



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

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2020-21 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Jacks host Youngstown

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — MARCH 13

YOUNGSTOWN STATE (0-3, 0-3 MVFC) at #8 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (2-1, 2-1 MVFC)

2 p.m. Saturday

Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium; Brookings, S.D.



SERIES NOTES

- 22nd Meeting (SDSU leads series, 14-7)
- Jackrabbits have won 10 of the 12 meetings as MVFC foes, including a 38-28 road victory in 2019

MEDIA INFORMATION

- Game will be televised on MidcoSN2 and ESPN+, as well as the Jackrabbits All-Access media portal (subscription) at GoJacks.com
- Pre-game radio show begins at 1 p.m. Central Time on the Jackrabbit Sports Network, which includes flagship station WNAX 570 AM-Yankton and the following affiliates:
 • KJJQ 910 AM-Brookings • KBFS 1450 AM-Belle Fourche • KDSJ 980 AM-Deadwood
 • KORN 1490 AM-Mitchell • KELO 1320 AM/KELQ 107.9 FM-Sioux Falls
 • 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

- Free audio streaming available through Jackrabbits All-Access
- Radio team of Tyler Merriam (play-by-play), Alex Parker(color) and Scotty Kwas (sidelines) will call the action



HEAD COACH: Doug Phillips (Toledo, 1991)
 • 0-3 record in first season as a collegiate head coach

STARTERS RETURNING: 5
 (2 Off., 2 Def., 1 ST)

HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)

• 168-106 record in 24 seasons — all at South Dakota State

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

2020-21 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

19 *at Northern Iowa W, 24-20
 27 *at North Dakota L, 17-28

MARCH

6 *WESTERN ILLINOIS W, 45-10
 13 *YOUNGSTOWN STATE 2 p.m.
 20 *at Southern Illinois noon
 27 *ILLINOIS STATE 2 p.m.

APRIL

3 *at North Dakota State 2:30 p.m.
 10 *SOUTH DAKOTA 2 p.m.
 24 FCS Playoffs Begin [if qualified] TBA

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game
 All times Central

TALE OF THE TAPE — SEASON STATISTICS

YOUNGSTOWN STATE	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
9.7	Points Per Game	28.7
25.3	Points Allowed Per Game	19.3
108.3	Rushing Yardage Per Game	186.3
212.0	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	97.3
92.7	Passing Yardage Per Game	229.0
7.4	Average Per Catch	14.3
130.3	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	222.3
201.0	Total Offense Per Game	415.3
342.3	Total Offense Allowed/Game	319.7
12.7	Kick Return Average	25.2
3.7	Punt Return Average	12.7
2-27	Interception Returns	4-9
1-1	Fumbles-Lost	4-4
11-100	Penalties-Yards	21-187
31:42	Time of Possession/Game	30:57
18/43 (42%)	Third-Down Conversions	18/39 (46%)

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

SERIES SCORES

1942:	Youngstown State 14, South Dakota State 0 (Sept. 19, 1942, at Youngstown, Ohio)
1968:	South Dakota State 23, Youngstown State 20 (Oct. 26, 1968, at Youngstown, Ohio)
1969:	Youngstown State 17, South Dakota State 16 (Oct. 25, 1969, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
1972:	South Dakota State 34, Youngstown State 22 (Sept. 30, 1972, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
1973:	South Dakota State 26, Youngstown State 6 (Sept. 22, 1973, at Youngstown, Ohio)
1974:	Youngstown State 35, South Dakota State 21 (Sept. 21, 1974, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
1975:	South Dakota State 38, Youngstown State 21 (Nov. 15, 1975, at Youngstown, Ohio)
1979:	Youngstown State 50, South Dakota State 7 (Nov. 24, 1979, at Youngstown, Ohio – NCAA Division II playoff game)
2007:	Youngstown State 23, South Dakota State 17 (Sept. 8, 2007, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2008:	South Dakota State 40, Youngstown State 7 (Sept. 6, 2008, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2009:	South Dakota State 17, Youngstown State 3 (Oct. 31, 2009, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2010:	South Dakota State 30, Youngstown State 20 (Oct. 23, 2010, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2011:	South Dakota State 35, Youngstown State 28 (Oct. 8, 2011, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2012:	South Dakota State 41, Youngstown State 28 (Oct. 27, 2012, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2013:	South Dakota State 42, Youngstown State 13 (Nov. 23, 2013, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2014:	Youngstown State 30, South Dakota State 27 (Oct. 25, 2014, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2015:	South Dakota State 38, Youngstown State 8 (Oct. 17, 2015, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2016:	South Dakota State 24, Youngstown State 10 (Oct. 22, 2016, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
2017:	Youngstown State 19, South Dakota State 7 (Sept. 30, 2017, at Youngstown, Ohio)
2018:	South Dakota State 36, Youngstown State 7 (Oct. 13, 2018, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
2019:	South Dakota State 38, Youngstown State 28 (Oct. 12, 2019, at Youngstown, Ohio)
Overall,	South Dakota State leads the series, 14-7

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

March 11, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — The South Dakota State football team completes a two-game homestand and wraps up the first half of the Missouri Valley Football Conference slate by hosting Youngstown State Saturday afternoon.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium. The game will be televised on MidcoSN2 and ESPN+, with additional coverage through the Jackrabbits All-Access media portal (subscription) at GoJacks.com.

Although SDSU has implemented attendance restrictions for the spring season, a limited number of tickets remain available for purchase at JackrabbitTickets.com.

SDSU, ranked eighth in this week's Stats Perform FCS Top 25, rolled past Western Illinois, 45-10, in its home opener March 6 to improve to 2-1 both overall and in the MVFC.

Youngstown State has yet to crack the win column under first-year coach Doug Phillips. The Penguins dropped to 0-3, with all their losses to ranked opponents, with a 30-22 home setback to Southern Illinois last week.

THE SERIES: Saturday's game will mark the 22nd meeting on the gridiron between SDSU and Youngstown State, a series that dates back to the 1942 season. The Jackrabbits hold a 14-7 series advantage on the strength of winning 10 of the 12 matchups between the two programs as members of the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

SDSU has won the last two meetings, including posting a 36-7 Hobo Day victory in the last Jackrabbit-Penguin matchup at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium on Oct. 13, 2018.

In last season's matchup, Oct. 12, 2019, at Stambaugh Stadium in Youngstown, Ohio, the Jackrabbits scored 35 second-half points to overcome a slow start and post a 38-28 victory. Quarterback J'Bore Gibbs sparked the comeback by passing for one touchdown and rushing for two more, including a game-clinching 63-yard TD run in the final minute.

NOTE ON HOME OPENERS: With its 45-10 victory over Western Illinois last week, the Jackrabbits upped their record in home openers under head coach John Stiegelmeier to 20-4. SDSU has now won its last 10 home openers, including all five at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

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 109 consecutive media polls dating back to October 2012.

Following is a week-by-week look at the Jackrabbits' rankings this season:

Date	STATS	AFCA Coaches
Preseason	5th	—
Feb. 22	3rd	—
March 1	8th	—
March 8	8th	—

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.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

TEAM GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 44, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
RUSHING YARDS: 347, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
YARDS PER RUSH: 7.9, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 4, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
PASS ATTEMPTS: 32, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
PASS COMPLETIONS: 19, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
YARDS PASSING: 309, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
YARDS PER PASS: 9.7, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
PASSING TOUCHDOWNS: 2, three times (last: vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021)
TOTAL PLAYS: 66, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
TOTAL OFFENSE: 531, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
YARDS PER PLAY: 8.0, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
POINTS: 45, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
FIRST DOWNS: 24, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
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: 3, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
TURNOVERS FORCED: 3, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
INTERCEPTIONS: 3, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
FUMBLES RECOVERED: N/A

SDSU'S 2020-21 RECORD WHEN...

