

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

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2020-21 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

acks renew rivalry with UND

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — FEB. 27

#3 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (1-0, 1-0 MVFC) at #14 NORTH DAKOTA (1-0, 1-0 MVFC)

noon Saturday Alerus Center; Grand Forks, N.D.



HEAD COACH: Bubba

Schweigert (Jamestown,

• 38-32 record in seven

collegiate head coach

(6 Off., 8 Def., 3 ST)

SERIES NOTES

- 86th Meeting (North Dakota leads 46-34-5)
- SDSU won the last meeting, 35-28, on Sept. 7, 2013, at the Alerus Center

MEDIA INFORMATION

- · Game will be televised on MidcoSN2 and ESPN+
- Pre-game radio show begins at 11 a.m. Central Time on the Jackrabbit Sports Network, which includes originating station WNAX 570 AM-Yankton and the following
- KJJQ 910 AM-Brookings KBFS 1450 AM-Belle Fourche KDSJ 980 AM-Deadwood
- seasons at North Dakota; KORN 1490 AM-Mitchell KELO 1320 AM/KELQ 107.9 FM-Sioux Falls
- 60-53 in 11 seasons as a KCCR 1240 AM-Pierre KLOH 1050 AM/94.1 FM-Pipestone, Minn.
 - KWYR 93.7 FM-Winner KXLG 99.1 FM/100.1 FM-Watertown
- STARTERS RETURNING: 17 Audio streaming (free) available through Jackrabbits All-Access media portal at
 - · Radio team of Tyler Merriam (play-by-play), Alex Parker(color) and Scotty Kwas (sidelines) will call the action



HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)

• 167-105 record in 24 seasons - all at South Dakota State

STARTERS RETURNING: 15 (4 Off., 8 Def., 1 ST)

	2020-21 SCHE	DULE
FEB	RUARY	
19	*at Northern Iowa	W, 24-20
27	*at North Dakota	noon
MAF	RCH	
6	*WESTERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
13	*YOUNGSTOWN STATE	2 p.m.
20	*at Southern Illinois	noon
27	*ILLINOIS STATE	2 p.m.
APF	RIL	
3	*at North Dakota State	2:30 p.m.
10	*SOUTH DAKOTA	2 p.m.
24	FCS Playoffs Begin [if qualified]	TBA
	ssouri Valley Football Conference game nes Central	

TALE OF THE	TAPE — SEASON	STATISTICS
NORTH DAKOTA	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
44.0	Points Per Game	24.0
21.0	Points Allowed Per Game	20.0
241.0	Rushing Yardage Per Game	116.0
126.0	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	28.0
118.0	Passing Yardage Per Game	194.0
7.9	Average Per Catch	10.2
233.0	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	165.0
347.0	Total Offense Per Game	310.0
323.0	Total Offense Allowed/Game	193.0
22.3	Kick Return Average	23.0
6.5	Punt Return Average	16.5
2-27	Interception Returns	0-0
0-0	Fumbles-Lost	2-2
5-30	Penalties-Yards	9-80
31:51	Time of Possession/Game	33:14
3/10 (30%)	Third-Down Conversions	5/13 (38%)

	2019 RESULTS	
AUC	BUST	
29	at Minnesota	L, 21-28
SEP	PTEMBER	
7	LONG ISLAND [Dairy Drive]	W, 38-3
14	DRAKE	W, 38-10
21	SOUTHERN UTAH [Beef Bowl]	W, 43-7
OC1	TOBER	
5	*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS [Hobo Day]	W, 28-10
12	*at Youngstown State	W, 38-28
19	*at Indiana State	W, 42-23
26	*NORTH DAKOTA STATE	L, 16-23
NO\	/EMBER	
2	*at Missouri State	W, 35-14
9	*ILLINOIS STATE [Hall of Fame]	L, 18-27
16	*NORTHERN IOWA [Precision Ag Bowl]	W, 38-7
23	*at South Dakota	L, 21-24
DEC	EMBER	
7	^NORTHERN IOWA	L, 10-13
	otes Missouri Valley Football Conference game	
1 ^ FC	S playoff game	

SEASON OPENERS DURING THE JOHN STIEGELMEIER ERA

1997: SDSU 17, UC Davis 7

1998: SDSU 56, Wisconsin-Stout 13

1999: SDSU 35, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 20

2000: SDSU 36, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 27

2001: SDSU 34, Ferris State (Mich.) 24

2002: SDSU 28, Chadron State (Neb.) 15

2003: SDSU 20, Northwest Missouri State 0

2004: UC Davis 52, SDSU 0

2005: SDSU 42, Wisconsin-La Crosse 13

2006: Wisconsin-La Crosse 17, SDSU 3

2007: Western Illinois 29, SDSU 26 (4 OT)

2008: Iowa State 44, SDSU 17

2009: SDSU 44, Georgia Southern 6

2010: Delaware 26, SDSU 3

2011: SDSU 29, Southern Utah 28

2012: Kansas 31, SDSU 17

2013: SDSU 55, Butler (Ind.) 14

2014: Missouri 38, SDSU 18

2015: SDSU 41, Kansas 38

2016: TCU 59, SDSU 41

2017: SDSU 51, Duquesne 13

2018: SDSU 45, Montana State 14

2019: Minnesota 28, SDSU 21

2020: SDSU 24, Northern Iowa 20

Note: 2018 original season opener at Iowa State was

canceled due to inclement weather

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

Feb. 24, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — South Dakota State and North Dakota renew a football rivalry well over a century old, meeting Saturday for the first time as Missouri Valley Football Conference foes.

Kickoff for the top-15 matchup is set for noon at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The game is scheduled to be televised on Midco Sports Network 2 and also aired on the ESPN+ (subscription required) streaming platform.

SDSU enters the weekend ranked third in this week's Stats Perform FCS media poll. The Jackrabbits opened the 2020-21 season with a 24-20 win at then-third-ranked Northern lowa on Feb. 19.

North Dakota vaulted into this week's poll at No. 14 after a convincing 44-21 home victory over then-No. 24 Southern Illinois on Feb. 20. The Fighting Hawks forced five turnovers, four of which they turned into touchdowns.

THE SERIES: Saturday's game will mark the 86th meeting between South Dakota State and North Dakota on the football field. UND leads the overall series by a 46-34-5 count

The two schools first met in 1906, with South Dakota State recording a 5-4 victory. UND and SDSU met every year from 1922 until 2003 as members of the North Central Conference, with the exception of 1943-47 due to World War II.

SDSU and UND have met only twice since both schools moved to Division I and the Football Championship Subdivision. The Jackrabbits shut out UND, 21-0, on Nov. 19, 2010, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium. Tyler Duffy ran for a career-high 127 yards on 36 carries and scored both SDSU touchdowns.

The Jackrabbits last played each other on Sept. 7, 2013, with SDSU recording a 35-28 victory at the Alerus Center. In that game, All-America runnning back Zach Zenner tied his own single-game school record with 295 rushing yards. Zenner scored four of the Jackrabbits' five touchdowns in the game as SDSU held off a fourth-quarter rally by UND.

FOR OPENERS: With their 24-20 victory Feb. 19 at Northern Iowa, SDSU improved to 15-9 in season openers under head coach John Stiegelmeier. The Jackrabbits won each of their first seven season openers under Coach Stig, starting with a 17-7 victory at UC Davis in 1997.

Of SDSU's nine losses in season openers under Coach Stig, five have come against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents, including a 28-21 setback at Minnesota in the 2019 opener.

ELITE COMPANY: South Dakota State is one of only two Football Championship Subdivision programs to reach the playoffs each of the last eight seasons, including making consecutive national semifinal appearances in 2017 and 2018.

North Dakota State holds the longest active streak with 10 consecutive trips to the playoffs.

RANKINGS STREAK: With its appearance in this week's STATS Perform FCS Poll, SDSU has now appeared in the top 25 of 107 consecutive media polls dating back to October 2012.

CAPTAINS: Leading the Jackrabbit football team on the field and in the locker room are five captains:

- · Logan Backhaus, Sr., linebacker, Spirit Lake, Iowa;
- Wes Genant, Sr., offensive lineman, Parkston, South Dakota.;
- Michael Griffin II, Sr., safety, Cottage Grove, Minnesota;
- Pierre Strong, Jr.; Jr.; running back, Little Rock, Arkansas, and
- Preston Tetzlaff, Sr., linebacker, Brookings, South Dakota.

Backhaus is in his second season as a team captain. All four other captains are in their first seasons in the role.

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

TEAM GAME HIGHS

INTERCEPTIONS: N/A

FUMBLES RECOVERED: N/A

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 34, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Rushing Yards: 116, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 YARDS PER RUSH: 3.4, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Rushing Touchdowns: 1, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Pass Attempts: 29. at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Pass Completions: 19, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 YARDS PASSING: 194, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 YARDS PER PASS: 6.7, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Passing Touchdowns: 2, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 TOTAL PLAYS: 63, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Total Offense: 310, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 YARDS PER PLAY: 4.9, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Points: 24, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 FIRST Downs: 14, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 SACKS By: 2, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 PENALTIES: 9. at Northern Iowa. 2-19-2021 PENALTY YARDS: 80, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Turnovers By: 2, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 TURNOVERS FORCED: N/A

SDSU'S 2020 RECORD

WHEN...

Jackrabbits score first	
Opponent scores first	
Jackrabbits lead after one quarter	.0-0
Opponent leads after one quarter	
Game is tied after one quarter	
Jackrabbits lead at halftime	1-0
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0
Game is tied at halftime	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after three quarters	
Opponent leads after three quarters	0-0
Game is tied after three quarters	.0-0
Game is decided in overtime	.0-0
Jackrabbits play at home	.0-0
SDSU plays on the the road	
Jackrabbits commit fewer turnovers than opponent	.0-0
Opponent commits fewer turnovers than SDSU	1-0
Turnover margin is equal	0-0
Jackrabbits commit fewer penalties than opponent.	.0-0
Opponent commits fewer penalties than SDSU	1-0
Teams commit same number of penalties	.0-0
Jackrabbits have time of possession advantage	1-0
Opponent has time of possession advantage	
Game is played on artificial surface	
Game is played on natural grass/hybrid surface	
Game is played during the day	
Game is played at night (6 p.m. or later kickoff)	

SEEKING ANOTHER MILESTONE WIN: South Dakota State's season-opening win at Northern Iowa marked the program's 99th victory since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference at the start of the 2008 season. Overall, the Jackrabbits have posted a 99-54 record (.647 winning record) in that span, including a 67-30 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 North Dakota) since 2008 to be able to make that claim.

