



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, Nov. 9)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
North Dakota State	6-0	1.000	241	71	10-0	1.000	410	126	5-0	4-0	W31
Northern Iowa	5-1	.833	150	112	7-3	.700	240	190	5-0	2-3	W4
South Dakota State	4-2	.667	177	125	7-3	.700	317	173	4-2	3-1	L1
Illinois State	4-2	.667	113	110	7-3	.700	226	178	3-2	4-1	W1
Southern Illinois	4-2	.667	160	115	6-4	.600	287	234	3-1	3-3	W4
South Dakota	3-3	.500	228	159	4-6	.400	325	319	2-3	2-3	W1
Youngstown State	1-5	.167	149	220	5-5	.500	327	294	4-2	0-3	L2
Indiana State	1-5	.167	73	154	3-7	.300	160	233	3-3	0-4	L4
Missouri State	1-5	.167	81	199	1-8	.111	134	329	0-4	1-4	L5
Western Illinois	1-5	.167	128	235	1-9	.100	196	360	1-4	0-5	L1

## Schedule/Results

### Saturday, Nov. 9

#11 Illinois State 27, #4 South Dakota State 18  
Southern Illinois 37, Missouri State 14  
South Dakota 56, Youngstown State 21  
#1 North Dakota State 57, Western Illinois 21  
#5 UNI 17, Indiana State 9

### Saturday, Nov. 16

Missouri State at #7 Illinois State, 12 pm CT  
Normal, Ill. • NBCSCH/ESPN+  
Youngstown State at Indiana State, 1 pm ET  
Terre Haute, Ind. • ESPN+  
RV Southern Illinois at Western Illinois, 1 pm CT  
Macomb, Ill. • ESPN+  
#4 UNI at #8 South Dakota State, 2 pm CT  
Brookings, S.D. • ESPN3  
South Dakota at #1 North Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT  
Fargo, N.D. • NBC ND/Midco/ESPN+

### Saturday, Nov. 23

Illinois State at Youngstown State, 11 am CT  
Western Illinois at UNI, 1 pm CT  
Indiana State at Missouri State, 2 pm CT  
North Dakota State at Southern Illinois, 2 pm CT  
South Dakota State at South Dakota, 2 pm CT

## Magic Number = 1

With its next win, North Dakota State will claim at least a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference title. It would mark the ninth consecutive MVFC crown for NDSU, extending its current league record.

NDSU won its eighth consecutive league title in 2018, topping the league record seven straight by UNI in the early 1990s.

Notably, 11 teams have gone unbeaten in MVFC games since 1985, and only North Dakota State (2013 and 2018) and Southern Illinois (2009) have done it through an eight-game conference schedule.

### Most Consecutive League Titles in Division I

14 - Oklahoma (Big 8, 1946-59)  
12 - Montana (Big Sky, 1998-09)  
10 - BYU (WAC, 1976-85)  
9 - Florida State (ACC, 1992-00)  
**8 - North Dakota State (MVFC, 2011-18)**  
8 - Nebraska (Big 8, 1910-17)

## • • 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

### NDSU Streak Reaches 31 Games

NDSU set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14.

#### Active FCS Winning Streaks

##### 31 - North Dakota State

10 - Dartmouth  
9 - James Madison

#### Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

**33 - North Dakota State (2012-14)**  
**31 - North Dakota State (2017-present)**  
26 - James Madison (2016-17)  
24 - Penn (1992-95); 24 - Montana (2001-02)

#### Longest Division I Winning Streaks (All Time)

47 - Oklahoma (1953-57) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
40 - Washington (1908-14) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
37 - Yale (1887-89) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
37 - Yale (1890-93) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
35 - Toledo (1969-71) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
34 - Penn (1894-96) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
34 - Miami (2000-02) - FBS  
**33 - North Dakota State (2012-14) - FCS**  
**31 - North Dakota State (2017-present) - FCS**  
31 - Penn (1896-98) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
31 - Pittsburgh (1914-18) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
31 - Oklahoma (1948-50) - pre-FBS/FCS classification

#### Active FCS Win Streaks in Conference Play

35 - San Diego (PFL)  
**17 - North Dakota State (MVFC)**  
11 - Weber State (Big Sky)

#### All-Time Win Streaks in MVFC Games

18 - North Dakota State, 2012-14  
**17 - North Dakota State, 2017-present**  
14 - Southern Illinois, 2008-09  
13 - UNI, 1993-95

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

7 on Buchanan Award List

Three MVFC student-athletes have been added to the Buck Buchanan Award Watch List, including DL Elerson Smith of UNI; DL Derrek Tuszka of North Dakota State and DB Jeremy Chinn of Southern Illinois. They join DL Darin Greenfield of South Dakota; LB Jabril Cox of North Dakota State; LB Christian Rozeboom of South Dakota State; and LB Jonas Griffith of Indiana State on the list. The MVFC has more players on the list than any other conference.