Jackrabbits score first	2-1
Opponent scores first	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after one quarter.....	1-1
Opponent leads after one quarter	1-0
Game is tied after one quarter	0-0
Jackrabbits lead at halftime	2-1
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0
Game is tied at halftime	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after three quarters.....	2-0
Opponent leads after three quarters	0-1
Game is tied after three quarters	0-0
Game is decided in overtime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits play at home.....	1-0
SDSU plays on the road	1-1
Jackrabbits commit fewer turnovers than opponent ..	1-0
Opponent commits fewer turnovers than SDSU.....	1-1
Turnover margin is equal.....	0-0
Jackrabbits commit fewer penalties than opponent ..	0-0
Opponent commits fewer penalties than SDSU	2-1
Teams commit same number of penalties	0-0
Jackrabbits have time of possession advantage	2-0
Opponent has time of possession advantage	0-1
Game is played on artificial surface	2-1
Game is played on natural grass/hybrid surface	0-0
Game is played during the day	1-1
Game is played at night (6 p.m. or later kickoff)	1-0

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

ANOTHER MILESTONE WIN: South Dakota State's March 6 win over Western Illinois marked the program's 100th victory since joining the Missouri Valley Football Conference at the start of the 2008 season. Overall, the Jackrabbits have posted a 100-55 record (.645 winning record) in that span, including a 68-31 mark in MVFC 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 126-73 overall record (.633 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 in February.

The Jackrabbits, who finished the 2019 season with an 8-5 overall record and a 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.

MVFC squads are playing an eight-game league schedule. Ten of the league's 11 teams are playing during this 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, Iowa, 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.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 22, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
RUSHING YARDS: 120, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 2, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
LONG RUSH: 80 yards (for TD), by Mark Gronowski, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
PASS ATTEMPTS: 32, by Mark Gronowski, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
PASS COMPLETIONS: 19, by Mark Gronowski, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
YARDS PASSING: 309, by Mark Gronowski, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
TOUCHDOWN PASSES: 2, three times by Mark Gronowski (last: vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021)
RECEPTIONS: 7, by Jaxon Janke, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
YARDS RECEIVING: 161, by Jaxon Janke, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS: 2, by Jaxon Janke, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
LONG RECEPTION: 76 yards (for TD), by Jaxon Janke (from Mark Gronowski), at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
FIELD GOALS: 1, three times by Cole Frahm (last: vs. Western Illinois 3-6-2021)
LONG FIELD GOAL: 39 yards, by Cole Frahm, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021, and vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
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: 32 yards, by Jordan Meachum, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
TACKLES: 11, by Logan Backhaus, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2.0, by three players (last: by Don Gardner, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021)
SACKS: 1.0, by Adam Bock and Tolu Ogunrinde, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
INTERCEPTIONS: 1, by four different players
PASS BREAKUPS: 2, by Don Gardner and Isaiah Stalbird, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
FUMBLES FORCED: N/A
BLOCKED KICKS: 1, by Isaiah Stalbird, at Northern Iowa, 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., was named last month 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 averaged 8.2 yards per carry, and needed only 100 carries to reach the 1,000-yard mark during the 2018 season.

Strong moved into the SDSU career top 10 for rushing in last week's game at North Dakota and enters Saturday's game with 2,368 career yards.

He was selected as the Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Week after tallying 142 all-purpose yards, including 91 rushing yards, and scoring the game-winning touchdown on a 1-yard pass play with 19 seconds remaining in South Dakota State's 24-20 victory at Northern Iowa on Feb. 19.

In 2019, Strong 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-yard seasons:

- Pete Retzlaff, 1951 (1,016 yards) and 1952 (1,008)
- Darwin Gonneman, 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)

FAST STARTS: SDSU has scored on its opening drive in each of its three games this season for a total of 17 points. Cole Frahm kicked a field goal to open the scoring Feb. 19 at Northern Iowa, while Jaxon Janke caught an 18-yard touchdown on the first drive last week at North Dakota.

Last week against Western Illinois, quarterback Mark Gronowski capped a nine-play, 81-yard drive with a 22-yard touchdown run.

The Jackrabbit defense has yet to allow any points on the opponents' opening drives of games this season.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Quarterback Mark Gronowski and right tackle Garret Greenfield were each honored as Missouri Valley Football Conference Players of the Week for their performances March 6 in the Jackrabbits' 45-10 victory over Western Illinois.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

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

AT NORTH DAKOTA

Offense: Jaxon Janke, Mason McCormick
Defense: Logan Backhaus
Special Teams: none
Scout Offense: Landon Wolf
Scout Defense: Caleb Frandl
Scout Special Teams: Aaron Kusler
Effort: N/A

vs. WESTERN ILLINOIS

Offense: Mark Gronowski, Garret Greenfield
Defense: Adam Bock
Special Teams: Isaiah Davis
Scout Offense: Alex Westendorf
Scout Defense: Max VanMeter
Scout Special Teams: Davion Sterner
Effort: Canyon Bauer

MVFC AWARDS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Pierre Strong, Jr. (Feb. 19)
- Mark Gronowski (March 6)

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK

- Garret Greenfield (March 6)

NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

- Mark Gronowski (Feb. 19)

A true freshman from Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski accounted for four first-half touchdowns, running for two and passing for two, in earning MVFC Offensive Player of the Week honors. He opened the scoring with a 22-yard touchdown run, then sandwiched an 80-yard touchdown run around TD passes of 44 and 12 yards to Jadon Janke and Mason Leighton, respectively, in the second quarter.

For the game, Gronowski was 12-of-19 passing for 178 yards and carried four times for 120 yards. He became the first Jackrabbit quarterback to rush for and throw for 100-plus yards in a game since Taryn Christion in a 2017 contest against Illinois State.

It is the second conference award of the season for Gronowski, who was named MVFC Newcomer of the Week following SDSU's season-opening win at Northern Iowa on Feb. 19.

Greenfield was honored as MVFC Offensive Lineman of the Week after helping pave the way for a Jackrabbit rushing attack that rolled up 347 rushing yards and four touchdowns, averaging 7.9 yards per carry.

A sophomore from Rock Valley, Iowa, Greenfield graded at 95 percent and did not allow a sack or quarterback pressure as SDSU finished with 531 yards of total offense in the game.

MORE ON GRONOWSKI: Mark Gronowski has taken the reins of the Jackrabbit offense after winning a three-way battle for the starting quarterback position in spring camp.

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski turned in an impressive collegiate debut by accounting for all three South Dakota State touchdowns as the Jackrabbits prevailed in a matchup between top-five teams in the Feb. 19 season opener at Northern Iowa. He completed 19-of-29 passes for 194 yards and touchdown passes of 6 yards to Jaxon Janke in the second quarter and a 1-yard game-winning toss with 19 seconds left to Pierre Strong, Jr. He also rushed for 24 yards on 10 carries, including a 5-yard touchdown late in the first half.

For his efforts, Gronowski was selected as both the Missouri Valley Football Conference Newcomer of the Week and the Stats Perform FCS National Freshman Player of the Week.

In his next start, Gronowski completed 16-of-32 passes for 309 yards and two first-quarter touchdowns Feb. 27 at North Dakota.

He recorded his third two-touchdown passing game and added two rushing touchdowns in his home debut March 6 against Western Illinois.

Gronowski is the fourth different quarterback to start a game for the Jackrabbits since the end of the 2018 season, when All-American Taryn Christion wrapped up his career with 41 consecutive starts. J'Bore Gibbs started six games as a redshirt freshman in 2019, including the season opener. Kanin Nelson started the second and third games of the season, while Keaton Heide started the final five games after Gibbs was lost for the season due to injury.

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 yards (on 22 carries) by South Dakota on Nov. 17, 2012. SDSU surrendered only 25 yards (on 24 attempts) versus Indiana State on Sept. 19, 2009.

For the season, SDSU is allowing 97.3 rushing yards through three games.

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.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

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

LETTERMEN RETURNING: 37 **LETTERMEN LOST:** 24
• Offense: 18 • Offense: 10
• Defense: 17 • Defense: 12
• Special Teams: 2 • Special Teams: 2

STARTERS RETURNING: 14
• 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;
Blake Kunz, TE; Malik Lofton, CB; Kinser Madison, LB;
Mason McCormick, OL; Mike Morgan, TE/FB; Chase
Norblade, S; Tolu Ogunrinde, DE; Caleb Schauf, TE;
Payton Shafer, LB; Thomas Stacker, DT; Preston
Tetzlaff, LB; Jason Titus, OL.

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 UNI.

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 21 of its last 23 games as linebacker Preston Tetzlaff started a new streak at North Dakota with a fourth-quarter pickoff and the Jackrabbits tallied three interceptions last week against Western Illinois.

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. Thus far during the 2020-21 season, the Jackrabbits have allowed 18 yards on four punt returns for an average of 4.5 yards per attempt.

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.

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 has lost four fumbles so far during the 2020-21 season and enters the week-end minus-2 in turnover margin.

