



For Immediate Release  
Nov. 18, 2019

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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. 16)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
North Dakota State	7-0	1.000	290	85	11-0	1.000	459	140	6-0	4-0	W32
Illinois State	5-2	.714	130	122	8-3	.727	243	190	4-2	4-1	W2
South Dakota State	5-2	.714	215	132	8-3	.727	355	180	5-2	3-1	W1
Northern Iowa	5-2	.714	157	150	7-4	.636	247	228	5-0	2-4	L1
Southern Illinois	5-2	.714	205	136	7-4	.636	332	255	3-1	4-3	W5
South Dakota	3-4	.429	242	208	4-7	.364	339	368	2-3	2-4	L1
Indiana State	2-5	.286	97	171	4-7	.364	184	250	4-3	0-4	W1
Youngstown State	1-6	.143	166	244	5-6	.455	344	318	4-2	0-4	L3
Missouri State	1-6	.143	93	216	1-9	.100	146	346	0-4	1-5	L6
Western Illinois	1-6	.143	149	280	1-10	.091	217	405	1-5	0-5	L2

## Schedule/Results

### Saturday, Nov. 16

#7 Illinois State 17, Missouri State 12  
Indiana State 24, Youngstown State 17  
Southern Illinois 45, Western Illinois 21  
#8 South Dakota State 38, #4 UNI 7  
#1 North Dakota State 49, South Dakota 14

### Saturday, Nov. 23

#6 Illinois State at Youngstown State, 11 am CT  
Youngstown, Ohio • ESPN+  
Western Illinois at #9 UNI, 1 pm CT  
Cedar Falls, Iowa • ESPN3  
Indiana State at Missouri State, 2 pm CT  
Springfield, Mo. • ESPN+  
#1 NDSU at #25 Southern Illinois, 2 pm CT  
Carbondale, Ill. • NBC ND/ESPN+  
#5 South Dakota State at South Dakota, 2 pm CT  
Vermillion, S.D. • Midco Sports/ESPN+

## Bison Claim 9th-Straight Crown

Top-ranked North Dakota State extended its record streak of MVFC championships to nine with a 49-14 victory over South Dakota on Saturday. The Bison (11-0, 7-0 MVFC) clinched the title outright for the fifth time and third-straight year with second-place UNI taking its second loss of the conference season, 38-7 at South Dakota State. NDSU will take a 32-game winning streak to Southern Illinois for the regular-season finale this Saturday, Nov. 23.

NDSU won its eighth consecutive league title in 2018, breaking 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 - North Dakota State (MVFC, 2011-present)**  
9 - Florida State (ACC, 1992-00)  
8 - Nebraska (Big 8, 1910-17)

## News/Notes

### NDSU Streak Reaches 32 Games

NDSU set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14. NDSU joins Yale as the only two Division I teams to put together two separate 32-game winning streaks. Yale did it from 1887-89 and from 1890-93 with 37-game streaks both times.

### Active FCS Winning Streaks

**32 - North Dakota State**  
10 - James Madison

### Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

**33 - North Dakota State (2012-14)**  
**32 - 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**  
**32 - North Dakota State (2017-present) - FCS**  
31 - 3 schools tied - *pre-FBS/FCS classification*

### Active FCS Win Streaks in Conference Play

36 - San Diego (PFL)  
**18 - North Dakota State (MVFC)**

### All-Time Win Streaks in MVFC Games

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

## • • 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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# 2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (Nov. 18)

## 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

## Title Town

North Dakota State has a league-record nine-straight Conference titles (shared or outright), and the total (also nine) is second-only to UNI's 16. The Panthers had a streak of seven-straight titles from 1990-96.

Total Titles	Last
UNI .....	16 2011
North Dakota State .....	9 2019
Southern Illinois .....	5 2009
Western Illinois.....	5 2002
Illinois State .....	3 2015
Eastern Illinois .....	2 1995
Missouri State .....	2 1990
Youngstown State .....	2 2006
South Dakota State .....	1 2016
Western Kentucky .....	1 2002

## NCAA Championship Info



Selection Sunday is on ESPNU at 11:30 am CT on Sunday, Nov. 24. First-round games take place Saturday, Nov. 30. The top eight seeds receive a first-round bye. The title

game will take place Saturday, Jan. 11, in Frisco, Texas (11 am CT, ABC)

## Playoff Bids - MVFC History

The MVFC has had a league-record five teams selected to the playoffs three times (2014, 2015, 2017). In the past five seasons, the MVFC has had a total of 22 bids. CAA Football set a record in 2018 with 6 bids in the same season (they had achieved 5 bids three previous times).