4 on Payton Award List

QB Trey Lance of North Dakota State and RB Pierre Strong Jr. of South Dakota State have been added to the STATS FCS Walter Payton Award Watch List. They join RB James Robinson of Illinois State and WR Cade Johnson of South Dakota State, who were on the preseason list.

4 on Jerry Rice Award List

STATs announced its 24-player Jerry Rice Award Watch List on Nov. 5, and four MVFC players made the list. Representing the MVFC on the list are CB Omar Brown of UNI; QB Trey Lance of North Dakota State; QB Will McElvain of UNI; and RB Javon Williams Jr. of Southern Illinois.

SIU's Chinn to Play in Senior Bowl

Southern Illinois safety Jeremy Chinn has accepted an invitation to play in the prestigious Reese's Senior Bowl. He will be just the third player in school history and the first since TE Damon Jones in 1996 to play in the postseason all-star game.

Ranked vs. Ranked

There have been 180 games in which two MVFC teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of the previous 180 games, 48 times the meeting involved teams that were both ranked in the Top 10 at the same time. Ten meetings have occurred in the playoffs. The home team is 103-76, while the higher-ranked team is 114-66. One game (between Illinois State and North Dakota State in Frisco, Texas, on Jan. 10, 2015) was played at a neutral site. On Oct. 26, #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

4 MVFC Teams in Top 10

For the fifth time this season, the Missouri Valley Football Conference has four teams in the Top 10 of the Top-25 rankings. In the AFCA coaches poll, North Dakota State holds the top spot, followed by UNI (5), Illinois State (8) and South Dakota State (9). Southern Illinois is receiving votes.

In the STATS FCS rankings, North Dakota State is No. 1, followed by UNI (4), Illinois State (7) and South Dakota State (8). Southern Illinois is 29th.

The MVFC also holds four of the Top 9 spots in the Massey Ratings with North Dakota State (1), UNI (7), South Dakota State (8) and Illinois State (9) representing the league in that statistical metric.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey	Sagarin
NDSU	1	1	1	1
UNI	4	5	7	8
ILS	7	8	9	9
SDSU	8	9	8	5
SIU	rv	rv	18	17

Massey Ratings, Team Leaders

1. North Dakota State
2. James Madison
3. Dartmouth
4. Weber State
5. Montana
6. Sacramento State
7. UNI
8. South Dakota State
9. Illinois State
10. Princeton

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), and four MVFC schools are in the Top 9.

Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

1. North Dakota State
2. James Madison (CAA)
3. Montana (Big Sky)
4. Weber State (Big Sky)
5. South Dakota State
6. Dartmouth (Ivy)
7. Sacramento State (Big Sky)
8. UNI
9. Illinois State
10. Eastern Washington (Big Sky)

Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

1. MISSOURI VALLEY
2. Big Sky
3. CAA Football
4. Ivy
5. Southland
6. Ohio Valley
7. Southern

## Players of the Week

### Offense

**QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota**  
6-1, 215, Sr., Council Bluffs, IA (Lewis Central)  
Simmons passed for 180 yards, ran for 72 and accounted for five touchdowns in three quarters of work against the nation's 22nd-ranked defense. He led the Coyotes on four consecutive touchdown drives of 75 yards or more to start the game, and passed for four touchdowns for the fourth time in his career.

### Defense

**LB Dylan Draka, Illinois State**  
6-0, 240, Jr., Wheeling, Illinois (Wheeling HS)  
Draka recorded five tackles, including four solo stops, and tallied three TFLs in the victory over the Jackrabbits. Draka was also credited with a forced fumble, a pass breakup and recovered a pair of fumbles for the Redbirds. His sack, forced fumble and fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter set up Sam Fenlason's fourth field goal make of the contest to make the score 27-18. Draka and the Redbird defense forced four turnovers on the day and limited the Jackrabbits to just 81 yards rushing and 260 yards of total offense.

### Newcomer

**RB Jalen Bussey, North Dakota State**  
5-5, 153, Fr., Brandon, Fla. (Tampa Catholic)  
Bussey had a team-high 173 all-purpose yards in his first collegiate game as North Dakota State beat Western Illinois 57-21. Bussey came on in the fourth quarter, and his first attempt was a 65-yard touchdown run. He added a 50-yard kickoff return and 45-yard touchdown run on consecutive plays and finished with six rushes for 123 yards and two TDs.

### Special Teams

**PK Sam Fenlason, Illinois State**  
6-2, 225, Sr., San Diego, California (Idaho)  
Fenlason tied his career high with four made field goals in the win over SDSU, including a career-long 46-yarder to clinch the victory. Fenlason's first field goal make of 33 yards cut the SDSU lead at halftime to just one at 11-10. A 32-yarder late in the third quarter trimmed the Jackrabbits' lead to 18-13 and his 37-yarder early in the fourth quarter cut the deficit to 18-16. He capped off his career day with the long 46-yard bomb with 6:33 left in the game to bring the score to its final at 27-18.

