



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

Jackrabbit Sports Information • 2820 HPER Center • Brookings, SD 57007-1497
 Football Contact/Assistant AD-Sports Information: Jason Hove
 Office Phone: (605) 688-4623 Mobile: (605) 695-1827 E-mail: Jason.Hove@sdstate.edu
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/jackrabbit.nation Twitter: @GoJacksSDSU Fax: (605) 688-5999
 Website: www.GoJacks.com

2020-21 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Jacks open second half at SIU

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — MARCH 20

#6/7 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (3-1, 3-1 MVFC)
at #5/5 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (4-1, 3-1 MVFC)

noon Saturday

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



HEAD COACH: Nick Hill
 (Southern Illinois, 2008)
 • 21-29 record in five seasons as a collegiate head coach — all at SIU
STARTERS RETURNING: 17
 (8 Off., 7 Def., 2 ST)

SERIES NOTES

- 11th Meeting (SDSU leads series, 7-3)
- Jackrabbits have won the last four meetings, including a 28-10 home victory during the 2019 season

MEDIA INFORMATION

- Game will be televised on ESPN+ as the Missouri Valley Football Conference game of the week
- Pre-game radio show begins at 11 a.m. Central 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 Al Bahe (sidelines) will call the action



HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)
 • 169-106 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 [Dairy Drive] W, 45-10
 13 *YOUNGSTOWN STATE W, 19-17
 20 *at Southern Illinois noon
 27 *ILLINOIS STATE [Beef Bowl] 2 p.m.

APRIL

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

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game
 All times Central

TALE OF THE TAPE — SEASON STATISTICS

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
25.2	Points Per Game	26.2
22.6	Points Allowed Per Game	18.8
182.8	Rushing Yardage Per Game	175.2
194.6	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	122.0
204.2	Passing Yardage Per Game	211.2
11.2	Average Per Catch	14.1
135.6	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	180.5
387.0	Total Offense Per Game	386.5
330.2	Total Offense Allowed/Game	302.5
20.9	Kick Return Average	25.2
8.3	Punt Return Average	10.2
3-8	Interception Returns	6-20
4-4	Fumbles-Lost	6-5
26-235	Penalties-Yards	23-207
31:19	Time of Possession/Game	30:01
40/170 (57%)	Third-Down Conversions	24/54 (44%)

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

SERIES SCORES

2008:	Southern Illinois 38, South Dakota State 35 (Nov. 15, 2008, at Carbondale, Ill.)
2009:	Southern Illinois 34, South Dakota State 15 (Nov. 7, 2009, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2010:	South Dakota State 31, Southern Illinois 10 (Oct. 16, 2010, at Carbondale, Ill.)
2011:	South Dakota State 45, Southern Illinois 34 (Nov. 5, 2011, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2012:	South Dakota State 16, Southern Illinois 12 (Nov. 3, 2012, at Carbondale, Ill.)
2013:	Southern Illinois 27, South Dakota State 24 (Oct. 5, 2013, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
2016:	South Dakota State 45, Southern Illinois 39 (Oct. 8, 2016, at Carbondale, Ill.)
2017:	South Dakota State 49, Southern Illinois 14 (Oct. 7, 2017, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
2018:	South Dakota State 57, Southern Illinois 38 (Nov. 10, 2018, at Carbondale, Ill.)
2019:	South Dakota State 28, Southern Illinois 10 (Oct. 5, 2019, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
Overall,	South Dakota State leads the series, 7-3

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

March 16, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — For the third time in as many road games this season, the South Dakota State University football team faces a ranked opponent.

This Saturday, the Jackrabbits travel to Carbondale, Illinois, for a matchup against a Southern Illinois squad ranked fifth in both the Stats Perform FCS media poll and the first American Football Coaches Association poll of the season. SIU is 4-1 overall and 3-1 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

Kickoff is set for noon at Saluki Stadium on the SIU campus. The game is scheduled to be televised on ESPN+ as the MVFC Game of the Week.

SDSU, meanwhile, reached the halfway mark of the league season with a 3-1 record both overall and in the MVFC. The Jackrabbits moved up two spots to sixth in this week's Stats Perform media poll and checks in at No. 7 in the AFCA rankings.

The Jackrabbits split their first two road games, winning 24-20 at then-No. 3 Northern Iowa on Feb. 19, before dropping a 28-17 decision at then-No. 14 North Dakota Feb. 27. North Dakota also handed SIU its lone loss of the season thus far, a 44-21 setback in their Feb. 20 season opener in Grand Forks.

THE SERIES: Saturday's game marks the 11th meeting on the gridiron between SDSU and Southern Illinois, a series that dates back to when the Jackrabbits joined the Missouri Valley Football Conference at the start of the 2008 season. By winning the last four meetings and seven of the last eight, the Jackrabbits hold a 7-3 series edge.

SIU won each of the first two meetings between the two squads, with its last win in the series a 27-24 Hobo Day victory on Oct. 5, 2013, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium.

In the most recent matchup, Oct. 5, 2019, the Jackrabbits scored three second-half touchdowns for a 28-10 Hobo Day victory. Pierre Strong, Jr., gave SDSU a 15-10 lead by scoring on a 64-yard touchdown run midway through the third period. Jaxon Janke added touchdown receptions of 12 and 4 yards from J'Bore Gibbs in the fourth quarter.

SDSU rushed for 297 yards in the game, including 229 by Strong, who posted 188 yards with three touchdowns in the teams' 2018 matchup in Carbondale.

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 110 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	—
March 15	6th	7th

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

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

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

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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, and vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
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, and vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
INTERCEPTIONS: 3, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
FUMBLES RECOVERED: 1, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021

SDSU'S 2020-21 RECORD WHEN...

