDSU, and also accounted for a school record seven total TDs in a triple overtime win against South Dakota. The junior led the team to five-straight victories to close out the 2018 season to finish 7-4 overall and a third-place finish in the MVFC after an 0-11 season in 2017.

Strong Jr., a freshman from Little Rock, Ark., finished the regular season with a string of three consecutive 100-yard-plus games to take over team rushing lead with 777 yards. He earned MVFC Newcomer of the Week honors the final two weeks of the regular season after rushing for 188 yards and three touchdowns at Southern Illinois, followed by career-best 253 yards with three touchdowns against South Dakota. Most impressively, he averaged 11.6 yards per carry, while all eight touchdown runs have covered at least 24 yards, including six of 40-plus yards. Strong caught four passes for 84 yards and a TD, as well.

OFFENSE	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous Schools)
QB Ryan Boyle, Indiana State	6-2	215	Jr.	Urbandale (Iowa) Dowling Catholic / Iowa
WR John Brunner, Western Illinois	6-3	200	Jr.	Clearwater (Fla.) Ctrl. Catholic/Butler CC
WR/RS Je'Quan Burton, Southern Illinois	5-9	168	Fr.	Orlando (Fla.) Jones High
QB Brady Davis, Illinois State	6-4	210	Jr.	Columbus (Miss.) Starkville High / Memphis
WR Andrew Edgar, Illinois State	6-0	190	Fr.	Chicago (Ill.) St. Patrick High
OL Isaiah Edwards, Indiana State	6-7	365	Jr.	Katy (Texas) Cinco Ranch / Independence Community College
WR Dante Hendrix, Indiana State	6-3	180	Fr.	Florence (Ky.) Randall K. Cooper High
TE Miles Joiner, Youngstown State	6-4	250	Fr.	Dayton (Ohio) Butler High
OL Tate Leavitt, Indiana State	6-6	325	Sr.	Thornville (Ohio) Sheridan High / Kentucky
WR Deion McShane, Northern Iowa	5-9	155	Fr.	Freeport (Ill.) High
OL Gabe Megginson, Illinois State	6-5	315	Jr.	Jacksonville (Ill.) High / Illinois
TE Jordan Murray, Missouri State	6-4	225	Fr.	Lee's Summit (Mo.) North High
RB Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State	5-11	195	Fr.	Little Rock (Ark.) McClellan High
QB Montgomery VanGorder, Youngstown State	6-2	220	Sr.	Buford (Ga.) High / Notre Dame

DEFENSE	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous Schools)
LB Ray Anderson, Youngstown State	6-1	225	Fr.	Youngstown (Ohio) Cardinal Mooney High
DB Denzel Bonner, Indiana State	6-2	195	Jr.	Waynesboro (Mo.) East Mississippi CC
LB Luke Giegling, Southern Illinois	6-4	239	Fr.	St. Louis (Mo.) Vianney High
LB Chris Kolarevic, Northern Iowa	6-0	233	Fr.	Traverse City (Mich.) Saint Francis High
NT Krockett Krolikowski, South Dakota State	6-2	285	Fr.	Winner (S.D.) High
DE LaCale London, Western Illinois	6-5	280	Jr.	Peoria (Ill.) High / Iowa Central College
DL Matt McClellan, Missouri State	6-4	218	Jr.	Ferguson (Mo.) Francis Howell High / Kilgore (Texas) College
DE Romeo McKnight, Illinois State	6-5	250	So.	Crystal Lake (Ill.) Central High / Iowa
NT John Ridgeway, Illinois State	6-6	315	Fr.	Bloomington (Ill.) High
DB Brandon Snyder, South Dakota State	6-1	210	Gr.	Larchwood (Iowa) West Lyon High / Iowa
CB Cameron Tisdale, South Dakota	5-10	175	Fr.	Clearwater (Fla.) Largo High
DE Spencer Waegel, North Dakota State	6-5	258	Fr.	South Shore (S.D.) Watertown High

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

1994	Buck Phillips, CB, WIU
1995	Jason Cannon, WR, MSU
1996	Vince Bruno, LB, WIU
1997	Aaron Stecker, RB, WIU
1998	David Bowens, DL, WIU
1999	Charles Tharp, RB, WIU
2000	Teddy Sims, LB, SIU
2001	Julian Reese, QB, INS
2002	M. Abdulqaadir, RB, SIU
2003	Terrance Freeney, RB, UNI
2004	Brandon Jacobs, RB, SIU
2005	Marcus Mason, RB, YSU
2006	Darian Williams, RB, UNI
2007	Ferlando Williams, WR, YSU
2008	Brandon Summers, QB, YSU
2009	Antoine Wilkinson, LB, MSU
2010	Tirrell Rennie, QB, UNI
2011	Jewel Hampton, RB, SIU
2012	Sawyer Kollmorgen, QB, UNI
2013	Martin Ruiz, RB, YSU
2014	Tre Roberson, QB, ILS
2015	Aaron Bailey, QB, UNI
2016	Chris Streveler, QB, USD
2017	Jabril Cox, LB, NDSU
2018	Ryan Boyle, QB, INS

