



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. 2)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota State	5-0	1.000	184	50	9-0	1.000	353	105	4-0	4-0 W30
South Dakota State	4-1	.800	159	98	7-2	.778	299	146	4-1	3-1 W1
Northern Iowa	4-1	.800	133	103	6-3	.667	223	181	4-0	2-3 W3
Illinois State	3-2	.600	86	92	6-3	.667	199	160	3-2	3-1 L1
Southern Illinois	3-2	.600	123	101	5-4	.556	250	220	2-1	3-3 W3
South Dakota	2-3	.400	172	138	3-6	.333	269	298	1-3	2-3 L3
Youngstown State	1-4	.200	128	164	5-4	.556	306	238	4-2	0-2 L1
Indiana State	1-4	.200	64	137	3-6	.333	151	216	3-3	0-3 L3
Missouri State	1-4	.200	67	162	1-7	.125	120	292	0-4	1-3 L4
Western Illinois	1-4	.200	107	178	1-8	.111	175	303	1-4	0-4 W1

## Schedule/Results

### Saturday, Nov. 2

Southern Illinois 23, Indiana State 14  
#9 UNI 27, #7 Illinois State 10  
Western Illinois 38, South Dakota 34  
#4 South Dakota State 35, Missouri State 14  
#1 North Dakota State 56, Youngstown State 17

### Saturday, Nov. 9

#11 Illinois State at #4 South Dakota St., 2 pm CT  
Brookings, S.D. • Midco/ESPN+  
Missouri State at RV Southern Illinois, 2 pm CT  
Carbondale, Ill. • ESPN3  
RV Youngstown State at South Dakota, 2 pm CT  
Brookings, S.D. • Midco/ESPN+  
Western Illinois at #1 North Dakota St., 2:30 pm CT  
Fargo, N.D. • NBC ND/ESPN+  
Indiana State at #5 UNI, 4 pm CT  
Cedar Falls, Iowa • PSN/ESPN+

### Saturday, Nov. 16

Missouri State at Illinois State, 12 pm CT  
Youngstown State at Indiana State, 1 pm ET  
Southern Illinois at Western Illinois, 1 pm CT  
UNI at South Dakota State, 2 pm CT  
South Dakota at North Dakota State, 2:30 pm CT

## On the Air This Week

All five league games Saturday, Nov. 9, can be seen on either ESPN+ or ESPN3. The Conference will produce and air the Missouri State at Southern Illinois game at 2 pm CT (on ESPN3). Scott Warmann, Danan Hughes and Kelly Burke call the action from Saluki Stadium.

## MVFC Celebrates 35th & 150th

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

## • • Media Services • •

### Players of the Week

Each week a panel will select players of the week for offense, defense, newcomer, offensive line and special teams.

### MVFC Media Vault

By Wednesday of each week, the league will collect school weekly coach press conferences (audio/video links) and PDF links to weekly notes in the MVFC Media Vault.

### Statistics

Interactive school and league statistics are available, courtesy of the league's partnership with SIDEARM.

### Weekly Features

The league produces weekly video segments (Two Minute Drill and The Extra Point) and a bimonthly audio podcast (First and Goal). Each is available by visiting the league's web site (valleyfootball.org) - under the Multimedia tab on the main menu bar.

[www.valley-football.org](http://www.valley-football.org)



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## News/Notes

### NDSU Streak Reaches 30 Games

North Dakota State has extended its current winning streak to an FCS-best 30 games. NDSU set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14.

### Active FCS Winning Streaks

#### 30 - North Dakota State

17 - Princeton  
9 - Dartmouth  
8 - James Madison  
8 - Florida A&M

### Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

33 - North Dakota State (2012-14)  
30 - 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 - Penn (1896-98) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
31 - Pittsburgh (1914-18) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
31 - Oklahoma (1948-50) - pre-FBS/FCS classification  
30 - North Dakota State (2017-present) - FCS  
30 - Texas (1968-1970) - pre-FBS/FCS classification

### Active FCS Win Streaks in Conference Play

34 - San Diego (PFL)  
16 - North Dakota State (MVFC)  
11 - Princeton (Ivy)  
11 - Weber State (Big Sky)

## 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

## Celebrating 35 Years

In 2019, The Missouri Valley Football Conference is recognizing some of its all-time greats in accordance with the league's 35th anniversary and College Football's 150th anniversary. Following a month-long on-line voting campaign, the Conference is revealing its five best players at 10 different positions. As of Monday, Nov. 4, the league has announced its top QBs and RBs. Honorees are listed alphabetically.

