



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

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2020-21 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Jacks off to Frisco for FCS title

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — MAY 16



HEAD COACH: K.C. Keeler (Delaware, 1981)
 • 68-22 record in seven seasons at Sam Houston; 242-95-1 career record in 27 seasons as a collegiate head coach at Rowan, Delaware and Sam Houston

#2 SAM HOUSTON (9-0)
vs. #1 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (8-1)
FCS National Title Game
1 p.m. Sunday
Toyota Stadium; Frisco, Texas

SERIES NOTE
 • First Meeting

MEDIA INFORMATION

- Game will be televised on ABC
- Pre-game radio show begins at 10 a.m. Central on the Jackrabbit Sports Network, which includes flagship station WNAX 570 AM-Yankton and the following affiliates:
 - KJJQ 910 AM-Brookings • KBFS 1450 AM-Belle Fourche • KDSJ 980 AM-Deadwood
 - KORN 1490 AM-Mitchell • KELO 1320 AM/KELQ 107.9 FM-Sioux Falls
 - KCCR 1240 AM-Pierre • KLOH 1050 AM/94.1 FM-Pipestone, Minn.
 - KWYR 93.7 FM-Winner • KXLG 99.1 FM/100.1 FM-Watertown
- Radio team of Tyler Merriam (play-by-play), Alex Parker (color) and Scotty Kwas (sidelines) will call the action
- Additional national radio coverage on Westwood One affiliates



HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)
 • 174-106 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] W, 31-3

MAY

2 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS [FCS Playoffs] W, 31-26
 8 DELAWARE [FCS Playoffs] W, 33-3
 16 SAM HOUSTON [FCS Playoffs; Frisco, Texas] 1 p.m.

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game
 All times Central

TALE OF THE TAPE — SEASON STATISTICS

SAM HOUSTON	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
39.1	Points Per Game	30.1
19.4	Points Allowed Per Game	14.1
160.4	Rushing Yardage Per Game	230.9
78.9	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	112.6
289.6	Passing Yardage Per Game	176.8
14.8	Average Per Catch	14.2
277.6	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	168.1
450.0	Total Offense Per Game	407.7
356.4	Total Offense Allowed/Game	280.7
19.2	Kick Return Average	24.7
18.6	Punt Return Average	13.9
8-32	Interception Returns	12-68
18-5	Fumbles-Lost	8-6
46-426	Penalties-Yards	45-373
28:25	Time of Possession/Game	29:44
53/126 (42%)	Third-Down Conversions	47/107 (44%)

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. SAM HOUSTON

SDSU'S 2020-21 RECORD WHEN...

Jackrabbits score first	6-1
Opponent scores first	2-0
Jackrabbits lead after one quarter.....	5-1
Opponent leads after one quarter	2-0
Game is tied after one quarter	1-0
Jackrabbits lead at halftime.....	7-1
Opponent leads at halftime	1-0
Game is tied at halftime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits lead after three quarters.....	6-0
Opponent leads after three quarters	1-1
Game is tied after three quarters	1-0
Game is decided in overtime.....	0-0
Jackrabbits play at home.....	5-0
SDSU plays on the the road	3-1
Jackrabbits commit fewer turnovers than opponent.....	6-0
Opponent commits fewer turnovers than SDSU.....	1-1
Turnover margin is equal.....	1-0
Jackrabbits commit fewer penalties than opponent	2-0
Opponent commits fewer penalties than SDSU	4-1
Teams commit same number of penalties	2-0
Jackrabbits have time of possession advantage	5-0
Opponent has time of possession advantage	3-1
Game is played on artificial surface	8-1
Game is played on natural grass/hybrid surface	0-0
Game is played during the day	6-1
Game is played at night (6 p.m. or later kickoff).....	2-0

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK — FCS PLAYOFFS

vs. HOLY CROSS

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Tucker Kraft
 Defense: Entire Defense
 Special Teams: Ben Dinkel
 Scout Offense: Abe Hoskins III
 Scout Defense: Daeton Mcgaughy
 Scout Special Teams: Randy Keumogne
 Effort: Reece Winkelman

vs. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Offense: Mark Gronowski, Aron Johnson
 Defense: Don Gardner
 Special Teams: Isaiah Davis
 Scout Offense: Kinser Madison
 Scout Defense: Caleb Frandl
 Scout Special Teams: Landon Wolf
 Effort: Wes Genant

vs. DELAWARE

Offense: Pierre Strong, Jr.; Wes Genant
 Defense: Preston Tetzlaff, Reece Winkelman
 Special Teams: Jaxon Janke, Jordan Meachum
 Scout Offense: Rudy Voss, Landon Wolf
 Scout Defense: Max VanMeter
 Scout Special Teams: A.J. Coons
 Effort: Jaxon Janke

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

May 11, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — For the first time in program history, South Dakota State will play for a football national championship.

The top-seeded Jackrabbits, 8-1 overall, will square off against No. 2 Sam Houston Sunday afternoon in the Football Championship Subdivision national title game in Frisco, Texas.

Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, with the game played before a national television audience on ABC.

South Dakota State advanced to the title tilt by winning three consecutive playoff home games and enters Sunday's matchup with a seven-game winning streak. The Jackrabbits opened the playoff run by defeating Holy Cross (31-3 on April 24) and Missouri Valley Football Conference rival Southern Illinois (31-26 on May 2). In a May 8 semifinal, the Jackrabbits pounded Delaware, 33-3.

Sam Houston also used home-field advantage to reach the FCS title game for the third time. The Bearcats, who lost back-to-back championship games to North Dakota State in 2011 and 2012, opened the 2020-21 playoffs with a 21-15 victory over Monmouth in the opening round, followed by a 24-20 quarterfinal win over North Dakota State. In their semifinal game, the Bearcats overcame a 24-3 halftime deficit against James Madison to rally for a 38-35 win in Huntsville, Texas.

THE SERIES: Sunday's game will mark the first-ever meeting on the gridiron between South Dakota State and Sam Houston.

The Jackrabbits last played a Southland Conference opponent in 2013, recording a 34-26 home win over Southeastern Louisiana. SDSU's last game in the Lone Star State was the 2016 season opener, when the Jackrabbits dropped a 59-41 decision at TCU.

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 11-9 all-time record in the FCS postseason, with six of the losses against either Montana (twice) or North Dakota State (four times). The Jackrabbits' 11 playoff victories have been against 11 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.

CAPTAINS: Leading the Jackrabbit football team 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.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK — REGULAR SEASON

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 Beatum
 Effort: Caleb Sanders

AT NORTH DAKOTA

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

RANKINGS STREAK: With its appearance in the final Stats Perform FCS media poll of the regular season, SDSU has now appeared in the top 25 of 116 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

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 106-55 record (.658 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 132-73 overall record (.644 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 April 19 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. Through the 2020-21 regular season, he led the team in rushing with 453 yards in five games (90.6 ypg) for an offense that churned out an average of 233 rushing yards per contest.

Strong averaged 5.7 yards per carry and scored a pair of rushing touchdowns, while also ranking third on the squad with 12 receptions for 88 yards and a touchdown. He 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).

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.

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 Payton and Buchanan award winners will be revealed May 15, on the eve of the FCS national championship game in Frisco, Texas.

MVFC AWARDS

POSTSEASON HONORS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- Mark Gronowski (QB)

ALL-MVFC FIRST TEAM

- Logan Backhaus (LB)
- Don Gardner (CB)
- Garret Greenfield (OL)
- Mark Gronowski (QB)
- Zach Heins (TE)
- Caleb Sanders (DL)
- Pierre Strong, Jr. (RB)

ALL-MVFC SECOND TEAM

- Jaxon Janke (WR)
- Mason McCormick (OL)

ALL-MVFC HONORABLE MENTION

- Isaiah Davis (RB)
- Cole Frahm (K)
- Wes Genant (OL)

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR/FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

- Mark Gronowski (QB)

ALL-NEWCOMER TEAM

- Adam Bock (LB)
- Isaiah Davis (RB)
- Mark Gronowski

WEEKLY 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)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

MVFC ALL-ACADEMIC FIRST TEAM

- Logan Backhaus (LB)
- Wes Genant (OL)
- Preston Tetzlaff (LB)

MVFC ALL-ACADEMIC SECOND TEAM

- Aron Johnson (OL)

MVFC ALL-ACADEMIC HONORABLE MENTION

- Cole Frahm (K)
- Jaxon Janke (WR)
- Mason McCormick (OL)
- Reece Winkelman (DL)

Jerry Rice Award

Gronowski was announced in early May as the runner-up in the balloting for the Stats Perform FCS Jerry Rice Award, honoring the top freshman player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski received 10 of the 40 first-place votes from a national media panel en route to 115 points. Fellow quarterback Cameron Ward of the University of Incarnate Word was named the award winner after earning 19 first-place votes and 147 points. Virginia Military Institute quarterback Seth Morgan was a distant third with three first-place votes and 68 points.

Gronowski finished the regular season with 14 total touchdowns (8 passing, 6 rushing) and an average of 239 yards of total offense over six games, completing 76-of-133 passes (57.1 percent) for 1,051 yards and rushing for 383 yards. He has helped lead the Jackrabbits into the FCS semifinals, tallying another 493 yards of total offense (336 passing, 157 rushing) in playoff victories and against Holy Cross and Southern Illinois.

The third Jackrabbit finalist in a row to record a runner-up finish for the Jerry Rice Award, Gronowski is the fifth Jackrabbit player to be selected as a finalist for the 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).

ALL-AMERICANS: South Dakota State offensive lineman Garret Greenfield and cornerback Don Gardner have each been named to a pair of All-America teams this week to further highlight the Jackrabbits' postseason awards.

A sophomore right tackle from Rock Valley, Iowa, Greenfield earned first-team honors from both Stats Perform and the Associated Press as a key part of a Jackrabbit offense averaging 30.1 points and 407.7 yards of total offense per game en route to advancing to this weekend's Football Championship Subdivision national title game. Greenfield was a first-team all-Missouri Valley Football Conference honoree who earned MVFC Offensive Lineman of the Week recognition twice during the spring season.

Gardner, a senior from Chicago, was a second-team selection by both Stats Perform and the AP. He stands fifth on the squad with 39 tackles, including three for loss, and shares the team lead with four pass breakups to go along with one interception. As a unit, the Jackrabbit defense is allowing 14.1 points per game and has held two playoff opponents without a touchdown.