Since moving to the FCS ranks at the start of the 2004 season, the Jackrabbits have posted a 125-72 overall record (.635 winning percentage). SDSU spent its first four years at the FCS level as a member of the Great West Football Conference.

SDSU has turned in a winning record in 14 of 16 full seasons as an FCS member.

VALLEY PREVIEW: South Dakota State was picked to finish third in the Missouri Valley Football Conference preseason poll, which was announced earlier this month.

The Jackrabbits, who finished the 2019 season with an 8-5 overall record and 5-3 mark in the MVFC, tallied 91 points in the balloting among league coaches, sports information directors and a media panel. The Jackrabbits extended their streak of Football Championship Subdivision playoff appearances to eight seasons in 2019.

Defending conference and FCS national champion North Dakota State again led the preseason poll with 101 points, followed by Northern Iowa with 92 points. Rounding out the top five were Illinois State (80) and Southern Illinois (68).

In the bottom half of the poll, South Dakota was sixth with 52 points, followed by league newcomer North Dakota with 39 points. Youngstown State held the eighth spot with 36 points, with Missouri State and Western Illinois tying for ninth with 23 points. Indiana State has opted out of the spring season.

MVFC squads are playing an eight-game league schedule, with games beginning the weekend of Feb. 19-21. Ten of the league's 11 teams will play a spring season after Indiana State opted out in January.

In addition, nine Jackrabbits were honored on the MVFC Preseason Team revealed Wednesday. Three of SDSU's four first-team selections came on the defensive side of the ball, with defensive end Reece Winkelman, linebacker Logan Backhaus and cornerback Don Gardner honored.

Winkelman, a junior from Marshall, Minnesota, tied for the team lead with 6.5 sacks in 2019. He totaled 36 tackles, including nine tackles for loss, and forced a fumble in his first season as a starter.

A senior from Spirit Lake, lowa, Backhaus is the team's top returning tackler after registering 79 tackles in 2019 to rank third on the squad. An honorable mention all-MVFC selection in 2019, he shared the team lead with four interceptions and three forced fumbles.

Gardner put together an all-conference season in 2019, earning second-team honors after registering 45 tackles, six tackles for loss and a team-high six pass breakups. The senior from Chicago also scored two defensive touchdowns — one on his lone interception of the 2019 season and the other on a fumble recovery.

The lone first-team offensive selection for the Jackrabbits was running back Pierre Strong, Jr. A junior from Little Rock, Arkansas, Strong has posted consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, rushing for 1,116 yards as a freshman in 2018 and 1,018 yards in 11 games as a sophomore. He also rushed for eight touchdowns in 2019 en route to All-America recognition from the Associated Press and HERO Sports.

Receiving honorable mention recognition on offense were sophomore quarterback J'Bore Gibbs and senior offensive lineman Wes Genant. Gibbs started the first six games in 2019 before suffering a season-ending injury. He completed 59 percent of his passes (73-of-124) for 1,058 yards and 10 touchdowns, while adding four scores on the ground.

2020 GAME HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 22, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 RUSHING YARDS: 91, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Rushing Touchdowns: 1, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern lowa. 2-19-2021

LONG RUSH: 32 yards, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern lowa. 2-19-2021

Pass Attempts: 29, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Pass Completions: 19, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern lowa, 2-19-2021

Yards Passing: 194, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern lowa, 2-19-2021

Touchdown Passes: 2, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

RECEPTIONS: 6, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

YARDS RECEIVING: 90, by Zach Heins, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS: 1, by Jaxon Janke and Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Long Reception: 43 yards, by Zach Heins (from Mark Gronowski), at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

FIELD GOALS: 1, by Cole Frahm, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Long Field Goal: 24 yards, by Cole Frahm, at Northern lowa, 2-19-2021

Punts: 4, by Ben Dinkel, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
Punting Average: 42.2 yards (4 punts), by Ben Dinkel, at
Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Long Punt: 61 yards, by Ben Dinkel, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Long Punt Return: 14 yards, by Jaxon Janke, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

Long Kickoff Return: 26 yards, by Jordan Meachum, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

TACKLES: 5, by four different players, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

TACKLES FOR Loss: 2.0, by Logan Backhaus and Tolu Ogunrinde, 2-19-2021

Sacks: 1.0, by Adam Bock and Tolu Ogunrinde, at

Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021 Interceptions: N/A

Pass Breakups: 1, by Michael Griffin II, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

FUMBLES FORCED: N/A

BLOCKED KICKS: 1, by Isaiah Stalbird, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021

2-19-2021

Genant, a Parkston native, has played all along the offensive line during his Jackrabbit career. He returns to a starting role at center during the 2020-21 season after redshirting in 2019.

Honorable mention selections on defense for the Jackrabbits included seniors Xavier Ward and Michael Griffin II.

A defensive tackle from Freeman, Ward saw his streak of starting 26 games in a row for the Jackrabbits come to an end as he missed the Feb. 19 season opener due to injury. He contributed 21 total tackles in 2019, including seven tackles for loss with four sacks.

Griffin earned a spot on the MVFC All-Newcomer Team in 2019. A safety from Cottage Grove, Minnesota, he shared the team lead with four interceptions, while also tallying 40 tackles and a pair of fumble recoveries.

Also earning preseason recognition was sophomore Jaxon Janke as a return specialist. The Madison native averaged 10.7 yards per punt return — with one touchdown — in 2019 and added 29 receptions for 353 yards and four touchdowns as a wide receiver in being named to the MVFC All-Newcomer Team.

STRONG EARNS PRESEASON PRAISE: Jackrabbit running back Pierre Strong, Jr., has been named to the preseason All-America team selected by HERO Sports.

A junior from Little Rock, Arkansas, Strong received first-team accolades after topping the 1,000-yard mark in each of his first two seasons. He rushed for 1,116 yards as a freshman in 2018 and gained 1,018 yards with eight touchdowns in 11 games as a sophomore. Over two seasons, Strong is averaging 8.2 yards per carry, and needed only 100 carries to reach the 1,000-yard mark during the 2018 season.

Strong enters Saturday's game needing only 69 rushing yards to break into the Jackrabbit career top 10.

In 2019, he became only the seventh player in SDSU history to top the 1,000-yard mark in consecutive seasons. He will attempt to become the third to post three straight 1,000-yard campaigns.

Following is the complete list of Jackrabbits with consecutive 1.000-vard seasons:

- Pete Retzlaff, 1951 (1,016 yards) and 1952 (1,008)
- Darwin Gonnerman, 1967 (1,023) and 1968 (1,023)
- Les Tuma, 1972 (1,061) and 1973 (1,052)
- Josh Ranek, 1998 (1,881) and 1999 (2,055)
- Kyle Minett, 2008 (1,289), 2009 (1,304) and 2010 (1,208)
- Zach Zenner, 2012 (2,044), 2013 (2,015) and 2014 (2,019)
- Pierre Strong, Jr., 2018 (1,116), 2019 (1,018)

GRONOWSKI, STRONG HONORED: South Dakota State running back Pierre Strong, Jr. was named Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Week and freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski earned MVFC Newcomer of the Week honors, league officials announced Monday.

Strong, a junior from Little Rock, Arkansas, tallied 142 all-purpose yards and scored the game-winning touchdown on a 1-yard pass play with 19 seconds remaining in South Dakota State' 24-20 victory at Northern Iowa on Feb. 19. For the game, he rushed 22 times for 91 yards and caught a team-high six passes for 31 yards. He added a 20-yard kickoff return to round out his performance.

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski accounted for all three South Dakota State touchdowns as the Jackrabbits prevailed in the matchup between top-five teams. He completed 19-of-29 passes for 194 yards and touchdown passes of 6 yards to Jaxon Janke in the second quarter and the 1-yard toss to Strong to cap the 10-play, 75-yard game-winning drive. He also rushed for 24 yards on 10 carries, including a 5-yard touchdown late in the first half. Gronowski connected with seven different receivers in the game.

Also on Monday, Gronowski was selected as the Stats Perform FCS National Freshman Player of the Week.

JACKRABBITS IN THE 2019 NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 25)

- 1st in punt return defense, .57 yards/attempt
- 4th in fewest passing yards allowed, 165.8/game
- 5th in team passing efficiency defense, 110.17
- 6th in interceptions, 18
- 6th in scoring defense, 16.7 points/game
- 7th in total defense, 294.8 yards/game
- 8th in kickoff return defense, 15.70 yards/attempt
- 9th in blocked kicks, 5
- 11th in blocked punts, 2
- 11th in net punting, 39.48 yards/attempt
- 11th in defensive touchdowns, 3
- 12th in team passing efficiency, 154.42
- 13th in turnovers gained, 25
- 15th in red-zone defense, .722
- 16th in team sacks, 2.85/game
- 21st in third-down conversion pct.-defense, .337
- 22nd in fewest passes had intercepted, 7
- 22nd in completion percentage, .629
- 23rd in rushing offense, 198.2 yards/game
- 24th in rushing defense, 128.9 yards/game
- 25th in passing yards per completion, 13.75
- 25th in punt returns, 11.31 yards/attempt

INDIVIDUAL (top 40)

*BEN DINKEL

· 31st in punting, 41.6 yards/attempt

*MICHAEL GRIFFIN II

- 35th in interceptions/game, 0.3
- T-39th in fumbles recovered, 2

*JAXON JANKE

- T-2nd in punt return touchdowns, 1
- 14th in punt returns, 10.7 yards/attempt

CADE JOHNSON

- 7th in receiving yards, 1,222
- 17th in receiving yards per game, 94.0
- 29th in all-purpose yardage, 120.46 yards/game
- 35th in receptions per game, 5.5

CHRISTIAN ROZEBOOM

• T-39th in fumbles recovered, 2

*PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 5th in rushing yards per carry, 7.12
- 22nd in rushing yards per game, 92.5
- 29th in rushing yards, 1,018
- * Denotes returning player

Rankings based on all games among 125 FCS teams Must have played in half of team's games to qualify for rankings

GETTING DEFENSIVE: South Dakota State held Northern Iowa to a meager 28 net yards rushing in the Feb. 19 season opener, a total that ranks as the third-lowest allowed by the Jackrabbits against a Missouri Valley Football Conference opponent since joining the league in 2008. The Panthers' 28 yards came on 25 attempts — an average of 1.1 yards per carry.

