



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

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2020-21 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Playoffs start with Holy Cross

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — APRIL 24



HEAD COACH: Bob Chesney (Dickinson College (Pa.), 2000)
• 15-12 record in three seasons at Holy Cross;
80-37 career record in 11 seasons as a collegiate head coach

SERIES NOTE

- First Meeting

MEDIA INFORMATION

- Game will be televised on ESPN3.com
- Pre-game radio show begins at 1 p.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), Scotty Kwas (color) and Al Bahe (sidelines) will call the action



HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)
• 171-106 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 W, 44-3
27 *ILLINOIS STATE canceled

APRIL

10 *SOUTH DAKOTA [Showdown Series] canceled
17 *at North Dakota State W, 27-17
24 HOLY CROSS [FCS Playoffs] 2 p.m.

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game
All times Central

TALE OF THE TAPE — SEASON STATISTICS

HOLY CROSS	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
29.0	Points Per Game	29.3
12.3	Points Allowed Per Game	15.8
200.7	Rushing Yardage Per Game	233.0
44.0	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	117.7
86.0	Passing Yardage Per Game	177.3
8.4	Average Per Catch	13.6
249.3	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	160.5
286.7	Total Offense Per Game	410.3
293.3	Total Offense Allowed/Game	278.2
19.0	Kick Return Average	23.6
14.0	Punt Return Average	9.7
7-94	Interception Returns	10-64
6-3	Fumbles-Lost	8-6
16-164	Penalties-Yards	35-292
30:38	Time of Possession/Game	31:36
19/40 (48%)	Third-Down Conversions	34/76 (45%)

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

SDSU PLAYOFF RESULTS

2009: Montana 61, South Dakota State 48
(Nov. 28, 2009, at Missoula, Mont.)

2012: South Dakota State 58, Eastern Illinois 10
(Nov. 24, 2012, at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium)
North Dakota State 28, South Dakota State 3
(Dec. 1, 2012, at Fargo, N.D.)

2013: South Dakota State 26, Northern Arizona 7
(Nov. 30, 2013, at Flagstaff, Ariz.)
Eastern Washington 41, South Dakota State 17
(Dec. 7, 2013, at Cheney, Wash.)

2014: South Dakota State 47, Montana State 40
(Nov. 29, 2014, at Bozeman, Mont.)
North Dakota State 27, South Dakota State 24
(Dec. 6, 2014, at Fargo, N.D.)

2015: Montana 24, South Dakota State 17
(Nov. 28, 2015, at Missoula, Mont.)

2016: South Dakota State 10, Villanova 7
(Dec. 3, 2016, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
North Dakota State 36, South Dakota State 10
(Dec. 10, 2016, at Fargo, N.D.)

2017: South Dakota State 37, Northern Iowa 22
(Dec. 2, 2017, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
South Dakota State 56, New Hampshire 14
(Dec. 9, 2017, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
James Madison 51, South Dakota State 16
(Dec. 16, 2017, at Harrisonburg, Va.)

2018: South Dakota State 51, Duquesne 6
(Dec. 1, 2018, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
South Dakota State 27, Kennesaw State 17
(Dec. 8, 2018, at Kennesaw, Ga.)
North Dakota State 44, South Dakota State 21
(Dec. 14, 2018, at Fargo, N.D.)

2019: Northern Iowa 13, South Dakota State 10
(Dec. 7, 2019, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)

Overall, South Dakota State has an 8-9 record in FCS playoff games

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

April 20, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — The South Dakota State University football team returns to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs Saturday, hosting Holy Cross in first-round action.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. Central Time at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium. The game will be televised through ESPN3.com.

The Jackrabbits enter the 16-team tournament as the top seed after posting a 5-1 regular season record, all of which was in Missouri Valley Football Conference action. SDSU shared the league title with Missouri State and secured the MVFC's automatic bid by defeating defending national champion North Dakota State, 27-17, in their April 17 regular season finale in Fargo, North Dakota, following nearly a month-long layoff.

Holy Cross, 3-0 overall, is making its second postseason trip in a row after winning the Patriot League title with a 33-10 victory at Bucknell last weekend.

The Crusaders also qualified for the FCS playoffs in 2019, dropping a 44-27 decision to Monmouth in the opening round. This will be Holy Cross' fourth FCS postseason appearance.

THE SERIES: Saturday's game will mark the first time South Dakota State and Holy Cross have met in football. The game also will be the Jackrabbits' first against a Patriot League opponent.

PLAYOFF HISTORY: South Dakota State is making its ninth consecutive appearance in the Football Championship Subdivision and 10th overall. The Jackrabbits first qualified for the FCS postseason in 2009 and began their current streak with a 58-10 victory over Eastern Illinois in the opening round of the 2012 playoffs at Coughlin-Alumni Stadium.

The Jackrabbits have been a top-eight seed each of the past five seasons (since 2016) and have hosted at least one playoff game each of those years at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

SDSU holds an 8-9 all-time record in the FCS postseason, with six of the losses against either Montana (twice) or North Dakota State (four times). The Jackrabbits' eight playoff victories have been against eight different schools.

Prior to moving to the Division I ranks in 2004, the Jackrabbits made only one other NCAA postseason appearance. That came in the 1979 NCAA Division II playoffs, where SDSU suffered a 50-7 setback at the hands of current MVFC rival Youngstown State.

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

North Dakota State holds the longest active streak with 11 consecutive trips to the playoffs after the Bison earned an at-large bid to this season's 16-team field.

RANKINGS STREAK: With its appearance in this week's Stats Perform FCS Poll, SDSU has now appeared in the top 25 of 112 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 15/16	6th	7th
March 22/23	4th	T-5th
March 29/30	4th	4th
April 5/6	4th	4th
April 12/13	4th	4th
April 19/20	2nd	2nd

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

TEAM GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 61, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
RUSHING YARDS: 392, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
YARDS PER RUSH: 7.9, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 5, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
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: 10.6, at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021
PASSING TOUCHDOWNS: 2, three times (last: vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021)
TOTAL PLAYS: 73, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
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: 26, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
SACKS BY: 2, three times (last: at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021)
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: 4, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
INTERCEPTIONS: 3, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021, and at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
FUMBLES RECOVERED: 1, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021, and at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

SDSU'S 2020-21 RECORD WHEN...

Jackrabbits score first	4-1
Opponent scores first	1-0
Jackrabbits lead after one quarter.....	3-1
Opponent leads after one quarter	2-0
Game is tied after one quarter	0-0
Jackrabbits lead at halftime.....	5-1
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0
Game is tied at halftime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after three quarters.....	4-0
Opponent leads after three quarters	0-1
Game is tied after three quarters	1-0
Game is decided in overtime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits play at home.....	2-0
SDSU plays on the road	3-1
Jackrabbits commit fewer turnovers than opponent ..	4-0
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	3-1
Teams commit same number of penalties	1-0
Jackrabbits have time of possession advantage	4-0
Opponent has time of possession advantage	1-1
Game is played on artificial surface	5-1
Game is played on natural grass/hybrid surface	0-0
Game is played during the day	4-1
Game is played at night (6 p.m. or later kickoff).....	1-0

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.

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 103-55 record (.652 winning record) in that span, including a 71-31 mark in MVFC games.

SDSU has not finished below .500 in league play in any of its 13 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 129-73 overall record (.639 winning percentage). SDSU spent its first four years at the FCS level as a member of the Great West Football Conference.

SDSU has now turned in a winning record in 15 of 17 seasons as an FCS member.

NATIONAL AWARD FINALISTS: South Dakota State running back Pierre Strong, Jr., and quarterback Mark Gronowski were announced Monday as finalists for a pair of Stats Perform FCS national awards.

Walter Payton Award

A junior from Little Rock, Arkansas, Strong was selected as one of 16 finalists for the Walter Payton Award, which honors the top offensive player in the FCS. He leads the team in rushing during the 2020-21 season with 453 yards in five games (90.6 ypg) for a Jackrabbit offense that has churned out an average of 233 rushing yards per contest.