Also receiving second-team recognition from Stats Perform were running back Pierre Strong, Jr. and linebacker Logan Backhaus. A junior from Little Rock, Arkansas, Strong leads the team with 650 rushing yards in eight games (81.2 ypg) and is averaging 5.6 yards per carry with three touchdowns. He also ranks as the squad's third-leading receiver with 18 catches for 167 yards and a score.

A senior from Spirit Lake, Iowa, Backhaus has registered a team-leading 69 tackles, including a team-best 9.5 tackles for loss with two sacks and an interception. He has tallied 10 or more tackles three times, including in playoff victories over Southern Illinois (career-high 14 tackles) and Delaware (12 tackles).

MVFC AWARDS: South Dakota State quarterback Mark Gronowski claimed three of the Missouri Valley Football Conference's top awards, leading a 12-member Jackrabbit contingent on the all-conference team announced April 22.

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski was selected as MVFC Offensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Freshman of the Year by a panel made up of the league's coaches, sports information directors and media members.

In helping lead the Jackrabbits to a share of the MVFC title and the league's automatic bid to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, Gronowski racked up an average of 239 yards of total offense per game in six regular season starts.

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: 156, by Isaiah Davis, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021

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: 3, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021

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, three times (twice by Jadon Janke, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021, and vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021)

LONG RECEPTION: 76 yards (for TD), by Jaxon Janke (from Mark Gronowski), at North Dakota, 2-27-2021

FIELD GOALS: 2, four times by Cole Frahm (last: vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021)

LONG FIELD GOAL: 52 yards, by Cole Frahm, vs. Youngstown State, 3-13-2021

PUNTS: 4, four times by Ben Dinkel (last: vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021)

PUNTING AVERAGE: 47.7 yards (3 punts), by Ben Dinkel, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021

LONG PUNT: 61 yards, by Ben Dinkel, at Northern Iowa, 2-19-2021, and vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021

LONG PUNT RETURN: 55 yards, by Jaxon Janke, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021

LONG KICKOFF RETURN: 50 yards, by Isaiah Davis, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021

TACKLES: 14, by Logan Backhaus, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021

TACKLES FOR LOSS: 3.5, by Reece Winkelman, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021

SACKS: 2.5, by Reece Winkelman, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021

INTERCEPTIONS: 1, 12 times by eight players (four times by Joshua Manchigiah)

PASS BREAKUPS: 2, three times (last: by DyShawn Gales, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021)

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 four times by three different players (twice by Reece Winkelman)

Gronowski completed 76-of-133 passes (57.1 percent) for 1,051 yards and eight touchdowns, while ranking second on the squad with 383 rushing yards and a team-best six touchdowns on the ground. He topped the 100-yard mark for rushing three times.

Gronowski is the second Jackrabbit to be honored as the MVFC Offensive Player of the Year, joining fellow quarterback Taryn Christion in 2016. He is the fifth SDSU player to be honored as Freshman of the Year, following Austin Sumner (2011), Jake Wieneke (2014), Christian Rozeboom (2016) and Pierre Strong, Jr. (2018), and is the first Jackrabbit tabbed as Newcomer of the Year.

Strong, a junior running back from Little Rock, Arkansas, repeated on the all-MVFC First Team after rushing for 453 yards in five games. He ran for two touchdowns and averaged 5.7 yards per carry, while also adding 12 catches for 88 yards and a score.

Also earning first-team recognition from the Jackrabbit offense was sophomore tight end Zach Heins. The Sioux Falls native caught eight passes for 151 yards during the regular season.

The SDSU offensive line, which paved the way for the Jackrabbits to average 29.3 points and 233 yards per game on the ground, was well-represented on the all-MVFC squad. Sophomore right tackle Garret Greenfield earned first-team honors, while left guard Mason McCormick was named to the second team and senior center Wes Genant received honorable mention accolades.

Greenfield, a native of Rock Valley, Iowa, was a two-time MVFC Offensive Lineman of the Week selection during the season.

First-team honors on defense were awarded to defensive tackle Caleb Sanders, linebacker Logan Backhaus and cornerback Don Gardner. A junior from Glenwood, Iowa, Sanders registered 14 total tackles, including three tackles for loss and a sack. SDSU held opponents under 100 yards rushing three times in six regular season games.

Backhaus moved to the first team after earning honorable mention recognition in 2019. He ranked second on the team in total tackles with 39, as well as tackles for loss with 5.5. The senior from Spirit Lake, Iowa, also intercepted a pass.

Gardner, a Chicago native, earned first-team recognition following a second-team selection in 2019. He tallied 28 tackles, including three for loss, and added three pass breakups and an interception this spring.

Back to the offensive side of the ball, sophomore wide receiver Jaxon Janke was honored on the all-MVFC Second Team after posting team highs of 20 receptions, 313 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

Also receiving accolades were honorable mention selections Isaiah Davis at running back and kicker Cole Frahm. A freshman from Joplin, Missouri, Davis complemented Strong and Gronowski in the Jackrabbit backfield with 372 yards and five touchdowns. He topped the 100-yard mark twice and none of his 53 carries resulted in a tackle for loss.

Frahm booted a field goal in all six regular season games and tallied a team-best 46 points. The Omaha native made 9-of-12 field goal tries and 19-of-20 extra-point attempts.

All-Newcomer Team

Three members of the South Dakota State University football team were named April 23 to the 2020-21 Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Newcomer Team.

Headlining the group is freshman quarterback Mark Gronowski, who was selected as MVFC Freshman of the Year and Newcomer of the Year a day earlier, as well as being honored as the MVFC Offensive Player of the Year.

Joining Gronowski on the All-Newcomer offense was running back Isaiah Davis. A freshman from Joplin, Missouri, gained 372 yards and scored five touchdowns. He topped the 100-yard mark in games against Western Illinois (118 yards) and Southern Illinois (150 yards).

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: 8.3, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021
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: 11.4, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
PASSING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021, and vs. Delaware, 5-8-21
TOTAL PLAYS: 73, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
TOTAL OFFENSE: 531, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
YARDS PER PLAY: 8.4, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
POINTS: 45, vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-2021
FIRST DOWNS: 26, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
SACKS BY: 7, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
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, four times (last: vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021)

The Jackrabbit defense was represented on the All-Newcomer Team by redshirt freshman linebacker Adam Bock. A Solon, Iowa, native, Bock ranked third on the squad with 38 tackles, including 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack. He tallied double figures in tackles in each of SDSU's final two regular season games, registering 10 tackles at Southern Illinois and 13 at North Dakota State.

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, gained notoriety by 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 eighth on the career charts with 2,784 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 at North Dakota State 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)

FAST STARTS: SDSU scored on its opening drive in each of its first four games — and five times this season — for a total of 31 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);
- May 2 vs. Southern Illinois — Jadon Janke 23-yard pass from Gronowski (5-60, 2:42).

Southern Illinois is the only team to score against the Jackrabbits on the first drive of the game this season, doing it in both matchups this season. The Salukis kicked a field goal in what turned out to be their only points in SDSU's 44-3 road victory on March 20, then countered with a touchdown on their opening drive in the May 2 playoff rematch.

Although the Jackrabbits did not score on their opening drive in any of their three games leading up to the SIU rematch, they did put points on the board on their second offensive possessions with touchdowns against North Dakota State, Holy Cross and Delaware.

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

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)
- 2020: South Dakota State 31, Holy Cross 3
(April 24, 2021, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
South Dakota State 31, Southern Illinois 26
(May 2, 2021, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)
South Dakota State 33, Delaware 3
(May 8, 2021, at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium)

Overall, South Dakota State has an 11-9 record in FCS playoff games

In nine games, SDSU holds a 95-23 scoring advantage in the second quarter. The Jackrabbits built up a 62-7 advantage in regular season action, and has outscored the opposition 36-13 in the second quarter during the postseason, buoyed by a 20-0 margin against Delaware in last week's national semifinal.

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.

Gronowski scored the go-ahead touchdown in the Jackrabbits' May 2 playoff win over Southern Illinois on a 67-yard run early in the fourth quarter. That came after SDSU took over at its own 1-yard line after a goal-line stand.

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

A native of Naperville, Illinois, Gronowski turned in an impressive collegiate debut by accounting for all three South Dakota State touchdowns as the Jackrabbits prevailed in a matchup between top-five teams in the Feb. 19 season opener at Northern Iowa.

He completed 19-of-29 passes for 194 yards and touchdown passes of 6 yards to Jaxon Janke in the second quarter and a 1-yard game-winning toss with 19 seconds left to Pierre Strong, Jr. He also rushed for 24 yards on 10 carries, including a 5-yard touchdown late in the first half.

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

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

He recorded his third two-touchdown passing game and added two rushing touchdowns in his home debut March 6 against Western Illinois, earning MVFC Offensive Player of the Week honors after racking up 298 yards of total offense (178 passing, 120 rushing) and accounting for four touchdowns. He became the first Jackrabbit quarterback since All-American Taryn Christion in 2017 to pass and rush for 100 yards in the same game — a feat he has accomplished three times this season.

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.

PICKING OFF THE COMPETITION: After having its 13-game streak with an interception come to an end in the season opener, the SDSU defense put together a new streak with 10 interceptions over the next five regular season games.

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.

