



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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## 2019 Valley Football Standings (thru Saturday, Oct. 26)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota State	4-0	1.000	128	33	8-0	1.000	297	88	4-0	3-0 W29
South Dakota State	3-1	.750	124	84	6-2	.750	264	132	4-1	2-1 L1
Illinois State	3-1	.750	76	65	6-2	.750	189	133	3-1	3-1 W3
Northern Iowa	3-1	.750	106	93	5-3	.625	196	171	4-0	1-3 W2
Southern Illinois	2-2	.500	100	87	4-4	.500	227	206	2-1	2-3 W2
South Dakota	2-2	.500	138	100	3-5	.375	235	260	1-3	2-2 L2
Youngstown State	1-3	.250	111	108	5-3	.625	289	182	4-1	0-2 W1
Indiana State	1-3	.250	50	114	3-5	.375	137	193	3-2	0-3 L2
Missouri State	1-3	.250	53	127	1-6	.143	106	257	0-3	1-3 L3
Western Illinois	0-4	.000	69	144	0-8	.000	137	269	0-4	0-4 L10

## Schedule/Results

### Saturday, Oct. 26

Youngstown State 59, Western Illinois 14  
#7 Illinois State 24, Indiana State 7  
#11 UNI 29, Missouri State 6  
#1 North Dakota St. 23, #3 South Dakota St. 16  
Southern Illinois 48, South Dakota 28

### Saturday, Nov. 2

RV Southern Illinois at Indiana State  
Terre Haute, Ind. • 1 p.m. ET [ESPN+]  
#9 UNI at #7 Illinois State  
Normal, Ill. • 12 p.m. CT [NBCSCH/ESPN+]  
South Dakota at Western Illinois  
Macomb, Ill. • 1 p.m. CT [ESPN+]  
#4 South Dakota State at Missouri State  
Springfield, MO • 2 p.m. CT [ESPN3]  
#1 North Dakota State at RV Youngstown State  
Youngstown, Ohio • 6 p.m. ET [ESPN+]

### Saturday, Nov. 9

Illinois State at South Dakota State, 2 pm CT  
Missouri State at Southern Illinois, 2 pm CT  
Youngstown State at South Dakota, 2 pm CT  
Western Illinois at North Dakota State, 2:30 pm CT  
Indiana State at UNI, 4 pm CT

## On the Air This Week

All five league games Saturday, Nov. 2, can be seen on either ESPN+ or ESPN3. The Conference will produce and air the North Dakota State at Youngstown State game on ESPN+ (6 pm ET). Lane Grindle, Danan Hughes and Kelly Burke call the action from Stambaugh Stadium.

## 150 MVFC Celebrates 35th & 150th

The 2019 season is an anniversary for the Missouri Valley Football Conference as it celebrates its 35th birthday this year (founded in 1985 as the Gateway Conference). The 2019 season also is an anniversary season for college football as it celebrates its 150th birthday. League schools will be donning a CFB150 patch on uniforms this year.

## • • 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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## News/Notes

### Bison on Another Run

North Dakota State has extended its current winning streak to an FCS-best 29 games. NDSU set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14.

### Active FCS Winning Streaks

#### 29 – North Dakota State

16 – Princeton  
8 – Dartmouth  
8 – James Madison

### Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

#### 33 – North Dakota State (2012-14)

#### 29 – North Dakota State (2017-present)

26 – James Madison (2016-17)  
24 – Penn (1992-95) / Montana (2001-02)

### Longest Active FCS Win Streaks (League Only)

33 – San Diego (PFL)  
15 – North Dakota State (MVFC)  
11 – Kennesaw State (Big South)  
10 – Princeton (Ivy)  
10 – Weber State (Big Sky)

### Panthers Extend Streak to 14

UNI has beaten Missouri State 14-straight times after defeating the Bears, 29-6 in Springfield on Oct. 26. It's the second-longest streak in league history.

### Active Winning Streaks, vs. MVFC Member

18 – Western Illinois vs. S. Illinois (1984-02)  
14 – UNI vs. Missouri State (2006-present)  
13 – Youngstown St. vs. Indiana St. (1996-2010)  
11 – UNI vs. Indiana State (1991-02)  
11 – UNI vs. Youngstown State (2001-12)  
10 – SDSU vs. South Dakota (2000-present)

## vs. Non-Conference (21-18)

Home: 15-6 / Away: 4-12 / Neut: 2-0

### NCAA FCS Teams (20-10)

Big Sky .....	6-4
UC Davis .....	1-0
Idaho State .....	1-0
Montana .....	0-1
Montana State .....	0-1
Northern Arizona .....	1-1
Northern Colorado .....	1-0
Southern Utah .....	2-0
Weber State .....	0-1
Big South .....	0-2
Kennesaw State .....	0-1
North Alabama .....	0-1
CAA Football .....	1-0
Delaware .....	1-0
Independents .....	1-0
North Dakota .....	1-0
Mid-Eastern Athletic .....	1-0
Howard .....	1-0
Northeast .....	3-0
Duquesne .....	1-0
Long Island .....	1-0
Robert Morris .....	1-0
Ohio Valley .....	4-2
Eastern Illinois .....	2-0
Eastern Kentucky .....	1-0
SE Missouri State .....	0-1
UT Martin .....	1-0
Tennessee Tech .....	0-1
Pioneer Football .....	3-1
Butler .....	1-0
Dayton .....	0-1
Drake .....	1-0
Morehead State .....	1-0
SoCon .....	1-0
Samford .....	1-0
Southland .....	0-1
Houston Baptist .....	0-1

### NCAA FBS Teams (1-8)

American .....	0-1
Tulane .....	0-1
Big Ten .....	0-1
Minnesota .....	0-1
Big 12 .....	0-3
Iowa State .....	0-1
Kansas .....	0-1
Oklahoma .....	0-1
Independents .....	1-0
UMass .....	1-0
Mid-American .....	0-1
Northern Illinois .....	0-1
Mountain West .....	0-1
Colorado State .....	0-1
Sun Belt .....	0-1
Arkansas State .....	0-1

## vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (2-5)

SIU at #17 SEMO (8/29), L, 44-26  
 #25 Montana at USD (8/31), L, 31-17  
 NDSU at #18 Delaware (9/14), W, 47-22  
 #10 Montana St. at WIU (9/14), L, 23-14  
 #4 UC Davis at NDSU (9/21), W, 27-16  
 #6 Kennesaw St. at MSU (9/21), L, 35-24  
 UNI at #5 Weber State (9/28), L, 29-17

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

UNI at #21 Iowa St. (8/31), L, 29-26 (3ot)  
 USD at #4 Oklahoma (9/7), L, 70-14

## Ranked vs. Ranked

There have been 178 games in which two MVFC teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of the previous 178 games, 47 times the meeting involved teams that were both ranked in the Top 10 at the same time. Ten meetings have occurred in the play-offs. The home team is 103-74, while the higher-ranked team is 113-65. One game (between Illinois State and North Dakota State in Frisco, Texas, on Jan. 10, 2015) was played at a neutral site. Last week, #1 North Dakota State beat #3 South Dakota State in what was just the fourth meeting between two MVFC schools ranked in the Top 3.