The fewest rushing yards allowed by a Jackrabbit team in an MVFC game is 22 vards (on 22 carries) by South Dakota on Nov. 17, 2012. SDSU surrendered only 25 vards (on 24 attempts) versus Indiana State on Sept. 19, 2009.

INTERCEPTION STREAK ENDS: South Dakota State's defensive streak of consecutive games with an interception came to an end at 13 games in the 2020-21 season opener at Northern Iowa.

SDSU recorded at least one interception in all 13 games during the 2019 season, highlighted by a three-pick performance in the regular season matchup against Northern Iowa.

As a team, the Jackrabbits tallied 18 interceptions to rank sixth among Football Championship Subdivision programs. Linebacker Logan Backhaus and safety Michael Griffin II shared the team lead with four interceptions. In all, 10 different Jackrabbit players recorded at least one interception in 2019.

Dating back to the 2018 season, SDSU has intercepted a pass in 19 of its last 21 games.

SACK ATTACK: The South Dakota State defense nearly doubled its sack total from the previous year in 2019, tallying 37 sacks to rank 16th among FCS programs with an average of 2.85 per game. That compared to 20 sacks in 2018.

Despite the loss of team co-leader Ryan Earith, the Jackrabbits do return four of their top five sack artists from the 2019 squad. Junior defensive end Reece Winkelman shared the team lead with Earith with 6.5 sacks, while pass rush specialist Quinton Hicks tallied five sacks during an impressive freshman campaign in 2019.

Also returning are defensive tackle Xavier Ward (four sacks) and defensive end Tolu Ogunrinde (2.5 sacks).

SDSU notched two sacks in the Feb. 19 season opener at Northern Iowa, with Adam Bock and Tolu Ogunrinde credited with solo sacks.

LIMITED RETURNS: South Dakota State all but eliminated the punt return game during the 2019 season. Opponents netted a total of four yards on seven punt returns (in 48 punts) last season.

That allowed the Jackrabbits to lead all FCS programs for punt return defense with an average of .57 yards per return for the entire season. In the 2020-21 season opener, Northern Iowa returned two punts for 11 yards.

The longest punt return allowed by SDSU in 2019 was eight yards in the Aug. 29 season opener at Minnesota. The Jackrabbits also ranked 11th among FCS teams in net punting at 39.5 yards per attempt, with punter Ben Dinkel ranking 31st individually with an average of 41.6 yards per attempt.

SDSU also ranked eighth in kickoff return defense with an average of 13.5 yards allowed per attempt during the 2019 season.

BLOCK THAT KICK: South Dakota State continued to pick up where it left off with strong special teams play in the Feb. 19 season opener, including blocking a punt. Isaiah Stalbird's blocked punt late in the first half at Northern Iowa led to a touchdown that pushed the Jackrabbits' halftime lead to 17-7.

SDSU has consistently ranked among the FCS leaders for blocked kicks over the past few seasons. The Jackrabbits ranked ninth with five blocked kicks in 2019, after ranking third in 2018 with eight blocked kicks.

QUICK FACTS

SDSU INFORMATION

LOCATION: Brookings, S.D.
ENROLLMENT: 11,405 (fall 2020)
COLORS: Yellow and Blue
NICKNAME: Jackrabbits

AFFILIATION: NCAA Division I Football

Championship Subdivision

Conference: Missouri Valley Football Conference Stadium: Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (19,340

capacity - AstroTurf surface)

2019 RECAP

Overall Record: 8-5

CONFERENCE RECORD: 5-3 (tied for third place in

Missouri Valley Football Conference)

POSTSEASON: Football Championship Subdivision

Second Round (seeded seventh)

HOME RECORD: 5-3 AWAY RECORD: 3-2

FINAL RANKINGS: 10th (Stats Perform media)/12th (FCS

Coaches)

TEAM INFORMATION

• Special Teams: 2

LETTERMEN RETURNING: 37 LETTERMEN LOST: 24

• Offense: 18 • Offense: 10 • Defense: 17 • Defense: 12

STARTERS RETURNING: 14

• Special Teams: 2

• Offense: 5 • Defense: 8 • Special Teams: 1

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (5): Aron Johnson, OT; J'Bore Gibbs, QB; Eagan Lickiss, OG; Eddie Miller, OG; Pierre Strong, Jr., RB.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (8): Logan Backhaus, LB; DyShawn Gales, CB; Don Gardner, CB; Michael Griffin II, S; Joshua Manchigiah, S; Caleb Sanders, DL;

Xavier Ward, DT; Reece Winkelman, DE.

SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS RETURNING (1): Ben Dinkel, P.

OTHER RETURNING LETTERMEN (23): Deyon Campbell,
WR; Skyler Cavanaugh, TE; Cole Frahm, K; Wes
Genant, OL; Garret Greenfield, OL; Jon Gruetzmacher,
OL; Keaton Heide, QB; Quinton Hicks, DE; Jadon
Janke, WR; Jaxon Janke, WR; Krockett Krolikowski, DT;

Mason McCormick, OL; Mike Morgan, TE/FB; Chase Norblade, S; Tolu Ogunrinde, DE; Caleb Schauf, TE; Payton Shafer, LB; Thomas Stacker, DT; Preston

Blake Kunz. TE: Malik Lofton. CB: Kinser Madison. LB:

Tetzlaff, LB; Jason Titus, OL.

BALL SECURITY: One area the Jackrabbits will look to improve during the 2020-21 season is in the turnover margin department. Despite forcing 25 turnovers (18 interceptions, 7 fumbles), the Jackrabbits turned the ball over an uncharacteristic 24 times in 2019 to finish plus-1 in turnover margin.

Of the 24 turnovers, 17 were lost fumbles — the most by an SDSU squad in the Division I era (since 2004). By comparison, the Jackrabbits lost a total of 18 fumbles in the three previous seasons combined.

SDSU lost a pair of fumbles in the 2020-21 season opener to begin the year minus-2 in turnover margin.

SEEING DOUBLE: The 2020-21 South Dakota State football team features two sets of twin brothers.

Returning for their sophomore seasons are wide receivers and Madison natives Jadon and Jaxon Janke. Jadon Janke has primarily contributed on special teams during his Jackrabbit career, while Jaxon Janke is the team's top returning receiver after catching 29 passes for 353 yards and four touchdowns in 2019. A member of the MVFC All-Newcomer Team that season, Jaxon Janke also handled the team's punt return duties, averaging 10.7 yards per attempt that included a 77-yard touchdown in the 2019 home opener against Long Island.

Joining the Jackrabbits this fall were twins Aaron and Adam Kusler. The Sioux Falls tandem, who excelled at Roosevelt High School, are both freshman linebackers on this year's squad.

SDSU has another set of brothers on the team in Brookings natives and offensive linemen Eddie and Gus Miller. Eddie is a senior on this year's team, while Gus is an incoming freshman.

JACKS IN THE PROS: At the conclusion of the 2020 football season, four former South Dakota State standouts were members of National Football League teams, continuing the Jackrabbits' long tradition of developing players into pro prospects.

Headlining the list is tight end Dallas Goedert of the Philadelphia Eagles. After being drafted in the second round of the 2018 NFL Draft, Goedert has gone on to record 137 receptions for 1,465 yards and 12 touchdowns in his first three seasons.

Veteran offensive lineman Bryan Witzmann returned to the Kansas City Chiefs in 2020, an organization for which he earned a starting role in 2017. He played in one game this past season, but was assigned to the team's practice squad for much of the year, including the postseason.

Witzmann has been with eight different teams since excelling for the Jackrabbits from 2010-13, He began the 2019 season with the Cleveland Browns and later played in two games for Carolina. He also has spent time with Houston, New Orleans, Dallas, Minnesota and Chicago.

Also on NFL rosters in 2020 as practice squad members were cornerback Jordan Brown (Washington) and linebacker Christian Rozeboom (Los Angeles Rams). Brown was a seventh-round choice of the Cincinnati Bengals in 2019 and also spent time on the practice squad for Jacksonville during his rookie campaign before entering 2020 training camp with the Las Vegas Raiders.

Rozeboom finished his Jackrabbit career as the program's all-time leading tackler and then signed as a free agent following the 2020 NFL Draft. Teammates Mikey Daniel (Atlanta Falcons) and Luke Sellers (Detroit Lions) also signed free agent agreements from the 2019 SDSU senior class.

In addition, wide receiver Jake Wieneke caught on with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League in 2019 and finished the year with 41 catches for 569 yards with eight touchdowns. The CFL did not compete in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

COACHES

Ryan Van Marel

Trajan Walhof Xavier Ward

John Stiegelmeier STIG-el-mey-er Zach Lujan LOO-honn Luke Schleusner SHLICE-ner

PLAYERS Steven Arrell ah-RELL Logan Backhaus **BACK-huss** Max Baloun bah-I OON Matthew Borowicz BORE-oh-wits Mitch Eichacker IKE-hack-er Cole Frahm fromm Caleb Francl FRANCE-ill Wes Genant juh-NANT J'Bore Gibbs juh-BORE-ay Jon Gruetzmacher GRITS-mock-er Keaton Heide HY-dee Zach Heins HINES Jadon/Jaxon Janke YON-key Randy Keumogne cuh-MOAN Krockett Krolikowski crow-lah-COW-ski Blake Kunz coons COOSE-ler Aaron/Adam Kusler Mason Leighton LAY-ton manch-ah-GUY-ah Joshua Manchigiah Daeton Mcgaughy mc-GOY TOE-loo oh-GRIN-dee Tolu Ogunrinde Preston Tetzlaff TETS-loff Avian Thomas AY-vee-on

van-MARR-ill

EX-zay-vee-ir

TRAY-jun WALL-hoff

DANA J. DYKHOUSE STADIUM: Jackrabbit football moved into a new home in September of 2016 with the completion of Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The stadium, which was constructed in phases on the site of SDSU's previous home field, Coughlin-Alumni Stadium, seats 19,340 spectators and cost \$65 million to build. The stadium is being funded through private gifts and long-term revenue streams, including concessions and suite, loge box and ticket sales. Bonds are financing nearly two-thirds of the project's construction, with the remaining dollars coming from private support. Lead gifts totaling \$12.5 million from Sioux Falls banker Dana Dykhouse and philanthropist T. Denny Sanford were announced in October 2013.

The stadium officially opened Sept. 8, 2016, featuring a concert by country music superstars Luke Bryan, Little Big Town and Lee Brice as part of the Jacks Bash opening weekend. The first football game was two days later, on Sept. 10, when the Jackrabbits defeated Drake, 56-28.