### Playoff Selections - MVFC History

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

## 2018 - Another Title Game Trip

An MVFC member has reached the FCS championship game 13 times since 1997. Last year, NDSU extended the MVFC's FCS record for having a title-game participant to eight-straight seasons (an FCS record). The Bison beat Eastern Washington, 38-24. The nine titles by MVFC members are more than any other league. The SoCon has eight titles to rank second-best.

## Still Perfect

NDSU, at 11-0, is the only FCS unbeaten team. Dartmouth, which was 8-0, fell for the first time this past week. Three FBS schools are perfect (Clemson, Ohio State, LSU)

## MVFC Playoff Success

The league is 95-52 during the past 22 years in the FCS playoffs (since 1997). Overall, a league team has appeared in 13 championship games and in 26 semifinal games. This decade the league is 59-25 (.702) – which includes nine intra-conference games (meaning the league is 50-16 against teams from other leagues in that span.) Only one other conference has a winning record in the playoffs since 2010 (the CAA is 40-36.)

## 5 Losses, At-Large Bid?

In 2014, Indiana State became the first FCS team to earn a playoff bid despite five losses (the Sycamores were 7-5 that year.) Other five-loss teams to earn an at-large bid into the field included Western Illinois (6-5 in 2015), Illinois State (6-5 in 2016) and UNI (6-5 in 2018). No other league has earned an at-large bid after losing five games. Only Illinois State failed to win its first-round game (the Redbirds lost at UCA by a TD in 2016.)

## Is 5-3 in the MVFC Enough?

Since the FCS playoffs expanded to a 24-team field (2013), a total of 25 MVFC teams have recorded a 5-3 mark (or better) in league play. Twenty one of those 25 – including 21 of 22 in the past five seasons – have made the playoffs. Indiana State, in 2018, was the only 5-3 MVFC team not to make the playoff field since 2013.

## Leagues With 4 or More Bids

Since the NCAA field expanded to 16 teams for the 1986 playoffs, a league has received four or more bids 18 times. The 2003 playoffs marked the first time the MVFC had four bids. A league has had six bids once, and five bids six times, including the MVFC in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

### Most Bids, Single Season

6 Bids – CAA (2018)  
 5 Bids – CAA (2007, 08, 11); MVFC (2014, 15, 17)  
 4 Bids – MVFC (2003, 16); Southern (2016);  
 CAA (2004, 09, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17);  
 Big Sky (2013, 15, 18);

## 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

#No longer in FCS

Players of the Week

Offense

RB D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois  
5-8, 170, Sr., Pompano Beach, Fla.

Davis rushed for a career-high 208 yards on 31 carries in SIU's 45-21 win over Western Illinois. He scored two touchdowns, averaged 6.7 yards per carry and had a long of 53. It marked the second time in his career that Davis has topped 200 rushing yards. Davis is one of only two Saluki players to rush for 200 yards in a game in the last 10 years.

Defense

DB Devin Taylor, Illinois State  
6-1, 200, Jr., Lansing, Michigan (Sexton HS)

Taylor recorded his team-leading third interception of the season and had a career-high five pass breakups in the victory over Missouri State. Taylor also had three solo tackles in the contest and his final breakup on third-and-goal at the 3-yard line with under a minute remaining in the game set up the fourth-down turnover on downs that sealed the victory. The six defended passes against Missouri State are an NCAA single-game best this year.

Co-Newcomer

RB Javon Williams Jr., Southern Illinois  
6-1, 239, R-Fr., Centralia, Ill. (Centralia)

Williams rushed for a career-high 149 yards, completed both of his passes for 48 more yards and had one reception for six yards. He did it on just 19 carries for a 7.8 average with a long of 35. Williams scored three rushing TDs, which gives him 18 touchdowns on the season – the most by a Division I freshman and seventh-best among all FCS players.

Co-Newcomer

QB Keaton Heide, South Dakota State  
6-3, 195, Fr., (Wayzata, Minn./Wayzata H.S.)

