



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

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## 2020-21 Valley Football Standings (through Saturday, March 6)

Team	MVFC		Points		Overall		Points		H	A	Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp			
North Dakota	3-0	1.000	93	48	3-0	1.000	93	48	3-0	0-0	W3
Southern Illinois	2-1	.667	89	80	3-1	.750	109	97	2-0	1-1	W2
North Dakota State	2-1	.667	64	45	3-1	.750	103	73	2-0	1-1	W1
South Dakota State	2-1	.667	86	58	2-1	.667	86	58	1-0	1-1	W1
UNI	2-1	.667	61	34	2-1	.667	61	34	1-1	1-0	W2
South Dakota	1-1	.500	37	41	1-1	.500	37	41	0-0	1-1	L1
Missouri State	1-1	.500	30	49	1-4	.200	74	157	0-2	1-2	L1
Western Illinois	0-2	.000	34	75	0-2	.000	34	75	0-1	0-1	L5
Illinois State	0-2	.000	30	47	0-2	.000	30	47	0-1	0-1	L2
Youngstown State	0-3	.000	29	76	0-3	.000	29	76	0-2	0-1	L3

Indiana State has opted out of the Spring 2021 season

### • • 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.

#### 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 Schedule/Results

### Thursday, March 4

#20 South Dakota at #4 North Dakota UND, 21-10

### Saturday, March 6

#11 Southern Illinois at Youngstown State SIU, 30-22

#6 North Dakota State at Missouri State NDSU, 25-0

Western Illinois at #8 South Dakota State SDSU, 45-10

#15 Illinois State at #3 UNI UNI, 20-10

### Saturday, March 13

#3 North Dakota at Western Illinois, 12 p.m. CT [ESPN+]

#4 UNI at #10 Southern Illinois, 12 p.m. CT [ESPN+]

Missouri State at #21 South Dakota, 1 p.m. CT [Midco/ESPN+]

Youngstown State at #8 SDSU, 2 p.m. CT [Midco/ESPN+]

#22 Illinois State at #5 NDSU, 2:30 p.m. CT [NBC ND/ESPN+]

### Saturday, March 20

South Dakota at Youngstown State, 11 a.m. CT

Western Illinois at Illinois State, 11 a.m. CT

SDSU at S. Illinois, 12 p.m. CT [MVFC TV]

North Dakota at North Dakota State, 2:30 p.m. CT

Missouri State at UNI, 4 p.m. CT

### Saturday, March 27

Illinois State at South Dakota St., 2 p.m. CT [MVFC TV]

Southern Illinois at Missouri State, 2 p.m. CT

North Dakota at Youngstown St., 11 a.m. CT [MVFC TV]

North Dakota State at South Dakota, 1 p.m. CT

UNI at Western Illinois, 7 p.m. CT

## 7 MVFC Teams in Top 25

Seven teams from the Missouri Valley Football Conference are ranked in this week's Stats Perform Top 25 poll, with five teams appearing in the Top 10. Seven league teams have been ranked in the same week 18 times in our history, including twice this year, and the league record is eight (Sept. 29, 2014).

The league matched a record with five top-10 teams, which had been achieved three times previously – most recently on Oct. 2, 2017.

The first AFCA coaches poll of the season will be published on Monday, March 15.

The MVFC also holds five of the Top 8 spots in the Massey Ratings (and six of the Top 10 positions in that metric).

Team	STATS	AFCA	Massey	Sagarin
UND	3	TBA	1	4
UNI	4	TBA	7	3
NDSU	5	TBA	2	2
SDSU	8	TBA	3	1
SIU	10	TBA	8	8
USD	21	TBA	10	14
ILS	22	TBA	22	12

### Massey Ratings, Team Leaders

1. North Dakota (MVFC)
2. North Dakota State (MVFC)
3. South Dakota State (MVFC)
4. Weber State (Big Sky)
5. James Madison (CAA)
6. UC Davis (Big Sky)
7. UNI (MVFC)
8. Southern Illinois (MVFC)
9. Nicholls (Southland)
10. South Dakota (MVFC)

Among conferences, the MVFC is the top-rated league in the FCS (Sagarin), five MVFC schools are in the Top 8, which includes positions 1-2-3-4.

