



For Immediate Release
Sept. 16, 2019

Mike Kern

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

1818 Chouteau Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 444-4326 • (314) 435-4779 [Kern cell]



2019 Valley Football Standings (thru Saturday, Sept. 14)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall	Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp		W-L	Pct.			
North Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	142	39	1-0	1-0 W24
Youngstown State	0-0	.000	0	0	3-0	1.000	133	64	2-0	0-0 W3
Illinois State	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	73	41	1-0	1-1 W2
South Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	97	41	2-0	0-1 W2
Southern Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	99	78	1-0	1-1 W2
Northern Iowa	0-0	.000	0	0	1-1	.500	60	43	1-0	0-1 W1
Indiana State	0-0	.000	0	0	1-2	.333	71	73	1-1	0-1 W1
Missouri State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-2	.000	29	95	0-0	0-2 L7
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	0-3	.000	83	154	0-2	0-1 L4
Western Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	0-3	.000	44	87	0-1	0-2 L5

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Sept. 14

#12 Illinois State 21, Eastern Illinois 3
Indiana State 19, Eastern Kentucky 7
Tulane 58, Missouri State 6
#1 North Dakota State 47, #18 Delaware 22
Houston Baptist 53, South Dakota 52
#3 South Dakota State 38, Drake 10
Southern Illinois 28, UT Martin 14
#10 Montana State 23, Western Illinois 14
Youngstown State 34, Duquesne 14

Saturday, Sept. 21

Eastern Illinois at RV Indiana State
Terre Haute, Ind. • 1 pm ET [ESPN+]
#6 Kennesaw State at Missouri State
Springfield, Mo. • 2 pm CT [KOZL/ESPN+]
#4 UC Davis at #1 North Dakota State
Fargo, N.D. • 2:30 pm CT [NBC ND/ESPN+]
South Dakota at Northern Colorado
Greeley, Colo. • 3 pm CT [Pluto]
Tennessee Tech at Western Illinois
Macomb, Ill. • 3 pm CT [ESPN3]
RV Idaho State at #8 UNI
Cedar Falls, Iowa • 4 pm CT [PSN/ESPN+]
Southern Utah at #3 South Dakota State
Brookings, S.D. • 6 pm CT [Midco/ESPN+]
RV Southern Illinois at Arkansas State [ESPN3]
Jonesboro, Ark. • 6 pm CT
RV Northern Arizona at #10 Illinois State
Normal, Ill. • 6:30 p.m. [ESPN+]

• • 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



facebook.com/ValleyFootball



@valleyfootball • @FCS_Insider

@ESPNCFB • @NCAA_FCS

@FCS_STATS • @HeroSportsNews

#MVFC_35 #FCS_CFB150

News/Notes

Yet Another FBS Win

Thanks to Southern Illinois' 45-20 win at UMass on Sept. 7, 2019, the Conference has had at least one FBS win in each of the last 10 seasons. The MVFC recorded a 1-7 mark vs. the FBS last year. Below is a list of MVFC wins against FBS programs in the past nine seasons. The Conference has 46 FBS wins in its history.

There are nine MVFC-FBS games on the schedule this year, including the final one this week (Southern Illinois at Arkansas State). The league is 1-7 against FBS programs so far this season. Only one MVFC school (Indiana State in 1987) has recorded two FBS wins in the same season.

2010	North Dakota State at Kansas (6-3)
2011	Indiana State at Western Kentucky (44-16)
	North Dakota State at Minnesota (37-24)
2012	Youngstown State at Pitt (31-17)
	North Dakota State at Colorado St. (22-17)
	Illinois State at Eastern Michigan (31-14)
2013	North Dakota State at K-State (24-21)
	UNI at Iowa State (28-20)
2014	North Dakota State at Iowa State (34-14)
	Indiana State at Ball State (27-20)
2015	South Dakota State at Kansas (41-38)
2016	Illinois State at Northwestern (9-7)
	North Dakota State at #11 Iowa (23-21)
	UNI at Iowa State (25-20)
	Western Illinois at Northern Illinois (28-23)
2017	South Dakota at Bowling Green (35-27)
	Western Illinois at Coastal Carolina (52-10)
2018	Illinois State at Colorado State (35-19)
2019	Southern Illinois at UMass (45-20)



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.