TWIN CENTURY MARKS: South Dakota State's twin-brother receiving duo of Jaxon and Jadon Janke each topped the 100-yard mark for receiving Feb. 27 at North Dakota.

Jaxon Janke established new career highs of seven receptions for 161 yards, while tying a career best with two touchdowns (18, 76 yards). Jadon Janke added career highs of five catches and 109 receiving yards.

The Janke brothers became the first SDSU tandem with 100 receiving yards in a game since Cade Johnson (5-162) and Adam Anderson (4-128) against Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sept. 15, 2018.

BALANCING THE ATTACK: One week after having a pair of receivers top the 100-yard mark in a game, South Dakota State turned to a ground-based attack March 6 against Western Illinois, resulting in a pair of 100-yard rushers — both first-year freshmen.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBITS IN THE 2020-21 NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 25)

- T-8th in blocked kicks, 1
- 9th in passing yards per completion, 14.31
- 12th in kickoff returns, 25.20 yards/attempt
- 12th in passes intercepted, 4
- 13th in red-zone defense, .667
- 14th in team passing efficiency, 146.40
- 17th in third-down conversion pct. – offense, .462
- 18th in total offense, 415.3 yards/game
- 18th in third-down conversion pct. – defense, .289
- 18th in fewest tackles for loss allowed, 5.0/game
- 19th in scoring offense, 28.7 points/game
- 19th in punt returns, 9.50 yards/attempt
- 20th in rushing defense, 97.3 yards/game
- 21st in rushing offense, 186.3 yards/game
- 22nd in first downs – offense, 54
- 22nd in kickoff return defense, 14.80 yards/attempt
- 22nd in turnovers gained, 4
- 24th in team passing efficiency defense, 111.14
- 25th in scoring defense, 19.3 points/game

INDIVIDUAL (top 40)

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 8th in passing touchdowns, 6
- 8th in points responsible for per game, 18.0
- 9th in passing yards per completion, 14.49
- 10th in passing yards, 681
- 11th in points responsible for, 54
- 11th in yards per pass attempt, 8.51
- 12th in passing efficiency, 150.0
- 13th in rushing touchdowns, 3
- 14th in total offense, 273.3 yards/game
- 20th in passing yards per game, 227.0
- T-25th in total touchdowns, 3
- 32nd in completions per game, 15.67
- 33rd in completion percentage, .588

COLE FRAHM

- 22nd in field goals per game, 1.0
- 24th in field goal percentage, .750

JAXON JANKE

- 11th in receiving touchdowns, 3
- 18th in receiving yards, 258
- 20th in receiving yards per game, 86.0
- T-25th in total touchdowns, 3
- 28th in yards per reception, 17.2
- 34th in receptions per game, 5.0

JADON JANKE

- 11th in yards per reception, 22.11
- 31st in receiving yards, 199

JORDAN MEACHUM

- 39th in combined kick returns, 78 yards

*PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 23rd in rushing yards, 234
- 32nd in rushing yards per game, 78.0
- 37th in rushing yards per carry, 4.88

Must have played in half of team's games to qualify for rankings

Quarterback Mark Gronowski led the way with 120 yards on only four carries, including touchdown runs of 22 and 80 yards. Running back Isaiah Davis carried nine times for 118 yards, including a 40-yard touchdown run.

The Jackrabbits finished with 347 rushing yards — their most since a 369-yard performance against Drake on Sept. 14, 2019. That also was the last time SDSU had a pair of 100-yard rushers in the same game as Pierre Strong, Jr. (11-129) and C.J. Wilson (10-117) were the Jackrabbit tandem.

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.

GAME NOTES — YOUNGSTOWN STATE AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

COACHES

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-LOON
Matthew Borowicz	BORE-oh-wits
Mitch Eichacker	IKE-hack-er
Cole Frahm	fromm
Caleb Franci	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
Aaron/Adam Kusler	COOSE-ler
Mason Leighton	LAY-ton
Joshua Manchigiah	manch-ah-GUY-ah
Daeton Mcgaughy	mc-GOY
Tolu Ogunrinde	TOE-loo oh-GRIN-dee
Preston Tetzlaff	TETS-loff
Avian Thomas	AY-vee-on
Ryan Van Marel	van-MARR-ill
Trajan Walhof	TRAY-jun WALL-hoff
Xavier Ward	EX-zay-vee-ir

DANA J. DYKHUSE STADIUM: Jackrabbit football moved into a new home in September of 2016 with the completion of Dana J. Dykhuse 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 Dykhuse 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 26-5 record at Dana J. Dykhuse 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. Dykhuse 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. Dykhuse Stadium

2016: 6-1	2019: 5-3
2017: 7-1	2020: 1-0
2018: 7-0	Totals: 25-5

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. Dykhuse Stadium
 SDSU 54, Indiana State 51 [OT] • Oct. 6, 2018 — at Dana J. Dykhuse Stadium
 Overall, SDSU is 5-5 in overtime games

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 second half of league play with a March 20 trip to nationally ranked Southern Illinois. Kickoff is slated for noon at Saluki Stadium in Carbondale, Illinois.

DEPTH CHART vs. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

OFFENSE

LT	71	ARON JOHNSON, 6-6, 295, Jr., Chisago City, Minn.
	68	Ian Bass, 6-4, 285, So., Rosemount, Minn.
LG	60	Mason McCormick, 6-4, 300, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	54	EDDIE MILLER, 6-5, 315, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
C	77	Wes Genant, 6-4, 295, Sr., Parkston, S.D.
	61	Evan Beemtsen, 6-4, 285, R-Fr., De Pere, Wis.
RG	56	EAGAN LICKISS, 6-4, 320, Sr., Indianola, Iowa
	76	Bo Donald, 6-6, 300, R-Fr., Kimball, S.D.
RT	74	Garret Greenfield, 6-6, 295, So., Rock Valley, Iowa
	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.
TE	87	Zach Heins, 6-7, 260, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	88	Blake Kunz, 6-5, 255, Jr., Germantown, Wis.
WR (Z-Back)	4	Canyon Bauer, 6-0, 195, R-Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	19	Mason Leighton, 5-9, 175, Jr., Madison, S.D.
WR (X-Back)	9	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D.
	4	Canyon Bauer, 6-0, 195, R-Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
WR (W-Back)	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D.
	7	Karst Hunter, 6-4, 205, R-Fr., Miller, S.D.
QB or	11	Mark Gronowski, 6-3, 200, Fr., Naperville, Ill.
	2	JBORE GIBBS, 6-3, 230, So., Chicago, Ill.
	13	Keaton Heide, 6-3, 195, So., Wayzata, Minn.
RB	20	PIERRE STRONG, JR., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.
	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.

* Returning starters indicated in CAPS

DEFENSE

DE	97	REECE WINKELMAN, 6-4, 245, Jr., Marshall, Minn.
	22	Tolu Ogunrinde, 6-1, 270, Sr., Cottage Grove, Minn.
	53	Caden Johnson, 6-3, 240, R-Fr., Wahoo, Neb.
NT	99	CALEB SANDERS, 6-1, 280, Jr., Glenwood, Iowa
	98	Ryan Van Marel, 6-4, 285, So., Sheldon, Iowa
	88	Brandon Lane Jr., 6-2, 245, Fr., Kansas City, Mo.
DT	69	Krockett Krolikowski, 6-2, 290, Jr., Winner, S.D.
	55	Thomas Stackner, 6-4, 285, Sr., Chicago, Ill.
	52	Jarod DePriest, 6-5, 265, R-Fr., Trivoli, Ill.
DE	48	Quinton Hicks, 6-3, 240, So., Wichita, Kan.
	94	Cade Terveer, 6-3, 245, So., Brandon, S.D.
	90	Randy Keumogne, 6-3, 220, Fr., Oakdale, Minn.
LB (Will)	46	Preston Tetzlaff, 6-2, 215, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
	29	Graham Spalding, 6-1, 200, R-Fr., Oviedo, Fla.
	30	Payton Shafer, 6-0, 215, So., Cottage Grove, Minn.
LB (Mike)	32	Adam Bock, 6-1, 210, R-Fr., Solon, Iowa
	46	Preston Tetzlaff, 6-2, 215, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
	44	Saiveon Williamson, 6-1, 210, So., Waseca, Minn.
LB (Sam)	12	LOGAN BACKHAUS, 6-4, 205, Sr., Spirit Lake, Iowa
	11	Matt Barnett, 6-3, 200, R-Fr., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
	45	Caleb Franci, 6-0, 190, Fr., Grand Island, Neb.
LCB	21	DON GARDNER, 6-1, 185, Sr., Chicago, Ill.
	36	Torren Union, 6-2, 195, R-Fr., Mesa, Ariz.
	28	Dalys Beanum, 6-1, 165, Fr., Omaha, Neb.
FS or	3	JOSHUA MANCHIGIAH, 6-0, 210, Jr., Papillion, Neb.
	2	Isaiah Stalbird, 6-1, 200, So., Kearney, Neb.
	25	Cale Reeder, 6-0, 185, Fr., Yorkville, Ill.
SS or	6	MICHAEL GRIFFIN II, 6-0, 6-0, 215, Jr., Cottage Grove, Minn.
	35	Chase Norblade, 6-1, 185, So., Papillion, Neb.
	15	Daeton Mcgaughy, 6-0, 200, Fr., Elwood, Kan.
RCB	1	Malik Lofton, 5-10, 190, Jr., Crystal, Minn.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Long Snaps	48	Jaden Mueller, 6-1, 210, Fr., Johnston, Iowa
	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, Ill.
Holder	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.
PK	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
P	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
KO	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
KOR	20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.
	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.
KOR	9	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D.
	8	Jordan Meachum, 5-8, 190, Grad., Lamott, Pa.
PR	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D.
	20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.