Strong is averaging 5.7 yards per carry and has scored a pair of rushing touchdowns, while also ranking third on the squad with 12 receptions for 88 yards and a touchdown. He has rushed for 90 or more yards four times, including a season-high 124 yards on 21 carries March 13 versus Youngstown State.

On the official watch list for the Walter Payton Award for most of the 2019 season, Strong was honored on All-America teams selected by HERO Sports (second team), the Associated Press (third team) and Phil Steele publications (third team). He ranks 10th in career rushing at SDSU with 2,587 yards.

Strong is the seventh Jackrabbit player to be named a finalist for the Walter Payton Award since the program moved to the FCS ranks in 2004, joining the following:

- Kyle Minett, running back, 2010;
- Zach Zenner, running back, 2012-14;
- Jake Wieneke, wide receiver, 2015-16;
- Taryn Christion, quarterback, 2016-18;
- Dallas Goedert, tight end, 2016-17;
- Cade Johnson, wide receiver, 2019.

Jerry Rice Award

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski is one of 16 finalists for the Jerry Rice Award, which is presented to the national freshman player of the year in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Gronowski has started all six games for the Missouri Valley Football Conference champion Jackrabbits. He has averaged 239 yards of total offense per game, completing 76-of-133 passes (57.1 percent) for 1,051 yards and rushing for 383 yards.

He has accounted for 14 touchdowns, throwing for eight scores and running for six more. He topped the 100-yard mark for rushing three times during the regular season.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

2020-21 GAME HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 22, by Pierre Strong, Jr., at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021, and Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

RUSHING YARDS: 150, by Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, by Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

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, and at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

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: 16 yards, by Jaxon Janke, at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021

LONG KICKOFF RETURN: 36 yards, by Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

TACKLES: 13, by Adam Bock, at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021

TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2.5, by Adam Bock, at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021

SACKS: 1.0, eight times by six players (three times by Tolu Ogunrinde)

INTERCEPTIONS: 1, 10 times by eight players (three times 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, and by Graham Spalding, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021

BLOCKED KICKS: 1, by Isaiah Stalbird, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021, and by Ryan Van Marel, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021

Gronowski is the fifth Jackrabbit player to be selected as a finalist for the Jerry Rice Award since its inception in 2011, joining the following:

- Austin Sumner, quarterback, 2011 (3rd);
- T.J. Lally, linebacker, 2012 (7th);
- Jake Wieneke, wide receiver, 2014 (2nd);
- Christian Rozeboom, linebacker, 2016 (2nd).

A 40-member national media panel will select the Stats Perform FCS award winners, which also include the Buck Buchanan Award (defensive player of the year) and Eddie Robinson Award (coach of the year). The Jerry Rice Award recipient will be announced May 3, followed by the Eddie Robinson Award on May 4. The Walter Payton and Buck Buchanan award winners will be revealed May 15, on the eve of the FCS national championship game in Frisco, Texas.

MORE STRONG RUNNING: Jackrabbit running back Pierre Strong, Jr., was named to the preseason All-America team selected by HERO Sports and remains in the national spotlight after a solid spring season.

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 2,587 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.

After missing the March 20 game at Southern Illinois due to injury, Strong returned to the lineup for the April 17 regular season finale and gained 95 yards on 11 carries, highlighted by a 53-yard touchdown run — his longest run of the season — in the third quarter.

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

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Three South Dakota State football players were recognized by the Missouri Valley Football Conference Sunday among the final weekly award winners of the season for their performances in the Jackrabbits' 27-17 victory at North Dakota State a day earlier.

Earning MVFC Defensive Player of the Week honors was redshirt freshman linebacker Adam Bock. The Solon, Iowa, native registered a game-high 13 tackles, including 2.5 tackles for loss, in the Dakota Marker victory. He led a Jackrabbit defensive unit that limited NDSU to 246 yards of total offense, including only 97 on the ground.

Junior kicker Cole Frahm was honored as the MVFC Special Teams Player of the Week for the second time this season. The Omaha native went 2-for-2 on field goals and added three extra points for nine total points. He connected on field goals of 31 and 24 yards, the second of which gave the Jackrabbits the lead for good midway through the fourth quarter.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

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, March 20)

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Adam Bock (April 17)

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Cole Frahm (March 13, April 17)

NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

- Mark Gronowski (Feb. 19, April 17)
- Isaiah Davis (March 20)

TOP PERFORMANCES

100-YARD RUSHERS

ISAIAH DAVIS

- 118 yards (9-118, 1 TD) vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-21
- 150 yards (22-150, 3 TD) at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 120 yards (4-120, 2 TD) vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-21
- 103 yards (13-103, 2 TD) at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21
- 126 yards (16-126) at North Dakota State, 4-17-21

PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 124 yards (21-124) vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-21

100-YARD RECEIVERS

JADON JANKE

- 109 yards (5-109) at North Dakota, 2-27-21

JAXON JANKE

- 167 yards (7-161, 2 TD) at North Dakota, 2-27-21

300-YARD PASSERS

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 309 yards (16-32-2, 309) at North Dakota, 2-27-21

DOUBLE-DIGIT TACKLERS

LOGAN BACKHAUS

- 11 tackles (5-6) at North Dakota, 2-27-21

ADAM BOCK

- 10 tackles (2-8) at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21
- 13 tackles (8-5) at North Dakota State, 4-17-21

PRESTON TETZLAFF

- 10 tackles (7-3) at North Dakota, 2-27-21

Frahm, who has made a field goal in all six SDSU games this season, also successfully executed a variety of kickoffs to help negate NDSU's return game. He also received the weekly award after the Jackrabbits' March 13 victory over Youngstown State.

Earning MVFC Newcomer of the Week recognition for the second time during the 2021 spring season was freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski. A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski accounted for 275 yards of total offense versus North Dakota State. He completed 10-of-14 passes for 149 yards, including a 25-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, and also was the game's leading rusher with 126 yards on 16 carries as he hit the century mark for rushing for the third time this season. His 55-yard run in the closing minutes set up a touchdown that sealed the Dakota Marker victory for the Jackrabbits, who also claimed a share of the league title for the first time since 2016.

Gronowski's newcomer award was his second of the season as he also he earned the honor after the Jackrabbits' Feb. 19 season-opening win at Northern Iowa.

FAST STARTS: SDSU scored on its opening drive in each of its first 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);

Southern Illinois became the first team to score against the Jackrabbits on the first drive of the game this season, kicking a field goal in their March 20 matchup. However, SDSU pitched a shutout the rest of the way in a 44-3 road victory.

SECOND-QUARTER DOMINANCE: As good as the Jackrabbits have been early in games, they have been even more dominant in the second quarter.

In five games, SDSU holds a 62-7 scoring advantage in the second quarter. Western Illinois scored the lone second-quarter points against SDSU on March 6, but the Jackrabbits countered with 28 points of their own in the period.

In their most recent outing, the Jackrabbits outscored North Dakota State, 3-0, in the second quarter of their April 17 matchup.

COMING THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH: Freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski 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.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

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 Beenum
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

AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Garret Greenfield
Defense: Joshua Manchigiah, Don Gardner
Special Teams: Graham Spalding
Scout Offense: Rudy Voss
Scout Defense: Aaron Kusler
Scout Special Teams: Isaac Appleget
Effort: Graham Spalding

AT NORTH DAKOTA STATE

Offense: Pierre Strong, Jr.; Entire O-Line/Tight Ends
Defense: Adam Bock
Special Teams: Cole Frahm
Scout Offense: Gus Miller
Scout Defense: Brandon Lane Jr.
Scout Special Teams: Aaron Kusler
Effort: Zach Heins

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 117.7 rushing yards through six games. The Jackrabbits limited North Dakota State to 97 rushing yards in their April 17 matchup, marking the third time this season SDSU held an opponent below 100 yards.

NEW INTERCEPTIONS STREAK: After having its 13-game streak with an interception come to an end in the season opener, the SDSU defense is on a new streak with 10 interceptions over the past five games.

The 10 interceptions rank fourth among Football Championship Subdivision teams entering the week.

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. SDSU matched its season high with three interceptions March 20 at Southern Illinois.