Jackrabbits score first	3-1
Opponent scores first	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after one quarter.....	2-1
Opponent leads after one quarter	1-0
Game is tied after one quarter	0-0
Jackrabbits lead at halftime.....	3-1
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0
Game is tied at halftime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after three quarters.....	3-0
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.....	2-0
SDSU plays on the the road	1-1
Jackrabbits commit fewer turnovers than opponent.....	2-0
Opponent commits fewer turnovers than SDSU.....	1-1
Turnover margin is equal.....	0-0
Jackrabbits commit fewer penalties than opponent ..	1-0
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	1-1
Game is played on artificial surface	3-1
Game is played on natural grass/hybrid surface	0-0
Game is played during the day	2-1
Game is played at night (6 p.m. or later kickoff)	1-0

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 101-55 record (.647 winning record) in that span, including a 69-31 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.

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.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 22, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021
RUSHING YARDS: 124, by Pierre Strong, Jr., vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
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: 2, by Cole Frahm, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
LONG FIELD GOAL: 52 yards, by Cole Frahm, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
PUNTS: 4, by Ben Dinkel, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021, and vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
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, four times by three players (twice by Tolu Ogunrinde)
SACKS: 1.0, five times by four players (twice by Tolu Ogunrinde)
INTERCEPTIONS: 1, six times by five players (twice by Joshua Manchigiah)
PASS BREAKUPS: 2, by Don Gardner and Isaiah Stalbird, at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
FUMBLES FORCED: 1, by Tolu Ogunrinde, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021
BLOCKED KICKS: 1, by Isaiah Stalbird, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021, and by Ryan Van Marel, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021

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 the Feb. 27 game at North Dakota and enters Saturday's game with 2,492 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.

Last week, Strong rushed for a season-high 124 yards on 21 carries against Youngstown State.

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 four games this season for a total of 24 points.

Following are the scoring plays and summaries of the Jackrabbits' opening drives:

- Feb. 19 at Northern Iowa – Cole Frahm 24-yard field goal (8 plays, 71 yards, 4:44 time of possession);
- Feb. 27 at North Dakota – Jaxon Janke 18-yard pass from Mark Gronowski (5-75, 2:02);
- March 6 vs. Western Illinois – Mark Gronowski 22-yard run (9-81, 2:50);
- March 13 vs. Youngstown State – Jaxon Janke 8-yard pass from Gronowski (6-75, 3:24);

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

FRAHM HONORED: South Dakota State kicker Cole Frahm was honored Sunday as the Missouri Valley Football Conference Special Teams Player of the Week after coming through in the clutch a day earlier as the eighth-ranked Jackrabbits recovered in time to defeat Youngstown State.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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 Bealum
Effort: Caleb Sanders

AT NORTH DAKOTA

Offense: Jaxon Janke, Mason McCormick
Defense: Logan Backhaus
Special Teams: none
Scout Offense: Landon Wolf
Scout Defense: Caleb Frand
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

vs. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Offense: Pierre Strong, Jr.; Zach Heins
Defense: Quinton Hicks
Special Teams: Cole Frahm
Scout Offense: Avian Thomas
Scout Defense: Isaac Appleget
Scout Special Teams: Shane Dailey Jr.
Effort: Thomas Motzko

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)

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Cole Frahm (March 13)

NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

- Mark Gronowski (Feb. 19)

A junior from Omaha, Nebraska, Frahm booted the game-winning 29-yard field goal with 31 seconds remaining to lift SDSU to a 19-17 victory. Earlier in the game, Frahm connected on a career-long 52-yard field goal en route to going 2-for-3 on field goals on the day.

Frahm has made a field goal in all four games this season and is 5-for-7 on the year.

COMING THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH: Freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski has led South Dakota State on two game-winning, fourth-quarter drives in his first four career starts. On game-winning drives Feb. 19 at Northern Iowa and March 13 versus Youngstown State, Gronowski was a combined 9-for-10 passing for 123 yards and a touchdown.

His top target on those drives was sophomore tight end Zach Heins, who recorded a 43-yard catch and run to set up the game-winning touchdown at UNI, followed by catches of 39 and 16 yards that led to the game-winning field goal versus YSU.

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, earning MVFC Offensive Player of the Week honors after racking up 298 yards of total offense (178 passing, 120 rushing) and accounting for four touchdowns. He became the first Jackrabbit quarterback since All-American Taryn Christion in 2017 to pass and rush for 100 yards in the same game.

Gronowski is the fourth different quarterback to start a game for the Jackrabbits since the end of the 2018 season, when 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 122 rushing yards through four games.

NEW INTERCEPTIONS STREAK: After having its 13-game streak with an interception come to an end in the season opener, the SDSU defense has started a new streak with six interceptions over the past three games.

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.

Linebacker Preston Tetzlaff picked off a pass in the fourth quarter at North Dakota on Feb. 27, followed by a three-interception performance by the Jackrabbits March 6 against Western Illinois and a two-INT afternoon March 13 versus Youngstown State.

Joshua Manchigiah recorded interceptions in each of the last two games to take over the team lead.

SDSU has picked off a pass in 22 of its last 24 games dating back to the 2018 season. As a team, the Jackrabbits tallied 18 interceptions in 2019 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.

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 23 yards on five punt returns for an average of 4.6 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.

In the March 13 home win over Youngstown State, defensive tackle Ryan Van Marel got a hand on a 43-yard field goal attempt late in the second quarter for SDSU's second blocked kick of the season.

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 five fumbles so far during the 2020-21 season and enters the week-end minus-1 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.

JACKRABBITS IN THE 2020-21 NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 25)

- T-3rd in blocked kicks, 2
- 7th in passes intercepted, 6
- 11th in passing yards per completion, 14.08
- 12th in kickoff returns, 25.20 yards/attempt
- 14th in turnovers gained, 7
- 17th in third-down conversion pct. – defense, .310
- 19th in team passing efficiency defense, 105.85
- 20th in fewest tackles for loss allowed, 5.0/game
- 20th in kickoff return defense, 14.80 yards/attempt
- 22nd in red-zone defense, .717
- 22nd in red-zone offense, .917
- 25th in first downs – offense, 69

INDIVIDUAL (top 40)

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 8th in passing yards per completion, 14.22
- 8th in points responsible for, 66
- 8th in rushing touchdowns, 4
- 11th in passing touchdowns, 7
- 12th in passing yards, 839
- 13th in points responsible for per game, 16.5
- T-17th in total touchdowns, 4
- 20th in total offense, 248.2 yards/game
- 21st in yards per pass attempt, 7.77
- 23rd in passing yards per game, 209.8
- 27th in passing efficiency, 135.7

COLE FRAHM

- 24th in field goals per game, 1.25
- 33rd in field goal percentage, .714

JAXON JANKE

- 8th in receiving touchdowns, 4
- T-17th in total touchdowns, 4
- 22nd in receiving yards, 277

JADON JANKE

- 15th in yards per reception, 21.33
- 26th in receiving yards, 256

JOSHUA MANCHIGIAH

- 23rd in interceptions per game, 0.5

*PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 13th in rushing yards, 358
- 22nd in rushing yards per game, 89.5
- 30th in rushing yards per carry, 5.19
- 38th in all-purpose yards, 104.0 per game

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

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.