SDSU has gone on to post a 25-5 record at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium during its first four seasons of operation, including a 4-1 mark in Football Championship Subdivision playoff games. The Jackrabbits went undefeated at home in 2018 with a 7-0 mark.

Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium was designed by Kansas City-based Crawford Architects, with the construction firm JE Dunn serving as the project manager at risk and Henry Carlson Company of Sioux Falls serving as general contractor. The stadium won the 2017 Alliant Build America Award from the Associated General Contractors of America South Dakota Building Chapter.

Year-By-Year Records at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium

2016: 6-1 2019: 5-3 2017: 7-1 Totals: 25-5

2018: 7-0

WORKING OVERTIME: South Dakota State has split its 10 overtime games since overtime rules were implemented in the mid-1990s. The Jackrabbits have won four of their five overtime contests in Missouri Valley Football Conference games, including a 37-34, double-overtime victory over Northern Iowa at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium on Oct. 26, 2013.

Following is a list of the Jackrabbits' overtime results SDSU 30, Nebraska-Omaha 27 [2 OT] • Oct. 17, 1998 — at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium Augustana 39, SDSU 33 [3 OT] • Oct. 19, 2002 — at Sioux Falls Southern Utah 23, SDSU 17 [2 OT] • Nov. 13, 2004 — at Cedar City, Utah Western Illinois 29, SDSU 26 [4 OT] • Aug. 30, 2007 — at Macomb, Ill. McNeese State 46, SDSU 44 [3 OT] • Oct. 4, 2008 — at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium SDSU 43, Missouri State 36 [2 OT] • Oct. 29, 2011 — at Springfield, Mo. SDSU 37, Northern Iowa 34 [2 OT] • Oct. 26, 2013 — at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium Western Illinois 30, SDSU 24 [2 OT] • Nov. 21, 2015 — at Macomb, Ill. SDSU 27, Illinois State 24 [OT] • Nov. 11, 2017 — at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium SDSU 54, Indiana State 51 [OT] • Oct. 6, 2018 — at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium Overall, SDSU is 5-5 in overtime games

NEW COACHES: South Dakota State will have some fresh faces on the sidelines and in the coaching booth this season.

Taking over the role of special teams coordinator and cornerbacks coach is Rob Erickson, who served as defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach for NCAA Division III powerhouse Wisconsin-Whitewater. During his tenure, UWW went a combined 56-9 en route to three national semifinal appearances, including a berth in the championship game in 2019.

Another new Jackrabbit coach with Wisconsin-Whitewater connections is tight ends coach Ryan Olson. An addition to the staff in January, Olson Olson has coached at the collegiate level for nearly a decade, most recently serving as co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Bemidji State from 2017-19.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

AT NORTHERN IOWA

Offense: Mark Gronowski, Aron Johnson

Defense: Caleb Sanders Special Teams: Isaiah Stalbird Scout Offense: A.J. Coons, Rudy Voss Scout Defense: Daeton Mcgaughy Scout Special Teams: Dalys Beanum

Effort: Caleb Sanders

As an offensive tackle as a player for Wisconsin-Whitewater, Olson was a member of national championship teams in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and played on squads that compiled a 58-2 record in his four seasons, including posting a 45-game winning streak.

To make room for Olson, passing game coordinator Luke Schleusner moves from coaching the tight ends to coaching the wide receivers.

Rejoining the SDSU coaching staff as running backs coach is John Johnson. He previously held the same position with the Jackrabbits from 2016-17.

STIG SHOW: The John Stiegelmeier Radio Show airs each Monday throughout the 2020-21 football season.

The show is scheduled to air at 6 p.m. on the Jackrabbit Sports Network, originating with flagship station WNAX 570 AM in Yankton. In addition, the weekly show, hosted by Tyler Merriam, also will be streamed online free of charge at GoJacks.com.

A LOOK AHEAD: The Jackrabbits are scheduled to open the home portion of their schedule by hosting Western Illinois in the annual Dairy Drive game. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The game is slated to be televised on MidcoSN2.

DEPTH CHART vs. NORTH DAKOTA

		OFFENSE			DEFENSE
LT	71 68	ARON JOHNSON, 6-6, 295, Jr., Chisago City, Minn. lan Bass, 6-4, 285, So., Rosemount, Minn.	DE	97 22 53	REECE WINKELMAN, 6-4, 245, Jr., Marshall, Minn. Tolu Ogunrinde, 6-1, 270, Sr., Cottage Grove, Minn. Caden Johnson, 6-3, 240, R-Fr., Wahoo, Neb.
LG	60 54	Mason McCormick, 6-4, 300, So., Sioux Falls, S.D. EDDIE MILLER, 6-5, 315, Sr., Brookings, S.D.	DT	69 98	Krockett Krolikowski, 6-2, 290, Jr., Winner, S.D. Ryan Van Marel, 6-4, 285, So., Sheldon, Iowa
С	77 61	Wes Genant, 6-4, 295, Sr., Parkston, S.D. Evan Beerntsen, 6-4, 285, R-Fr., De Pere, Wis.		52	Jarod DePriest, 6-5, 265, R-Fr., Trivoli, III.
RG	56 76	EAGAN LICKISS, 6-4, 320, Sr., Indianola, Iowa Bo Donald, 6-6, 300, R-Fr., Kimball, S.D.	NT	99 55 88	CALEB SANDERS, 6-1, 280, Jr., Glenwood, Iowa Thomas Stacker, 6-4, 285, Sr., Chicago, III. Brandon Lane Jr., 6-2, 245, Fr., Kansas City, Mo.
RT	74 75	Garret Greenfield, 6-6, 295, So., Rock Valley, Iowa Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.	DE	48 94 90	Quinton Hicks, 6-3, 240, So., Wichita, Kan. Cade Terveer, 6-3, 245, So., Brandon, S.D. Randy Keumogne, 6-3, 220, Fr., Oakdale, Minn.
TE	87 34	Zach Heins, 6-7, 260, So., Sioux Falls, S.D. Mike Morgan, 6-3, 235, So., New Lenox, III.	LB or	29 46	Graham Spalding, 6-1, 200, R-Fr., Oviedo, Fla. Preston Tetzlaff, 6-2, 215, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
WR (Z-Back)	4 19	Canyon Bauer, 6-0, 195, R-Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D. Mason Leighton, 5-9, 175, Jr., Madison, S.D.	(Will)	30	Payton Shafer, 6-0, 215, So., Cottage Grove, Minn.
WR (X-Back)	9 4	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D. Canyon Bauer, 6-0, 195, R-Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D.	LB or (Mike)	46 32 44	Preston Tetzlaff, 6-2, 215, Sr., Brookings, S.D. Adam Bock, 6-1, 210, R-Fr., Solon, Iowa Saiveon Williamson, 6-1, 210, So., Waseca, Minn.
WR (W-Back)	10 7	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D. Karst Hunter, 6-4, 205, R-Fr., Miller, S.D.	LB (Sam)	12 11	LOGAN BACKHAUS, 6-4, 205, Sr., Spirit Lake, Iowa Matt Barnett, 6-3, 200, R-Fr., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
QB	11 2	Mark Gronowski, 6-3, 200, Fr., Naperville, III. J'BORE GIBBS, 6-3, 230, So., Chicago, III.	LCB	57 21	Kinser Madison, 6-2, 210, So., Higginsville, Mo. DON GARDNER, 6-1, 185, Sr., Chicago, III.
or RB	13 20	Keaton Heide, 6-3, 195, So., Wayzata, Minn. PIERRE STRONG, JR., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.	LOD	36 28	Torren Union, 6-2, 195, R-Fr., Mesa, Ariz. Dalys Beanum, 6-1, 165, Fr., Omaha, Neb.
ND	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.	FS or	6 2	MICHAEL GRIFFIN II, 6-0, 6-0, 215, Jr., Cottage Grove, Minn. Isaiah Stalbird, 6-1, 200, So., Kearney, Neb.
* Returning s	starters in	dicated in CAPS	SS or	35 3	Chase Norblade, 6-1, 185, So., Papillion, Neb. JOSHUA MANCHIGIAH, 6-0, 210, Jr., Papiillion, Neb.
			RCB or	1 13	Malik Lofton, 5-10, 190, Jr., Crystal, Minn. DYSHAWN GALES, 5-11, 185, So., North Chicago, III.
		SPECIA	AL TEA	MS	
Long Snaps	48 33	Jaden Mueller, 6-1, 210, Fr., Johnston, Iowa Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, III.	KO	97 10	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr, Omaha, Neb. Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
Holder	49 07	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.	KOR	20 22	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark. Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.
PK	97 10	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb. Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.	KOR	9 8	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D. Jordan Meachum, 5-8, 190, Grad., Lamott, Pa.
Р	49 10	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb. Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.	PR	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: John Stiegelmeier

Assistant Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Jimmy Rogers

Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties: Brian Bergstrom Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line: Jason Eck

Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers: Luke Schleusner Special Teams Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Rob Erickson

Running Backs: John Johnson Quarterbacks: Zach Lujan Tight Ends: Ryan Olson Defensive Line: Christian Smith Assistant Defensive Line: Spencer Erickson

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Graduate Assistants: Jared Gallatin, Luke Munsterteiger, C.J. Butt

Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.