Joshua Manchigiah has recorded interceptions in all three of the team's games in March to take over the team lead. In all, eight different Jackrabbit players have tallied an interception this spring.

SDSU has picked off a pass in 24 of its last 26 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 2019 team lead with four interceptions.

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.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

JACKRABBITS IN THE 2020-21 NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 25)

- 4th in passes intercepted, 10
- 4th in red-zone offense, .952
- 6th in rushing offense, 233.0 yards/game
- 8th in team passing efficiency defense, 100.46
- 9th in scoring defense, 15.8 points/game
- 11th in passing yards allowed, 160.5 yards/game
- 12th in fewest tackles for loss allowed, 4.67/game
- 14th in passing yards per completion, 13.64
- 14th in total defense, 278.2 yards/game
- 15th in blocked kicks, 2
- 16th in kickoff returns, 23.62 yards/attempt
- 18th in third-down conversion pct. – defense, .321
- 18th in red-zone defense, .722
- 19th in turnovers gained, 12
- 21st in fewest passes had intercepted, 3
- 21st in third-down conversion percentage, .447
- 22nd in scoring offense, 29.3 points/game
- 23rd in rushing defense, 117.7 yards/game
- 23rd in turnover margin, plus-0.50/game
- 23rd in total offense, 410.3 yards/game
- 26th in fewest sacks allowed, 1.50 per game
- 31st in kickoff return defense, 17.22 yards/attempt

INDIVIDUAL (top 40)

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 13th in rushing touchdowns, 6
- 13th in passing yards per completion, 13.83
- 17th in points responsible for, 84
- 20th in points responsible for per game, 14.0
- 20th in yards per pass attempt, 7.90
- 25th in total touchdowns, 6
- 22nd in passing efficiency, 138.9
- 23rd in total offense, 239.0 yards/game
- 26th in passing touchdowns, 8
- 29th in passing yards, 1,051

ISAIAH DAVIS

- 21st in rushing touchdowns, 5

COLE FRAHM

- 9th in field goals per game, 1.50
- 27th in field goal percentage, .750
- 31st in scoring, 7.7 points/game

JAXON JANKE

- 23rd in receiving touchdowns, 4

JADON JANKE

- 11th in yards per reception, 21.0

JOSHUA MANCHIGIAH

- 15th in interceptions per game, 0.5

PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 16th in rushing yards per game, 90.6
- 21st in rushing yards per carry, 5.66
- 30th in rushing yards, 453
- 31st in all-purpose yards, 112.20 yards/game

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

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 six fumbles so far during the 2020-21 season and enters the week-end plus-3 in turnover margin after forcing a season-high four turnovers (one fumble, three interceptions) at Southern Illinois on March 20.

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

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

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

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

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 same duo again both reached the century mark March 20 at Southern Illinois, with Davis tallying 150 yards on 22 carries and Gronowski posting 103 yards.

The Jackrabbits finished with 392 rushing yards at Southern Illinois, a total that is tied for the second most by an FCS program this season with UC Davis (March 20 vs. Cal Poly) and Nicholls State (Feb. 27 vs. Lamar).

GROUND AND POUND: South Dakota State's 305 rushing yards against North Dakota State on April 17 marked the third time this season the Jackrabbits hit the 300-yard mark on the ground.

Over the last four games, the Jackrabbits have rushed for 1,186 yards and 12 touchdowns. SDSU is averaging 6.4 yards per carry in that span and has averaged more than 33 minutes in time of possession.

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.

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

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

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. Daniel recently signed with Carolina.

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.

TETZLAFF NAMED TO HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY: South Dakota State University linebacker Preston Tetzlaff was recently named to the 2021 NFF Hampshire Honor Society, which is comprised of college football players from all divisions of play who have maintained a cumulative 3.2 grade-point average or better throughout their college careers.

Tetzlaff, a senior from Brookings, is the 84th Jackrabbit football student-athlete to receive recognition in the NFF Hampshire Honor Society, which is sponsored by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame, since the program's inception in 2007. SDSU is one of 26 college football programs to have at least one honoree in all 15 years of the initiative's existence.

An elite group of 910 players from 255 schools qualified for membership in 2021. The initiative has honored more than 13,000 student-athletes since its inception.

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

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. HOLY CROSS

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:** 25
 • Offense: 18 • Offense: 11
 • 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 (22): 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; Krocket 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.

Plans for Jacks Bash 2, scheduled for Sept. 8, were announced recently and will include a musical lineup of Zac Brown Band, Fall Out Boy and Gabby Barrett.

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: Should the Jackrabbits defeat Holy Cross, SDSU would be in line to host the winner between Weber State and Southern Illinois in second-round action on Saturday, May 1 or Sunday, May 2.

Please note that attendance at Football Championship Subdivision playoff games has been capped by the NCAA at 25 percent capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions.

DEPTH CHART vs. HOLY CROSS

OFFENSE

LT	71	ARON JOHNSON, 6-6, 295, Jr., Chisago City, Minn.
	68	Ian Bass, 6-4, 285, So., Rosemount, Minn.
LG	60	Mason McCormick, 6-4, 300, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	54	EDDIE MILLER, 6-5, 315, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
C	77	Wes Genant, 6-4, 295, Sr., Parkston, S.D.
	61	Evan Beemtsen, 6-4, 285, R-Fr., De Pere, Wis.
RG	56	EAGAN LICKISS, 6-4, 320, Sr., Indianola, Iowa
	76	Bo Donald, 6-6, 300, R-Fr., Kimball, S.D.
RT	74	Garret Greenfield, 6-6, 295, So., Rock Valley, Iowa
	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.
TE	87	Zach Heins, 6-7, 260, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	88	Blake Kunz, 6-5, 255, Jr., Germantown, Wis.
	85	Tucker Kraft, 6-5, 250, R-Fr., Timber Lake, S.D.
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.
	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
	52	Jarod DePriest, 6-5, 265, R-Fr., Trivoli, Ill.
DT or	69	Krockett Krolikowski, 6-2, 290, Jr., Winner, S.D.
	91	XAVIER WARD, 6-2, 285, Sr., Freeman, S.D.
	55	Thomas Stacker, 6-4, 285, Sr., Chicago, 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 Francl, 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, Sr., 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.
	13	DyShawn Gales, 5-11, 185, So., North Chicago, Ill.
	36	Torren Union, 6-2, 195, R-Fr., Mesa, Ariz.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Long Snaps or	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, Ill.	KO	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.
	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.		10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
	87	Zach Heins, 6-7, 260, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.	KOR	8	Jordan Meachum, 5-8, 190, Grad., Lamott, Pa.
Holder	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.		20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.
			KOR	9	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D.
PK	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.		22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.			
P	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.	PR	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.		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/Quality Control: 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.	58	Alex Westendorf	OL	6-5	280	R-Fr.	South Elgin, Ill.
1	Rudy Voss	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Lakefield, Minn.	59	Jalen Lee	OL	6-2	280	Fr.	Robbins, Ill.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	QB	6-3	230	So.	Chicago, Ill.	60	Mason McCormick	OL	6-4	300	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
2	Isaiah Stalbird	S	6-1	200	So.	Kearney, Neb.	61	Evan Beerntsen	OL	6-4	285	R-Fr.	De Pere, Wis.
3	Joshua Manchigiah	S	6-0	210	R-Jr.	Papillion, Neb.	64	Ethan Vibert	OL	6-4	290	R-Fr.	Regina, Saskatchewan
4	Canyon Bauer	WR	6-0	195	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	65	Matthew Borowicz	DT	6-4	275	So.	Lakeville, Minn.
6	Michael Griffin II	S	6-0	215	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	67	Brady Beck	OL	6-8	280	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
7	Karst Hunter	ATH	6-4	205	R-Fr.	Miller, S.D.	68	Ian Bass	OL	6-4	285	So.	Rosemount, Minn.
8	Jordan Meachum	RB	5-8	190	Gr.	Lamott, Pa.	69	Krockett Krolikowski	DT	6-2	290	Jr.	Winner, S.D.
9	Jadon Janke	WR	6-3	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	70	Colby Christensen	OL	6-8	240	Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa
10	Jaxon Janke	WR	6-2	210	So.	Madison, S.D.	71	Aron Johnson	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	Chisago City, Minn.
10	Hunter Dustman	K/P	6-3	215	Fr.	East Bethel, Minn.	72	Jason Titus	OL	6-5	285	Jr.	Andover, Minn.
11	Matt Barnett	LB	6-3	200	R-Fr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	73	Trajan Walhof	OL	6-5	285	So.	Sioux Center, Iowa
11	Mark Gronowski	QB	6-3	200	Fr.	Naperville, Ill.	74	Garret Greenfield	OL	6-6	295	So.	Rock Valley, Iowa
12	Logan Backhaus	LB	6-4	205	Sr.	Spirit Lake, Iowa	75	Jon Gruetzmacher	OL	6-8	310	Jr.	Merrill, Wis.
13	DyShawn Gales	CB	5-11	185	So.	North Chicago, Ill.	76	Bo Donald	OL	6-6	300	R-Fr.	Kimball, S.D.
13	Keaton Heide	QB	6-3	195	So.	Wayzata, Minn.	77	Wes Genant	OL	6-4	295	Sr.	Parkston, S.D.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	S	6-0	200	Fr.	Elwood, Kan.	78	Adam White	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	DeForest, Wis.
17	Abe Hoskins III	CB	6-2	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	79	Jharet Bloomerader	OL	6-6	270	R-Fr.	Highmore, S.D.
18	Corben Mahaffy	K	5-11	170	R-Fr.	Piedmont, S.D.	80	Nate Sullivan Jr.	WR	6-2	175	Fr.	Bellevue, Neb.
19	Mason Leighton	WR	5-9	175	Jr.	Madison, S.D.	81	Skyler Cavanaugh	TE	6-5	240	Sr.	Vail, Ariz.
20	Pierre Strong, Jr.	RB	5-11	210	Jr.	Little Rock, Ark.	82	Caleb Schauf	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Sparta, Wis.
21	Don Gardner	CB	6-1	185	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.	83	A.J. Coons	WR	6-4	190	Fr.	Solon, Iowa
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	DE	6-1	270	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	85	Tucker Kraft	TE	6-5	250	R-Fr.	Timber Lake, S.D.
22	Isaiah Davis	RB	6-1	220	Fr.	Joplin, Mo.	86	Devon Cole Jr.	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	Clermont, Fla.
23	Shane Dailey Jr.	WR	5-9	160	R-Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	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.	Chippley, 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						
57	Kinser Madison	LB	6-2	210	So.	Higginsville, Mo.							