With a pair of interceptions in the May 2 playoff win over Southern Illinois, the Jackrabbits have recorded 12 interceptions this season — a total that ranks third in the Football Championship Subdivision

JACKRABBITS IN THE 2020-21 NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 25)

- 3rd in scoring defense, 14.1 points/game
- 3rd in passes intercepted, 12
- 3rd in fewest tackles for loss allowed, 3.78/game
- 3rd in blocked kicks, 4
- 4th in red-zone offense, .966
- 7th in rushing offense, 230.9 yards/game
- 7th in kickoff returns, 24.71 yards/return
- 8th in turnovers gained, 16
- 10th in team passing efficiency, 150.74
- 10th in passing yards per completion, 14.21
- 11th in fewest sacks allowed, 1.11 per game
- 12th in team passing efficiency defense, 107.09
- 13th in first downs – offense, 170
- 14th in total defense, 280.7 yards/game
- 15th in turnover margin, plus-0.78/game
- 17th in passing yards allowed, 168.1 yards/game
- 18th in fewest passes had intercepted, 3
- 18th in scoring offense, 30.1 points/game
- 18th in red-zone defense, .720
- 19th in rushing defense, 112.6 yards/game
- 21st in total offense, 407.7 yards/game
- 21st in fewest penalty yards per game, 41.44
- 23rd in third-down conversion percentage, .439
- 25th in fewest penalties per game, 5.00

INDIVIDUAL (top 35)

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 5th in points responsible for, 138
- 8th in passing touchdowns, 15
- 8th in passing yards per completion, 14.48
- 10th in yards per pass attempt, 8.33
- 10th in passing efficiency, 150.9
- T-12th in rushing touchdowns, 7
- 13th in total touchdowns, 8
- 13th in points responsible for per game, 15.3
- 17th in passing yards, 1,549
- 24th in total offense, 235.1 yards/game
- 21st in rushing yards, 567

ISAIAH DAVIS

- T-12th in rushing touchdowns, 7
- 17th in rushing yards, 640

COLE FRAHM

- 10th in field goals per game, 1.44
- 28th in scoring, 7.7 points/game

JAXON JANKE

- T-9th in receiving touchdowns, 6

JADON JANKE

- 7th in yards per reception, 21.68
- 18th in receiving touchdowns, 5

PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 15th in rushing yards, 650
- 20th in rushing yards per game, 81.2
- 21st in rushing yards per carry, 5.60

REECE WINKELMAN

- T-3rd in blocked kicks, 2

Joshua Manchigiah, who had one of the interceptions in the play win over SIU, leads the team with four. In all, eight different Jackrabbit players have tallied an interception this spring.

SDSU has picked off a pass in 25 of its last 29 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, and he blocked another field goal attempt in the April 24 playoff game against Holy Cross.

The Jackrabbits' fourth blocked kick of the season — and second of the FCS playoffs — came late in the second quarter of the May 8 semifinal against Delaware, with Reece Winkelman being credited for the block on a 53-yard field goal attempt. The Jackrabbits took over at their own 36 and quickly put together their third touchdown drive of the stanza to build a 27-3 halftime lead.

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

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

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

SDSU has lost six fumbles so far during the 2020-21 season and enters the weekend plus-7 in turnover margin, highlighted by forcing a combined seven turnovers (two fumbles, five interceptions) in its two meetings with Southern Illinois.

The Jackrabbits have not turned the ball over in their last four games.

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.

Jaxon Janke recorded his team-leading sixth touchdown reception of the season in the May 8 semifinal victory over Delaware, while Jadon ranks second on the squad with five touchdown catches. Four of Jadon's touchdowns have come in the postseason as he had a pair of two-touchdown games — on five total receptions — to his credit against Holy Cross and Southern Illinois.

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.

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 Frandl	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

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 third 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.

During their current seven-game winning streak, the Jackrabbits have rushed for 1,872 yards (267.4 ypg) and 16 touchdowns. SDSU is averaging 6.6 yards per carry in that span. In their three playoff games thus far, SDSU is averaging 7.74 yards per play.

SACK ATTACK: The Jackrabbit defense has made life miserable for opposing teams' quarterbacks during postseason play. Of SDSU's 21 total sacks this season, 13 have come in three playoff games.

The Jackrabbits recorded five sacks April 24 versus Holy Cross and registered one sack in their come-from-behind victory against Southern Illinois on May 2. In their May 8 semifinal against Delaware, the Jackrabbits tied a program single-game record with seven sacks, matching the total in a 2013 victory at Northern Arizona.

Defensive tackle Caleb Sanders leads the unit with four postseason sacks, registering at least one in all three games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veteran offensive lineman Bryan Witzmann returned to the Kansas City Chiefs in 2020, an organization for which he earned a starting role in 2017. He played in one game in 2020, 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.

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.

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.

Adding to the Jackrabbits' list of pro aspirants is wide receiver Cade Johnson, who signed as a free agent with the Seattle Seahawks following the conclusion of the 2021 NFL Draft.

Johnson set a pair of single-season school records as a member of the Jackrabbits from 2017-19. As a redshirt freshman in 2017, the Papillion, Nebraska, native established a new Jackrabbit standard with 839 kickoff return yards, returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. The following season, his first as a starting receiver, he set the SDSU single-season record with 17 touchdown catches, totaling 67 receptions for 1,332 yards.

In 2019, Johnson also posted his second consecutive 1,000-yard season, tallying 1,222 yards on 72 receptions. In only three seasons, he ranked third in program history for touchdown receptions (28), fifth in receiving yards (2,872) and sixth in total receptions (162). He was a two-time first-team all-Missouri Valley Football Conference honoree and was selected to multiple Football Championship Subdivision All-America squads in both 2018 and 2019.

Johnson was selected to play in the 2020 Reese's Senior Bowl after deciding to opt out of his senior season.

ACADEMIC AWARDS: Eight members of the South Dakota State University football team, including three first-team honorees, were named April 28 to the 2020-21 Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Academic Team.

Leading the Jackrabbit contingent was offensive lineman Wes Genant, who honored on the first team for the third time. A senior from Parkston, Genant has compiled a 3.89 grade-point average while majoring in biochemistry and pre-medicine.

SDSU's two other first-team selections were starting linebackers Logan Backhaus and Preston Tetzlaff. Backhaus, a senior from Spirit Lake, Iowa, moved up from the second team in 2019 after posting a 3.65 GPA as a human biology major, while Tetzlaff earned a first-team spot with a 3.92 GPA in business economics. A Brookings native, Tetzlaff was an honorable mention selection to the squad as a junior in 2019.

Second-team honors went to offensive lineman Aron Johnson. A native of Chisago City, Minnesota, Johnson has recorded a 3.86 GPA in pharmacy.

Four other Jackrabbits received honorable recognition: kicker Cole Frahm, wide receiver Jaxon Janke, offensive lineman Mason McCormick and defensive end Reece Winkelman.

League sports information directors voted on the team by designating 11 players for first-team honors and 11 for second-team recognition.

TETZLAFF NAMED TO HONOR 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.

TOP PERFORMANCES

100-YARD RUSHERS

ISAIAH DAVIS (3)

- 118 yards (9-118, 1 TD) vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-21
- 150 yards (22-150, 3 TD) at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21
- 156 yards (10-156, 1 TD) vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-21

MARK GRONOWSKI (4)

- 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
- 142 yards (13-142) vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-21

PIERRE STRONG, JR. (1)

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

100-YARD RECEIVERS

JADON JANKE (1)

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

JAXON JANKE (1)

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

300-YARD PASSERS

MARK GRONOWSKI (1)

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

DOUBLE-DIGIT TACKLERS

LOGAN BACKHAUS (2)

- 11 tackles (5-6) at North Dakota, 2-27-21
- 14 tackles (12-2) vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-21
- 12 tackles (7-5) vs. Delaware, 5-2-21

ADAM BOCK (3)

- 10 tackles (2-8) at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21
- 13 tackles (8-5) at North Dakota State, 4-17-21
- 13 tackles (7-6) vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-21

PRESTON TETZLAFF (2)

- 10 tackles (7-3) at North Dakota, 2-27-21
- 12 tackles (8-4) vs. Delaware, 5-8-21

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

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

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

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 29-5 record at Dana J. Dykhuse Stadium during its first five seasons of operation, including a 6-1 mark in Football Championship Subdivision playoff games. The Jackrabbits went undefeated at home in 2018 with a 7-0 mark.

Dana J. Dykhuse Stadium was designed by Kansas City-based Crawford Architects, with the construction firm JE Dunn serving as the project manager at risk and Henry Carlson Company of Sioux Falls serving as general contractor.

The stadium won the 2017 Alliant Build America Award from the Associated General Contractors of America South Dakota Building Chapter.

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

Following is a list of the Jackrabbits' overtime results:

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

A LOOK AHEAD: Sunday's game will mark the end of the 2020-21 spring season.

The Jackrabbits are scheduled to return to action in the fall, kicking off the 2021 campaign Sept. 4 at Colorado State.

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

2016	6-1
2017	7-1
2018	7-0
2019	5-3
2020-21	5-0
TOTALS	30-5

DEPTH CHART vs. SAM HOUSTON

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 Beerntsen, 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
	55	Thomas Stacker, 6-4, 285, Sr., Chicago, Ill.
	98	Ryan Van Marel, 6-4, 285, So., Sheldon, Iowa
DT	91	XAVIER WARD, 6-2, 285, Sr., Freeman, S.D.
	69	Krockett Krolikowski, 6-2, 290, Jr., Winner, S.D.
	52	Jarod DePriest, 6-5, 265, R-Fr., Trivoli, Ill.
DE	48	Quinton Hicks, 6-3, 240, So., Wichita, Kan.
	94	Cade Terveer, 6-3, 245, So., Brandon, S.D.
	90	Randy Keumogne, 6-3, 220, Fr., Oakdale, Minn.
LB (Will)	46	Preston Tetzlaff, 6-2, 215, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
	29	Graham Spalding, 6-1, 200, R-Fr., Oviedo, Fla.
	30	Payton Shafer, 6-0, 215, So., Cottage Grove, Minn.
LB (Mike)	32	Adam Bock, 6-1, 210, R-Fr., Solon, Iowa
	44	Saiveon Williamson, 6-1, 210, So., Waseca, Minn.
	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, Ill.
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 Frand, 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	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	6	MICHAEL GRIFFIN II, 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 or	13	DyShawn Gales, 5-11, 185, So., North Chicago, Ill.
	1	Malik Lofton, 5-10, 190, Jr., Crystal, Minn.
	36	Torren Union, 6-2, 195, R-Fr., Mesa, Ariz.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Long	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, R-Fr., Highland Park, Ill.
Snaps (Punt)		75-Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.
Short	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 310, Jr., Merrill, Wis.
Snaps (FG, PAT)		87-Zach Heins, 6-7, 260, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
Holder	13	Keaton Heide, 6-3, 195, So., Wayzata, Minn.
or	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.
PK	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
P	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, Jr., Kearney, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
KO	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 225, Jr., Omaha, Neb.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 215, Fr., East Bethel, Minn.
KOR	8	Jordan Meachum, 5-8, 190, Grad., Lamott, Pa.
	20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.
KOR	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, Fr., Joplin, Mo.
	9	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 210, So., Madison, S.D.
PR	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-2, 210, So. Madison, S.D.
	20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 210, Jr., Little Rock, Ark.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: John Stiegelmeier [F]
 Assistant Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Jimmy Rogers [F]
 Co-Defensive Coordinator/Safeties: Brian Bergstrom [B]
 Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line: Jason Eck [B]
 Passing Game Coordinator/Wide Receivers: Luke Schleusner [B]
 Special Teams Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Rob Erickson [F]

