



For Immediate Release  
 Sept. 3, 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, Aug. 31)

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	1-0	1.000	57	10	0-0	0-0	W22
Youngstown State	0-0	.000	0	0	1-0	1.000	45	22	0-0	0-0	W1
Illinois State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	10	24	0-0	0-1	L1
Indiana State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	17	24	0-0	0-1	L1
Missouri State	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	23	37	0-0	0-1	L6
Northern Iowa	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	26	29	0-0	0-1	L2
South Dakota	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	17	31	0-1	0-0	L2
South Dakota St.	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	21	28	0-0	0-1	L2
Southern Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	26	44	0-0	0-1	L4
Western Illinois	0-0	.000	0	0	0-1	.000	17	26	0-0	0-1	L3

### Schedule/Results

#### Saturday, Aug. 24

Youngstown State 45, Samford 22 (FCS Kickoff)

#### Thursday, Aug. 29

#17 SE Missouri State 44, Southern Illinois 26  
 North Alabama 26, Western Illinois 17  
 Minnesota 28, #3 South Dakota State 21  
 Northern Arizona 37, Missouri State 23

#### Saturday, Aug. 31

Kansas 24, #16 Indiana State 17  
 #21 Iowa State 29, #18 UNI 26 (30T)  
 #25 Montana 31, South Dakota 17  
 #1 North Dakota State 57, Butler 10  
 Northern Illinois 24, #13 Illinois State 10

#### Saturday, Sept. 7

Morehead State at #16 Illinois State  
 Normal, Ill. • 6:30 p.m. [NBCSCH/ESPN+]  
 Dayton at #14 Indiana State  
 Terre Haute, Ind. • 1 pm ET [ESPN+]  
 RV North Dakota at #1 North Dakota State  
 Fargo, N.D. • 2:30 pm CT [NBC ND/ESPN+]  
 Southern Utah at #11 UNI  
 Cedar Falls, Iowa • 4 pm CT [PSN/ESPN3]  
 South Dakota at #4 Oklahoma  
 Norman, Okla. • 6 pm CT [FS Southwest]  
 Long Island at #3 South Dakota State  
 Brookings, S.D. • 6 pm CT [Midco/ESPN3]  
 Southern Illinois at UMass  
 Amherst, Mass. • 2:30 pm CT [FloSports]  
 Western Illinois at Colorado State  
 Fort Collins, Colo. • 3 pm CT [AT&T SportsNet]  
 Howard at RV Youngstown State  
 Youngstown, Ohio • 2 pm ET [ESPN+]

### News/Notes

#### MVFC vs. the FBS

Thanks to Illinois State's 35-19 win at Colorado State on Sept. 22, 2018, the Conference has had at least one FBS win in each of the last nine 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 45 FBS wins in its history.

There are nine MVFC-FBS games on the schedule this year, including three this week.

- 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)

This Week's MVFC/FBS Schedule  
 South Dakota at Oklahoma  
 Southern Illinois at UMass  
 Western Illinois at Colorado State

### • • 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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#MVFC\_35 #FCS\_CFB150

### 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.

vs. Non-Conference (2-8)

Home: 0-1 / Away: 0-7 / Neut: 2-0

NCAA FCS Teams (2-4)

Big Sky .....	0-2
UC Davis.....	0-0
Idaho State.....	0-0
Montana .....	0-1
Montana State.....	0-0
Northern Arizona.....	0-1
Northern Colorado .....	0-0
Southern Utah .....	0-0
Weber State .....	0-0
Big South .....	0-1
Kennesaw State .....	0-0
North Alabama .....	0-1
CAA Football.....	0-0
Delaware.....	0-0
Independents .....	0-0
North Dakota.....	0-0
Mid-Eastern Athletic.....	0-0
Howard.....	0-0
Northeast.....	0-0
Duquesne .....	0-0
Long Island.....	0-0
Robert Morris .....	0-0
Ohio Valley .....	0-1
Eastern Illinois.....	0-0
Eastern Kentucky .....	0-0
SE Missouri State.....	0-1
UT Martin.....	0-0
Tennessee Tech.....	0-0
Pioneer Football .....	1-0
Butler.....	1-0
Dayton.....	0-0
Drake.....	0-0
Morehead State .....	0-0
SoCon.....	1-0
Samford .....	1-0
Southland .....	0-0
Houston Baptist.....	0-0