JOHN STIEGELMEIER

Head Coach

24th Season (171-106 record — all at SDSU)

Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 171-106 record (.617 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 20 of his 24 seasons, including 15 of 17 at the Division I Football Championship Subdivision level
- Since moving to the Football Championship Subdivision in 2004, the Jackrabbits have a 129-73 overall record (.639 winning percentage)
- His 71 victories in Missouri Valley Football Conference play rank second in league history, while his 103 overall wins since joining the league in 2008 are 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 10 FCS playoff appearances (2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020-21) 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 227-145 (.610) overall record since Coach Stig joined the coaching staff as an full-time assistant in 1988 and has posted a winning record in 27 of 33 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	5-1	5-1
TOTALS	103-55	71-31
OVERALL TOTALS	171-106	113-66

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	6	22	12	39	5.5-7	0-0	0	1-0	0	0-0	0
CAREER	44	149	85	234	20.0-42	3.0-11	10	9-5	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
Southern Illinois	3	5	8	0.5-0	0-0	1-0	0	0
North Dakota St.	2	2	4	1.0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	22	17	39	5.5-7	0-0	1-0	0	0

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH



20-PIERRE STRONG, JR.

5-11, 210, 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 21 career touchdown runs have covered an average of 33.1 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	2,587

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	80	453	5.7	2	*53	12	88	1	16	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	340	2,587	7.6	21	*73	32	341	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
Southern Illinois	DNP-Injury											
North Dakota State	11	95	1	*53	4	50	0	16	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	80	453	2	*53	12	88	1	16	1	20	0	20



11-MARK GRONOWSKI

6-3, 200, Freshman • Quarterback
Naperville, Illinois (Neuqua Valley H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Stats Perform FCS Jerry Rice Award Finalist (2020-21)
- Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Week (March 6)
- Missouri Valley Football Conference Newcomer of the Week (Feb. 19, April 17)
- Topped the 100-yard mark for rushing three times
 - 4 carries, 120 yards and two touchdowns vs. Western Illinois (March 6)
 - 13 carries, 103 yards and two touchdowns at Southern Illinois (March 20)
 - 16 carries, 126 yards at North Dakota State (April 17)
- Led game-winning, fourth-quarter drives against Northern Iowa (Feb. 19) and Youngstown State (March 13)

MARK GRONOWSKI'S 2020-21 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Comp	Att	Int	Yds	TD	LG	Rush	Yds	TD	LG
^Northern Iowa	19	29	0	194	2	43	10	24	1	13
^North Dakota	16	32	2	309	2	*76	7	-5	0	5
^Western Illinois	12	19	0	178	2	*44	4	120	2	*80
^Youngstown State	12	28	1	158	1	39	9	15	1	8
^Southern Illinois	7	11	0	63	0	20	13	103	2	17
^North Dakota State	10	14	0	149	1	28	16	126	0	55
Season Totals	76	133	3	1,051	8	*76	59	383	6	80

* denotes touchdown

^ started game

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION POLLS

STATS PERFORM FCS POLL — APRIL 19

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	James Madison [30]	5-0	982	1
2.	South Dakota State [7]	5-1	953	4
3.	Weber State	5-0	900	3
4.	Sam Houston State [3]	6-0	896	5
5.	Delaware	5-0	808	7
6.	North Dakota State	6-2	803	2
7.	North Dakota	4-1	788	6
8.	Jacksonville State	9-2	700	9
9.	Eastern Washington	5-1	697	8
10.	Monmouth	3-0	590	12
11.	Virginia Military Institute	6-1	532	15
12.	Missouri State	5-4	509	14
13.	UC Davis	3-2	471	13
14.	Southern Illinois	5-3	463	18
15.	Richmond	3-1	439	11
16.	Villanova	2-2	423	10
17.	Kennesaw State	4-1	383	16
18.	Rhode Island	2-1	260	19
19.	Murray State	5-2	256	20
20.	Southeastern Louisiana	4-3	237	17
21.	Austin Peay	4-5	175	22
22.	East Tennessee State	4-2	150	24
23.	Nicholls	4-3	141	21
24.	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	4-0	92	NR
25.	Northern Iowa	3-4	74	NR

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

Top Teams Receiving Votes: Sacred Heart 73; Southern 37; Alabama A&M 34; Samford 25; Duquesne 23; **Holy Cross 22**; Mercer 15; Davidson 13; Incarnate Word 11; Northern Arizona 8; Maine 7.

AFCA FCS COACHES' POLL — APRIL 20

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	James Madison [18]	5-0	545	1
2.	South Dakota State [3]	5-1	516	4
3.	Weber State	5-0	513	2
4.	Sam Houston State	6-0	460	5
5.	Delaware	5-0	441	7
6.	North Dakota	4-1	430	6
7.	North Dakota State	6-2	408	3
8.	Eastern Washington	5-1	401	8
9.	Jacksonville State	9-2	397	9
10.	Monmouth	3-0	325	13
11.	Virginia Military Institute	6-1	317	12
12.	UC Davis	3-2	287	14
13.	Richmond	3-1	281	10
14.	Southern Illinois	5-3	260	17
15.	Kennesaw State	4-1	243	16
16.	Villanova	2-2	228	11
17.	Missouri State	5-4	201	18
18.	Murray State	5-2	154	19
19.	Southern [1]	5-1	141	21
20.	Nicholls	4-3	122	20
21.	Southeastern Louisiana	4-3	121	15
22.	Alabama A&M	4-0	81	T25
23.	East Tennessee State	4-2	176	24
24.	Northern Iowa	3-4	57	23
25.	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	4-0	32	NR

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

Top Teams Receiving Votes: Incarnate Word 24; Austin Peay 23; **Holy Cross 15**; Sacred Heart 14; Duquesne 8; Mercer 5; Northern Arizona 5; Tarleton State 5; Charleston Southern 4; Samford 4; Davidson 3; South Carolina State 3.