South Dakota State University JACKRABBITS

2020-21 Football Roster

									_				
No.	NAME	Pos	Нт	Wτ	YR	Hometown	No.	NAME	Pos	Нт	Wτ	YR	Hometown
1	Malik Lofton	CB	5-10	190	Jr.	Crystal, Minn.	49	Ben Dinkel	Р	5-10	220	Jr.	Kearney, Neb.
1	Rudy Voss	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Lakefield, Minn.	50	Gus Miller	OL	6-3	265	Fr.	Brookings, S.D.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	QB	6-3	230	So.	Chicago, III.	51	Max VanMeter	DT	6-4	260	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.
2	Isaiah Stalbird	S	6-1	200	So.	Kearney, Neb.	52	Jarod DePriest	DT	6-5	265	R-Fr.	Trivoli, III.
3	Joshua Manchigiah	S	6-0	210	R-Jr.	Papillion, Neb.	53	Caden Johnson	DE	6-3	240	R-Fr.	Wahoo, Neb.
4	Canyon Bauer	WR	6-0	195	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	54	Eddie Miller	OL	6-5	315	Sr.	Brookings, S.D.
6	Michael Griffin II	S	6-0	215	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	55	Thomas Stacker	DT	6-4	285	Sr.	Chicago, III.
7	Karst Hunter	ATH	6-4	205	R-Fr.	Miller, S.D.	56	Eagan Lickiss	OL	6-4	320	Sr.	Indianola, Iowa
8	Jordan Meachum	RB	5-8	190	Gr.	Lamott, Pa.	57	Kinser Madison	LB	6-2	210	So.	Higginsville, Mo.
9	Jadon Janke	WR	6-3	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	58	Alex Westendorf	OL	6-5	280	R-Fr.	South Elgin, III.
10	Jaxon Janke	WR	6-2	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	60	Mason McCormick	OL	6-4	300	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
11	Matt Barnett	LB	6-3	200	R-Fr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	61	Evan Beerntsen	OL	6-4	285	R-Fr.	De Pere, Wis.
11	Mark Gronowski	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Naperville, III.	64	Ethan Vibert	OL	6-4	290	R-Fr.	Regina, Saskatchewan
12	Logan Backhaus	LB	6-4	205	Sr.	Spirit Lake, Iowa	65	Matthew Borowicz	DT	6-4	275	So.	Lakeville, Minn.
13	DyShawn Gales	CB	5-11	185	So.	North Chicago, III.	67	Brady Beck	OL	6-8	280	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
13	Keaton Heide	QB	6-3	195	So.	Wayzata, Minn.	68	lan Bass	OL	6-4	285	So.	Rosemount, Minn.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	S	6-0	200	Fr.	Elwood, Kan.	69	Krockett Krolikowski	DT	6-2	290	Jr.	Winner, S.D.
17	Abe Hoskins III	CB	6-2	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	70	Colby Christensen	OL	6-8	240	Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa
18	Corben Mahaffy	K	5-11	170	R-Fr.	Piedmont, S.D.	71	Aron Johnson	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	Chisago City, Minn.
19	Mason Leighton	WR	5-9	175	Jr.	Madison, S.D.	72	Jason Titus	OL	6-5	285	Jr.	Andover, Minn.
20	Pierre Strong, Jr.	RB	5-11	210	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.	73	Trajan Walhof	OL	6-5	285	So.	Sioux Center, Iowa
21	Don Gardner	CB	6-1	185	Sr.	Chicago, III.	74	Garret Greenfield	OL	6-6	295	So.	Rock Valley, Iowa
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	DE	6-1	270	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	75	Jon Gruetzmacher	OL	6-8	310	Jr.	Merrill, Wis.
22	Isaiah Davis	RB	6-1	220	Fr.	Joplin, Mo.	76	Bo Donald	OL	6-6	300	R-Fr.	Kimball, S.D.
23	Shane Dailey Jr.	WR	5-9	160	R-Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	77	Wes Genant	OL	6-4	295	Sr.	Parkston, S.D.
24	Deyon Campbell	WR	5-9	195	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.	79	Jharett Bloomenrader	OL	6-6	270	R-Fr.	Highmore, S.D.
25	Cale Reeder	S	6-0	185	Fr.	Yorkville, III.	80	Nate Sullivan Jr.	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	Bellevue, Neb.
27	Marlon Wiley	WR	5-10	180	R-Fr.	Jordan, Minn.	81	Skyler Cavanaugh	TE	6-5	240	Sr.	Vail, Ariz.
28	Dalys Beanum	CB	6-1	165	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	82	Caleb Schauf	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Sparta, Wis.
29	Graham Spalding	LB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	Oviedo, Fla.	83	A.J. Coons	WR	6-4	190	Fr.	Solon, Iowa
30	Payton Shafer	LB	6-0	215	So.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	85	Tucker Kraft	TE	6-5	250	R-Fr.	Timber Lake, S.D.
32	Adam Bock	LB	6-1	210	R-Fr.	Solon, Iowa	86	Devon Cole Jr.	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	Clermont, Fla.
33	Thomas Motzko	LB	6-0	230	R-Fr.	Highland Park, III.	87	Zach Heins	TE	6-7	260	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
34	Mike Morgan	TE/FB	6-3	235	So.	New Lenox, III.	88	Blake Kunz	TE	6-5	255	Jr.	Germantown, Wis.
35	Chase Norblade	S	6-1	185	So.	Papillion, Neb.	89	Wyatt Seagren	TE	6-7	245	Fr.	Oakland, Neb.
36	Torren Union	CB	6-2	195	R-Fr.	Mesa, Ariz.	90	Randy Keumogne	DE	6-3	220	Fr.	Oakdale, Minn.
37	Jefferson Lee, V	RB	5-9	190	So.	Marshall, Minn.	91	Xavier Ward	DT	6-2	285	Sr.	Freeman, S.D.
39	Steven Arrell	CB	6-2	185	Fr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	92	Kevin Brenner	DE	6-3	235	R-Fr.	Silver Lake, Wis.
40	Aaron Kusler	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	93	Max Baloun	DE	6-6	225	Fr.	Redfield, S.D.
41	Avian Thomas	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Boonville, Mo.	94	Cade Terveer	DE	6-3	245	So.	Brandon, S.D.
42	Davion Sterner	LB	6-0	190	Fr.	Alvord, Iowa	95	Zac Wilson	DE	6-3	220	R-Fr.	Chipley, Fla.
43	Adam Kusler	LB	6-3	205	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	96	Mitch Eichacker	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
44	Saiveon Williamson	LB	6-1	210	So.	Waseca, Minn.	97	Reece Winkelman	DE	6-4	245	Jr.	Marshall, Minn.
45	Caleb Francl	LB	6-0	190	Fr.	Grand Island, Neb.	97	Cole Frahm	K	6-5	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
46	Preston Tetzlaff	LB	6-2	215	Sr.	Brookings, S.D.	98	Ryan Van Marel	DT	6-4	285	So.	Sheldon, Iowa
47	Michael Drotzmann	Р	6-3	195	R-Fr.	Yankton, S.D.	99	Caleb Sanders	DT	6-1	280	Jr.	Glenwood, Iowa
48	Quinton Hicks	DE	6-3	240	So.	Wichita, Kan.							



COACH STIG'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS

NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

YEAR	OVERALL	CONF
1997	4-6	3-6
1998	6-5	5-4
1999	8-3	6-3
2000	6-5	4-5
2001	5-6	4-4
2002	6-4	4-4
2003	7-4	4-3
TOTALS	42-33	30-29

CDEAT WEST FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

GREAL	MEST FOOTBALL COL	NEKENCE
YEAR	Overall	CONF
2004	6-5	2-3
2005	6-5	3-2
2006	7-4	3-1
2007	7-4	4-0
TOTALS	26-18	12-6

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE										
YEAR	OVERALL	CONF								
2008	7-5	6-2								
2009	8-4	7-1								
2010	5-6	4-4								
2011	5-6	4-4								
2012	9-4	6-2								
2013	9-5	5-3								
2014	9-5	5-3								
2015	8-4	5-3								
2016	9-4	7-1								
2017	11-3	6-2								
2018	10-3	6-2								
2019	8-5	5-3								
2020-21	1-0	1-0								
Totals	<i>99-54</i>	<i>67-30</i>								
OVERALL	TOTALS 167-105	109-65								

JOHN STIEGELMEIER

Head Coach 24th Season (167-105 record — all at SDSU) Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 167-105 record (.614 winning percentage) in 24 seasons — passed Ralph Ginn, who compiled a 113-89-9 record in 22 seasons from 1947-68, with 41-3 victory over UW-Oshkosh on Sept. 20, 2014
- · Has led teams to winning records in 19 of his 23 full seasons, including 14 of 16 at the Division I Football Championship Subdivision level
- Since moving to the Football Championship Subdivision in 2004, the Jackrabbits have a 124-72 overall record (.633 winning percentage)
- · His 67 victories in Missouri Valley Football Conference play rank second in league history, while his 99 overall wins since joining the league in 2008 are tied for third among all-time league coaches
- 1999 North Central Conference Coach of the Year
- 2007 Great West Football Conference Coach of the Year after leading SDSU to first conference title in 44 years
- 2016 Bruce Craddock Missouri Valley Football Conference Coach of the Year after leading team to first MVFC title
- 2007 American Football Coaches Association FCS Region 5 Coach of the Year
- 2016 AFCA FCS Region 4 Coach of the Year
- Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Finalist in 2007 and 2009
- 2014 recipient of the Ralph Ginn Award for Coaching Excellence at South Dakota State University
- 2015 finalist for STATS FCS Coach of the Year Award

PLAYOFF EXPERIENCE:

- Has led Jackrabbits to nine FCS playoff appearances (2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and has an 8-9 playoff record
- 2009: Montana 61, SDSU 48
- 2012: *SDSU 58, Eastern Illinois 10; North Dakota State 28, SDSU 3
- 2013: SDSU 26, Northern Arizona 7; Eastern Washington 41, SDSU17
- 2014: SDSU 47, Montana State 40; North Dakota State 27, SDSU 24
- 2015: Montana 24, SDSU 17
- 2016: *SDSU 10, Villanova 7; North Dakota State 36, SDSU 10
- 2017: *SDSU 37, Northern Iowa 22; *SDSU 56, New Hampshire 14; James Madison 51, SDSU 16
- 2018: *SDSU 51, Duquesne 6; SDSU 27, Kennesaw State 17; North Dakota State 44, SDSU 21
- 2019: *Northern lowa 13, SDSU 10
- * denotes home playoff game
- Served as a student assistant on SDSU's lone NCAA Division II playoff-qualifying team in 1979

OTHER NOTES:

- The Jackrabbits have compiled a 106-32 (.768) home record in Coach Stig's 23 seasons as head coach
- SDSU has a 223-144 (.608) overall record since Coach Stig joined the coaching staff as an full-time assistant in 1988 and has posted a winning record in 26 of 32 seasons
- Served as secondary coach and recruiting coordinator from 1988-90 under Wayne Haensel
- Served as defensive coordinator from 1991-96 under Mike Daly
- Jackrabbit student-athletes have earned CoSIDA Academic All-America recognition 25 times
- SDSU received the MVFC Team Academic Award each of its first nine seasons in the league

MILESTONE WINS:

- No. 1: SDSU 17, UC Davis 7 [first game as head coach] (Sept. 13, 1997 at Davis, Calif.)
- No. 2 [first home win and first NCC victory]: SDSU 20, St. Cloud State 16 (Oct. 11, 1997, at Brookings)
- No. 25: SDSU 34, Ferris State (Mich.) 24 (Sept. 1, 2001, at Brookings)
- No. 45 [first win over FCS opponent]: SDSU 31, Southern (La.) 24 (Sept. 25, 2004, at Baton Rouge, La.)
- No. 50: SDSU 69, Valparaiso (Ind.) 6 (Sept. 10, 2005, at Brookings)
- No. 69 [first MVFC victory]: SDSU 40, Youngstown State 7 (Sept. 6, 2008, at Brookings)
- No. 75: SDSU 25, North Dakota State 24 (Nov. 22, 2008, at Fargo, N.D.)
- No. 100: SDSU 16, Southern Illinois 12 (Nov. 3, 2012, at Carbondale, Ill.)
- No. 102 [first playoff victory]: SDSU 58, Eastern Illinois 10 (Nov. 24, 2012, at Brookings)
- No. 113 [SDSU record-tying victory]: SDSU 26, Southern Utah 6 (Sept. 13, 2014, at Cedar City, Utah)
- No. 114 [SDSU record-breaking victory]: SDSU 41, UW-Oshkosh 3 (Sept. 20, 2014, at Brookings)
- No. 125: SDSU 38, Youngstown State 8 (Oct. 17, 2015, at Youngstown, Ohio)
- No. 136 [clinch first MVFC title]: SDSU 45, Northern Iowa 24 (Nov. 19, 2016, at Cedar Falls, Iowa)
- No. 142 [100th win as FCS program]: SDSU 62, Missouri State 30 (Oct. 21, 2017, at Springfield, Mo.)
- No. 150: SDSU 90, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 6 (Sept. 15, 2018, at Brookings)

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH



12-LOGAN BACKHAUS

6-4, 205, Senior • Linebacker Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2019, 2020-21)
- Missouri Valley Football Conference Honorable Mention (2019)
- MVFC All-Newcomer Team (2017)
- MVFC All-Academic Second Team (2019)
- MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award (2017, 2018, 2019)
- MVFC Honor Roll (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

LOGAN BACKHAUS' CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	G	Solo	Ast	TOTAL	TFL-YDS	SACK-YDS	PBU	INT-YDS	BK	FR-YDS	FF
2017	12	42	13	55	5.0-8	1.0-3	2	2-5	0	0-0	2
2018	13	40	21	61	4.0-14	1.0-5	3	2-0	1	1-0	0
2019	13	45	34	79	5.5-13	1.0-3	5	4-0	1	0-0	3
2020-21	1	5	0	5	2.0-3	0-0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0
CAREER	39	132	68	200	16.5-38	3.0-11	10	8-5	2	1-0	5

LOGAN	BAC	KHAUS	' 2017	GAME-B	Y-GAME	STATISTI	cs	
Game	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL-Yds	Sack-Yds	Int-Yds	FF	FR
Duquesne	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
Montana State	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Drake	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1-5	0	0
Youngstown St.	4	2	6	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Southern Illinois	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Northern Iowa	6	1	7	1.0-3	1.0-3	0-0	1	0
Missouri State		DNP						
Western Illinois		DNP						
North Dakota St	. 4	0	4	1.0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0
Illinois State	4	1	5	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
South Dakota	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Northern Iowa	8	0	8	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
James Madison	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	42	13	55	5.0-8	1.0-3	2-5	2	0

LOGAN BACKHAUS' 2018 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	5010	Ast	Iotai	IFL-Yas	Sack-Yds	int-Yas	FF	FK
Montana State	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
ArkPine Bluff	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1
North Dakota St.	. 3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Indiana State	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Youngstown St.	3	3	6	1.0-4	0-0	0-0	0	0
Northern Iowa	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Illinois State	2	3	5	0.5-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Missouri State	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
Southern Illinois	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
South Dakota	3	2	5	0.5-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Duquesne	3	4	7	1.0-5	1.0-5	0-0	0	0
Kennesaw State	6	0	6	1.0-3	0-0	1-0	0	0
North Dakota St.	. 3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	40	21	61	4.0-14	1.0-5	2-0	0	1

LOGAN BACKHAUS' 2019 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

		,,,,,,,,	ZOTO GAINE DI GAINE GIATIONO					
Game	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL-Yds	Sack-Yds	Int-Yds	FF	FR
Minnesota	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Long Island	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Drake	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
Southern Utah	6	5	11	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Southern Illinois	5	6	11	1.5-5	1.0-3	0-0	0	0
Youngstown St.	8	0	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0
Indiana State	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0
North Dakota St	. 2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Missouri State	4	2	6	1.0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0
Illinois State	2	4	6	1.0-3	0-0	1-0	0	0
Northern Iowa	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
South Dakota	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
Northern Iowa	4	2	6	2.0-3	0-0	0-0	1	0
Season Totals	45	34	79	5.5-13	1.0-3	4-0	3	0

LOGAN BACKHAUS' 2020-21 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL-Yds	Sack-Yds	Int-Yds	FF	FR
Northern Iowa	5	0	5	2.0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	5	0	5	2.0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH



SDSU CAREER RUSHING

1.	Josh Ranek, 1997-2001	6,744
2.	Zach Zenner, 2011-14	6,548
3.	Kyle Minett, 2007-10	4,277
4.	Anthony Watson, 2003-06	3,712
5.	Dan Sonnek, 1984-87	3,304
6.	Les Tuma, 1970-73	3,018
7.	Cory Koenig, 2004-07	2,990
8.	Brady Mengarelli, 2014-17	2,677
9.	Darwin Gonnerman, 1966-68	2,598
10.	Rick Wegher, 1981-84	2,293

Pierre Strong, Jr., 2018-present2,225

20-PIERRE STRONG, JR.

5-11, 200, Junior • Running Back Little Rock, Arkansas (McClellan H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2020-21)
- HERO Sports All-America Second Team (2019)
- Associated Press All-America Third Team (2019)
- Phil Steele All-America Third Team (2019)
- HERO Sports FCS Freshman All-America First Team (2018)
- Phil Steele FCS Freshman All-America Second Team (2018)
- All-Missouri Valley Football Conference First Team (2019)
- MVFC Freshman of the Year (2018)
- MVFC All-Newcomer Team (2018)
- MVFC Newcomer of the Week (Nov. 10, 2018; Nov. 17, 2018)
- Topped the 100-yard mark in five of the team's last six games in 2018 and nine times in his career (two games with 200-plus yards)
- Scored a touchdown in final six games of the 2018 season, including three-touchdown performances at Southern Illinois (Nov. 10) and versus South Dakota (Nov. 17)
- Reached 1,000-yard mark on 100th carry of the 2018 season
- Posted 10th-best single-game rushing performance in school history with 253 yards on 17 carries in 2018 regular season finale versus South Dakota
- His 19 career touchdown runs have covered an average of 33.7 yards

PIERRE STRONG'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
2018	117	1,116	9.5	11	*73	6	84	1	*66	2	38	19.0	0	24
2019	143	1,018	7.1	8	*64	14	169	1	*45	2	69	34.5	0	47
2020-21	22	91	4.1	0	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	282	2,225	7.9	19	*73	26	284	3	*66	5	127	25.4	0	47

* denotes touchdown

PIERRE STRONG'S 2018 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Rush	Yds	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	TD	LG
Montana State	2	40	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	5	40	0	19	1	66	1	*66	0	0	0	0
North Dakota State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana State	6	95	0	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youngstown State	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Iowa	8	6	0	3	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Illinois State	5	17	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri State	9	136	2	*55	1	9	0	9	1	14	0	14
Southern Illinois	14	188	3	*72	0	0	0	0	1	24	0	24
South Dakota	17	253	3	*73	1	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
Duquesne	12	92	1	*52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennesaw State	18	112	1	23	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota State	20	135	1	*30	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	117	1,116	11	*73	6	84	1	*66	2	38	0	24

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH

SINGLE-GAME RUSHING YARDS

- Josh Ranek......41 carries, 291 yds.
 vs. St. Cloud State, 11-13-1999
- 4. Josh Ranek39 carries, 282 yds.at North Dakota State, 10-24-1998
- 5. Zach Zenner34 carries, 278 yds.at Southeastern Louisiana, 9-8-2012
- Dan Sonnek40 carries, 266 yds.
 vs. Augustana, 10-26-1985
- 8. Cory Koenig21 carries, 259 yds.
 vs. Cal Poly, 10-20-2007
- 9. Josh Ranek.....26 carries, 254 yds.at North Dakota State, 10-20-2001
- 10. Pierre Strong, Jr.17 carries, 253 yds.vs. South Dakota, 11-17-2018

		PIERRE	STRON	g's 201	9 GAME	BY-GAN	ME STA	TISTICS				
Game	Rush	Yds	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	TD	LG
Minnesota	12	53	0	13	2	59	0	39	1	47	0	47
Long Island	12	55	1	14	2	20	0	20	0	0	0	0
Drake	11	129	1	*49	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Utah	11	85	1	30	2	47	1	*45	0	0	0	0
Southern Illinois	20	229	1	*64	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youngstown State	8	61	0	41	3	33	0	15	0	0	0	0
Indiana State	17	144	2	28	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Dakota State	19	120	0	24	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri State	18	99	1	32	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois State	12	29	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	22	0	22
Northern Iowa	3	14	0	8	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	DNI	P-Injury										
Northern Iowa	DNI	P-Injury										
Season Totals	143	1,018	8	*64	14	169	0	*45	2	69	0	47
PIERRE STRONG'S 2020-21 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS												
Game	Rush	Yds	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	TD	LG
Northern Iowa	20	91	0	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	0	20
Season Totals	20	91	9	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	0	20

LAST MEETING WITH NORTH DAKOTA — SEPT. 7, 2013

#6/7 SDSU 35, NORTH DAKOTA 28

Sept. 7, 2013 • Alerus Center (Att.: 10,038)

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Walter Payton Award candidate Zach Zenner tied his own school record with 295 yards rushing and scored our touchdowns, leading sixth-ranked South Dakota State to a 35-28 victory over North Dakota at the Alerus Center.

The Jackrabbits, who improved to 2-0, held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by UND, which dropped to 1-1 overall.

À junior from Eagan, Minn., Zenner gave the Jackrabbits a 35-14 lead early in the fourth quarter, breaking through the line for a 46-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-inches. Zenner gave SDSU a 14-7 lead on a 4-yard run in the second quarter and a 21-7 halftime advantage after scoring on a 23-yard screen pass from Austin Sumner in the final minute of the first half.

