



For Immediate Release
Sept. 23, 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

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2019 Valley Football Standings (thru Saturday, Sept. 21)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
North Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	4-0	1.000	169	55	2-0	1-0	W25
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	3-1	.750	113	68	2-0	1-1	W3
South Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	3-1	.750	140	48	3-0	0-1	W3
Northern Iowa	0-0	.000	0	0	2-1	.667	73	49	2-0	0-1	W2
Indiana State	0-0	.000	0	0	2-2	.500	87	79	2-1	0-1	W2
Southern Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	2-2	.500	127	119	1-0	1-2	L1
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	1-3	.250	97	160	0-2	1-1	W1
Missouri State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-3	.000	53	130	0-1	0-2	L8
Western Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	0-4	.000	68	125	0-2	0-2	L6

Schedule/Results

Saturday, Sept. 21

Indiana State 16, Eastern Illinois 6
#6 Kennesaw State 35, Missouri State 24
#1 North Dakota State 27, #4 UC Davis 16
South Dakota 14, Northern Colorado 6
Tennessee Tech 38, Western Illinois 24
#8 UNI 13, Idaho State 6
#3 South Dakota State 43, Southern Utah 7
Arkansas State 41, Southern Illinois 28
#10 Illinois State 40, Northern Arizona 27

Saturday, Sept. 28

Robert Morris at #20 Youngstown State
Youngstown, Ohio • 6 p.m. ET [ESPN+]
#7 UNI at #5 Weber State
Ogden, Utah • 7 p.m. CT [Pluto]

• • 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.

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News/Notes

Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series

By virtue of a 5-0 sweep in games of Saturday, 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.

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.

Ten MVFC-Big Sky matchups are on the slate this year, including the remaining game this week (Sept. 28). The MVFC currently leads this year's series, 6-3. Playoff results do not count toward the series.

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 - #7 Northern Iowa at #5 Weber State

150 MVFC Celebrates 35th & 150th

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

2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (September 23)

vs. Non-Conference (20-17)

Home: 14-6 / Away: 4-11 / Neut: 2-0

NCAA FCS Teams (19-9)

Big Sky	6-3
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.....	0-0
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.....	2-0
Duquesne.....	1-0
Long Island.....	1-0
Robert Morris.....	0-0
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 (2-4)

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

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

That's a Wrap

The MVFC wraps up its regular-season non-conference portion of the schedule as UNI (at Weber State) and Youngstown State (vs. Robert Morris) play their final regular-season non-league tilts on Sept. 28. The league has gone 19-9 against its FCS peers this year and was 1-8 against FBS foes.

Open Season

All 10 league teams will open MVFC action on Saturday, Oct. 5, in what is the 35th season of the Conference's existence. North Dakota State (8) has the longest active win streak in MVFC season-opening games. Southern Illinois and Missouri State played in the league's first conference game on Sept. 7, 1985.

Team	Record	Home	Away	Streak
Illinois State	15-19	6-6	9-13	L1
Indiana State	11-22	9-10	2-12	L2
Missouri St.	15-19	7-11	8-8	W1
NDSU	8-3	4-0	4-3	W8
UNI	23-11	13-2	10-9	W3
South Dakota	2-5	0-2	2-3	W2
SDSU	4-7	3-3	1-4	L2
S. Illinois	16-18	11-8	5-10	L4
W. Illinois	18-16	12-6	6-10	W1
Youngstown St.	18-4	11-0	7-4	L1

Back to Back, Jack

North Dakota State picked up its second win against a top-25 team in as many games as the Bison knocked off No. 4 UC Davis on Sept. 21, 2019. The Bison closed the 2018 season with four-straight wins against ranked foes (#23 Montana State, #7 Colgate, #5 South Dakota State and #3 Eastern Washington.)

Notably, during its current 25-game winning streak, the Bison have beat 13 teams ranked in the Top 25 at the time of the game. NDSU's next game (at Illinois State on Oct. 5) will also be against a ranked team.

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. 14-21, 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

5 MVFC Teams Ranked

Two-time defending national champ North Dakota State headlines a list of five MVFC teams who appear in the polls this week.