### MVFC -- Two Top-3 Teams vs. Each Other

10/29/11	#2 UNI at #3 NDSU	NDSU, 27-19
10/6/12	#3 YSU at #1 NDSU	NDSU, 48-7
9/29/18	#3 SDSU at #1 NDSU	NDSU, 21-17
10/26/19	#1 NDSU at #3 SDSU	NDSU, 23-16

## Winning Against No. 1

When North Dakota State knocked off top-ranked and previously unbeaten James Madison in the 2017 FCS title game, it marked the 17th time an MVFC member had recorded a win vs. the nation's top-rated team (nine of those 17 wins were against a fellow league member). Youngstown State is 2-6 as an MVFC member against No. 1-ranked teams, which includes a win against NDSU in 2011.

Year	Team	Opponent
1992	Eastern Illinois	UNI~
1993	Illinois State	Youngstown State
1997	UNI	Youngstown State~
1997	Youngstown St.	Villanova*
1998	Western Illinois	Youngstown State~
2002	Western Kentucky	McNeese State#
2005	Illinois State	Southern Illinois~
2005	Southern Illinois	Western Kentucky~
2005	UNI	New Hampshire*
2011	Youngstown St.	North Dakota State~
2011	North Dakota St.	Sam Houston State#
2012	Indiana State	North Dakota State~
2014	UNI	North Dakota State~
2014	Illinois State	New Hampshire*
2015	North Dakota St.	Jacksonville State#
2016	South Dakota St.	North Dakota State~
2017	North Dakota St.	James Madison#

\*denotes playoffs; #FCS Championship Game  
 ~denotes conference game

## Still Perfect

Just three FCS teams remain unbeaten in 2019. There are nine in the FBS.

### FCS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

<b>8-0</b>	<b>North Dakota State</b>
6-0	Dartmouth, Princeton

### FBS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

8-0	Clemson, Ohio State, Minnesota, LSU, Alabama, Penn State, SMU
6-0	Appalachian State, Baylor

## 4 MVFC Teams in Top 10

Two-time defending national champ North Dakota State headlines a list of four MVFC teams who appear in the Top 10 this week. Four MVFC teams have been in the Top 10 the same week 19 times in league history, including four times this season.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey	Sagarin
NDSU	1	1	1	1
SDSU	4	5	2	2
ILS	7	7	10	10
UNI	9	10	9	7
YSU	RV	RV	21	15
SIU	RV	RV	15	17
USD	--	--	47	23
INS	--	--	64	52
MSU	--	--	82	71
WIU	--	--	103	88

### Massey Rankings, Team Leaders (Top 10)

- 1. North Dakota State**
- 2. South Dakota State**
- James Madison
- Sacramento State
- Dartmouth
- Montana
- Weber State
- Princeton
- 9. UNI**
- 10. Illinois State**

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), and four MVFC schools are in the Top 10.

### Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

- 1. North Dakota State**
- 2. South Dakota State**
- James Madison (CAA)
- Montana (Big Sky)
- Sacramento State (Big Sky)
- Weber State (Big Sky)
- 7. UNI**
- Dartmouth (Ivy)
- Princeton (Ivy)
- 10. Illinois State**

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

- 1. MISSOURI VALLEY**
- Big Sky
- CAA Football
- Ivy
- Southland

## Tough Schedules

UNI's strength of schedule has been rated the second-toughest in the FCS.

### Strength of Schedule Ratings, Massey Ratings

- 2. UNI**
- 7. South Dakota State**
- 12. Southern Illinois**
- 14. Missouri State**
- 16. North Dakota State**
- 18. Illinois State**

## Players of the Week

### Offense & Newcomer

*WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois*  
5-10, 175, So., Rochester, Ill.  
(Rochester HS / Wyoming)

Cox led the Salukis to a 48-28 win at South Dakota with 193 yards of offense. On the team's second play from scrimmage, he took a jet sweep, barreled through a pair of tacklers at the line of scrimmage and raced 65 yards to the USD 10. It was the first of many big plays for the Wyoming transfer, who caught eight passes for 113 yards, rushed for 80 yards, and scored three touchdowns. He caught an 11-yard touchdown pass with nine seconds left before halftime to put Southern up, 34-7, and added a 33-yard catch for a TD to make it 41-14. Cox finished the scoring with a five-yard jet sweep for touchdown.

### Defense

*CB Josh Hayes, North Dakota State*  
5-11, 186, Jr., Lakeland, Fla. (Lake Gibson HS)

Hayes' first career interception came was a big one for North Dakota State in a 23-16 win at South Dakota State. On third-and-9, his leaping catch at the 15-yard line stopped SDSU with 4:56 left and kept the game tied at 16 and the Bison answered with a touchdown on the next drive. Hayes finished with six tackles – all solos – and also had a pass breakup.

### Special Teams

*PK Matthew Cook, UNI*  
5-11, 175, Fr., Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls)

Cook went 3-for-3 on field goals, including a game-opening 49-yarder in suspect weather to help UNI top Missouri State 29-6 Saturday in Springfield. In rainy conditions, he was a perfect 3-3 in field goals and 3-3 in PATs. He hit from 49 yards, 22 yards and 38 yards. He is now 12-14 on the year. He has three more made field goals than the second best kicker in the league. He also has the best percentage in the MVFC (85.7) and the longest made field goal in the league (50). He has made three field goals this season of 49 yards or longer.

