



For Immediate Release  
September 15, 2021 Mike Kern

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

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



### 2021 Valley Football Standings (thru Sept. 11)

Team	Overall		MVFC		Total Points					
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	For	Opp	H	A	N	Stk.
North Dakota State	2-0	1.000	0-0	.000	92	6	2-0	0-0	0-0	W 2
South Dakota State	2-0	1.000	0-0	.000	94	30	1-0	1-0	0-0	W 2
Illinois State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	49	35	1-0	0-1	0-0	L 1
Indiana State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	32	45	1-0	0-1	0-0	L 1
Missouri State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	59	57	1-0	0-1	0-0	W 1
North Dakota	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	59	62	0-0	1-1	0-0	L 1
UNI	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	44	32	0-0	1-1	0-0	W 1
South Dakota	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	48	24	1-0	0-1	0-0	W 1
Southern Illinois	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	70	52	0-0	1-1	0-0	L 1
Youngstown State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	58	83	1-0	0-1	0-0	L 1
Western Illinois	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	28	73	0-0	0-2	0-0	L 2

### 6 MVFC Teams in Top 25

The Missouri Valley Football Conference continues to dominate the Top 25 rankings, with six teams in both the Stats Perform and AFCA FCS top-25 polls. Missouri State jumped six spots in both rankings after knocking off No. 16 Central Arkansas last week.

#### Stats Perform Top 25 (Sept. 13)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	Prev.
1	Sam Houston (33)	2-0	1,214	1
2	<b>South Dakota State (9)</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>2</b>
3	James Madison (5)	2-0	1,158	3
4	Montana (3)	2-0	1,110	4
5	<b>North Dakota State</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>5</b>
6	Delaware	2-0	949	6
7	Eastern Washington	2-0	889	7
8	<b>Southern Illinois</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>8</b>
9	Weber State	1-1	771	10
10	Jacksonville State	1-1	751	16
11	<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>9</b>
12	Villanova	2-0	674	12
13	Montana State	1-1	664	11
14	UC Davis	2-0	661	14
15	Southeastern Louisiana	1-1	511	13
16	ETSU	2-0	497	15
17	<b>Missouri State</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>23</b>
18	<b>Northern Iowa</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>21</b>
19	Austin Peay	1-1	336	17
20	Monmouth	1-1	297	20
21	Richmond	2-0	261	25
22	VMI	1-1	146	18
23	New Hampshire	2-0	127	NR
24	Kennesaw State	1-1	121	22
25	Central Arkansas	0-2	105	19

#### AFCA Coaches Top 25 (Sept. 13)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	Prev.
1	Sam Houston (25)	2-0	697	1
2	James Madison (1)	2-0	657	2
3	<b>South Dakota State (2)</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>3</b>
4	<b>North Dakota State</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>4</b>
5	Montana	2-0	599	5
6	Eastern Washington	2-0	522	8
7	Delaware	2-0	521	6
8	Weber State	1-1	439	10
T-9	<b>Southern Illinois</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>9</b>
T-9	Villanova	2-0	422	11
11	Jacksonville State	1-1	397	17
12	UC Davis	2-0	383	12
13	Montana State	1-1	361	13
14	<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>7</b>
15	<b>Northern Iowa</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>15</b>
16	Southeastern Louisiana	1-1	298	14
17	East Tennessee State	2-0	269	19
18	Richmond	2-0	183	22
19	<b>Missouri State</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>25</b>
20	Monmouth (N.J.)	1-1	170	21
21	Austin Peay	1-1	131	18
22	Chattanooga	1-1	103	24
23	New Hampshire	2-0	71	NR
24	Central Arkansas	0-2	64	16
25	Furman	2-0	58	NR