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey
NDSU	1	1	1
SDSU	3	3	2
UNI	9	7	7
ILS	14	8	18
YSU	22	20	13
INS	rv	rv	41
SIU	rv	-	32
USD	-	-	49
MSU	-	-	73
WIU	-	-	81

In the Massey Ratings, the Big Sky has six teams in the Top 20, while the MVFC and CAA Football each have five.

Massey Rankings, Team Leaders (Top 4)

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

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), and three MVFC schools are in the Top 4.

Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

1. North Dakota State
2. South Dakota State
3. James Madison
4. UNI
5. UC Davis
6. Montana
7. Princeton
8. Youngstown State

Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

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

Tough Schedules

MVFC teams hold six of the Top 50 spots in the Massey Ratings strength of schedule index. Missouri State (6) and UNI (7) lead the league and rank in the FCS Top 10.

Strength of Schedule Ratings, Massey Ratings

6. Missouri State
7. UNI
29. South Dakota
37. Southern Illinois
39. South Dakota State
46. North Dakota State
59. Western Illinois
62. Indiana State
68. Illinois State
80. Youngstown State

Players of the Week

Offense

QB Brady Davis, Illinois State

6-4, 215, Jr., Columbus, Mississippi (Memphis)

In a 40-27 win over Northern Arizona Davis threw for a career-high 419 yards and tossed a pair of touchdowns. His favorite target was Andrew Edgar, who caught a career-high 12 passes for a career-best 228 yards and both TDs. The 419 yards passing were the most for the Redbirds since 2012, when Matt Brown threw for 473 against Eastern Illinois.

Defense

DL Elerson G. Smith, UNI

6-7, 245, R-Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.

(Minneapolis South High)

Smith recorded a career-high three sacks to go along with a career-high 3.5 tackles for loss and nine tackles. He also had a forced fumble and a knocked down a pass. The Panthers held Idaho State to 203 yards of offense and just 69 yards rushing. The Panther defense tallied three interceptions, 10 tackles for loss and five sacks. Through the last six games, Smith has 13.5 tackles for loss and 10 sacks.

Special Teams

PK Sam Fenlason, Illinois State

6-2, 225, Sr., San Diego, California (Idaho)

Fenlason had a career night in Illinois State 40-27 victory over Northern Arizona as he connected on a career-high four field goals to help lift the Redbirds to 3-1 on the season. Fenlason had makes of 23, 28, 32 and 29 yards, respectively, in the contest to improve to 5-for-5 on the season in field goal attempts. He became the first kicker to make three or more field goals since 2017, when Sean Slattery hit three against South Dakota. Fenlason also made all four of his extra point attempts to finish with 16 points scored on the night.

Newcomer

WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois

5-10, 175, So., Rochester, Ill.

(Rochester High / Wyoming)

The Wyoming transfer caught 7 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown in SIU's 41-28 loss to FBS Arkansas State. It was the most receiving yards by a Saluki wide receiver versus an FBS opponent since Brent Little had 152 yards at Western Michigan in 2005. On Southern's first play from scrimmage, Cox hauled in a 62-yard pass down the left sideline that set up a Javon Williams Jr. touchdown run to tie the game, 7-7. Later in the first quarter, he caught a 26-yard pass down the right sideline for a touchdown that tied the score, 14-14.

Offensive Line

LT Ernest Dye Jr., Southern Illinois

6-2, 307, Sr., Greenwood, SC (Milton (GA) High)

The Salukis generated 526 yards of total offense and 27 first downs in a 41-28 loss to FBS Arkansas State. They had both a 100-yard rusher (Javon Williams Jr.) and 100-yard receiver (Avante Cox). Left tackle Ernest Dye Jr. graded out at 90 percent with five knock-downs/bonus blocks and had no penalties or mental errors.

Against Ranked FCS Teams

The MVFC is 2-4 against Top-25 opponents so far this year, with North Dakota State earning both of the league's wins. The league has now had multiple wins against ranked non-conference FCS teams during the regular season 17 times in the league's 35-year history. Since 2014, league schools have combined for a 45-23 record against non-conference top-25 teams (counting the playoffs).