The Jackrabbits led 28-7 early in the third quarter as Zenner scored from a yard out after SDSU's Andrew Brown returned a UND fumble 20 yards to the UND 6.

UND rallied behind backup quarterback Joe Mollberg, who directed three touchdown drives. Mollberg hooked up with Greg Hardin on a 73-yard pass play before finding Kenny Golladay on the next play for a 17-yard touchdown pass in the final minute of the third quarter.

Mollberg later connected with Hardin on a 16-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter to pull UND to within 35-21. UND trimmed the margin to a one-score game three minutes later as Jameer Jackson scored on a 2-yard run.

UND had a chance to tie the game or take the lead in the waning moments, but a Mollberg pass was tipped by Jackrabbit linebacker T.J. Lally into the arms of cornerback Jimmie Forsythe. The Jackrabbits ran out the clock to seal their first victory in Grand Forks since 1989.

UND scored on the opening drive of the game as starting quarterback Ryan Bartels found Hardin behind the Jackrabbit defense for a 39-yard touchdown.

The Jackrabbits began their streak of 28 consecutive points late in the first quarter as Jason Schneider went up and over a defender to haul in a 37-yard touchdown pass from Sumner.

Sumner finished the game 10-of-21 passing for 157 yards, while Schneider led the Jackrabbit receiving corps with four catches for 91 yards. Zenner's 295 yards matched his output in the first round of the 2012 Football Championship Subdivision playoffs against Eastern Illinois. His 37 carries Saturday were a career high.

Hardin amassed 207 receiving yards on seven catches for UND, with Golladay adding a game-high eight receptions for 117 yards. Mollberg tallied 259 yards passing as he completed 15-of-23 attempts. Bartels went 13-for-22 for 178 yards.

Total offense was nearly identical, with UND holding a 458-455 advantage. The Jackrabbits accounted for 298 of their yards on the ground, while UND gained 437 through the air.

Je Ryan Butler led SDSU with six tackles, while Chase Douglas added two and a half sacks.



Zach Zenner tied his own single-game rushing record with 295 yards and scored four touchdowns (3 rushing, 1 receiving) in a 2013 road win at North Dakota.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (2-0)	7	14	7	7	35
North Dakota (1-1)	7	Ω	7	14	28

SCORING SHIMMARY

SCORI	NG SU	MMARY
1st	12:44	UND - Greg Hardin 39 yd pass from Ryan Bartels (Zeb Miller kick)
1st	2:48	SDSU - Jason Schneider 37 yd pass from Austin Sumner (Syrovatka kich
2nd	12:22	SDSU – Zach Zenner 4 yd run (Syrovatka kick)
2nd	00:49	SDSU - Zenner 23 yd pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick)
3rd	9:35	SDSU - Zenner 1 yd run (Syrovatka kick)
3rd	00:58	UND - Kenny Golladay 17 yd pass from Joe Mollberg (Miller kick)
4th	13:33	SDSU - Zenner 46 yd run (Syrovatka kick)
4th	8:43	UND - Hardin 16 yd pass from Mollberg (Miller kick)
4th	5:31	UND - Jameer Jackson 2 yd run (Miller kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	SDSU	UND
FIRST DOWNS	21	19
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	49-298	17-21
PASSING YDS (NET)	157	437
Passes Att-Comp-Int	21-10-0	45-28-2
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	70-455	62-458
Fumble Returns-Yards	1-20	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-16	1-20
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-45	6-65
Interception Returns-Yards	2-22	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	7-35.1	6-38.2
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-24	10-107
Possession Time	35:37	24:23
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 15	3 of 10
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-3	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-25	2-8

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Zach Zenner 37-295; Reggie Gandy 5-14. UND - Jake Miller 8-31; Greg Hardin 1-7; Jameer Jackson 1-2. PASSING LEADERS: SDSU - Austin Sumner 10-21-0 157. UND - Joe Mollberg 15-23-1 259; Ryan Bartels 13-22-1 178. RECEIVING LEADERS: SDSU - Jason Schneider 4-91; Trevor Tiefenthaler 3-24; Zach Zenner 2-31. UND - Kenny Golladay 8-117; Greg Hardin 7-207; Jameer Jackson 6-60. INTERCEPTIONS: SDSU - R.C. Kilgore 1-17; Jimmie Forsythe 1-5. UND - none. SACKS: SDSU - Chase Douglas 2.5-18; Marshall Peugh 1.5-7. UND - Garrison Goodman 1.0-4; Dominique Bennett 1.0-4. TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT): SDSU - Je Ryan Butler 5-1-6; T.J. Lally 3-2-5; Andrew Brown 4-0-4; Jimmie Forsythe 4-0-4. UND - Darryl Brown 7-2-9; Garrison Goodman 6-3-9; Chavon Mackey 4-5-9.

WEEK 1 RECAP

#5 SDSU 24, #3 NORTHERN IOWA 20

Feb. 19, 2021 • UNI-Dome (Att.: 2,137)

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – Freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski threw for two touchdowns in his collegiate debut, including the game-winning 1-yard pass to Pierre Strong, Jr., with 19 seconds remaining as fifth-ranked South Dakota State recovered late for a 24-20 season-opening win at third-ranked Northern Iowa.

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski led the Jackrabbits on a 10-play, 75-yard game-winning drive that consumed more than five minutes. SDSU, which had not picked up first down in its five previous second-half drives, moved the chains three times before the decisive score, the last coming on a 43-yard pass from Gronowski to tight end Zach Heins down the left sideline to the UNI 3.

After a pair of Strong rushes moved the ball to the 1, the Jackrabbit running back slipped across the formation to the right flat and hauled in the pass from Gronowski for a 23-20 SDSU lead. Cole Frahm added the extra point to force the Panthers to drive the length of the field, but the last-ditch drive by UNI failed to get past the Panthers' own 40.

UNI grabbed a 20-17 lead by scoring the first 13 points of the second half. Matthew Cook booted a 43-yard field goal in the third quarter and added a 35-yarder with 8:35 to play in regulation. Moments later, the Panthers cashed in on SDSU's second lost fumble of the game on a strip sack of Gronowski that was recovered at the SDSU 19. Two plays later, Panther quarterback Will McElvain connected with Tysen Kershaw on a 14-yard touchdown.

SDSU statistically dominated the first half in building a 17-7 lead at intermission. The Jackrabbits marched 71 yards on eight plays on the game's opening drive before settling for a 24-yard field goal by Frahm.

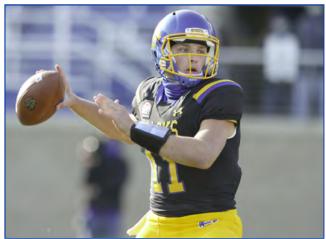
UNI took its first lead later in the first quarter on a 7-yard touchdown run by McElvain, capping a seven-play, 52-yard drive. McElvain completed 19-of-29 attempts for 164 yards, with Quan Hampton hauling in a game-high seven catches for 45 yards.

Gronowski accounted for a pair of touchdowns in three-plus minute span late in the first half. First, he hooked up with Jaxon Janke for a 6-yard touchdown, then he used his legs to score on a 5-yard run with 1 minute and 24 seconds remaining in the opening half. His rushing touchdown was set up by a blocked punt by newcomer Isaiah Stalbird that gave SDSU the ball at the Panther 5.

Gronowski also finished the night 19-for-29 passing for 194 yards and added 24 rushing yards on 10 carries. Strong tallied 91 yards on 22 rushing attempts and led SDSU with six receptions, including the game-winner, for 31 yards. Heins added five catches for a team-high 90 receiving yards.

SDSU finished with a 310-193 advantage in total offense, with UNI limited to only 28 net yards on the ground in 25 attempts. Linebackers Logan Backhaus, Adam Bock and Preston Tetzlaff, along with cornerback Don Gardner, each registered five tackles to lead the Jackrabbits. Two of Backhaus' tackles were for loss.

Korby Sander of UNI led all players with 13 tackles.



Mark Gronowski accounted for all three South Dakota State touchdowns in his collegiate debut, a 24-20 Jackrabbit victory.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (1-0, 1-0)	3	14	0	7	24
Northern Iowa (0-1 0-1)	7	0	3	10	20

SCORI	NG SUI	MMARY	
1st	10:16	SDSU -	Cole Frahm 24 yd field goal
1st	3:05	UNI -	Will McElvain 7 yd run (Matthew Cook kick)
2nd	5:14	SDSU -	Jaxon Janke 6 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Frahm kick)
2nd	1:24	SDSU -	Gronowski 5 yd run (Frahm kick)
3rd	5:32	UNI -	Cook 43 yd field goal
4th	8:35	UNI -	Cook 35 yd field goal
4th	5:59	UNI -	Tysen Kershaw 14 yd pass from McElvain (Cook kick)
4th	00:19	SDSU -	Pierre Strong, Jr. 1 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	SDSU	UNI
FIRST DOWNS	14	13
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	34-116	25-28
PASSING YDS (NET)	194	165
Passes Att-Comp-Int	29-19-0	29-19-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	310	193
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-33	2-11
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-46	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-40.6	7-38.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-80	4-20
Possession Time	33:14	26:46
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 13	2 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-15	2-8

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 22-91; Mark Gronowski 10-24; Isaiah Davis 1-2. UNI - Dom Williams 14-28, Nick McCabe 4-0; Will McElvain 7-0. PASSING LEADERS: SDSU - Mark Gronowski 19-29-0 194. UNI - Will McElvain 19-29-0 165. RECEIVING LEADERS: SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 6-31; Zach Heins 5-90; Jaxon Janke 4-29. UNI - Quan Hampton 7-65; Deion McShane 4-36; Nick Phillips 3-16; Tysen Kershaw 2-34; Kyle Fourtenbary 2-9. INTERCEPTIONS: SDSU -none. UNI - none. SACKS: SDSU - Tolu Ogunrinde 1.0-8; Adam Bock 1.0-7. UNI - Jared Brinkman 1.0-7; Brawntae Wells 0.5-1; Korby Sander 0.5-0. TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT): SDSU - Preston Tetzlaff 5-0-5; Logan Backhaus 5-0-5; Adam Bock 4-1-5; Don Gardner 3-2-5. UNI - Korby Sander 8-5-13; Spencer Cuvelier 3-6-9; Benny Sapp 3-4-7; Brawntae Wells 3-3-6; Eric Mooney 3-3-6.