### 2021 Schedule / Results

#### Friday, Sept. 10

#9/7 North Dakota at Utah State      USU, 48-24

#### Saturday, Sept. 11

RV YSU at RV Michigan State      MSU, 42-14  
 Indiana State at Northwestern      NU, 24-6  
 Northern Arizona at RV South Dakota      USD, 34-7  
 Valparaiso at #5/4 North Dakota State      NDSU, 64-0  
 RV Illinois State at Western Michigan      WMU, 28-0  
 Lindenwood at #2/3 South Dakota State      SDSU, 52-7  
 #8/9 Southern Illinois at RV Kansas State      KSU, 31-23  
 #19/16 Central Arkansas at #23 Missouri State      MSU, 43-34  
 Western Illinois at #4/5 Montana      UM, 42-7  
 #21/15 UNI at RV Sacramento State      UNI, 34-16

#### Saturday, Sept. 18

#7/6 Eastern Washington at Western Illinois, 3 p.m. CT (ESPN+)  
 St. Thomas at #18/15 UNI, 4 p.m. CT (PSN/ESPN3)  
 Drake at #11/14 North Dakota, 4 p.m. CT (Midco/ESPN+)  
 #5/4 North Dakota State at Towson, 5 p.m. (FloSports)  
 Illinois State at Eastern Illinois, 6 p.m. CT (ESPN+)  
 Dayton at #8/9 Southern Illinois, 6 p.m. CT (ESPN+)  
 Indiana State at Eastern Kentucky, 6 p.m. CT (ESPN+)  
 RV South Dakota at Cal Poly, 7 p.m. CT (ESPN+)

Idle: Missouri State, South Dakota State, Youngstown State

Top-25 designations list Stats Perform poll first, followed by the AFCA Coaches rankings.

### • • 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.

#### 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)

facebook.com/ValleyFootball  
 @valleyfootball • @FCS\_Insider  
 @ESPNCFB • @NCAA\_FCS  
 @FCS\_STATS • @HEROSports\_FCS



### FCS ALL IN

"FCS ALL IN" is a weekly news program dedicated to promoting all FCS conferences. The program is distributed via YouTube (youtube.com/c/FCSALLIN) and launched each Saturday at 10 a.m. ET.

Players of the Week

Offense & Newcomer

WR Xavier Lane, Missouri State  
6-4, 210, Jr., Montgomery, Ala., Carver High/  
Western Kentucky

Lane scored the game-winning touchdown with 29 seconds left in the game to lift Missouri State over No. 16-ranked Central Arkansas. With the game hanging in the balance in the waning moments, the Bears faced a second-and-10 at the UCA 26 when QB Jason Shelley hit Lane at the 12-yard line for a first down. Lane slipped two defenders and found the end zone to score a dramatic, game-changing TD for the Bears. Lane finished with 9 receptions for 148 yards, both career highs, with 68 yards-after-catch on the evening. His receiving yardage marked the most by any Missouri State player since 2018.

Defense

MLB Spencer Cuvelier, UNI  
6-3, 245, R-Jr., Cresco, Iowa, Crestwood High/  
Iowa Central CC

Cuvelier led a Panther defense that surrendered only 16 points and forced 6 turnovers. The standout linebacker recorded a team-high 15 total tackles. Seemingly in the middle of the action on every big play, Cuvelier recorded two fumble recoveries and also forced another fumble. Cuvelier held a very potent running attack by Sacramento State to 106 yards rushing on 32 attempts.

Special Teams

CB Montrae Braswell, Missouri State  
6-0, 190, So., Avon Park, Fla., Avon Park High/  
Central Michigan

Braswell's 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown with 3:05 remaining gave Missouri State a 30-27 lead in Saturday's home win over No. 16 Central Arkansas. It was the second career kickoff return for a touchdown for the 2020 Sophomore All-American, and began a remarkable comeback effort for Missouri State in the game's deciding moments. He also tallied 3 total tackles in the contest, including a pair of solo stops.

