



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKRABBIT ATHLETICS NEWS RELEASE

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2021 FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Jackrabbits open new year at CSU

JACKRABBIT GAME NOTES — SEPT. 3



#3/4 [FCS] SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (0-0)
at COLORADO STATE (0-0)
Season Opener
7 p.m. MT (8 p.m. Central) Friday
Canvas Stadium; Fort Collins, Colorado



HEAD COACH: Steve Addazio (Central Connecticut State, 1981)
 • 1-3 record in one season at Colorado State; 58-58 career record in 10 seasons as a collegiate head coach at Temple, Boston College and CSU

SERIES NOTES

- Third Meeting (Colorado State leads, 2-0)
- CSU won the last meeting, 45-14, which was played Sept. 24, 1966, in Brookings

MEDIA INFORMATION

- Game will be televised nationally on FS1
- Pre-game radio show begins at 7 p.m. Central on the Jackrabbit Sports Network, which includes flagship station WNAX 570 AM-Yankton and the following affiliates:
 - KJJQ 910 AM-Brookings • KBFS 1450 AM-Belle Fourche • KDSJ 980 AM-Deadwood
 - KORN 1490 AM-Mitchell • KELO 1320 AM/KELQ 107.9 FM-Sioux Falls
 - KCCR 1240 AM-Pierre • KLOH 1050 AM/94.1 FM-Pipestone, Minn.
 - KWYR 93.7 FM-Winner • KXLG 99.1 FM/100.1 FM-Watertown
- Radio team of Tyler Merriam (play-by-play), Alex Parker (color) and Scotty Kwas (sidelines) will call the action

HEAD COACH: John Stiegelmeier (SDSU, 1979)
 • 174-107 record in 24 seasons — all at South Dakota State
STARTERS RETURNING: 22 (10 Off., 10 Def., 2 ST)

2021 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
3	at Colorado State	8 p.m.
11	LINDENWOOD [Dairy Drive/2020 Hall of Fame]	6 p.m.
25	*at Indiana State	noon
OCTOBER		
2	DIXIE STATE [Beef Bowl]	6 p.m.
9	*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
16	*at Western Illinois	noon
23	*NORTHERN IOWA [Hobo Day]	2 p.m.
30	*at Youngstown State	1 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
6	*NORTH DAKOTA STATE [Dakota Marker]	2 p.m.
13	*at South Dakota [Showdown Series]	1 p.m.
20	*NORTH DAKOTA [2021 Hall of Fame]	2 p.m.
27	FCS Playoffs begin	TBD

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game
 All times Central

TALE OF THE TAPE — 2020-21 SEASON STATS

COLORADO STATE	CATEGORY	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
22.2	Points Per Game	29.2
35.8	Points Allowed Per Game	15.0
124.0	Rushing Yardage Per Game	231.7
108.5	Rush Yardage Allowed/Game	115.7
199.5	Passing Yardage Per Game	171.4
13.5	Average Per Catch	13.8
250.2	Pass Yardage Allowed/Game	172.2
323.5	Total Offense Per Game	403.1
358.8	Total Offense Allowed/Game	287.9
22.8	Kick Return Average	25.6
9.4	Punt Return Average	13.9
1-30	Interception Returns	12-68
4-1	Fumbles-Lost	10-6
24-190	Penalties-Yards	54-438
25:46	Time of Possession/Game	29:39
13/59 (22%)	Third-Down Conversions	50/117 (43%)

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT COLORADO STATE

SEASON OPENERS DURING THE JOHN STIEGELMEIER ERA

1997: SDSU 17, UC Davis 7
 1998: SDSU 56, Wisconsin-Stout 13
 1999: SDSU 35, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 20
 2000: SDSU 36, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 27
 2001: SDSU 34, Ferris State (Mich.) 24
 2002: SDSU 28, Chadron State (Neb.) 15
 2003: SDSU 20, Northwest Missouri State 0
 2004: UC Davis 52, SDSU 0
 2005: SDSU 42, Wisconsin-La Crosse 13
 2006: Wisconsin-La Crosse 17, SDSU 3
 2007: Western Illinois 29, SDSU 26 (4 OT)
 2008: Iowa State 44, SDSU 17
 2009: SDSU 44, Georgia Southern 6
 2010: Delaware 26, SDSU 3
 2011: SDSU 29, Southern Utah 28
 2012: Kansas 31, SDSU 17
 2013: SDSU 55, Butler (Ind.) 14
 2014: Missouri 38, SDSU 18
 2015: SDSU 41, Kansas 38
 2016: TCU 59, SDSU 41
 2017: SDSU 51, Duquesne 13
 2018: SDSU 45, Montana State 14
 2019: Minnesota 28, South Dakota State 21
 2020-21: SDSU 24, Northern Iowa 20

Note: 2018 original season opener at Iowa State was canceled due to inclement weather

2020-21 RESULTS

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 W, 31-3

MAY

2 ^SOUTHERN ILLINOIS W, 31-26
 8 ^DELAWARE W, 33-3
 16 #SAM HOUSTON [at Frisco, Texas] L, 21-23

* Missouri Valley Football Conference game

^ Football Championship Subdivision playoff game

FCS national title game

Sports Information Contact: Jason Hove

Aug. 30, 2021

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Three and a half months after making an appearance in the Football Championship Subdivision national title game, the South Dakota State football team returns to action by opening the 2021 season with a nationally televised game at Colorado State.

Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. Mountain Time (8 p.m. Central) Friday at Canvas Stadium in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The Jackrabbits posted an 8-2 record during a 2020-21 season that was moved to the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SDSU won a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference title and claimed the league's automatic bid to the FCS playoffs after compiling a 5-1 mark during the regular season.

SDSU also was awarded the top seed in 16-team playoff field and won three home games before falling to Sam Houston on a late touchdown, 23-21, in the FCS national championship game in Frisco, Texas. It marked the Jackrabbits' first-ever appearance in a football national championship contest.

Colorado State, meanwhile, was limited to four games last fall. The Rams turned in a 1-3 record against Mountain West Conference opponents, notching their only victory in their lone home game, a 34-24 win over rival Wyoming.

THE SERIES: Friday's game will mark the third meeting on the gridiron between South Dakota State and Colorado State, and the first in 55 years.

The two programs last met on Sept. 24, 1966, at SDSU's Coughlin-Alumni Stadium, with Colorado State pulling away for a 45-14 victory.

CSU scored two early touchdowns before the Jackrabbits pulled to within 13-7 late in the first quarter on a 75-yard touchdown run by Tod Macik. The Rams countered by tallying the next 26 points, with the Jackrabbits scoring their final touchdown of the day on a 17-yard pass from Pat Durkin to Terry Sorensen.

Colorado State won the first-ever meeting between the two teams a year earlier, Nov. 6, 1965, in Fort Collins, with the Rams winning 52-20.

FOR OPENERS: Now in his 25th year as head coach, John Stiegelmeier has led SDSU to a 15-9 record in season openers. The Jackrabbits won each of their first seven season openers under Coach Stig, starting with a 17-7 victory at UC Davis in 1997.

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

PLAYING UP: South Dakota State will face a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent for the 11th time since moving to the Division I ranks. The Jackrabbits have compiled a 1-9 record against FBS foes, starting with a 44-17 setback at Iowa State in the 2008 season opener.

The Jackrabbits last played an FBS foe in the 2019 season opener at Minnesota, falling to the Golden Gophers, 28-21.

SDSU's lone win against an FBS opponent was a 41-38 win at Kansas in the 2015 season opener.

Previous FBS games:

2008: Iowa State 44, SDSU 17	2013: Nebraska 59, SDSU 20
2009: Minnesota 16, SDSU 13	2014: Missouri 38, SDSU 18
2010: Nebraska 17, SDSU 3	2015: SDSU 41, Kansas 38
2011: Illinois 56, SDSU 3	2016: TCU 59, SDSU 41
2012: Kansas 31, SDSU 17	2019: Minnesota 28, SDSU 21

Notes: SDSU's 2018 game at Iowa State was canceled due to inclement weather and a scheduled matchup at Nebraska in 2020 was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

SDSU'S 2020-21 RECORD
WHEN...

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

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS: South Dakota State will be opening on a Friday night for the second season in a row. The Jackrabbits kicked off the 2020-21 spring season by rallying for a 24-20 victory at Northern Iowa on Feb. 19, 2021.

Prior to 2021, the last time the Jackrabbits suited up on a Friday night was in the 2018 Football Championship Subdivision semifinals, when SDSU dropped a 44-21 decision at North Dakota State.

Before this calendar year, one would had to have gone back more than 65 years, to Nov. 5, 1954, for the last time SDSU had played a regular season game on a Friday night. In that instance, the Jackrabbits dropped a 39-34 decision to Morningside at State Field.

South Dakota State played one other Friday night game during the 1954 season, blanking Mankato Teachers College, 66-0, on Oct. 1.

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 the 2020-21 16-team field.

CAPTAINS: Leading the Jackrabbit football team are six captains:

- Logan Backhaus, Sr., linebacker, Spirit Lake, Iowa;
- Wes Genant, Sr., offensive lineman, Parkston;
- Michael Griffin II, Sr., safety, Cottage Grove, Minnesota;
- Mason McCormick, Jr., offensive lineman, Sioux Falls;
- Pierre Strong, Jr.; Sr.; running back, Little Rock, Arkansas, and
- Xavier Ward, Sr., defensive tackle, Freeman.