### Offensive Line

**LT Alex Jensen, South Dakota**  
So., Plymouth, Minn. (Wayzata HS)  
Jensen helped South Dakota pile up 56 points and 507 yards of offense against Youngstown State's 22nd-ranked defense. The Coyotes surpassed 300 yards rushing (327) for the second game in a row and for the third time this season. USD had two 100-yard rushers in Kai Henry (130) and Canaan Brooks (112) and the Coyotes behind Jensen averaged 8.0 yards a carry. Jensen graded out at 94 percent, the highest amongst USD linemen.

## Still Perfect

Just two FCS teams remain unbeaten in 2019. There are five perfect FBS teams. Notably, two of South Dakota State's three losses have come vs. NDSU & Minnesota.

### FCS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

**10-0 North Dakota State**  
8-0 Dartmouth

### FBS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

10-0 Clemson  
9-0 Baylor, Ohio State, LSU, Minnesota

## 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). As an MVFC member, USD is 0-3 against No. 1-ranked teams. The Coyotes, however, did beat North Dakota State in 2014 when the Bison were ranked No. 2 in the nation.

The last time NDSU was ranked No. 1 and lost to an unranked team was on Oct. 13, 2012, when it fell to Indiana State, 17-14.

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

## Home Sweet Home

North Dakota State and UNI are both 5-0 at home this season. NDSU (24) leads the FCS for current consecutive wins at home. Clemson's 21-game winning streak at home leads the FBS. UNI has a current 9-game home winning streak.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Home Win Streaks

**24 - North Dakota State (MVFC)**  
15 - Grambling State (SWAC)  
13 - Eastern Washington (Big Sky)  
12 - Southeast Missouri State (OVC)

## Taking the Show on the Road

North Dakota State extended its FCS-leading road winning streak to nine with its victory at Youngstown State on Nov. 2. Illinois State, which lost its season-opener at Northern Illinois, has won its last four road games, including this past weekend at No. 4 South Dakota State.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Road Win Streaks

**9 - North Dakota State (MVFC)**  
7 - Princeton (Ivy)  
5 - Dartmouth (Ivy)  
**4 - Illinois State (MVFC)**  
4 - James Madison (CAA)  
4 - Kennesaw State (Big South)

## NDSU During the Streak

North Dakota State closed the 2018 season with four-straight wins against ranked foes (#23 Montana State, #7 Colgate, #5 South Dakota State and #3 Eastern Washington). Notably, during its current 31-game winning streak, NDSU has beaten 17 teams ranked in the Top 25.

## 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. Southern Illinois (at UMass and at Arkansas State) was the only MVFC school to face two FBS opponents this season.

## 2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2	S9	S16	S23	S30	07	014	021	028	N4	N11
Illinois State	13	16	12	10	8	6	10	10	7	7	11	7
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	18	11	10	8	7	13	10	14	11	9	5	4
S. Dakota	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	rv	--	--	--	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	8
S. Illinois	--	--	rv	rv	rv	rv	--	--	rv	rv	rv	rv
W. Illinois	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youngstown	rv	rv	rv	21	20	17	17	18	rv	rv	rv	--

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

## 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

## 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

## Most FCS Titles

North Dakota State claimed its 7th FCS Championship (in seven championship game visits) in January 2019 by defeating Eastern Washington in Frisco, Texas. The seven FCS titles are the most in FCS history.

<b>North Dakota State</b>	<b>7</b>
Georgia Southern#	6
<b>Youngstown State</b>	<b>4</b>
Appalachian State#	3
Four teams tied	2

#No longer in FCS

## Great Start to a Career

Through the first 10 games of his career, North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance leads the FCS in pass efficiency (191.1 rating), and he's 12th in 'points responsible for' (18.0 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. Lance also leads the FCS with his 69.6 completion percentage.

In the win against Western Illinois, Lance extended his streak to 181 consecutive passing attempts without an interception, surpassing the NDSU school record of 152 set by Easton Stick from 2016 to 2017.

### FCS Leaders - Pass Efficiency Rating

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
<b>1 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>191.1</b>
2 Reid Sinnett, San Diego (PFL)	179.7
3 Aaron Winchester, C. Conn. St. (NEC)	174.5
4 Jack Cook, Dayton (PFL)	167.1
5 Ben DiNucci, James Madison (CAA)	165.8

## Weston Leads the FCS

UNI's Isaiah Weston leads the FCS in yards per catch (25.18), and he's also among the FCS leaders in receiving TDs (7th), receiving yards (6th) and receiving yards per game (11th). He leads the MVFC in all four receiving categories. Weston had two catches for 58 yards in the win against Indiana State.