### Sagarin Rankings, Team Leaders (FCS)

1. South Dakota State
2. North Dakota State
3. UNI
4. North Dakota
5. Weber State (Big Sky)
6. Montana (Big Sky)
7. James Madison (CAA)
8. Southern Illinois

### Sagarin Rankings, Conference Leaders (FCS)

1. MISSOURI VALLEY
2. Big Sky
3. CAA Football



## ESPN APP is MVFC Digital Home

The ESPN App curates all of ESPN's incredible content into a personalized experience unique to each fan's tastes. All MVFC home games will be available

through the App, airing either on ESPN3 or ESPN+.

## Players of the Week

### Offense

**QB Mark Gronowski, South Dakota State**  
6-3, 200, Fr., Naperville (Ill.) Neuqua Valley HS  
Gronowski accounted for four first-half touchdowns, running for two and passing for two, in South Dakota's State 45-10 home win over Western Illinois on March 6. He opened the scoring with a 22-yard touchdown run. In the second quarter, he sandwiched an 80-yard touchdown run around TD passes of 44 and 12 yards to Jadon Janke and Mason Leighton, respectively. For the game, Gronowski was 12-of-19 passing for 178 yards and carried four times for 120 yards.

### Defense

**LB Spencer Cuvelier, UNI**  
6-3, 245, Jr., Cresco (Iowa) Crestwood High / Iowa Central CC  
Cuvelier notched 11 tackles, two tackles for loss and a strip-sack to help lead the UNI defense in a stifling defensive performance in the 20-10 win over No. 15 Illinois State. The Redbirds racked up 447 yards of offense a week ago, but the Panthers held ISU to just 185 yards, including just 69 yards through the air. Cuvelier forced a fumble late in the fourth which led to a turnover and a touchdown to clinch the 20-10 win.

### Newcomer

**TB Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown State**  
5-9, 175, Jr., Marshville (N.C.) Notre Dame Coll.  
McLaughlin rushed for 124 yards and 26 carries and scored two touchdowns in YSU's loss to Southern Illinois. A transfer from Notre Dame (Ohio) College, McLaughlin had his best performance by far for the Penguins in his third game. He had rushing scores of 10 and one-yard in the first half of the game. They were his first YSU touchdowns.

### Special Teams

**P Garret Wegner, North Dakota State**  
6-0, 197, Sr., Lodi (Wis.) High  
Wegner averaged 52.2 yards on five punts including a career-long of 67 yards that ranks fourth longest in the FCS this season. Wegner also had punts of 54 and 59 yards and placed two inside the 20-yard line while limiting Missouri State to 10 return yards. Wegner also ran a fake punt 23 yards for a first down to set up NDSU's first touchdown in a 25-0 victory.

### Offensive Line

**RT Garret Greenfield, South Dakota State**  
6-6, 295, So., Rock Valley (Iowa) High  
Greenfield graded at 95 percent with eight knockdown blocks in South Dakota State's 45-10 win over Western Illinois on March 6. He did not allow any sacks or quarterback pressures as the Jackrabbits totaled 531 yards of total offense, including 347 yards on the ground.

## UND -- Another Top 25 Win

North Dakota continues to keep it rolling against teams inside the top-25, notching its 14th win as a Division I program against a ranked foe and its sixth-straight victory at home. The Fighting Hawks have now started 3-0 on the season for the first time since 2008, but this marks the first time in program history that it has knocked off a trio of ranked opponents to start the season.

### MVFC Top-25 Victories This Season

10-03-20	#1 NDSU vs. #11 Central Arkansas, 39-28
10-30-20	#24 SIU vs. #25 SE Missouri State, 20-17
02-19-21	#5 SDSU at #3 UNI, 24-20
02-20-21	North Dakota vs. #24 SIU, 44-21
02-27-21	South Dakota at #7 Illinois State, 27-20
02-27-21	Southern Illinois vs. #1 NDSU, 38-14
02-27-21	#14 UND vs. #3 SDSU, 28-17
03-04-21	#4 UND vs. #20 South Dakota, 21-10
03-06-21	#3 UNI vs. #15 Illinois State, 20-10

## Blankity Blank

North Dakota State bounced back from its first loss with a 25-0 win at Missouri State last Saturday. NDSU held the Bears to 62 yards in the second half and extended its scoreless streak to nine quarters against Missouri State dating back to 2018.

