



For Immediate Release
Nov. 22, 2023
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Illinois State • Indiana State • Missouri State • Murray State • North Dakota • North Dakota State
UNI • South Dakota • South Dakota State • Southern Illinois • Western Illinois • Youngstown State

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2023 Valley Football Standings (thru Nov. 18)

Team	Overall	Pct.	Conference	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Away	Neut	Streak
South Dakota St.	11-0	1.000	8-0	1.000	414	124	6-0	4-0	1-0	W 11
South Dakota	9-2	.818	7-1	.875	261	161	5-1	4-1	0-0	W 3
North Dakota St.	8-3	.727	5-3	.625	397	214	5-1	2-2	1-0	W 2
Youngstown St.	7-4	.636	5-3	.625	348	278	5-1	2-3	0-0	W 1
North Dakota	7-4	.636	5-3	.625	342	273	6-0	1-4	0-0	W 1
UNI	6-5	.545	5-3	.625	288	293	3-2	3-3	0-0	L 2
Southern Ill.	7-4	.636	4-4	.500	280	190	3-2	4-2	0-0	W 1
Illinois St.	6-5	.545	4-4	.500	361	225	4-2	2-3	0-0	L 1
Missouri St.	4-7	.364	3-5	.375	328	333	3-2	1-5	0-0	L 1
Murray St.	2-9	.182	1-7	.125	183	383	2-3	0-6	0-0	L 7
Indiana St.	1-10	.091	1-7	.125	148	330	1-4	0-6	0-0	L 1
Western Ill.	0-11	.000	0-8	.000	138	509	0-5	0-6	0-0	L 11

Playoff Schedule/Results

Saturday, Nov. 25

Times CT

Sac St. (7-4) at North Dakota (7-4) [ESPN+]	12 p.m.
N.C. Central (9-2) at Richmond (8-3) [ESPN+]	1 p.m.
Lafayette (9-2) at Delaware (8-3) [ESPN+]	1 p.m.
Gardner-Webb (7-4) at Mercer (8-3) [ESPN+]	2 p.m.
Duquesne (7-4) at YSU (7-4) [ESPN+]	4 p.m.
Nicholls (6-4) at S. Illinois (7-4) [ESPN+]	2 p.m.
Drake (8-3) at North Dakota St. (8-3) [ESPN+]	2:30 p.m.
Chattanooga (7-4) at Austin Peay (9-2) [ESPN+]	2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2

Times CT

Duquesne/YSU at #8 Villanova (9-2) [ESPN+]	11 a.m.
NCCU/Richmond at #5 UAlbany (9-3) [ESPN+]	11 a.m.
Chattanooga/APSU at #7 Furman (9-2) [ESPN+]	12 p.m.
Gardner-Webb/Mercer at #1 SDSU (11-0) [E+]	1 p.m.
Sac State/UND at #3 S. Dakota (9-2) [ESPN+]	1 p.m.
Drake/NDSU at #6 Montana St. (8-3) [ESPN+]	2 p.m.
Lafayette/Delaware at #2 Montana (10-1) [E+]	8 p.m.
Nicholls/SIU at #4 Idaho (9-3) [ESPN+]	9 p.m.

*Number indicates playoff seed, and not national ranking

PLAYOFF RECORDS BY CONF., BY DECADE

	*85-89	90-99	00-09	10-19	20-	ALL
MVFC	6-6	18-16	24-22	67-28	21-12	136-84
Big Sky	8-11	23-20	24-21	30-31	10-12	107-100
Big South	0-0	0-0	0-1	13-15	2-3	15-19
CAA	2-8	16-23	47-29	44-39	11-9	124-114
Northeast	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-10	0-3	2-13
Ohio Valley	6-9	7-16	1-14	11-18	2-3	37-66
Patriot	0-0	1-5	6-12	7-12	2-4	16-33
Pioneer	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-7	0-3	2-10
Southern	14-9	36-20	35-19	20-25	3-4	112-81
Southland	13-6	16-20	9-17	22-24	9-4	74-75
United	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-3	1-3
Great West	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-0	0-0	1-2
MEAC	0-2	4-9	0-11	0-8	0-0	8-32
SWAC	0-6	0-6	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-19
Ind.	22-14	29-13	3-2	0-1	0-0	64-46

*does not include pre-MVFC seasons (1978-84)

MVFC Earns 2 of Top 3 Seeds

Since 1985 and counting 2023, a league member has been seeded No. 1-4 in the FCS Championship a total of 32 times (nine different league members have been seeded in the Top 4 in league history.) **Only three times previously have two MVFC teams been seeded in the Top 4 in the same tournament.**

The No. 3 seed is the highest for USD, while the No. 1 seed marks the third top seed for SDSU in the last four playoffs.