NCAA FBS Teams (0-4)

American.....	0-0
Tulane.....	0-0
Big Ten .....	0-1
Minnesota.....	0-1
Big 12.....	0-2
Iowa State.....	0-1
Kansas.....	0-1
Oklahoma .....	0-0
Independents .....	0-0
UMass.....	0-0
Mid-American .....	0-1
Northern Illinois.....	0-1
Mountain West .....	0-0
Colorado State.....	0-0
Sun Belt .....	0-0
Arkansas State .....	0-0

vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (0-2)

SIU at #17 SEMO (8/29), L, 44-26  
#25 Montana at USD (8/31), L, 31-17

vs. Ranked (FBS) Teams (0-1)

UNI at #21 Iowa St. (8/31), L, 29-26 (3ot)

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 series.

Ten MVFC-Big Sky matchups are on the slate this year, including one this week. The Big Sky leads this year's series (2-0).

- Aug. 29 - Northern Arizona 37, Missouri State 23
- Aug. 31 - #25 Montana 31, South Dakota 17
- Sept. 7 - Southern Utah at UNI
- Sept. 14 - Montana State at Western Illinois
- 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

MVFC-FBS: Down to the Wire

Three MVFC-FBS games in Week 1 went down to the closing minutes. South Dakota State led Minnesota, 21-20, before the Gophers scored with 5:39 left for an eventual 28-21 victory. With 2:20 remaining, Indiana State led Kansas, 17-16, before the Jayhawks scored to win 24-17. Notably, UNI led No. 21 Iowa State with a minute remaining in the fourth quarter before eventually falling, 29-26, in three overtimes. The overtime loss at Iowa State marked the second time in league history that an MVFC team had lost to an FBS team in overtime (Missouri State lost to Oklahoma State in 1996).

Strong Debuts

Five league teams have first-time starting QBs this year. Here's how those signal callers fared in Week 1.

Player, School	Cmp-Att	TD	Yards
Trey Lance, NDSU	10-11	4	185
Will McElvain, UNI	25-42	1	228
Stone Labanowitz, SIU	16-28	0	217
J'Bore Gibbs, SDSU	13-26	1	193
Connor Sampson, WIU	18-30	0	183

5 MVFC Teams Ranked

Two-time defending national champ North Dakota State headlines a list of five MVFC teams ranked in top-25 polls this week.

Team	STATS	AFCA	AGS
NDSU	1	1	1
SDSU	3	3	3
UNI	11	12	8
INS	14	15	19
ILS	16	16	14
YSU	RV	RV	RV



MVFC in the NFL

There are a total of 18 student-athletes representing MVFC schools on NFL opening-day rosters. They include the following:

- Ravens - Chris Board (North Dakota State)
- Cardinals - David Johnson (UNI)
- Colts - Joe Haeg (North Dakota State)
- Adam Vinatieri (South Dakota State)
- Packers - Darrius Shepherd (NDSU), Robert Tonyan (Indiana State), Billy Turner (North Dakota State)
- Titans - MyCole Pruitt (Southern Illinois)
- Broncos - Shelby Harris (Illinois State)
- Chargers - Easton Stick (North Dakota State)
- Eagles - L.J. Fort (UNI), Dallas Goedert (South Dakota State), Carson Wentz (North Dakota St.)
- Texans - Dylan Cole (Missouri State)
- Chiefs - Khalen Saunders (Western Illinois), Xavier Williams (UNI)
- Jets - Tom Compton (South Dakota)
- Jaguars - James O'Shaughnessy (Illinois State)

Home-Opening Win Streaks

North Dakota State, with 20-straight wins in home-opening games, ranks second in the FCS (to North Dakota's 33-game streak). NDSU opens its home schedule vs. North Dakota this Saturday at the FargoDome. 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)
- 20 - North Dakota State (1999-present)
- 19 - Central Arkansas (2000-present)
- 18 - Wofford (2001-present)
- 18 - Harvard (2001-present)
- 16 - James Madison (2003-present)
- 15 - Montana (2004-present)
- 15 - McNeese (2005-present)
- 14 - Richmond (2006-present)
- 13 - Jacksonville State (2006-present)

Kicking It

Freshman Matthew Cook of UNI was a perfect 4-for-4 on FG tries in his debut against Iowa State. Cook connected on field goals of 50, 31, 49 and 28 yards. He's the first freshman in the league to make 4 field goals in a game since Sam Drysdale (UNI) connected on four tries on 11-5-2016 vs. Indiana State (also in his career debut).