Backhaus is in his third season as a team captain, while Genant, Griffin and Strong are in their second seasons in the leadership position. McCormick and Ward are first-time team captains.

RANKINGS STREAK: By being ranked third in the Stats Perform FCS preseason poll media poll, SDSU has now appeared in the top 25 of 118 consecutive media polls dating back to October 2012.

The third-place preseason showing matches the highest in program history (2018, 2019).

AWARD WATCH LISTS: South Dakota State running back Pierre Strong, Jr. and linebacker Logan Backhaus have been selected for the initial watch lists for two of the top awards in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Strong is under consideration for the the 2021 Stats Perform Walter Payton Award, which is given annually to the top offensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

A senior from Little Rock, Arkansas, Strong tied for eighth in the balloting for the Payton Award during an abbreviated 2020-21 season. He gained 707 yards in nine games and averaged 5.4 yards per carry with three rushing touchdowns. Strong also ranked third on the squad with 20 receptions for 178 yards and a touchdown.

Strong posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons in 2018 and 2019, and enters this fall eighth on the Jackrabbits' career rushing charts with 2,841 yards.

Backhaus, meanwhile, is among the early candidates for the 2021 Stats Perform Buck Buchanan Award, which is presented annually to the top defensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Entering his final season with the Jackrabbits, Backhaus is coming off a 2020-21 season in which he led the team with 9.5 tackles for loss and ranked second with 72 tackles in 10 games. The Spirit Lake, Iowa, native also intercepted a pass and forced a fumble in helping lead SDSU to the FCS national title game.

A multi-year starter, Backhaus' career totals include 267 tackles, 24 tackles for loss, 5 sacks and 9 interceptions.

2020-21 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)

Both watch lists will be updated periodically throughout the 2021 season. A media panel will select the recipients, who will be announced prior to the FCS national championship game in January.

Backhaus (first team) and Strong (second team) were also among the four members of the South Dakota State University football team were honored recently on the Stats Perform FCS Preseason All-America Team.

Also tabbed as a first-team preseason All-America was offensive lineman Garret Greenfield. A junior from Rock Valley, Iowa, was a consensus All-America pick at right tackle after helping pave the way for the Jackrabbits to rush for a Division I-era best 231.7 yards per game this past spring.

Joining Strong from the Jackrabbit backfield was Isaiah Davis, who earned third-team recognition as an all-purpose back. A sophomore from Joplin, Missouri, Davis finished the 2020-21 campaign as the team's leading rusher with 818 yards while adding a team-high 10 touchdowns. He averaged a team-best 115.3 all-purpose yards per game, adding seven receptions for 107 yards and returning seven kickoffs for 228 yards (32.6 ypr). Davis came on strong in the Jackrabbits' run to the FCS title game, tallying 663 all-purpose yards in four playoff games, including 305 in the championship tilt against Sam Houston.

JACKS PICKED TO WIN VALLEY: South Dakota State has been picked to win the 2021 Missouri Valley Football Conference title, according to a poll conducted among the league's coaches, sports information directors and a media panel that was announced in late July.

The Jackrabbits received 24 of the 43 first-place votes to finish with 454 points, edging North Dakota State with 435 points and 18 first-place votes. North Dakota (357), Southern Illinois (345) and Northern Iowa (311) rounded out the top five, with UNI claiming the final first-place vote.

It marks the first time since joining the MVFC in 2008 that the Jackrabbits, who return 10 starters on both sides of the ball, have been tabbed as the preseason favorite, after finishing second in the annual forecast six times.

The remainder of the poll included: Missouri State, sixth, 256; Illinois State, seventh, 196; South Dakota, eighth, 163; Youngstown State, ninth, 126; Indiana State, 10th, 112, and Western Illinois, 11th, 83.

SDSU shared the MVFC title with Missouri State, finishing with a 5-1 conference mark during an abbreviated 2020-21 season that was moved to the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jackrabbits were awarded the league's automatic bid to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs and later advanced to the national championship game for the first time, ending the season with an 8-2 overall record following a 23-21 loss to Sam Houston.

In addition, 12 Jackrabbit players were honored on the MVFC Preseason Team, including six first-team selections. Running back Pierre Strong, Jr., tight end Zach Heins and offensive lineman Garret Greenfield represent the Jackrabbit offense, while defensive tackle Caleb Sanders, linebacker Logan Backhaus and cornerback Don Gardner were the defensive honorees. All were first-team all-MVFC picks during the spring campaign.

Strong, a senior from Little Rock, Arkansas, rushed for 707 yards (78.6 yards per game) and three touchdowns during the 2020-21 spring season. He also ranked third on the team with 20 catches for 178 yards and a touchdown.

A junior from Sioux Falls, Heins tallied 12 receptions for 200 yards during the 2020-21 spring season.