### Offensive Line

*LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois State*  
6-10, 315, Jr., Geneseo, Illinois (Geneseo HS)

Steady rain and wind played havoc on the Illinois State and Indiana State game on Saturday, forcing the majority of the game to the ground. That seemed to play in the favor of the Redbirds, as the ISU running attack led by Drew Himmelman and the offensive line amassed 287 yards on the ground in a 24-7 victory over the Sycamores. Himmelman graded out at 92 percent and was instrumental in the success of James Robinson, who rushed for 180 yards and two scores on the ground in the adverse conditions. Overall, the Redbirds averaged 5.5 yards per carry on the ground and won the time of possession battle with 33:09.

## Home Sweet Home

North Dakota State and UNI are both 4-0 at home this season. NDSU (24) leads the FCS for current consecutive wins at home. Alabama's 31-game winning streak at home leads the FBS. UNI has a current 8-game home winning streak.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Home Win Streaks

#### 23 - North Dakota State (MVFC)

13 - Grambling State (SWAC)  
12 - Eastern Washington (Big Sky)

## Taking the Show on the Road

North Dakota State extended its FCS-leading road winning streak to eight games with its victory at South Dakota State on Oct. 26.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Road Win Streaks

#### 8 - North Dakota State (MVFC)

6 - Princeton (Ivy)  
4 - Dartmouth (Ivy)  
4 - James Madison (CAA)

## Back to Back, Jack

NDSU picked up its fourth win against a top-25 team in as many games as the Bison knocked off #10 Illinois State on Oct. 12, 2019. The Bison closed the 2018 season with four-straight wins against ranked foes (#23 Montana State, #7 Colgate, #5 South Dakota State and #3 Eastern Washington.)

During its current 29-game winning streak, NDSU has beaten 17 teams ranked in the Top 25 at the time of the game.

Here's a list of the last time each current MVFC school has beaten ranked teams in back-to-back games:

Illinois State	Oct. 21-28, 2017
Indiana State	Sept. 27-Oct. 4, 2014
Missouri State	Sept. 15-29, 2018
North Dakota State	Sept. 14-Oct. 12, 2019
UNI	Oct. 13-20, 2018
South Dakota	Sept. 30-Oct. 7, 2017
South Dakota State	Dec. 2-9, 2017
Southern Illinois	Oct. 5-12, 2013
Western Illinois	Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1998
Youngstown State	Dec. 10-17, 2016

## Against Ranked FCS Teams

The MVFC is 2-5 against non-conference Top-25 opponents so far this year, with North Dakota State earning both of the league's wins. The league has now had multiple wins against ranked non-conference FCS teams during the regular season 17 times in the league's 35-year history. Since 2014, league schools have combined for a 45-24 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	4-1	6-3	3
2019	2-5	—	—	—

\*represents league record in each category

## College GameDay at SDSU

College GameDay was at Brookings, S.D., for the Dakota Marker game between North Dakota State and South Dakota State on Oct. 26. It marked the ninth time the iconic ESPN show has traveled to an FCS site – the third time it has visited an MVFC school.

Nov. 16, 2002: Harvard at Penn  
Nov. 26, 2005: Southern vs. Grambling State  
Nov. 15, 2008: Hampton at Florida A&M  
Sept. 21, 2013: Delaware State at #1 NDSU  
Sept. 13, 2014: Incarnate Word at #1 NDSU  
Nov. 22, 2014: Yale at #14 Harvard  
Oct. 24, 2015: #11 Richmond at #4 James Madison  
Oct. 14, 2017: #11 Villanova at #1 James Madison  
Oct. 26, 2019: #1 NDSU at #3 SDSU

## 2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2	S9	S16	S23	S30	07	014	021	028
Illinois State	13	16	12	10	8	6	10	10	7	7
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv	rv	rv	—	—	—	—
Missouri St.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	18	11	10	8	7	13	10	14	11	9
S. Dakota	rv	—	—	—	—	—	—	rv	—	—
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
S. Illinois	—	—	rv	rv	rv	rv	—	—	rv	rv
W. Illinois	rv	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Youngstown	rv	rv	rv	21	20	17	17	18	rv	rv

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



## Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series



By virtue of a 5-0 sweep in games of Sept. 21, the MVFC captured its third-straight series win in the Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series. Eight of the 10 games in this year's series featured at least one

ranked team, and in two of the games both teams were ranked.

Ten MVFC-Big Sky matchups were on the slate this year, and the MVFC won this year's series, 6-4. Playoff results do not count toward the series.

The MVFC captured the series in both 2017 and 2018 by a 5-3 margin.

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.

Aug. 29 - Northern Arizona 37, Missouri State 23  
 Aug. 31 - #25 Montana 31, South Dakota 17  
 Sept. 7 - #11 UNI 34, Southern Utah 14  
 Sept. 14 - #10 Montana St. 23, Western Illinois 14  
 Sept. 21 - #8 UNI 13, Idaho State 6  
 Sept. 21 - #10 Illinois St. 40, Northern Arizona 27  
 Sept. 21 - South Dakota 14, Northern Colorado 6  
 Sept. 21 - #1 NDSU 27, #4 UC Davis 16  
 Sept. 21 - #3 SDSU 43, Southern Utah 7  
 Sept. 28 - #5 Weber State 29, #7 Northern Iowa 17



## MVFC in the NFL

There were a total of 26 student-athletes representing MVFC schools on NFL opening-day rosters. They include the following:

Ravens - Chris Board (North Dakota State)  
 Broncos - Davontae Harris (Illinois State),  
 Shelby Harris (Illinois State)  
 Chargers - Easton Stick (North Dakota State)  
 Colts - Reece Fountain (UNI), Joe Haeg (North Dakota State), Adam Vinatieri (South Dakota State)  
 Texans - B.J. Bello (Illinois State),  
 Dylan Cole (Missouri State)  
 Buccaneers - Mike Liedtke (Illinois State)  
 Cardinals - David Johnson (UNI)  
 Dolphins - Chase Allen (Southern Illinois)  
 Packers - Robert Tonyan (Indiana State),  
 Billy Turner (North Dakota State),  
 Darrius Shepherd (North Dakota State)  
 Titans - MyCole Pruitt (Southern Illinois)  
 Chiefs - Khalen Saunders (Western Illinois),  
 Xavier Williams (UNI)  
 Eagles - L.J. Fort (UNI), Dallas Goedert (South Dakota State), Carson Wentz (North Dakota State)  
 Jaguars - James O'Shaughnessy (Illinois State)  
 Jets - Tom Compton (South Dakota)  
 Raiders - Makinton Dorleant (UNI)  
 Cowboys - Lance Lenoir Jr. (Western Illinois)  
 Patriots - Derek Rivers (Youngstown State)

## MVFC in the XFL Draft



A total of 85 players were drafted from FCS programs, led by WR Rashard Davis from James Madison,

who was the first-overall selection in the XFL Draft. UNI's Elijah Campbell - taken fourth among DBs by the DC Defenders - headlines a list of 12 former MVFC players drafted by teams in the upstart league. The season begins Saturday, Feb. 9, 2020.