### FCS Leaders - Yards Per Reception

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPR
<b>1. Isaiah Weston, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>25.18</b>
2. Earnest Edwards, Maine (CAA)	24.48
3. Talolo Limu-Jones, EWU (Big Sky)	24.05
4. Chris Blair, Alcorn (SWAC)	22.65
5. Raleigh Webb, The Citadel (SoCon)	22.52

## Kicking It

South Dakota's Brady Schutt ranks third in the FCS with his 45.7 punting average. Schutt pinned three of his four punts inside the 15-yard line Saturday against Youngstown State. He dropped a punt inside the 5 just before halftime that bounced off a Penguin and the Coyotes recovered the muff and promptly scored to take a 35-14 lead into halftime.

### FCS Leaders - Punting

Rank, Team (Conf.)	AVG
1. Alex Pechin, Bucknell (Patriot)	47.9
2. Derek Arnson, Northern Ariz. (Big Sky)	46.0
<b>3. Brady Schutt, South Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>45.7</b>
4. Jered Padmos, Montana St. (Big Sky)	45.5
5. Chris Faddoul, Florida A&M (MEAC)	45.5

## 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.

### Nov. 3

Offense – QB Connor Sampson, Western Illinois  
 Defense – DB Omar Brown, UNI  
 Special Teams – RB/KR Kobe Johnson, NDSU  
 \*Newcomer – DB Omar Brown, UNI  
 Offensive Lineman – LT Dillon Radunz, NDSU

### Nov. 10

Offense – QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota  
 \*Defense – LB Dylan Draka, Illinois State  
 Special Teams – PK Sam Fenlason, Illinois State  
 Newcomer – RB Jalen Bussey, North Dakota State  
 Offensive Lineman – LT Alex Jensen, South Dakota

\* - denotes National Player of the Week

## Among the NCAA Rush Leaders

Two MVFC runningbacks are among the FCS leaders in rushing yards per game. James Robinson of Illinois State is 8th (107.9 yards per game) while Pierre Strong Jr. of South Dakota State is 14th (100.4 average). Strong ranks 5th in the FCS as he averages 7.17 yards per carry.

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Julius Chestnut, Sacred Heart (NEC)	122.4
2. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	121.6
3. Alex Ramsey, VMI (SoCon)	121.0
4. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth (Big South)	119.1
5. Karekin Brooks, Penn (Ivy League)	115.1
6. Ailym Ford, Chattanooga (SoCon)	108.1
7. Calvin Turner Jr, Jacksonville (PFL)	108.0
8. <b>James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>107.9</b>

### Active Career FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

1. A.J. Hines, Duquesne	4,513
2. <b>James Robinson, Illinois State</b>	<b>3,624</b>
3. Wesley Dugger, Davidson	3,231
4. Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, Chattanooga	3,206
5. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth	3,170

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards Per Carry

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPC
1. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	7.76
2. Jake Chisholm, Dayton (PFL)	7.67
3. Joe Newman, Wofford (SoCon)	7.52
4. Peyton Logan, UT Martin (OVC)	7.19
5. <b>Pierre Strong, South Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>7.17</b>

## Bison on Top of the FCS

In addition to its perfect 10-0 record, North Dakota State tops the FCS in a number of team statistical categories. NDSU leads the FCS in kickoff return average (27.78 yards per return), fewest interceptions thrown (1), pass efficiency (183.92 points), pass efficiency defense (102.10 points), and fewest turnovers lost (5).

## MVFC INT Leaders

A pair of MVFC student-athletes are among the FCS leaders in interceptions per game. All-American Jeremy Chinn of Southern Illinois and freshman Omar Brown of UNI are tied for sixth nationally with 0.5 interceptions per game. Chinn has four picks in his eight games played and Brown has five interceptions in 10 games.

### FCS Leaders - Interceptions Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	IPG
1. Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay (OVC)	0.7
1. Greg Liggs Jr., Elon (CAA)	0.7
3. Joseph McWilliams, Grambling (SWAC)	0.7
4. Ferlando Jordan, SE La (Southland)	0.6
4. Michael Lawson, Lamar (Southland)	0.6
6. <b>Omar Brown, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.5</b>
6. <b>Jeremy Chinn, Southern Ill. (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.5</b>

8 other players tied at 0.5 INT/game

## Simmons Leads MVFC in Offense

QB Austin Simmons of South Dakota passed for 180 yards, ran for 72 and accounted for five touchdowns in three quarters of work against the nation's 22nd-ranked defense in USD's 56-21 win against Youngstown State. He surpassed his predecessor, Chris Streveler, for third place on the Coyotes' all-time passing list with 6,162 yards. Simmons leads the MVFC in completions per game (23.6, 11th in the FCS); 25 passing TDs (9th in the FCS), 2,628 passing yards (15th in the FCS), points responsible for (182, 10th in the FCS) and total offense (311.8 yards per game, 7th in the FCS).