Years w/Two Top 4 MVFC Seeds in the Playoffs

2007 – #1 UNI, L, quarters; #4 SIU, L, semis
2014 – #2 ILS, L, title game; #3 NDSU, won title
2022 – #1 SDSU, won title; #3 NDSU, L, title game
2023 – #1 SDSU, #3 South Dakota

Against the Rest

The league is 136-84 in the NCAA FCS playoffs. Included in that overall record is a .500 or better performance against 10 of the 11 conferences faced.

MVFC vs. Other Leagues in the Playoffs

vs. Big South	5-0	1.000
vs. Mid-Eastern Athletic	4-0	1.000
vs. Pioneer Football League	4-0	1.000
vs. Northeast Conference	2-0	1.000
vs. SWAC	1-0	1.000
vs. Ohio Valley Conference	18-3	.857
vs. Patriot League	5-3	.625
vs. CAA Football	23-15	.605
vs. Big Sky Conference	27-18	.600
vs. Southland Conference	14-10	.583
vs. Independents	3-3	.500
vs. Intra-conference	18-18	.500
vs. Southern Conference	12-14	.462
TOTAL	136-84	.618

In the Field of 24

Since 2014 (10 seasons), the MVFC has averaged 4.60 bids, earning a league-record and FCS-tying record six bids in 2021 and in 2023. The league has 14 title-game appearances in the last 12 years and 10 titles in that span. In those 12 seasons (2011-22), the MVFC had a total of 85 playoff victories; next best is the CAA with 49.

MVFC in the Playoffs (Most Total Bids, All Time)

6 -- 2021, 2023
5 -- 2014, 2015, 2017, 2020
4 -- 2003, 2016, 2019
3 -- 2006, 2010, 2012, 2018, 2022

16 teams (1986-2009, 2020); 20 (2010-12); 24 (2013-present)

In the Round of 16

Since the playoff bracket expanded to 20 teams in 2010 (3 years) and 24 in 2013 (10 years), the MVFC has had a minimum of two teams in the Round of 16 every year, which will include 2023 (with two MVFC teams seeded among the Top 8 teams). The league has averaged 3.23 teams in the Round of 16 during those 13 seasons. Five MVFC teams made the Round of 16 in 2014 and in 2020 (i.e. Spring 2021, when the bracket was only 16 teams).

5 - 2014, 2020
4 - 2015, 2017, 2019
3 - 2012, 2016, 2018, 2021
2 - 2010, 2011, 2013, 2022

2023 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release

vs. Non-Conference (20-16)

FCS: Home: 14-3 / Away: 2-3 / Neut: 2-0
 NDI: Home: 1-0 | FBS: Away: 1-10

NCAA FCS Teams (18-6)

Big Sky	4-1
Eastern Washington	1-0
Idaho State	1-0
Montana State	1-0
Northern Arizona	1-0
Weber State	0-1
Big South-OVC Association	3-4
Eastern Illinois	0-2
Lindenwood	1-1
Robert Morris	1-0
Southeast Missouri State	1-0
UT Martin	0-1
CAA	1-0
Maine	1-0
PFL	6-0
Dayton	1-0
Drake	2-0
Presbyterian	1-0
Saint Thomas	1-0
Valparaiso	1-0
Southland	1-0
Lamar	1-0
United Athletic	3-1
Austin Peay	1-0
Central Arkansas	1-0
Southern Utah	0-1
Utah Tech	1-0

NCAA FBS Teams (1-10)

ACC	0-1
Louisville	0-1
Big 12	0-2
Iowa State	0-1
Kansas	0-1
Big Ten	0-2
Indiana	0-1
Ohio State	0-1
C-USA	0-2
Middle Tennessee	0-1
New Mexico State	0-1
Mid-American	1-1
Ball State	0-1
Northern Illinois	1-0
Mountain West	0-1
Boise State	0-1
SEC	0-1
Missouri	0-1

Non-Division I Teams (1-0)

Western Oregon	1-0
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vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (2-1)

S9 - #9 Weber State at #20 UNIL, 34-17
 S9 - #3 Montana State at #1 SDSU W, 20-16
 S16 - #15 S. Illinois at #13 SEMO W, 26-25

MVFC members have 20 total wins against a Top-25 team this season, which includes 18 wins within Conference play.

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

S9 - #23 Youngstown State at #4 Ohio St.L, 35-7

MVFC Ties FCS Record

Only one other conference in NCAA history has received six bids in a single playoff (CAA in 2018, and the MVFC in 2021 and 2023).

Title Games, Consecutive Years

An MVFC school has appeared in an FCS-record 12-straight title game appearances for the league. The CAA (5 in a row), OVC (4-straight) and SoCon (4 appearances in a row) are next on the list.

