



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

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## 2018 Valley Football Standings (thru Saturday, Sept. 22)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
Illinois State	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	129	29	2-0	1-0	W3
North Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	125	20	3-0	0-0	W9
South Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	2-0	1.000	135	20	2-0	0-0	W2
Indiana State	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	111	72	1-0	1-1	W1
Missouri State	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	109	90	2-0	0-1	W2
Northern Iowa	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	81	64	1-0	0-2	W1
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	77	82	1-0	0-2	L1
Southern Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	134	134	0-1	1-1	L2
Western Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	68	87	1-0	0-2	W1
Youngstown State	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	80	82	1-1	0-1	W1

## Schedule/Results

### Saturday, Sept. 22

#15 Illinois State 35, Colorado State 19  
#1 North Dakota State 38, Delaware 10  
#22 UNI 44, Hampton 0

### Thursday, Sept. 27

#21 UNI at Indiana State, 7 pm ET  
Terre Haute, Ind. • ESPN3

### Saturday, Sept. 29

#9 Illinois State at RV Missouri State, 2 pm CT  
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+  
RV South Dakota at Southern Illinois, 6 pm CT  
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN+  
#3 SDSU at #1 NDSU, 2:30 pm CT  
Fargo, N.D. • NBC ND / MidcoSN / ESPN+  
RV Youngstown at RV Western Illinois, 3 pm CT  
Macomb, 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](http://www.valley-football.org)



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## Headlines

### This Week in the MVFC

All 10 league teams are in action with five conference games on the slate, beginning with a rare Thursday night edition as Indiana State hosts UNI on Sept. 27 (ESPN3). All four games on Saturday are on ESPN+.

### Another FBS Win for the MVFC

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

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

### Dakota Marker Set for Saturday

NDSU and SDSU meet Saturday in the 15th annual Dakota Marker game, which was established in 2004 when the Bison and Jackrabbits began Division I competition. NDSU leads the series 8-6 but SDSU has won the last two meetings 19-17 two years ago in Fargo and 33-21 last year in Brookings. Post-season games are not included in the Dakota Marker series. The trophy is a 75-pound model replica of the original quartzite monuments that were 7 feet long and 10 inches square and placed at half-mile intervals along the border in the summers of 1891 and 1892.



### 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 Easton Stick, North Dakota State**

6-2, 221, Sr., Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)

Stick accounted for 321 yards of total offense and four touchdowns in North Dakota State's 38-10 homecoming win over Delaware. He went 17 of 26 passing for 280 yards and rushed five times for 41 yards and two TDs. The Bison put up 527 yards of offense against a Delaware team that came in ranked ninth nationally in total defense. Stick has been responsible for 91 career TDs at NDSU, and passed College Football Hall of Fame QB Jeff Bentrin for second place on that list.

### Defense

**DB Devin Taylor, Illinois State**

6-1, 200, So., Lansing, Michigan (Sexton HS)

Taylor and the Redbird secondary handled one of the most explosive passing offenses in the FBS, as the Redbirds came away with a 35-19 win over Colorado State Saturday. The Lansing, Michigan, native finished the day with eight tackles, six of which were solo stops, two pass break ups and the second interception of his career. Taylor intercepted a pass deep in ISU territory as CSU quarterback K.J. Carta-Samuels was attempting to find his receiver in the end zone to take points off the board. The interception was one of two for the Redbird secondary on the day, which held the Rams to just 257 yards in the air.

### Special Teams

**P JT Bohlken, Illinois State**

6-0, 210, So., Jefferson City, Mo. (Jeff City HS)

Bohlken kept the Rams at bay in a hard-fought 35-19 win. He averaged 51.4 yards per punt on 7 attempts, with a long of 60 yards on the day. On three different occasions, Bohlken pinned the Rams inside their own 20 yard line and had three touchbacks to flip the field in favor of the Redbirds in the victory.