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



South Dakota State University

JACKRABBITS

2020-21 Football Roster

No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	HOMETOWN	No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	HOMETOWN
1	Malik Lofton	CB	5-10	190	Jr.	Crystal, Minn.	57	Kinser Madison	LB	6-2	210	So.	Higginsville, Mo.
1	Rudy Voss	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Lakefield, Minn.	58	Alex Westendorf	OL	6-5	280	R-Fr.	South Elgin, Ill.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	QB	6-3	230	So.	Chicago, Ill.	59	Jalen Lee	OL	6-2	280	Fr.	Robbins, Ill.
2	Isaiah Stalbird	S	6-1	200	So.	Kearney, Neb.	60	Mason McCormick	OL	6-4	300	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
3	Joshua Manchigiah	S	6-0	210	R-Jr.	Papillion, Neb.	61	Evan Beerntsen	OL	6-4	285	R-Fr.	De Pere, Wis.
4	Canyon Bauer	WR	6-0	195	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	64	Ethan Vibert	OL	6-4	290	R-Fr.	Regina, Saskatchewan
6	Michael Griffin II	S	6-0	215	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	65	Matthew Borowicz	DT	6-4	275	So.	Lakeville, Minn.
7	Karst Hunter	ATH	6-4	205	R-Fr.	Miller, S.D.	67	Brady Beck	OL	6-8	280	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
8	Jordan Meachum	RB	5-8	190	Gr.	Lamott, Pa.	68	Ian Bass	OL	6-4	285	So.	Rosemount, Minn.
9	Jadon Janke	WR	6-3	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	69	Krockett Krolkowski	DT	6-2	290	Jr.	Winner, S.D.
10	Jaxon Janke	WR	6-2	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	70	Colby Christensen	OL	6-8	240	Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa
10	Hunter Dustman	K/P	6-3	215	Fr.	East Bethel, Minn.	71	Aron Johnson	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	Chicago City, Minn.
11	Matt Barnett	LB	6-3	200	R-Fr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	72	Jason Titus	OL	6-5	285	Jr.	Andover, Minn.
11	Mark Gronowski	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Naperville, Ill.	73	Trajan Walhof	OL	6-5	285	So.	Sioux Center, Iowa
12	Logan Backhaus	LB	6-4	205	Sr.	Spirit Lake, Iowa	74	Garret Greenfield	OL	6-6	295	So.	Rock Valley, Iowa
13	DyShawn Gales	CB	5-11	185	So.	North Chicago, Ill.	75	Jon Gruetzmacher	OL	6-8	310	Jr.	Merrill, Wis.
13	Keaton Heide	QB	6-3	195	So.	Wayzata, Minn.	76	Bo Donald	OL	6-6	300	R-Fr.	Kimball, S.D.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	S	6-0	200	Fr.	Elwood, Kan.	77	Wes Genant	OL	6-4	295	Sr.	Parkston, S.D.
17	Abe Hoskins III	CB	6-2	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	78	Adam White	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	DeForest, Wis.
18	Corben Mahaffy	K	5-11	170	R-Fr.	Piedmont, S.D.	79	Jharet Bloomerader	OL	6-6	270	R-Fr.	Highmore, S.D.
19	Mason Leighton	WR	5-9	175	Jr.	Madison, S.D.	80	Nate Sullivan Jr.	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	Bellevue, Neb.
20	Pierre Strong, Jr.	RB	5-11	210	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.	81	Skylar Cavanaugh	TE	6-5	240	Sr.	Vail, Ariz.
21	Don Gardner	CB	6-1	185	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.	82	Caleb Schauf	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Sparta, Wis.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	DE	6-1	270	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	83	A.J. Coons	WR	6-4	190	Fr.	Solon, Iowa
22	Isaiah Davis	RB	6-1	220	Fr.	Joplin, Mo.	85	Tucker Kraft	TE	6-5	250	R-Fr.	Timber Lake, S.D.
23	Shane Dailey Jr.	WR	5-9	160	R-Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	86	Devon Cole Jr.	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	Clermont, Fla.
24	Deyon Campbell	WR	5-9	195	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.	87	Zach Heins	TE	6-7	260	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
25	Cale Reeder	S	6-0	185	Fr.	Yorkville, Ill.	88	Blake Kunz	TE	6-5	255	Jr.	Germantown, Wis.
27	Marlon Wiley	WR	5-10	180	R-Fr.	Jordan, Minn.	88	Brandon Lane Jr.	DT	6-2	245	Fr.	Kansas City, Mo.
28	Dalys Beanum	CB	6-1	165	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	89	Wyatt Seagren	TE	6-7	245	Fr.	Oakland, Neb.
29	Graham Spalding	LB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	Oviedo, Fla.	90	Randy Keumogne	DE	6-3	220	Fr.	Oakdale, Minn.
30	Payton Shafer	LB	6-0	215	So.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	91	Xavier Ward	DT	6-2	285	Sr.	Freeman, S.D.
31	Isaac Appleget	LB	6-2	190	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.	92	Kevin Brenner	DE	6-3	235	R-Fr.	Silver Lake, Wis.
32	Adam Bock	LB	6-1	210	R-Fr.	Solon, Iowa	93	Max Baloun	DE	6-6	225	Fr.	Redfield, S.D.
33	Thomas Motzko	LB	6-0	230	R-Fr.	Highland Park, Ill.	94	Cade Terveer	DE	6-3	245	So.	Brandon, S.D.
34	Mike Morgan	TE/FB	6-3	235	So.	New Lenox, Ill.	95	Zac Wilson	DE	6-3	220	R-Fr.	Chipley, Fla.
35	Chase Norblade	S	6-1	185	So.	Papillion, Neb.	96	Mitch Eichacker	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
36	Torren Union	CB	6-2	195	R-Fr.	Mesa, Ariz.	97	Reece Winkelman	DE	6-4	245	Jr.	Marshall, Minn.
37	Jefferson Lee, V	RB	5-9	190	So.	Marshall, Minn.	97	Cole Frahm	K	6-5	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
39	Steven Arrell	CB	6-2	185	Fr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	98	Ryan Van Marel	DT	6-4	285	So.	Sheldon, Iowa
40	Aaron Kusler	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	99	Caleb Sanders	DT	6-1	280	Jr.	Glenwood, Iowa
41	Avian Thomas	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Boonville, Mo.	COACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF						
42	Davion Sterner	LB	6-0	190	Fr.	Alvord, Iowa	Head Coach: John Stiegelmeier						
43	Adam Kusler	LB	6-3	205	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Asst. Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Jimmy Rogers						
44	Saiveon Williamson	LB	6-1	210	So.	Waseca, Minn.	Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties: Brian Bergstrom						
45	Caleb Francl	LB	6-0	190	Fr.	Grand Island, Neb.	Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line: Jason Eck						
46	Preston Tetzlaff	LB	6-2	215	Sr.	Brookings, S.D.	Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers: Luke Schluesner						
47	Michael Drotzmann	P	6-3	195	R-Fr.	Yankton, S.D.	Special Teams Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Rob Erickson						
48	Quinton Hicks	DE	6-3	240	So.	Wichita, Kan.	Running Backs: John Johnson						
48	Jaden Mueller	LS	6-1	210	Fr.	Johnston, Iowa	Quarterbacks: Zach Lujan						
49	Ben Dinkel	P	5-10	220	Jr.	Kearney, Neb.	Tight Ends: Ryan Olson						
50	Gus Miller	OL	6-3	265	Fr.	Brookings, S.D.	Defensive Line: Christian Smith						
51	Max VanMeter	DT	6-4	260	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.	Assistant Defensive Line: Spencer Erickson						
52	Jarod DePriest	DT	6-5	265	R-Fr.	Trivoli, Ill.	Graduate Assistants: Luke Munsterteiger, Jared Gallatin, C.J. Butt						
53	Caden Johnson	DE	6-3	240	R-Fr.	Wahoo, Neb.	Football Operations: Jonathan Shaeffer, Derik Dillon						
54	Eddie Miller	OL	6-5	315	Sr.	Brookings, S.D.	Football Equipment: Tim Lowe						
55	Thomas Stacker	DT	6-4	285	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.	Strength and Conditioning: Nate Moe						
56	Eagan Lickiss	OL	6-4	320	Sr.	Indianola, Iowa	Sports Medicine: Charlie Miller						