Heide completed 15-of-16 passes for 196 yards and two TDs in the 38-7 home victory over No. 4 UNI. Heide completed each of his first 14 pass attempts to set an SDSU single-game record. The 14-straight completions are the most by an MVFC QB since 2013.

Special Teams

P Brendan Withrow, Missouri State  
6-0, 204, Sr., Imperial, Mo. (St. Pius X High)

Withrow averaged 49.2 yards per attempt to help the Bears control the field position battle at No. 7 Illinois State. He booted a game-long 62-yarder in the second half and accounted for two 50+ yarders to push his season total to 18 punts of 50 yards or more. He ranks 12th in the nation in punting average at 43.1 yards.

Offensive Line

LT Dillon Radunz, North Dakota State  
6-6, 298, Jr., Becker, Minn. (Becker HS)

Radunz graded out at 100 percent with eight knockdowns and zero sacks allowed in North Dakota State's 49-14 victory over South Dakota. NDSU averaged 10.0 yards per play with 33 first downs and 700 yards of total offense – the most by a Bison team in Division I play and third most in school history. NDSU rushed for a season-high 419 yards.

Ranked vs. Ranked

There have been 181 games in which two MVFC teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of the previous 181 games, 49 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 104-76, while the higher-ranked team is 114-67. 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

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). During its 32-game streak, NDSU has beaten 17 teams ranked in the Top 25.

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

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.

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, Southern Illinois is 1-4 vs. No. 1-ranked teams. The Salukis beat top-ranked Western Kentucky in a league game in 2005. SIU lost to No. 1 UNI in 1992 and lost three times to NDSU when it was the No. 1-ranked team (in 2013, 2014 and 2018.)

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

2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2	S9	S16	S23	S30	07	014	021	028	N4	N11	N18
Illinois State	13	16	12	10	8	6	10	10	7	7	11	7	6
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NDSU	1	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	9
S. Dakota	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	rv	--	--	--	--	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	8	5
S. Illinois	--	--	rv	rv	rv	rv	--	--	rv	rv	rv	rv	25
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)

## 5 MVFC Teams in Top 25

For the sixth 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 South Dakota State (5), Illinois State (6) and UNI (10). Southern Illinois is 25th this week.

It marks the first time since Nov. 10, 2014, that the Salukis have been ranked. SIU was No. 23 in that 1/10/14 poll.

In the STATS FCS rankings, North Dakota State is No. 1, followed by South Dakota State (5), Illinois State (7) and UNI (9). Southern Illinois is 26th.

The MVFC also holds five of the Top 15 spots in the Massey Ratings with North Dakota State (1), South Dakota State (6), UNI (7), Illinois State (11) and Southern Illinois (15) representing the Conference.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey	Sagarin
NDSU	1	1	1	1
SDSU	5	5	6	3
ILS	7	6	11	10
UNI	9	10	7	7
SIU	RV	25	15	15

### Massey Ratings, Team Leaders

#### 1. North Dakota State

- James Madison
- Montana
- Sacramento State
- Weber State

#### 6. South Dakota State

- UNI
- Dartmouth
- Yale
- Montana State

#### 11. 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

- James Madison (CAA)
- South Dakota State
- Montana (Big Sky)
- Weber State (Big Sky)
- Sacramento State (Big Sky)

#### 7. UNI

- Dartmouth (Ivy)
- Montana State (Big Sky)

#### 10. Illinois State

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

#### 1. MISSOURI VALLEY

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

## Home Sweet Home

North Dakota State (6-0) and UNI (5-0) are both perfect at home this season. NDSU (25-straight) leads the FCS for current consecutive wins at home. Clemson's 22-game winning streak at home leads the FBS. UNI has a current 9-game home winning streak.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Home Win Streaks

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

- Grambling State (SWAC)
- Eastern Washington (Big Sky)
- 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 its last road game (Nov. 9) at No. 4 South Dakota State.