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.

Strong posted his first 100-yard game of the season — and 10th of his career — last week against Youngstown State, carrying 21 times for 124 yards.

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.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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

YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORDS AT DANA J. DYKHOUSE STADIUM

2016	6-1
2017	7-1
2018	7-0
2019	5-3
2020-21	2-0
TOTALS	27-5

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.

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

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

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

SDSU has gone on to post a 27-5 record at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium during its first five seasons of operation, including a 4-1 mark in Football Championship Subdivision playoff games. The Jackrabbits went undefeated at home in 2018 with a 7-0 mark.

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

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

Following is a list of the Jackrabbits' overtime results:

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

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 return home to host Illinois State in the Beef Bowl on March 27. Kickoff is slated for 2 p.m. at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

DEPTH CHART at SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

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 Beertsen, 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	11	Mark Gronowski, 6-3, 200, Fr., Naperville, Ill.
	2	JBORE GIBBS, 6-3, 230, So., Chicago, Ill.
or	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.
	8	Jordan Meachum, 5-8, 190, Grad., Lamott, Pa.

* 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 Stacker, 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.
	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.
	36	Torren Union, 6-2, 195, R-Fr., Mesa, Ariz.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Long	48	Jaden Mueller, 6-1, 210, Fr., Johnston, Iowa
Snaps	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, Ill.
-or-	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.
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: Luke Munsterteiger, C.J. Butt, Derik Dillon



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	Skyler 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, C.J. Butt, Derik Dillon						
53	Caden Johnson	DE	6-3	240	R-Fr.	Wahoo, Neb.	Football Operations: Jonathan Shaeffer						
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, Kelsey Sanders						



JOHN STIEGELMEIER

Head Coach

24th Season (169-106 record — all at SDSU)

Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 169-106 record (.615 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 127-73 overall record (.635 winning percentage)
- His 69 victories in Missouri Valley Football Conference play rank second in league history, while his 101 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 108-32 (.771) home record in Coach Stig's 24 seasons as head coach
- SDSU has a 225-145 (.608) overall record since Coach Stig joined the coaching staff as an full-time assistant in 1988 and has posted a winning record in 26 of 32 seasons
- Served as secondary coach and recruiting coordinator from 1988-90 under Wayne Haensel
- Served as defensive coordinator from 1991-96 under Mike Daly
- Jackrabbit student-athletes have earned CoSIDA Academic All-America recognition 25 times
- SDSU received the MVFC Team Academic Award each of its first nine seasons in the league

MILESTONE WINS:

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

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	3-1	3-1
TOTALS	101-55	69-31
OVERALL TOTALS	169-106	111-66

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	4	17	10	27	4.0-6	0-0	0	0-0	0	0-0	0
CAREER	42	144	78	222	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
Youngstown St.	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	17	10	27	4.0-6	0-0	0-0	0	0

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH



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 10 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 20 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	2,492

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	69	358	5.2	1	32	8	38	1	11	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	329	2,492	7.6	20	*73	28	291	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
Youngstown State	21	124	0	30	2	7	0	6	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	69	358	1	32	8	38	1	11	1	20	0	20

#3/3 SDSU 28, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 10

Oct. 5, 2019 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 13,776)

South Dakota State scored three second-half touchdowns and the Jackrabbit defense pitched a shutout over the final 30 minutes en route to a 28-10 Hobo Day victory over Southern Illinois Oct. 5 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The third-ranked Jackrabbits improved to 4-1 overall, while SIU dropped to 2-3 on the season. The game marked the Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both squads.

The Salukis capitalized on the lone SDSU turnover of the game to put the first points on the board — and the first first-quarter points allowed by the Jackrabbits this season. After recovering a fumble at the Jackrabbit 20-yard line, Griffin Cerra booted a 31-yard field goal with five minutes remaining in the opening stanza for a 3-0 lead.

SDSU responded quickly as STATS FCS Walter Payton Award candidate Cade Johnson slipped through a would-be tackle after catching a pass from J'Bore Gibbs and rolled 58 yards for a touchdown and a 6-3 Jackrabbit lead. The extra point was blocked.

It was Johnson's fourth touchdown of the season — all of which have come in the last three games.

The game turned into a defensive tussle until the closing minutes of the first half. SDSU put together a nine-play, 77-yard drive that chewed up nearly nine minutes before Chase Vinatieri capped the march with a 39-yard field goal.

SIU put together its best drive of the day with two minutes to go in the first half as it went 77 yards on nine plays, taking a 10-9 lead with 12 seconds to play on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Karé Lyles to Nigel Kilby.

The Jackrabbits continued their third-quarter dominance this season, holding SIU without a first down in the quarter. Meanwhile, SDSU took the lead at 15-10 with its second big play of the game as sophomore running back Pierre Strong, Jr. cut back near the line of scrimmage and ran through and past the Saluki defense for a 64-yard touchdown run.

Strong would finish the day with 229 rushing yards while tying a career high with 20 carries. As a team, the Jackrabbits ran for 297 yards and ended the day with a 393-215 advantage in total offense.

The redshirt freshman duo of Gibbs and Jaxon Janke accounted for two Jackrabbit touchdowns in the fourth quarter on pass plays covering 12 and 4 yards. Janke's second touchdown came after Michael Griffin II intercepted a pass and returned it to the SIU 30.