The league will announce three position segments each week (next announcement is wide receivers on Wednesday, Nov. 6).

### QBs

Taryn Christion, South Dakota State, 2015-18  
 Brock Jensen, North Dakota State, 2010-13  
 Easton Stick, North Dakota State, 2015-18  
 Kurt Warner, UNI, 1990-93  
 Carson Wentz, North Dakota State, 2012-15

### RBs

Shakir Bell, Indiana State, 2010-13  
 Marshaun Coprich, Illinois State, 2012-15  
 Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois, 2005-08  
 David Johnson, UNI, 2010-14  
 Zach Zenner, South Dakota State, 2011-14

## Still Perfect

Just three FCS teams remain unbeaten in 2019. There are seven perfect FBS teams.

### FCS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

**9-0 North Dakota State**  
 7-0 Dartmouth, Princeton

### FBS Unbeaten Teams (2019)

9-0 Clemson  
 8-0 Alabama, Baylor, LSU, Minnesota  
 Ohio State, Penn State

## Ranked vs. Ranked

There have been 179 games in which two MVFC teams ranked in the top 25 played one another. Of the previous 179 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 103-75, while the higher-ranked team is 114-65. 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.

SDSU hosts Illinois State in a battle between ranked MVFC schools on Saturday.

### 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

## 3 MVFC Teams in Top 5

For just the fifth time in league history, three MVFC schools occupy 3 of the Top 5 spots in a national poll. NDSU (1), SDSU (4), UNI (5) and Illinois State (11) represent the league this week. Southern Illinois and Youngstown State are also receiving votes.

The league previously had 3 of the Top 5 teams on Sept. 28, 2015; Sept. 11, 2017; Sept. 18, 2017; and Sept. 25, 2017.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey	Sagarin
NDSU	1	1	1	1
SDSU	4	4	4	3
UNI	5	7	8	6
ILS	11	12	11	12
SIU	RV	RV	18	17
YSU	RV	-	24	19

### Massey Rankings, Team Leaders

- 1. North Dakota State**
- James Madison
- Weber State
- South Dakota State
- Montana
- Dartmouth
- Sacramento State
- 8. UNI**
- Princeton
- UC Davis
- 11. Illinois State**

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), and three MVFC schools are in the Top 6.

### Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

- 1. North Dakota State**
- James Madison (CAA)
- 3. South Dakota State**
- Weber State (Big Sky)
- Montana (Big Sky)
- 6. UNI**
- Dartmouth (Ivy)
- Sacramento State (Big Sky)

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

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

## Tough Schedules

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

### Strength of Schedule Ratings, Massey Ratings

- 3. UNI**
- 10. Missouri State**
- 11. South Dakota State**
- 12. North Dakota State**
- 17. Southern Illinois**
- 23. South Dakota**
- 29. Youngstown State**

## Players of the Week

### Offense

**QB Connor Sampson, Western Illinois**  
6-3, 215, Jr., Belleville, Mich. (Belleville HS)

Sampson threw for a career-high 368 passing yards with three touchdowns in Western's 38-34 win over South Dakota. The yardage ranks 14th all-time in Western's single-game records and also sits third-most on the MVFC's 2019 passing list. Sampson also completed 31 passes which ties for second all-time in WIU single-game history. The Western win snapped a 10-game losing streak dating back to last season.

### Defense & Newcomer

**DB Omar Brown, UNI**  
6-1, 195, Fr., Minneapolis, Minn. (North Senior High)

Brown tallied two interceptions, a tackle for loss and five tackles, including four solo stops to help No. 9 UNI defeat No. 7 Illinois State 27-10 in Normal, Ill. In the first half, he took down Walter Payton Award Candidate James Robinson down in the backfield on fourth down to end a promising Illinois State drive in Panther territory. His first interception of the game came with less than a minute to play in the second quarter and set up a Panther touchdown that gave UNI a 14-7 lead. He picked off his second pass with 5:33 to play in the game to help UNI close out the statement road win.

### Special Teams

**RB/KR Kobe Johnson, North Dakota State**  
5-9, 177, Fr., Lawrenceville, Ga. (Discovery HS)

Johnson had 241 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns in North Dakota State's 56-17 win at Youngstown State. It was the fifth-most all-purpose yards by an NDSU player in a Division I game. Johnson notched his second career 100-yard rushing game with six carries for a season-high 103 yards including a 75-yard touchdown. In his first game returning kickoffs, he had three for 138 yards including a 94-yard touchdown that is tied for sixth longest in school history.