### Newcomer

**WR Deion McShane, UNI**

5-9, 155, Fr., Freeport, Illinois (Freeport HS)

McShane had a breakout game from the slot receiver position. He had seven receptions for 117 yards and a touchdown in the win against Hampton. His long was a 36-yard reception in the first half. His 12-yard touchdown reception was a highlight-reel grab that he made between two defenders. The touchdown with 4:10 left in the third quarter, put UNI up 41-0 and was the last reception of the day for the Freshman. Deion's brother Steve won MVFC Special Teams Player of the Week last week.

### Offensive Lineman

**LT Dillon Radunz, North Dakota State**

6-6, 299, So., Becker, Minn. (Becker HS)

Radunz led a Bison offensive line that helped produce a season-high 527 yards of total offense in North Dakota State's 38-10 win over Delaware. He allowed zero sacks and was credited with two explosive blocks by the coaching staff with grades of 97 percent on assignment and 82 percent technique. NDSU rushed for 240 yards and provided protection for QB Easton Stick, who was 17-for-26 for 280 yards and two touchdowns.

## Open Season

All 10 league teams open MVFC action this week, in what is the 34th season of the Conference's existence. Youngstown State (9) and North Dakota State (7) have the longest active win streaks in MVFC season-opening games. YSU, in fact, is 18-3 all-time in its first league game each season after beating South Dakota State last year. Southern Illinois and Missouri State played in the league's first conference game on 9/7/85.

Team	Record	Home	Away	Streak
Illinois State	15-18	6-6	9-12	W1
Indiana State	11-21	9-9	2-12	L1
Missouri St.	14-19	6-11	8-8	L1
NDSU	7-3	3-0	4-3	W7
UNI	22-11	13-2	9-9	W2
South Dakota	1-5	0-2	1-3	W1
SDSU	4-6	3-3	1-3	L1
S. Illinois	16-17	11-7	5-10	L3
W. Illinois	17-16	11-6	6-10	L2
Youngstown St.	18-3	11-0	7-3	W9

## Two Teams in the Top 3

North Dakota State and South Dakota State have been ranked No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in each of this season's four top-25 polls. Not counting pre-season polls, prior to this year, the league has occupied two of the top three spots in the same week 18 additional times in MVFC history, including twice last season.

### MVFC Top-3 Teams, Same Week (2017 only)

10/2/17	N. Dakota State 2, South Dakota 3
Final '17	N. Dakota State 1, S. Dakota St. 3

## Against Ranked FCS Teams

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

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

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

\*represents league record in each category

## Still Perfect

Illinois State (3-0), North Dakota State (3-0) and South Dakota State (2-0) are joined by 11 other perfect teams in the FCS.

### FCS Unbeaten Teams (2018)

4-0	Chattanooga
3-0	Colgate, Illinois State, North Dakota State, Sacred Heart, Stetson, Western Carolina
2-0	Penn, Dartmouth, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, South Dakota St., Tenn. State

## Streaking

North Dakota State owns the nation's longest active winning streak in the FCS, at nine games.

### FCS Active Win Streaks

9	North Dakota State
8	Colgate
6	Penn

## Ranked vs. Ranked

Prior to games of Sept. 29, there have been 167 games in which two league teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of those 167 games, 40 times the meeting involved teams that were both ranked in the Top 10 at the same time. Nine meetings have occurred in the playoffs. Only twice previously have two Top 3 MVFC teams met.

### MVFC Meetings Between Two Top-3 Teams

10/29/11	#2 UNI at #3 NDSU	NDSU, 27-19
10/6/12	#3 YSU at #1 NDSU	NDSU, 48-7

## Winning Against No. 1

When North Dakota State knocked off top-ranked and previously unbeaten James Madison in last year's FCS title game, it marked the 17th time an MVFC member had recorded a win vs. the nation's No. 1 team (9 of those 17 wins were against a fellow league member). The last time NDSU played SDSU while as a No. 1 team, the Jackrabbits knocked off the Bison, 19-7 (2016).