Shutouts Recorded	Times Shut Out
UNI - 10	Indiana State - 14
North Dakota State - 7	Missouri State - 9
Illinois State - 6	Illinois State - 5
Southern Illinois - 5	Youngstown State - 5
Western Illinois - 5	Western Illinois - 4
Youngstown State - 4	South Dakota - 3
South Dakota State - 3	Southern Illinois - 2
Missouri State - 2	North Dakota State - 1
South Dakota - 2	South Dakota State - 1
Western Kentucky - 1	Western Kentucky - 1
Indiana State - 0	UNI - 0
North Dakota - 0	North Dakota - 0

## Pressing Pause

Only three Missouri Valley football teams participated in non-conference action this past fall, with Missouri State (0-3), North Dakota State (1-0) and Southern Illinois (1-0) playing a slate of games that featured five ranked opponents. Indiana State opted out of the spring schedule (which features 40 conference games).

Conference Games Scheduled/Played: 40/13  
MVC Games Postponed/Rescheduled: 2/2  
Games Canceled: 0

## Wegner Honored by Stats Perform

Punter Garret Wegner of North Dakota State was named the Stats Perform National Special Teams Player of the Week after averaging 52.2 yards on five punts in North Dakota State's 25-0 win at Missouri State.

## Ranked vs. Ranked

A pair of games this past week featured two ranked MVFC teams. The league has now had 188 meetings all-time that featured two ranked MVFC teams. Of those 188 games, 51 times the meeting involved teams that were both ranked in the Top 10 at the same time. Twelve meetings have occurred in the playoffs. The home team is 108-79, while the higher-ranked team is 119-69.

One game (between Illinois State and North Dakota State in Frisco, Texas, on Jan. 10, 2015) was played at a neutral site. On Oct. 26, #1 North Dakota State beat #3 South Dakota State in what was just the fourth meeting between two MVFC schools ranked in the Top 3.

### MVFC -- Two Top-3 Teams vs. Each Other

10/29/11	#2 UNI at #3 NDSU	NDSU, 27-19
10/6/12	#3 YSU at #1 NDSU	NDSU, 48-7
9/29/18	#3 SDSU at #1 NDSU	NDSU, 21-17
10/26/19	#1 NDSU at #3 SDSU	NDSU, 23-16

## MVFC Preseason Poll

North Dakota State has been tabbed as the Missouri Valley Football Conference pre-season favorite in a poll conducted by league coaches. NDSU has been picked first in the pre-season poll for nine-straight seasons.

North Dakota State has earned the league title for nine-straight years, four times sharing it with another league school. This year, NDSU received 101 points in the coaches vote to edge UNI (92) and SDSU (91).

1. North Dakota State	101
2. UNI	92
3. South Dakota State	91
4. Illinois State	80
5. Southern Illinois	68
6. South Dakota	52
7. North Dakota	39
8. Youngstown State	36
9. Missouri State	23
9. Western Illinois	23

Indiana State opted out of spring season

## Milestone Win

South Dakota State's 45-10 victory over Western Illinois on March 6 marked the Jackrabbits' 100th victory since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2008. Overall, the Jackrabbits have posted a 100-55 record (.645 winning record) in that span, including a 68-31 mark in league games. SDSU has not finished below .500 in league play in any of its 12 full seasons as an MVFC member, making it the only current member (outside of newcomer UND) since 2008 to be able to make that claim.