Gibbs completed 10-of-15 attempts for 96 yards and a career-high three touchdowns. Janke caught three passes for 20 yards, with Johnson tallying a pair of receptions for 66 yards.

For SIU, Lyles ended the afternoon 13-of-27 for 108 yards, and was sacked five times. The Jackrabbit defense also limited the Salukis to 1-of-14 on third-down attempts and 1-for-3 on fourth-down conversions.

Logan Backhaus, who recorded the first of the sacks, registered a game-high 11 tackles. Levi Brown added seven stops, including a pair of tackles for loss, and Christian Rozeboom added six tackles.

Avante Cox caught five passes for 54 yards, including a 31-yard reception that set up the Salukis' touchdown. Romeir Elliott was the top ground-gainer for SIU with 71 yards on 11 carries.



Pierre Strong, Jr. rushed for 229 yards and scored on a 64-yard touchdown run in the third quarter to spark the SDSU offense in a 28-10 Hobo Day win over Southern Illinois.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Southern Illinois (2-3, 0-1)	3	7	0	0	10
South Dakota State (4-1, 1-0)	6	3	6	13	28

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	5:02	SIU	Griffin Cerra 31 yd field goal
	3:35	SDSU	Cade Johnson 58 yd pass from J'Bore Gibbs (kick blocked)
2nd	2:39	SDSU	Chase Vinatieri 39 yd field goal
	00:12	SIU	Nigel Kilby 19 yd pass from Karé Lyles (Cerra kick)
3rd	8:02	SDSU	Pierre Strong, Jr. 64 yd run (pass failed)
4th	14:34	SDSU	Jaxon Janke 12 yd pass from Gibbs (kick blocked)
	7:02	SDSU	Janke 4 yd pass from Gibbs (Vinatieri kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SIU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	13	15
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	35-107	42-297
PASSING YDS (NET)	108	96
Passes Att-Comp-Int	28-14-1	15-10-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	63-215	57-393
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	3-8
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-41	2-34
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-23
Punts (Number-Avg)	8-43.2	5-35.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-40	4-25
Possession Time	28:08	31:52
Third-Down Conversions	1 of 14	4 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	3-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-15	5-28

RUSHING LEADERS: SIU - Romeir Elliott 11-71; Javon Williams Jr. 13-41. SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 20-229; C.J. Wilson 6-55; Mikey Daniel 8-23. **PASSING LEADERS:** SIU - Karé Lyles 13-27-1 108; Javon Williams Jr. 1-1-0 0. SDSU - J'Bore Gibbs 10-15-0 96. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SIU - Avante Cox 5-54; Nigel Kilby 2-23; Landon Lenior 2-19; Romeir Elliott 2-6; Sam Bonansinga 2-2. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 3-20; Cade Johnson 2-66; Adam Anderson 2-7. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SIU - none. SDSU - Michael Griffin II 1-23. **SACKS:** SIU - Cody Crider 1.0-8; Jordan Berner 1.0-1; Make Calhoun 0.5-2; Anthony Knighton 0.5-1; Elijah Watson 0.5-1; Kyonta Stallworth 0.5-1. SDSU - Caleb Sanders 1.0-7; Reece Winkelman 1.0-6; Don Gardner 1.0-4; Logan Backhaus 1.0-3; Tolu Ogunrinde 0.5-4; Thomas Stacker 0.5-4. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SIU - Joe Patterson 6-2-8; Qua Brown 5-2-7; Malik Haynes 4-2-6. SDSU - Logan Backhaus 5-6-11; Levi Brown 5-2-7; Christian Rozeboom 1-5-6.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION POLLS

STATS PERFORM FCS POLL — MARCH 15

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	James Madison [28]	3-0	975	1
2.	North Dakota [10]	4-0	944	3
3.	Weber State [2]	2-0	943	2
4.	North Dakota State	4-1	829	5
5.	Southern Illinois	4-1	815	T10
6.	South Dakota State	3-1	811	8
7.	Sam Houston State	2-0	743	12
8.	Jacksonville State	6-1	716	T10
9.	Kennesaw State	2-0	707	9
10.	Northern Iowa	2-2	639	4
11.	Chattanooga	2-1	483	14
12.	Delaware	2-0	464	19
13.	Furman	3-1	443	15
14.	Villanova	1-1	438	6
15.	Eastern Washington	2-1	425	16
16.	Southeastern Louisiana	2-1	394	18
17.	Nicholls	3-1	357	7
18.	Albany	1-1	255	13
19.	Virginia Military Institute	3-0	253	NR
20.	New Hampshire	0-1	228	17
21.	UC Davis	1-1	182	23
22.	Incarnate Word	2-0	179	25
23.	Richmond	2-0	150	NR
24.	Jackson State	3-0	141	NR
25.	Murray State	3-0	90	NR

Notes: First-place votes in brackets; opponents listed in **bold**

Top Teams Receiving Votes: Monmouth 71, Idaho 60, Rhode Island 58, Gardner-Webb 38, **Illinois State 31**, Maine 26, **South Dakota 20**, Austin Peay 16, Tarleton 15, San Diego 14, Wofford 14, ETSU 5.

AFCA FCS COACHES' POLL — MARCH 15

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	James Madison [14]	3-0	486	—
2.	North Dakota [5]	4-0	476	—
3.	Weber State [1]	2-0	474	—
4.	North Dakota State	4-1	403	—
5.	Southern Illinois	4-1	376	—
6.	Sam Houston State	2-0	374	—
7.	South Dakota State	3-1	370	—
8.	Jacksonville State	6-1	361	—
9.	Kennesaw State	2-0	345	—
10.	Delaware	2-0	278	—
11.	Furman	3-1	268	—
12.	Chattanooga	2-1	249	—
	Eastern Washington	2-1	249	—
14.	Northern Iowa	2-2	205	—
	Villanova	1-1	205	—
16.	Nicholls	3-1	197	—
17.	Southeastern Louisiana	2-1	171	—
18.	Virginia Military Institute	3-0	152	—
19.	Albany	1-1	115	—
20.	Incarnate Word	2-0	104	—
21.	Jackson State	3-0	102	—
22.	Richmond	2-0	85	—
23.	New Hampshire	0-1	79	—
24.	Murray State	3-0	74	—
25.	UC Davis	1-1	69	—

Notes: First-place votes in brackets; opponents listed in **bold**

Top Teams Receiving Votes: Monmouth 52, Rhode Island 34, Southern 21, Gardner-webb 16, San Diego 12, Tarleton State 12, **Illinois State 11**, Maine 9, Idaho 7, Charleston Southern 6, Duquesne 6, Missouri State 5, Alabama A&M 4, Samford 4, **South Dakota 4**, Austin Peay 3, Holy Cross 2, Prairie View A&M 2, Wofford 2.