Offensive Lineman

RT/RG Cordell Volson, North Dakota State  
6-7, 313, Sr., Balfour, N.D./Drake High

Volson played all 23 offensive snaps in the first half of North Dakota State's 64-0 win over Valparaiso, splitting time at right tackle and right guard. Volson graded out at 95 percent with zero missed assignments, and zero quarterback pressures or tackles for loss allowed. NDSU held the ball for only 9:07 in the first half thanks to an explosive running game. The Bison carried 18 times for 285 yards in the first half with TD runs of 28, 20, 72 and 52 yards plus a jet sweep toss for 65 yards en route to a 43-0 halftime lead.

MVFC Opens 10-1 vs. the FCS

Missouri Valley Football Conference schools are 12-10 against non-league play after the first two weeks of the season. Notably, though, the MVFC is an FCS-best 10-1 against peer conferences. Here are the leaders (FCS vs. FCS) thru Sept. 11.

<b>Missouri Valley Football</b> .....	<b>10-1</b>
CAA Football .....	11-2
Big Sky .....	7-4
SoCon .....	6-4
SWAC .....	4-3

Against the FBS

Counting South Dakota State's win at Colorado State on Sept. 3, MVFC schools have combined for 47 wins all-time against FBS opponents. During that last decade, the MVFC combined for 19 wins against FBS schools. The FCS has combined for eight FBS wins during the first weekend of the 2021 fall season after recording just five total in 2019 (3) and the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season (2) combined.

Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series

Following games of Sept. 11, the Missouri Valley Football Conference has secured no worse than a tie in this year's Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series. The MVFC leads this year's series, 3-1, with two games remaining this weekend (Sept. 18). The 2021 season is the fifth year of the Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series. Last year's series had no regular-season games, but the MVFC won both playoff meetings. The previous three seasons (2017-19) featured 26 total regular-season matchups. Including three games on Sept. 11, MVFC schools have a 19-11 overall edge in games played and have won the series each season (5-3 in 2017, 5-3 in 2018, 6-4 in 2019).

Sept. 4 -- #7 North Dakota at Idaho State	UND, 35-14
Sept. 11 -- Northern Arizona at South Dakota	USD, 34-7
Sept. 11 -- Western Illinois at #4 Montana	UM, 42-7
Sept. 11 -- #14 UNI at Sacramento State	UNI, 34-16
Sept. 18 -- #6 E. Washington at W. Illinois	
Sept. 18 -- South Dakota at Cal Poly	

Rank and File

With last week's (Sept. 11) 43-34 win over No. 16/19 Central Arkansas, Missouri State claimed its third win in its last four contests against ranked FCS opponents. The Bears also racked up their highest scoring total against a ranked foe since posting 45 points in the team's win at No. 24 Indiana State on Oct. 1, 2016.

Strong Tops 3,000 Yards

South Dakota State RB Pierre Strong, Jr. became the seventh player in program history to top 3,000 career rushing yards, hitting the milestone in the first half of the Jackrabbits' Sept. 11 win over Lindenwood. With his second consecutive 100-yard game of the season and 12th of his career, Strong ended the night with 3,089 yards to move into sixth place on the SDSU career charts, passing both Cory Koenig (2,990 yards from 2004-07) and Les Tuma (3,018 yards from 1970-73).

Former Jackrabbit Zach Zenner holds the league record with 6,548 yards (2011-14). Strong is 143 yards away from overtaking former Indiana State star Derrick Franklin (3,231 career yards from 1989-91).

- 6,548, Zach Zenner, South Dakota State, 2011-14
- 5,195, Marshaun Coprich, Illinois State, 2012-15
- 4,746, Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois, 2005-08
- 
- 3,466, Jamie Jones, Eastern Illinois, 1988-91
- 3,452, Jeff Stovall, UNI, 1993-96
- 3,406, Adam Bengel, UNI, 1998-02
- 3,259, Jody Webb, Youngstown State, 2013-16
- 3,231, Derrick Franklin, Indiana State, 1989-91

What's the Diff?

North Dakota State has yielded just six total points in two games this year, and the Bison also are among the national scoring leaders, averaging 46.0 points per game. Here's a look at the national leaders through two weeks (scoring differential).