Years with Multiple Regular-Season Top-25 Wins

Year	Reg-Season	Playoffs	Total	MVFC Bids
1989	4-2	2-2	6-4	2
1992	2-5	2-1	4-6	1
1993	3-6	0-1	3-7	1
1996	*5-3	2-2	7-5	2
1997	3-8	5-1	8-9	2
1998	3-6	2-2	5-8	2
1999	3-3	*6-2	9-5	2
2000	3-3	0-2	3-5	2
2003	4-0	3-4	7-4	4
2007	3-3	3-2	6-5	2
2011	2-0	5-1	7-1	2
2014	*5-1	*6-1	*11-2	*5
2015	4-2	5-2	9-4	*5
2016	3-2	*6-3	9-5	4
2017	2-2	*6-3	8-5	*5
2018	2-2	4-1	6-3	3
2019	2-4	—	—	—

*represents league record in each category

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)



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 - Khalel Saunders (Western Illinois), Xavier Williams (UNI)
 Eagles - L.J. Fort (UNI), Dallas Goedert (South Dakota State), Carson Wentz (North Dakota State)
 Jaguars - James O'Shaughnessy (Illinois State)
 Jets - Tom Compton (South Dakota)
 Raiders - Makinton Dorleant (UNI)
 Cowboys - Lance Lenoir Jr. (Western Illinois)
 Patriots - Derek Rivers (Youngstown State)

MVFC - vs. Other Leagues

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

Big Sky Conference	68	44	.607
Big South	10	5	.667
CAA Football	25	18	.581
Mid-Eastern Athletic	22	1	.956
Northeast Conference	24	0	1.000
Ohio Valley (also one tie)	143	69	.675
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	4	.333

2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2	S9	S16	S23
Illinois State	13	16	12	10	8
Indiana St.	16	14	rv	rv	rv
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--	--
NDSU	1	1	1	1	1
UNI	18	11	10	8	7
S. Dakota	rv	--	--	--	--
SDSU	3	3	3	3	3
S. Illinois	--	--	rv	rv	rv
W. Illinois	rv	--	--	--	--
Youngstown	rv	rv	rv	21	20

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

Bison on Another Run

North Dakota State extended its current winning streak to an FCS-best 25 games after beating UC Davis on Sept. 21. The Bison set a league and FCS record with a 33-game win streak from 2012-14.

Active FCS Winning Streaks

25 – North Dakota State

- 11 – Princeton
- 5 – Villanova
- 3 – 11 teams

Longest FCS Winning Streaks (All Time)

33 – North Dakota State (2012-14)

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

Longest Active FCS Win Streaks (League Only)

- 27 – San Diego (Pioneer)
- 11 – North Dakota State (MVFC)
- 11 – Colgate (Patriot)
- 9 – Kennesaw State (Big South)
- 7 – Princeton (Ivy League)

Dangerous Duo

Two of the league's top-3 passing performances and top-3 receiving performances of this season occurred last week. Brady Davis threw for 419 yards (228 of them to Andrew Edgar) as Illinois State knocked off visiting Northern Arizona. Davis became the first Redbird to throw for more than 400 yards in seven seasons, and he's just the 40th MVFC QB to reach 400+ yards in a game in the league's 35-year history. Edgar, meanwhile, also became just the 40th receiver to eclipse 200 yards in a game in MVFC history.

Top MVFC Passing Games in 2019

- 537 – Austin Simmons, USD vs. H. Baptist (9-14)
- 419 – Brady Davis, ILS vs. N. Arizona (9-21-19)
- 292 – Peyton Huslig, MSU vs. Kennesaw (9-21-19)

Top MVFC Receiving Games in 2019

- 228 – Andrew Edgar, ILS vs. N. Arizona (9-21-19)
- 144 – Kody Case, USD vs. Montana (8-31-19)
- 142 – Avante Cox, SIU at Arkansas State (9-21-19)

Among the NCAA Leaders

Walter Payton Award Watch List candidate RB James Robinson of Illinois State is among the FCS leaders in rushing yards per game, as he ranks 8th at 108.0 yards per game. Notably, he trails three players (Ivy League) who have only played one game so far.