2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (September 16)

vs. Non-Conference (14-14)

Home: 9-4 / Away: 3-10 / Neut: 2-0

NCAA FCS Teams (13-7)

Big Sky	1-3
UC Davis	0-0
Idaho State	0-0
Montana	0-1
Montana State	0-1
Northern Arizona	0-1
Northern Colorado	0-0
Southern Utah	1-0
Weber State	0-0
Big South	0-1
Kennesaw State	0-0
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	2-0
Duquesne	1-0
Long Island	1-0
Robert Morris	0-0
Ohio Valley	3-1
Eastern Illinois	1-0
Eastern Kentucky	1-0
SE Missouri State	0-1
UT Martin	1-0
Tennessee Tech	0-0
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 (1-7)

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	0-0
Arkansas State	0-0

vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (1-3)

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 State at WIU (9/14), L, 23-14

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

Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series



Last year, the MVFC captured the second annual Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series, 5-3. (The MVFC also won the 2017 series, also by a 5-3 edge.) The home team won all eight games last year. Seven of the eight games in 2018 featured at least one ranked team (in two of the games, both teams were ranked.) The MVFC conducted one previous challenge series (with the OVC) and the MVFC won all three season series against the OVC (2003, 2004, 2005) with a combined record of 20-2 in those games. The two playoff matchups last year did not count toward the MVFC-Big Sky series.

Ten MVFC-Big Sky matchups are on the slate this year, including five this week. The Big Sky leads this year's series (3-1).

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 - Idaho State at UNI
 Sept. 21 - Northern Arizona at Illinois State
 Sept. 21 - South Dakota at Northern Colorado
 Sept. 21 - UC Davis at North Dakota State
 Sept. 21 - Southern Utah at South Dakota State
 Sept. 28 - Northern Iowa at Weber State

Against Ranked FCS Teams

The MVFC is 1-3 against Top-25 opponents so far this year, with North Dakota State picking up a win at #18 Delaware last week. Last year, in non-league play, the league was 2-2 during the regular season against ranked FCS teams, marking the 16th time in the league's 34-year history with multiple regular-season top-25 non-conference wins. Since 2014, league schools have combined for a 44-22 record against non-conference top-25 teams (counting the playoffs). Two league teams face ranked FCS opponents this weekend.

Years with Multiple Regular-Season Top-25 Wins

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

*represents league record in each category

5 MVFC Teams Ranked

Two-time defending national champ North Dakota State headlines a list of seven MVFC teams receiving votes in the polls this week.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey
NDSU	1	1	1
SDSU	3	3	2
UNI	9	8	9
ILS	15	10	18
YSU	24	21	12
INS	RV	RV	44
SIU	RV	RV	30
USD	--	--	58
WIU	--	--	55
MSU	--	--	66

In the Massey Ratings, the MVFC and Big Sky each has 5 teams in the Top 20, followed by CAA Football (4) and the Ivy League (3), which has yet to play a game.

Massey Rankings, Team Leaders

1. North Dakota State
2. South Dakota State
3. Princeton
4. James Madison
5. Eastern Washington

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), and three MVFC schools are in the Top 5.

Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

1. North Dakota State
2. South Dakota State
3. James Madison
4. Towson
5. UNI
6. Montana
7. Kennesaw State
8. Weber State

Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

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

Tough Schedules

MVFC teams hold five of the Top 50 spots in the Massey Ratings strength of schedule index. Missouri State (9) and UNI (12) are both in the Top 12.

Strength of Schedule Ratings, Massey Ratings

9. Missouri State
12. UNI
19. South Dakota
26. South Dakota State
46. Western Illinois
53. Indiana State
54. Southern Illinois
58. North Dakota State

Players of the Week

Offense

QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota
6-1, 215, Sr., Council Bluffs (Iowa) Lewis Central
Simmons set USD single-game records for yards, attempts and completions in Saturday's game against Houston Baptist inside the DakotaDome. He completed 48 of 65 passes for 537 yards and a career-high tying four touchdowns. Three of his four throwing strikes were more than 20 yards.

Defense

DL Inoke Moala, Indiana State
6-4, 260, R-Jr., Mishawaka, Ind. (Penn HS)
Moala dominated the line of scrimmage in a victory over Eastern Kentucky Saturday. A redshirt junior, Moala recorded eight tackles in the game, including two sacks for 11 yards. Moala forced two fumbles on the Colonels' final drive to force a turnover on downs, allowing ISU to run out the clock.

Special Teams

K Griffin Crosa, North Dakota State
6-1, 165, Fr., Powell, Ohio (Dublin Scioto HS)
Crosa remained perfect on the season converting five PAT kicks and a pair of field goals in North Dakota State's 47-22 win at Delaware. Crosa connected from a season-long 46 yards to give the Bison a 10-2 lead in the first quarter, and drilled a 23-yarder in the second quarter to extend NDSU's lead to 20-5. Crosa is 17 of 17 on PATs and 3 of 3 on field goals this year.