JOHN STIEGELMEIER

Head Coach

24th Season (168-106 record — all at SDSU)

Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 168-106 record (.613 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 126-73 overall record (.633 winning percentage)
- His 68 victories in Missouri Valley Football Conference play rank second in league history, while his 100 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, SDSU 17
- 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 Iowa 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 107-32 (.770) home record in Coach Stig's 24 seasons as head coach
- SDSU has a 224-145 (.607) 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)

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

GREAT WEST FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

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	2-1	2-1
TOTALS	100-55	68-31
OVERALL TOTALS	168-106	110-66

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	3	14	8	22	4.0-6	0-0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0
CAREER	41	141	76	217	18.5-41	3.0-11	10	8-5	2	1-0	5

LOGAN BACKHAUS' 2017 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

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' 2019 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

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' 2018 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Solo	Ast	Total	TFL-Yds	Sack-Yds	Int-Yds	FF	FR
Montana State	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Ark.-Pine 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' 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
North Dakota	5	6	11	1.0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0
Western Illinois	4	2	6	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	14	8	22	4.0-6	0-0	0-0	0	0



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
- Moved into 10th place in career rushing at SDSU in Feb. 27, 2021, game at North Dakota
- His 19 career touchdown runs have covered an average of 32.1 yards

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. Pierre Strong, Jr., 2018-present	2,368

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	48	234	4.9	1	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	308	2,368	7.7	20	*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

1. Zach Zenner33 carries, 295 yds.
• vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012 [FCS playoffs]
Zach Zenner37 carries, 295 yds.
• at North Dakota, 9-7-2013
3. Josh Ranek41 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
6. Dan Sonnek41 carries, 268 yds.
• vs. Northern Colorado, 11-16-1985
7. Dan Sonnek40 carries, 266 yds.
• vs. Augustana, 10-26-1985
8. Cory Koenig21 carries, 259 yds.
• vs. Cal Poly, 10-20-2007
9. Josh Ranek26 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 STRONG'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

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	DNP-Injury											
Northern Iowa	DNP-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	22	91	0	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	0	20
North Dakota	17	95	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Illinois	9	48	1	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	48	234	0	32	6	31	1	11	1	20	0	20

LAST MEETING WITH YOUNGSTOWN STATE — OCT. 12, 2019

#3/3 SDSU 38, #17/19 YOUNGSTOWN STATE 28

Oct. 12, 2019 • Stambaugh Stadium (Att.: 12,381)

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – Third-ranked South Dakota State scored 35 points in the second half, overcoming a sluggish start to defeat Youngstown State, 38-28, Oct. 12 at Stambaugh Stadium.

The Jackrabbits improved to 5-1 overall and 2-0 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. YSU, ranked 17th by the Football Championship Subdivision coaches and 19th in the STATS FCS media poll, lost its second game in a row to fall to 4-2 overall and 0-2 in league play.

After SDSU scored on a 36-yard field goal by Chase Vinatieri on the opening drive of the game, the Penguins held the upper hand for the remainder of the first half. Quarterback Nathan Mays scored on runs of 28 and 1 yards, while the YSU defense recorded three sacks and knocked down a handful of passes.

Compounding the Jacks' first-half woes were eight penalties for 90 yards.

SDSU began to right the ship early in the third quarter with a big play from its defense. Logan Backhaus deflected a Mays pass into the waiting arms of Don Gardner, who returned the interception 42 yards for a touchdown that brought the Jackrabbits to within 14-9. The two-point attempt failed.

The Penguins pushed their lead back to two scores at 21-9 as Mays dumped a short pass to running back Joe Alessi in the left flat, who then rambled 45 yards for a touchdown.

The Jackrabbits then found their rhythm offensively, putting together a 13-play, 75-yard scoring drive. Redshirt freshman quarterback J'Bore Gibbs connected with Adam Anderson on pass plays of 13 and 16 yards early in the drive, with Anderson later drawing a pass interference penalty in the end zone. On the next play, Gibbs scored from two yards out.

SDSU took the lead for good on its first possession of the fourth quarter. Taking over at its own 9 after a punt, Pierre Strong, Jr. ran for 10 yards before Gibbs hooked up with Cade Johnson deep downfield for an 81-yard touchdown pass. Johnson then passed to Blake Kunz for the two-point conversion and a 24-21 Jackrabbit lead.

Following a DyShawn Gales interception at the YSU 44, the Jackrabbits quickly cashed in as SDSU gained all 44 yards on the ground – 40 of which were by C.J. Wilson, including a 13-yard touchdown run.

YSU drew back to win a field goal at 31-28 with 2 minutes and 54 seconds remaining as backup quarterback Joe Craycraft found Miles Joiner behind the Jackrabbit defense for a 17-yard touchdown pass on third and goal.

With all three timeouts remaining, YSU opted to kick deep. The Jacks took over at their own 25, converting a key third-and-7 as Jaxon Janke muscled his way to the Penguin 36 after catching a short pass from Gibbs. Facing another third-and-long, Gibbs sealed the SDSU victory with a 63-yard touchdown run around right end, picking up a key block from fullback Luke Sellers on his way to his second rushing score of the night.

Gibbs completed 14-of-26 passes for 210 yards and also finished as the Jackrabbits' leading rusher with 75 yards on 12 attempts. Janke caught four passes for 32 yards, with Johnson adding three catches for 93 yards.

For YSU, Mays completed 14-of-24 passes for 176 yards and carried 13 times for 58 yards. Alessi was the Penguins' leading ground-gainer with 72 yards on 17 carries.

Overall, the Jackrabbits held a narrow 423-412 advantage in total offense.

Christian Rozeboom, who recovered a fumble in the second quarter, paced the Jackrabbit defense with a game-high 13 tackles, followed by eight stops from fellow linebacker Logan Backhaus.

Cash Mitchell led Youngstown State defensively with 10 tackles.



Don Gardner's 42-yard interception return for touchdown sparked a second-half comeback at Youngstown State. The Jacks scored 35 points in the final 30 minutes for a 38-28 victory.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (5-1, 2-0)	3	0	13	22	38
Youngstown State (4-2, 0-2)	7	7	7	7	28

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	7:47	SDSU – Chase Vinatieri 36 yd field goal
	1:13	YSU – Nathan Mays 28 yd run (Colten McFadden kick)
2nd	10:49	YSU – Mays 1 yd run (McFadden kick)
3rd	10:53	SDSU – Don Gardner 42 yd interception return (pass failed)
	7:17	YSU – Joe Alessi 45 yd pass from Mays (McFadden kick)
	00:40	SDSU – J'Bore Gibbs 2 yd run (Vinatieri kick)
4th	11:04	SDSU – Cade Johnson 81 yd pass from Gibbs (Johnson pass to Blake Kunz)
	6:13	SDSU – C.J. Wilson 13 yd run (Vinatieri kick)
	2:54	YSU – Miles Joiner 17 yd pass from Joe Craycraft (McFadden kick)
	00:55	SDSU – Gibbs 63 yd run (Vinatieri kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	YSU
FIRST DOWNS	19	24
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	40-213	37-145
PASSING YDS (NET)	210	267
Passes Att-Comp-Int	26-14-0	35-20-2
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	66-423	72-412
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-34	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-64	2-38
Interception Returns-Yards	2-42-1	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-36.7	3-35.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	9-105	3-32
Possession Time	30:08	29:52
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 14	5 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-21	4-25

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - J'Bore Gibbs 12-75; Pierre Strong, Jr. 8-61; C.J. Wilson 13-48; Mikey Daniel 6-26. YSU - Joe Alessi 17-72; Nathan Mays 13-58; Christian Turner 5-8. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - J'Bore Gibbs 14-26-0 210. YSU - Nathan Mays 14-24-2 176; Joe Craycraft 6-10-0 91.