### NCAA Leaders, Active Road Win Streaks

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

- Princeton (Ivy)
- Dartmouth (Ivy)
- Kennesaw State (Big South)

#### 4 - Illinois State (MVFC)

- five other schools

## 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

## 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

### Nov. 17

Offense – RB D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois  
 Defense – DB Devin Taylor, Illinois State  
 Special Teams – P Brendan Withrow, Missouri State  
 \*Co-Newcomer – RB Javon Williams Jr., S. Illinois  
 Co-Newcomer – QB Keaton Heide, S. Dakota State  
 Offensive Lineman – LT Dillon Radunz, NDSU

\* - denotes National Player of the Week

## Great Start to a Career

Through the first 11 games of his career, North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance leads the FCS in pass efficiency (196.6 rating), and he's 11th in 'points responsible for' (17.5 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 70.4 completion percentage. Eric Sanders of UNI established an NCAA record in 2007 by completing 75.2 percent of his attempts.

In the win against Western Illinois, Lance surpassed the NDSU school record of 152 pass attempts without an interception, 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>196.6</b>
2 Reid Sinnett, San Diego (Pioneer)	178.5
3 Aaron Winchester, Central Conn. (NEC)	172.8
4 Ben DiNucci, James Madison (CAA)	171.4
5 Felix Harper, Alcorn (SWAC)	168.9

### MVFC Single-Season Leaders, Comp. Pct.

1 Eric Sanders, UNI (2007) [NCAA record]	.752
2 Nick Hill, Southern Illinois (2007)	.715
<b>3 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (2019)</b>	<b>.704</b>

### Entire Season with no INT - Most Pass Attempts

<b>1 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (2019)</b>	<b>*196</b>
2 Ryan Fitzpatrick, Harvard (2002)	150
3 Michael German, Tenn. State (2013)	140

\*Fitzpatrick would keep the record if Lance throws an interception this season.

## Williams Jr. Sets Scoring Mark

Javon Williams Jr. of Southern Illinois leads all FCS freshmen with 18 touchdowns this season (16 rushing, two receiving). Williams, who also has thrown for two scores this season, became the first player in SIU history to throw for a TD, catch a TD and rush for a TD in the same game, accomplishing the feat against No. 17 Youngstown State. He established a league record with his 18th TD this year - the previous freshman scoring record was 17.

When Williams amasses more than 100 yards of all-purpose yardage (rushing/receiving), the Salukis have won seven of eight games (losing only to FBS Arkansas State).

### MVFC Leaders - Total Touchdowns (2019)

18, Javon Williams Jr., Southern Illinois
15, James Robinson, Illinois State
11, Adam Cofield, North Dakota State

### MVFC Single-Season Leaders, TDs by Freshmen

18, Javon Williams Jr., S. Illinois, 2019 (10 games)
17, Martin Ruiz, Youngstown St., 2013 (12 games)
17, Jeff Stovall, UNI, 1993 (11 games)

## Bison on Top of the FCS

In addition to its perfect 11-0 record, North Dakota State tops the FCS in a number of team statistical categories.

### FCS - Team Statistical Leaders (NDSU)

1. Team Completion Percentage	.695 pct.
1. Kickoff Return Average	27.4 avg.
1. Fewest Passes Intercepted	1
1. Fewest Passing Yards Allowed	151.5 pg
1. Scoring Offense	41.7 ppg
1. Team Passing Efficiency	191.2
1. Team Pass Efficiency Defense	101.4
1. Total Defense	274.1 ypg
1. Fewest Turnovers Lost	5
1. Average Scoring Margin	+29.0

## Closing in on 1,000 Yards

Two MVFC RBs have eclipsed the 1,000-yard plateau, and two others are closing in. James Robinson of Illinois State leads the league with 1,234 yards, while Pierre Strong Jr. of South Dakota State is second (1,108). If D.J. Davis (969) and Javon Williams Jr. (921) both reach 1,000 yards it will mark the first time since the 2013-14 seasons in which the league had four or more 1,000-yard rushers in back-to-back seasons.

### MVFC Rushing Leaders (2018) - by total yards

1. James Robinson, Illinois State	1,290
2. Tevin McCaster, Youngstown State	1,235
3. D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois	1,118
4. Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State	1,116

### MVFC Rushing Leaders (2019) - by total yards

1. James Robinson, Illinois State	1,234
2. Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State	1,018
3. D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois	969
4. Javon Williams Jr., Southern Illinois	921

## Total Tackle Leaders

Three MVFC linebackers are among the active leaders in the FCS for career total tackles. Christian Rozeboom of SDSU enters this week's regular-season finale with 452 career tackles - tops of any active player. Rozeboom needs six more to climb into the MVFC's all-time Top 10.