Newcomer

CB Tre' Strong, Southern Illinois
6-1, 195, Sr., Billings, Mont. (Skyview / Utah)
Strong forced two fumbles and had two pass breakups as SIU rallied to beat UT Martin, 28-14. He also added five tackles, including a tackle for loss. After allowing touchdowns on UT Martin's first two drives, the Saluki defense stopped the Skyhawks on their final eight drives.

Offensive Line

LT Drew Himmelman, Illinois State
6-10, 315, Jr., Geneseo, Illinois (Geneseo HS)
Himmelman and the Redbird front dominated for the second week in a row, as ISU rushed for over 250 yards and scored three times in a win over Eastern Illinois. The Geneseo, Illinois, native graded out at 90 percent for the Redbirds and was vital in the success of James Robinson, who rushed for 146 yards and three scores on the ground as the Redbirds improved to 2-1 on the season. The Redbird rushing attack has averaged 300 yards and three touchdowns on the ground the past two weeks.

Home-Opening Win Streaks

NDSU beat visiting North Dakota in its home opener on Sept. 7, 38-7. North Dakota State, with 21-straight wins in home-opening games, ranks second in the FCS (to North Dakota's 33-game streak). South Dakota's 16-game win streak in home openers ended with a loss to Montana on Saturday, Aug. 31.

33 – North Dakota (1987-present)
21 – North Dakota State (1999-present)
20 – Central Arkansas (2000-present)
18 – Harvard (2001-present)
17 – James Madison (2003-present)
16 – Montana (2004-present)
15 – McNeese (2005-present)
14 – Richmond (2006-present)
14 – Jacksonville State (2006-present)

SIU Racks Up Points vs. FBS

Southern Illinois racked up 45 points and outgained UMass, 502-321 in total yards, in its win there on Sept. 7, 2019. The 45 points are tied for third-best against an FBS school in MVFC history. The margin of victory (25) points is third-most of the league's total 46 wins vs. FBS schools.

Most Points by MVFC School vs. FBS Foe

52 - W. Illinois (at Coastal Caro, 9-23-17, W, 52-10)
47 - Southern Illinois (at Indiana, 9-15-15, L, 48-47)
45 - Southern Illinois (at UMass, 9-7-19, W, 45-20)
45 - Southern Illinois (at E. Mich, 9-8-02, L, 48-45)
44 - Indiana St. (at W. Kentucky, 9-17-11, W, 44-16)
44 - YSU (vs. Kent State, 9-6-97, W, 44-23)
43 - Missouri State (at Mizzou, 9-2-17, L, 72-43)
42 - UNI (at Wyoming, 9-11-93, L, 45-42)

Margin of Victory by MVFC School vs. FBS Foe

42 – Western Illinois (52) vs. C. Carolina (10), 2017
28 – Indiana State (44) vs. W. Kentucky (16), 2011
25 – Southern Illinois (45) vs. UMass (20), 2019
24 – Indiana State (40) vs. Cincinnati (16), 1987
22 – Illinois State (25) vs. Akron (3), 1991
22 – Western Illinois (34) vs. E. Michigan (12), 2003
21 – Youngstown State (44) vs. Kent (23), 1997
20 – NDSU (34) vs. Iowa State (14), 2014



MVFC in the NFL

There were a total of 25 student-athletes representing MVFC schools on NFL opening-day rosters. They include the following:

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

Bison on Another Run

North Dakota State extended its current winning streak to an FCS-best 24 games after beating Delaware on Sept. 14. The Bison set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14.

Active FCS Winning Streaks

24 – North Dakota State
10 – Princeton
5 – Dayton
4 – Davidson
4 – Villanova
4 – Central Arkansas

Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

33 – North Dakota State (2012-14)
26 – James Madison (2016-17)
24 – North Dakota State (2017-present)
24 – Penn (1992-95)
24 – Montana (2001-02)
22 – Harvard (2013-15)

2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2	S9	S16
Illinois State	13	16	12	10
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv
Missouri St.	–	–	–	–
NDSU	1	1	1	1
UNI	18	11	10	8
S. Dakota	rv	–	–	–
SDSU	3	3	3	3
S. Illinois	–	–	rv	rv
W. Illinois	rv	–	–	–
Youngstown	rv	rv	rv	21

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

2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (September 16)

MVFC - vs. Other Leagues

Here's how the MVFC has fared against teams from leagues it faces in 2019:

Big Sky Conference	63	44	.589
Big South	10	4	.714
CAA Football	25	18	.581
Mid-Eastern Athletic	22	1	.956
Northeast Conference	24	0	1.000
Ohio Valley (also one tie)	142	68	.676
Pioneer Football League	43	3	.935
Southern Conference	13	15	.464
Southland (also two ties)	56	50	.528
American	0	3	.000
Big 12	6	51	.105
Big Ten	4	59	.063
Mid-American	18	36	.333
Mountain West	2	6	.250
Sun Belt	2	3	.400

Among the NCAA Leaders

Two MVFC runningbacks are among the nation's top 5 in rushing yards/game. Indiana State's Peterson Kerlegrand ranks 4th (119.0 ypg) and James Robinson of Illinois State is 5th with 113.3 yards per game.

FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1 Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	145.0
2 Pete Guerriero, Monmouth (Big South)	131.0
3 Justin Covington, Villanova (CAA)	120.7
4 Peterson Kerlegrand, INS (MVFC)	119.0
5 James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)	113.3

Great Start to a Career

North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance leads the NCAA in pass efficiency (233.1 points) and "points responsible for" with 78.

FCS Leaders - Pass Efficiency Rating

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
1 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)	233.1
2 Chris Oladokun, Samford (SoCon)	221.5
3 Ben DiNucci, James Madison (CAA)	182.2
4 Bailey Zappe, Houston Bapt. (Southland)	174.5

FCS Leaders - Points Responsible For

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Pts
1 Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)	78
2 Eric Barriere, Eastern Wash. (Big Sky)	72
- Robert Riddle, Mercer (SoCon)	72
4 Chris Oladokun, Samford (SoCon)	68
- Kevin Thomson, Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	68

NCAA Tackle Leaders

Two MVFC student-athletes are in the Top 4 in the FCS in tackles per game (UNI's Spencer Cuvelier is 2nd (12.5 tpg) while SIU's Qua Brown is 4th (12.3 tpg).

FCS Leaders - Tackles Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	TPG
1 Tracy Thompkins, Mississippi Val. (SWAC)	13.5
2 Spencer Cuvelier, UNI (MVFC)	12.5
- Colby Campbell, Presbyterian (Big South)	12.5
4 Qua Brown, Southern Ill. (MVFC)	12.3

What a Rush

North Dakota State (2nd/316.3 ypg) and Youngstown State (3rd/309.3 ypg) rank among the national leaders in rushing yards per game. National leader Kennesaw State averages 388.7 yards per game and visits MVFC member Missouri State this weekend.

FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1 Kennesaw State (Big South)	388.7
2 North Dakota State (MVFC)	316.3
3 Youngstown State (MVFC)	309.3
4 Davidson (Pioneer)	302.0
5 Central Connecticut State (NEC)	281.3

Scoring Offense Leaders

NDSU and Youngstown State also lead the league and rank among the FCS leaders in scoring offense, ranking 2nd/47.3 ppg and 4th/44.3 ppg in the FCS, respectively. Houston Baptist, the FCS leader (48.3 ppg), scored 53 at South Dakota this past week.

FCS Leaders - Scoring

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1 Houston Baptist (Southland)	48.3
2 North Dakota State (MVFC)	47.3
3 Sacramento State (Big Sky)	44.7
4 Youngstown State (MVFC)	44.3
4 Northern Arizona (Big Sky)	44.3

Total Defense Leaders

North Dakota State ranks fourth in the nation in total defense, yielding just 229.7 yards per game. South Dakota State ranks fifth nationally at 240.0 yards per game. Three league schools (NDSU-6th/13.0; SDSU-t8th-13.7; and Illinois State-t8th/13.7) rank in the Top 10.

FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1 Davidson (Pioneer)	186.3
2 Kennesaw State (Big South)	222.7
3 Duquesne (NEC)	225.0
4 North Dakota State (MVFC)	229.7
5 South Dakota State (MVFC)	240.0

FCS Leaders - Scoring Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	PPG
1. Davidson (Pioneer)	9.0
2. Georgetown (Patriot)	10.0
3. Kennesaw State (Big South)	11.0
4. Villanova (CAA)	11.3
5. Sacramento State (Big Sky)	12.7
6. James Madison (CAA)	13.0
6. North Dakota State (MVFC)	13.0
8. South Dakota State (MVFC)	13.7
8. Illinois State (MVFC)	13.7

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 –
 Defense –
 Special Teams –
 Newcomer –
 Offensive Lineman –

* - denotes National Player of the Week



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (2-1, 0-0 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	ESPN+	6:30 p.m.
O5	*North Dakota State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
O12	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
O19	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O26	*Indiana State [HC]	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N2	*UNI	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*Missouri State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	11:00 a.m.