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

# 2018 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Sept. 24)

## 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

## Jacks Lead the Nation

Bolstered by its performance against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, South Dakota State leads the nation (after its two games) in total offense, averaging 719.0 yards per game. Southern Illinois is No. 5 nationally.

### FCS Leaders - Total Offense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
<b>1 South Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>719.0</b>
2 Princeton (Ivy League)	577.5
3 Eastern Wash. (Big Sky)	570.8
4 Davidson (Pioneer)	558.0
<b>5 Southern Ill. (MVFC)</b>	<b>540.7</b>

## Best Defenses?

North Dakota State ranks No. 2 nationally in defense, yielding just 189.7 yards per game. The Bison are tied with Colgate for the national lead in scoring defense. Illinois State and South Dakota State also rank high in both defensive statistical categories.

### FCS Leaders - Fewest Yards Allowed/Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Dartmouth (Ivy League)	160.5
<b>2. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>189.7</b>
3. Jacksonville State (OVC)	191.0
4. James Madison (CAA)	194.0
5. Maine (CAA)	224.7
6. Norfolk State (MEAC)	236.0
7. Colgate (Patriot)	240.0
8. Sacred Heart (NEC)	241.3
9. Penn (Ivy League)	243.5
<b>10. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>251.5</b>
<b>11. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>259.0</b>

### FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
<b>1 North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Colgate (Patriot)	6.7
3 Dartmouth (Ivy League)	7.0
4 James Madison (CAA)	7.8
5 Princeton (Ivy League)	8.0
<b>6 Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>7 South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>10.0</b>

## Christion Sets MVFC Record

With 81 career TD passes, QB Taryn Christion of South Dakota State is the MVFC's career leader in TD passes, surpassing the 78 thrown by Illinois State's Matt Brown from 2009-12. He is also closing in on Brown for the all-time MVFC mark for total offense.

### MVFC Career Leaders, Total Offense

10,952, Matt Brown, Illinois State, 2009-12  
**10,347, Taryn Christion, SDSU, 2015-present**  
 9,838, Brock Jensen, NDSU, 2010-13  
 9,579, Eric Sanders, UNI, 2004-07  
 9,460, Kurt Hess, Youngstown State, 2010-13

### FCS Leaders - Active Total Offense Leaders

Rank, Player, Team	Yards
1. Devlin Hodges, Samford	12,552
2. Gage Gubrud, Eastern Wash.	10,681
<b>3. Taryn Christion, South Dakota St.</b>	<b>10,347</b>
4. Anthony Lawrence, San Diego	9,343
<b>5. Easton Stick, North Dakota St.</b>	<b>8,373</b>

### MVFC Leaders - Career TD Passes

**81, Taryn Christion, South Dakota St., 2015-pres.**  
 78, Matt Brown, Illinois State, 2009-12  
 77, Ryan Helming, UNI, 1997-00  
 75, Kurt Hess, Youngstown State, 2010-13  
 72, Brock Jensen, North Dakota State, 2010-13

## Kennedy Tops the FCS

Although he's only converted one try this year (on four attempts), Youngstown State's Zak Kennedy leads the FCS in career field goals made, with 47. Cam Pedersen of NDSU is 4th on the list with 39.

### FCS Leaders - Active Players, Career FGs Made

Rank, Player, Team	FG
<b>1. Zak Kennedy, Youngstown St.</b>	<b>47</b>
2. Marc Orozco, Grambling	45
3. Griffin Trau, Richmond	41
4. JJ Jerman, ETSU	39
<b>Cam Pedersen, North Dakota St.</b>	<b>39</b>

## 2018 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

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

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



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## Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series

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

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

## In the Red Zone

Three MVFC schools (Illinois State, Indiana State and UNI) have converted on every possession inside their opponent's Red Zone. Nationally, a total of 15 schools are perfect through games of Sept. 22. Conversely, North Dakota State (2nd) and Illinois State (6th) are among the national leaders in Red Zone defense, allowing their opponents to score just 50.0 percent and 57.1 percent on those opportunities.