FCS Leaders - Rushing Yards

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. EJ Perry, Brown (Ivy League)	227.0
2. Karekin Brooks, Penn (Ivy League)	158.0
3. Jah-Maine Martin, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	145.0
4. Justin Covington, Villanova (CAA)	139.0
5. Harold Coles, Cornell (Ivy League)	127.0
6. Julius Chestnut, Sacred Heart (NEC)	112.3
7. Pete Guerriero, Monmouth (Big South)	110.0
8. James Robinson, Illinois St. (MVFC)	108.0

Great Start to a Career

North Dakota State rookie QB Trey Lance ranks among the NCAA leaders in pass efficiency (2nd with a 194.9 rating) and 'points responsible for' (4th with 90 points). Former NDSU QB Easton Stick established the league single-season record with his 172.4 passer rating in 2018.

FCS Leaders - Pass Efficiency Rating

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Rating
1. Kevin Davidson, Princeton (Ivy League)	253.5
2. Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)	194.9
3. Chris Oladokun, Samford (SoCon)	193.4
4. Ben DiNucci, James Madison (CAA)	181.0
5. Shannon Patrick, Ark.-Pine Bluff (SWAC)	180.7

FCS Leaders - Points Responsible For

Rank, Team (Conf.)	Pts
1. Daniel Smith, Villanova (CAA)	102
2. Eric Barriere, Eastern Wash. (Big Sky)	96
3. Chris Oladokun, Samford (SoCon)	92
4. Trey Lance, North Dakota St. (MVFC)	90
5. Kevin Thomson, Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	86

Cook Leads the FCS

UNI's Matthew Cook continues to lead the league and the FCS in field goals made per game. He has averaged 2.67 field goals through UNI's first three contests. On the season, he is 3-3 from 20-29 yards, 2-2 from 30-39, 2-2 from 40-49 and 1-0 from 50+.

FCS Leaders - Field Goals Per Game

Rank, Team (Conf.)	FG/G
1. Matthew Cook, UNI (MVFC)	2.67
2. Noel Ruiz, N.C. A&T (MEAC)	2.33
3. Storm Ruiz, SFA (Southland)	2.25
4. 4 players tied	2.00

Total Defense Leaders

South Dakota State both surrender fewer than 280 yards per game on defense. SDSU ranks 8th nationally, allowing just 269.0 yards per game, which includes a game at FBS Minnesota. NDSU ranks 11th nationally, yielding just 277.8 yards per game, and that includes two games against ranked FCS teams (Delaware and UC Davis).

FCS Leaders - Total Defense

Rank, Team (Conf.)	YPG
1. Cornell (Ivy League)	220.0
2. Davidson (Pioneer)	223.0
3. Yale (Ivy League)	237.0
4. James Madison (CAA)	262.8
5. Kennesaw State (Big South)	263.3
6. Duquesne (NEC)	264.3
7. Georgetown (Patriot)	265.7
8. South Dakota State (MVFC)	269.0
9. Columbia (Ivy League)	272.0
10. Princeton (Ivy League)	274.0
11. North Dakota St. (MVFC)	277.8

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 – DL Elerson G. Smith, UNI
 Special Teams – PK Sam Fenlason, Illinois State
 Newcomer – WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois
 Offensive Lineman – LT Ernest Dye Jr., S. Illinois

* - denotes National Player of the Week



ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (3-1, 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	W, 40-27	3-1, 0-0
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

Airing It Out

The Redbird offense came into Saturday night's game against Northern Arizona averaging just 118 yards through the air in three previous contests. Needing to have a big night, the passing game led by the arm of Brady Davis rose to the challenge and exploded for 419 yards and two scores to help lead the Redbirds to the victory over the Lumberjacks. Davis recorded a career-best 419 yards, with 228 of those recorded by wide receiver Andrew Edgar, as the Redbirds racked up 534 yards of total offense to improve to 3-1 on the season. The 419 yards passing were the most for the Redbirds since 2012, when Matt Brown threw for 473 against Eastern Illinois.