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

2020-21 MVFC STANDINGS

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	PF	PA	OVERALL	PF	PA
North Dakota	4-0	131	69	4-0	131	69
Southern Illinois	3-1	106	96	4-1	126	113
North Dakota State	3-1	85	58	4-1	124	86
South Dakota State	3-1	105	75	3-1	105	75
Missouri State	2-1	57	73	2-4	101	181
Northern Iowa	2-2	77	51	2-2	77	51
South Dakota	1-2	61	68	1-2	61	68
Western Illinois	0-3	55	113	0-3	55	113
Illinois State	0-3	43	68	0-3	43	68
Youngstown State	0-4	46	95	0-4	46	95

SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

*Southern Illinois 17, Northern Iowa 16
 *North Dakota 38, Western Illinois 21
 *Missouri State 27, South Dakota 24
 *South Dakota State 19, Youngstown State 17
 *North Dakota State 21, Illinois State 13

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

*Western Illinois at Illinois State, 11 a.m.
 *South Dakota at Youngstown State, 11 a.m.
 *South Dakota State at Southern Illinois, noon
 *North Dakota at North Dakota State, 2:30 p.m.
 *Missouri State at Northern Iowa, 4 p.m.

Note: All times Central

2020-21 PRESEASON POLL

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

Note: Indiana State opted out of spring season



VERSUS RANKED OPPONENTS

Since moving to the Football Championship Subdivision at the start of the 2004 season, the Jackrabbits have compiled a 38-47 record against ranked opponents. Following is a year-by-year look at games against ranked opponents:

2004 0-3 record

- at #13 Cal Poly (L, 7-14)
- at #24 Montana State (L, 24-27)
- at #1 Georgia Southern (L, 7-63)

2005 0-5 record

- at #3 Montana (L, 0-7)
- #12 Cal Poly (L, 16-24)
- at #16 Texas State (L, 12-42)
- #19 Georgia Southern (L, 42-55)
- at #20 North Dakota State (L, 17-41)

2006 3-3 record

- at #6 Montana (L, 7-36)
- at #12 Northern Iowa (L, 17-27)
- at #16 McNeese State (W, 20-17)
- at #4 Cal Poly (W, 29-28)
- #16 UC Davis (W, 22-21)
- at #4 North Dakota State (L, 28-41)

2007 2-2 record

- at #6 Youngstown State (L, 17-23)
- #5 Northern Iowa (L, 17-31)
- #19 Cal Poly (W, 48-35)
- #1 North Dakota State (W, 29-24)

2008 3-4 record

- #14 Youngstown State (W, 40-7)
- #15 Western Illinois (W, 24-22)
- #8 Northern Iowa (L, 20-34)
- #4 McNeese State (L, 44-46 - 3OT)
- #3 Cal Poly (L, 28-42)
- #9 Southern Illinois (L, 35-38)
- at #24 North Dakota State (W, 25-24)

2009 1-3 record

- at #17 Cal Poly (L, 14-21)
- vs. #6 Northern Iowa (W, 24-14)
- vs. #3 Southern Illinois (L, 15-34)
- ^at #1 Montana (L, 48-61)

2010 2-3 record

- at #16 Delaware (L, 3-26)
- at #15 Northern Iowa (L, 14-24)
- vs. #20 Western Illinois (W, 33-29)
- at #15 Southern Illinois (W, 31-10)
- at #20 North Dakota State (L, 24-31)

2011 0-3 record

- vs. #23 Indiana State (L, 28-38)
- vs. #2 Northern Iowa (L, 14-31)
- vs. #3/5 North Dakota State (L, 14-38)

2012 3-2 record

- at #22/25 Indiana State (W, 24-10)
- vs. #21/22 Youngstown State (W, 41-28)
- at #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 17-20)
- ^vs. #25 Eastern Illinois (W, 58-10)
- ^at #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 3-28)

2013 3-2 record

- vs. #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 0-20)
- vs. #17/18 Northern Iowa (W, 37-34 - 2 OT)
- at #15/18 Youngstown State (W, 42-13)
- ^at #8/9 Northern Arizona (W, 26-7)
- ^at #3/3 Eastern Washington (L, 17-41)

2014 3-4 record

- at #22/22 Illinois State (L, 10-45)
- at #20/21 Northern Iowa (W, 31-28)
- vs. #16/17 Youngstown State (L, 27-30)
- at #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 17-37)
- at #17/19 Indiana State (W, 32-17)
- ^at #17/17 Montana State (W, 47-40)
- at #2/3 North Dakota State (L, 24-27)

2015 3-3 record

- vs. #2/3 North Dakota State (L, 7-28)
- vs. #19/21 Indiana State (W, 24-7)
- at #11/12 Youngstown State (W, 38-8)
- vs. #22/25 Northern Iowa (L, 7-10)
- vs. #2/2 Illinois State (W, 25-20)
- ^at #16/17 Montana (L, 17-24)

2016 4-1 record

- vs. #8/8 Western Illinois (W, 52-14)
- at #1/1 North Dakota State (W, 19-17)
- vs. #12/13 Youngstown State (W, 24-10)
- ^vs. #9/10 Villanova (W, 10-7)
- ^at #3/3 North Dakota State (L, 10-36)