*MVFC game

The Trophy Comes Back Home

The Mid-America Classic travelling trophy accompanied the Redbirds to Charleston on Saturday and the Redbirds made sure that it returned to Normal when the game was over. For the third-straight time and the fifth time in the last six games overall, the Redbirds defeated the Panthers in the 108th meeting of the longest-running rivalry in the state of Illinois. Thanks to the strong running of James Robinson and a stout Redbird defense, the 'Birds picked up their third straight win in the series at O'Brien Field and took a 57-42-9 lead in the all-time series.

Mr. Robinson's Neighborhood

All-American James Robinson bounced back from a tough outing in the season opener with three touchdowns and 178 yards rushing last week in a victory over Morehead State. He didn't want to be outdone against Eastern Illinois, as he matched his career-high with three more touchdowns to give him six in the past two games. Robinson found the end zone in each of the first three quarters to help the Redbirds come away with a 21-3 victory. He's now averaging 113 yards per game and leads the MVFC with six rushing touchdowns through the first quarter of the season.

Applying the Pressure

After recording just 15 sacks all of last season, an offseason focus for the Redbird defense was to find a way to get more pressure on the quarterback. Through three games, it seems as if they have found a way to do just that as they already have 14 sacks on the year, one short of the 2018 total. Against the Panthers the pressure was stifling, as the Redbirds combined for 8.0 sacks and 15.5 tackles for loss and allowed just 197 yards of total offense to EIU. Junior defensive end Romeo McKnight led the way with 2.5 sacks, as seven different players recorded at least a half sack.



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (1-2, 0-0 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	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
O5	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O12	*Western Illinois [HC]	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
O19	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	1:00 p.m. ET
O26	*at Illinois State	ESPN3	3:00 p.m. ET
N2	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N9	*at UNI	ESPN+	5:00 p.m. ET
N16	*Youngstown State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET

*MVFC game

Griffith Joins 300-Tackle Club

With 16 tackles against Eastern Kentucky, redshirt senior Jonas Griffith entered his name into the Sycamore record book forever after joining the 300-tackles club. The Louisville, Kentucky native becomes just the 18th player in program history to reach the mark, joining former teammate Katrell Moss who completed the feat in 2018.

Rushing Attack on Point

Indiana State continued to pound the rock, rushing for 215 yards against Eastern Kentucky. Junior Peterson Kerlegrand recorded his second consecutive 100-plus rushing performance, finishing with 132 yards and a touchdown. Ryan Boyle racked up 46 yards while Nick Sims and Chris Childers added 33 and nine yards on the ground, respectively. Childers has recorded three of the Sycamores' six rushing touchdowns this season. On the year ISU has outgained opponents 719 to 427 on the ground and have went for at least 146 yards rushing in each contest.

Sycamores Set to Face Rival EIU

Saturday will mark the 87th meeting between the regional rivals. In a series dating back to 1901, the Panthers lead the all-time series 43-39-4 and prior to the Sycamores 55-41 victory in Charleston in 2018, EIU had won six-straight dating back to 2005. ISU's 55 points in last season's meeting marked the most the Sycamores had ever scored against the Panthers and the first time ISU had scored more than 40 points since 1969.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (0-2, 0-0 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	KOZL/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O5	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	3:00 p.m.
O12	*South Dakota	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O19	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O26	*UNI [HC]	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N2	*South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N9	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N23	*Indiana State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

For Openers

Missouri State begins a five-game home slate Saturday when it hosts Kennesaw State at Robert W. Plaster Stadium in Springfield. The Bears are 68-35-4 all-time in home openers, including a 27-8-2 mark in such games as a Division I program and 4-0 under Dave Steckel. Missouri State begins its 78th season at Robert W. Plaster Stadium, holding a 215-171-12 all-time ledger at its home facility.

Captain Consistency

Bears linebacker McNeece Egbim started his 20th consecutive game in last week's game at Tulane and celebrated the milestone by recording a game-high eight tackles in the contest. Egbim is in his second season as an MSU co-captain. The senior from Rowlett, Texas, has recorded at least five tackles in 15 consecutive games.