### FCS Leaders - Red Zone Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Opp Pct.
1. Colgate (Patriot)	0.429
<b>2. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.500</b>
2. Alcorn (SWAC)	0.500
2. Princeton (Ivy League)	0.500
2. Jackson State (SWAC)	0.500
<b>6. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.571</b>
6. Stony Brook (CAA)	0.571
6. Sacred Heart (NEC)	0.571

## Home Cooking

MVFC schools were an impressive 14-2 at home in non-conference play. League schools have twice recorded perfect records at home in non-league games (2011 and 2014). Since 2009 (the past 10 seasons), league schools have posted a combined 161-20 record at home against non-league teams (which includes the playoffs).

### Best Non-Conference Home Records

24-0 (2014) - 1.000  
15-0 (2011) - 1.000  
20-1 (1999) - .952  
19-1 (1996) - .950  
17-1 (2012) - .944  
17-1 (2015) - .944  
16-1 (2017) - .941

## 3 Teams Ranked in Top 10

For the 70th time in MVFC history, three league teams are ranked in the Top 10 in the same poll as North Dakota State (1), South Dakota State (3) and Illinois State (9) represent the league. It happened 12 times last year (combo of six different MVFC teams).

MVFC Team	STATS	AFC
North Dakota State (3-0)	1	1
South Dakota State (2-0)	3	3
Illinois State (3-0)	9	10
UNI (1-2)	23	21
South Dakota (1-2)	RV	RV
Missouri State (2-1)	RV	-
Western Illinois (1-2)	RV	-
Youngstown State (1-2)	-	RV

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

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

- 1. MISSOURI VALLEY**
- CAA Football
- Big Sky
- Southern
- Ivy League
- Ohio Valley
- Southland

## What's the Rush?

Three MVFC backs are among the nation's top 8 in rushing yards per game. Youngstown State's Tevin McCaster leads the league (144.3) at No. 6 nationally. He's followed closely by D.J. Davis of Southern Illinois and Ja'Quan Keys of Indiana State.

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Josh Davis, Weber St. (Big Sky)	166.3
2. Ryan Fulse, Wagner (NEC)	165.0
3. Marquis Terry, SE Missouri State (OVC)	162.0
4. Ra'Quanne Dickens, Inc. Word (S'Land)	156.3
5. Dawonya Tucker, Prairie View (SWAC)	144.6
<b>6. Tevin McCaster, YSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>144.3</b>
<b>7. D.J. Davis, Southern Ill. (MVFC)</b>	<b>140.0</b>
<b>8. Ja'Quan Keys, Indiana St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>138.7</b>

## Preseason Poll, Revisited

Team (first-place votes)	Points	Last Year
1. North Dakota State (39).....	390	1st
2. South Dakota State .....	340	t2nd
3. UNI.....	270	t2nd
4. Youngstown State.....	258	t5th
5. Illinois State.....	248	t5th
6. South Dakota .....	206	t5th
7. Western Illinois.....	163	4th
8. Southern Illinois .....	139	t8th
9. Missouri State.....	90	t8th
10. Indiana State .....	41	10th

## 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

\* - denotes National Player of the Week



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (3-0, 0-0 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	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O6	*Western Illinois	NBCSCH/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O13	*Southern Illinois (HC)	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O20	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O27	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N3	*at UNI	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N10	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N17	*Youngstown State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Fear the Birds

Heading into Saturday's game at Colorado State, six other FCS teams had picked up wins over FBS opponents so far in 2018. With the hashtag #FearTheFCS at the ready, Illinois State improved that number to seven with a big 35-19 win over the Rams at Canvas Stadium. The victory was the second-straight for the Redbirds against a FBS foe, following a 9-7 win at Northwestern in 2016, and the third for the Redbirds since a 2012 win at Eastern Michigan. Overall, the victory was the sixth over a FBS for the Redbirds in program history, as ISU improved to 3-0.