### Offensive Line

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

Radunz had zero missed assignments and allowed zero pressures in North Dakota State's 56-17 win at Youngstown State. He led a Bison offensive line that paved the way for six ball carriers who totaled 251 yards and averaged 7.4 yards per rush. NDSU gained 9.9 yards per play on 45 offensive snaps while limiting a productive Penguins defense to one tackle for loss.

## 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, Western Illinois has a 1-8 record against No. 1-ranked teams, beating top-ranked Youngstown State in 1998.

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 4-0 at home this season. NDSU (23) leads the FCS for current consecutive wins at home. Alabama's 31-game winning streak at home leads the FBS. UNI has a current 8-game home winning streak.

NCAA Leaders, Active Home Win Streaks

- 23 - North Dakota State (MVFC)**  
14 - Grambling State (SWAC)  
13 - Eastern Washington (Big Sky)  
11 - Stetson (PFL)  
11 - Southeast Missouri State (OVC)

## Taking the Show on the Road

North Dakota State extended its FCS-leading road winning streak to nine games with its victory at Youngstown State on Nov. 2.

NCAA Leaders, Active Road Win Streaks

### 9 - North Dakota State (MVFC)

- 7 - Princeton (Ivy)  
5 - Dartmouth (Ivy)  
4 - James Madison (CAA)

## Back to Back, Jack

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

During its current 30-game winning streak, NDSU has beaten 17 teams ranked in the Top 25 at the time of the game.

South Dakota State plays back-to-back ranked teams at home on Nov. 9 (Illinois State) and Nov. 16 (UNI).

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

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

## 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
Illinois State	13	16	12	10	8	6	10	10	7	7	11
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv	rv	rv	--	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	18	11	10	8	7	13	10	14	11	9	5
S. Dakota	rv	--	--	--	--	--	--	rv	--	--	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
S. Illinois	--	--	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 nine games of his career, North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance ranks among the NCAA leaders in pass efficiency (2nd with a 186.1 rating) and 'points responsible for' (t9th with 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.

In the win at Youngstown State on Nov. 2, Lance extended his streak to 160 consecutive passing attempts without an interception, breaking the NDSU school record of 152 set by Easton Stick from 2016 to 2017.

### FCS Leaders - Pass Efficiency Rating

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
1 Reid Sinnett, San Diego (Pioneer)	186.4
<b>2 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>186.1</b>
3 Felix Harper, Alcorn (SWAC)	186.1
4 Kevin Davidson, Princeton (Ivy League)	177.9
5 Aaron Winchester, Central Conn. (NEC)	174.5

## Weston Leads MVFC Receivers

UNI's Isaiah Weston tallied a team-high 68 yards on five catches in the Panther victory at Illinois State but was held out of the end zone for the first time since week one's loss to Iowa State. He is the first Panther since Eddie Berlin in 2000 to score a TD in seven consecutive games.

Weston ranks 2nd in the FCS by averaging 24.97 yards per reception. He's tied for 5th in receiving TDs (10), sixth in total receiving yards (924) and eighth in receiving yards per game (102.7).

### FCS Leaders - Yards Per Reception

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPR
1. Chris Blair, Alcorn (SWAC)	25.38
<b>2. Isaiah Weston, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>24.97</b>
3. Earnest Edwards, Maine (CAA)	23.60
4. EJ Jenkins, Saint Francis (NEC)	23.05
5. Talolo Limu-Jones, E. Wash. (Big Sky)	22.95

## Kicking It

South Dakota's Brady Schutt punted just three times in the Coyote loss at Western Illinois, averaging 44.0 yards per kick while placing two inside the WIU 20-yard line with a long punt of 51 yards.

He ranks third in the FCS with his 46.1 punting average.

### FCS Leaders - Punting

Rank, Team (Conf.)	AVG
1. Alex Pechin, Bucknell (Patriot)	49.0
2. Derek Arnson, Northern Ariz. (Big Sky)	46.2
<b>3. Brady Schutt, South Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>46.1</b>
4. Chris Faddoul, Florida A&M (MEAC)	45.9
5. Jered Padmos, Montana St. (Big Sky)	45.6

## 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

\* - denotes National Player of the Week

## Among the NCAA Rush Leaders

Two MVFC runningbacks are among the FCS leaders in rushing yards per game. Pierre Strong of South Dakota State is 8th (108.3 yards per game) and James Robinson of Illinois State is 9th (107.0 ypg). Robinson is tied for fifth in the FCS with 14 rushing TDs. Javon Williams Jr. of Southern Illinois ranks 8th with 13 rushing touchdowns for the Salukis, which included two in the win against Indiana State on Nov. 2.