### Player, Pos., (Positional Draft Pick No.)

#### Dallas Renegades

C.J. Smith, CB, North Dakota State (open draft)

#### DC Defenders

Jameer Thurman, LB, Indiana State (44)

Elijah Campbell, CB, Northern Iowa (4)

Deion Holliman, WR, Missouri State (open draft)

#### New York Guardians

Nick DeLuca, LB, North Dakota State (39)

David Rivers, CB, Youngstown State (18)

#### St. Louis Battlehawks

Damoun Patterson, WR, Youngstown State (open)

Kellen Soulek, DT, South Dakota State (open)

#### Seattle Dragons

John Santiago, WR, South Dakota (58)

Tyson Graham, S, South Dakota (59)

#### Los Angeles Wildcats

Taryn Christion, QB, S. Dakota State (open draft)

Roman Tatum, CB, Southern Illinois (28)

## Great Start to a Career

Through the first eight games of his career, North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance ranks among the NCAA leaders in pass efficiency (4th with a 177.1 rating) and 'points responsible for' (15th with 17.3 points per game). He's the NCAA freshman leader in both categories. Former NDSU QB Easton Stick established the league single-season record with his 172.4 rating in 2018.

Nathan Mays of Youngstown State ranks second in the MVFC in pass efficiency and 10th nationally at 157.9.

### FCS Leaders - Pass Efficiency Rating

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
1. Reid Sinnett, San Diego (PFL)	187.4
2. Felix Harper, Alcorn (SWAC)	186.1
3. Kevin Davidson, Princeton (Ivy League)	185.9
<b>4. Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>177.1</b>
5. Aaron Winchester, Ctr. Conn. St. (NEC)	171.1

## More on NDSU's Lance

Trey Lance has thrown 151 career passes without an interception, one shy of the NDSU record 152 set by Easton Stick from the 2016 national quarterfinal win over South Dakota State through the seventh game of 2017 against Western Illinois. Lance passed Carson Wentz (143) and Brock Jensen (142 and 140) on the NDSU record list last week.

## 2019 Players of the Week

### Sept. 3

Offense - QB Trey Lance, North Dakota State  
 Defense - DL Kaleb Brewer, Indiana State  
 \*Special Teams - PK Matthew Cook, UNI  
 Newcomer - QB Trey Lance, North Dakota State  
 Offensive Lineman - RT Aron Johnson, SDSU

### Sept. 9

Offense - RB Javon Williams, Southern Illinois  
 Defense - LB Christian Rozeboom, South Dakota St.  
 Special Teams - PR/WR Jaxon Janke, SDSU  
 Newcomer - QB Will McElvain, UNI  
 Offensive Lineman - RG Zack Johnson, NDSU

### Sept. 16

Offense - QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota  
 Defense - DL Inoke Moala, Indiana State  
 Special Teams - K Griffin Crosa, North Dakota St.  
 Newcomer - CB Tre' Strong, Southern Illinois  
 Offensive Lineman - LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois St.

### Sept. 23

Offense - QB Brady Davis, Illinois State  
 Defense - DE Elerson Smith, UNI  
 Special Teams - PK Sam Fenlason, Illinois State  
 Newcomer - WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois  
 Offensive Lineman - LT Ernest Dye Jr., S. Illinois

### Sept. 30

Offense - TB Joe Alessi, Youngstown State  
 Defense - LB Chris Kolarevic, UNI  
 Special Teams - PR Jake Coates, Youngstown State  
 Newcomer - QB Will McElvain, UNI  
 Offensive Lineman - LG Jacob Zinni, Youngstown St.

### Oct. 6

Offense - QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota  
 Defense - DE Elerson Smith, UNI  
 \*Special Teams - P Brendan Withrow, Missouri St.  
 Newcomer - QB Trey Lance, North Dakota State  
 Offensive Lineman - RT Isaac Erbes, South Dakota

### Oct. 13

Offense - QB J'Bore Gibbs, South Dakota State  
 Defense - LB Clayton Glasco, Indiana State  
 Special Teams - P/K Garret Wegner, N. Dakota State  
 Newcomer - QB J'Bore Gibbs, South Dakota State  
 Offensive Lineman - C Karson Schoening, NDSU

### Oct. 20

Offense - WR Isaiah Weston, UNI  
 Defense - LB Chris Kolarevic, UNI  
 Special Teams - P Jack Colquhoun, Southern Illinois  
 Newcomer - RB Javon Williams, Southern Illinois  
 Offensive Lineman - RT Cordell Volson, NDSU

### Oct. 27

Offense - WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois  
 Defense - CB Josh Hayes, North Dakota State  
 Special Teams - PK Matthew Cook, UNI  
 Newcomer - WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois  
 Offensive Lineman - LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois St.

\* - denotes National Player of the Week

## Shutting Down the Pass

Led by Indiana State (4th, 158.5 ypg), three MVFC schools rank among the Top 10 in the FCS for fewest passing yards allowed per game. North Dakota State ranks 8th (168.5 ypg) and South Dakota State ranks 10th (171.4 ypg). Three other league schools rank among the Top 40 as well.

North Dakota State leads the nation in defensive pass efficiency (100.19 points).

### FCS Leaders - Fewest Passing Yards Allowed

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
1. Jacksonville (PFL)	136.3
2. Charleston Southern (Big South)	153.0
3. Western Carolina (SoCon)	156.6
<b>4. Indiana State (MVFC)</b>	<b>158.5</b>
5. Alabama State (SWAC)	159.0
6. ETSU (SoCon)	160.3
7. Duquesne (NEC)	164.6
<b>8. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>168.5</b>
9. Georgetown (Patriot)	170.1
<b>10. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>171.4</b>
<b>21. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>184.4</b>
<b>35. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>199.1</b>
<b>39. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>203.5</b>

## In the Red Zone

Illinois State leads the FCS in Red Zone defense, allowing opponents to convert their red-zone chances into points just 52.0 percent of the time. South Dakota State ranks 3rd in the FCS (62.5), while North Dakota State (18th, 70.6) and Youngstown State (22nd, 72.7) also rank in the Top 25

Illinois State is efficient on offense, too, ranking 9th in the FCS in red-zone conversions (91.7 percent success rate).