Team	Off.	Def.	Diff.
Presbyterian	76.0	1.5	+74.5
James Madison	61.5	8.5	+53.0
Villanova	51.0	3.0	+48.0
<b>NDSU</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>+43.0</b>

South Dakota State the Favorite

For the first time since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference for the 2008 season, South Dakota State was tabbed as the league pre-season favorite in a poll conducted by league coaches, media and sports information directors. SDSU received 24 first-place votes and 454 total points to edge NDSU.

MVFC 2021 Preseason Poll

- South Dakota State (24) .....454
- North Dakota State (18).....435
- North Dakota.....357
- Southern Illinois .....345
- UNI (1).....311
- Missouri State.....256
- Illinois State.....196
- South Dakota .....163
- Youngstown State .....126
- Indiana State .....112
- Western Illinois .....83

vs. Non-Conference (12-10)

Home: 8-0 / Away: 4-10 / Neut: 0-0

NCAA FCS Teams (10-1)

ASUN.....	1-0
Central Arkansas.....	1-0
Big Sky.....	3-1
Idaho State.....	1-0
Montana.....	0-1
Northern Arizona.....	1-0
Sacramento State.....	1-0
CAA.....	1-0
Albany.....	1-0
Ohio Valley.....	2-0
Eastern Illinois.....	1-0
SE Missouri State.....	1-0
PFL.....	2-0
Butler.....	1-0
Valparaiso.....	1-0
Southland.....	1-0
UIW.....	1-0

NCAA FBS Teams (1-9)

Big 12.....	0-4
Iowa State.....	0-1
Kansas.....	0-1
Kansas State.....	0-1
Oklahoma State.....	0-1
Big Ten.....	0-2
Michigan State.....	0-1
Northwestern.....	0-1
Mid-American.....	0-2
Ball State.....	0-1
Western Michigan.....	0-1
Mountain West.....	1-1
Colorado State.....	1-0
Utah State.....	0-1

Non Division I (1-0)

Lindenwood.....	1-0
-----------------	-----

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

#16 UCA at Missouri State (9/11), W, 43-34  
Western Illinois at #4 Montana (9/11), L, 42-7

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

UNI at #7 Iowa State (9/5), L, 16-10  
Missouri St. at #22 Okla. St. (9/5), L, 23-16

Title Tilt With Towson

NDSU goes on the road for the first time this fall to face the Towson Tigers on Saturday in a rematch of the 2013 national championship won by NDSU 35-7. Saturday will be the third meeting between the two teams. NDSU won a 1983 Division II quarterfinal game 24-17 in Fargo. This will be the NDSU football program's first trip to the state of Maryland.

Bohlken With the Boot



Senior punter JT Bohlken averaged nearly 50 yards per punt (49.8) and had six punts over 50 yards at Western Michigan. His first of the night was his longest at 64 yards and his shortest punt of the night of 32 yards pinned the Broncos inside their own 5-yard line, one of two attempts that pinned the Broncos deep in their own end. Bohlken is now averaging 48.3 yards per punt on the season on 10 attempts with six punts over 50 yards.

Forcing Fumbles

The Redbird defense had to come up with big plays at Western Michigan, and two of the biggest of the night came on big hits that caused turnovers by the Broncos. The first came in the second quarter when WMU was driving deep in ISU territory, when Jude Okolo popped the ball loose and fellow defensive lineman Josh Dinga came up with the football at the ISU 4-yard line to stamp out a potential score. Then, late in the fourth quarter linebacker Jeremiah Jordan made a big stop and popped the ball loose and nose tackle Michael Gomez came away with the football for the second turnover of the night for the Redbirds.

The Rivalry Continues

After missing their annual rivalry game last year due to the pandemic, Illinois State and Eastern Illinois will renew one of the longest rivalries in the FCS this weekend in Charleston with the playing of the 109th Mid-America Classic. The two teams last met during the 2019 non-conference slate, with the Redbirds winning 21-3 in Charleston. The win was the third-straight for the Redbirds in the series, the third straight for ISU in Charleston, and their fifth win in the last six games overall against the Panthers. With the win, the Redbirds extended their advantage in the all-time series to 57-42-9.