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Karekin Brooks, Penn (Ivy League)	126.8
2. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	126.8
3. Julius Chestnut, Sacred Heart (NEC)	123.1
4. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth (Big South)	122.1
5. Alex Ramsey, VMI (SoCon)	119.8
6. Ailym Ford, Chattanooga (SoCon)	119.0
7. Dawonya Tucker, Prairie View (SWAC)	114.5
<b>8. Pierre Strong, S. Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>108.3</b>
<b>9. James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>107.0</b>

### Active Career FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

1. A.J. Hines, Duquesne	4,469
<b>2. James Robinson, Illinois State</b>	<b>3,508</b>
3. Wesley Dugger, Davidson	3,113
4. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth	3,078
5. Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, Chattanooga	3,067

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards Per Carry

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPC
1. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	8.11
2. Joe Newman, Wofford (SoCon)	7.73
<b>3. Pierre Strong, S. Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>7.62</b>
4. Dawonya Tucker, Prairie View (SWAC)	7.39
5. Jake Chisholm, Dayton (PFL)	7.36

## Chinn Tops MVFC in INTs

A pair of MVFC student-athletes are among the FCS leaders in interceptions per game. All-American Jeremy Chinn of Southern Illinois leads the league with four interceptions in his seven games played. Freshman Omar Brown of UNI is tied for fifth nationally with five interceptions (in nine games played). He had two picks in the victory against Illinois State.

### FCS Leaders - Interceptions Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	IPG
1. Greg Liggs Jr., Elon (CAA)	0.8
2. Joseph McWilliams, Grambling (SWAC)	0.8
3. Kordell Jackson, Austin Peay (OVC)	0.7
<b>4. Jeremy Chinn, Southern Ill. (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>5. Omar Brown, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.6</b>

## Simmons Leads MVFC in Offense

South Dakota QB Austin Simmons leads the MVFC and ranks 7th in the FCS in total offense per game (318.4 ypg). Against WIU last week, Simmons completed 25 of 45 passes for 274 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran for 79 yards.

## 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 South Dakota. He'll be up against one of the winningest coaches among current FCS mentors in Bob Nielson (205 wins). Notably, three current MVFC coaches rank among the Top 9 in the FCS.

### FCS Active Leaders - Winningest Coaches

Rank, Current FCS Team	Wins
1. Al Bagnoli (Columbia)	260
2. K.C. Keeler (Sam Houston State)	231
3. Tim Murphy (Harvard)	210
<b>4. Bob Nielson (South Dakota)</b>	<b>205</b>
5. Tim Walsh (Cal Poly)	175
<b>6. John Stiegelmeier (South Dakota State)</b>	<b>165</b>
7. Bryan Collins (LIU)	160
8. Kevin Callahan (Monmouth)	159
<b>9. Mark Farley (UNI)</b>	<b>155</b>

## Paper or Plastic

Three MVFC student-athletes are in the Top 9 in the FCS in sacks per game. Eleron Smith of UNI leads the MVFC and ranks 3rd nationally with 1.11 per game. Derrek Tuszka of North Dakota State (4th at 1.06 per game) and Justus Reed of Youngstown State (9th at 0.94 per game) also represent the league among the national 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 (3.67 per game). Southern Illinois is right behind ISU at 3.44 per game (good for 6th in the FCS). Four other MVFC schools are in the Top 25, including UNI (t-11th), South Dakota State (t-11th), North Dakota State (t-25th) and Youngstown State (t-25th).

### FCS Leaders - Sacks Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Andre Walker, Houston Bapt. (Southland)	1.50
2. George Obinna, Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	1.28
<b>3. Eleron Smith, UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.11</b>
<b>4. Derrek Tuszka, North Dakota St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>1.06</b>
4. Keith Woetzel, Lehigh (Patriot)	1.06
6. Eli Mencer, Albany (CAA)	1.06
6. Bryce Sterk, Montana St. (Big Sky)	1.06
8. John Daka, James Madison (CAA)	1.00
<b>9. Justus Reed, Youngstown St. (MVFC)</b>	<b>0.94</b>
9. Cameron Gill, Wagner (NEC)	0.94

### FCS Leaders - Team Sacks Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	SPG
1. Harvard (Ivy League)	4.71
2. Sacramento State (Big Sky)	4.00
3. Sam Houston State (Southland)	3.78
<b>4. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.67</b>
5. Bethune-Cookman (MEAC)	3.50
<b>6. Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.44</b>
<b>11. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>11. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>25. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2.67</b>
<b>25. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2.67</b>

## Turnovers are a Key

Three MVFC schools rank among the FCS leaders in turnover margin this season. UNI forced four turnovers, including three on four consecutive offensive plays in the fourth quarter in its win at Illinois State. The Panthers now rank 7th in the FCS in turnover margin (+9). North Dakota State and Youngstown State both have a +8 margin, which is tied for ninth in the FCS.