Frost Heats Up

MSU redshirt freshman DJ Frost, a transfer from Air Force, caught a touchdown pass for the second straight contest in Saturday's game at Tulane, hauling in an 11-yard pass from Peyton Huslig in the second quarter in New Orleans. It marked the rookie Bear's second straight game with a touchdown reception and moved him atop the squad's early-season scoring chart with 12 points. Frost also boasts MSU's second-highest rushing total through two games.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (3-0, 0-0 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	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O5	*at Illinois State	NBC ND/ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
O12	*UNI [HC]	NBC ND/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O19	*Missouri State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
O26	*at South Dakota State	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N2	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
N9	*Western Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*South Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*at Southern Illinois	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

NDSU Wins 24th Straight

North Dakota State's defense held Delaware to less than 100 yards of total offense through three quarters and cruised to a 47-22 road win last week, extending the third longest winning streak in FCS history to 24 games. Freshman QB Trey Lance was 18 of 23 passing for 195 yards and three TDs, and sophomore Phoenix Sproles had three receptions for 72 yards to lead 10 different Bison receivers. NDSU had a 340-92 advantage in total yards through three quarters. The Bison had eight players combine for seven sacks and four of those came before halftime. Strong safety Michael Tutsie had a career-high 11 tackles and made his third interception in two games to lead the Bison defense. NDSU is now 37-3 in true road games since the beginning of 2011, the program's first FCS national championship season.

True Freshman 100-Yard Rusher

NDSU's Kobe Johnson rushed 11 times for 101 yards and a touchdown at Delaware to become just the seventh NDSU true freshman to record a 100-yard rushing game. Johnson's was the 20th such performance joining quarterbacks Mark Sperl (2 in 1977) and Jeff Bentrim (3 in 1983) and running backs Tony Satter (2 in 1987), Reggie Scott (7 in 1995), Lamar Gordon (4 in 1998) and Seth Wilson (1 in 2017). Wilson's 194 yards in the 2017 FCS semifinal win over Sam Houston State is the most single-game rushing yards by an NDSU true freshman with Scott's 189 against Morningside in 1995 a close second.

Bison, Aggies Former Playoff Rivals

UC Davis is one of four teams NDSU has played four times in the NCAA playoffs. The Bison are 3-1 against UC Davis in the playoffs, 2-2 against Pittsburg State, and 4-0 against both Sam Houston State and South Dakota State. The first four meetings between NDSU and UC Davis all came in the NCAA Division II playoffs. The Aggies hosted semifinal games in 1982 and 1983 winning the first meeting 19-14 before falling to Texas State in the 1982 title game. NDSU won 26-17 at Davis in 1983 before winning its first of five Division II crowns 41-21 over Central State (Ohio). The Bison won back-to-back quarterfinals against UC Davis at home in 1984 (31-21) before a runner-up finish and 31-12 on the road in the 1985 championship season.



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

(1-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	at Iowa State	L, 26-29 (3OT)	0-1, 0-0
S7	Southern Utah	W, 34-14	1-1, 0-0
S21	Idaho State	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
S28	at Weber State	Pluto	7:00 p.m.
O5	*Youngstown State [HC]	PSN/ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
O12	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O19	*South Dakota	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
O26	*at Missouri State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N2	*at Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*Indiana State	PSN/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
N16	*at South Dakota State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*Western Illinois	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Red Zone Offense

A season ago, the Panthers finished in the top 10 in the FCS in red zone offense, scoring on 90 percent of trips inside the 20. UNI is again off to a good start. Through two games, the Panthers have scored all six times inside the red zone, including three TDs and three field goals.

Young Panthers

Through two games, eight freshmen or redshirt freshman have seen the field for UNI and four have started. Will McElvain (QB, R-Fr.), Omar Brown (CB, Fr.), Trevon Alexander (LB, R-Fr.) and Matthew Cook (PK, Fr.) have all started games for UNI.

Leading the FCS

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 went 2-2 against Southern Utah to remain perfect on the year. He is tied atop the FCS and the MVFC for FG percentage and has the sole spot for FG made per game. He has made twice the field goals of the next kicker in the MVFC.

SportsCenter Regulars

Deion McShane's first quarter touchdown reception against Southern Utah was more than just a touchdown. After catching the ball, the defender appeared to tackle McShane before the receiver flipped over the back of the defender and landed on his feet and sprinted to the end zone for the 56-yard TD. It is the third consecutive season that a Panther has made the SCTop10. Xavier Williams' walk-off Pick-6 against South Dakota State made the list in 2018 and Jared Farley's one-handed touchdown against Monmouth in the 2017 playoffs made the show in 2017.



SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

(0-3, 0-0 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	Pluto	3:00 p.m.
O5	*Indiana State [HC]	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O12	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
O19	*at UNI	ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
O26	*Southern Illinois	Midco/ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
N2	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N9	*Youngstown State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at North Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N23	*South Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Offense Gets Going

Not many teams could execute without two of its top wide outs the way the Coyotes did Saturday. Austin Simmons passed for 537 yards and got career days out of Randy Baker (11 rec., 102 yds), Caleb Vander Esch (7 rec., 103 yds, TD) and tight end Connor Herrmann (6 rec., 76 yds, 2 TDs). In addition, Dakarai Allen got into the end zone for the first time this season and Kai Henry ran for three touchdowns for the first time. Those numbers came despite not having Kody Case and Levi Falck available due to injury.