### FCS Leaders - Red Zone Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Pct.
<b>1. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>.520</b>
2. Bethune-Cookman (MEAC)	.606
<b>3. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>.625</b>
4. Sacramento State (Big Sky)	.630
5. Southern U. (SWAC)	.656
<b>18. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>.706</b>
<b>22. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>.727</b>

## What a Rush

North Dakota State leads the MVFC and ranks fourth in the FCS, averaging 292.6 yards per game on the ground. South Dakota State gains 234.8 per game to rank 13th in the FCS.

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Kennesaw St. (Big South)	369.5
2. Wofford (SoCon)	361.7
3. Davidson (PFL)	316.1
<b>4. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>292.6</b>
5. Furman (SoCon)	282.0

## Total Defense Leaders

Half of the league (5 schools) rank among the Top 18 in the FCS for fewest yards allowed per game. North Dakota State ranks third in the FCS (270.6). South Dakota State (10th, 304.4 ypg), UNI (13th, 319.4 ypg), Youngstown State (17th, 323.9 ypg) and Illinois State (18th, 324.0 ypg) top the MVFC.

Three league schools rank in the Top 10 in the FCS for fewest points allowed. North Dakota State leads the MVFC and ranks second nationally, surrendering just 11.0 points per game. South Dakota State (8th, 16.5 ppg) and Illinois State (9th, 16.6 ppg) also represent the MVFC in the Top 10.

### FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Kennesaw State (Big South)	259.0
2. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	270.0
<b>3. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>270.6</b>
4. James Madison (CAA)	289.9
5. Davidson (PFL)	291.3
<b>10. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>304.4</b>
<b>13. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>319.4</b>
<b>17. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>323.9</b>
<b>18. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>324.0</b>

### FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1. Dartmouth (Ivy League)	10.8
<b>2. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>11.0</b>
3. Kennesaw State (Big South)	14.3
4. Georgetown (Patriot)	14.4
5. Princeton (Ivy League)	14.8
6. James Madison (CAA)	16.1
7. New Hampshire (CAA)	16.1
<b>8. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>9. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>16.6</b>
10. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	17.3

## Weston Scores Again

UNI's Isaiah Weston had two more receiving touchdowns for the Panthers in their win at Missouri State. He is tied for 3rd in the FCS with 10 receiving TDs this year. He is the first Panther since Eddie Berlin in 2000 to score a TD in seven consecutive games.

Weston leads the FCS as he is averaging 26.75 yards per catch.

### FCS Leaders - Yards Per Reception

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPR
<b>1. Isaiah Weston, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>26.75</b>
2. Chris Blair, Alcorn (SWAC)	25.38
3. Earnest Edwards, Maine (CAA)	23.86
4. Jalen Kelsey, Campbell (Big South)	23.38
5. Kezio Snelling, Sacred Heart (NEC)	23.31

## Yet Another FBS Win

Thanks to SIU's 45-20 win at UMass on Sept. 7 the league has had at least one FBS win in each of the last 10 seasons. The MVFC has 46 FBS wins in its history.

## Paper or Plastic?

Four MVFC student-athletes rank among the top 11 in the FCS in sacks per game this year. Elerson Smith of UNI leads the MVFC and ranks 2nd nationally with 1.25 per game. Derrek Tuszka of North Dakota State (3rd at 1.21 per game); Justus Reed of Youngstown State (7th at 1.06 per game) and Romeo McKnight of Illinois State (11th at 0.88) also represent the league among the national FCS leaders.

Amazingly, six MVFC schools rank among the Top 17 in the FCS in team sacks. Illinois State ranks 2nd (4.13 per game) and Southern Illinois is 5th (3.50 per game) to lead the league. UNI (8th, 3.38 per game), Youngstown State (13th, 3.00 per game), South Dakota State (13th, 3.00 per game) and North Dakota State (17th, 2.88 per game) also represent the MVFC.

### FCS Leaders - Sacks

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Andre Walker, Houston Bapt. (Southland)	1.39
<b>2. Elerson Smith, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.25</b>
<b>3. Derrek Tuszka, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.21</b>
3. Keith Woetzel, Lehigh (Patriot)	1.21
5. Bryce Sterk, Montana St. (Big Sky)	1.19
5. George Obinna, Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	1.19
7. Eli Mencer, Albany (NY) (CAA)	1.06
<b>7. Justus Reed, Youngstown St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.06</b>
9. John Daka, James Madison (CAA)	1.00
10. Jerry Garner, Mississippi Val. (SWAC)	0.94
<b>11. Romeo McKnight, Illinois St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.88</b>
11. Maurice Jackson, Richmond (CAA)	0.88

### FCS Leaders - Sacks

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Harvard (Ivy League)	5.00
<b>2. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>4.13</b>
3. Sacramento State (Big Sky)	4.00
4. Sam Houston State (Southland)	3.78
<b>5. Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.50</b>
5. Bethune-Cookman (MEAC)	3.50
<b>8. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.38</b>
<b>13. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>13. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>17. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2.88</b>

## Among the NCAA Rush Leaders

Two MVFC runningbacks are among the FCS leaders in rushing yards per game. James Robinson of Illinois State is 6th (115.5 yards per game) and Pierre Strong of South Dakota State is 10th (109.5 yards per game). Robinson is tied for third in the FCS with 14 rushing TDs. Javon Williams Jr. of Southern Illinois ranks 10th with 11 rushing touchdowns for the Salukis.



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS**

(6-2, 3-1 MVFC)

A31	at Northern Illinois	L, 10-24	0-1, 0-0
S7	Morehead State	W, 42-14	1-1, 0-0
S14	at Eastern Illinois	W, 21-3	2-1, 0-0
S21	Northern Arizona	W, 40-27	3-1, 0-0
O5	*#1 North Dakota State	L, 3-37	3-2, 0-1
O12	*at Southern Illinois	W, 21-7	4-2, 1-1
O19	*at Western Illinois	W, 28-14	5-2, 2-1
O26	*Indiana State	W, 24-7	6-2, 3-1
N2	*#9 UNI	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*Missouri State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.