# 2019 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (September 3)

## Players of the Week

### Offense & Newcomer

**QB Trey Lance, North Dakota State**  
6-3, 221, R-Fr., Marshall, Minn. (Marshall HS)

Lance became the first NDSU freshman quarterback to start a season opener and accounted for 301 yards and six touchdowns in the 57-10 win over Butler. Lance had five carries for 116 yards with touchdown runs of 33 and 61 yards, and went 10 of 11 passing for 185 yards and four TDs in three quarters of action. The Bison rolled up 388 yards rushing and 605 yards of total offense.

### Defense

**DL Kaleb Brewer, Indiana State**  
6-5, 260, R-Jr., Bloomington, Ind. (Bloomington North HS)

The Indiana State defense forced three turnovers during its season opener at FBS Kansas Saturday. Redshirt junior Kaleb Brewer forced what might have been the most important turnover late in the fourth quarter on a strip sack in the endzone. Teammate Inoke Moala was able to fall on for a touchdown to put the Sycamores ahead 17-16 with under three minutes to play. In all, Brewer finished his day with five solo tackles, including three tackles-for-loss for 15 yards, a sack for seven yards and a forced fumble.

### Special Teams

**PK Matthew Cook, UNI**  
5-11, 175, Fr., Cedar Falls, Iowa (Cedar Falls HS)

In the first game of his career, Matthew Cook hit four field goals, including the first 50-yard field goal for UNI since the 2015 season. He hit from 50, 31, 49, 28. His last two field goals came in overtimes of the 30T loss.

### Offensive Line

**RT Aron Johnson, South Dakota State**  
So., 6-6, 295, Chisago City, Minn. (Chisago Lakes HS)

Johnson graded out at 93 percent and was credited with six finish blocks in South Dakota State's Aug. 29 season opener at Minnesota. He did not give up a sack and allowed only one quarterback pressure despite being matched up against all-Big Ten defensive end Carter Coughlin much of the night. As a team, the Jackrabbits averaged 5.1 yards per rushing attempt.

## Against Ranked FCS Teams

The MVFC opened the 2019 season against two Top-25 opponents last week, falling to #25 Montana (South Dakota) and #17 Southeast Missouri State (Southern Illinois). 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 43-21 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

\*represents league record in each category

## MVFC - vs. Other Leagues

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

Big Sky Conference	62	43	.590
Big South	10	4	.714
CAA Football	24	18	.571
Mid-Eastern Athletic	21	1	.955
Northeast Conference	22	0	1.000
Ohio Valley (also one tie)	139	68	.671
Pioneer Football League	41	2	.953
Southern Conference	13	15	.464
Southland (also two ties)	56	49	.533
American	0	2	.000
Big 12	6	50	.107
Big Ten	4	59	.063
Mid-American	18	36	.333
Mountain West	2	5	.286
Sun Belt	2	3	.400

## Preseason Poll, Revisited

North Dakota State has been tabbed as the MVFC pre-season favorite; NDSU has earned the league title for eight-straight years, four times sharing it with another league school.

Team (first-place votes)	Points	Last Year
1. North Dakota State (32) .....	392	1st
2. South Dakota State (4).....	348	2nd
3. Illinois State (3) .....	289	t6th
4. Indiana State (1) .....	279	t3rd
5. UNI .....	266	t3rd
6. South Dakota.....	176	t6th
7. Youngstown State.....	153	t6th
8. Western Illinois .....	128	5th
9. Southern Illinois .....	89	10th
10. Missouri State .....	80	9th

## Title Town

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

Total Titles	Last
UNI .....	16 2011
North Dakota State .....	8 2018
Southern Illinois .....	5 2009
Western Illinois.....	5 2002
Illinois State .....	3 2015
Eastern Illinois .....	2 1995
Missouri State .....	2 1990
Youngstown State .....	2 2006
South Dakota State .....	1 2016
Western Kentucky .....	1 2002
Indiana State .....	0
South Dakota.....	0

## 2018 - Another Title Game Trip

An MVFC member has reached the FCS championship game 13 times since 1997. Last year, NDSU extend the MVFC's FCS record for having a title-game participant to eight-straight seasons. The Bison beat Eastern Washington, 38-24.