### Robinson at the Ready

Heading into 2018, James Robinson was on many pre-season lists and was expected to be one of the better backs in the FCS. Through three games, he is proving he is just that as his dominant effort helped the Redbirds pick up a big win over Colorado State. The junior from Rockford, Illinois, averaged 8.4 yards per carry and totaled 184 on the ground with a pair of touchdowns. Also adding a first-down grab for 11 yards to show his versatility, Robinson finished the day with 195 all-purpose yards. The 100-plus yard effort was the second in a row for Robinson, who now has 382 yards rushing (8.3 per carry) and five touchdowns through three games for the Redbirds.

### Edgar Breaks Out

For the past two weeks, redshirt freshman Andrew Edgar has shown that he is someone to keep an eye on in the potent Redbird offense. The Chicago native recorded his first touchdown in a Redbird uniform and finished with 82 yards in a win over Eastern Illinois. He followed that up with his first career 100-plus yard receiving effort with 111 yards on five receptions in the 35-19 win over Colorado State. Through three games, Edgar is averaging 19.5 yards per catch and is second on the team with 215 receiving yards.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (2-1, 0-0 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	ESPN3	7:00 p.m. ET
O6	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	7:00 p.m. ET
O13	*Missouri State (HC)	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
O20	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O27	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
N3	*South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N10	*Illinois State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
N17	*at Western Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Coming Off the Bye Week

Indiana State opens Missouri Valley Football Conference action Thursday night at home following a bye week. The Sycamores welcome Northern Iowa to Memorial Stadium as Thursday's contest will serve as the MVFC Game of the Week. The Panthers have won three straight in the series and hold a 27-5 lead all-time.

### Ground and Pound

Indiana State made it clear from the start that running the football would be a major focus of the offense in 2018. So far this season the Sycamores have outgained its opponents 839 to 326 on the ground. Leading the charge in the backfield is senior running back Ja'Quan Keys with 414 yards on a 6.2 yards per carry average. The Perry Meridian High School product has six rushing touchdowns, including a four score, 232-yard performance at Eastern Illinois to cap off week three for the Sycamores. Freshman Christian Covington has added four rushing touchdowns and 138 yards on the ground while sophomore Titus McCoy has gone for 119 yards and a pair of scores in three games.

### In Good Company

Ja'Quan Keys finished off Indiana State's victory at Eastern Illinois with a career-high 234 yards rushing on 34 attempts, including four trips to the end zone. It was the sixth-highest single-game rushing total in program history. He has now eclipsed the 100-yard rushing mark in two of the last three games this season. Keys became the first Sycamore to eclipse the 200-yard rushing mark since Shakir Bell tallied 201 at Tennessee Tech in 2013. He is the first Sycamore to score three touchdowns in one half of football since LeMonte Booker did it in the first half of ISU's 2015 season opening victory over Butler. Keys is the first Sycamore to score four touchdowns in a game since Booker did it against Butler in 2015 and the first Sycamore to record four rushing touchdowns since Bell did it (in the first half) against Youngstown State in 2011.



## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (2-1, 0-0 MVFC)

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

\*MVFC game

### Punting With a Purpose

Missouri State enters the week ranked fourth nationally in net punting (43.43) and third in punt return defense (-0.83). Only Kenesaw State (45.6), Harvard (45.3) and Southeastern Louisiana (44.7) rank ahead of the Bears in net punting on the season, while Missouri State's standout punter Brendan Withrow ranks ninth nationally in punting average with 44.5 yards per attempt, including six of his 14 attempts downed inside the 20.

### 1978 Championship Team Honored

Noteworthy for Saturday's MSU home game against Illinois State is a reunion and recognition of the 1978 Bears football team. Coach Rich Johanningmeier's squad finished the 1978 season with an 8-3 record and MIAA conference title after a 6-0 run through the league. The Bears, who rushed for more than 3,000 yards on the season, clinched the conference title on the road with a 38-6 win at SEMO in the season finale.