More on 537

It is the most yards thrown by any QB at any level of the NCAA so far this season. Simmons completed 48 of 65 passes Saturday for 537 yards and four touchdowns. It was the second time in his career that he has thrown for four scores. Through three games, Simmons leads the nation in completions (96), has the third-most yards (1,027) and the eighth-most touchdown tosses (8). He is up to sixth on USD's all-time passing lists for both yards (4,561) and touchdowns (33).

Powell, Greenfield Shine on 'D'

Phillip Powell had an interception in each of his first two games of 2018. He had two interceptions in the first half of Saturday's game against Houston Baptist and now has seven picks in 20 career games. In addition, All-American defensive end Darin Greenfield got his second sack in as many weeks giving him 21 for his career. He also drew another holding penalty and hit quarterback Bailey Zappe on a release that was ultimately intercepted in the fourth quarter, leading to a go-ahead touchdown.

Rematch with Northern Colorado

South Dakota downed Northern Colorado 43-28 last season in Vermillion in a game in which both teams combined for nearly 1,100 yards of offense. USD quarterback Austin Simmons passed for 462 yards, ran for 80 and accounted for five touchdowns in that game. The Coyotes are competing in Greeley for the first time since 2009.



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS

(2-1, 0-0 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	Midco/ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
O5	*Southern Illinois [HC]	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O12	*at Youngstown State	KELO/ESPN+	5:00 p.m.
O19	*at Indiana State	ESPN3	12:00 p.m.
O26	*North Dakota State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N2	*at Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N9	*Illinois State	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
N16	*UNI	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N23	*at South Dakota	Midco/ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Two Reach Century Mark

SDSU produced a pair of 100-yard rushers for the first time in three seasons in its 38-10 victory over Drake on Sept. 14. Pierre Strong, Jr. led the way for the Jackrabbits with 129 yards on 11 carries, while C.J. Wilson added 117 yards on 10 attempts. Both sophomores, Strong reached the century mark for the sixth time in his career, with Wilson hitting the milestone for the second time. The Jackrabbits last had two 100-yard rushers in the same game on Nov. 12, 2016, in a home win over South Dakota as Brady Mengarelli (161 yards) and Isaac Wallace (102 yards) accomplished the feat.

Johnson Moves Into Top 10s

Jackrabbit WR Cade Johnson moved up the career charts in a pair of receiving categories in SDSU's home win last week against Drake. With a five-catch, 80-yard performance, the junior entered the SDSU career top 10 for receiving yards and ended the day eighth with 1,889 receiving yards. He also recorded his 100th career reception in the contest. Johnson also caught a pair of TDs, giving him 22 in his career, good for fifth in program history as he broke a tie with Jason Schneider (20 from 2011-14) and passed Dallas Goedert (21 from 2014-17). It was Johnson's sixth multi-touchdown game of his career.

Picked Off

SDSU intercepted two passes in its win over Drake, giving the Jackrabbits at least one interception in all three games this season. Four different players have accounted for SDSU's four interceptions this season, including freshman safety Chase Norblade with his first collegiate pickoff last week versus Drake. Dating back to last season, the Jackrabbits have recorded an INT in nine of their last 10 games.

Beef Bowl

South Dakota State will host Southern Utah in the 53rd Annual Beef Bowl this Saturday. First played in 1967, the Jackrabbits have compiled a 31-21 record in Beef Bowl games. SDSU has won 16 of the last 20 Beef Bowl games and each of the last 14 contests have drawn a crowd of at least 10,000 fans.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS

(2-1, 0-0 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	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
O5	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O12	*Illinois State	ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
O19	*Youngstown State [HC]	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
O26	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	4:00 p.m.
N2	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
N9	*Missouri State	ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
N16	*at Western Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

Arkansas State - Another FBS Foe

For the first time since 1993 and just the sixth time in school history, the Salukis have two FBS opponents on their schedule in the same season. They have never beaten two FBS teams in the same year. With the win at UMass on Sept. 7, Southern Illinois improved to 4-31 all-time against FBS opponents. Here are the Saluki wins:

1983 vs. New Mexico State, 41-3

2006 at Indiana, 35-28

2007 at Northern Illinois, 34-31

2019 at UMass, 45-20

SIU head coach Nick Hill was the team's quarterback in the wins at Indiana and NIU, and he combined to complete 31-of-51 passes for 370 yards, 7 TDs and 0 interceptions in those wins. Stone Labanowitz quarterbacked the UMass win and was 19-of-26 for 265 yards, 4 TDs and no interceptions.