## 2019 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S2
Illinois State	13	16
Indiana St.	16	14
Missouri St.	--	--
NDSU	1	1
UNI	18	11
S. Dakota	rv	--
SDSU	3	3
S. Illinois	--	--
W. Illinois	rv	--
Youngstown	rv	rv

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



## ILLINOIS STATE **REDBIRDS** (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	at Northern Illinois	L, 10-24	0-1, 0-0
S7	Morehead State	NBCSCH/ESPN+	6:30 p.m.
S14	at Eastern Illinois	ESPN+	2:00 p.m.
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

### Home Sweet Home

The Redbirds have played well at home under the leadership of head coach Brock Spack, including in their home openers the last 10 seasons. ISU is a perfect 10-0 in home openers in the past decade, and the Redbirds hope to extend that streak to 11 against Morehead State this season. In 2018, the 'Birds made an early statement on the year with a 46-0 shutout win over Saint Xavier to open the season.

### Grimes Shines

Sophomore Taylor Grimes played a lot of football in 2018, but did not feature heavily in to the receiving action with only two catches for 19. However, he earned a starting spot on the receiving corps for 2019 and he made the most of it for the Redbirds in the season opener at Northern Illinois. The Godley, Texas, native led the team in receiving and set new career highs with six receptions for 109 with his first career touchdown reception. Grimes snagged a 42-yard touchdown pass from Brady Davis in the third quarter to knot the game at 10-10 at the time for ISU.

### Protecting the Nest

Opposing teams coming to Hancock Stadium have not felt very welcome in the past 10 seasons, as Redbird teams led by Spack have not been very accommodating in the win column to visitors. ISU is a combined 48-12 at home during Spack's tenure and have gone 31-6 at Hancock Stadium since the renovation of the facility in 2013.



## INDIANA STATE **SYCAMORES** (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	at Kansas	L, 17-24	0-1, 0-0
S7	Dayton	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
S14	Eastern Kentucky	ESPN+	1:00 p.m. ET
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

### Home Sweet Home

Indiana State will play a program record seven regular season home games at memorial Stadium in 2019. The Sycamores will begin a three-game homestand against Dayton this weekend, before hosting both Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois prior to the teams' bye week. ISU will host Western Illinois, South Dakota State, Southern Illinois and Youngstown State in conference action in Terre Haute.

### Fumble for a Touchdown

Indiana State scored a touchdown on a fumble for the first time since 2016 on Saturday at Kansas. Kaleb Brewer recorded a sack and a forced fumble in the endzone before Inoke Moala recovered and scored the touchdown that put the Sycamores ahead 17-16 with under three minutes remaining in the game. Tsali Lough recovered a fumble and scored from 100 yards out against Butler in 2016.

### Griffith Named to Buchanan Watch List

Redshirt senior Jonas Griffith was named to the Buck Buchanan Watch List this preseason. Griffith is one of 25 nominees, including four in the MVFC to earn the recognition, presented by STATS to the most outstanding defensive player in the nation. The Louisville, Kentucky native was named a Preseason All-American by HERO Sports and STATS FCS after earning All-American status from three different publications as well as All-MVFC honors following the conclusion of the 2018 campaign. Griffith led the Sycamores and ranked fifth nationally in tackles. Over his career, Griffith has seen action in 33 games, recording 281 tackles. He has made 21.5 tackles-for-loss and recorded 10 sacks, two interceptions and three forced fumbles.



## MISSOURI STATE **BEARS** (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A29	at Northern Arizona	L, 23-37	0-1, 0-0
S14	at Tulane	ESPN3	7:00 p.m.
S21	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

### Foreign Flags

After being one of the top 20 fewest penalized teams in the FCS ranks each of the last three seasons, the Bears committed an uncharacteristic 11 times for 96 yards in last week's season opener at Northern Arizona. The flag count was the team's second-highest in the coach Dave Steckel era, second only to 12 penalties at Murray State on Sept. 10, 2016. The Bears' penalty yardage in Flagstaff marked the third-highest since 2015.

### Currie Picks It Up

Senior wide receiver Tyler Currie picked up the 2019 season where he left off his junior season. The standout wideout hauled in a game-high six receptions for 89 yards and a touchdown in MSU's season opener at Northern Arizona. He averaged 14.8 yards per reception with a long 30-yarder -- his third-quarter touchdown pass from Peyton Huslig. Currie led the Bears with 35 receptions for 548 yards and 5 touchdowns a year ago.