## What a Rush

North Dakota State leads the MVFC and ranks fourth in the FCS, averaging 288.0 yards per game on the ground. South Dakota State gains 234.4 per game to rank 12th in the FCS, while Southern Illinois ranks 14th (218.1 yards per game). SIU piled up 265 rushing yards against Indiana State, including 180 from RB D.J. Davis.

### FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Kennesaw State (Big South)	360.9
2. Wofford (SoCon)	333.9
3. Davidson (PFL)	314.4
<b>4. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>288.0</b>
5. Furman (SoCon)	280.8

## Total Defense Leaders

Six MVFC schools rank among the Top 23 in the FCS for fewest yards allowed this season, led by North Dakota State (2nd in the FCS with 271.4 yards per game).

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

### FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Central Connecticut State (NEC)	260.2
<b>2. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>271.4</b>
3. Davidson (PFL)	285.6
4. Kennesaw State (Big South)	287.7
<b>7. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>298.2</b>
<b>11. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>307.2</b>
<b>17. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>323.6</b>
<b>22. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>337.6</b>
<b>23. Indiana State (MVFC)</b>	<b>338.0</b>

### FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1. Dartmouth (Ivy League)	10.1
<b>2. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>11.7</b>
3. Princeton (Ivy League)	13.7
4. Georgetown (Patriot)	15.4
<b>6. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>11. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>17. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>20.1</b>



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (6-3, 3-2 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.	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*Missouri State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.

\*MVFC game

### No Fly Zone

Redbird cornerback Devin Taylor had a strong sophomore campaign for the Redbirds in 2018, and has certainly built upon that success in 2019. Taylor currently ranks fourth on the team with 42 tackles, including 32 solo stops, and leads the Redbirds with 10 pass breakups. He also recorded his second interception of the season, when he picked off UNI's Will McElvain in the second quarter of Saturday's game. With 12 passes defended, Taylor ranks among the league's best defensive backs and is proving once again why he was worthy of All-MVFC honors a year ago.

### Finally Leaving the Land of Lincoln

A scheduling anomaly for the Redbirds in 2019 resulted in the team not having to leave the state of Illinois until this upcoming weekend, when ISU flies to South Dakota to play the Jackrabbits. Five home games and four road contests against in-state foes have kept the Redbirds close to the nest, but that all changes this week when the nationally-ranked Jacks host the Redbirds. So far, the road has been kind to the 'Birds with a 3-1 record including three-straight wins over Eastern Illinois, Southern Illinois and Western Illinois. ISU has averaged over 23 points per contest in those games and have limited their hosts to an average of just 8 points per game.

### Simon Says

When he joined the Redbirds this summer after transferring from Iowa, Brandon Simon knew he would have an opportunity to make an immediate impact in a strong ISU defense. Mostly playing in a reserve role, Simon has racked up three sacks and 5.5 TFLs on the season from his outside linebacker position. The majority of that production has come in the past four games, with sacks in back-to-back wins at Southern Illinois and Western Illinois and TFLs in three out of the last four games, including one in his first career start against UNI.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (3-6, 1-4 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	ESPN+	5:00 p.m. ET
N16	*Youngstown State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Linebackers Setting the Tone

Linebackers Jonas Griffith and Clayton Glasco have dominated the defensive side of the ball for the Sycamores in 2019. Griffith is leading Indiana State with 82 tackles while Glasco has made 59 stops even though he has missed the last three games due to injury. The duo have combined for 18.5 of the team's 66 tackles-for-loss, six of the 21 sacks and two of the seven interceptions.

### Griffith Moving Thru Top-10 List

Louisville, Ky., native Jonas Griffith finished Saturday with eight stops from the linebacker position. With the performance, the red-shirt senior moved into a tie for eighth place in career tackles (358) in program history, passing Eric Chistensen (1988-91) and tying Alex Sewall (2008-11). Griffith is 30 tackles away from moving into seventh place on the list.