## Total Defense Leaders

Seven MVFC schools rank among the Top 34 in the FCS for fewest yards allowed this season, led by North Dakota State (2nd in the FCS with 277.0 yards per game).

Four MVFC schools rank in the Top 10 in scoring defense. North Dakota State leads the MVFC and ranks second in the FCS (12.6 points per game). South Dakota State (7th, 17.3 ppg), Illinois State (8th, 17.8 ppg) and UNI (10th, 19.0 ppg). NDSU's 12.6 average would equal the fourth-best in MVFC history.

### FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	276.6
2. <b>North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>277.0</b>
3. Davidson (PFL)	282.7
4. James Madison (CAA)	285.2
5. Dartmouth (Ivy League)	292.3
9. <b>South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>298.6</b>
11. <b>UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>311.0</b>
14. <b>Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>317.2</b>
19. <b>Indiana State (MVFC)</b>	<b>330.0</b>
32. <b>Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>354.5</b>
34. <b>Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>354.8</b>

### FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1. Dartmouth (Ivy League)	10.1
2. <b>North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>12.6</b>
3. Princeton (Ivy League)	15.4
4. Georgetown (Patriot)	15.4
5. James Madison (CAA)	16.1
6. Sam Houston State (Southland)	16.8
7. <b>South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>17.3</b>
8. <b>Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>17.8</b>
9. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	18.2
10. <b>UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>19.0</b>

## Going for No. 100

Coach Bo Pelini of Youngstown State will be aiming for victory No. 100 in his head coaching career on Saturday when the Penguins face Indiana State. Bob Nielson of South Dakota ranks fourth among active FCS coaches with 206 career wins.

## Sack Masters

Three MVFC student-athletes are in the Top 10 in the FCS in sacks per game. Eleron Smith of UNI leads the MVFC and ranks 3rd nationally with 1.20 per game. Derrek Tuszka of North Dakota State (6th at 1.06 per game) and Justus Reed of Youngstown State (10th at 0.95 per game) also represent the league among the FCS leaders.

A pair of MVFC schools rank among the Top 6 in team sacks per game. Illinois State leads the MVFC and ranks 4th in the FCS (3.50 per game). Southern Illinois is right behind ISU at 3.20 per game (good for 6th in the FCS). Three other MVFC schools are in the Top 15, including UNI (t-12th), South Dakota State (t-12th) and North Dakota State (15th).

### FCS Leaders - Sacks Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Andre Walker, Houston Bapt. (Southland)	1.35
2. George Obinna, Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	1.25
3. <b>Eleron Smith, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.20</b>
4. John Daka, James Madison (CAA)	1.10
4. Bryce Sterk, Montana St. (Big Sky)	1.10
6. <b>Derrek Tuszka, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.06</b>
6. Keith Woetzel, Lehigh (Patriot)	1.06
8. Eli Mencer, Albany (NY) (CAA)	1.05
9. Sully Laiche, Nicholls St. (Southland)	1.00
10. <b>Justus Reed, Youngstown St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.95</b>
10. Cameron Gill, Wagner (NEC)	0.95

### FCS Leaders - Team Sacks Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Harvard (Ivy League)	4.63
2. Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	3.80
3. Sam Houston St. (Southland)	3.70
4. <b>Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.50</b>
5. Southeastern La. (Southland)	3.22
6. <b>Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.20</b>
12. <b>South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
12. <b>UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
15. <b>North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2.90</b>

## Turnovers are a Key

Two MVFC schools rank among the FCS leaders in turnover margin this season. UNI and North Dakota State lead the MVFC and rank fourth in the FCS with a +1.20 margin. Last week, Illinois State took advantage of four costly turnovers by South Dakota State, as the Redbirds scored 17 unanswered points in the second half to defeat the fourth-ranked Jackrabbits, 27-18.

### FCS Leaders - Turnover Margin

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Margin
1. UIW (Southland)	1.60
2. Mississippi Valley (SWAC)	1.33
3. Weber State (Big Sky)	1.30
4. <b>UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.20</b>
4. <b>North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.20</b>
4. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	1.20



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (7-3, 4-2 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	L, 10-27	6-3, 3-2
N9	*at #4 South Dakota St.	W, 27-18	7-3, 4-2
N16	*Missouri State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.

\*MVFC game

### Road Warriors

If a team wants to have a chance at winning a conference championship or making the playoffs, it will have to win some tough road games. After a season-opening defeat at the hands of Northern Illinois, the Redbirds have bounced back with four-straight road wins to improve to 7-3 on the season. ISU has averaged over 24 points per contest in those games and have limited their hosts to an average of just 10.5 points per game. The last time ISU had a streak of four or more road wins in a row came in 2012, when the Redbirds started the season 6-0 on the road before suffering a loss in the quarterfinals of the FCS playoffs at Eastern Washington.