12 -- MVFC (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

5 -- CAA (2006, 07, 08, 09, 10)
4 -- OVC (1979, 80, 81, 82)
4 -- SoCon (1998, 99, 00, 01)
3 -- Big Sky (1994, 95, 96)
3 -- Big Sky (2008, 09, 10)
3 -- Southern (1991, 92, 93)
3 -- SoCon (2005, 06, 07)

Title Town

Breakdown of conference member appearances in FCS title game since 2011 -- last 12 seasons, including 2022)

14 -- Missouri Valley Football Conference

4 -- CAA
3 -- Southland
2 -- Big Sky
1 -- OVC

In the Metrics

The MVFC has eight of its 12 programs in the Top 12 of the Sagarin Ratings (the six MVFC playoff selections, plus UNI and Illinois State). The MVFC is the top-rated FCS league in the Sagarin Ratings. Only three leagues have teams that occupy spots in the Top 12 (MVFC-8; Big Sky-3; Coastal-1).

South Dakota State is ranked No. 1 across the board (Sagarin, Massey, Stats Perform and AFCA rankings). Eleven of the league's 12 programs have SOS ratings 19 or higher, including UNI, which has the FCS nation's hardest-rated schedule (per Massey).

Playoff Teams Sagarin Massey SOS Stats AFCA

S. Dakota State	33 (1)	1	17	1	1
N. Dakota State	71 (2)	3	14	8	7
Southern Illinois	109 (6)	8	13	14	17
South Dakota	118 (8)	5	19	3	3
North Dakota	122 (9)	10	15	12	14
Youngstown State	124 (10)	13	16	21	23

Sagarin ratings list full DI rank (FCS rank); Strength of Schedule (SOS) is taken from Massey ratings; Stats is Stats Perform FCS poll; AFCA is Coaches poll.

Sagarin Conference Ratings (Teams in Top 12)

1. Missouri Valley Football (8 in the Top 12)
2. Big Sky (3 in the Top 12: Montana State, Montana, Idaho)
3. United Athletic
4. CAA Football (1 in the Top 12: Villanova)
5. Southern
6. Ivy
7. Big South/OVC
8. Southland

6 MVFC Teams Ranked

Six MVFC teams were ranked in final regular-season Top-25 polls as South Dakota State, South Dakota, North Dakota State, North Dakota, Southern Illinois, and Youngstown State represent the league. Illinois State and UNI were among those receiving votes.

It marks the 69th time in league history that six or more MVFC teams have been ranked in the same poll, including the last eight polls of the 2023 campaign.

The MVFC (8) and the Big Sky (3) dominate this week's Sagarin rankings - with 11 of the Top 12 spots.

Stats Perform Top 25 (Nov. 20)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	
1	South Dakota State (56)	11-0	1,400	1
2	Montana	10-1	1,344	3
3	South Dakota	9-2	1,280	5
4	Idaho	8-3	1,191	6
5	Montana State	8-3	1,088	4
6	Villanova	9-2	1,052	10
7	Furman	9-2	1,000	2
8	North Dakota State	8-3	995	9
9	UAlbany	9-3	963	12
10	Florida A&M	10-1	828	11
11	Delaware	8-3	802	7
12	North Dakota	7-4	754	13
13	Austin Peay	9-2	751	15
14	Southern Illinois	7-4	588	16
15	Sacramento State	7-4	574	8
16	North Carolina Central	9-2	547	17
17	Mercer	8-3	427	21
18	Chattanooga	7-4	410	18
19	UIW	8-2	396	20
20	Lafayette	9-2	268	24
21	Youngstown State	7-4	266	25
22	Richmond	8-3	263	NR
23	Western Carolina	7-4	230	14
24	UT Martin	8-3	194	19
25	UC Davis	7-4	179	NR

AFCA Coaches Top 25 (Nov. 20)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	
1	South Dakota State	11-0	600	1
2	Montana	10-1	570	3
3	South Dakota	9-2	552	5
4	Idaho	8-3	479	8
5	Florida A&M	10-1	454	7
6	Furman	9-2	447	2
7	North Dakota State	8-3	443	9
8	Montana State	8-3	413	4
9	Villanova	9-2	399	15
10	Austin Peay	9-2	382	12
11	UIW	8-2	317	11
12	Delaware	8-3	310	6
13	North Carolina Central	9-2	290	14
14	North Dakota	7-4	260	17
15	Albany	9-3	257	23
16	Sacramento State	7-4	209	10
17	Southern Illinois	7-4	204	T-20
18	Lafayette	9-2	186	22
19	Chattanooga	7-4	182	16
20	Mercer	8-3	169	24
21	UT Martin	8-3	162	13
22	Holy Cross	7-4	75	25
23	Youngstown State	7-4	68	NR
24	Eastern Illinois	8-3	59	NR
25	Richmond	8-3	57	NR