# 2020-21 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release (March 9)

## Players of the Week

### Feb. 22

Offense -- RB Pierre Strong Jr., SDSU  
 Defense -- LB Devon Krzanowski, North Dakota  
 Special Teams -- PK Jake Reinholz, NDSU  
 \*Newcomer -- QB Mark Gronowski, SDSU  
 Offensive Lineman -- C Nathan Nguon, UND

### March 1

Offense -- QB Nic Baker, Southern Illinois  
 Defense -- DE Kevin Ellis, Missouri State  
 Newcomer -- LB Josh Navratil, North Dakota  
 Special Teams -- P Brady Schutt, South Dakota  
 Offensive Lineman -- C Chase Arends, UNI

### March 8

Offense -- QB Mark Gronowski, South Dakota State  
 Defense -- LB Spencer Cuvelier, UNI  
 Newcomer -- TB Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown St.  
 \*Special Teams -- P Garret Wegner, North Dakota St.  
 Offensive Lineman -- RT Garret Greenfield, SDSU

\*denotes National Player of the Week

### Fall MVFC Performers of the Week

S15 -- LB Tylar Wiltz, Missouri State  
 S29 -- TB/WR Kevon Latulas, Missouri State  
 O6 -- FB Hunter Luepke, North Dakota State  
 O6 -- LB James Kaczor, North Dakota State  
 O20 -- TB Jeremiah Wilson, Missouri State  
 N3 -- RB Javon Williams Jr., Southern Illinois  
 N3 -- Blake Parzych, Southern Illinois  
 N3 -- PK Nico Gualdoni, Southern Illinois

## Renovated DakotaDome

South Dakota hosts Missouri State Saturday in what will be the first game to take place in the DakotaDome following a \$26 million renovation to the west side of the facility. The Coyotes had won 16 consecutive home openers before falling to Montana 31-17 at the start of last season.

## Home Streak at 30 Games

North Dakota State is on a school-record 30-game home winning streak, which is tied for fifth longest in FCS history behind Georgia Southern (39, 38), Eastern Kentucky (34), Middle Tennessee State (31) and Montana (30). It is the longest active home winning streak in Division I and a new Missouri Valley Football Conference record, topping NDSU's 26-game home winning streak from 2012-15.

### NCAA Leaders, Home Win Streaks (Active)

#### 30 -- North Dakota State

15 -- Eastern Washington

14 -- James Madison

#### 10 -- North Dakota

8 -- Weber State

## Pick Six

Illinois State LB Kenton Wilhoit jumped in front of McElvain's pass and returned the interception 29 yards for the touchdowns to make it 10-10 with 2:22 left before halftime. His interception was the first of his career and the pick six now gives the Redbirds at least one defensive TD in each of coach Brock Spack's seasons.

## What's the Catch?

Missouri State's Jordan Murray has now recorded a pass reception in 25-consecutive games, the fifth-longest streak in program history. In 2018, Murray broke the Bears freshman receiving record with 33 catches for 378 yards while earning FCS Freshman All-America honors.

## Clean Slates

Four MVFC schools rank among the nation's Top 12 teams for fewest penalties per game. North Dakota, which averages just two penalties per game, is tied for the FCS lead through three games. North Dakota State (3rd), South Dakota (7th) and Youngstown State (12th) also represent the Missouri Valley.

### NCAA Leaders, Fewest Penalties Per Game

Team (Conf.)	G	PPG
<b>1. North Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.00</b>
1. LIU (NEC)	1	2.00
<b>3. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.25</b>
4. Morehead State (Pioneer)	1	3.00
4. UC Davis (Big Sky)	1	3.00
6. Elon (CAA)	3	3.33
<b>7. South Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.50</b>
7. Eastern Illinois (OVC)	2	3.50
7. Gardner-Webb (Big South)	2	3.50
7. Idaho (Big Sky)	2	3.50
11. Mercer (SoCon)	5	3.60
<b>12. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.67</b>

## Tough Against the Pass

Three league schools rank in the Top 10 of the FCS for fewest passing yards allowed, led by Southern Illinois, which ranks 5th while allowing just 106.0 yards per game in its four contests this season. SIU's figure would be the lowest in the league since 2003 when Missouri State led the Conference by allowing just 101.1 passing yards per game.