\*MVFC game

## 80 For Spack

Brock Spack's resume as the head coach at Illinois State includes four FCS playoff appearances, a MVFC Coach of the Year honor and a FCS Championship Game appearance. Thanks to his team's win over Indiana State, Spack was able to add another accolade with his 80th career win as the head coach at Illinois State. With a career record of 80-47 (.630), Spack is the second-winningest coach in program history and is just 6 wins away from tying Edwin Struck for the career wins record at ISU.

## Starting Fast

For the past several seasons, the Illinois State football team has been known as a second half team, pulling away from opponents late in contests to pick up wins. However, that trend seems to be reversed so far in 2019 as the Redbirds have outscored opponents 55-33 in the first quarter and 113-57 in the first half. The Redbirds are now 6-1 when they are tied or leading at the half and have outscored opponents 189-133 overall.

## Happy Homecoming

Welcoming back alumni for Homecoming each year is something every college football team looks forward to, however the Redbirds may enjoy it just a little bit more than others. Since 2009 when Brock Spack took over as head coach, the Redbirds are 9-2 in Homecoming contests. The 'Birds have won the last three in a row and are 51-41-6 overall on Homecoming dating back to 1916.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES**

(3-5, 1-3 MVFC)

A31	at Kansas	L, 17-24	0-1, 0-0
S7	Dayton	L, 35-42	0-2, 0-0
S14	Eastern Kentucky	W, 19-7	1-2, 0-0
S21	Eastern Illinois	W, 16-6	2-2, 0-0
O5	*at South Dakota	L, 0-38	2-3, 0-1
O12	*Western Illinois	W, 20-10	3-3, 1-1
O19	*#3 South Dakota State	L, 23-42	3-4, 1-2
O26	*at #7 Illinois State	L, 7-24	3-5, 1-3
N2	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N9	*at UNI	ESPN+	5:00 p.m. ET
N16	*Youngstown State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

## Series History With The Salukis

In what will mark the 57th meeting between the two programs on Saturday, both teams have won 28 meetings. The Sycamores evened the series history last season with a 24-21 win at Saluki Stadium, marking the fourth consecutive victory for the Sycamores on the road in the series. Indiana State has won five of the last seven meetings with the two losses coming at Memorial Stadium.

## Griffith Moving Toward Top 10

Louisville native Jonas Griffith finished Saturday with 12 stops from the linebacker position. With the performance, the redshirt senior moved into sole possession of 10th place in career tackles (350) in program history, passing Jameer Thurman (2013-16) and Terrance Miles (2000-03). Griffith is just nine tackles away from moving into 8th place on the list.

## Stopping the Air Attack

ISU secondary has been solid through eight games, allowing just 158.5 yards per game passing which ranks 4th in the country and tops in the MVFC. Starting cornerbacks Keawvis Cummings (8) and Mekhi Ware (4) have been superb breaking up passes while the defensive line and front seven have pressured opposing quarterbacks 17 times. Inoke Moala has six pass breakups from the defensive end position. In total, ISU defenders have been aggressive on pass break-ups, recording 35 on the season.

## Nunez Adds to Program Marks

Senior kicker Jerry Nunez etched his name in Sycamore history after breaking three program records this season. The Naples, Florida native secured the all-time scoring (221) as well as the all-time field goal (42) mark in a win over Eastern Illinois. Just a week earlier, Nunez set the ISU all-time PAT record – a record that had stood since 1985. Nunez has currently scored 242 points, kicked 48 field goals and 98 PAT's.





## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (1-6, 1-3 MVFC)

A29	at Northern Arizona	L, 23-37	0-1, 0-0
S14	at Tulane	L, 6-58	0-2, 0-0
S21	#6 Kennesaw State	L, 24-35	0-3, 0-0
O5	*at Western Illinois	W, 37-31 (3ot)	1-3, 1-0
O12	*South Dakota	L, 45-10	1-4, 1-1
O19	*at #1 North Dakota St.	L, 0-22	1-5, 1-2
O26	*#11 UNI	L, 6-29	1-6, 1-3
N2	*#4 South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N9	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Closing in on 1,000

Bears senior receiver Tyler Currie is on the verge of become Missouri State's 21st receiver to accumulate 1,000 receiving yards in his career. Currie, who has collected a pass in 15 consecutive games, has snagged 79 passes for 992 yards in his MSU career with seven touchdowns. Junior teammate Lorenzo Thomas is also closing in on 1,000 receiving yards, needing just 57 yards to reach the milestone with 75 catches in his 28-game career.

### Egbim Excels

Senior linebacker McNeece Egbim eclipsed 300 career tackles in last week's game against Northern Iowa, bringing down six Panther ball carriers to push his total to 305 stops. He is just seven tackles shy of jumping into the program's all-time top in career tackles and currently sits seventh on MSU's career chart for tackles for loss (26.0).

### November Run

Missouri State enters the final month of the 2019 season facing a four-game slate for the first time since 2014 and just the third time during the Bears' Division I era. MSU also played four November games in 2008. Ironically, the club record for November contests is five, done in both the 1940 and 1941 seasons.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (8-0, 4-0 MVFC)

A31	Butler (at Minneapolis)	W, 57-10	1-0, 0-0
S7	North Dakota	W, 38-7	2-0, 0-0
S14	at #18 Delaware	W, 47-22	3-0, 0-0
S21	#4 UC Davis	W, 27-16	4-0, 0-0
O5	*at #6 Illinois State	W, 37-3	5-0, 1-0
O12	*#10 UNI	W, 46-14	6-0, 2-0
O19	*Missouri State	W, 22-0	7-0, 3-0
O26	*at #3 South Dakota St.	W, 23-16	8-0, 4-0
N2	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
N9	*Western Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*at Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Bison Retain Dakota Marker

Adam Cofield's 71-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-inches with 2:32 left in the game lifted North Dakota State to a 23-16 victory over South Dakota State last week to claim the Dakota Marker trophy for the 10th time in 16 years. South Dakota native Derrek Tuszka recorded back-to-back sacks on SDSU's final drive to help seal the victory. NDSU had a 332-220 advantage in rushing yards led by Ty Brooks with nine carries for 97 yards including a 59-yard TD and Cofield's seven carries for 86. QB Trey Lance ran a career-high 18 times for 76 yards. Safety Michael Tutsie and linebacker Jabril Cox each had seven tackles to lead the Bison defense, which totaled four sacks and eight tackles for loss. Missouri Valley Football Conference Defensive Player of the Week Josh Hayes made his first career interception in the red zone to preserve a 16-16 tie late in the fourth quarter.