2017 6-2 record

- at #5/6 Youngstown State (L, 7-19)
- at #12/14 Western Illinois (W, 52-48)
- vs. #2/2 North Dakota State (W, 33-21)
- vs. #17/20 Illinois State (W, 27-24 - OT)
- at #15/16 South Dakota (W, 31-28)
- ^vs. #20/21 Northern Iowa (W, 37-22)
- ^vs. #20/21 New Hampshire (W, 56-14)
- ^at #1/1 James Madison (L, 16-51)

2018 2-3 record

- at #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 17-21)
- at #25 Northern Iowa (L, 9-24)
- at #9/11 Illinois State (W, 38-28)
- ^at #2/2 Kennesaw State (W, 27-17)
- ^at #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 21-44)

2019 2-3 record

- at #17/19 Youngstown State (W, 38-28)
- vs. #1/1 North Dakota State (L, 16-23)
- vs. #11/12 Illinois State (L, 18-27)
- vs. #4/5 Northern Iowa (W, 38-7)
- ^vs. #6/6 Northern Iowa (L, 10-13)

2020-21 1-1 record

- at #3 Northern Iowa (W, 24-20)
- at #14 North Dakota (L, 17-28)

^denotes FCS playoff game

#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.

#8 SDSU 19, YOUNGSTOWN STATE 17

March 13, 2021 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 2,653)

Cole Frahm kicked a 29-yard field goal with 31 seconds remaining to lift eighth-ranked South Dakota State to a 19-17 victory over Youngstown State in Missouri Valley Football Conference action March 13 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

With the victory, SDSU improved to 3-1 overall and in league play. YSU dropped to 0-4 overall and in the MVFC.

Frahm's game-winning field goal capped a 10-play, 67-yard drive after the Penguins had scored the first 10 points of the fourth quarter. With SDSU facing third-and-11 from its own 20-yard line, quarterback Mark Gronowski, who struggled with his accuracy much of the day, connected with tight end Zach Heins on a 39-yard pass play to the YSU 41 to keep the drive alive.

Gronowski hooked up again with Heins on the next play for 16 yards to put the Jackrabbits into field goal range. Another 10-yard pass from Gronowski to Jadon Janke moved SDSU even closer to set up Frahm, who earlier in the first quarter booted a career-long 52-yard field goal that gave SDSU a 10-0 lead.

For the fourth time in as many games, SDSU scored on its first possession. The Jackrabbits took the opening kickoff and marched 75 yards on six plays, finishing the drive with an 8-yard touchdown pass from Gronowski to Jaxon Janke.

After Frahm's first field goal, Youngstown State countered with a 75-yard drive of its own late in the first quarter that was capped by a 42-yard touchdown run by Jaleel McLaughlin.

The score would remain 10-7 until the third quarter, when Gronowski carried in from a yard out. However, a low snap on the ensuing point-after try after SDSU lost a pair of long snappers due to injuries, led to a Frahm miss.

Youngstown State pulled to within 16-10 on a 33-yard field goal by Colt McFadden after the Penguins put together an 18-play, 59-yard drive that chewed up more than 10 minutes off the clock.

SDSU turned the ball over for the second time in the game as Zaire Jones intercepted a Gronowski pass at the YSU 28 and returned it eight yards. The Penguins quickly cashed in on the short field as McLaughlin scored three plays later from a yard out with 6:21 remaining.

Following Frahm's go-ahead field goal, the Jackrabbit defensive line tandem of Tolu Ogunrinde and Thomas Stacker ended YSU's last-ditch effort. Ogunrinde sacked Penguin quarterback Mark Waid at the YSU 39 and jarred the ball loose, with Stacker recovering with a single second remaining.

SDSU finished with a 300-251 advantage in total yards. Pierre Strong, Jr. carried 21 times for 124 yards, while Gronowski ended up completing 12-of-28 passes for 158 yards. Jadon Janke led the receivers with three catches for 57 yards.

McLaughlin topped the century mark on the ground for the Penguins, tallying 122 yards on 26 carries. YSU mustered only 55 yards through the air as Waid completed 7-of-13 passes, but was picked off two times in the first half.

Preston Tetzlaff led SDSU with nine tackles, while Grant Dixon registered a game-high 10 tackles and forced a fumble for the Penguins.



Cole Frahm connected on a 29-yard field goal with 31 seconds remaining to give the Jackrabbits a 19-17 victory over Youngstown State on March 13.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Youngstown State (0-4, 0-4)	7	0	0	10	17
South Dakota State (3-1, 3-1)	10	0	6	3	19

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	11:36	SDSU	-	Jaxon Janke 8 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
1st	6:06	SDSU	-	Frahm 52 yd field goal
1st	4:03	YSU	-	Jaleel McLaughlin 42 yd run (Colt McFadden kick)
3rd	8:45	SDSU	-	Gronowski 1 yd run
4th	13:31	YSU	-	McFadden 33 yd field goal
4th	6:21	YSU	-	McLaughlin 1 yd run (McFadden kick)
4th	00:31	SDSU	-	Frahm 29 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS	YSU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	13	15
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	46-196	35-142
PASSING YDS (NET)	55	158
Passes Att-Comp-Int	13-7-2	28-12-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	59-251	63-300
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1-5	1-3
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	1-8	2-11
Punts (Number-Avg)	5-40.6	5-40.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	4-34	2-20
Possession Time	32:47	27:13
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 13	6 of 15
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	2-11

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 21-124; Mark Gronowski 9-15; Isaiah Davis 3-12.

YSU - Jaleel McLaughlin 26-122; Mark Waid 11-41; Christian Turner 9-33.

PASSING LEADERS: SDSU - Mark Gronowski 12-28-1 158. YSU - Mark Waid 7-13-2 55.

RECEIVING LEADERS: SDSU - Jadon Janke 3-57; Jaxon Janke 3-19; Zach Heins 2-55; Pierre Strong, Jr. 2-7. YSU - Jake Coates

2-5; C.J. Charleston 1-31.

INTERCEPTIONS: SDSU - Joshua Manchigiah 1-11; Malik Lofton 1-0. YSU - Zaire Jones 1-8.

SACKS: SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.0-10; Tolu Ogunrinde 1.0-1. YSU - none.

TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT): SDSU - Preston Tetzlaff 4-5-9; Don Gardner 5-1-6; Michael Griffin II 3-2-5; Logan Backhaus 3-2-5. YSU - Grant Dixon 6-4-10; Zaire Jones 6-3-9.

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Game Results (as of Mar13, 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
* Mar 13, 2021	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	W	19-17	3-1	3-1	2:57	2653

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Team Statistics (as of Mar 13, 2021)
All games

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	105	75
PointsPer Game	26.2	18.8
PointsOff Turnovers	17	21
FIRST DOWNS	69	64
Rushing	34	27
Passing	32	29
Penalty	3	8
RUSHING YARDAGE	701	488
Yardsgained rushing	786	546
Yards lostrushing	85	58
Rushing Attempts	139	134
AveragePer Rush	5.0	3.6
AveragePer Game	175.2	122.0
TDs Rushing	6	6
PASSING YARDAGE	845	722
Comp-Att-Int	60-111-3	78-129-6
AveragePer Pass	7.6	5.6
AveragePer Catch	14.1	9.3
AveragePer Game	211.2	180.5
TDs Passing	7	3
TOTAL OFFENSE	1546	1210
TotalPlays	250	263
AveragePer Play	6.2	4.6
AveragePer Game	386.5	302.5
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	5-126	5-74
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	4-41	5-23
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	6-20	3-15
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	25.2	14.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.2	4.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	3.3	5.0
FUMBLES-LOST	6-5	1-1
PENALTIES-Yards	23-207	14-85
AveragePer Game	51.8	21.2
PUNTS-Yards	17-644	20-745
AveragePer Punt	37.9	37.2
Netpunt average	35.4	33.2
KICKOFFS-Yards	22-1093	17-1071
AveragePer Kick	49.7	63.0
Netkick average	36.1	39.4
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	30:01	29:59
3RD-DOWN Conversions	24/54	18/58
3rd-DownPct	44%	31%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	0/3	5/10
4th-DownPct	0%	50%
SACKS BY-Yards	5-32	5-28
MISC YARDS	6	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	13	9
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	5-7	4-7
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(11-12) 92%	(10-14) 71%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(8-12) 67%	(7-14) 50%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(12-13) 92%	(9-9) 100%
ATTENDANCE	5000	5775
Games/AvgPer Game	2/2500	2/2888
NeutralSite Games		0/0

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Dakota State	41	42	12	10	0	105
Opponents	24	7	17	27	0	75

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Mar 13, 2021)
All games

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Pierre Strong	4	69	369	11	358	5.2	1	32	89.5
Mark Gronowski	4	30	203	49	154	5.1	4	80	38.5
Isaiah Davis	4	15	138	0	138	9.2	1	40	34.5
Jefferson Lee V	1	11	49	1	48	4.4	0	7	48.0
Jordan Meachum	4	6	19	7	12	2.0	0	17	3.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	2	8	0	8	4.0	0	7	4.0
TEAM	4	4	0	4	-4	-1.0	0	0	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	1	0	5	-5	-5.0	0	4	-5.0
Jaxon Janke	4	1	0	8	-8	-8.0	0	0	-2.0
Total	4	139	786	85	701	5.0	6	80	175.2
Opponents	4	134	546	58	488	3.6	6	43	122.0

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	4	135.72	59-108-3	54.6	839	7	76	209.8
J'Bore Gibbs	2	50.13	1-3-0	33.3	6	0	6	3.0
Total	4	133.41	60-111-3	54.1	845	7	76	211.2
Opponents	4	105.85	78-129-6	60.5	722	3	62	180.5

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jaxon Janke	4	18	277	15.4	4	76	69.2
Jadon Janke	4	12	256	21.3	1	49	64.0
Pierre Strong	4	8	38	4.8	1	11	9.5
Zach Heins	4	7	145	20.7	0	43	36.2
Jordan Meachum	4	6	37	6.2	0	14	9.2
Canyon Bauer	4	3	24	8.0	0	15	6.0
Mason Leighton	3	2	26	13.0	1	14	8.7
Michael Morgan	2	2	15	7.5	0	12	7.5
Isaiah Davis	4	1	18	18.0	0	18	4.5
SkylerCavanaugh	3	1	9	9.0	0	9	3.0
Total	4	60	845	14.1	7	76	211.2
Opponents	4	78	722	9.3	3	62	180.5

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaxon Janke	3	22	7.3	0	14
Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0
Total	4	41	10.2	0	14
Opponents	5	23	4.6	0	9

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Josh Manchigiah	2	11	5.5	0	11
PrestonTetzlaff	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cade Terveer	1	9	9.0	0	9
DyShawn Gales	1	0	0.0	0	0
Malik Lofton	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	6	20	3.3	0	11
Opponents	3	15	5.0	0	8

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 13, 2021)
All games

Scoring	td	fg	PAT				dxd	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Cole Frahm	-	5-7	12-13	-	-	-	-	-	27
Mark Gronowski	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Jaxon Janke	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Pierre Strong	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Isaiah Davis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Mason Leighton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Jadon Janke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	13	5-7	12-13	-	-	-	-	-	105
Opponents	9	4-7	9-9	-	-	-	-	-	75

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	4	138	154	839	993	248.2
Pierre Strong	4	69	358	0	358	89.5
Isaiah Davis	4	15	138	0	138	34.5
Jefferson Lee V	1	11	48	0	48	48.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	5	8	6	14	7.0
Jordan Meachum	4	6	12	0	12	3.0
TEAM	4	4	-4	0	-4	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	1	-5	0	-5	-5.0
Jaxon Janke	4	1	-8	0	-8	-2.0
Total	4	250	701	845	1546	386.5
Opponents	4	263	488	722	1210	302.5

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	5-7	71.4	0-0	2-2	2-2	0-2	1-1	52	1