### Taking the Early Advantage

Getting out to an early lead has been very beneficial for the Redbirds this season and is a big reason why the team is 7-3 on the year. Overall, the Redbirds are 6-0 on the year when scoring first in the game, and they are now 5-0 when scoring on their first possession of the contest after getting a touchdown on their first drive against South Dakota State. The 'Birds are also 5-0 when leading after the first quarter of play, and those quick starts have often resulted in scoring outputs of 20 points or more. When ISU scores 20 or more, they are now 7-0 on the season.

### Turnovers Turn Into Points

The last two wins for the Redbirds have happened because the 'Birds took advantage of turnovers and turned them into scoring opportunities. In ISU's last two wins, it has collected nine turnovers and turned those into 29 points in a pair of road victories. At Western Illinois, the Redbirds took advantage of five takeaways and scored half of their 28 points thanks to the Leathernecks blunders. Against South Dakota State, four turnovers resulted in 15 of ISU's 27 points and helped the Redbirds pick up their third-straight MVFC road victory.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (3-7, 1-5 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	L, 14-23	3-6, 1-4
N9	*at #5 UNI	L, 9-17	3-7, 1-5
N16	*Youngstown State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Griffth Moving Through Top-10 List

Louisville, Ky., native Jonas Griffith finished Saturday with seven stops from the linebacker position. With the performance, the red-shirt senior moved into sole possession of seventh place in career tackles (365) in program history, passing Alex Sewall (2008-11). Just 11 tackles from 100 on the season, Griffith could become just the third player in program history to record three-straight seasons with 100 or more tackles, joining linebackers Marty Murray (1975-77) and Eric Christensen (1988-91).

### Nunez Adds to All-time 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) marks 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 253 points, kicked 51 field goals and 100 PAT's.

### Third Down Defense

The defensive unit of the Sycamores has been stout this season on third down, holding opponents to just a 30.8 percent conversion rate which is 6th-best in the nation. Indiana State held Western Illinois to just 1-of-15 and No. 5 Northern Iowa to 2-for-12 on third down.



## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (1-8, 1-5 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	L, 14-35	1-7, 1-4
N9	*at Southern Illinois	L, 14-37	1-8, 1-5
N16	*at #7 Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Normal Road Trip

The Bears are heading to Illinois State for the first time since 2016 this week. Last year, the Bears blocked a potential game-tying field goal as time expired to secure a 24-21 victory over the (then) No. 9 ranked ISU squad. Peyton Huslig passed for 232 yards, and second-half touchdown runs by Donovan Daniels and Jason Randall helped lead the Bears to the win. Missouri State is 8-11 all-time in Normal, including a 24-17 win there in 2012 and a narrow double-overtime loss in Normal in 2010.

### Brendan's Bombs

Missouri State senior punter Brendan Withrow matched the fourth-best single-game punting average in school history in last Saturday's game at SIU, accumulating six punts for a 47.8 average, including three punts of 60 yards or better and a long of 69. His season punting average (42.7) is currently the third-highest all-time at MSU and ranks 14th nationally. Withrow, who now has 33 punts of 50 yards or better in his career, is also on pace to become just the fifth player in program history to rack up 200 or more career punts.

### Milestone Update

Peyton Huslig continues to accumulate career passing milestones as he braces for his 32nd consecutive start this weekend at Illinois State. The senior signal caller needs just 29 more passing yards to reach 6,000 for his career, something only two Bears have ever achieved. He moved into a tie for second place on MSU's career TD passes list in last week's game at SIU with a pair of scoring passes to give him 36 for his career. Huslig also eclipsed 500 career completions in the SIU game, also joining Cody Kirby (2007-10) and Jeremy Hoog (1994-97) on that elite list.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (10-0, 6-0 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	W, 56-17	9-0, 5-0
N9	*Western Illinois	W, 57-21	10-0, 6-0
N16	*South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*at Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Bison Recognizing 14 Fifth-Year Seniors

Saturday will be the final regular-season home game for 14 seniors who are all in their fifth year with the Bison program and will be introduced individually prior to the game vs. South Dakota. North Dakota State has a 64-5 record from 2015 through 2019 including a 39-3 mark at the Fargodome, 35-3 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference with four league titles and 14-1 in the NCAA playoffs with three national championships.

### Scoring in Bunches

NDSU's 57-21 home win over Western Illinois in the Harvest Bowl last week, coupled with the 56-17 road win over Youngstown State two weeks ago, was the first time since 1984 in the North Central Conference that the Bison have scored at least 50 points in consecutive conference games. The Bison did it that year against South Dakota State (55-30 in Fargo) and Northern Colorado (62-14 in Greeley). NDSU has never scored 50 points in three straight games.