FRESHMEN OF THE YEAR

1999	Dusty Burk, QB, ILS
2000	Lee Russell, OLB, WIU
2001	Tom Petrie, QB, UNI
2002	Joel Sambursky, QB, SIU
2003	Justin Haddix, QB, WKU
2004	Eric Sanders, QB, UNI
2005	Tom Nelson, DB, ILS
2006	Brandin Jordan, LB, SIU
2007	Cody Kirby, QB, MSU
2008	Kamryn Keys, RB, YSU
2009	Matt Brown, QB, ILS
2010	Kurt Hess, QB, YSU
2011	Austin Sumner, QB, SDSU
2012	Sawyer Kollmorgen, QB, UNI
2013	Martin Ruiz, RB, YSU
2014	Jake Wieneke, WR, SDSU
2015	Andrew Van Ginkel, DE, USD
2016	Christian Rozeboom, LB, SDSU
2017	Jabril Cox, LB, NDSU
2018	Pierre Strong Jr., RB, SDSU



*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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • Nov. 28, 2018

Missouri Valley Football Conference Announces 2018 All-Academic Team

ST. LOUIS -- Thirty-six student-athletes, including 13 who earned first-team honors, highlight the 2018 all-Missouri Valley Football Conference all-academic team, announced by the league office today.

Nominees must be starters or important reserves; must have participated in at least 50 percent of his team's games and carry a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.20 (on a 4.0 scale). Nominees in graduate school must have a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or better both as an undergrad AND in graduate school.

Additionally, nominees must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at your institution and must have completed at least one calendar year at your institution. True freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible. Graduate students who are competing at a different institution than the one from which they earned their undergraduate degree are eligible even if they are in their first semester at the graduate institution.

League sports information directors voted on the team by designating 11 players for first-team honors and 11 players for second-team honors.

2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Academic Team

FIRST TEAM

Student-Athlete, School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	GPA	Major	Hometown/High School
S Jared Beshore, Missouri State	6-0	204	Sr.	3.82	Physical Education	Lamar (Mo.) High
QB Taryn Christion, S. Dakota St.	6-2	225	Sr.	3.61	Economics	Sioux Falls (S.D.) Roosevelt High
LB Jack Cochrane, South Dakota	6-3	220	So.	4.00	Political Science	Mount Vernon (Iowa) High
LB Dalton Cox, South Dakota St.	6-1	215	Sr.,	4.00	Econ./Entrepreneurial Studies	Aberdeen (S.D.) Roncalli High
TE Ben Ellefson, North Dakota St.	6-3	249	Jr.	3.941	Physical Ed./Sport Mgmt.	Hawley (Minn.) High
OL Wes Genant, South Dakota St.	6-4	300	Jr.	4.00	Biochemistry	Parkston (S.D.) High
OL Evan Greeneway, S. Dakota St.	6-7	290	Jr.,	3.75	Civil Engineering	Yankton (S.D.) High
C Jacob Marnin, Southern Illinois	6-1	303	Jr.	4.00	Criminology & Criminal Justice	Altoona (Iowa) Southeast Polk
DE Greg Menard, North Dakota St.	6-2	240	Sr.	3.846	Civil Engineering	Lakeville (Minn.) Lakeville North High
QB Easton Stick, North Dakota St.	6-2	221	Sr.	3.916	Sport Mgmt. (4.00 MBA)	Omaha (Neb.) Creighton Prep High
OL Cal Twait, UNI	6-5	305	Sr.	3.74	Physical Education	Manson (Iowa) Manson-NW Webster
RB Marcus Weymiller, UNI	5-10	204	Sr.	3.97	Public Administration – Human Resources	Waukon (Iowa) High
DE Kyle Williams, Western Illinois	6-4	265	So.	3.70	Medical Science (Chemistry)	Lebanon (Ind.) High