### FCS Active Leaders - Career Tackles

<b>1. Christian Rozeboom, S. Dakota State</b>	<b>452</b>
2. Zach Hall, SE Missouri State	385
<b>3. Jonas Griffith, Indiana State</b>	<b>370</b>
4. Dante Olson, Montana	352
<b>5. McNeece Egbim, Missouri State</b>	<b>328</b>

### MVFC Career Leaders - Total Tackles

580, Boomer Grigsby, Illinois State, 2001-04
565, Tim Carver, Eastern Illinois, 1992-95
528, Galen Scott, Illinois State, 1997-00
500, P.J. Jones, Missouri State, 1998-01
487, Corky Martin, Missouri State, 1997-00
475, Lee Russell, Western Illinois, 2000-03
472, Edgerton Hartwell, Western Illinois, 1998-00
470, Wilbert Brown, Illinois State, 1988-91
470, Brett Taylor, Western Illinois, 2014-17
457, Dylan Cole, Missouri State, 2013-16
453, Ryan Doak, UNI, 1997-00

## What's the Purpose?

Southern Illinois RB D.J. Davis continues to climb the career charts for all-purpose yardage. He's second among active FCS players with 5,333 in his career, and he ranks eighth on the all-time MVFC charts.

### MVFC Career Leaders, All-Purpose Yardage

8,211, Zach Zenner, South Dakota St., 2011-14
6,822, David Johnson, UNI, 2011-14
5,800, Marshaun Coprich, Illinois State, 2012-15
5,602, Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois, 2004-06
5,583, Jamie Jones, Eastern Illinois, 1988-91
5,466, Travis Glasford, Western Illinois, 2002-05
5,341, David Wright, Indiana State, 1992-95
<b>5,333, D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois, 2016-19</b>
5,292, Jake Wieneke, South Dakota St., 2014-17

### FCS Active Leaders, All-Purpose Yardage

1. Earnest Edwards, Maine	5,354
<b>2. D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois</b>	<b>5,333</b>
3. A.J. Hines, Duquesne	5,215
4. Chris Rowland, Tennessee State	4,995
5. Shane Simpson, Towson	4,751

## Big-Play Guys

UNI's Isaiah Weston leads the FCS in yards per catch (25.18), and he's joined by North Dakota State's Christian Watson and Youngstown State's Jermiah Braswell in the Top 10 for yards per catch.

### FCS Leaders - Yards Per Reception

<b>1. Isaiah Weston, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>25.18</b>
2. Talolo Limu-Jones, EWU (Big Sky)	24.83
3. Raleigh Webb, The Citadel (SoCon)	23.25
4. Earnest Edwards, Maine (CAA)	23.04
<b>5. Christian Watson, NDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>22.82</b>
6. Jalen Staples, Davidson (Pioneer)	22.23
7. Andrew Trent, Stony Brook (CAA)	21.73
8. Shaquan Davis, S. Carolina St. (MEAC)	21.48
<b>9. Jermiah Braswell, YSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>21.46</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 7th (112.2 yards per game) while D.J. Davis of Southern Illinois ranks 10th (107.7 average).

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards Per Game

1. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth (Big South)	129.8
2. Julius Chestnut, Sacred Heart (NEC)	123.1
3. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	121.4
4. Jordan Bentley, Alabama A&M (SWAC)	118.8
5. Alex Ramsey, VMI (SoCon)	114.5
6. Karekin Brooks, Penn (Ivy League)	113.5
<b>7. James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>112.2</b>
8. Ailym Ford, Chattanooga (SoCon)	108.1
9. Ulonzo Gilliam, UC Davis (Big Sky)	108.0
<b>10. D.J. Davis, Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>107.7</b>

### Active Career FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

1. A.J. Hines, Duquesne	4,616
<b>2. James Robinson, Illinois State</b>	<b>*3,779</b>
3. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth	3,407
4. Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, Chattanooga	3,325

\*ranks 17th best all-time in MVFC history



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (8-3, 5-2 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	W, 17-12	8-3, 5-2
N23	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.