### Limited Laundry

After ranking in the top 10 nationally last season in fewest penalties (7th) and fewest penalty yards (9th), the Bears have continued that trend into the 2018 campaign. Coach Dave Steckel's troops have committed just 5.0 penalties per game this year which ranks 18th nationally, while the Bears' 38.7 penalty yards per game ranks 16th.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (3-0, 0-0 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	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O6	*at UNI	NBC ND/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O13	*at Western Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*Illinois State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O27	*at South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*Youngstown State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N10	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N17	*Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Balanced Attack Overwhelms Delaware

North Dakota State scored 28 first-quarter points and put up a season-high 527 yards of total offense in a 38-10 homecoming victory over Delaware last week. Ten different Bison players caught passes led by Desmond Cain's four receptions for 89 yards and Darrius Shepherd's four catches for 77 yards. NDSU's defense recorded three interceptions and three sacks while limiting Delaware to just 152 yards of offense and one field goal.

### Bison Capitalizing on Turnovers

Sophomore linebacker Jabril Cox last week became the first NDSU player since Del Gehrett in 1967 to record an interception return for TD in back-to-back games. Cox went 43 yards for a score against North Alabama two weeks ago and last week went 36 yards on Delaware's first offensive play of the game to help lift the Bison to a 14-0 lead. NDSU is plus-4 in turnover margin and the Bison have scored 35 points off turnovers through three games.

### Stick Moves Up NDSU Career Chart

Senior QB Easton Stick, who had two rushing and two passing touchdowns last week against Delaware, passed College Football Hall of Fame quarterback Jeff Bentrin for second place all-time at NDSU with 91 career touchdowns responsible for. Stick has 28 career rushing TDs and ranks second at NDSU with 63 touchdown passes.

### NDSU, SDSU Longtime Rivals

This week is the 108th meeting between North Dakota State and South Dakota State dating back to 1903. It is the 14th most-played rivalry among the current Football Championship Subdivision membership. NDSU leads the series 60-42-5 including a 14-2 advantage in the Fargodome since 1993. The teams have met three times in the FCS playoffs, all in Fargo, with NDSU winning second round games in 2012 and 2014 and a quarterfinal game in 2016. SDSU is looking to win back-to-back games in the series for the first time since winning three straight from 2007 to 2009.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(1-2, 0-0 MVFC)

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

\*MVFC game

### Trevor Allen Bursts for Score

The 49-yard touchdown run by Trevor Allen against Hampton was the longest UNI touchdown run since Dec. 5, 2015, when the Panthers Tyvis Smith ran for a 59-yard score to cap off a 29-17 win over Portland State in the FCS Playoffs in Portland. Aaron Bailey also had a pair of touchdown runs over 60 yards in that game.

### Success Against the Trees

The Panthers travel to Indiana State Thursday to open up the MVFC season. UNI is 27-5 all-time against the Sycamores and won last year's contest 41-3 in Cedar Falls. ISU is 2-1 on the year and will be coming off of a bye week.

### Blankity Blank

The 44-0 result against Hampton marked the first UNI shutout since Nov. 14, 2015, at Missouri State. (41-0). It was the largest margin of victory since Nov. 7, 2015, vs. Indiana State (59-13). UNI notched 414 yards of total offense. The last time UNI tallied 400+ yards of offense was against Monmouth on Nov. 25, 2017 (520).

### McShane Stars in Hampton

Freshman Deion McShane notched 117 yards receiving and a touchdown and earned the league's Newcomer of the Week honor (He's the younger brother of Western's Steve McShane.) The last Panther to tally 100 yards receiving and a touchdown was Daurice Fountain against Monmouth on Nov. 25, 2017 (139 yds, 2 TDs).



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(1-2, 0-0 MVFC)

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

\*MVFC game

### Valley Play Begins vs. Southern Illinois

South Dakota opens Valley play against Southern Illinois Saturday in Carbondale. The two teams have met every year for the last four years and the home team has held serve. The Coyotes and Salukis have combined to pass for 1,800 yards and 14 touchdowns this season.