Running Backs: John Johnson [F]
 Quarterbacks: Zach Lujan [B]
 Tight Ends: Ryan Olson [F]
 Defensive Line: Christian Smith [F]
 Assistant Defensive Line: Spencer Erickson [B]
 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 Krolkowski	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	Jharett Bloomenrader	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 Franci	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 (174-106 record — all at SDSU)

Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 174-106 record (.621 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 132-73 overall record (.644 winning percentage)
- His 71 victories in Missouri Valley Football Conference play rank second in league history, while his 106 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 a 11-9 playoff record
- SDSU hosted playoff games in 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020-21
- The Jackrabbits reached the FCS semifinals in 2017, 2018 and 2020-21
- SDSU has been a top-eight seed each of the last five seasons and is the No. 1 seed in 2020-21
- Served as a student assistant on SDSU's lone NCAA Division II playoff-qualifying team in 1979

OTHER NOTES:

- The Jackrabbits have compiled a 111-32 (.776) home record in Coach Stig's 24 seasons as head coach
- SDSU has a 230-145 (.613) 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)
- No. 171 [clinch share of MVFC title]: SDSU 27, North Dakota State 17 (April 17, 2021, at Fargo, N.D.)

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	8-1	5-1
TOTALS	106-55	71-31
OVERALL TOTALS	174-106	113-66



12-LOGAN BACKHAUS

6-4, 205, Senior • Linebacker

Spirit Lake, Iowa (Spirit Lake H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2019, 2020-21)
- Stats Perform FCS All-America Second Team (2020-21)
- All-Missouri Valley Football Conference First Team (2020-21)
- MVFC Honorable Mention (2019)
- MVFC All-Newcomer Team (2017)
- MVFC All-Academic First Team (2020-21)
- 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	9	45	24	69	9.5-22	2.0-10	0	1-0	0	0-0	0
CAREER	47	172	92	264	24.0-57	5.0-21	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
Holy Cross	4	0	4	2.0-10	2.0-10	0-0	0	0
Southern Illinois	12	2	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Delaware	7	5	12	2.0-5	0-0	0-0	0	0
Season Totals	45	24	69	9.5-22	2.0-10	1-0	0	0



20-PIERRE STRONG, JR. 5-11, 210, Junior • Running Back Little Rock, Arkansas (McClellan H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2020-21)
- Stats Perform FCS Walter Payton Award Finalist (2020-21)
- Stats Perform FCS All-America Second Team (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, 2020-21)
- 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 eighth place in career rushing at SDSU in May 2, 2021, playoff game against Southern Illinois
- His 22 career touchdown runs have covered an average of 31.7 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. Pierre Strong, Jr., 2018-present	2,784
9. Brady Mengarelli, 2014-17	2,677
10. Darwin Gonnerman, 1966-68	2,598

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	116	650	5.6	3	*53	18	167	1	19	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	376	2,784	7.4	22	*73	38	420	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
Holy Cross	13	76	0	33	2	23	0	19	0	0	0	0
Southern Illinois	9	48	0	22	2	43	0	31	0	0	0	0
Delaware	14	73	1	11	2	13	0	8	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	116	650	3	*53	18	167	1	31	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 Runner-Up (2020-21)
- Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year (2020-21)
- MVFC Freshman of the Year (2020-21)
- MVFC Newcomer of the Year (2020-21)
- MVFC Offensive Player of the Week (March 6)
- All MVFC First Team (2020-21)
- Stats Perform FCS National Freshman Player of the Week (Feb. 19)
- MVFC Newcomer of the Week (Feb. 19, April 17)
- Topped the 100-yard mark for rushing four 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)
 - 13 carries, 142 yards and one touchdown vs. Southern Illinois (May 2)
- Led game-winning, fourth-quarter drives against Northern Iowa (Feb. 19), Youngstown State (March 13) and Southern Illinois (May 2)

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
^Holy Cross	12	21	0	153	3	*45	2	15	0	9
^Southern Illinois	9	16	0	183	2	31	13	142	1	*67
^Delaware	10	16	0	162	2	36	7	27	0	13
Season Totals	107	186	3	1,549	15	*76	81	567	7	*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	8-1	271	127
Missouri State	5-1	121	116	5-5	175	268
North Dakota	4-1	144	103	5-2	209	147
North Dakota State	5-2	159	118	7-3	260	190
Southern Illinois	3-3	136	170	6-4	271	297
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

SUNDAY, MAY 16

#2 Sam Houston State vs. #1 South Dakota State
1 p.m. – Frisco, Texas (ABC)
All games FCS playoff contests
Rankings reflect overall playoff seed

SATURDAY, MAY 8

South Dakota State 33, Delaware 3
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 42-47 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 5-1 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)
- vs. #14/14 Southern Illinois (W, 31-26)
- vs. #5/5 Delaware (W, 33-3)
- vs. #4/4 Sam Houston

^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.

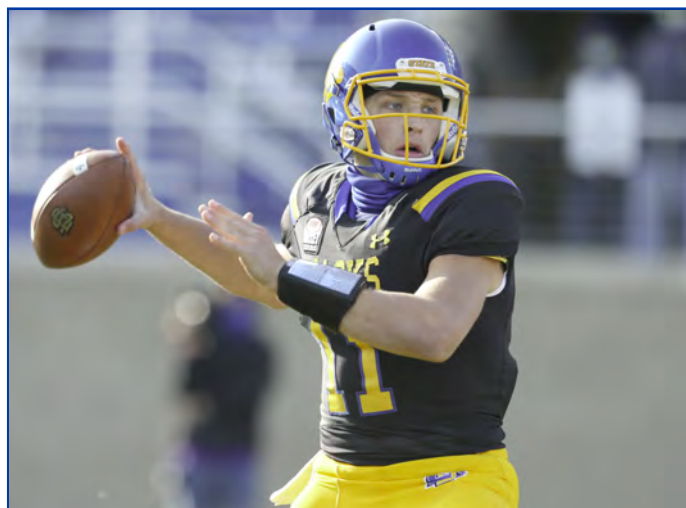
UNI took its first lead later in the first quarter on a 7-yard touchdown run by McElvain, capping a seven-play, 52-yard drive. McElvain completed 19-of-29 attempts for 164 yards, with Quan Hampton hauling in a game-high seven catches for 45 yards.

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.

#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.

GAME 3 RECAP

#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 touchdown 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 urn (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 Gauldoni. 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 Gauldoni 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; Karé 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 (UA-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 Tuttsie 4-3-7.

#2/2 SDSU 31, HOLY CROSS 3

April 24, 2021 • Dana J. Dykhousye Stadium (Att.: 2,998)

Mark Gronowski threw a season-high three touchdown passes to the Janke brothers and the Jackrabbit defense recorded five sacks and held Holy Cross out of the end zone as top-seeded South Dakota State opened the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs with a 31-3 victory at Dana J. Dykhousye Stadium.

The Jackrabbits improved to 6-1 on the season, while Holy Cross had its season come to an end with a 3-1 mark.

The Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year, Gronowski connected with Jaxon Janke on an 11-yard touchdown pass with 2 minutes, 31 seconds remaining in the first half to open the scoring. That capped a six-play, 63-yard drive that included a 33-yard run by Pierre Strong, Jr. that put the Jackrabbits deep into opposing territory.

After Cole Frahm kicked a 20-yard field early in the second quarter for a 10-0 lead, the Jackrabbits pushed their lead to 17 later in the stanza on a 13-yard touchdown pass from Gronowski to Jadon Janke.

Holy Cross answered on its next drive for its lone points of the game. After having a 49-yard field goal attempt on their opening drive, the Crusaders' Derek Ng knocked in a 47-yard field goal into the wind in the final 30 seconds of the first half.

Any hope of a Holy Cross comeback was dashed in the span of two plays. The Crusaders stopped SDSU on its first offensive drive of the second half, but fumbled the ensuing punt with the Jackrabbits' Chase Norblade recovering at the HC 45. On the very next play, Gronowski hit Jadon Janke deep over the middle for the touchdown and a 24-3 lead.

SDSU turned to the ground game for most of the remainder of the game, closing out the scoring with a 60-yard touchdown run by running back Isaiah Davis. A freshman, Davis posted a career-high 156 yards on 10 carries, while Strong ended the day with 13 carries for 76 yards. As a team, the Jackrabbits ran for 281 yards and finished with a 439-198 advantage in total offense.

Gronowski ended the afternoon 12-of-21 passing for 153 yards. Jadon Janke tallied three receptions for 69 yards and the two touchdowns, while twin brother, Jaxon, caught a team-high five passes for 37 yards and a score.

Holy Cross quarterback Matthew Sluka, also a Jerry Rice Award finalist for the top FCS freshman along with Gronowski, completed 10-of-21 passes for 76 yards, but was sacked four times. Peter Oliver paced the Crusaders on the ground with 52 yards on nine carries, while Spence Gilliam caught a game-high six passes for 55 yards.

Adam Bock led the Jackrabbit defense with nine tackles, followed by eight from fellow linebacker Preston Tetzlaff. Logan Backhaus tallied two of SDSU's five sacks.

Joe Lang and Jacob Dobbs of Holy Cross shared game-high honors in tackles with 13 apiece.