\*MVFC game

### Two for Two

Last week in a win at No. 4 South Dakota State, Tristan Bailey's first reception of the season was a 12-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Brady Davis that gave the Redbirds an early lead in Brookings. This week, his second reception of the season on a nearly-identical route resulted in an eight-yard touchdown pass from Davis to put the Redbirds up 14-6. Bailey's 1:1 reception to touchdown ratio leads the team and he is now just one of two players with multiple touchdown grabs on the season joining Andrew Edgar.

### The Ghost in the Endzone

Coming into the game with Missouri State, true freshman wide receiver Kacper Rutkiewicz led the Redbirds in receptions and yards on the season. However, one blemish on an otherwise solid inaugural season for the wideout was that he had yet to find the endzone despite getting close several times previously. That all changed, though, in the first quarter when Rutkiewicz came down with a 5-yard pass from Brady Davis in the back corner of the endzone for his first career touchdown. He finished the day with two receptions for 11 yards and upped his season totals to 22 receptions for 418 yards with the one score. With an average of 19.0 yards per catch, "The Ghost" has proved not to be so friendly to opposing defenders in 2019.

### Birds Own the Red Zone

Heading into the game against Missouri State, opponents had scored just 54.5 percent of the time when inside the Redbirds' 20-yard line, which was the No. 1 mark for a defense in all of FCS football. The Redbirds were solid in the red zone once again versus the Bears, allowing just one score in three tries including the huge fourth-and-goal stop on a sack by Luther Kirk that iced the game. That dropped the average to just 52.8 percent for one of the top defenses in the country. On the other side of the football, the Redbird offense has scored 93.9 percent of the time in the red zone, which ranks in the top 5 in FCS football.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (4-7, 2-5 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	W, 24-17	4-7, 2-5
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 five stops from the linebacker position. With the performance, the redshirt senior moved into sole possession of seventh place in career tackles (370) in program history, passing Alex Sewall (2008-11). Just six 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. A week earlier, Nunez set the ISU all-time PAT record – a record that had stood since 1985. Nunez has currently scored 259 points, kicked 52 field goals and 103 PAT's with one game remaining.

### Third Down Defense

The defensive unit of the Sycamores has been stout this season on third down, holding opponents to just a 30.4 percent conversion rate which is 5th-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** (1-9, 1-6 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	L, 12-17	1-9, 1-6
N23	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Wilson's Way

Jeremiah Wilson made his first start of the season in the Bears' backfield Saturday at Illinois State. The sophomore's 74-yard, first-quarter rush marked the longest rush and longest scoring run by a Bear since Calan Crowder's 75-yard TD run at Missouri on Sept. 2, 2017. In just two appearances this season, Wilson is MSU's top net rusher and averages 11.0 yards per carry.

### Defensive Dominance

MSU's four takeaways at No. 7 Illinois State not only marked a season high by its defense, but its best single-game effort by the Bears since forcing six Northern Arizona turnovers on Sept. 15, 2018. Coach Dave Steckel's troops allowed just 3.8 yards per play and just 15 total first downs to the Redbirds.

### 'Zo on the Go

Lorenzo Thomas became the second MSU receiver to top the career 1,000-yard marker this season with his first catch of the day that went for five yards. Thomas, who now has 85 receptions for 1,031 yards and five touchdowns in his 31 career games, joins teammate Tyler Currie -- who has 89 career catches for 1,074 yards and seven scores in 31 games.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (11-0, 7-0 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	W, 49-14	11-0, 7-0
N23	*at #25 Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### NDSU Sets Marks for Offense, 1st Downs

One week after putting up 690 yards of total offense, the Bison went for 700 total yards in last week's home win over South Dakota. It was the third most yards in school history and NDSU's most in a Division I game -- surpassing the home win over Western Illinois two weeks ago. NDSU averaged 10.0 yards per play last week and rushed for a season-high 419 yards led by Ty Brooks' 128 yards and two touchdowns. It was Brooks' seventh career 100-yard game. NDSU is averaging 9.5 yards per play over the past three weeks with zero turnovers. The Bison gained 33 first downs against South Dakota, the most by NDSU in a Division I game and the sixth time with at least 30 first downs since beginning FCS play in 2004.