Thompson's Career Day



Matt Thompson turned in a career effort on the biggest stage this season as the redshirt senior recorded career highs in tackles (11) and tackles for loss (2.0), while limited Northwestern to just 275 total offensive yards. Thompson saw increased playing time after the first two drives and his entry helped play a factor in limiting Northwestern to just nine first downs and 138 total yards over the final three quarters in giving the Sycamores a chance to keep the game within reach. Thompson recorded three tackles on Northwestern's opening drive of the second quarter to force NW's first punt of the game and he added seven more stops (six solo) as well as a TFL in the second half in the loss.

Inoke Can't Be Stopped

Two games in and redshirt senior defensive end Inoke Moala has two multi-tackle for loss games as the Mishawka, Ind., native picked up two more tackles for loss on Saturday against Northwestern. Moala has recorded at least one tackle for loss in each of his last three games dating back to the 2019 season, while he has recorded at least

2021 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S6	S13
Illinois State	rv	rv	--
Indiana St.	--	--	--
Missouri St.	24	23	16
UND	7	7	11
NDSU	3	4	4
UNI	16	15	15
S. Dakota	--	rv	rv
SDSU	3	2	2
S. Illinois	7	8	8
W. Illinois	--	--	--
Youngstown	rv	rv	--

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

a partial takedown in the backfield in six of the last seven games. Moala sits among the conference leaders with 4.0 tackles for loss and 2.0 sacks over the first two games of the season and leads a defensive unit averaging 9.0 tackles for loss per game in 2021.

## Morgan Catches Everything

Two games in and Rontrez Morgan has already surpassed the total number of catches the senior wide receiver recorded in the entirety of the 2019 season. Morgan hauled in a team-high six catches in the opener against Eastern Illinois on opening night. This past weekend against Northwestern, the Jacksonville, Fla. native was targeted early and often by INS quarterback Anthony Thompson to the tune of matching his career-high with nine receptions. He's averaging a team-high 7.5 catches per game and looks to be the linchpin of the Sycamores' passing game in the early part of the 2021 season.

## Off to the Races



Montrae Braswell's 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against UCA matched the seventh-longest kick return in Missouri State history. It also made Braswell one of just three players in program history – along with Cornelius Perry (3) and Steven Rush (2) – to have multiple TD returns of 96 yards or more in their Bears career.

## Shelley on the Drive

Bears quarterback Jason Shelley secured his first game-winning, fourth-quarter touchdown drive Saturday when he marched the Bears 69 yards on seven plays for a touchdown that put MSU up for good with 29 seconds to play. Shelley led the Bears to six scoring drives in their last nine possessions against UCA and has helped the Bears put points on the board in eight-of-nine red zone trips so far this season.

## Spreading It Around



North Dakota's three passing touchdowns at Utah State came from three-different players: Brock Boltmann, Tommy Schuster and Quincy Vaughn

## Turning Miscues Into Points

C.J. Siegel recorded the Fighting Hawks fourth turnover of the season, setting up North Dakota's second half field goal. North Dakota has converted points after each of their turnovers this season (4-for-4).

## Home Sweet Dome

The University of North Dakota will play its home-opener against Drake on Saturday and has won its last 11 games at the Alerus Center.

## Bison Rout Valparaiso



North Dakota State returned a punt 45 yards for a touch-down and scored on eight of nine offensive possessions in a 64-0 rout of Valparaiso last week. The Bison averaged 11.9 yards per play on offense and scored eight touchdowns on plays of 20-plus yards. NDSU ran only 23 offensive plays in the first half while opening a 43-0 halftime lead. The 64-point win was the second-largest margin of victory in NDSU's Division I era and the most points scored by NDSU since the 2018 regular-season finale when the Bison beat Southern Illinois 65-17.