### Back-To-Back on the Road

North Dakota State is at Youngstown State this week and facing back-to-back road games in Missouri Valley Football Conference play for the 10th time in 12 years. The Bison have won both trips in six of nine previous occasions including four straight years after 2018 victories at Northern Iowa and Western Illinois. Illinois State in 2010 is the only team to deal NDSU a conference road loss (34-24) the week following a Bison road win (34-29 at Youngstown State). NDSU lost the front end of its two-game road stretches in 2008 and 2014 both at Northern Iowa.

### Big Play Bison

Nearly one out of five offensive plays for North Dakota State this season (19%) have been a chunk play of at least 10 yards rushing or 15 yards passing. NDSU has 101 chunk plays with 68 rushing and 33 passing. There have been 23 for touchdowns, including two of the three longest touchdown plays of the year last week at South Dakota State on Ty Brooks' 59-yard rush and Adam Cofield's 71-yard rush. Meanwhile, the Bison are allowing chunk plays at just a 12% rate.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

**(5-3, 3-1 MVFC)**

A31	at Iowa State	L, 26-29 (30T)	0-1, 0-0
S7	Southern Utah	W, 34-14	1-1, 0-0
S21	Idaho State	W, 13-6	2-1, 0-0
S28	at #5 Weber State	L, 17-29	2-2, 0-0
O5	*#17 Youngstown State	W, 21-14	3-2, 1-0
O12	*at #1 North Dakota St.	L, 14-46	3-3, 1-1
O19	*South Dakota	W, 42-27	4-3, 2-1
O26	*at Missouri State	W, 29-6	5-3, 3-1
N2	*at #7 Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*Indiana State	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
N16	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### One of the Best in the FCS

The UNI defense is proving to be one the best in the FCS. UNI is ninth in 13th in total defense, 22nd in scoring defense 9th in tackles for loss and 8th in sacks.

### Against the Bears Last Week

The Panthers held Missouri State to just 169 total yards, including just 16 yards rushing en route to the 29-6 win. Isaiah Weston kept up his outstanding play with 157 yards and two touchdowns. The Panther defense tallied five sacks and nine tackles for loss. Austin Evan tallied two fumble recoveries, both on special teams plays. He has two interceptions on the seasons for four total takeaways. (10/26)

### Weston Scores Again

Against Missouri State, Isaiah Weston became just the second Panther ever to score a touchdown in seven consecutive games. The only Panther to match the feat is UNI Hall of Famer Eddie Berlin who accomplished the feat in 2000. (10/26). Weston moved into the top-10 in single-season receiving TD record book with 10 on the year. He is now tied for eighth with Mike Furrey (1998, 1999) and Brian Baker (1999). (10/26)

### McElvain Notches 200 Yards

Against Missouri State, Will McElvain recorded his seventh 200-yard passing effort in eight games this season. He now has thrown for 1,759 yards with just two interceptions on the season. (10/26)



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

**(3-5, 2-2 MVFC)**

A31	#25 Montana	L, 17-31	0-1, 0-0
S7	at #4 Oklahoma	L, 14-70	0-2, 0-0
S14	Houston Baptist	L, 52-53	0-3, 0-0
S21	at Northern Colorado	W, 14-6	1-3, 0-0
O5	*Indiana State	W, 38-0	2-3, 1-0
O12	*at Missouri State	W, 45-10	3-3, 2-0
O19	*at #14 UNI	L, 27-42	3-4, 2-1
O26	*Southern Illinois	L, 28-48	3-5, 2-2
N2	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N9	*Youngstown State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at North Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Henry Has Career Day

South Dakota junior running back Kai Henry ran 18 times for a career-high 116 yards in Saturday's game at home against Southern Illinois. It was his second 100-yard rushing performance of the season and the fourth of his career. Henry leads the Coyotes with 464 yards on the ground with six scores.

### Case Returns

South Dakota redshirt sophomore Kody Case returned to the field Saturday in his first full game since an ankle injury back in week two. He didn't start, but was the Coyotes' second-leading receiver with three catches for 39 yards. Caleb Vander Esch had nine grabs for 85 yards and a touchdown. He has been USD's leading receiver in six consecutive games since Case's injury.

### Turnovers

South Dakota committed six turnovers in its loss at Northern Iowa two weeks ago and committed five turnovers this past weekend against the Salukis. The Coyotes committed just 10 turnovers in their first six games of the year. Southern Illinois' offense cashed in on four of those turnovers for touchdowns.

### Leathernecks Next

South Dakota travels to Hanson Field in Macomb to take on Western Illinois Saturday. The Coyotes have won the last two meetings including a 38-33 thriller in Macomb back in 2017. South Dakota notched a 17-12 win inside the DakotaDome last season.





## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. **JACKRABBITS** (6-2, 3-1 MVFC)

A29	at Minnesota	L, 21-28	0-1, 0-0
S7	Long Island	W, 38-3	1-1, 0-0
S14	Drake	W, 38-10	2-1, 0-0
S21	Southern Utah	W, 43-7	3-1, 0-0
O5	*Southern Illinois	W, 28-10	4-1, 1-0
O12	*at #17 Youngstown St.	W, 38-28	5-1, 2-0
O19	*at Indiana State	W, 42-23	6-1, 3-0
O26	*#1 North Dakota State	L, 16-23	6-2, 3-1
N2	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N9	*Illinois State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*at South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Strong Closing in on 1,000

South Dakota State RB Pierre Strong Jr. is closing in on his second consecutive 1,000-yard season. The sophomore from Little Rock, Ark., enters Saturday's game at Missouri State with 876 rushing yards for an average of 109.5 yards per game. Strong has topped the 100-yard mark four times this season, including back-to-back games against Indiana State (144 yards) and North Dakota State (120 yards), and nine times during his career. After gaining 1,116 yards en route to being named MVFC Freshman of the Year in 2018, Strong would become only the seventh player in SDSU history to rush for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons. The last to do it was Zach Zenger, who hit the 2,000-yard mark in three-straight years (2012-14).

### Rozeboom Nears Tackle Mark

Jackrabbit LB Christian Rozeboom is poised to take over the top spot in career tackles at SDSU this weekend. A senior from Sioux Center, Iowa, he has tallied 430 career tackles, putting him six away from passing Greg Osmundson (435 tackles from 1986-89) for the top spot in the Jackrabbit record book. Rozeboom matched a season high with 13 tackles last week against North Dakota State and has registered double figures in tackles in 22 of 48 career games.