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

2020-21 MVFC STANDINGS

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	PF	PA	OVERALL	PF	PA
South Dakota State	5-1	176	95	5-1	176	95
Missouri State	5-1	121	116	5-4	165	224
North Dakota	4-1	144	103	4-1	144	103
North Dakota State	5-2	159	118	6-2	198	146
Southern Illinois	3-3	136	170	5-3	211	235
Northern Iowa	3-4	137	107	3-4	137	107
South Dakota	1-3	71	96	1-3	71	96
Illinois State	1-3	69	86	1-3	69	86
Western Illinois	1-5	120	197	1-5	120	197
Youngstown State	1-6	108	153	1-6	108	153

SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Southern Illinois 55, Southeastern Louisiana 48
 *South Dakota State 27, North Dakota State 17
 *North Dakota at Youngstown State, canceled
 *Illinois State at Missouri State, canceled
 *Western Illinois at South Dakota, canceled

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Holy Cross at South Dakota State, 2 p.m.
 Eastern Washington at North Dakota State, 2:30 p.m.
 Missouri State at North Dakota
 Southern Illinois at Weber State
 Note: All times Central
 All games FCS playoff contests

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 40-47 record versus 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 3-1 record

- at #3 Northern Iowa (W, 24-20)
- at #14 North Dakota (L, 17-28)
- at #5/5 Southern Illinois (W, 44-3)
- at #2/3 North Dakota State (W, 27-17)

^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 (kick failed)
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.

#6/7 SDSU 44, #5/5 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 3

March 20, 2021 • Saluki Stadium (Att.: 2,400)

CARBONDALE, Ill. — South Dakota State rushed for nearly 400 yards and turned four Southern Illinois turnovers into 24 points as the Jackrabbits steamrolled their way to a 44-3 victory in a key Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup at Saluki Stadium.

The Jackrabbits, ranked sixth in the Stats Perform media poll and seventh by the Football Championship Subdivision coaches, improved to 4-1 both overall and in league play. Fifth-ranked SIU dropped to 4-2 overall and 3-2 in the MVFC.

After SDSU had a field goal attempt blocked on the opening drive of the game, SIU put together its best drive of the afternoon to crack the scoring column first on a 27-yard field goal by Nico Gualdoni. That capped a 17-play, 64-yard drive that took more than eight minutes off the clock.

The Jackrabbits began to take control in the second quarter, putting together their own methodical drive to take a lead they would not relinquish. Quarterback and Illinois native Mark Gronowski scrambled to his left for a 4-yard touchdown run that finished off an 18-play, 91-yard drive that consumed more than nine minutes.

SIU turned the ball over two times later in the half and the Jackrabbits cashed in both times. First, Graham Spalding forced a fumble on the ensuing kickoff at the SIU 17 and freshman Isaiah Davis, starting in place of an injured Pierre Strong, Jr., scored three plays later from three yards out.

In the final minute of the first half, Logan Backhaus intercepted a pass at the SDSU 36 and Gronowski quickly led the Jackrabbits downfield with a 20-yard pass to Jaxon Janke and three rushes for 20 yards to set up a 31-yard field goal by Cole Frahm as time expired for a 17-3 halftime lead.

The Salukis made a change at quarterback to open the second half, but Don Gardner and Joshua Manchigiah recorded interceptions on two of Kare Lyles' first three passes of the half. Both pickoffs resulted in a short field for the Jackrabbits, who upped their lead to 31-3 on touchdown runs of 12 and 1 yards, respectively, by Gronowski and Davis.

Davis, who finished the afternoon with 150 yards on 22 carries, put an exclamation point on his day with a 45-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter for his third score of the day. Gronowski also topped the century mark on the ground for the second time this season with 103 yards on 13 carries, while Jordan Meachum saw his most extensive action at running back this season and tallied 88 yards on 13 carries.

As a team, SDSU finished with 392 yards on the ground and a 462-213 advantage in total offense.

SDSU's final points came on field goals by Frahm (30 yards) and back-up Hunter Dustman (43 yards).

Gronowski attempted only 11 passes, completing seven for 63 yards. Jaxon Janke registered 36 yards on his two catches.

Avante Cox was the top performer for the Saluki offense with seven catches for 50 yards. Javon Williams Jr. led the SIU run game with 49 yards on 10 carries.

Adam Bock led the SDSU defensive unit with 10 tackles, followed by eight from Backhaus.

For SIU, Qua Brown registered a game-high 12 tackles and forced a pair of fumbles.



Joshua Manchigiah recorded an interception for the third consecutive and was one of four turnovers forced by South Dakota State in a 44-3 road win at fifth-ranked Southern Illinois.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (4-1, 4-1)	0	17	24	3	44
Southern Illinois (4-2, 3-2)	3	0	0	0	3

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	1:52	SIU	Nico Gualdoni 27 yd field goal
2nd	4:04	SDSU	Mark Gronowski 4 yd run (Frahm kick)
2nd	2:45	SDSU	Isaiah Davis 3 yd run (Frahm kick)
2nd	00:00	SDSU	Cole Frahm 31 yd field goal
3rd	13:24	SDSU	Gronowski 12 yd run (Frahm kick)
3rd	9:11	SDSU	Frahm 30 yd field goal
3rd	7:36	SDSU	Davis 1 yd run (Frahm kick)
3rd	2:49	SDSU	Davis 45 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
4th	3:28	SDSU	Dustman 43 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	SIU
FIRST DOWNS	26	11
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	61-392	33-121
PASSING YDS (NET)	70	92
Passes Att-Comp-Int	12-8-0	25-14-3
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	73-462	58-213
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	1-(-8)
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-3
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-36	2-34
Interception Returns-Yards	3-35	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-43.0	3-55.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	4-17	4-21
Possession Time	36:33	23:27
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 11	4 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 2	2 of 5
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	6-6	1-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-10	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Isaiah Davis 22-150; Mark Gronowski 13-103; Jordan Meachum 13-88; Jefferson Lee V 9-45. SIU - Javon Williams Jr. 10-49; Avante Cox 1-25; Justin Strong 8-24; Romeir Elliott 10-22. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 7-11-0 63; J'Bore Gibbs 1-1-0 7. SIU - Stone Labanowitz 8-9-1 41; Kare Lyles 3-8-2 35; Zach Zebrowski 2-5-0 12; Javon Williams Jr. 1-3-0 4. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jaxon Janke 2-36; Tucker Kraft 2-14; Canyon Bauer 2-10. SIU - Avante Cox 7-50; Jerron Rollins 2-20. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Joshua Manchigiah 1-29; Don Gardner 1-6; Logan Backhaus 1-0. SIU - none. **SACKS:** SDSU - Tolu Ogunrinde 1-0-10. SIU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Adam Bock 2-8-10; Logan Backhaus 3-5-8; Preston Tetzlaff 2-4-6; Michael Griffin II 3-1-4. SIU - Qua Brown 6-6-12; Bryson Strong 4-4-8; Bryce Notree 3-5-8; Keenan Agnew 3-4-7.

#4/4 SDSU 27, #2/3 NORTH DAKOTA STATE 17

April 17, 2021 • Fargodome (Att.: 8,762)

South Dakota State scored 10 fourth-quarter points to reclaim the Dakota Marker and also secure the Missouri Valley Football Conference's automatic bid to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs with a 27-17 victory over North Dakota State April 17 at the Fargodome.

The fourth-ranked Jackrabbits improved to 5-1 overall and in the MVFC. NDSU, ranked second in the Stats Perform media poll and third by the FCS coaches, dropped to 6-2 overall and 5-2 in the MVFC.