Logan Backhaus recorded a pair of sacks among his four tackles in helping spearhead a Jackrabbit defense that did not allow a touchdown to Holy Cross.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Holy Cross (3-1)	0	3	0	0	3
South Dakota State (6-1)	7	10	7	7	31

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	2:31	SDSU	- Jaxon Janke 11 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
2nd	11:04	SDSU	- Cole Frahm 20 yd field goal
2nd	3:59	SDSU	- Jadon Janke 13 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
2nd	00:29	HC	- Derek Ng 47 yd field goal
3rd	10:39	SDSU	- Jadon Janke 45 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
4th	11:11	SDSU	- Isaiah Davis 60 yd run (Frahm kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	HC	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	14	19
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	33-112	34-281
PASSING YDS (NET)	86	158
Passes Att-Comp-Int	26-13-0	24-14-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	59-198	58-439
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1(-1)	2-12
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-56	1-4
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	7-45.6	5-40.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-25	4-30
Possession Time	29:14	30:46
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 16	5 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	5-17

RUSHING LEADERS: HC - Peter Oliver 9-52; Mack Kortebein 7-33; Matthew Sluka 13-22. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 10-156; Pierre Strong, Jr. 13-76; Jordan Meachum 6-26. **PASSING LEADERS:** HC - Matthew Sluka 10-21-0 76; Marco Siderman 3-4-0 10; Jalen Coker 0-1-0 0. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 12-21-0 153; Keaton Heide 2-2-0 5. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** HC - Spence Gilliam 6-55; Jack Jewell 2-19; Mack Kortebein 2-9. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 5-37; Jadon Janke 3-69; Tucker Kraft 2-24; Pierre Strong, Jr. 2-23. **INTERCEPTIONS:** HC - none. SDSU - none. **SACKS:** HC - none. SDSU - Logan Backhaus 2.0-10; Caleb Sanders 1.0-4; Xavier Ward 1.0-2; Jarod DePriest 1.0-1. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** HC - Joe Lang 7-6-13; Jacob Dobbs 4-9-13; John Smith 5-4-9. SDSU - Adam Bock 3-6-9; Preston Tetzlaff 2-6-8; Isaiah Stalbird 2-3-5.

#2/2 SDSU 31, #14/14 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 26

May 2, 2021 • Dana J. Dykhousy Stadium (Att.: 3,547)

Top-seeded South Dakota State turned the tide with a goal-line stand and ensuing 67-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter by quarterback Mark Gronowski to turn back Southern Illinois, 31-26, in a Football Championship Subdivision playoff quarterfinal at Dana J. Dykhousy Stadium.

The Jackrabbits, who defeated SIU for the second time this season, improved to 7-1 overall and will host Delaware in a semifinal game at 11 a.m. Saturday (May 8). SIU had its season come to an end with a 6-4 record.

SDSU overcame a 20-7 first-half deficit after the Salukis scored on four of their five first-half possessions. The Jackrabbits opened the scoring on the first drive of the game, capping a five-play, 60-yard drive on a 23-yard touchdown pass from Gronowski to Jadon Janke.

SIU offensive lineman ZeVeyon Furcron plunged in from a yard out on the Salukis' first drive to finish off an 11-play, 75-yard drive, and Avante Cox gave the Salukis a 14-7 advantage on an 11-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter.

Nico Gualdoni added field goals of 19 and 33 yards later in the second quarter for SIU, the latter of the two coming with 22 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Jackrabbits gained a measure of momentum heading into the locker room as Isaiah Davis broke off a 50-yard kickoff return to the SIU 48 and Gronowski connected with Pierre Strong, Jr. on a 31-yard catch and run to set up a 34-yard field goal by Cole Frahm as time expired.

SDSU's Joshua Manchigiah picked off a pass in the end zone on SIU's opening drive of the second half and the Jackrabbits pulled to within 20-17 four plays later as Gronowski and Jadon Janke again hooked up for a 26-yard touchdown.

SIU had first-and-goal at the Jackrabbit 1-yard line late in the third quarter and came away with nothing. After an incomplete pass between two rushes that netted no yards, Furcron was stuffed just short of the goal on fourth down on the first play of the fourth quarter to keep the score at 20-17.

The Jackrabbits converted on third-and-8 from their own 3-yard line on a 24-yard pass from Gronowski to Jaxon Janke, then three plays later Gronowski stepped through a tackle at the line of scrimmage and sprinted 67 yards to the end zone.

After SIU lost a fumble on a bad pitch on its next drive, SDSU again quickly capitalized to build a 31-20 lead. A Gronowski-to-Blake Kunz pass went for 30 yards to the SIU 13 and Isaiah Davis carried in from 4 yards out three plays later for the score.

The Salukis quickly responded with a 31-yard touchdown pass from Stone Labanowitz to Landon Lenoir with 5:37 to play, but the two-point attempt failed.

SIU got the ball back with 2:19 remaining at its own 22 and converted on a pair of third-down plays to move into Jackrabbit territory. However, Jackrabbit safety Michael Griffin II came up with SDSU's third takeaway of the game with 13 seconds remaining, picking off a pass at the 9-yard line.

Total offense was nearly even as SIU gained 443 yards, compared to 414 by the Jackrabbits. However, the Salukis held an 11-minute advantage in time of possession, 35:43 to 24:17.

Gronowski accounted for 325 yards of total offense, completing 9-of-16 passes for 183 yards and rushing 13 times for a game-high 142 yards.



Jadon Janke recorded his second consecutive two-touchdown game of the playoffs in the Jackrabbits' 31-26 victory over Southern Illinois in the May 2 quarterfinals.

For SIU, Labanowitz ended the night 24-of-36 passing for 247 yards and shared team-high honors with Justin Strong with 38 rushing yards. Lenoir hauled in six passes for 129 yards.

Logan Backhaus led the SDSU defense with 14 tackles, while fellow linebacker Adam Bock tallied 13 stops.

Jordan Berner and Qua Brown each registered seven tackles for SIU.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Southern Illinois (6-4)	7	13	0	6	26
South Dakota State (7-1)	7	3	7	14	31

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	12:18	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 23 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
1st	7:25	SIU	— ZeVeyon Furcron 1 yd run (Nico Gualdoni kick)
2nd	12:17	SIU	— Avante Cox 11 yd run (Gualdoni kick)
2nd	6:57	SIU	— Gualdoni 19 yd field goal
2nd	00:22	SIU	— Gualdoni 33 yd field goal
2nd	00:00	SDSU	— Frahm 34 yd field goal
3rd	8:06	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 26 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
4th	11:41	SDSU	— Gronowski 67 yd run (Frahm kick)
4th	7:11	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 4 yd run (Frahm kick)
4th	5:37	SIU	— Landon Lenoir 31 yd pass from Stone Labanowitz (pass failed)

TEAM STATISTICS	SIU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	27	16
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	42-127	33-231
PASSING YDS (NET)	316	183
Passes Att-Comp-Int	38-27-2	16-9-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	80-443	49-414
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1-16	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	4-112
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	2-4
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-37.0	3-31.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-20	6-51
Possession Time	35:43	24:17
Third-Down Conversions	9 of 17	5 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	1 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-13	1-3

RUSHING LEADERS: SIU - Justin Strong 15-38; Stone Labanowitz 7-38; Jaxon Williams Jr. 10-25. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 13-142; Pierre Strong, Jr. 9-48; Isaiah Davis 10-42. **PASSING LEADERS:** SIU - Stone Labanowitz 25-36-2 247; Jaxon Williams Jr. 2-2-0 69. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 9-16-0 183. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SIU - Landon Lenoir 6-129; Jerron Rollins 5-60; Avante Cox 5-58; Justin Strong 5-17. SDSU - Jadon Janke 2-49; Pierre Strong, Jr. 2-43; Tucker Kraft 2-33. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SIU - none. SDSU - Michael Griffin II 1-4; Joshua Manchigiah 1-0. **SACKS:** SIU - Jordan Berner 0.5-7; Bryce Notree 0.5-6. SDSU - Caleb Sanders 1.0-3. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SIU - Jordan Berner 6-1-7; Qua Brown 5-2-7; Bryson Strong 2-4-6. SDSU - Logan Backhaus 12-2-14; Adam Bock 7-6-13; Michael Griffin II 4-5-9; Don Gardner 3-3-6.

#2/2 SDSU 33, #5/5 DELAWARE 3

May 2, 2021 • Dana J. Dykhouyse Stadium (Att.: 4,527)

The third time was definitely the charm.

After a pair of losses in its first two national semifinal appearances in 2017 and 2018, the South Dakota State University football team will play for a Football Championship Subdivision national title for the first time following an emphatic 33-3 victory over Delaware Saturday at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The top-seeded Jackrabbits, who improved to 8-1 overall and ran their winning streak to seven games, matched a program playoff record with seven sacks and put together a big second quarter offensively to move on to Frisco, Texas, for next Sunday's title tilt against second-seeded Sam Houston State.

Delaware put the first – and its only – points on the board with a methodical drive late in the first quarter. The Blue Hens converted three times on third down before settling for a 29-yard field goal by Ryan Coe that capped a 15-play, 54-yard drive that chewed up more than half the opening stanza.

SDSU responded with a 41-yard return on the ensuing kickoff by Jordan Meachum and the Jackrabbits grabbed the lead moments later on a 30-yard touchdown pass from Mark Gronowski to Jaxon Janke.

From there, the Jackrabbits unleashed a relentless defense and a quick-strike offense in the second half that quickly put the game out of reach. SDSU dug deep into the playbook on its first drive of the second half, scoring a touchdown on a throw-back halfback pass from Pierre Strong, Jr. to Gronowski that covered 24 yards.

After notching a pair of sacks on the next Delaware possession, SDSU built its lead to 20-3 with a short touchdown drive set up by a 55-yard punt return to the Delaware 27 by Jaxon Janke. Strong plunged in from 3 yards out for the score, but the extra point was missed.

SDSU added to its lead in the closing minutes of the half after blocking a 53-yard field goal attempt. Gronowski and Janke hooked up for 13 yards on third down to move the ball across midfield, with Gronowski later finding Blake Kunz in the right corner of the end zone for a 14-yard touchdown with 21 seconds remaining in the half.

Cole Frahm kicked field goals of 41 and 22 yards in the second half for the lone points in the final 30 minutes as the Jackrabbit defense came up big time after time. SDSU finished with 12 tackles for loss in the game, with defensive end Reece Winkelman notching 2.5 sacks among his 3.5 TFLs. Caleb Sanders added a pair of sacks.

Linebackers Preston Tetzlaff and Logan Backhaus shared game-high honors in overall tackles with 12 each.

The Jackrabbits held a 354-216 advantage in total offense, despite with SDSU rushing for 168 yards and throwing for 186. Strong led the ground game with 73 yards on 14 carries, with Isaiah Davis adding 70 yard on nine attempts. Gronowski completed 10-of-16 passes for 162 yards, with Janke totaling 64 yards on three catches.