### Five 100-Yard Receivers

South Dakota is one of seven FCS teams with five 100-yard receivers, though the other six have all played in at least four games. Sophomore Levi Falck leads the team with 18 catches for 194 yards. Dakarai Allen (12-136), Randy Baker (10-105), Shamar Jackson (8-153) and Trystn Ducker (6-143) have also eclipsed 100 yards. The Coyotes also welcomed back sophomore Kody Case, who had six catches for 57 yards in his 2018 debut which came against Weber State.

### Defensively

The Coyotes racked up 11 sacks and 29 tackles-for-loss thru their first three games. All-American defensive end Darin Greenfield leads the team in both categories with three sacks and 5.5 TFL. Linebacker Alex Gray has two sacks and 4.5 TFL to go with a team-leading 25 tackles. He also has an interception and a fumble recovery.

### Nielson Stands 1 Win Shy of 200

South Dakota head coach Bob Nielson earned his 199th collegiate head coaching win against Northern Colorado and will get his second crack at No. 200 against Southern Illinois. When he reaches 200, Nielson will be the 17th active NCAA head coach at any level to reach the milestone. Nielson has 13 wins in two-plus seasons at South Dakota.





## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(2-0, 0-0 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	Midco/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O6	*Indiana State	Midco/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O13	*Youngstown State (HC)	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O20	*at UNI	ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O27	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
N3	*Missouri State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N10	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Christion Eyes Another Record

South Dakota State quarterback Taryn Christion will look to add another school record to his collection Saturday as he is within reach of the Jackrabbits' career passing yardage mark. A senior, Christion enters Saturday's game at North Dakota State with 9,166 career passing yards, 293 yards away from passing Austin Sumner (9,458 passing yards from 2011-14) for the all-time Jackrabbit lead. Christion also holds SDSU career marks for total offense (10,347 yards) and passing touchdowns (81). His passing touchdowns total also is a Missouri Valley Football Conference record.

### Takeaways Streak

The Jackrabbit defense has forced six turnovers (four interceptions, two fumble recoveries) through its first two games — two against Montana State and four versus Arkansas-Pine Bluff. That has extended SDSU's streak of recording at least one takeaway to 17 consecutive games, dating back to late in the 2016 season. In those 17 games, the Jackrabbits have come out on the plus side of turnover margin eight times and have been even with their opponent on four other occasions. The most turnovers SDSU has forced during its current streak is five, which came in their 33-21 victory over North Dakota State last season. SDSU has yet to turn the ball over this season in 128 offensive plays.

### 500 Club

SDSU has topped 500 yards of total offense in each of its first two games, marking the fifth year in a row the Jackrabbits have had back-to-back games with that type of prolific offense. The last time the Jackrabbits put together three consecutive games of 500-plus total yards was in 2016, when SDSU tallied 513 yards at Illinois State (Oct. 29), 548 yards versus Missouri State (Nov. 5) and 630 yards versus South Dakota (Nov. 12). In 2017, SDSU had four games of 500-plus yards, including back-to-back performances of 591 yards at Missouri State (Oct. 21) and 579 yards at Western Illinois (Oct. 28).



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(1-2, 0-0 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	ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O6	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
O13	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O20	*Indiana State (HC)	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O27	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N3	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N10	*South Dakota State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Saluki Offense is Rolling

SIU has scored 40 points in three-straight games for the first time since the 2009 season. The school record for consecutive 40-point games is four (in 1999 and 2002) and has never been done four-straight times to start a season. SIU had 1,176 yards of total offense in the last two games combined. SIU has scored on 11 of its last 14 first-half possessions (8 TDs, 3 FGs), dating back to the Murray State game.

### Straub Hits 300 Yards, Again

QB Sam Straub has passed for more than 300 yards twice this season. He now has seven 300-yard passing games in his career — a school record.

### Leonard a Favorite Target

WR Raphael Leonard has posted back-to-back career highs in receiving yards with 117 against Ole Miss and 124 versus SEMO. He has four TDs in the last two games.

### Spreading the Wealth

Eleven different players have scored touchdowns for SIU this season, including three players on defense.