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Game Results (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conference	Time	Attend
* Feb 19, 2021	at UNI	W	24-20	1-0	1-0	04:45	2137

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Overall Team Statistics (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	24	20
Points Per Game	24.0	20.0
Points Off Turnovers	0	14
FIRST DOWNS	14	13
Rushing	5	3
Passing	8	7
Penalty	1	3
RUSHING YARDAGE	116	28
Yards gained rushing	145	52
Yards lost rushing	29	24
Rushing Attempts	34	25
Average Per Rush	3.4	1.1
Average Per Game	116.0	28.0
TDs Rushing	1	1
PASSING YARDAGE	194	165
Comp-Att-Int	19-29-0	19-29-0
Average Per Pass	6.7	5.7
Average Per Catch	10.2	8.7
Average Per Game	194.0	165.0
	194.0	165.0
TDs Passing TOTAL OFFENSE		193
	310	
Total Plays	63	54
Average Per Play	4.9	3.6
Average Per Game	310.0	193.0
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	2-46	0-0
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	2-33	2-11
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	0-0	0-0
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.0	0.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	16.5	5.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	0.0
FUMBLES-LOST	2-2	0-0
PENALTIES-Yards	9-80	4-20
Average Per Game	80.0	20.0
PUNTS-Yards	5-203	7-268
Average Per Punt	40.6	38.3
Net punt average	38.4	30.7
KICKOFFS-Yards	5-196	5-322
Average Per Kick	39.2	64.4
Net kick average	24.2	40.2
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	33:14	26:46
3RD-DOWN Conversions	5/13	2/12
3rd-Down Pct	38%	17%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	0/1	0/0
4th-Down Pct	0%	0%
SACKS BY-Yards	2-15	2-8
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	3	2
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	1-1	2-3
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(4-5) 80%	(3-3) 100%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(3-5) 60%	(2-3) 67%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(3-3) 100%	(2-2) 100%
ATTENDANCE	0	2137
	0/0	1/2137
Games/Avg Per Game	()/()	1//1.5/

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	ОТ	Total
South Dakota State	3	14	0	7	0	24
Opponents	7	0	3	10	0	20

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg	<u>/g</u>
Pierre Strong	1	22	98	7	91	4.1	0	32	91	.0
Mark Gronowski	1	10	45	21	24	2.4	1	13	24	.0
Isaiah Davis	1	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2	2	.0
TEAM	1	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-1	.0
Total	1	34	145	29	116	3.4	1	32	116	5.0
Opponents	1	25	52	24	28	1.1	1	13	28	.0
Passing	gp	effic	con	p-att-int	t p	ct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	1	144.47	19	9-29-0	65	.5	194	2	43	194.0
Total	1	144.47	19	9-29-0	65	.5	194	2	43	194.0
Opponents	1	124.69	19	9-29-0	65	.5	165	1	20	165.0
Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg	'g		
Pierre Strong	1	6	31	5.2	1	11	31.			
Zach Heins	1	5	90	18.0	0	43	90.	.0		
Jaxon Janke	1	4	29	7.2	1	12	29.	.0		
Jadon Janke	1	1	20	20.0	0	20	20.	.0		
Isaiah Davis	1	1	18	18.0	0	18	18.	.0		
Canyon Bauer	1	1	3	3.0	0	3	3.	.0		
Michael Morgan	1	1	3	3.0	0	3	3.	.0		
Total	1	19	194	10.2	2	43	194.	_		
Opponents	1	19	165	8.7	1	20	165.	0		

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0
Jaxon Janke	1	14	14.0	0	14
Total	2	33	16.5	0	14
Opponents	2	11	5.5	0	9
Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0
Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Meachum	1	26	26.0	0	26
Pierre Strong	1	20	20.0	0	20
Total	2	46	23.0	0	26
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0
Fumble Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

				PAT				
Scoring	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv pass	dxp	saf	pts
Mark Gronowski	1	-	-	-		-	-	6
Jaxon Janke	1	-	-	-		-	-	6
Cole Frahm	-	1-1	3-3	-		-	-	6
Pierre Strong	1	-	-	-		-	-	6
Total	3	1-1	3-3	-		-	-	24
Opponents	2	2-3	2-2	-		-	-	20

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	1	39	24	194	218	218.0
Pierre Strong	1	22	91	0	91	91.0
Isaiah Davis	1	1	2	0	2	2.0
TEAM	1	1	-1	0	-1	-1.0
Total	1	63	116	194	310	310.0
Opponents	1	54	28	165	193	193.0

Field Goals	fg	pct. 01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	1-1	100.0 0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	24	0
FG Sequence	South	Dakota State		Орро	nents			
UNI	(24)			(43),5	52,(35)	•	•	

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	4	169	42.2	61	0	0	0	1	0
Hunter Dustman	1	34	34.0	34	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	203	40.6	61	0	0	0	1	0
Opponents	7	268	38.3	55	1	2	1	2	1

Numbers in	(parent	theses)	indicate	e field	goal	was	made.
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Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Cole Frahm	5	196	39.2	3	1			
Total	5	196	39.2	3	1	0.0	24.2	40
Opponents	5	322	64.4	3	0	23.0	40.2	24

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total avg/g
Pierre Strong	1	91	31	0	20	0	142 142.0
Zach Heins	1	0	90	0	0	0	90 90.0
Jaxon Janke	1	0	29	14	0	0	43 43.0
Jordan Meachu	1	0	0	0	26	0	26 26.0
Mark Gronowski	1	24	0	0	0	0	24 24.0
Jadon Janke	1	0	20	0	0	0	20 20.0
Isaiah Davis	1	2	18	0	0	0	20 20.0
Isaiah Stalbird	1	0	0	19	0	0	19 19.0
Canyon Bauer	1	0	3	0	0	0	3 3.0
Michael Morgan	1	0	3	0	0	0	3 3.0
TEAM	1	-1	0	0	0	0	-1 -1.0
Total	1	116	194	33	46	0	389 389.0
Opponents	1	28	165	11	0	0	204 204.0

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

				Tackles				Pass	defens	e ˌ	Fumbles	blkd		
# D	Defensive Leaders	gp	ua	а	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf
46 P	PrestonTetzlaff	1	5		5									
21 D	Oon Gardner	1	3	2	5									
12 L	ogan Backhaus	1	5		5	2.0-3								
32 A	Adam Bock	1	4	1	5	1.0-7	1.0-7			1				
2D I	saiah Stalbird	1	3	1	4								1	
29 G	Graham Spalding	1	3	1	4	1.0-5								
3 J	osh Manchigiah	1	2	1	3	1.0-2								
99 C	Caleb Sanders	1	2	1	3									
6 M	Michael Griffin	1	1	1	2				1					
1D M	Malik Lofton	1	2		2					1				
97 R	Reece Winkelman	1	2		2									
48 Ç	Quinton Hicks	1	1	1	2									
22 T	Tolu Ogunrinde	1	2		2	2.0-10	1.0-8							
55 T	Thomas Stacker	1	1		1									
30 P	Payton Shafer	1		1	1									
13 D	DyShawn Gales	1	1		1									
TM T	ΓΕΑΜ	1	1		1									
94 C	Cade Terveer	1								1				
98 R	Ryan Van Marel	1								1	•			<u>.</u>
Т	Total Total	1	38	10	48	7-27	2-15		1	4			1	
C	Opponents	1	37	32	69	5-16	2-8		4	2	2-0	2		

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Team Game-by-Game (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

TEAM STATISTICS

			Rushin	g		F	Receivin	ıg		Pass	Kid	k Retu	ırns		Pui		tot					
Date	Opponent	no. yds td lg n				no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	off
Feb 19	at UNI	34	116	1	32	19	194	2	43	19-29-0	194	2	43	2	46	0	26	2	33	0	14	310
		34	116	1	32	19	194	2	43	19-29-0	194	2	43	2	46	0	26	2	33	0	14	310
Opponents		25	28	1	13	19	165	1	20	19-29-0	165	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	9	193

Games: 1 • Avg/rush: 3.4 • Avg/catch: 10.2 • Pass effic: 144.47 • KR avg: 23.0 • PR avg: 16.5 • All purpose avg/game: 389.0 • Total offense avg/gm: 310.0

		Tac	ckles		Sacks	Fun	nble	Pass I	blkd	PAT Attempts			off				
Date Opponent	ua	а	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
Feb 19 at UNI	38	10	48	7.0-27	2.0-15	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	24
	38	10	48	7.0-27	2.0-15	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	24
Opponents	37	32	69	5.0-16	2.0-8	2	2-0	0-0	2	4	0	2-2	0	0	0	14	20

				Pur	nting		Field	Goals	Kickoffs							
Date Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
Feb 19 at UNI	5	203	40.6	61	0	0	0	1	0	1-1	24 (5	196	39.2	3	1
	5	203	40.6	61	0	0	0	1	0	1-1	24 (5	196	39.2	3	1
Opponents	7	268	38.3	55	1	1	2	2	1	2-3	43 (5	322	64.4	3	0

The Automated ScoreBook South Dakota State Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Feb 24, 2021) All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

			Rushin	g		F	Receivir	ng		Pass	Kic	k Retu	ırns	- 1	Pu	- 1	tot					
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	Ig	no.	yds	td	lg	off
Feb 19	at UNI	25	28	28 1 13 19 165		1	20	19-29-0	165	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	9	193		
		25	28	1	13	19	165	1	20	19-29-0	165	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	9	193
South Dakota State		34	116	1	32	19	194	2	43	19-29-0	194	2	43	2	46	0	26	2	33	0	14	310

Games: 1 • Avg/rush: 1.1 • Avg/catch: 8.7 • Pass effic: 124.69 • PR avg: 5.5 • All purpose avg/game: 204.0 • Total offense avg/gm: 193.0

		Ta	ckles		Sacks	Fur	nble	Pass I	blkd	PAT Attempts			off				
Date Opponent	ua	а	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
Feb 19 at UNI	37	32	69	5.0-16	2.0-8	2	2-0	0-0	2	4	0	2-2	0	0	0	14	20
	37	32	69	5.0-16	2.0-8	2	2-0	0-0	2	4	0	2-2	0	0	0	14	20
South Dakota State	38	10	48	7.0-27	2.0-15	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	24

	1			Pur	ting		Field	Goals	Kickoffs							
Date Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long blk	d no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
Feb 19 at UNI	7	268	38.3	55	1	1	2	2	1	2-3	43	5	322	64.4	3	0
	7	268	38.3	55	1	1	2	2	1	2-3	43	5	322	64.4	3	0
South Dakota State	5	203	40.6	61	0	0	0	1	0	1-1	24	5	196	39.2	3	1