### Ground Stoppers

Missouri State's rushing defense held Northern Arizona to just 2.4 yards per carry in last week's season opener. Against 36 NAU rushing plays, the Bears recorded 11 tackles for loss, totaling 31 yards, without the benefit of a sack. For the game, the Bears allowed just 88 yards on 36 carries.



## NORTH DAKOTA STATE **BISON** 1-0, 0-0 MVFC)

A31	Butler (at Minneapolis)	W, 57-10	1-0, 0-0
S7	North Dakota	NBC ND/ESPN+	2:30 p.m.
S14	at Delaware	NBC ND/FloSports	12:00 p.m.
S21	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-UND 10th Most Played FCS Series

Saturday will be the 112th meeting between North Dakota State and North Dakota, the 10th most played series among current FCS programs. UND has a 62-46-3 lead all-time dating back to 1894, when NDSU won the first two meetings 24-6 in Grand Forks and 20-4 in Fargo. NDSU won the only Division I meeting between the two schools 34-9 in 2015 at the Fargodome, where UND has a 4-2 record.

### NDSU Draws Largest FCS Crowd

The crowd of 34,544 for NDSU-Butler last Saturday in the first Division I game at Target Field in Minneapolis was the 10th largest crowd in Bison history and most in the FCS this season. Only eight other schools outside of the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC and Pac-12 drew larger crowds on opening weekend:

Utah at BYU - 61,626
Wisconsin at South Florida - 46,704
Ole Miss at Memphis - 44,107
Florida A&M at UCF - 44,073
Weber State at San Diego State - 40,222
Alabama State at UAB - 39,165
UCLA at Cincinnati - 38,032
Houston Baptist at UTEP - 34,646

### Six True Freshmen Play in Opener

With plenty of new names on the roster after graduating 24 seniors from last year's team, North Dakota State played six true freshmen in the season-opener against Butler: wide receiver Jake Lippe, safety Julian Wlodarczyk, running back Kobe Johnson, kicker Griffin Crosa, tight end Travis Yohnke and defensive tackle Javier Derritt. Crosa converted all seven PAT kicks, Johnson rushed six times for 63 yards and Derritt assisted on one tackle.



## NORTHERN IOWA **PANTHERS**

**(0-1, 0-0 MVFC)**

A31	at Iowa State	L, 26-29 (30T)	0-1, 0-0
S7	Southern Utah	PSN/ESPN3	4:00 p.m.
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

### Farley Approaches Another Milestone

Head coach Mark Farley is just one win away from the 150-win plateau. He is the winningest coach in UNI and Missouri Valley Football History and his next will make him the 10th coach in FCS history with 150 FCS victories.

### Williams Shines vs. Iowa State

Xavior Williams showed why he is a preseason All-American honoree with a performance against Iowa State that included a 53-yard fumble return for a touchdown and three pass breakups, including one in the end zone and another on fourth down. Trevor Allen scored the lone offensive touchdown on a seven-yard snag in the second overtime. McElvain scrambled all over the field before scoring finding Allen in the end zone wide open out of the backfield.

### Cook Earns League, National Honors

After going 4-4 in field goals, including a 50-yard make, freshman Matthew Cook was named the MVFC and the STATS FCS National Special Teams Player of the Week.

### Spreading The Offense

Eight receivers caught passes in Saturday's season opener and six receivers tallied more than one reception. Deion McShane tallied team-high seven catches, tying his career-high. Every receiver that caught a ball is a returner with at least one reception coming into the season.

### Jumping In the Polls

UNI lost its opener at No. 18 Iowa State, but in the eyes of the voters in the national polls, the Panthers showed enough for a big jump in the polls. UNI leaped from 18 to 11 in the STATS poll and from 20th to 12th in the FCS AFCA Coaches Poll. It was the biggest jump in either poll.



## SOUTH DAKOTA **COYOTES**

**(0-1, 0-0 MVFC)**

A31	#25 Montana	L, 17-31	0-1, 0-0
S7	at #4 Oklahoma	FS Southwest	6:00 p.m.
S14	Houston Baptist	Midco/ESPN3	2:00 p.m.
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

### Welcome Back, Kody

Wide receiver Kody Case competed in just four games last season due to injury. Back and healthy as a redshirt sophomore, he tied a program record by hauling in 11 catches and totaled a career-best 144 yards and two touchdowns in Saturday's game against Montana. Case caught touchdowns of 3 and 9 yards. All 11 catches came in the first three quarters.