### 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 244 points, kicked 48 field goals and 100 PAT's.





## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (1-7, 1-4 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	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Peyton's Passing Prowess

Bears quarterback Peyton Huslig has started 30 consecutive games and enters this week needing 222 passing yards to reach 6,000 for his MSU career. The senior from Andover, Kan., would become just the third Missouri State signal caller – joining Cody Kirby (8,183) and Jeremy Hoog (6,959) – to reach that elite milestone. With 34 touchdown passes, he is also two shy of matching Mitch Ware and Hoog for second place on the Bears' career chart. Huslig also ranks third all-time at Missouri State in completions (487), passing attempts (884), plays (1,217) and total offense yards (6,780).

### Wilson Watch

The long-awaited return of Bears' running back Jeremiah Wilson (So., Kansas City, Mo.) proved to be one of the highlights of Missouri State's efforts against No. 4 South Dakota State on Saturday. Wilson averaged 7.2 yards per carry in a reserve capacity, ripping off a 57-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter – just the team's third rushing score of the year. Wilson racked up 87 yards on a dozen carries against the Jackrabbits to match a career-best.

### Kicking It with Brendan

Bears' punter Brendan Withrow (Sr., Imperial, Mo.) recently moved into the No. 3 position on Missouri State's career punting average list. With 185 punts, Withrow is averaging 41.3 yards per attempts, which ranks just behind Nathan Stokes (42.3) and Pat Hogan (41.8) on MSU's career chart. He enters the final three games of his senior year sixth in punts (185) and punting yardage (7,645), while his season punting average (42.2) ranks second in the MVFC and 24th nationally.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (9-0, 5-0 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	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*at Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Entz Ties Win Mark for Rookie Coaches

Matt Entz has won his first nine games as head coach, matching the NDSU and Missouri Valley Football Conference record 9-0 start by Chris Klieman in 2014. Entz is the sixth MVFC head coach to win at least nine games in his first year in the league:

Most Wins, First-Year MVFC Head Coaches

15—Chris Klieman, North Dakota State, 2014 (15-1, 7-1 MVFC, 1st place)

13—Jim Tressel, Youngstown State, 1997 (13-2, 4-2 MVFC, 3rd place)

11—Mark Farley, Northern Iowa, 2001 (11-3, 6-1 MVFC, 1st place)

9—Dale Lennon, Southern Illinois, 2008 (9-3, 7-1 MVFC, 1st place tie)

9—David Elson, Western Kentucky, 2003 (9-4, 5-2 MVFC, 3rd place tie)

9—Matt Entz, North Dakota State, 2019 (9-0, 5-0 MVFC)

### First Quarter Scoring Outburst

North Dakota State's 21 points in the first quarter at Youngstown State were the most in an opening 15 minutes this season for the Bison, who have scored at least two first-quarter touchdowns in five of nine games. NDSU has scored more points in the first quarter (106) than the Bison have allowed all season (105).

### Beware of Guests

For the third time in two seasons, North Dakota State has set a stadium record for points by a visiting team. NDSU's 56 points last week were the most by a team visiting Youngstown State since Stambaugh Stadium opened in 1982. Last season, the Bison scored 56 in a win at Northern Iowa, the most by an opposing team in the UNI-Dome since its 1976 opening. NDSU's 59 points at South Dakota last year tied the mark of 59 set by the Bison in a 1996 win at the DakotaDome, which opened in 1979.

### Lance, Bison Limiting Turnovers

QB Trey Lance has attempted 160 career passes without an interception, breaking the school record 152 set by Easton Stick (2016-17). The Bison have committed the fewest turnovers in the MVFC this season (5) and are plus-8 in turnover margin, tied with Youngstown State for second best in the conference behind Northern Iowa (+9).



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(6-3, 4-1 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	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
N16	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Taking Care of the Ball

Freshman quarterback Will McElvain has just two interceptions on the season. The Panthers are tied for 8th in the FCS for interceptions thrown.

### Markvember

During his time at UNI, head coach Mark Farley has amassed a 57-10 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).

### Players of the Week

A UNI player has earned MVFC Player of the Week honors after eight of nine games played this season. UNI has notched 11 total POTW honors, tied for second-most in program history with the 1996 season. UNI recorded a school-record 13 in 2001.

### Ballhawking

The Panther rank seventh in the FCS in turnover margin. UNI has tallied 20 turnovers, including 13 over the last three games. The Panthers are 13th in the FCS for fumbles recovered and 13th in the FCS for interceptions. The Panthers are first in the MVFC in defensive touchdowns and 14th in the FCS.