Tied at 17 entering the fourth quarter, SDSU took the lead for good on a 24-yard field goal by Cole Frahm with 7 minutes and 55 seconds remaining. Frahm's second field goal of the game capped a 16-play, 70-yard drive that consumed more than nine minutes.

The Bison picked up one first down on their next drive, but were forced to punt for the fifth and final time. With SDSU taking over at its own 29, freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski rolled out before cutting down the right hash for a 55-yard gain to the NDSU 16. Three plays later, fellow freshman Isaiah Davis found paydirt from 5 yards out with 2:50 to play to seal the victory.

NDSU's last-ditch comeback bid ended with an interception by Michael Griffin II in the final minute for what was the only turnover in the game.

SDSU never trailed, opening the scoring on its second drive of the game as Gronowski connected with tight end Blake Kunz over the middle for a 25-yard touchdown. The two squads traded field goals for the only other scoring of the first half as SDSU took a 10-3 lead into intermission.

The defending national champion Bison rallied behind quarterback Cam Miller in the third quarter, who scored on runs of 13 and 2 yards to tie the game.

In between, Jackrabbit All-America running back Pierre Strong, Jr., gave SDSU a momentary 17-10 lead midway through the third quarter on a 53-yard touchdown run. Strong carried 11 times for 95 yards as the Jackrabbits held a 305-97 rushing advantage for the game.

Gronowski finished with a game-high 126 yards on 16 carries and completed 10-of-14 passes for 149 yards. Davis added 84 yards on 16 carries.

The Jackrabbit running back tandem also led the team in receiving, with Strong catching four balls for 50 yards and Davis adding 36 yards on three receptions.

For NDSU, Hunter Luepke gained 43 yards on 14 carries, with Miller tallying 38 yards on 15 attempts. Miller ended the afternoon 9-of-16 passing for 149 yards.

Adam Bock registered a career-high 13 tackles, including 2.5 tackles for loss. Preston Tetzlaff contributed seven stops.

James Kaczor made a team-high 10 tackles for North Dakota State.



South Dakota State reclaimed the Dakota Marker and clinched the Missouri Valley Football Conference's automatic playoff bid with a 27-17 road win at North Dakota State in the regular season finale April 17.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (5-1, 5-1)	7	3	7	10	27
North Dakota State (6-2, 5-2)	3	0	14	0	17

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	10:07	SDSU	– Blake Kunz 25 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
1st	6:18	NDSU	– Jake Reinholz 40 yd field goal
2nd	00:03	SDSU	– Frahm 31 yd field goal
3rd	11:24	NDSU	– Cam Miller 13 yd run (Reinholz kick)
3rd	8:28	SDSU	– Pierre Strong, Jr., 53 yd run (Frahm kick)
3rd	2:11	NDSU	– Miller 2 yd run (Reinholz kick)
4th	7:55	SDSU	– Frahm 24 yd field goal
4th	2:50	SDSU	– Isaiah Davis 5 yd run (Frahm kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	NDSU
FIRST DOWNS	23	14
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	46-305	37-97
PASSING YDS (NET)	149	149
Passes Att-Comp-Int	14-10-0	17-9-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	60-454	54-246
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-17	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-27	2-47
Interception Returns-Yards	1-9	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-39.2	5-42.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-68	1-9
Possession Time	33:00	27:00
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 11	5 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-9	4-20

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Mark Gronowski 16-126; Pierre Strong, Jr. 11-95; Isaiah Davis 16-84; Tucker Kraft 1-4. NDSU - Hunter Luepke 14-43; Cam Miller 15-38; Christian Watson 3-9; D.

Gonnella 4-8. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 10-14-0 149. NDSU - Cam Miller 9-

16-1 149; Zeb Noland 0-1-0 0. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 4-50; Isaiah Davis

3-36; Jadon Janke 2-38; Blake Kunz 1-25. NDSU - Christian Watson 2-74; Braylon Henderson 2-33;

Dominic Gonnella 2-2. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Michael Griffin II 1-9. NDSU - none. **SACKS:**

SDSU - Caleb Sanders 1.0-7; Randy Kemogne 1.0-2. NDSU - Lane Tucker 1.5-7; Spencer Waage

1.0-4; Tony Pierce 0.5-4; Dawson Weber 0.5-3; Javier Derritt 0.5-2. **TACKLE LEADERS (JA-A-**

TOT): SDSU - Adam Bock 8-5-13; Preston Tetzlaff 3-4-7; DyShawn Gales 3-1-4; Logan Backhaus

2-2-4. NDSU - James Kaczor 5-5-10; Jackson Hankey 2-6-8; Michael Tutsie 4-3-7.

SDSU PLAYOFF RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 35, by Kyle Minett, at Montana, 11-28-2009
RUSHING YARDS: ^295, by Zach Zenner, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
RUSHING AVERAGE (MIN. 10 ATT.): 11.0 yards per carry, by Zach Zenner, at Montana State, 11-29-2014
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 4, by Zach Zenner, at Montana State, 11-29-2014
LONG RUSH: 87 yards (for TD), by Zach Zenner, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
PASS ATTEMPTS: 43, by Taryn Christion, at Montana, 11-28-2015, and at James Madison, 12-16-2017
PASS COMPLETIONS: 26, by Austin Sumner, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
YARDS PASSING: 315, by Austin Sumner, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
TOUCHDOWN PASSES: 3, by Thomas O'Brien, at Montana, 11-28-2009, and by Taryn Christion, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017
RECEPTIONS: 11, by Trevor Tiefenthaler, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
YARDS RECEIVING: 140, by Jake Wieneke, vs. New Hampshire, 12-9-2017
RECEIVING AVERAGE (MIN. 4 REC.): 21.3 yards, by Jake Wieneke, at Montana, 11-28-2015
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, by Colin Cochart, at Montana, 11-28-2009
LONG RECEPTION: 69 yards (for TD), by Zach Zenner, at Montana State, 11-29-2014
ALL-PURPOSE YARDS: 324 (252 rushing, 72 receiving), by Zach Zenner, at Montana State, 11-29-2014
TOTAL OFFENSE: 331 yards (315 passing, 16 receiving), by Austin Sumner, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
FIELD GOALS MADE: 3, by Justin Syrovatka, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012, and by Chase Vinatieri, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017
FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED: 3, by Justin Syrovatka, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012, and by Chase Vinatieri, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017
LONG FIELD GOAL: 55 yards, by Chase Vinatieri, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017
PUNTS: 9, by Brady Hale, at Montana, 11-28-2015
PUNTING AVERAGE (MIN. 2 ATT.): 46.3 yards, by Ethan Sawyer, at North Dakota State, 12-1-2012
LONG PUNT: 61 yards, by Brady Hale, vs. Villanova, 12-3-2016
PUNT RETURNS: 5, by Je Ryan Butler, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
PUNT RETURN YARDS: 90, by Je Ryan Butler, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
LONG PUNT RETURN: 80 yards, by Je Ryan Butler, at North Dakota State, 12-6-2014
KICKOFF RETURNS: 5, by Tyrel Kool, at Montana, 11-28-2009
KICKOFF RETURN YARDS: 115 (2 returns), by Cade Johnson, vs. New Hampshire, 12-9-2017
LONG KICKOFF RETURN: 99 yards (for TD), by Cade Johnson, vs. New Hampshire, 12-9-2017
TACKLES: 18, by Ross Shafrath, at North Dakota State, 12-1-2012
TACKLES FOR LOSS: 4.0, by Chase Douglas, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
SACKS: 2.5, by Ryan Earith, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-7-2019
INTERCEPTIONS: 2, by Je Ryan Butler, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
LONG INTERCEPTION RETURN: 65 yards, by Christian Rozeboom, at James Madison, 12-16-2017
PASS BREAKUPS: 2, by six players (last: by Jordan Brown and Marshon Harris, vs. New Hampshire, 12-9-2017)
LONG FUMBLE RETURN: 45 yards, by Winston Wright, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012

^ tied school record



Tight end Colin Cochart caught three touchdown passes in the Jackrabbits' first-ever Football Championship Subdivision playoff game, Nov. 28, 2009, at Montana.