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

A30	at Montana State	L, 23-26	0-1, 0-0
S8	at Illinois	L, 14-34	0-2, 0-0
S15	#15 Montana	W, 31-27	1-2, 0-0
S29	*Youngstown State [HC]	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O6	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O13	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O20	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O27	*UNI	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N3	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.
N10	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N17	*Indiana State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### We Did it First

WIU has scored first in all three of its games this season – each score was a touchdown in the first quarter. Montana State – A three-yard rush by Steve McShane on Western's second drive; Illinois – A 20-yard pass from Sean McGuire to George Wahee on the very first drive of the game; Montana – A 71-yard pass from McGuire to John Brunner on the second play of the game

### Close Calls

Two of Western's three matchups this season have been decided by less than a TD and both were determined in the fourth quarter. A 35-yard field goal in the final five minutes lifted Montana State to a 26-23 victory in the Leathernecks' season opener, and in the team's home debut versus Montana, Steve McShane scored back-to-back touchdowns in the final six minutes of the 31-27 WIU win. Western is 60-46 all-time in games decided by a touchdown or less.

### Momma, There Goes That Man

Running back and return specialist Steve McShane is on the bend of claiming a top 10 spot on the Leathernecks' career rushing yards and all-purpose lists. Brian Knuckles is 10th on the rushing list with 2,158 yards, and Nikko Watson owns the all-purpose spot with 2,954. McShane is currently managing, 1,853 and 2,935, respectively, and in a three-way tie for 10th all-time in career rushing touchdowns (16).

### McGuire & Milestones

Sean McGuire is closing in on Western's career marks in passing yards and touchdowns. He currently sits second all-time in the respective categories with 7,725 and 58, behind Paul Singer who played for Western from 1985-88. Singer sits atop WIU's all-time marks in passing yards (8,257), completions (678), attempts (1,231) and touchdowns (62).



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (1-2, 0-0 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	ESPN3	4:00 p.m. ET
O6	*Southern Illinois [HC]	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O13	*at South Dakota St.	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O20	*South Dakota	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O27	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
N3	*at North Dakota St.	ESPN+	3:30 p.m. ET
N10	*UNI	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET
N17	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### MVFC Games in September

This is the 19th conference game the Penguins have played in the month of September since joining the league in 1997. YSU is 14-4 in September MVFC conference tilts and has won seven of its last eight. Impressively, YSU is 10-0 at home in September in MVFC games.

### MVFC Opener Success

The Guins are 18-3 in MVFC openers since joining the league in 1997. YSU has won nine consecutive conference openers since a 40-7 loss at South Dakota State in 2008. Of the 21 league openers, the Guins are a perfect 11-0 at home while going 7-3 on the road. In first road games of the MVFC slate, the Guins are 11-10 all-time. In MVFC openers YSU is 2-0 against Western Illinois.

### Spreading the Ball Around

The Penguins have had 12 different players catch passes. Leading the way is Zach Farrar, who has 11 catches for 173 yards, highlighted by a six-catch effort at West Virginia. In the opener vs. Butler, Samuel St. Surin caught five passes for 85 yards to lead the way while Kendric Mallory had four for 78 yards. Against Valparaiso, Darius Shackelford had three catches for 69 yards and a touchdown while Natavious Payne had two for 34 yards and a score. Ryan Emans had two catches against Butler while Jake Cummings had two grabs at WVU. Miles Joiner has touchdown receptions in the first two games while running backs Christian Turner and Tevin McCaster each have multiple receptions. Zach Torbert had a single catch against Butler while Jermiah Braswell caught one vs. Valparaiso.

### Kennedy Nearing Top Three

Senior PK Zak Kennedy ranks fourth in school history in points by a placekicker. Last season, he had 67 points. As a sophomore he scored 96 points, and as a freshman he had 91. This season, Kennedy could move into second place as he trails Brian Palmer by one for third place and Mark Griffith by 13 for second. He has made 47 FGs in his career and 127 extra points in his four years with the program. He has made his last 62 PAT kicks dating back to December 2016.