RECEIVING LEADERS: SDSU - Jaxon Janke 4-32; Cade Johnson 3-93; Adam Anderson 3-44; Pierre Strong, Jr. 3-33. YSU - Miles Joiner 5-81; Jermiah Braswell 4-53; Samuel St. Surin 4-49; Joe Alessi

3-55. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Don Gardner 1-42; DyShawn Gales 1-0. YSU - none. **SACKS:** SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.0-9; Reece Winkelman 1.0-7; Ryan Earith 1.0-5. YSU - Justus Reed 2.0-11; DeMarko Craig 1.0-8; Malik Richmond 1.0-6. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Christian Rozeboom 4-9-13; Logan Backhaus 8-0-8; Seven Wilson 3-3-6; Michael Griffin II 3-3-6. YSU - Cash Mitchell 7-3-10; Ray Anderson 5-3-8; Zaire Jones 3-4-7.

#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

SCORING SUMMARY

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	63-310	54-193
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.

WEEK 2 RECAP

#14 NORTH DAKOTA 28, #3 SDSU 17

Feb. 27, 2021 • Alerus Center 3,638

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – No. 14 North Dakota controlled the second half, scoring three touchdowns en route to a 28-17 victory over third-ranked South Dakota State Feb. 27 at the Alerus Center.

UND improved to 2-0 both overall and in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. The Jackrabbits dropped to 1-1.

Early on, SDSU executed the vertical passing game to build an early lead. On the second play from scrimmage, freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski connected with Jadon Janke on a 49-yard pass play to the UND 18. Three plays later, Jadon Janke's twin brother, Jaxon, took a screen pass 18 yards to the end zone to finish off the opening drive of the game.

Special teams were key throughout the game, with the Fighting Hawks successfully executing a fake punt to extend their first scoring drive. A pass from punter Cade Peterson to Garrett Maag went for 23 yards and a first down to the midfield stripe. Otis Weah capped the methodical, 15-play drive with a 1-yard touchdown run.

The Jackrabbits, however, had a quick answer as, on the first play of the ensuing drive, Gronowski hit Jaxon Janke deep over the middle for a 76-yard touchdown.

The score would remain 14-7 in favor of the Jackrabbits until the third quarter. UND took the second-half kickoff and marched 75 yards on eight plays, tying the game at 14-all on a 1-yard touchdown run by Luke Skokna. He set up the touchdown with a 43-yard run earlier in the drive.

Once again SDSU responded, this time settling for a 39-yard field goal and a 17-14 lead after a 45-yard pass from Gronowski to Jadon Janke on the first play of the drive. Jadon Janke tallied career highs of five catches for 109 yards, with Jaxon Janke also finishing with a career day of seven catches for 161 yards.

From there it was all UND.

The Fighting Hawks turned the momentum firmly in their favor with another special teams play, blocking a punt and taking over at the SDSU 18. UND needed only two plays to take its first lead with Maag catching a 16-yard touchdown pass from Tommy Schuster.

UND made it a two-score game with the help of a fortuitous bounce of the ball on the Alerus Center turf midway through the fourth quarter. Weah broke around right end for a big gain, but was stripped of the football by the Jackrabbits' Isaiah Stalbird at the 6-yard line. The ball, however, bounced right back into Weah's hands as he fell into the end zone. The result: a 40-yard touchdown run and a 28-17 UND lead.

The Fighting Hawk defense rose to the occasion, as well, forcing two fourth-quarter turnovers and three for the game. UND also recorded three sacks in the game.

SDSU finished with a 405-384 advantage in total offense as Gronowski finished the afternoon 16-of-32 passing for 309 yards. Pierre Strong, Jr. led the Jackrabbits on the ground with 95 yards on 17 carries.

For UND, Schuster completed 20-of-32 passes for 184 yards, with Maag catching five passes for 87 yards. Weah finished with 88 rushing yards on 17 carries, with Skokna adding 73 yards on 10 attempts.

Logan Backhaus tallied a game-high 11 tackles for the Jackrabbits. Preston Tetzlaff contributed a career-high 10 tackles and an interception.

Noah Larson paced UND with seven tackles



Jaxon Janke recorded career highs of seven receptions and 161 receiving yards while scoring both Jackrabbit touchdowns in a Feb. 27 road loss at North Dakota.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (1-1, 1-1)	14	0	3	0	17
North Dakota (2-0, 2-0)	7	0	14	7	28

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	12:58	SDSU	–	Jaxon Janke 18 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
1st	1:00	UND	–	Otis Weah 1 yd run (Adam Stage kick)
1st	00:45	SDSU	–	Jaxon Janke 76 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
3rd	10:28	UND	–	Luke Skokna 1 yd run (Stage kick)
3rd	6:46	SDSU	–	Frahm 39 yd field goal
3rd	00:17	UND	–	Garrett Maag 16 yd pass from Tommy Schuster (Stage kick)
4th	6:53	UND	–	Otis Weah 40 yd run (Stage kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	UND
FIRST DOWNS	16	19
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	26-96	39-177
PASSING YDS (NET)	309	207
Passes Att-Comp-Int	32-16-2	34-21-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	58-405	73-384
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-7
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-52	2-59
Interception Returns-Yards	1-0	2-7
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-28.0	3-35.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-50	1-16
Possession Time	24:12	35:48
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 13	9 of 18
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 2	1 of 4
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	3-20

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 17-95; Isaiah Davis 2-6. UND - Otis Weah 17-88; Luke Skokna 10-73; Dalton Gee 4-10; Quincy Vaughn 3-5; Tommy Schuster 3-5. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 16-32-2 309. UND - Tommy Schuster 20-32-1 184; Cade Peterson 1-1-0 23; Jake Richter 0-1-0 0. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jaxon Janke 7-161; Jadon Janke 5-109; Jordan Meachum 2-18; Mike Morgan 1-12; Skyler Cavanaugh 1-9. UND - Garrett Maag 5-87; Marcus Preston 4-31; Jake Richter 3-30; Luke Skokna 3-17; Bo Belquist 2-24; Derek Paulson 2-17. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Preston Tetzlaff 1-0. UND - Jordan Canady 1-7; Ray Haas 1-0. **SACKS:** SDSU - none. UNI - Noah Larson 1.0-8; Jaxon Turner 1.0-7; Josh Navratil 1.0-5. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Logan Backhaus 5-6-11; Preston Tetzlaff 7-3-10; Don Gardner 5-1-6; Graham Spalding 3-1-4; Reece Winkelman 3-1-4. UND - Noah Larson 3-4-7; Caleb Nelson 3-3-6; Evan Holm 4-1-5; Josh Navratil 2-3-5.

#8 SDSU 45, WESTERN ILLINOIS 10

March 6, 2021 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 2,522)

South Dakota State scored on big play after big play in the first half to roll past Western Illinois, 45-10, in the Jackrabbits' home football opener at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

With their win in the annual Dairy Drive game, the Jackrabbits improved to 2-1 both overall and in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. WIU dropped to 0-2.

Freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski led the Jackrabbits on touch-down drives on each of their first two offensive series, scoring on a 22-yard run to open the scoring and then taking advantage of a short field after an interception as Pierre Strong, Jr. scored from a yard out.

Western Illinois executed a fake punt to extend a drive and pull within 14-3 late in the first quarter on a 26-yard field goal by Mason Laramie.

SDSU, however, tacked on four more touchdowns in the second quarter with each of the first three scores covering at least 40 yards. The Jackrabbits first went to the air as Gronowski hooked up with Jadon Janke on a 44-yard touchdown pass deep over the middle.