### NCAA Leaders, Fewest Pass Yards Allowed (YPG)

Team (Conf.)	G	YPG
1. Nicholls St. (Southland)	3	47.0
2. Howard (MEAC)	1	55.0
3. Delaware (CAA)	1	61.0
4. Chattanooga (SoCon)	3	70.0
<b>5. Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>106.0</b>
6. Murray State (OVC)	2	107.5
<b>7. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>109.0</b>
8. LIU (NEC)	1	125.0
9. Albany (NY) (CAA)	1	128.0
<b>10. Youngstown State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>132.0</b>
10. Alabama A&M (SWAC)	1	132.0

## 2020-21 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	F22	M1	M8
Illinois State	9	7	15	22
Indiana St.	--	--	--	--
Missouri St.	--	--	--	--
UND	rv	14	4	3
NDSU	1	1	6	5
UNI	3	5	3	4
S. Dakota	--	--	20	21
SDSU	5	3	8	8
S. Illinois	24	rv	11	10
W. Illinois	--	--	--	--
Youngstown	rv	rv	--	--

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



## Catch Up

The Leathernecks hold three of the top four spots in the MVFC in receptions per game. Dennis Houston leads the Valley, and ranks fourth in the nation, with nine catches, and is followed by teammates Tony Tate and Dallas Daniels. The rankings should come as no surprise, as Connor Sampson is averaging 31.5 completions per (second in the NCAA) and 279.5 passing yards (eighth in the NCAA).

### Receptions Per Game - Western Illinois

Dennis Houston (9.0 / 4th in the NCAA / 1st in MVFC)  
Tony Tate (6.5 / 18th in the NCAA / 3rd in MVFC)  
Dallas Daniels (6.0 / 22nd in the NCAA / 4th in MVFC)

### Receiving Yards Per Game - Western Illinois

Dallas Daniels (79.0 / 29th in the NCAA / 3rd in MVFC)  
Dennis Houston (72.5 / 39th in the NCAA / 4th in MVFC)  
Tony Tate (61.5 / 54th in the NCAA / 8th in MVFC)

## Comeback Kids

Southern Illinois rallied from an early 12-point deficit to beat Youngstown State, 30-22, on Saturday. The Salukis (3-1, 2-1) are off to their best start since opening the 2015 season at 5-1. SIU trailed 12-0 and 19-7 before scoring 23 of the game's final 26 points to move to 3-1 overall.

## Second Half Dominance

North Dakota has made it a point to dominate the second halves of games through the opening three contests of the season, outscoring its opponents, 63-17, over that span. UND has scored a touchdown on the opening possession of the second half in every game and struck for 14 points in the third quarter in the 21-10 win over South Dakota last Thursday.

## Nine Turnovers

South Dakota has intercepted five passes and recovered four fumbles through its first two games. True freshman cornerback Myles Harden leads the nation in passes defended (2 interceptions, 5 breakups). Linebacker Brock Mogensen got his first collegiate interception against North Dakota. UND, meanwhile, ranks second nationally with its 2.00 turnover margin average.

### NCAA Leaders, Turnover Margin

Team (Conf.)	G	Mar.
<b>1. South Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.50</b>
<b>2. North Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.00</b>
2. Delaware State (MEAC)	1	2.00
2. Northern Arizona (Big Sky)	2	2.00
2. Northwestern State (Southland)	1	2.00
2. Robert Morris (Horizon)	1	2.00
2. UC Davis (Big Sky)	1	2.00
2. Villanova (CAA)	1	2.00
2. Weber St. (Big Sky)	1	2.00

## Stopping the Rush

Led by Illinois State (11th), five MVFC schools rank in the Top 25 in fewest rushing yards allowed per game. Among schools that have played more than one game, the Redbirds rank fourth-best with their 85.0 yards per game figure. The 85.0 per game figure ranks as the second-best all-time in MVFC history (behind only ISU's 80.5 ypg rushing defense figure in 1986).

### NCAA Leaders, Rushing Defense (YPG)

Team (Conf.)	G	YPG
1. James Madison (CAA)	3	31.0
2. New Hampshire (CAA)	1	32.0
3. Southern Utah (Big Sky)	1	42.0
4. Delaware (CAA)	1	51.0
4. Gardner-Webb (Big South)	2	51.0
6. Albany (NY) (CAA)	1	58.0
7. Bryant (NEC)	1	66.0
8. Richmond (CAA)	1	72.0
9. Sam Houston (Southland)	1	74.0
10. Furman (SoCon)	3	80.3
<b>11. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>85.0</b>
11. Howard (MEAC)	1	85.0
<b>15. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>88.8</b>
<b>19. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>97.0</b>
<b>20. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>97.3</b>
<b>25. North Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>105.0</b>

## Breakout Day

Youngstown State's Jaleel McLaughlin had his best day as a Penguin with 124 yards and two touchdowns on 26 carries in the loss to No. 11 Southern Illinois. In YSU's two previous games this spring, McLaughlin rushed for a total of 73 yards on 17 carries with no touchdowns. He was named Sunday as the league's Newcomer of the Week.