TEAM

POINTS SCORED: 58, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
MOST POINTS-QUARTER: 24 (2nd Quarter), vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
FIRST DOWNS: 29, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 53, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
RUSHING YARDS: 434, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
AVERAGE PER RUSH: 8.9 yards per carry, at Montana State, 11-29-2014
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 6, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
PASS ATTEMPTS: 48, at James Madison, 12-16-2017
PASS COMPLETIONS: 26, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
YARDS PASSING: 315, at Eastern Washington, 12-7-2013
YARDS PER ATTEMPT: 9.1, at North Dakota State, 12-10-2016
YARDS PER COMPLETION: 14.6, vs. New Hampshire, 12-9-2017
TOUCHDOWN PASSES: 3, at Montana, 11-28-2009, and vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017
TOTAL OFFENSE: 580 yards (434 rushing, 146 passing), vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
TOTAL PLAYS: 84, at Montana, 11-28-2015
AVERAGE GAIN PER PLAY: 7.2 yards, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
SACKS: 7, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
INTERCEPTIONS FORCED: 3, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013
PENALTIES: 10, at Montana, 11-28-2009
PENALTY YARDS: 75, at Montana, 11-28-2009
FUMBLES: 4, at James Madison, 12-16-2017
FUMBLES LOST: 4, at James Madison, 12-16-2017
TIME OF POSSESSION-GAME: 37:03, vs. Eastern Illinois, 11-24-2012
TIME OF POSSESSION-QUARTER: 11:04 (1st Quarter), vs. Duquesne, 12-1-2018

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Game Results (as of Apr 18, 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
* Mar 20, 2021	at #5 Southern Illinois	W	44-3	4-1	4-1	3:05	2400
* Apr 17, 2021	at #2 North Dakota State	W	27-17	5-1	5-1	2:57	8762

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Team Statistics (as of Apr 18, 2021)
All games

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	176	95
Points Per Game	29.3	15.8
Points Off Turnovers	41	21
FIRST DOWNS	118	89
Rushing	70	40
Passing	43	39
Penalty	5	10
RUSHING YARDAGE	1398	706
Yardsgained rushing	1517	795
Yardslost rushing	119	89
Rushing Attempts	246	204
Average Per Rush	5.7	3.5
Average Per Game	233.0	117.7
TDsRushing	13	8
PASSING YARDAGE	1064	963
Comp-Att-Int	78-137-3	101-171-10
Average Per Pass	7.8	5.6
Average Per Catch	13.6	9.5
Average Per Game	177.3	160.5
TDsPassing	8	3
TOTAL OFFENSE	2462	1669
Total Plays	383	375
Average Per Play	6.4	4.5
Average Per Game	410.3	278.2
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	8-189	9-155
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	6-58	6-26
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	10-64	3-15
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.6	17.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.7	4.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	6.4	5.0
FUMBLES-LOST	8-6	3-2
PENALTIES-Yards	35-292	19-115
Average Per Game	48.7	19.2
PUNTS-Yards	22-844	28-1122
Average Per Punt	38.4	40.1
Net punt average	36.3	36.6
KICKOFFS-Yards	36-1844	23-1432
Average Per Kick	51.2	62.3
Net kick average	37.9	38.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	31:36	28:24
3RD-DOWN Conversions	34/76	27/84
3rd-Down Pct	45%	32%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	3/6	8/17
4th-Down Pct	50%	47%
SACKS BY-Yards	8-51	9-48
MISC YARDS	6	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	21	11
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	10-13	6-9
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(20-21) 95%	(13-18) 72%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(13-21) 62%	(9-18) 50%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(20-21) 95%	(11-11) 100%
ATTENDANCE	5000	16937
Games/Avg Per Game	2/2500	4/4234
Neutral Site Games		0/0

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Dakota State	48	62	43	23	0	176
Opponents	30	7	31	27	0	95

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Apr 18, 2021)
All games

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Pierre Strong	5	80	469	16	453	5.7	2	53	90.6
Mark Gronowski	6	59	454	71	383	6.5	6	80	63.8
Isaiah Davis	6	53	372	0	372	7.0	5	45	62.0
Jordan Meachum	6	19	107	7	100	5.3	0	31	16.7
Jefferson Lee V	2	20	95	2	93	4.7	0	11	46.5
J'Bore Gibbs	3	4	16	0	16	4.0	0	7	5.3
Tucker Kraft	3	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	1.3
Keaton Heide	2	1	0	5	-5	-5.0	0	4	-2.5
Jaxon Janke	6	1	0	8	-8	-8.0	0	0	-1.3
TEAM	6	8	0	10	-10	-1.2	0	0	-1.7
Total	6	246	1517	119	1398	5.7	13	80	233.0
Opponents	6	204	795	89	706	3.5	8	43	117.7

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	6	138.86	76-133-3	57.1	1051	8	76	175.2
J'Bore Gibbs	3	77.30	2-4-0	50.0	13	0	7	4.3
Total	6	137.06	78-137-3	56.9	1064	8	76	177.3
Opponents	6	100.46	101-171-10	59.1	963	3	62	160.5

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jaxon Janke	6	20	313	15.6	4	76	52.2
Jadon Janke	6	14	294	21.0	1	49	49.0
Pierre Strong	5	12	88	7.3	1	16	17.6
Zach Heins	6	8	151	18.9	0	43	25.2
Jordan Meachum	6	7	41	5.9	0	14	6.8
Canyon Bauer	6	5	34	6.8	0	15	5.7
Isaiah Davis	6	4	54	13.5	0	23	9.0
Mason Leighton	5	2	26	13.0	1	14	5.2
Michael Morgan	4	2	15	7.5	0	12	3.8
Tucker Kraft	3	2	14	7.0	0	7	4.7
Blake Kunz	5	1	25	25.0	1	25	5.0
SkylerCavanaugh	4	1	9	9.0	0	9	2.2
Total	6	78	1064	13.6	8	76	177.3
Opponents	6	101	963	9.5	3	62	160.5

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaxon Janke	5	39	7.8	0	16
Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0
Total	6	58	9.7	0	16
Opponents	6	26	4.3	0	9

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Josh Manchigiah	3	40	13.3	0	29
Malik Lofton	1	0	0.0	0	0
Logan Backhaus	1	0	0.0	0	0
DyShawn Gales	1	0	0.0	0	0
Don Gardner	1	6	6.0	0	6
Michael Griffin	1	9	9.0	0	9
PrestonTetzlaff	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cade Terveer	1	9	9.0	0	9
Total	10	64	6.4	0	29
Opponents	3	15	5.0	0	8

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Meachum	4	94	23.5	0	32
Isaiah Davis	2	64	32.0	0	36
Michael Morgan	1	11	11.0	0	11
Pierre Strong	1	20	20.0	0	20
Total	8	189	23.6	0	36
Opponents	9	155	17.2	0	39

Fumble Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	1	-8	-8.0	0	0

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South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Apr 18, 2021)
All games

Scoring	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Cole Frahm	-	9-12	19-20	-	-	-	-	-	46
Mark Gronowski	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Isaiah Davis	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Jaxon Janke	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Pierre Strong	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Mason Leighton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Jadon Janke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Blake Kunz	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hunter Dustman	-	1-1	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total	21	10-13	20-21	-	-	-	-	-	176
Opponents	11	6-9	11-11	-	-	-	-	-	95

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	6	192	383	1051	1434	239.0
Pierre Strong	5	80	453	0	453	90.6
Isaiah Davis	6	53	372	0	372	62.0
Jordan Meachum	6	19	100	0	100	16.7
Jefferson Lee V	2	20	93	0	93	46.5
J'Bore Gibbs	3	8	16	13	29	9.7
Tucker Kraft	3	1	4	0	4	1.3
Keaton Heide	2	1	-5	0	-5	-2.5
Jaxon Janke	6	1	-8	0	-8	-1.3
TEAM	6	8	-10	0	-10	-1.7
Total	6	383	1398	1064	2462	410.3
Opponents	6	375	706	963	1669	278.2