Then the Jackrabbits turned to the ground as freshman running back Isaiah Davis broke through the line for a 40-yard touchdown and Gronowski followed three minutes later with an 80-yard touchdown run. Gronowski led the Jackrabbits with 120 yards on only four carries with the two touchdowns, while Davis tallied 118 yards on nine carries.

As a team, SDSU finished with 328 yards on the ground and 531 yards of total offense after Gronowski completed 13-of-20 passes for 197 yards and two touchdowns. His second touchdown pass of the game was a 12-yarder to Mason Leighton with 41 seconds remaining in the first half and answered WIU's lone touchdown, a 3-yard pass from Connor Sampson to Dallas Daniels.

The only scoring in the second half came on a 39-yard field goal into the wind by Cole Frahm on SDSU's opening drive.

The Jackrabbit defense came away with interceptions by Cade Terveer, DyShawn Gales and Joshua Manchigiah. Adam Bock led SDSU with eight tackles.

Sampson completed 29-of-48 passes for 278 yards, with Daniel posting 111 yards on six receptions.

Jaxon Janke led SDSU with four catches for 68 yards, with twin brother Jadon adding three catches for 70 yards.



Isaiah Davis rushed nine times for 118 yards and scored on a 40-yard touchdown run in South Dakota State's 45-10 home-opening win over Western Illinois on March 6.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Western Illinois (0-2, 0-2)	3	7	0	0	10
South Dakota State (2-1, 2-1)	14	28	3	0	45

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	10:16	SDSU	– Mark Gronowski 22 yd run (Cole Frahm kick)
1st	6:51	SDSU	– Pierre Strong, Jr. 1 yd um (Frahm kick)
1st	2:13	WIU	– Mason Laramie 26 yd field goal
2nd	13:20	SDSU	– Jadon Janke 44 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
2nd	8:06	SDSU	– Isaiah Davis 40 yd run (Frahm kick)
2nd	4:55	SDSU	– Mark Gronowski 80 yd run (Frahm kick)
2nd	00:41	SDSU	– Mason Leighton 12 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
3rd	10:35	SDSU	– Frahm 39 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	WIU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	19	24
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	24-87	44-347
PASSING YDS (NET)	295	184
Passes Att-Comp-Int	53-31-3	22-13-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	77-382	66-531
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1-0	1-5
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-15	1-28
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	3-9
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-33.8	4-38.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-15	6-57
Possession Time	24:34	35:26
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 15	7 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	3 of 5	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-5	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	1-6

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Mark Gronowski 4-120; Isaiah Davis 9-118; Jefferson Lee V 11-48; Pierre Strong, Jr. 9-48; Jordan Meachum 6-12; J'Bore Gibbs 2-8. WIU - Iosefa Pua'auli 14-44; Tony Tate 5-36; Connor Sampson 3-4; Hunter Mason 1-4. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 12-19-0 178; J'Bore Gibbs 1-3-0 6. WIU - Connor Sampson 29-48-3 278; Henry Ogala 2-5-0 17. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jaxon Janke 4-68; Jadon Janke 3-70; Jordan Meachum 3-14; Mason Leighton 2-26; Canyon Bauer 1-6. WIU - Dennis Houston 9-74; Tony Tate 7-54; Dallas Daniels 6-111; Nathan Karsjens 4-24. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Cade Terveer 1-9; DyShawn Gales 1-0; Joshua Manchigiah 1-0. WIU - none. **SACKS:** SDSU - Caden Johnson 1.0-6. WIU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Adam Bock 3-5-8; Michael Griffin II 3-4-7; Chase Norblade 6-0-6; Logan Backhaus 4-2-6; Saiveon Williamson 3-2-5. WIU - Herschel Blankenship 9-0-9; Greg Benton Jr. 5-4-9; Justin Nutof 5-4-9; Keontae Jones 1-3-4.

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Game Results (as of Mar 08, 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
* Feb 27, 2021	at #14 North Dakota	L	17-28	1-1	1-1	3:06	3638
* Mar 06, 2021	WESTERN ILLINOIS	W	45-10	2-1	2-1	3:10	2347

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Team Statistics (as of Mar 08, 2021)
All games

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	86	58
Points Per Game	28.7	19.3
Points Off Turnovers	14	14
FIRST DOWNS	54	51
Rushing	26	17
Passing	26	27
Penalty	2	7
RUSHING YARDAGE	559	292
Yards gained rushing	623	333
Yards lost rushing	64	41
Rushing Attempts	104	88
Average Per Rush	5.4	3.3
Average Per Game	186.3	97.3
TDs Rushing	5	4
PASSING YARDAGE	687	667
Comp-Att-Int	48-83-2	71-116-4
Average Per Pass	8.3	5.8
Average Per Catch	14.3	9.4
Average Per Game	229.0	222.3
TDs Passing	6	3
TOTAL OFFENSE	1246	959
Total Plays	187	204
Average Per Play	6.7	4.7
Average Per Game	415.3	319.7
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	5-126	5-74
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	3-38	4-18
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	4-9	2-7
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	25.2	14.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.7	4.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	2.2	3.5
FUMBLES-LOST	4-4	0-0
PENALTIES-Yards	21-187	10-51
Average Per Game	62.3	17.0
PUNTS-Yards	12-440	15-542
Average Per Punt	36.7	36.1
Net punt average	33.5	30.9
KICKOFFS-Yards	17-872	13-811
Average Per Kick	51.3	62.4
Net kick average	35.2	39.2
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	30:57	29:03
3RD-DOWN Conversions	18/39	13/45
3rd-Down Pct	46%	29%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	0/3	4/9
4th-Down Pct	0%	44%
SACKS BY-Yards	3-21	5-28
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	11	7
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	3-4	3-5
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(8-9) 89%	(8-12) 67%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(6-9) 67%	(6-12) 50%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(11-11) 100%	(7-7) 100%
ATTENDANCE	2347	5775
Games/Avg Per Game	1/2347	2/2888
Neutral Site Games		0/0

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Dakota State	31	42	6	7	0	86
Opponents	17	7	17	17	0	58

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Mar 08, 2021)
All games

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Pierre Strong	3	48	243	9	234	4.9	1	32	78.0
Mark Gronowski	3	21	178	39	139	6.6	3	80	46.3
Isaiah Davis	3	12	126	0	126	10.5	1	40	42.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	11	49	1	48	4.4	0	7	48.0
Jordan Meachum	3	6	19	7	12	2.0	0	17	4.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	2	8	0	8	4.0	0	7	4.0
TEAM	3	3	0	3	-3	-1.0	0	0	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	1	0	5	-5	-5.0	0	4	-5.0
Total	3	104	623	64	559	5.4	5	80	186.3
Opponents	3	88	333	41	292	3.3	4	43	97.3

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	3	150.00	47-80-2	58.7	681	6	76	227.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	50.13	1-3-0	33.3	6	0	6	3.0
Total	3	146.40	48-83-2	57.8	687	6	76	229.0
Opponents	3	111.14	71-116-4	61.2	667	3	62	222.3

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jaxon Janke	3	15	258	17.2	3	76	86.0
Jadon Janke	3	9	199	22.1	1	49	66.3
Pierre Strong	3	6	31	5.2	1	11	10.3
Zach Heins	3	5	90	18.0	0	43	30.0
Jordan Meachum	3	5	32	6.4	0	14	10.7
Mason Leighton	2	2	26	13.0	1	14	13.0
Michael Morgan	2	2	15	7.5	0	12	7.5
Canyon Bauer	3	2	9	4.5	0	6	3.0
Isaiah Davis	3	1	18	18.0	0	18	6.0
SkylerCavanaugh	2	1	9	9.0	0	9	4.5
Total	3	48	687	14.3	6	76	229.0
Opponents	3	71	667	9.4	3	62	222.3

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaxon Janke	2	19	9.5	0	14
Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0
Total	3	38	12.7	0	14
Opponents	4	18	4.5	0	9

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
PrestonTetzlaff	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cade Terveer	1	9	9.0	0	9
Josh Manchigiah	1	0	0.0	0	0
DyShawn Gales	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	4	9	2.2	0	9
Opponents	2	7	3.5	0	7

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Meachum	3	78	26.0	0	32
Isaiah Davis	1	28	28.0	0	28
Pierre Strong	1	20	20.0	0	20
Total	5	126	25.2	0	32
Opponents	5	74	14.8	0	39