### Lance Shatters NDSU Freshman Marks

Quarterback Trey Lance has set NDSU freshman records for passing yards (2,041) and passing touchdowns (23) and currently ranks fourth in rushing yards (684) and fifth in rushing touchdowns (9) by a freshman player. His 23 passing TDs rank fifth overall in NDSU single-season history, and his pass completion percentage (70.4) and pass efficiency rating (196.6) both top the school single-season charts. He is second among Bison passers with 10.4 yards per attempt.

### Bison Show Depth on Defense

North Dakota State played without starting defensive tackle Cole Karcz and linebackers Jabril Cox and Aaron Mercadel last week, but the Bison still held South Dakota to 245 yards of total offense, a season low for the Coyotes. Safeties Michael Tutsie and James Kaczor each filled in at linebacker positions, Matt Biegler made his first start at defensive tackle, and Dawson Weber made his second start at free safety in place of Tutsie. Kaczor made a team-high nine tackles with 1.5 tackles for loss, one pass breakup and one quarterback hurry. NDSU's 10 tackles for loss were the second most by the unit this season, and the Bison posted five sacks for the second straight week.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS** (7-4, 5-2 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.	L, 7-38	7-4, 5-2
N23	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### 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.

### Kicking Off a Solid Career

Freshman kicker Matthew Cook was named the starter the week of the Iowa State game and started his career with a bang. He hit his first-ever collegiate field goal attempt, a 50-yarder and added three more in game one. He is 15-18 for the season. He sits atop the MVFC in field goals made and second in field goal percentage.

### Comeback Player of the Year

Isaiah Weston was named a Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Nominee. He is one of 30 nominees honored by CoSIDA and the Mayo Clinic this season. Weston leads the FCS in yards per reception this year.



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES** (4-7, 3-4 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.	L, 14-49	4-7, 3-4
N23	*#5 South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Rivalry Weekend

South Dakota looks to finish 4-4 in the Valley for the second time in three years when the Coyotes host rival South Dakota State inside the DakotaDome Saturday. Several numbers are in play here. USD is trying to knock off a ranked opponent for the seventh consecutive season, a streak that dates back to 2013. The Coyotes are also looking to even their home record to 3-3. South Dakota has had a losing record just six times in 40 seasons inside the DakotaDome.

### Simmons to Surpass Beschorner

South Dakota senior quarterback Austin Simmons needs six passing yards to surpass Coyote Hall of Famer Wesley Beschorner for second place on USD's all-time passing list. Simmons enters with 6,235 yards and 50 touchdown passes, which ranks fourth all-time. USD's all-time passing leader is Noah Shepard who threw for 8,936 yards from 2006-09.

### Coyote Offense Second in First Downs

South Dakota's offense has moved the chains 279 times this season, second nationally to Houston Baptist. In terms of total offense, the Coyotes rank 21st nationally and second only to North Dakota State. USD has also converted 45 percent of its third downs, which ranks 16th nationally and second in the Valley to NDSU.



## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS (8-3, 5-2 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	W, 38-7	8-3, 5-2
N23	*at South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Rozeboom Closes in on Century Mark

LB Christian Rozeboom is on track to once again reach the 100-tackle mark in a season. A senior, Rozeboom has posted a team-best 87 tackles thus far in 2019, highlighted by three double-digit tackling performances. Rozeboom surpassed the century mark in each of his first three seasons, including a career-high 132 as a freshman in 2016. He enters his final regular season game with an SDSU-record 451 career tackles.

### Winning the Turnover Battle

South Dakota State tied its season high by forcing four turnovers — three interceptions and a fumble — in its 38-7 victory over UNI on Nov. 16. The Jackrabbits improved to 7-0 this season in games in which they committed fewer turnovers than the opposition (5-0) or were even in the turnover category (2-0). For the season, SDSU is plus-6 in turnover margin, forcing 23 takeaways and turning the ball over 17 times. Of the 23 takeaways, 16 have been on interceptions which have been spread among 10 different players. Logan Backhaus and Michael Griffin II each recorded their team-leading third interceptions of the season in the win over UNI, while Jordan Gandy came up with his first career pick on the opening drive of the game.

### Finishing on a High Note

The Jackrabbits have had a history of ending the league schedule on a high note since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2008. SDSU has posted a 9-2 record in its final MVFC game of the year, including winning each of the last three. Four of those victories have come against this week's opponent, in-state rival. This will mark the third consecutive season the two programs have met in the regular season finale — SDSU pulled out a 31-28 road victory in 2017 and posted a 49-27 home win last season. The Jackrabbits' losses in league finales came in 2010 at North Dakota State and a double-overtime loss at Western Illinois in 2015.