Delaware quarterback Nolan Henderson, who returned after being shaken up on the Blue Hens' first-quarter scoring drive, was an efficient 18-of-21 passing for 142 yards. Gene Coleman II led the receiving corps with six catches for 43 yards.

The Blue Hens were limited to 68 net yards rushing, with Khory Spruill leading the team with only 16 yards on six carries. The SDSU defense held CAA Offensive Player of the Year Dejour Lee to a mere nine yards on 11 carries.



Reece Winkelman tied an SDSU single-game playoff record with 2.5 sacks and the Jackrabbits tied a team playoff record by sacking the quarterback seven times in a 33-3 semifinal victory over Delaware.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Delaware (7-1)	3	0	0	0	3
South Dakota State (8-1)	7	20	3	3	33

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	3:44	UDEL	– Ryan Coe 29 yd field goal
1st	00:13	SDSU	– Jaxon Janke 30 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Cole Frahm kick)
2nd	12:18	SDSU	– Gronowski 24 yd pass from Pierre Strong, Jr. (Frahm kick)
2nd	8:22	SDSU	– Strong 3 yd run (kick failed)
2nd	00:21	SDSU	– Blake Kunz 14 yd pass from Gronowski (Frahm kick)
3rd	8:23	SDSU	– Frahm 41 yd field goal
4th	7:22	SDSU	– Frahm 22 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS	UDEL	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	16	17
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	45-68	32-168
PASSING YDS (NET)	148	186
Passes Att-Comp-Int	23-19-0	17-11-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	68-216	49-354
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-55
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-89	1-41
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-42.0	3-47.7
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-22	0-0
Possession Time	37:05	22:55
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 16	3 of 9
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-2	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	7-51

RUSHING LEADERS: UDEL - Khory Spruill 6-16; Nolan Henderson 20-14; Gene Coleman II 1-12; Dejour Lee 11-9. SDSU - Pierre Strong, Jr. 14-73; Isaiah Davis 9-70; Mark Gronowski 7-27.

PASSING LEADERS: UDEL - Nolan Henderson 18-21-0 142; Zach Gwynn 1-1-0 6; Gene Coleman II 0-1-0 0. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 10-16-0 162; Pierre Strong, Jr. 1-1-0 24. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** UDEL - Gene Coleman II 6-43; Dejour Lee 3-29; Khory Spruill 2-27; Thyrick Pitts 2-20; Bryce De Maille 2-11. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 3-64; Blake Kunz 2-25; Pierre Strong, Jr. 2-13. **INTERCEPTIONS:** UDEL - none. SDSU - none. **SACKS:** UDEL - none. SDSU - Reece Winkelman 2.5-20; Caleb Sanders 2.0-12; Adam Bock 1.0-8; Jarod DePriest 1.0-7; Quinton Hicks 0.5-4. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** UDEL - Noah Plack 4-2-6; Liam Trainer 3-1-4; Anthony Toro 2-2-4. SDSU - Preston Tetzlaff 8-4-12; Logan Backhaus 7-5-12; Reece Winkelman 6-2-8; Adam Bock 4-2-6; Quinton Hicks 2-2-4.

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.): 15.6 yards per carry (10-156), by Isaiah Davis, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021
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; by Taryn Christion, vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017, and by Mark Gronowski, vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021
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.): 47.7 yards (3 punts), by Ben Dinkel, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
LONG PUNT: 61 yards, by Brady Hale, vs. Villanova, 12-3-2016, and by Ben Dinkel, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
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, and by Reece Winkelman, vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
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 seven players (last: by DyShawn Gales, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021)
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: 11.4, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
YARDS PER COMPLETION: 20.3, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
TOUCHDOWN PASSES: 3, at Montana, 11-28-2009; vs. Northern Iowa, 12-2-2017, and vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-2021
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: 8.4 yards, vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
SACKS: 7, at Northern Arizona, 11-30-2013, and vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
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 May 08, 2021)
All games

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conference	Time	Attend
* Feb 19, 2021	at UNI	W	24-20	1-0	1-0	04:45	2137
* Feb 27, 2021	at #14 North Dakota	L	17-28	1-1	1-1	3:06	3638
* Mar 06, 2021	WESTERN ILLINOIS	W	45-10	2-1	2-1	3:10	2347
* 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
Apr 24, 2021	HOLY CROSS	W	31-3	6-1	5-1	2:58	2998
May 02, 2021	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W	31-26	7-1	5-1	3:01	3547
May 08, 2021	DELAWARE	W	33-3	8-1	5-1	2:45	4527

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

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	271	127
Points Per Game	30.1	14.1
Points Off Turnovers	62	21
FIRST DOWNS	170	146
Rushing	99	62
Passing	66	70
Penalty	5	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2078	1013
Yards gained rushing	2221	1199
Yards lost rushing	143	186
Rushing Attempts	345	324
Average Per Rush	6.0	3.1
Average Per Game	230.9	112.6
TDs Rushing	17	10
PASSING YARDAGE	1591	1513
Comp-Att-Int	112-194-3	160-258-12
Average Per Pass	8.2	5.9
Average Per Catch	14.2	9.5
Average Per Game	176.8	168.1
TDs Passing	16	4
TOTAL OFFENSE	3669	2526
Total Plays	539	582
Average Per Play	6.8	4.3
Average Per Game	407.7	280.7
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	14-346	16-300
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	9-125	8-41
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	12-68	3-15
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.7	18.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.9	5.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	5.7	5.0
FUMBLES-LOST	8-6	6-4
PENALTIES-Yards	45-373	28-182
Average Per Game	41.4	20.2
PUNTS-Yards	33-1284	40-1646
Average Per Punt	38.9	41.2
Net punt average	37.1	36.5
KICKOFFS-Yards	54-2927	33-2009
Average Per Kick	54.2	60.9
Net kick average	38.9	36.8
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	29:44	30:16
3RD-DOWN Conversions	47/107	48/133
3rd-Down Pct	44%	36%
4TH-DOWN Conversions	5/9	11/24
4th-Down Pct	56%	46%
SACKS BY-Yards	21-122	10-61
MISC YARDS	11	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	33	14
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-19	10-15
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	(28-29) 97%	(18-25) 72%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	(18-29) 62%	(11-25) 44%
PAT-ATTEMPTS	(31-33) 94%	(13-13) 100%
ATTENDANCE	16072	16937
Games/Avg Per Game	5/3214	4/4234
Neutral Site Games		0/0

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Dakota State	69	95	60	47	0	271
Opponents	40	23	31	33	0	127

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

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Pierre Strong	8	116	670	20	650	5.6	3	53	81.2
Isaiah Davis	9	82	641	1	640	7.8	7	60	71.1
Mark Gronowski	9	81	653	86	567	7.0	7	80	63.0
Jordan Meachum	9	26	134	7	127	4.9	0	31	14.1
Jefferson Lee V	3	23	103	2	101	4.4	0	11	33.7
J'Bore Gibbs	4	4	16	0	16	4.0	0	7	4.0
Tucker Kraft	6	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	0.7
Jaxon Janke	9	1	0	8	-8	-8.0	0	0	-0.9
Keaton Heide	4	2	0	8	-8	-4.0	0	4	-2.0
TEAM	8	9	0	11	-11	-1.2	0	0	-1.4
Total	9	345	2221	143	2078	6.0	17	80	230.9
Opponents	9	324	1199	186	1013	3.1	10	43	112.6

Passing	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	9	150.87	107-186-3	57.5	1549	15	76	172.1
J'Bore Gibbs	4	77.30	2-4-0	50.0	13	0	7	3.2
Keaton Heide	4	121.00	2-2-0	100.0	5	0	5	1.2
TEAM	8	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Pierre Strong	8	631.60	1-1-0	100.0	24	1	24	3.0
Total	9	150.74	112-194-3	57.7	1591	16	76	176.8
Opponents	9	107.09	160-258-12	62.0	1513	4	62	168.1

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jaxon Janke	9	29	438	15.1	6	76	48.7
Jadon Janke	9	19	412	21.7	5	49	45.8
Pierre Strong	8	18	167	9.3	1	31	20.9
Zach Heins	9	9	156	17.3	0	43	17.3
Jordan Meachum	9	8	46	5.8	0	14	5.1
Tucker Kraft	6	7	90	12.9	0	31	15.0
Isaiah Davis	9	6	94	15.7	0	36	10.4
Canyon Bauer	9	5	34	6.8	0	15	3.8
Blake Kunz	8	4	80	20.0	2	30	10.0
Mason Leighton	8	3	26	8.7	1	14	3.2
Michael Morgan	5	2	15	7.5	0	12	3.0
Mark Gronowski	9	1	24	24.0	1	24	2.7
SkylerCavanaugh	7	1	9	9.0	0	9	1.3
Total	9	112	1591	14.2	16	76	176.8
Opponents	9	160	1513	9.5	4	62	168.1

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaxon Janke	8	106	13.2	0	55
Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0
Total	9	125	13.9	0	55
Opponents	8	41	5.1	0	16

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Josh Manchigiah	4	40	10.0	0	29
Michael Griffin	2	13	6.5	0	9
PrestonTetzlaff	1	0	0.0	0	0
Logan Backhaus	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cade Terveer	1	9	9.0	0	9
DyShawn Gales	1	0	0.0	0	0
Malik Lofton	1	0	0.0	0	0
Don Gardner	1	6	6.0	0	6
Total	12	68	5.7	0	29
Opponents	3	15	5.0	0	8

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Meachum	7	185	26.4	0	41
Isaiah Davis	3	114	38.0	0	50
Pierre Strong	1	20	20.0	0	20
Tucker Kraft	1	4	4.0	0	4
Michael Morgan	1	11	11.0	0	11
PrestonTetzlaff	1	12	12.0	0	12
Total	14	346	24.7	0	50
Opponents	16	300	18.8	0	40

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

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

Scoring	td	fg	PAT				dxd	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
Cole Frahm	-	13-18	30-32	-	-	-	-	-	69
Mark Gronowski	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Isaiah Davis	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Jaxon Janke	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Jadon Janke	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Pierre Strong	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Blake Kunz	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Mason Leighton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hunter Dustman	-	1-1	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total	33	14-19	31-33	-	-	-	-	-	271
Opponents	14	10-15	13-13	-	-	0-1	-	-	127