### Solid Start for New O-Line

South Dakota is breaking in four new starters on its offensive line, including two redshirt freshmen and a redshirt sophomore who has competed at tight end the past two seasons. That said, the unit allowed no sacks and just one hurry against the Griz. The Coyotes rushed for 106 yards and its three running backs averaged nearly four yards per carry.

### Rebound Against ... Oklahoma?

South Dakota heads to Norman, Oklahoma, to face the Sooners and new quarterback Jalen Hurts. The fourth-ranked Sooners opened the season with a 49-31 win against Houston Sunday at home. Hurts passed for 332 yards, ran for 176 and accounted for six touchdowns. He is the first Oklahoma quarterback to pass for 300 yards and rush for 150 in a single game. It is USD's first meeting with Oklahoma.

### Simmons Enters the Top 10

Senior quarterback Austin Simmons passed for 246 yards and two touchdowns in Saturday's opener against Montana. The passing total moved Simmons from 11th to seventh on the Coyotes' career passing list with 3,780 yards. He is 220 yards shy of 4,000, and 581 yards shy of sixth-place Dante Warren, currently the running back coach for the Coyotes.



## SOUTH DAKOTA ST. JACKRABBITS (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A29	at Minnesota	L, 21-28	0-1, 0-0
S7	Long Island	Midco/ESPN3	6:00 p.m.
S14	Drake	KELO/ESPN+	1:00 p.m.
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

### Another Strong Performance

South Dakota State running back Pierre Strong, Jr., racked up 159 all-purpose yards in the Jackrabbits' season-opening loss Aug. 29 at Minnesota. Strong tallied 53 rushing yards on 12 carries, 59 receiving yards on a pair of receptions and 47 yards on one kickoff return for an average of 10.6 yards per touch. Strong has tallied 100-plus all-purpose yards in six of the last seven games dating back to the 2018 season and seven times in his career. He ranked second on the squad with 1,238 all-purpose yards a season ago.

### Home Openers

South Dakota State has fared well in home openers under head coach John Stiegelmeier, who is in his 23rd season at the helm of the Jackrabbit football program. In 22 previous home openers, SDSU has compiled an 18-4 record and has won eight in a row. The Jackrabbits open the home slate Sept. 7 by hosting FCS newcomer Long Island University.

### Ten Tackles or More

Senior linebacker Christian Rozeboom notched double digits in tackles for the 20th time in his career by recording 11 stops in the Aug. 29 season opener at Minnesota. Rozeboom increased his career tackles total to 375, which ranks fourth in program history. He has been the team's leading tackler in 24 of the 41 games in which he has played (and started).



## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A29	at #17 SE Missouri State	L, 26-44	0-1, 0-0
S7	at UMass	FloSports	2:30 p.m.
S14	UT Martin	ESPN+	6:00 p.m.
S21	at Arkansas State		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

### Series Versus UMass

The Salukis and UMass have met once before, with SIU winning in the Elite Eight of the 2007 I-AA Playoffs, 34-27. SIU head coach Nick Hill was the starting quarterback in that game and for passed for 216 yards and three touchdowns to help the No. 4-ranked Salukis improve to 12-1 on the season. The teams combined for 984 yards of total offense. Southern advanced to the Final Four where it lost to the Joe Flacco-led Delaware Blue Hens.

### Davis 100+ Yards in 7 of last 12 Games

Dating back to last season RB D.J. Davis (5-8, 170, Sr.) has recorded seven 100-yard rushing games in the last 12 games. In last week's opener against SEMO, he rushed for 125 yards and two TDs. Davis is one of 40 players on the 2019 preseason watch list for the College Football Performance Awards (CFPA) FCS National Performer of the Year trophy. Davis led the Missouri Valley Football Conference last season and ranked 14th in the nation in all-purpose yards per game with 140.3. He rushed for 1,118 yards in 2018 — the most by a Saluki running back since Jewel Hampton in 2011 — and averaged 6.28 yards per carry.