### Defense Stepping Up

Illinois State recorded just 210 offensive yards. It was the second consecutive game that UNI held their opponent to 210 yards or less. The Panthers are 11th in the FCS in total defense, 17th in scoring defense, 17th in tackles for loss and 11th in sacks.



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(3-6, 2-3 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	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at North Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Just Short in Macomb

South Dakota ran a program-record 107 offensive plays, totaled 37 first downs and racked up 578 yards of offense, but couldn't win the scoreboard Saturday in Macomb. The Coyotes lost the turnover battle 2-0 and were flagged 14 times for 160 yards. South Dakota and Western Illinois combined for 378 yards and five touchdowns during a fourth quarter that had five lead changes.

### Another Career High for Henry

South Dakota junior running back Kai Henry ran 30 times for 145 yards – both career bests – in Saturday's game in Macomb. It marked the second week in a row Henry set a career high. He carried 18 times for 116 the week prior against Southern Illinois. Henry has three 100-yard efforts this season and five for his career.

### Greenfield Nears Sack Record

Darin Greenfield registered his fifth sack of the season during Saturday's game at Macomb. That gives him 24.0 during his four-year career. The Coyotes' all-time record is 27.0 shared by A.J. Schable and Tyler Starr. The Coyotes have three games remaining during the regular season.

### Youngstown State Up Next

South Dakota hosts Youngstown State in a 2 p.m. kickoff inside the DakotaDome Saturday. The two teams have split the last two meetings with USD winning 31-28 at home in 2017 and Youngstown State earning a 29-17 victory on a rainy day in Ohio last season.





## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(7-2, 4-1 MVFC)

A29	at Minnesota	L, 21-28	0-1, 0-0
S7	Long Island	W, 38-3	1-1, 0-0
S14	Drake	W, 38-10	2-1, 0-0
S21	Southern Utah	W, 43-7	3-1, 0-0
O5	*Southern Illinois	W, 28-10	4-1, 1-0
O12	*at #17 Youngstown St.	W, 38-28	5-1, 2-0
O19	*at Indiana State	W, 42-23	6-1, 3-0
O26	*#1 North Dakota State	L, 16-23	6-2, 3-1
N2	*at Missouri State	W, 35-14	7-2, 4-1
N9	*#11 Illinois State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*at South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Another Winning Season

With its 35-14 win at Missouri State on Nov. 2, South Dakota State recorded its seventh victory of the season and with it secured its eighth consecutive winning season. Since finishing with back-to-back 5-6 overall records in 2010 and 2011, the Jackrabbits have compiled a combined 74-30 record since the start of the 2012 campaign, including posting 11 wins in 2017 and 10 victories in 2018 en route to semifinal appearances in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. SDSU also put together a string of eight consecutive winning seasons from 2002-2009. The 2002 and 2003 seasons were played at the NCAA Division II level before moving to the FCS ranks in 2004. The program's longest streak for consecutive winning seasons is nine (1913-22). No games were played in 1918 due to World War I.

### Heide Passes First Test

True freshman Keaton Heide became the third different QB to start a game for the Jackrabbits this season as he took over the signal-caller duties Nov. 2 at Missouri State. A native of Wayzata, Minn., Heide completed 11-of-19 passes for 173 yards. His first career touchdown pass, a 10-yarder to Adam Anderson, opened the scoring in SDSU's 35-14 victory. Redshirt freshman J'Bore Gibbs started six games for the Jackrabbits before being sidelined by injury in the Oct. 26 game against North Dakota State. Junior Kanin Nelson started two games in September, helping lead SDSU to wins over Long Island and Drake.

### Interceptions Streak Continues

South Dakota State came away with a pair of second-quarter interceptions at Missouri State last week. Safety Josh Manchigiah recorded his second interception of the season, with freshman cornerback Diamond Evans tallying his first career interception on the final play of the first half. The Jackrabbits have at least one interception in all nine games this season and 15 of 16 games dating back to 2018. SDSU's 12 interceptions as a team rank eighth among FCS programs and are spread among nine different players, with Manchigiah, Christian Rozeboom and Michael Griffin II sharing the team lead with two.



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(5-4, 3-2 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	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Salukis Aiming for Four-Straight Wins

A win versus Missouri State would give the Salukis their first four-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 UNI back-to-back.

### Williams Leads DI Freshmen w 15 TDs

RB Javon Williams Jr. (6-1, 239, rFr.) has scored 15 touchdowns on the season (13 rushing, 2 receiving) — the most by a freshman in Division I. He is tied with Memphis RB Kenny Gainwell. No other FCS freshman has more than 10 touchdowns. The 15 TDs is a freshman record at SIU and seventh overall in FCS this year. It's the most by a Saluki player since RB Jewel Hampton had 17 in 2011.