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	9	267	567	1549	2116	235.1
Pierre Strong	8	117	650	24	674	84.2
Isaiah Davis	9	82	640	0	640	71.1
Jordan Meachum	9	26	127	0	127	14.1
Jefferson Lee V	3	23	101	0	101	33.7
J'Bore Gibbs	4	8	16	13	29	7.2
Tucker Kraft	6	1	4	0	4	0.7
Keaton Heide	4	4	-8	5	-3	-0.8
Jaxon Janke	9	1	-8	0	-8	-0.9
TEAM	8	10	-11	0	-11	-1.4
Total	9	539	2078	1591	3669	407.7
Opponents	9	582	1013	1513	2526	280.7

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	13-18	72.2	0-0	5-5	6-6	1-5	1-2	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)
Holy Cross	(20),63	49,(47)
Southern Illinois	48,(34)	(19),(33)
DELAWARE	(41),(22)	(29),53

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	25	1033	41.3	61	1	9	10	3	1
Hunter Dustman	6	203	33.8	38	0	2	2	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	33	1284	38.9	61	1	11	12	3	1
Opponents	40	1646	41.2	64	3	13	10	11	1

Kickoffs	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Cole Frahm	54	2927	54.2	21	5			
Total	54	2927	54.2	21	5	18.8	38.9	26
Opponents	33	2009	60.9	18	1	24.7	36.8	28

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

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

<u>All Purpose</u>	<u>g</u>	<u>rush</u>	<u>rcv</u>	<u>pr</u>	<u>kr</u>	<u>ir</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>avg/g</u>
Isaiah Davis	9	640	94	0	114	0	848	94.2
Pierre Strong	8	650	167	0	20	0	837	104.6
Mark Gronowski	9	567	24	0	0	0	591	65.7
Jaxon Janke	9	-8	438	106	0	0	536	59.6
Jadon Janke	9	0	412	0	0	0	412	45.8
Jordan Meachu	9	127	46	0	185	0	358	39.8
Zach Heins	9	0	156	0	0	0	156	17.3
Jefferson Lee V	3	101	0	0	0	0	101	33.7
Tucker Kraft	6	4	90	0	4	0	98	16.3
Blake Kunz	8	0	80	0	0	0	80	10.0
Josh Manchigiah	9	0	0	0	0	40	40	4.4
Canyon Bauer	9	0	34	0	0	0	34	3.8
Mason Leighton	8	0	26	0	0	0	26	3.2
Michael Morgan	5	0	15	0	11	0	26	5.2
Isaiah Stalbird	9	0	0	19	0	0	19	2.1
J'Bore Gibbs	4	16	0	0	0	0	16	4.0
Michael Griffin	9	0	0	0	0	13	13	1.4
PrestonTetzlaff	9	0	0	0	12	0	12	1.3
Cade Terveer	8	0	0	0	0	9	9	1.1
SkylerCavanaugh	7	0	9	0	0	0	9	1.3
Don Gardner	9	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.7
Keaton Heide	4	-8	0	0	0	0	-8	-2.0
TEAM	8	-11	0	0	0	0	-11	-1.4
Total	9	2078	1591	125	346	68	4208	467.6
Opponents	9	1013	1513	41	300	15	2882	320.2

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

#	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf
12	Logan Backhaus	9	45	24	69	9.5-22	2.0-10	1-0	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Adam Bock	9	32	34	66	5.5-20	2.0-15	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
46	PrestonTetzlaff	9	31	33	64	0.5-1	.	1-0	.	1	.	1	.	.
6	Michael Griffin	9	21	20	41	0.5-0	.	2-13	2	.	.	.	.	.
21	Don Gardner	9	27	12	39	3.0-7	.	1-6	4	1	.	.	.	.
2D	Isaiah Stalbird	9	18	9	27	3.0-9	.	.	4	.	.	.	1	.
3	Josh Manchighiah	9	15	10	25	1.5-3	.	4-40	1	.	.	.	.	.
99	Caleb Sanders	9	15	9	24	7.0-32	5.0-26	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
29	Graham Spalding	9	15	9	24	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
97	Reece Winkelman	9	15	8	23	3.5-21	2.5-20	.	.	1	.	.	2	.
35	Chase Norblade	8	13	6	19	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
48	Quinton Hicks	8	9	6	15	3.5-17	1.5-14	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
44	S. Williamson	8	7	7	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Malik Lofton	8	11	3	14	.	.	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	9	10	4	14	6.0-25	3.0-19	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
30	Payton Shafer	9	8	4	12	1.0-2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
13	DyShawn Gales	7	10	2	12	3.0-4	.	1-0	2	.	.	.	.	.
55	Thomas Stacker	9	6	3	9	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
69	K. Krolkowski	9	8	1	9	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
91	Xavier Ward	5	3	4	7	2.0-3	1.0-2	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
94	Cade Terveer	8	4	3	7	2.0-2	.	1-9	.	1	.	.	.	.
25	Cale Reeder	9	5	2	7	0.5-0	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
98	Ryan Van Marel	9	5	1	6	1.0-8	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.
53	Caden Johnson	8	3	2	5	1.5-7	1.0-6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
1B	Matt Barnett	6	2	1	3	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52	Jarod DePriest	7	2	.	2	2.0-8	2.0-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9F	Cole Frahm	9	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Randy Keumogne	6	2	.	2	1.0-2	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Caleb Franci	5	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Torren Union	8	1	1	2	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
28	Dalys Beanum	6	1	1	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
15	Daeton Mcgaughy	8	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM	TEAM	8	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
92	Kevin Brenner	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Mason Leighton	8	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	Jadon Janke	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2I	Isaiah Davis	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
39	Steven Arrell	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
Total		9	351	224	575	61-201	21-122	12-68	20	12	4-0	3	4	.
Opponents		9	302	252	554	34-117	10-61	3-15	19	10	6--8	7	3	.

The Automated ScoreBook

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

All games

TEAM STATISTICS

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
Feb 19	at UNI	34	116	1	32	19	194	2	43	19-29-0	194	2	43	2	46	0	26	2	33	0	14	310
Feb 27	at North Dakota	26	96	0	29	16	309	2	76	16-32-2	309	2	76	2	52	0	32	0	0	0	0	405
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	44	347	4	80	13	184	2	44	13-22-0	184	2	44	1	28	0	28	1	5	0	5	531
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
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	34	281	1	60	14	158	3	45	14-24-0	158	3	45	1	4	0	4	2	12	0	6	439
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	33	231	2	67	9	183	2	31	9-16-0	183	2	31	4	112	0	50	0	0	0	0	414
May 08	DELAWARE	32	168	1	36	11	186	3	36	11-17-0	186	3	36	1	41	0	41	1	55	0	55	354
Opponents		345	2078	17	80	112	1591	16	76	112-194-3	1591	16	76	14	346	0	50	9	125	0	55	3669
		324	1013	10	43	160	1513	4	62	160-258-12	1513	4	62	16	300	0	40	8	41	0	16	2526

Games: 9 • Avg/rush: 6.0 • Avg/catch: 14.2 • Pass eff: 150.74 • KR avg: 24.7 • PR avg: 13.9 • All purpose avg/game: 467.6 • Total offense avg/gm: 407.7

		Tackles				Sacks	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd	PAT Attempts			off		
Date	Opponent	ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
Feb 19	at UNI	38	10	48	7.0-27	2.0-15	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	24
Feb 27	at North Dakota	40	22	62	4.0-8	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	2	5	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	17
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	39	30	69	6.0-15	1.0-6	0	0-0	3-9	0	5	0	6-6	0	0	0	14	45
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
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	33	28	61	8.0-22	5.0-17	0	1-0	0-0	0	3	1	4-4	0	0	0	7	31
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	50	30	80	5.0-7	1.0-3	0	1-0	2-4	1	3	0	4-4	0	0	0	14	31
May 08	DELAWARE	49	28	77	12.0-61	7.0-51	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	3-4	0	0	0	0	33
		351	224	575	61.0-201	21.0-122	3	4-0	12-68	12	20	4	31-33	0	0	0	62	271
Opponents		302	252	554	34.0-117	10.0-61	7	6-8	3-15	10	19	3	13-13	0	0	0	21	127

		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
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	5	202	40.4	47	0	0	0	0	3	1-2	20	0	6	364	60.7	3	0
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	3	95	31.7	37	0	0	2	0	0	1-2	34	0	5	324	64.8	4	1
May 08	DELAWARE	3	143	47.7	61	0	0	2	1	1	2-2	41	0	7	395	56.4	1	1
		33	1284	38.9	61	1	1	11	3	12	14-19	52	2	54	2927	54.2	21	5
Opponents		40	1646	41.2	64	1	3	13	11	10	10-15	47	3	33	2009	60.9	18	1

The Automated ScoreBook

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

All games

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
Feb 19	at UNI	25	28	1	13	19	165	1	20	19-29-0	165	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	9	193
Feb 27	at North Dakota	39	177	3	43	21	207	1	37	21-34-1	207	1	37	2	59	0	39	1	7	0	0	384
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	24	87	0	15	31	295	1	62	31-53-3	295	1	62	3	15	0	8	1	0	0	0	382
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	46	196	2	42	7	55	0	31	7-13-2	55	0	31	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	5	251
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	33	121	0	26	14	92	0	17	14-25-3	92	0	17	2	34	0	18	1	3	0	3	213
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	37	97	2	13	9	149	0	39	9-17-1	149	0	39	2	47	0	26	0	0	0	0	246
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	33	112	0	14	13	86	0	30	13-26-0	86	0	30	3	56	0	23	1	-1	0	0	198
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	42	127	2	11	27	316	1	36	27-38-2	316	1	36	0	0	0	0	1	16	0	16	443
May 08	DELAWARE	45	68	0	14	19	148	0	19	19-23-0	148	0	19	4	89	0	40	0	0	0	0	216
South Dakota State		324	1013	10	43	160	1513	4	62	160-258-12	1513	4	62	16	300	0	40	8	41	0	16	2526
		345	2078	17	80	112	1591	16	76	112-194-3	1591	16	76	14	346	0	50	9	125	0	55	3669

Games: 9 • Avg/rush: 3.1 • Avg/catch: 9.5 • Pass effic: 107.09 • KR avg: 18.8 • PR avg: 5.1 • All purpose avg/game: 320.2 • Total offense avg/gm: 280.7