### After a Loss

South Dakota State will attempt to bounce back from its first league loss of the season, traveling to Missouri State on Saturday. The last time the Jackrabbits lost consecutive MVFC games was in 2014, falling at home to Youngstown State (30-27) on Oct. 25, 2014, and at North Dakota State (37-17) on Nov. 1, 2014. SDSU is 10-1 all-time against Missouri State. The Bears' lone win in the series was a 35-21 triumph in Springfield during the 2013 season.



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS **SALUKIS** (4-4, 2-2 MVFC)

A29	at #17 SE Missouri State	L, 26-44	0-1, 0-0
S7	at UMass	W, 45-20	1-1, 0-0
S14	UT Martin	W, 28-14	2-1, 0-0
S21	at Arkansas State	L, 28-41	2-2, 0-0
O5	*at #3 South Dakota St.	L, 10-28	2-3, 0-1
O12	*#13 Illinois State	L, 7-21	2-4, 0-2
O19	*#17 Youngstown State	W, 35-10	3-4, 1-2
O26	*at South Dakota	W, 48-28	4-4, 2-2
N2	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Javon Williams Jr. with 13 TDs

RB Javon Williams Jr. (6-1, 239, rFr.) has scored 13 touchdowns on the season (11 rushing, 2 receiving) — the most by a Saluki player since RB Jewel Hampton had 17 in 2011. In the game against Youngstown State, Williams Jr. became the first player in school history to rush for a TD, catch at TD and pass for a TD in the same game. Williams Jr. Frequently operating out of the Wildcat formation, Williams averages 5.9 yards per carry and his 575 rushing yards ranks third among freshmen in SIU history. Tom Koutsos holds the mark with 1,052 in 1999.

### Salukis Aiming for 3-Straight Wins

A win at Indiana State would give the Salukis their first three-game winning streak in a season since the start of the 2014 campaign and the first three-game winning streak in conference play since 2012. The last time SIU won consecutive road games was in 2013 when it beat South Dakota State and Northern Iowa back-to-back.

### Knighton Moves Up Sacks/TFL Lists

DE Anthony Knighton (6-4, 260, Jr.) has started every game (30) of his Saluki career and is fifth all-time in sacks at SIU with 19.5, including 4.5 this season. He is four sacks shy of the school record held by James Phillips (1977-80). His 8.5 sacks in 2018 ranked seventh all-time at SIU and were the most by a Saluki since James Cloud had 8.5 in 2007. He also has 32.5 tackles for loss in his career, which is sixth all-time at SIU.



## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (0-8, 0-4 MVFC)

A29	at North Alabama	L, 17-26	0-1, 0-0
S7	at Colorado State	L, 13-38	0-2, 0-0
S14	#10 Montana State	L, 13-24	0-3, 0-0
S21	Tennessee Tech	L, 24-38	0-4, 0-0
O5	*Missouri State	L, 31-37 (3ot)	0-5, 0-1
O12	*at Indiana State	L, 10-20	0-6, 0-2
O19	*#10 Illinois State	L, 14-28	0-7, 0-3
O26	*at Youngstown State	L, 14-59	0-8, 0-4
N2	*South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N9	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*at UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### The Return Game

Justin Hall ran for a season-high, career-high 107 yards on four kick returns at Youngstown State. The Northern Illinois transfer currently manages 492 combined return yards to guide the MVFC and rank 20th in the FCS. Jared Drake also left Ohio with a career-high 83 KR yards on five attempts.

### Longest Plays

The Leathernecks have 38 plays that have gone for 20 or more yards this season, and nearly half (17) are credited to their returners. Thanks in part to Justin Hall and Jared Drake, WIU ranks 47th in the FCS in kick returns.

### Two in One

With nine career touchdowns, Clint Ratkovich ties Max Norris as Western Illinois' active leader. Ratkovich notched two receiving scores at Youngstown State (Oct. 26) – doubling down on TDs for the second time in his career – which also captured his first of the season. He currently has the second-most receiving yards on the team with 297.



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (5-3, 1-3 MVFC)

A24	vs. Samford	W, 45-22	1-0, 0-0
S7	Howard	W, 54-28	2-0, 0-0
S14	Duquesne	W, 34-14	3-0, 0-0
S28	Robert Morris	W, 45-10	4-0, 0-0
O5	*at #13 UNI	L, 14-21	4-1, 0-1
O12	*#3 South Dakota State	L, 28-38	4-2, 0-2
O19	*at Southern Illinois	L, 10-35	4-3, 0-3
O26	*Western Illinois	W, 59-14	5-3, 1-3
N2	*#1 North Dakota State	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
N9	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
N16	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Braswell Stepping Up

Senior WR Jeremiah Braswell leads the Penguins in all three receiving categories. Braswell has 21 receptions for 449 yards and five touchdowns. He is also averaging a team-best 21.4 yards per reception. Against Western Illinois, he caught two first quarter touchdown passes. He had a 40-yard score and a 54-yard touchdown. It was the first multi-touchdown game of his career. He caught a career-long 75-yard touchdown reception against UNI on Oct. 5. Earlier in the year he caught a 24-yard touchdown against Robert Morris and a 38-yard touchdown vs. Howard. For his career, Braswell has 48 receptions for 920 yards and nine touchdowns.

### Reed a Difference Maker

DE Justus Reed has made an impressive return after missing the 2018 season with a torn Achilles tendon. Reed has 30 total tackles this season which includes 12 TFLs and nine sacks. He has sacks in five of eight games and had another negated by a questionable targeting call vs. Duquesne that forced him to miss the first half against Robert Morris. With YSU leading big at halftime against RMU he saw limited action. He started the season with a three-sack performance against Samford. In 2017, Reed showed flashes of being a difference maker with 15 tackles, 5.5 TFLs and five sacks as a pass-rush specialist. He played in seven games during his first year at YSU.

### Scoring Runs in Victories

The Penguins have gone on big runs to seize control in each of their five victories. Against Samford, YSU trailed 7-0 before scoring 31 unanswered points. In the contest vs. Howard, the Guins went a on 48-7 scoring run which included a 21 straight points and then 27 consecutive points. In the win over Duquesne, YSU jumped out to a 21-0 lead and went on to win by 20. YSU trailed Robert Morris 7-0 before scoring 31 consecutive points. Last Saturday, the Penguins were tied with Western Illinois 7-7 before erupting for the next 52 points in the victory.