FG Sequence	South Dakota State	Opponents
UNI	(24)	(43),52,(35)
North Dakota	42,(39)	35
Western Illinois	(39)	(26)
Youngstown State	(52),43,(29)	43,(33)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	13	524	40.3	61	1	4	4	2	1
Hunter Dustman	2	72	36.0	38	0	0	1	0	0
Mark Gronowski	1	48	48.0	48	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	17	644	37.9	61	1	4	5	2	1
Opponents	20	745	37.2	55	2	9	3	3	1

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Cole Frahm	22	1093	49.7	9	2			
Total	22	1093	49.7	9	2	14.8	36.1	28
Opponents	17	1071	63.0	11	1	25.2	39.4	25

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Mar 13, 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	4	358	38	0	20	0	416	104.0
Jaxon Janke	4	-8	277	22	0	0	291	72.8
Jadon Janke	4	0	256	0	0	0	256	64.0
Isaiah Davis	4	138	18	0	28	0	184	46.0
Mark Gronowski	4	154	0	0	0	0	154	38.5
Zach Heins	4	0	145	0	0	0	145	36.2
Jordan Meachu	4	12	37	0	78	0	127	31.8
Jefferson Lee V	1	48	0	0	0	0	48	48.0
Mason Leighton	3	0	26	0	0	0	26	8.7
Canyon Bauer	4	0	24	0	0	0	24	6.0
Isaiah Stalbird	4	0	0	19	0	0	19	4.8
Michael Morgan	2	0	15	0	0	0	15	7.5
Josh Manchigiah	4	0	0	0	0	11	11	2.8
Cade Terveer	3	0	0	0	0	9	9	3.0
SkylerCavanaugh	3	0	9	0	0	0	9	3.0
J'Bore Gibbs	2	8	0	0	0	0	8	4.0
TEAM	4	-4	0	0	0	0	-4	-1.0
Keaton Heide	1	-5	0	0	0	0	-5	-5.0
Total	4	701	845	41	126	20	1733	433.2
Opponents	4	488	722	23	74	15	1322	330.5

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Mar 13, 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	
46	PrestonTetzlaff	4	16	12	28	.	.	1-0	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
12	Logan Backhaus	4	17	10	27	4.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
21	Don Gardner	4	17	4	21	3.0-7	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Michael Griffin	4	8	9	17	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Adam Bock	4	8	7	15	1.0-7	1.0-7	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
2D	Isaiah Stalbird	4	11	3	14	2.0-7	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	.	.
29	Graham Spalding	4	8	5	13	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Josh Manchigiah	4	8	5	13	1.0-2	.	2-11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Caleb Sanders	4	8	4	12	2.0-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Malik Lofton	4	8	2	10	.	.	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
44	S. Williamson	3	4	5	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Quinton Hicks	4	5	3	8	1.0-10	1.0-10	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	4	6	2	8	4.0-14	2.0-9	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
35	Chase Norblade	3	8	.	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Reece Winkelman	4	6	1	7	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
30	Payton Shafer	4	3	3	6	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
55	Thomas Stacker	4	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.
53	Caden Johnson	3	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	.	.	.	.	.
25	Cale Reeder	4	1	1	2	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Ryan Van Marel	4	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
69	K. Krolkowski	4	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Torren Union	3	1	1	2	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1B	Matt Barnett	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9F	Cole Frahm	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Dalys Beanum	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Mason Leighton	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2I	Isaiah Davis	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Caleb Franci	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total		4	156	88	244	22-72	5-32	6-20	12	7	1-0	1	2	.	.
Opponents		4	136	100	236	20-69	5-28	3-15	11	6	5-0	5	2	.	.

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Team Game-by-Game (as of Mar 13, 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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	35	142	1	30	12	158	1	39	12-28-1	158	1	39	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	300
South Dakota State		139	701	6	80	60	845	7	76	60-111-3	845	7	76	5	126	0	32	4	41	0	14	1546
		134	488	6	43	78	722	3	62	78-129-6	722	3	62	5	74	0	39	5	23	0	9	1210

Games: 4 • Avg/rush: 5.0 • Avg/catch: 14.1 • Pass effic: 133.41 • KR avg: 25.2 • PR avg: 10.2 • All purpose avg/game: 433.2 • Total offense avg/gm: 386.5

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	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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	39	26	65	5.0-22	2.0-11	1	1-0		2-11	1	1	1	1-2	0	0	0	3	19
South Dakota State		156	88	244	22.0-72	5.0-32	1	1-0		6-20	7	12	2	12-13	0	0	0	17	105
		136	100	236	20.0-69	5.0-28	5	5-0		3-15	6	11	2	9-9	0	0	0	21	75

		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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	5	204	40.8	48	0	0	2	0	2	2-3	52	0	5	221	44.2	1	0
South Dakota State		17	644	37.9	61	1	1	4	2	5	5-7	52	1	22	1093	49.7	9	2
		20	745	37.2	55	1	2	9	3	3	4-7	43	1	17	1071	63.0	11	1

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Opponent Game-by-Game (as of Mar 13, 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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	46	196	2	42	7	55	0	31	7-13-2	55	0	31	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	5	251
Opponents		134	488	6	43	78	722	3	62	78-129-6	722	3	62	5	74	0	39	5	23	0	9	1210
		139	701	6	80	60	845	7	76	60-111-3	845	7	76	5	126	0	32	4	41	0	14	1546

Games: 4 • Avg/rush: 3.6 • Avg/catch: 9.3 • Pass effic: 105.85 • KR avg: 14.8 • PR avg: 4.6 • All purpose avg/game: 330.5 • Total offense avg/gm: 302.5

		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	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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	37	16	53	5.0-20	0.0-0	1	1-0	1-8	2	2	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	17
Opponents		136	100	236	20.0-69	5.0-28	5	5-0	3-15	6	11	2	9-9	0	0	0	21	75
		156	88	244	22.0-72	5.0-32	1	1-0	6-20	7	12	2	12-13	0	0	0	17	105

		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
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	5	203	40.6	51	0	0	4	1	0	1-2	33	1	4	260	65.0	4	0
Opponents		20	745	37.2	55	1	2	9	3	3	4-7	43	1	17	1071	63.0	11	1
		17	644	37.9	61	1	1	4	2	5	5-7	52	1	22	1093	49.7	9	2