In the game against Youngstown State, Williams Jr. became the first player in school history to rush for a TD, catch at TD and pass for a TD in the same game. Williams Jr. Frequently operating out of the Wildcat formation, Williams averages 7.0 yards per carry and his 717 rushing yards ranks second among freshmen in SIU history. Tom Koutsos holds the mark with 1,052 in 1999.

### Davis Eclipses 5,000 All-Purpose Yards

During last week's game, RB D.J. Davis (5-8, 170, Sr.) became just the third player in school history to surpass 5,000 career all-purpose (rushing, receiving, return yardage) yards. He has 5,072 and trails Tom Koutsos by five yards. Arkee Whitlock is the school record holder with 5,601. Davis, who missed two games this season with a dislocated elbow, is coming off a season-high 160 yards at Indiana State. He has recorded 10 100-yard rushing games in his last 18 outings. Davis ranks sixth in career rushing at SIU (2,388). He is on the 2019 watch list for the College Football Performance Awards (CFPA) FCS National Performer of the Year trophy.



## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (1-8, 1-4 MVFC)

A29	at North Alabama	L, 17-26	0-1, 0-0
S7	at Colorado State	L, 13-38	0-2, 0-0
S14	#10 Montana State	L, 13-24	0-3, 0-0
S21	Tennessee Tech	L, 24-38	0-4, 0-0
O5	*Missouri State	L, 31-37 (3ot)	0-5, 0-1
O12	*at Indiana State	L, 10-20	0-6, 0-2
O19	*#10 Illinois State	L, 14-28	0-7, 0-3
O26	*at Youngstown State	L, 14-59	0-8, 0-4
N2	*South Dakota	W, 38-34	1-8, 1-4
N9	*at #1 North Dakota St.	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*at UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

\*MVFC game

### Streak Ended

364 days had passed since Western's last win, and the team refused to let an entire year go by as its 10-game winless spell began and ended with South Dakota.

Western Illinois 38, South Dakota 34

- Western trailed 20-7 in the third quarter
- There were three touchdowns in the final five minutes; Clint Ratkovich recorded the game-winner on a nine-yard rush
- Eric Carrera intercepted the ball at the one-yard line on USD's final possession

### MVFC Player of the Week

In a span of 24 hours, Connor Sampson earned his first win at QB and his first career MVFC weekly award. The junior was named Offensive Player of the Week after throwing for a career-high 368 passing yards with three touchdowns in Western's 38-34 win over South Dakota. The yardage ranks 14th all-time in Western's single-game records, while also sitting third-most on the MVFC's 2019 passing list.

### 10-Plus

Five Leathernecks finished with 10 or more tackles in the Leathernecks' 38-34 win over South Dakota. Zach Glisan finished the afternoon with a career-high, season-high 16 tackles (eight assisted, eight solo), and was followed by Demetri Royer (13), Justin Nutof (13), Mike Viti (12) and Eric Carrera (11). This season, Western has seen no more than two finish with 10-plus, as Andre Whitley and Glisan recorded 13 and 12, respectively, against Indiana State. Glisan was also the last Leatherneck to record 15 or more tackles and did so with 15 versus Montana last year.



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (5-4, 1-4 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	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
N16	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET

\*MVFC game

### Waid's Future Bright

Freshman QB Mark Waid was forced into duty vs. North Dakota State when injuries forced Nathan Mays and Joe Craycraft out of the lineup. Waid performed well rushing for 79 yards on eight carries, including a 27-yard touchdown run. He completed 5-of-10 passes for 51 yards in the second half. Waid has played in three games this year and can play in one more to save a year of eligibility.

### Joiner Stepping Up His Game

Sophomore TE Miles Joiner has seen increased production since MVFC play started. Joiner had four receptions entering league play, but since has caught 15 passes for 197 yards and three touchdowns. He has touchdown grabs against South Dakota State, Western Illinois and North Dakota State. Joiner caught a season-high five passes for 81 yards against SDSU. He had three catches for 88 yards against Duquesne, including a season-long 58-yard reception. For his career, he has 31 receptions for 498 yards and seven touchdowns.

### Record Season For Coates

Junior PR Jake Coates is having one of the best seasons by a punt returner in school history. Coates has returned 26 punts for a school-record 319 yards this season, an average of 12.3 per return. Coates' nine-yard performance against NDSU helped him surpass Dave Roberts who had held the mark with 317 since 1992.