Sam I Am

The rainy and windy conditions at Hancock Stadium certainly did not make things easy for Sam Fenlason, but he did not seem phased at all as he split the uprights four times for the Redbirds and finished the game with 16 of the team's 40 points in its victory over Northern Arizona. Fenlason had makes of 23, 28, 32 and 29 yards, respectively, in the contest to improve to 5-for-5 on the season in field goal attempts. He became the first kicker to make three or more field goals since 2017, when Sean Slattery hit three against South Dakota.

Spreading the Wealth

The Redbird defense recorded just 15 sacks all of last season but has already blown past that number through four games in 2019 thanks to a balanced defensive effort. A total of 13 players have recorded at least a half a sack for the Redbird defense, with Romeo McKnight leading the way with five on the season thus far. Tuvone Clark is next with three on the season, and Steven Podkulski is the other defender with two or more. The group is also a third of the way to last season's interception total of 15, with five different players recording a pick so far in 2019.



INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (2-2, 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	W, 16-6	2-2, 0-0
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

Sycamores Get Four Takeaways vs. EIU

Indiana State put on a defensive clinic against Eastern Illinois, forcing four turnovers in the game. As a squad, ISU snagged three interceptions in the game while forcing a fumble on EIU's first drive. It was the most takeaways by a Sycamore defense since 2017 when ISU intercepted Southern Illinois' Sam Straub three times while recovering a fumble.

Defensive Duo Setting the Tone

Linebackers Jonas Griffith and Clayton Glasco have dominated the defensive side of the ball for the Sycamores in 2019, doubling the their teammates in tackles. Griffith is leading Indiana State with 44 tackles while Glasco has made 40 stops with the next best mark in tackles is 17. The duo have combined for nine of the team's 28 tackles-for-loss, three of the 10 sacks and two of the four interceptions.

Nunez Sets All-Time ISU Marks

Senior kicker Jerry Nunez etched his name in Sycamore history after breaking three program records over a two-week period. The Naples, Florida native secured the all-time scoring (221) as well as the all-time field goal (42) mark in a win over Eastern Illinois. Just a week earlier, Nunez set the ISU all-time PAT record – a record that had stood since 1985.



MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (0-3, 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	L, 24-35	0-3, 0-0
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

Takeaway Touchdown

After a 50-yard punt by Brendan Withrow inside the Kennesaw State one-yard line, the Bears came up with a huge second-quarter touchdown moments later in Saturday's game against the nation's NO. 6 team. On KSU's first play from its own 12-inch line, Claudio Martin forced Owls quarterback Daniel David to fumble, and captain McNeece Egbim recovered the ball for MSU at the line of scrimmage. Two plays later, Peyton Huslig scrambled right and scampered into the end zone for his 11th career rushing touchdown, giving MSU a 13-0 lead at the time.

Unconditional Currie

Bears standout receiver Tyler Currie posted eight receptions for 67 yards – both game highs – in MSU's home opener against No. 6 Kennesaw State. The catch total was a career high for the All-MVFC senior wideout who was Mr. Clutch on a day when Peyton Huslig set a career high with 28 completions.

See Ya September

Missouri State's two-game September schedule came to a close Saturday with the team having its second open date of the month this Saturday before starting MVFC play at Western Illinois on Oct. 5. The September slate is Missouri State's first two-game schedule in the month since 1971.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** (4-0, 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	W, 27-16	4-0, 0-0
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

Tutsie Leads Nation in Interceptions

North Dakota State strong safety Michael Tutsie leads the FCS with four interceptions – all in the last three games. Tutsie picked off two passes against North Dakota, one at Delaware, and a game-changer at the goal line in the fourth quarter last week against UC Davis. Tutsie's interception with 6:44 left to play preserved a 20-16 Bison lead in an eventual 27-16 win over the fourth-ranked Aggies. The sophomore from Indianapolis, a first-year starter, is NDSU's leading tackler with 32 stops in four games.