## No. 1 Rushing Attack

North Dakota State ranks No. 1 in the FCS this week averaging 358.5 rushing yards per game. The Bison averaged 10.7 yards per carry last week against Valparaiso and ran for 458 yards, the most for NDSU since the 2018 season-opening win over Cal Poly. TaMerik Williams and TK Marshall led the Bison with eight carries apiece as 11 different players had at least one carry. Quarterback Quincy Patterson led the Bison with 94 rushing yards including a 52-yard TD late in the second quarter.

## Nineteen Bison Debuts

Twelve NDSU players made their collegiate debut in last week's 64-0 win over Valparaiso, highlighted by true freshman quarterback Cole Payton's 37-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter. Payton led NDSU's only offensive possession of the fourth quarter and marched the Bison 80 yards in 10 plays for the final score of the game. Seven other players made their NDSU debut in the season-opener against Albany, including four transfers – quarterback Quincy Patterson (Virginia Tech), cornerback Jerodd Vines (Eastern Michigan), fullback Luke Waters (Iowa Western CC) and running back TaMerik Williams (SMU). A fifth transfer, offensive guard Luke LaCilento (San Diego), made his first appearance against Valparaiso.

## Players of the Week

### Sept. 5

Offense -- TB Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown State  
Offense -- QB Nic Baker, Southern Illinois  
Defense -- DB Michael Thomas, Indiana State  
Special Teams -- PK Colt McFadden, Youngstown St.  
Newcomer -- QB Jason Shelley, Missouri State  
Newcomer -- QB Chris Oladokun, South Dakota St.  
Offensive Lineman -- OL Matt Waletzko, UND

### Sept. 12

Offense -- WR Xavier Lane, Missouri State  
\*Defense -- MLB Spencer Cuvelier, UNI  
Special Teams -- CB Montrae Braswell, Missouri St.  
Newcomer -- WR Xavier Lane, Missouri State  
Offensive Lineman -- RT/RG Cordell Volson, NDSU

*\*denotes National Player of the Week*

## National Player of the Week



For his efforts against Sacramento State, MLB Spencer Cuvelier was named the Stats Perform National Defensive Player of the Week. He also earned the league's Defensive Player of the Week honor this week.

## Day Leads UNI to Road Win

QB Theo Day started the game as the backup but was put into the game against (RV) Sacramento State in the second half to lead UNI to a 34-16 victory. In just 30 minutes of play, the redshirt sophomore went 6-11 for 120 yards and 2 touchdowns. Day entered the game with the Panthers trailed 9-7 before leading UNI to 27-0 scoring run in his first 15 minutes on the field. Day connected with Isaiah Weston for two deep balls including a 34-yard touchdown pass.

## Early and Often



It took less than 10 minutes for South Dakota to build a 17-0 lead against Northern Arizona en route to a 34-7 victory in USD's home opener. USD has won 17 of its last 19 DakotaDome openers. Travis Theis ran for 74 yards and two scores and the defense got a 51-yard interception return from Jonathan Joanis in the second half.

## Now to Cal Poly

South Dakota's final non-conference contest is Saturday on the road at Cal Poly. The two programs met four years in a row from 2008-11 during USD's transition from Division II to Division I. Cal Poly won three of the four matchups. The Coyotes scored a 50-48 road win there in 2009.

## Coyote Defense

The story through two weeks has been the Coyote defense which was brilliant again Saturday. USD forced three turnovers, posted four sacks and allowed one short touchdown drive following a USD turnover. Middle linebacker Jack Cochrane has posted double-digit tackles in both games this season.

## Touchdowns in Bunches



Three different Jackrabbit receivers have posted two-TD games in 2021. Jadon Janke caught a pair of touchdowns (10 and 17 yards) in SDSU's season-opening victory against Colorado State, followed by two-touchdown performances by tight ends Zach Heins (4, 2 yards) and Tucker Kraft (5, 13 yards) against Lindenwood on Sept. 11.