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	9-12	75.0	0-0	3-3	5-5	0-3	1-1	52	2
Hunter Dustman	1-1	100.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	43	0

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)
Southern Illinois	43,(31),(30),(43)	(27)
North Dakota State	(31),(24)	(40)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	18	724	40.2	61	1	7	7	2	1
Hunter Dustman	2	72	36.0	38	0	0	1	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark Gronowski	1	48	48.0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22	844	38.4	61	1	7	8	2	1
Opponents	28	1122	40.1	64	2	11	6	7	1

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Cole Frahm	36	1844	51.2	13	3			
Total	36	1844	51.2	13	3	17.2	37.9	27
Opponents	23	1432	62.3	14	1	23.6	38.8	26

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Apr 18, 2021)
All games

All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Pierre Strong	5	453	88	0	20	0	561	112.2
Isaiah Davis	6	372	54	0	64	0	490	81.7
Mark Gronowski	6	383	0	0	0	0	383	63.8
Jaxon Janke	6	-8	313	39	0	0	344	57.3
Jadon Janke	6	0	294	0	0	0	294	49.0
Jordan Meachu	6	100	41	0	94	0	235	39.2
Zach Heins	6	0	151	0	0	0	151	25.2
Jefferson Lee V	2	93	0	0	0	0	93	46.5
Josh Manchigiah	6	0	0	0	0	40	40	6.7
Canyon Bauer	6	0	34	0	0	0	34	5.7
Mason Leighton	5	0	26	0	0	0	26	5.2
Michael Morgan	4	0	15	0	11	0	26	6.5
Blake Kunz	5	0	25	0	0	0	25	5.0
Isaiah Stalbird	6	0	0	19	0	0	19	3.2
Tucker Kraft	3	4	14	0	0	0	18	6.0
J'Bore Gibbs	3	16	0	0	0	0	16	5.3
Cade Terveer	5	0	0	0	0	9	9	1.8
SkylerCavanaugh	4	0	9	0	0	0	9	2.2
Michael Griffin	6	0	0	0	0	9	9	1.5
Don Gardner	6	0	0	0	0	6	6	1.0
Keaton Heide	2	-5	0	0	0	0	-5	-2.5
TEAM	6	-10	0	0	0	0	-10	-1.7
Total	6	1398	1064	58	189	64	2773	462.2
Opponents	6	706	963	26	155	15	1865	310.8

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of Apr 18, 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	6	21	20	41	0.5-1	.	1-0	.	1	.	.	.	.
12	Logan Backhaus	6	22	17	39	5.5-7	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Adam Bock	6	18	20	38	3.5-11	1.0-7	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
21	Don Gardner	6	21	7	28	3.0-7	.	1-6	3	1	.	.	.	.
6	Michael Griffin	6	15	10	25	.	.	1-9	2	.	.	.	.	.
29	Graham Spalding	6	10	7	17	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
2D	Isaiah Stalbird	6	13	4	17	2.0-7	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	.
3	Josh Manchighiah	6	8	8	16	1.5-3	.	3-40	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Caleb Sanders	6	9	5	14	3.0-13	1.0-7	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
35	Chase Norblade	5	9	3	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	6	8	3	11	6.0-25	3.0-19	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
97	Reece Winkelman	6	8	3	11	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
1D	Malik Lofton	5	9	2	11	.	.	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	.
44	S. Williamson	5	5	5	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
48	Quinton Hicks	5	5	4	9	1.0-10	1.0-10	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
13	DyShawn Gales	4	6	1	7	1.0-1	.	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Payton Shafer	6	4	3	7	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
55	Thomas Stacker	6	3	2	5	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
53	Caden Johnson	5	3	2	5	1.5-7	1.0-6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
69	K. Krolkowski	6	4	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
94	Cade Terveer	5	2	2	4	1.0-1	.	1-9	.	1	.	.	.	.
25	Cale Reeder	6	3	1	4	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Ryan Van Marel	6	2	1	3	1.0-8	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.
91	Xavier Ward	2	1	2	3	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1B	Matt Barnett	5	2	.	2	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Torren Union	5	1	1	2	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	5	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Mason Leighton	5	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Dalys Beanum	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
92	Kevin Brenner	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	Jadon Janke	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Randy Keumogne	3	1	.	1	1.0-2	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Caleb Franci	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2I	Isaiah Davis	6	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9F	Cole Frahm	6	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
39	Steven Arrell	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
Total		6	219	138	357	36-111	8-51	10-64	14	11	2-0	2	2	.
Opponents		6	212	182	394	28-97	9-48	3-15	13	8	6--8	7	3	.

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Team Game-by-Game (as of Apr 18, 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
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	61	392	5	45	8	70	0	20	8-12-0	70	0	20	1	36	0	36	0	0	0	0	462
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	46	305	2	55	10	149	1	28	10-14-0	149	1	28	2	27	0	16	2	17	0	16	454
South Dakota State		246	1398	13	80	78	1064	8	76	78-137-3	1064	8	76	8	189	0	36	6	58	0	16	2462
		204	706	8	43	101	963	3	62	101-171-10	963	3	62	9	155	0	39	6	26	0	9	1669

Games: 6 • Avg/rush: 5.7 • Avg/catch: 13.6 • Pass eff: 137.06 • KR avg: 23.6 • PR avg: 9.7 • All purpose avg/game: 462.2 • Total offense avg/gm: 410.3

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
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	35	24	59	6.0-22	1.0-10	1	1-0	3-35	4	1	0	5-5	0	0	0	24	44
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	28	26	54	8.0-17	2.0-9	0	0-0	1-9	0	1	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	27
South Dakota State		219	138	357	36.0-111	8.0-51	2	2-0	10-64	11	14	2	20-21	0	0	0	41	176
		212	182	394	28.0-97	9.0-48	7	6--8	3-15	8	13	3	11-11	0	0	0	21	95

		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
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	1	43	43.0	43	0	0	0	0	1	3-4	43	1	8	472	59.0	4	1
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	4	157	39.2	45	0	0	3	0	2	2-2	31	0	6	279	46.5	0	0
South Dakota State		22	844	38.4	61	1	1	7	2	8	10-13	52	2	36	1844	51.2	13	3
		28	1122	40.1	64	1	2	11	7	6	6-9	43	1	23	1432	62.3	14	1

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Team Game-by-Game (as of Apr 18, 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
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	61	392	5	45	8	70	0	20	8-12-0	70	0	20	1	36	0	36	0	0	0	0	462
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	46	305	2	55	10	149	1	28	10-14-0	149	1	28	2	27	0	16	2	17	0	16	454
South Dakota State		246	1398	13	80	78	1064	8	76	78-137-3	1064	8	76	8	189	0	36	6	58	0	16	2462
		204	706	8	43	101	963	3	62	101-171-10	963	3	62	9	155	0	39	6	26	0	9	1669

Games: 6 • Avg/rush: 5.7 • Avg/catch: 13.6 • Pass effic: 137.06 • KR avg: 23.6 • PR avg: 9.7 • All purpose avg/game: 462.2 • Total offense avg/gm: 410.3

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	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	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	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	1-2	0	0	0	3	19
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	35	24	59	6.0-22	1.0-10	1	1-0		3-35	4	1	0	0	5-5	0	0	0	24	44
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	28	26	54	8.0-17	2.0-9	0	0-0		1-9	0	1	0	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	27
South Dakota State		219	138	357	36.0-111	8.0-51	2	2-0		10-64	11	14	2	2	20-21	0	0	0	41	176
		212	182	394	28.0-97	9.0-48	7	6--8		3-15	8	13	3	3	11-11	0	0	0	21	95

Date	Opponent	Punting								Field Goals				Kickoffs				
		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
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	1	43	43.0	43	0	0	0	0	1	3-4	43	1	8	472	59.0	4	1
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	4	157	39.2	45	0	0	3	0	2	2-2	31	0	6	279	46.5	0	0
South Dakota State		22	844	38.4	61	1	1	7	2	8	10-13	52	2	36	1844	51.2	13	3
		28	1122	40.1	64	1	2	11	7	6	6-9	43	1	23	1432	62.3	14	1