Chinn Moves up to 7th in INTs

With an interception versus UT Martin, preseason All-American S Jeremy Chinn (6-3, 212, Sr.) moved into seventh place in interceptions at SIU with his 11th career pick. He is also third in pass breakups (24) and second in forced fumbles (6). A starter since his freshman season, Chinn was named the "Top FCS Target" by the Senior Bowl heading into the season. A year ago Delaware's Nasir Adderley earned the Senior Bowl's distinction and ended up as a San Diego Chargers 2nd round pick.

Knighton Moves up Sacks, TFL Lists

DE Anthony Knighton (6-4, 260, Jr.) has started every game (25) of his Saluki career and last week versus UT Martin picked up career sack number 17.0 to move into sixth place all-time at Southern. His 8.5 sacks last season ranked seventh all-time at SIU and were the most by a Saluki since James Cloud had 8.5 in 2007. He also has 27.5 tackles for loss in his career, which is 12th all-time at SIU.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (0-3, 0-0 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	ESPN3	3:00 p.m.
O5	*Missouri State [HC]	ESPN+	3:00 p.m.
O12	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m.
O19	*Illinois State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
O26	*at Youngstown State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N2	*South Dakota	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N9	*at North Dakota State	ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
N16	*Southern Illinois	ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
N23	*at UNI	ESPN3	1:00 p.m.

*MVFC game

League Leading

Justin Hall joined the Leathernecks ahead of the 2019 season and is making waves in his inaugural campaign. The Northern Illinois transfer currently guides the MVFC in combined kick returns with 182 yards while also ranking 23rd in the FCS. As a team, Western sits 12th in the nation in kickoff returns with a combined average of 27.10 yards per game.

Century Mark

Dennis Houston's 65-yard touchdown reception against No. 10/15 Montana State tied for Western's longest play of the season. He became the first Leatherneck receiver to post 100-plus yards this year (141) and did so on five catches.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Western Illinois University Athletics Hall of Famer and member of the undefeated 1959 Leatherneck football team Larry Garron passed away last Saturday (Sept. 14) at age 82. An original member of the Boston Patriots, Garron joined the team before its inaugural season in 1960. The running back played for the Patriots through the 1968 season and was a four-time American Football League All-Star. Garron was most recently named to the Patriots All-1960s team and ranked ninth in the franchise's history with 2,981 career rushing yards.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (3-0, 0-0 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	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O5	*at UNI	ESPN3	5:00 p.m. ET
O12	*South Dakota St. [HC]	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
O19	*at Southern Illinois	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
O26	*Western Illinois	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
N2	*North Dakota State	ESPN+	6:00 p.m. ET
N9	*at South Dakota	ESPN+	3:00 p.m. ET
N16	*at Indiana State	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
N23	*Illinois State	ESPN+	12:00 p.m. ET

*MVFC game

Turnovers on the Uptick

The YSU defense has made it a habit of forcing turnovers so far in 2019. YSU has caused 10 turnovers in the three games – 4 four vs. Samford, 3 vs. Howard and 3 vs. Duquesne. The last time the Penguins forced three-or-more turnovers in consecutive games was back in 2002. In just three games this season, the Guins have intercepted six passes, which eclipses the total from each of the past two seasons. YSU had three interceptions in 2018 and five in 2017. Senior DB DJ Smalls has intercepted a pass in three straight seasons following his first interception of the year vs. Duquesne last Saturday.

Emans With First Career Completion

Senior WR Ryan Emans completed the first pass attempt of his career in the win over Duquesne. Emans tossed an 18-yard pass to QB Nathan Mays in the fourth quarter. He was the first position player to complete a pass since Jamaine Cook threw a touchdown to tight end Will Shaw against Pittsburgh in the Penguins' 2012 upset of the Panthers. He is the first wide receiver to complete a pass in a game since Dominique Barnes threw a 50-yard toss to Ely Ducatel in 2010 vs. Indiana State.

Wins by 20 Points

All three of YSU's wins have been by more than 20 points to start the campaign. YSU defeated Samford 45-22, Howard 54-28 and Duquesne 34-14. The last time YSU won three straight games by at least 20 points came back in 2007. During the final three games of a four-game winning streak, YSU beat Stony Brook 42-6, Lock Haven 35-3 and Missouri State 49-31. The Penguins are off to their best start to a season since 2012, when they opened the year 4-0.