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT Attempts			off		
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds		ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup		kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
Feb 19	at UNI	37	32	69	5.0-16	2.0-8	2	2-0	0-0	2	4	0	2-2	0	0	0	14	20
Feb 27	at North Dakota	25	28	53	6.0-25	3.0-20	1	1-0	2-7	2	2	2	4-4	0	0	0	0	28
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	37	24	61	4.0-8	0.0-0	1	1-0	0-0	0	3	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	10
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	37	16	53	5.0-20	0.0-0	1	1-0	1-8	2	2	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	17
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	48	32	80	2.0-3	0.0-0	2	1--8	0-0	1	0	1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	28	50	78	6.0-25	4.0-20	0	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	17
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	27	40	67	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	3
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	33	16	49	3.0-15	1.0-13	0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	26
May 08	DELAWARE	30	14	44	2.0-3	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	3
South Dakota State		302	252	554	34.0-117	10.0-61	7	6--8	3-15	10	19	3	13-13	0	0	0	21	127
		351	224	575	61.0-201	21.0-122	3	4-0	12-68	12	20	4	31-33	0	0	0	62	271

		Punting									Field Goals			Kickoffs				
Date	Opponent	no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
Feb 19	at UNI	7	268	38.3	55	1	1	2	2	1	2-3	43	0	5	322	64.4	3	0
Feb 27	at North Dakota	3	105	35.0	40	0	1	2	0	1	0-1	0	0	5	320	64.0	3	0
Mar 06	WESTERN ILLINOIS	5	169	33.8	44	0	0	1	0	1	1-1	26	0	3	169	56.3	1	1
Mar 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	5	203	40.6	51	0	0	4	1	0	1-2	33	1	4	260	65.0	4	0
Mar 20	at Southern Illinois	3	166	55.3	64	0	0	1	2	1	1-1	27	0	2	129	64.5	1	0
Apr 17	at North Dakota State	5	211	42.2	51	0	0	1	2	2	1-1	40	0	4	232	58.0	2	0
Apr 24	HOLY CROSS	7	319	45.6	58	0	1	0	3	3	1-2	47	1	2	98	49.0	1	0
May 02	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	1	37	37.0	37	0	0	1	0	0	2-2	33	0	6	350	58.3	2	0
May 08	DELAWARE	4	168	42.0	50	0	0	1	1	1	1-2	29	1	2	129	64.5	1	0
		40	1646	41.2	64	1	3	13	11	10	10-15	47	3	33	2009	60.9	18	1
South Dakota State		33	1284	38.9	61	1	1	11	3	12	14-19	52	2	54	2927	54.2	21	5

The Automated ScoreBook

South Dakota State Combined Team Statistics (as of May 12, 2021)

FCS Playoffs

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
Apr 24, 2021	HOLY CROSS	W 31-3	2998
May 02, 2021	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W 31-26	3547
May 08, 2021	DELAWARE	W 33-3	4527

Record:	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
All games	3-0	3-0	0-0	0-0
Conference	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Non-Conference	3-0	3-0	0-0	0-0

Rushing	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Isaiah Davis	3	29	269	1	268	9.2	2	60	89.3
Pierre Strong	3	36	201	4	197	5.5	1	33	65.7
Mark Gronowski	3	22	199	15	184	8.4	1	67	61.3
Jordan Meachum	3	7	27	0	27	3.9	0	7	9.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	3	8	0	8	2.7	0	3	8.0
Total	3	99	704	24	680	6.9	4	67	226.7
Opponents	3	120	404	97	307	2.6	2	14	102.3

Passing	gp	effc	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	3	181.00	31-53-0	58.5	498	7	45	166.0
Keaton Heide	2	121.00	2-2-0	100.0	5	0	5	2.5
TEAM	2	0.00	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Pierre Strong	3	631.60	1-1-0	100.0	24	1	24	8.0
Total	3	183.63	34-57-0	59.6	527	8	45	175.7
Opponents	3	120.11	59-87-2	67.8	550	1	36	183.3

Receiving	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Jaxon Janke	3	9	125	13.9	2	30	41.7
Pierre Strong	3	6	79	13.2	0	31	26.3
Jadon Janke	3	5	118	23.6	4	45	39.3
Tucker Kraft	3	5	76	15.2	0	31	25.3
Blake Kunz	3	3	55	18.3	1	30	18.3
Isaiah Davis	3	2	40	20.0	0	36	13.3
Mark Gronowski	3	1	24	24.0	1	24	8.0
Jordan Meachum	3	1	5	5.0	0	5	1.7
Zach Heins	3	1	5	5.0	0	5	1.7
Mason Leighton	3	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Total	3	34	527	15.5	8	45	175.7
Opponents	3	59	550	9.3	1	36	183.3

Field Goals	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Cole Frahm	4-6	66.7	0-0	2-2	1-1	1-2	0-1	41	0

Scoring	PAT									
	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts	
Jadon Janke	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	
Cole Frahm	-	4-6	11-12	-	-	-	-	-	23	
Isaiah Davis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	
Mark Gronowski	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	
Jaxon Janke	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	
Pierre Strong	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Blake Kunz	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Total	12	4-6	11-12	-	-	-	-	-	95	
Opponents	3	4-6	2-2	-	-	0-1	-	-	32	

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Dakota State	21	33	17	24	0	95
Opponents	10	16	0	6	0	32

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	52	57
Rushing	29	22
Passing	23	31
Penalty	0	4
RUSHING YARDAGE	680	307
Rushing Attempts	99	120
Average Per Rush	6.9	2.6
Average Per Game	226.7	102.3
TDs Rushing	4	2
PASSING YARDAGE	527	550
Comp-Att-Int	34-57-0	59-87-2
Average Per Pass	9.2	6.3
Average Per Catch	15.5	9.3
Average Per Game	175.7	183.3
TDs Passing	8	1
TOTAL OFFENSE	1207	857
Average Per Play	7.7	4.1
Average Per Game	402.3	285.7
KICK RETURNS: #-Yards	6-157	7-145
PUNT RETURNS: #-Yards	3-67	2-15
INT RETURNS: #-Yards	2-4	0-0
FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	3-2
PENALTIES-Yards	10-81	9-67
PUNTS-AVG	11-40.0	12-43.7
TIME OF POSSESSION/Game	25:59	34:01
3RD-DOWN Conversions	13/31	21/49
4TH-DOWN Conversions	2/3	3/7

Interceptions	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Michael Griffin	1	4	4.0	0	4
Josh Manchigiah	1	0	0.0	0	0

Punting	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Ben Dinkel	7	309	44.1	61	0	2	3	1	0
Hunter Dustman	4	131	32.8	37	0	2	1	0	0

Punt Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jaxon Janke	3	67	22.3	0	55
Total	3	67	22.3	0	55
Opponents	2	15	7.5	0	16

Kick Returns	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Jordan Meachum	3	91	30.3	0	41
PrestonTetzlaff	1	12	12.0	0	12
Tucker Kraft	1	4	4.0	0	4
Isaiah Davis	1	50	50.0	0	50
Total	6	157	26.2	0	50
Opponents	7	145	20.7	0	40

All Purpose	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Isaiah Davis	3	268	40	0	50	0	358	119.3
Pierre Strong	3	197	79	0	0	0	276	92.0
Mark Gronowski	3	184	24	0	0	0	208	69.3
Jaxon Janke	3	0	125	67	0	0	192	64.0
Jordan Meachum	3	27	5	0	91	0	123	41.0
Jadon Janke	3	0	118	0	0	0	118	39.3
Tucker Kraft	3	0	76	0	4	0	80	26.7
Blake Kunz	3	0	55	0	0	0	55	18.3
PrestonTetzlaff	3	0	0	0	12	0	12	4.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	8	0	0	0	0	8	8.0
Total	3	680	527	67	157	4	1435	478.3
Opponents	3	307	550	15	145	0	1017	339.0

Total Offense	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Mark Gronowski	3	75	184	498	682	227.3
Isaiah Davis	3	29	268	0	268	89.3
Pierre Strong	3	37	197	24	221	73.7
Jordan Meachum	3	7	27	0	27	9.0
Jefferson Lee V	1	3	8	0	8	8.0
Keaton Heide	2	3	-3	5	2	1.0
Total	3	156	680	527	1207	402.3
Opponents	3	207	307	550	857	285.7

Tackles

Sacks

Pass defense

Fumbles

Blocked

The Automated ScoreBook
South Dakota State Overall Defensive Statistics (as of May 12, 2021)
FCS Playoffs

#	Defensive Leaders	gp	Tackles				Sacks no-yds	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd		
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	rcv-yds	ff	kick	saf	
12	Logan Backhaus	3	23	7	30	4.0-15	2.0-10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Adam Bock	3	14	14	28	2.0-9	1.0-8	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
46	PrestonTetzlaff	3	10	13	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
6	Michael Griffin	3	6	10	16	0.5-0	.	1-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Reece Winkelman	3	7	5	12	3.5-21	2.5-20	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
21	Don Gardner	3	6	5	11	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
2D	Isaiah Stalbird	3	5	5	10	1.0-2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Caleb Sanders	3	6	4	10	4.0-19	4.0-19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Josh Manchighiah	3	7	2	9	.	.	1-0	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
29	Graham Spalding	3	5	2	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	Chase Norblade	3	4	3	7	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.
48	Quinton Hicks	3	4	2	6	2.5-7	0.5-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Payton Shafer	3	4	1	5	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13	DyShawn Gales	3	4	1	5	2.0-3	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
69	K. Krolkowski	3	4	1	5	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
91	Xavier Ward	3	2	2	4	1.0-2	1.0-2	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.	.
44	S. Williamson	3	2	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55	Thomas Stacker	3	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Ryan Van Marel	3	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	Cale Reeder	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
1D	Malik Lofton	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
94	Cade Terveer	3	2	1	3	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52	Jarod DePriest	2	2	.	2	2.0-8	2.0-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Randy Keumogne	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1B	Matt Barnett	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Caleb Franci	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9F	Cole Frahm	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Dalys Beanum	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total		3	132	86	218	25-90	13-71	2-4	6	1	2-0	1	2	.	.
Opponents		3	90	70	160	6-20	1-13	.	6	2	.	.	.	.	.