### Top Offensive Output of Season

NDSU's 690 yards of total offense against Western Illinois last week were the most by a Bison team in Division I play since 2004 and the fourth-most in program history. It is the best offensive output by a Missouri Valley Football Conference team this season and ranks sixth-most in the FCS teams this year. The Bison averaged 8.8 yards per play and had a balanced 352 rushing and 338 passing yards.

### Big Play Bison

One out of five offensive plays for NDSU this season (20%) have been a chunk play of at least 10 yards rushing or 15 yards passing. NDSU has 130 chunk plays (13 per game) with 86 rushing and 44 passing. There have been 32 for touchdowns, including the second longest pass reception in school history last week against Western Illinois on Josh Babicz's 88-yard pass from Trey Lance. Meanwhile, the Bison are allowing chunk plays at just a 12% rate.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(7-3, 5-1 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	W, 27-10	6-3, 4-1
N9	*Indiana State	W, 19-7	7-3, 5-1
N16	*at #8 South Dakota St.	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Turnover Margin

Over the last four games, UNI has earned 16 takeaways while giving up the ball just four times. The Panthers are now 5-0 on the season when forcing multiple turnovers. UNI is fourth in turnover margin in the FCS and third in turnovers gained. UNI is fifth in passes had intercepted. UNI has also recovered a fumble in six consecutive games.

### National Watch Lists

Omar Brown and Will McElvain were named to the FCS STATS Jerry Rice Award (Freshman of the Year) Watch List and Elerson G. Smith was named to the FCS STATS Buck Buchanan Award (Defensive Player of the Year) Watch List.

### Markvember

During his time at UNI, head coach Mark Farley has amassed a 58-10 mark in November. Farley has gone undefeated during November 10 times (2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017) while having a losing record once during the month (2002).

### Close Recent History

UNI leads the series over South Dakota State 31-21-2. Over the last six meetings, including a playoff meeting in 2017, the two teams are 3-3 and South Dakota State outscored UNI 147-146. Last year, the Panthers won with an exclamation when Xavier caught a walk-off pick-six in the final seconds of the game.



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(4-6, 3-3 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	L, 34-38	3-6, 2-3
N9	*Youngstown State	W, 56-21	4-6, 3-3
N16	*at #1 North Dakota St.	Midco/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Run Game Continues

South Dakota, behind junior running back Kai Henry, has averaged 266 yards per game and 5.8 yards per carry over its last three games. Henry has totaled 391 yards and two scores in that span, and is the first USD running back since 2007 to rush for at least 100 yards in three consecutive games. The Coyotes have three 300-yard rushing efforts and rank 27th nationally on the ground.

### Simmons Entering Elite Territory

Chris Streveler and Wesley Beschorner are perhaps two of the best Coyote quarterbacks in program history, but Austin Simmons has wedged his name in between them. In four years and 21 starts, Simmons has totaled 6,162 yards passing at South Dakota. That's more than Streveler's 6,081 yards in 23 games, and 78 shy of Beschorner's tally of 6,240 in 33 games. Noah Shepard, a four-year starter from 2006-09, is alone at the top at 8,936.

### Allen Makes 100th Catch

South Dakota senior Dakarai Allen made his 100th collegiate catch during Saturday's game against Youngstown State, then later took a 28-yard screen pass to the house for his second touchdown of the season and the 13th of his career. Allen has 101 catches for 1,279 yards as a Coyote. He was an all-Valley honoree a year ago when he had 48 catches for 703 yards and five touchdowns.

### Last Win in Fargo

It's been four years since Miles Bergner split the uprights in Fargo to give South Dakota an improbable 24-21 win over Carson Wentz and the North Dakota State Bison. USD lost at home to NDSU the following year, 28-21, with Chris Streveler at the helm for the first time. The Coyotes have managed just 14 points against NDSU in each of their last two meetings, a 49-14 loss in Fargo in 2017 and a 59-14 defeat in Vermillion a year ago.



## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS (7-3, 4-2 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	W, 35-14	7-2, 4-1
N9	*#11 Illinois State	L, 18-27	7-3, 4-2
N16	*#4 UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*at South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Kicking Deep

South Dakota State punter Ben Dinkel has averaged 47.6 yards on his last 10 attempts, covering three games. A sophomore from Kearney, Nebraska, four of Dinkel's punts have traveled 50 or more yards, including a 59-yarder Oct. 26 against North Dakota State and a 68-yarder last week against Illinois State. Overall, Dinkel is averaging 42.4 yards per punt and has recorded a punt of at least 50 yards in eight of 10 games so far this season, including a career-best 75-yarder Sept. 21 versus Southern Utah. He has landed 14 of his 36 attempts this season inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

### Limited Returns

South Dakota State has all but eliminated the return game punts this season. Opponents have managed only two net return yards on only four attempts (in 36 punts) this season, allowing the Jackrabbits to rank third among FCS programs for punt return defense with an average of 0.5 yards per return this season. The longest punt return allowed by SDSU this season was eight yards in the season opener at Minnesota. SDSU also ranks seventh in kickoff return defense with an average of 15.61 yards allowed per attempt this season.