Defense Holds Up

North Dakota State allowed 422 yards of offense against the UC Davis passing attack led by Walter Payton Award candidate Jake Maier, but the Bison forced three field goals while allowing only one touchdown. NDSU's defense has allowed only four touchdowns through the first four games and the Bison are eighth in the FCS allowing just 13.8 points per game. Three of those first four opponents are currently ranked in the AFCA FCS Top 25.

Spreading the Wealth

North Dakota State quarterbacks have completed passes to 15 different receivers this year, second most in the Missouri Valley Football Conference behind South Dakota (16). Sophomore wide receivers Phoenix Sproles and Christian Watson have eight catches apiece for 177 yards and 123 yards, respectively. NDSU running backs have combined for 12 catches for 107 yards and one touchdown, while Bison tight ends and fullbacks have a combined 17 catches for 176 yards and seven TDs.



NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS** (2-1, 0-0 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	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

Panther Defense

The UNI defense is proving to be one the best in the FCS. UNI is 12th in scoring defense, 17th in total defense, eighth in sacks, 22nd in interceptions and 21st in first down defense.

Spreading the Wealth

Ten players have caught receptions so far this season Deion McShane is among the nation's leaders in receptions with 20. Isaiah Weston has 11 receptions, a team-high 189 yards and two touchdowns. Jaylin James has eight receptions for 107 yards and a score.

Young Players Contribute

The Panthers have seven touchdowns so far this season and a freshman was involved in every single TD. Redshirt freshman quarterback Will McElvain has six TD passes to his name and UNI's lone rushing TD came from true freshman Nick McCabe.

Earning MVFC Honors Each Week

The Panthers have earned a Missouri Valley Player of the Week honor after each game this season. Cook was named the Special Teams Player of the Week after the Iowa State game, McElvain earned Newcomer of the Week honors after the Southern Utah game and Elerson G. Smith was named the Defensive Player of the Week after the Idaho State win.

SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES** (1-3, 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	W, 14-6	1-3, 0-0
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

Defense Delivers

South Dakota limited Northern Colorado to six points and 223 yards of offense Saturday in earning its first win in Greeley since 1988. The Coyotes held the Bears to 37 yards rushing after accounting for five sacks from five different players. It was the best defensive performance since topping Drake 77-7 in the 2017 season opener.

Greenfield Rising

Two-time All-American defensive end Darin Greenfield registered a sack for the third consecutive week and added two more tackles-for-loss Saturday. Greenfield has moved into the top three on USD's all-time sacks list with 22.0 and tackles-for-loss list with 45.5. He is 5.0 sacks and 5.0 tackles-for-loss shy of the record.

Getting Healthy

South Dakota competed without top receiver Kody Case (17 rec. 212 yds, 3 TDs) for the second week in a row and has been without starting cornerback Mark Collins Jr. since he made an interception in the season opener against Montana. The Coyotes are also looking to get back cornerbacks Bakhari Goodson and Cameron Tisdale and wide receiver Levi Falck in the near future.

Simmons Rankings

Quarterback Austin Simmons continues to lead the nation in completions (30.5 cpg). He is also seventh in completion percentage (.697), eighth in passing yards (1,212) and 13th in passing touchdowns (9). He is also 10th in total offense (329.5 ypg).



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS (3-1, 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	W, 43-7	3-1, 0-0
O5	*Southern Illinois [HC]	KELO/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

Halftime Adjustments

South Dakota State has dominated the third quarter of games so far this season, outscoring the opposition by a 57-7 margin. The Jackrabbits added to that advantage by outscoring Southern Utah 15-0 in the Beef Bowl game on Sept. 21. SDSU's defense has yet to allow any points in the third quarter this season; the lone score by the opposition came on an interception return for touchdown by Minnesota in the Aug. 29 season opener.

Pick-Six

Senior linebacker Christian Rozeboom recorded the second interception return for touchdown of his career in the Jackrabbits' 43-7 victory over Southern Utah on Sept. 21. His touchdown was part of a 15-point third quarter by the Jackrabbits and covered 27 yards. Rozeboom's first career interception return for touchdown came against Western Illinois in the 2016 conference opener at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium and covered 37 yards. Rozeboom leads active Jackrabbit players with eight interceptions. As a team, the Jackrabbits have tallied at least one interception in all four games this season and 10 of 11 games dating back to the 2018 campaign.