## Oladokun Off to Fast Start

Quarterback Chris Oladokun has been a model of efficiency through his first two starts with the Jackrabbits and currently ranks fourth in the FCS with a 197.6 passing efficiency rating. A graduate transfer from Tampa, Florida, Oladokun has completed 30-of-42 passes (71.4 percent) for 395 yards with six touchdowns and no interceptions. Oladokun threw four first-half touchdown passes – all to Jackrabbit tight ends – in SDSU's 52-7 victory over Lindenwood on Sept. 11. He became the first Jackrabbit quarterback with four TD passes in a game since Taryn Christian tossed five in an overtime victory over Indiana State in 2018.

## Sharing the Load

A total of 29 different Jackrabbit defenders recorded at least one tackle in South Dakota State's 52-7 victory over Lindenwood on Sept. 11. Reserve safety Daeton Mcgaughy led the way with five tackles, followed by four tackles from Kinser Madison and Caleb Sanders. SDSU tallied 10 tackles for lost with three sacks in the contesting, led by backup linebacker Payton Shafer's two TFLs.

## Taking K-State to the Wire

SIU trailed 21-3 until it scored 20 points in the final 5:09 of the first half to take a 23-21 halftime lead at Kansas State. The Wildcats outscored SIU 10-0 in the second half to gain the win. The game ended when K-State recovered SIU QB Nic Baker's fumble at the Wildcats' 25-yard line.

## Williams Hits Paydirt, Twice

Saluki RB Javon Williams scored two of SIU's three TDs in the K-State game. He is 6th all-time at SIU in career TDs with 30. Williams is 11th all-time in points scored at SIU with 180.

## Lenoir Climbs the Ladder

WR Landon Lenoir's six receptions at K-State moved the sixth-year senior from Crete, Ill. into 3rd place on SIU's career receptions list with 153. Lenoir, whose brother Lance is WIU's career receptions leader, trails MyCole Pruitt (221) and Cornell Craig (207) at SIU. Lenoir moved into fourth place in career receiving yards at SIU with 63 reception yards at K-State.

## A Date with Dayton

SIU leads its series versus Dayton, 3-2-1. The teams have not met since 1974 and have never met as members of the FCS (or IAA) level. The last meeting was in 1974, which SIU won, 38-16. SIU's only game ever vs. a Pioneer League team was a 35-23 victory over Drake in 2000.

## Forcing Turnovers



WIU had four takeaways against the Montana Grizzlies last week, which were its most in a single game since a 2018 win at Southern Illinois. The Leathernecks now have two fumble recoveries in as many games. Dallas Martin picked up a loose ball against Montana that was forced by Michael Lawson. Lawson was also credited with forcing and collecting the team's first of the year at Ball State during the season opener.

## Lawson Shines In Loss

Senior Michael Lawson registered 13 tackles (eight solo), two interceptions, and a forced fumble against Montana. One of those interceptions resulted as a pick-six for a 75-yard touchdown. That interception return is ninth-best on the all-time single-game list for longest return.

## Welcome to Macomb

WIU will hold its season home opener during week three as it welcomes nationally ranked Eastern Washington to Macomb.

## TDs in Five Seasons for Turner



Senior TB Chrisitan Turner has scored touchdowns for the Penguins in five different seasons. Turner scored on a 26-yard touchdown run against Michigan State last Saturday. Turner had two touchdowns in the spring, four TDs in the fall of 2019, a touchdown in 2018 and three in 2017.

## Crenshaw with Three Scores

Redshirt freshman QB Demeatric Crenshaw has three rushing touchdowns through two games for the Penguins. Crenshaw scored on a six-yard run in the second quarter at Michigan State. He had two rushing scores in the opening win over UIW.

## Strong on Third and Fourth Down

Combined in the contest against Michigan State, the Penguins converted 13 third and fourth-down opportunities. YSU was 9-of-20 on third downs and a perfect 4-of-4 on fourth down.