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (7-4, 5-2 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	W, 45-21	7-4, 5-2
N23	*#1 North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### SIU Ranked For First Time Since 2014

The Salukis entered the FCS Coaches poll at No. 25 this week, marking the first week SIU has been ranked since Nov. 10, 2014. Southern moved up three spots to No. 15 in this week's Massey Power Rating. They have FCS wins over No. 36 UT Martin, No. 44 South Dakota, No. 49 Youngstown State, No. 56 Indiana State, No. 75 Missouri State and No. 99 Western Illinois. Their FCS losses came against No. 6 South Dakota State, No. 11 Illinois State and No. 23 SEMO. SIU played without it's top offensive and defensive players (D.J. Davis and Jeremy Chinn) versus SDSU and Illinois State.

### 5-Game Win Streak Longest Since 2009

The Salukis are having their best season since 2009, when the team went 11-2 and won 11-straight games. During Southern's current five-game winning streak, it has out-scored opponents by an average margin of 20.2 points. The 24-point win at Western Illinois was the team's largest road margin in school history.

### Salukis Vs. Ranked FCS Opponents

On Oct. 19, the Salukis beat No. 18 Youngstown State to snap an eight-game losing streak versus ranked FCS opponents. SIU is 1-4 all-time against No. 1 ranked teams. The win came at Western Kentucky on Oct. 27, 2005 when Jerry Kill was the team's head coach. The losses were to Northern Iowa in 1992 and to North Dakota State in 2013, 2014 and 2018.

### SIU 1 of 3 FCS Teams with FBS Win

Southern Illinois is one of only three FCS teams to beat an FBS opponent in 2019. The Salukis beat UMass, 45-20, on Sept. 7. The other FCS wins were Central Arkansas over Western Kentucky, and The Citadel over Georgia Tech.



## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (1-10, 1-6 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	L, 21-45	1-10, 1-6
N23	*at #9 UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Chasing Championships

Sean McGuire and Jaelon Acklin left Western Illinois as one of the greatest quarterback/wide receiver tandems in program history. The former teammates are in the midst of their rookie season in the Canadian Football League (CFL) and have already won division titles. One final game remains in the 2019 season, and it pits McGuire's Winnipeg Blue Bombers against Acklin's Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

### Last Outing

Western is 3-2 in its last five regular-season finales. Three of the five games have been against a ranked opponent (including two of the victories).

2018 | No. 24 Indiana State | L, 13-15

2017 | Southern Illinois | W, 28-14

2016 | Southern Illinois | L, 34-44

2015 | No. 5 South Dakota State | W, 30-24 (2OT)

2014 | No. 18 Indiana State | W, 34-20



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (5-6, 1-6 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	L, 17-24	5-6, 1-6
N23	*#6 Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Craycraft Steps In

Sophomore QB Joe Craycraft has started the past two games for the Penguins. He threw a career-high 33 passes at Indiana State, a week after 30 passes at South Dakota. At Indiana State he rushed for 123 yards on 11 carries, highlighted by an 80-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. He was sacked just twice, a week after being sacked five times at South Dakota. He had three touchdown passes against the Coyotes and last Saturday threw a 45-yard scoring toss to Ryan Emans. That toss came on a 2nd-and-29 play.

### New Faces Make Impact

Some young Penguins showed that they will be eager to make an impact for the program against Indiana State. True freshman WR C.J. Charleston and CB Troy Jakubec started as did redshirt freshman LB Griffin Hoak. All three played extremely well against the Sycamores. Charleston became the first YSU receiver to eclipse 100 yards this year with five grabs for 105 yards. Jakubec led the team with eight total tackles, including five solo stops. Hoak was credited with six total tackles, including 1.5 TFLs.

### Multiple Receivers

A total of 19 players have caught a pass for the Penguins this year. Nine wide receivers, four tight ends, four tailbacks and two quarterbacks have caught passes this season. Quarterback Nathan Mays caught a pass against Duquesne while Joe Craycraft had a reception at Indiana State. Both passes came from WR Ryan Emans and both went for 18 yards.