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 Mar 08, 2021)
All games

Scoring	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Cole Frahm	-	3-4	11-11	-	-	-	-	-	20
Mark Gronowski	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Jaxon Janke	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Pierre Strong	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Jadon Janke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Mason Leighton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Isaiah Davis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	11	3-4	11-11	-	-	-	-	-	86
Opponents	7	3-5	7-7	-	-	-	-	-	58

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	3	101	139	681	820	273.3
Pierre Strong	3	48	234	0	234	78.0
Isaiah Davis	3	12	126	0	126	42.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	11	48	0	48	48.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	5	8	6	14	7.0
Jordan Meachum	3	6	12	0	12	4.0
TEAM	3	3	-3	0	-3	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	1	-5	0	-5	-5.0
Total	3	187	559	687	1246	415.3
Opponents	3	204	292	667	959	319.7

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	3-4	75.0	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-1	0-0	39	1

FG Sequence	South Dakota State	Opponents
UNI	(24)	(43),52,(35)
North Dakota	42,(39)	35
Western Illinois	(39)	(26)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	9	368	40.9	61	1	2	2	2	1
Hunter Dustman	2	72	36.0	38	0	0	1	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	440	36.7	61	1	2	3	2	1
Opponents	15	542	36.1	55	2	5	3	2	1

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Cole Frahm	17	872	51.3	8	2			
Total	17	872	51.3	8	2	14.8	35.2	29
Opponents	13	811	62.4	7	1	25.2	39.2	25

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Mar 08, 2021)
All games

<u>All Purpose</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>rush</u>	<u>rcv</u>	<u>pr</u>	<u>kr</u>	<u>ir</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>avg/g</u>
Pierre Strong	3	234	31	0	20	0	285	95.0
Jaxon Janke	3	0	258	19	0	0	277	92.3
Jadon Janke	3	0	199	0	0	0	199	66.3
Isaiah Davis	3	126	18	0	28	0	172	57.3
Mark Gronowski	3	139	0	0	0	0	139	46.3
Jordan Meachu	3	12	32	0	78	0	122	40.7
Zach Heins	3	0	90	0	0	0	90	30.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	48	0	0	0	0	48	48.0
Mason Leighton	2	0	26	0	0	0	26	13.0
Isaiah Stalbird	3	0	0	19	0	0	19	6.3
Michael Morgan	2	0	15	0	0	0	15	7.5
Canyon Bauer	3	0	9	0	0	0	9	3.0
Cade Terveer	3	0	0	0	0	9	9	3.0
SkylerCavanaugh	2	0	9	0	0	0	9	4.5
J'Bore Gibbs	2	8	0	0	0	0	8	4.0
TEAM	3	-3	0	0	0	0	-3	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	-5	0	0	0	0	-5	-5.0
Total	3	559	687	38	126	9	1419	473.0
Opponents	3	292	667	18	74	7	1058	352.7

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Mar 08, 2021)
All games

#	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf
12	Logan Backhaus	3	14	8	22	4.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
46	PrestonTetzlaff	3	12	7	19	.	.	1-0	.	1	.	.	.	.
21	Don Gardner	3	12	3	15	2.0-3	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
32	Adam Bock	3	7	6	13	1.0-7	1.0-7	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
6	Michael Griffin	3	5	7	12	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
2D	Isaiah Stalbird	3	8	2	10	2.0-7	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	.
29	Graham Spalding	3	7	3	10	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Josh Manchighia	3	6	3	9	1.0-2	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Caleb Sanders	3	6	3	9	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	Chase Norblade	2	7	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Malik Lofton	3	6	1	7	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
44	S. Williamson	2	3	3	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Reece Winkelman	3	5	1	6	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
30	Payton Shafer	3	3	2	5	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	3	3	1	4	2.0-10	1.0-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Quinton Hicks	3	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
53	Caden Johnson	2	1	2	3	1.5-7	1.0-6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
13	DyShawn Gales	3	3	.	3	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
94	Cade Terveer	3	.	2	2	.	.	1-9	.	1	.	.	.	.
55	Thomas Stacker	3	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Torren Union	2	1	.	1	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Dalys Beanum	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
25	Cale Reeder	3	.	1	1	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2I	Isaiah Davis	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1B	Matt Barnett	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Caleb Franci	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9F	Cole Frahm	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Ryan Van Marel	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Total		3	117	62	179	17-50	3-21	4-9	11	6	.	.	1	.
Opponents		3	99	84	183	15-49	5-28	2-7	9	4	4-0	4	2	.

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Team Game-by-Game (as of Mar 08, 2021)

All games

TEAM STATISTICS

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
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
Feb 27	at North Dakota	26	96	0	29	16	309	2	76	16-32-2	309	2	76	2	52	0	32	0	0	0	0	405
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	44	347	4	80	13	184	2	44	13-22-0	184	2	44	1	28	0	28	1	5	0	5	531
Opponents		104	559	5	80	48	687	6	76	48-83-2	687	6	76	5	126	0	32	3	38	0	14	1246
		88	292	4	43	71	667	3	62	71-116-4	667	3	62	5	74	0	39	4	18	0	9	959

Games: 3 • Avg/rush: 5.4 • Avg/catch: 14.3 • Pass effic: 146.40 • KR avg: 25.2 • PR avg: 12.7 • All purpose avg/game: 473.0 • Total offense avg/gm: 415.3

		Tackles				Sacks	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd	PAT Attempts			off		
Date	Opponent	ua	a	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
Feb 27	at North Dakota	40	22	62	4.0-8	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	2	5	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	17
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	39	30	69	6.0-15	1.0-6	0	0-0	3-9	0	5	0	6-6	0	0	0	14	45
		117	62	179	17.0-50	3.0-21	0	0-0	4-9	6	11	1	11-11	0	0	0	14	86
Opponents		99	84	183	15.0-49	5.0-28	4	4-0	2-7	4	9	2	7-7	0	0	0	14	58

		Punting									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	0	5	196	39.2	3	1
Feb 27	at North Dakota	3	84	28.0	51	1	1	0	1	0	1-2	39	1	4	254	63.5	2	0
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	4	153	38.2	41	0	0	2	0	3	1-1	39	0	8	422	52.8	3	1
		12	440	36.7	61	1	1	2	2	3	3-4	39	1	17	872	51.3	8	2
Opponents		15	542	36.1	55	1	2	5	2	3	3-5	43	0	13	811	62.4	7	1

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Mar 08, 2021)

All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
Feb 19	at UNI	25	28	1	13	19	165	1	20	19-29-0	165	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	9	193
Feb 27	at North Dakota	39	177	3	43	21	207	1	37	21-34-1	207	1	37	2	59	0	39	1	7	0	0	384
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	24	87	0	15	31	295	1	62	31-53-3	295	1	62	3	15	0	8	1	0	0	0	382
South Dakota State		88	292	4	43	71	667	3	62	71-116-4	667	3	62	5	74	0	39	4	18	0	9	959
		104	559	5	80	48	687	6	76	48-83-2	687	6	76	5	126	0	32	3	38	0	14	1246

Games: 3 • Avg/rush: 3.3 • Avg/catch: 9.4 • Pass effic: 111.14 • KR avg: 14.8 • PR avg: 4.5 • All purpose avg/game: 352.7 • Total offense avg/gm: 319.7

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks		Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd	PAT Attempts			off	
		ua	a	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
Feb 27	at North Dakota	25	28	53	6.0-25	3.0-20	1	1-0	2-7	2	2	2	4-4	0	0	0	0	28
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	37	24	61	4.0-8	0.0-0	1	1-0	0-0	0	3	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	10
South Dakota State		99	84	183	15.0-49	5.0-28	4	4-0	2-7	4	9	2	7-7	0	0	0	14	58
		117	62	179	17.0-50	3.0-21	0	0-0	4-9	6	11	1	11-11	0	0	0	14	86

		Punting									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	7	268	38.3	55	1	1	2	2	1	2-3	43	0	5	322	64.4	3	0
Feb 27	at North Dakota	3	105	35.0	40	0	1	2	0	1	0-1	0	0	5	320	64.0	3	0
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	5	169	33.8	44	0	0	1	0	1	1-1	26	0	3	169	56.3	1	1
		15	542	36.1	55	1	2	5	2	3	3-5	43	0	13	811	62.4	7	1
South Dakota State		12	440	36.7	61	1	1	2	2	3	3-4	39	1	17	872	51.3	8	2