### Johnson Joins Another Top 10

Jackrabbit wide receiver Cade Johnson now is a part of the career top 10 in all three major receiving categories in program history. After starting the Nov. 9 game against Illinois State outside the SDSU top 10 for career receptions, Johnson vaulted into eighth place in program history with 141 catches following an 11-reception performance. Johnson also ranks third all-time at SDSU for receiving touchdowns (27) and fifth in receiving yards (2,564). He enters the weekend with 914 receiving yards for the season, putting him 86 from becoming the fourth Jackrabbit to record consecutive 1,000-yard campaigns. The junior from Papillion, Nebraska, tallied 1,332 receiving yards on 67 catches with a single-season school-record 17 touchdowns in 2018.



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (6-4, 4-2 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	W, 23-14	5-4, 3-2
N9	*Missouri State	W, 37-14	6-4, 4-2
N16	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Salukis Aiming for 5-Straight Wins

A win at Western Illinois would give the Salukis their first five-game winning streak in a season since winning 11-straight during the 2009 season. That was also the last time SIU made the playoffs. Southern has won consecutive road games for the first time since 2013 when it beat South Dakota State and Northern Iowa back-to-back. The last time SIU won three-straight road games was in 2013 (at UNI, at Western Illinois, at Indiana State).

### Chinn Invited to Senior Bowl

All-American S Jeremy Chinn (6-3, 212, Sr.) has accepted an invitation to the Senior Bowl on Jan. 25, 2020. He will be just the third player in school history, joining TE Damon Jones (1996) and DB Dennis Harmon (1963) to play in the postseason all-star game. Despite missing two games with a foot injury, Chinn has four interceptions, and has moved into fifth place in career interceptions (13), second in pass breakups (27) and second in forced fumbles (6). A starter since his freshman season and with 33 career starts, he was named the "Top FCS Target" by the Senior Bowl heading into the season. A year ago Delaware's Nasir Adderley earned the Senior Bowl's distinction and ended up as a San Diego Chargers 2nd round pick.

### OLB Cody Crider Bounces Back

After undergoing the third knee surgery of his career in 2018, OLB Cody Crider (5-11, 218, Sr.) is back and having his best season at SIU with 74 tackles (2nd on the team), 12.5 TFLs and 2.0 sacks. All of those numbers have surpassed his previous single-season career highs. He had 4.0 TFLs versus Missouri State on Saturday.



## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (1-9, 1-5 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	W, 38-34	1-8, 1-4
N9	*at #1 North Dakota St.	L, 21-57	1-9, 1-5
N16	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*at UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Vs. the Top-Ranked Bison

Despite the 57-21 final, no one has scored more points against North Dakota State in Missouri Valley Football Conference play this season. The Leathernecks' 21 points also marked the second-most since the Bisons' 47-22 win over #18/18 Delaware in week three. Western's point tally marked the most put up against NDSU in six straight seasons.

### The Return Game

Justin Hall ran for a career-high, Valley-high 140 kick return yards at North Dakota State. The Northern Illinois transfer currently manages 669 combined return yards to guide the MVFC and rank 13th in the FCS.



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (5-5, 1-5 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	L, 17-56	5-4, 1-4
N9	*at South Dakota	L, 21-56	5-5, 1-5
N16	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Craycraft Steps In

Sophomore QB Joe Craycraft passed for a career-best 246 yards at South Dakota last Saturday. It was also the most passing yards in a game by a YSU quarterback this season. Craycraft entered the game with 404 yards on the season and had his best performance through the air by far. He also had three touchdown passes after entering the game with four on the season.

### Braswell Stepping Up

Senior WR Jermiah Braswell leads the Penguins in all three receiving categories. Braswell has 24 receptions for 515 yards and seven touchdowns. He is also averaging a team-best 21.5 yards per reception. His seven touchdown receptions are the most by a Penguin in a season since T.J. Peterson in 2006. The last time a receiver had eight in a year was Elliott Giles in 1999. For his career, Braswell has 51 receptions for 986 yards and 11 touchdowns.

### Secondary Has Depth

The Penguins secondary has stepped up this season. The unit has eight interceptions and six different players have an interception. This year, leading the way are two players who didn't play for YSU in 2018 - SS Zaire Jones and FS Kyle Hegedus. Jones transferred from Vanderbilt and has 51 total tackles and is tied for the team-lead with two interceptions. Hegedus missed the 2018 campaign with a knee injury, and has 47 total tackles, including a team-high 31 solo stops and two interceptions. Four other secondary members, Jaelin Madison (34), Bryce Gibson (24), Dee Ford (24), and D.J. Smalls (22) have at least 20 tackles this season.