Vinatieri Nears Kick Scoring Record

Senior Chase Vinatieri has moved to within four points of setting a new Jackrabbit career standard for most points via kicking. Vinatieri closed the week with 318 kicking points, trailing the record of 321 set by Parker Douglass from 2004-07 and the second-place mark of 319 by Justin Syrovatka (2011-14). Vinatieri has made 40 field goals and has tallied a school-record 198 extra points in his four-year career. His career scoring total is actually 330 points as he has scored a pair of rushing touchdowns on fake field goal attempts. He put together consecutive 100-point seasons as a sophomore and junior with respective totals of 103 and 114 points. Prior to Douglass setting the career kick scoring record, Chase Vinatieri's uncle, Adam, held the record with 195 points from 1991-94. Adam Vinatieri has since gone on to set the NFL career scoring record with 2,613 points while playing for the New England Patriots (1996-2005) and Indianapolis Colts (2006-present).



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (2-2, 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	L, 28-41	2-2, 0-0
O5	*at South Dakota State	ESPN+/MyTV	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

Kare' Lyles Takes Over at QB

Junior college transfer Karé Lyles (6-1, 225, Jr.) made his first-career start on Saturday Arkansas State. He came on for the second series against UT Martin after starter QB Stone Labanowitz (5-10, 187, So.) hurt his right shoulder. Lyles completed 19-of-31 passes for 288 yards, 2 touchdowns and 1 interception. He also rushed for 24 yards and a touchdown.

Knighton Moves Up Sacks, TFL Lists

DE Anthony Knighton (6-4, 260, Jr.) has started every game (26) of his Saluki career and last week Arkansas State picked up career sack number 18.0 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 29.0 tackles for loss in his career, which is tied with Bart Scott for 10th all-time at SIU.

The Leg from Down Under

A native of Melbourne, Australia, P Jack Colquhoun (6-2, 190, Jr.) is the first Australian to play for the Salukis since Wayne Cowley punted in 1973. Colquhoun, who has two kicks of 50+ yards this season, had never seen an American football game in person prior to his college debut at SEMO on Aug. 29. Colquhoun (pronounced KUH-hoon) was a decorated rugby player back home.



WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (0-4, 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	L, 24-38	0-4, 0-0
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

New to the Mix

Quarterback Kevin Johnson made his first Leatherneck appearance to go 10-14-2 with 159 yards and three touchdowns against Tennessee Tech. Sean McGuire was the last Western QB to throw three or more, and did so against Missouri State in 2018.

Points

Nathan Erickson continues to pace Western in scoring with 20 points; he added a 21-yard field goal and three extra points against TTU.

100-Yard Threat

WR Dennis Houston of Western Illinois is the only Leatherneck to haul in at least 100 receiving yards and has done so in back-to-back games. On eight receptions against Tennessee Tech, the wideout recorded 111 yards with a touchdown.



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

More INTs in 2019

The Penguins have intercepted six passes in three games this year. YSU had three in 11 games a year ago and had just five in 2017. The Guins equaled their 2018 total in the season opener vs. Samford with three INTs. The three interceptions against the Bulldogs were the most interceptions in a single game for the program since Sept. 26, 2009, at Indiana State.

Impressive Scoring Runs

The Penguins have gone on big runs to seize control of the game in each of their first three games. Against Samford, YSU trailed 7-0 before scoring 31 unanswered points in the contest. In the contest vs. Howard, the Guins went on a 41-7 scoring run which covered the second and third quarters. In the win over Duquesne, YSU jumped out to a 21-0 lead and went on to win by 20 points.

Craig, Richmond Make Impact

Senior DE Ma'lik Richmond and redshirt freshman DT DeMarko Craig have made big impacts through the first three contests. Together, the duo has combined for 32 total tackles (18 solos), nine tackles for losses and four sacks. Craig has 19 stops, including seven each against Howard and Duquesne. Richmond now has 13, including a career-best eight vs. Howard.