### Chinn a "Top FCS Target" by Senior Bowl

Preseason All-American S Jeremy Chinn (6-3, 212, Sr.) was named the "Top FCS Target" by the Senior Bowl last week. A year ago Delaware's Nasir Adderley earned the Senior Bowl's distinction and ended up as a San Diego Chargers 2nd round pick. Last season, Chinn led the team in interceptions (3) and pass breakups (9) and also forced two fumbles and blocked a field goal. A starter since his freshman season, he ranks among the school's career leaders in three categories — interceptions (13th/9), pass breakups (3rd/24) and forced fumbles (2nd/6).



## WESTERN ILLINOIS **LEATHERNECKS** (0-1, 0-0 MVFC)

A29	at North Alabama	L, 17-26	0-1, 0-0
S7	at Colorado State	AT&T SportsNet	3:00 p.m.
S14	Montana State	ESPN+	3:00 p.m.
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

### Us vs. Them

Western has eight FBS victories under its belt including back-to-back wins in 2016 and 2017. Its most recent outing against an FBS opponent resulted in a 14-34 setback at Illinois last year.

- Nov. 7, 1986, at Northern Illinois, 10-0
- Sept. 7, 1996, at Northern Illinois, 17-0
- Sept. 2, 1999, at Northern Illinois, 27-21
- Sept. 9, 2000, at Ball State, 24-14
- Sept. 21, 2002, at Northern Illinois, 29-26
- Sept. 4, 2003, at Eastern Michigan, 34-12
- Sept. 24, 2016, at Northern Illinois, 28-23
- Sept. 23, 2017, at Coastal Carolina, 52-10

### Leatherneck Debuts

Western found the end zone for the first time of the 2019 season when Deontez Thompson punched through the gap for a nine-yard rush (North Alabama). The senior RB was one of eight starters who made their Leatherneck debut in the season-opener.

### First Career Start

In his first collegiate start, quarterback Connor Sampson went 18-30 at North Alabama with 183 yards and one interception. He appeared in six games a season ago and four in 2017.

### The Graduates

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame released its annual list of student-athletes who are playing college football this fall with their undergraduate degrees already in hand, and Western Illinois tied for fourth in the FCS with eight.

- Matt Clark - Master of Science in Sport and Exercise Psychology
- Jared Drake - Master of Science in Sport Management
- Zach Glisan - Master of Business Administration
- Kevin Johnson - Master of Science in Sport Management
- Tom Rehfeld - Master of Science in Public Health
- Reno Rosene - Master of Science in Sport Management
- Deontez Thompson - Master of Science in Sports Management
- George Wahee - Master of Science in Public Health



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE **PENGUINS** (1-0, 0-0 MVFC)

A24	vs. Samford	W, 45-22	1-0, 0-0
S7	Howard	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
S14	Duquesne	ESPN+	2:00 p.m. ET
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

### Secondary Has Depth

The Penguins secondary had a variety of faces see action in the win over Samford. YSU started six defensive backs against the pass-happy Bulldogs. Starting were CB Bryce Gibson, CB Dee Ford, FS Kyle Hegedus, SS Zaire Jones, NB DJ Smalls and DB Jaelin Madison. Three of the six - Madison, Jones and Ford - were all making their YSU debuts while Gibson, Smalls and Hegedus have a combined 48 games started. Also seeing action against the Bulldogs were Melvin Jackson and John Harper. Harper intercepted a pass in the third quarter.

### D-Line Totally New

The Penguins had four players start the opener on the defensive line that didn't start a year ago - and all four made their starting debuts against Samford. The new group of DEs Justus Reed, Ma'lik Richmond and DTs Antoine Cook and DeMarko Craig were solid up front against Samford. Reed missed the 2018 campaign with an injury, Cook was a reserve defensive end, Craig redshirted and Richmond was a pass-rush specialist who had three sacks. Against Samford, the four players combined for 14 tackles, four TFLs and three sacks. Last year's season opening starting defensive line featured DE Shereif Bynum, DT Wes Thompson, DT Savon Smith and DE Johnson Louigene.

### Home Opener Success

The Penguins have won 23 of their last 24 openers dating back to the 1995 campaign. In the 24 games since 1995, YSU has outscored its opponents by an impressive 874-254 margin. Since then the Penguins have posted four shutouts, including 2017 vs. Robert Morris, while the most points allowed was 23 by Duquesne in 2014 and Butler in 2018. On offense, the Guins have scored at least 21 points in each of those games and gone over 30 on 17 occasions, including a high of 77 versus Valparaiso in 2011.