SECOND TEAM

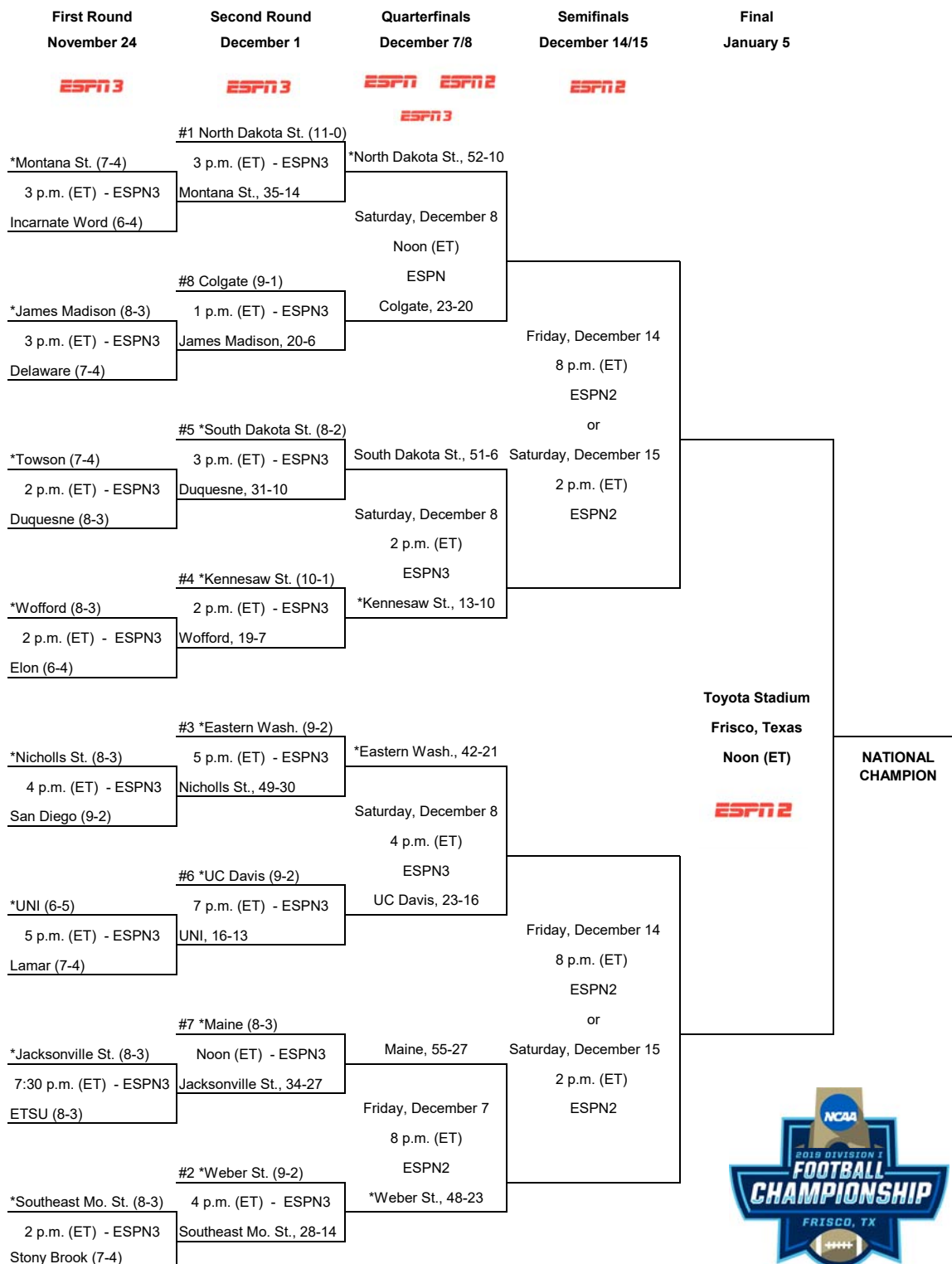
S Jeremy Chinn, Southern Illinois	6-2	211	Jr.	3.58	Exercise Science	Fishers (Ind.) High
LB Armand Dellovade, YSU	6-0	215	Sr.	3.62	Business Management	Imperial (Pa.) West Allegheny High
PK Austin Errthum, UNI	5-10	180	Sr.	3.64	Biology	Kalona (Iowa) Mid-Prairie High
LB Duncan Ferch, UNI	6-1	234	Sr.	3.43	History	State Center (Iowa) West Marshall HS
DB Justin Fitzpatrick, W. Illinois	6-1	200	Sr.	3.60	Sports Broadcasting	O'Fallon (Mo.) Fort Zumwalt North HS
SS Robbie Grimsley, N. Dakota St.	6-0	194	Sr.	3.510	Criminal Justice	Hutchinson (Minn.) High
OL Drew Himmelman, Illinois State	6-10	315	So.	3.81	Exercise Science	Geneseo (Ill.) High
QB Peyton Huslig, Missouri State	6-3	206	Jr.	3.82	Cell & Molecular Biology	Andover (Kan.) Andover Central High
DB Zach Muniz, Western Illinois	6-0	175	Sr.	4.00	Sports Management (Graduate Master of Science)	St. Louis (Mo.) Christian Brothers
FB Clint Ratkovich, Western Illinois	6-1	210	So.	3.70	Engineering Technology	Crete (Ill.) Crete-Monee High
WR/RS Darrius Shepherd, NDSU	5-11	188	Sr.	3.594	University Studies	Blue Springs (Mo.) High

HONORABLE MENTION

Illinois State: QB Jake Kolbe | **Indiana State:** TE Zach Larkin | **North Dakota State:** LB Dan Marlette; OC Tanner Volson; P Garret Wegner
South Dakota: DL Spencer Hopkins; P Brady Schutt | **South Dakota State:** DE Ryan Earith; DB/ST Lance Eide; LB/ST Preston Tetzlaff
Western Illinois: LB Quentin Moon | **Youngstown State:** C Vitas Hrynkiwicz



2018 NCAA Division I Football Championship



All games are available on



* Host Institution

All times are Eastern time. Information subject to change.

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Final Bracket