## Kickin' It

Four MVFC punters rank among the nation's Top 11, led by Garret Wegner of North Dakota State who leads the league and ranks second nationally by averaging 45.7 yards per punt. Wegner booted a 67-yarder against Missouri State on Saturday.

### NCAA Leaders, Punting Average

Player, Team (Conf.)	Avg.
1. Aubrey Grace, Alabama St. (SWAC)	46.8
<b>2. Garret Wegner, North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>45.7</b>
<b>3. Brady Schutt, South Dakota (MVFC)</b>	<b>44.8</b>
4. Timmy Bleekrode, Furman (SoCon)	44.7
5. Austin Dunlap, Southeastern La. (Southland)	44.6
6. Aaron Winn, Presbyterian (Independent)	43.9
7. McKay Taylor, Campbell (Big South)	43.6
8. Hunter Stephenson, Elon (CAA)	43.6
<b>9. Grant Burkett, Missouri State (MVFC)</b>	<b>42.6</b>
10. Derek Armon, Northern Ariz. (Big Sky)	42.4
<b>11. JT Bohlken, Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>41.8</b>

### NCAA Leaders, Longest Punts This Season

<b>1. Grant Burkett, Missouri State (MVFC)</b>	<b>75</b>
2. Gabe Boring, Chattanooga (SoCon)	72
3. Enrique Carmona, Lamar (Southland)	70
<b>4. Garret Wegner, North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>67</b>
4. Keven Nguyen, UIW (Southland)	67

## Panthers Dominating 'D'

The UNI defense held its second consecutive opponent without an offensive touchdown, shutting out Youngstown State 21-0 and beating Illinois State 20-10 this past weekend. It is the first time since outscoring Hampton and Indiana State by a combined 77-0 in 2019. Notably, Illinois State didn't make it into the red zone against UNI. The Panthers allowed Illinois State just nine first downs, 185 yards of total offense and just three points on the offense in the win.

## Panthers Rank 7th Nationally

UNI ranks 7th nationally in total defense, yielding just 206.0 yards per game. It's the lowest league-only figure since 2012, when North Dakota State surrendered just 202.8 yards per game in league play. Five MVFC teams rank in the NCAA's Top 30.

### NCAA Leaders, Total Defense (YPG)

Team (Conf.)		YPG
1. Delaware (CAA)	1	112.0
2. Howard (MEAC)	1	140.0
3. James Madison (CAA)	3	163.7
4. Nicholls State (Southland)	3	168.3
5. Albany (NY) (CAA)	1	186.0
6. Murray State (OVC)	2	199.0
<b>7. UNI (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>206.0</b>
8. New Hampshire (CAA)	1	224.0
9. Chattanooga (SoCon)	3	237.7
<b>16. Illinois State (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>269.5</b>
<b>20. North Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>283.0</b>
<b>27. Southern Illinois (MVFC)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>311.5</b>
<b>29. South Dakota State (MVFC)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>319.7</b>

## Tough Fall Slate

Every regular-season non-conference game in 2020-21 will be against a ranked opponent. Three of the five games were against #11 UCA; Southern Illinois hosted #25 Southeast Missouri State; and Missouri State tackled fifth-ranked FBS Oklahoma. The MVFC has had at least one win against a non-conference ranked opponent every year since going 0-4 in that space in 2004. Notably, the 2004 season and 1990 season (0-3) are the only years in which the Conference hasn't recorded a top-25 non-league win.

## League Supremacy

In 2019, four MVFC teams earned selection to the NCAA Division I Championship, and North Dakota State won its eighth national championship in nine years. Counting last year, an MVFC member has reached the FCS semifinals 24 times in the past 24 seasons (and 27 times overall), and the MVFC has had two semifinal teams in four of the past six seasons.