Greenfield, a junior from Rock Valley, Iowa, helped pave the way for an offensive unit that averaged 29.2 points and 403.1 yards of total offense per game. He went on to be a consensus All-America selection at right tackle.

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: 178, by Isaiah Davis, vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, by Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021, and vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021

LONG RUSH: 85 yards (for TD), by Isaiah Davis, vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021

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, five times by Ben Dinkel (last: vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021)

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)

Sanders led the Jackrabbits with five sacks among his seven tackles for loss last season. The senior from Glenwood, Iowa, posted 26 total tackles.

Backhaus, a senior from Spirit Lake, Iowa, paced the Jackrabbits with 9.5 tackles for loss and ranked second on the squad with 72 total tackles en route to earning All-America honors from several media outlets.

Gardner, a senior from Chicago, led the team with seven pass breakups and added an interception during the spring season. He also ranked fifth on the squad with 44 tackles, including three for loss.

Four more members of the Jackrabbit offense were recognized as second-team selections to the preseason honor squad: Offensive linemen Mason McCormick and Wes Genant, wide receiver Jaxon Janke and running back Isaiah Davis.

McCormick, a junior from Sioux Falls, was a second-team all-MVFC pick this past spring, while Genant, a senior from Parkston, earned honorable mention recognition.

A junior from Madison, Janke earned second-team all-MVFC honors after leading SDSU in nearly every receiving category, posting 32 receptions for 473 yards and six touchdowns.

Davis, from Joplin, Missouri, finished as the team's leading rusher with 818 yards (81.8 ypg) and 10 touchdowns as a freshman. A second-team all-league performer and a member of the MVFC All-Newcomer Team, Davis topped the 100-yard mark in rushing four times while also seeing action as a kick returner.

Also a second-team selection was senior long snapper Bradey Sorenson. The Yankton native sat out the spring season, but previously has been honored on the all-MVFC squad.

Rounding out the list of preseason award recipients for the Jackrabbits was honorable mention selection Reece Winkelman. A senior defensive end from Marshall, Minnesota, Winkelman tied for second on the team with three sacks and finished with 25 tackles last spring.

OLADOKUN UNDER CENTER: Graduate transfer Chris Oladokun is expected to take the reins of the Jackrabbit offense at quarterback in Friday's season opener at Colorado State.

Oladokun would become the fourth Jackrabbit in as many seasons to start the opener at quarterback. In 2018, Taryn Christian made his third consecutive start in the first game of a season, while J'Bore Gibbs inherited the starting role in 2019. True freshman Mark Gronowski won the starting quarterback battle for the 2020-21 opener and went on to lead the Jackrabbits to the FCS national title game before suffering an injury in that game that will sideline him for the fall campaign.

A native of Tampa, Florida, Oladokun began his collegiate career at South Florida, where he started two games in 2018 and completed 22-of-44 passes for 285 yards and three touchdowns.

He then transferred to Samford and played in 19 games with nine starts over the next two seasons. Oladokun passed for 2,064 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2019, while also rushing 127 times for 493 yards and eight touchdowns. He was Samford's starter at quarterback for the 2020-21 season opener and saw action in seven games.

SECOND-QUARTER DOMINANCE: South Dakota State often carried momentum into the locker room at halftime during the 2020-21 season.

In 10 games, SDSU held a 95-37 scoring advantage in the second quarter. The Jackrabbits built up a 62-7 advantage in regular season action, and then outscored the opposition 33-30 in the second quarter during the postseason, buoyed by a 20-0 margin against Delaware in the national semifinal.

The Jackrabbits were 7-1 when taking a lead into halftime during the 2020-21 spring season.

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, and vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021
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, five times (last: vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021)

PICKING OFF THE COMPETITION: After having its 13-game streak with an interception come to an end in the 2020-21 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 recorded 12 interceptions last season — a total that ranked third in the Football Championship Subdivision

Joshua Manchigiah, who had one of the interceptions in the playoff win over SIU, led the team with four. In all, eight different Jackrabbit players tallied an interception last spring.

SDSU has picked off a pass in 25 of its last 30 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 has consistently ranked among the FCS leaders for blocked kicks over the past few seasons. The Jackrabbits ranked third with four blocked kicks during the 2020-21 season, starting with a blocked punt by Isaiah Stalbird in the Feb. 19 season opener at Northern Iowa.

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.

The Jackrabbits' third and fourth blocked kicks of the season both came in the FCS playoffs and were recorded by Reece Winkelman in games against Holy Cross and Delaware.

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 improved during the 2020-21 season was in the turnover margin department. Despite forcing 25 turnovers (18 interceptions, 7 fumbles in 2019), the Jackrabbits turned the ball over an uncharacteristic 24 times that season to finish plus-1 in turnover margin.

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

SDSU lost six fumbles during the 2020-21 season and ended the year 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 turned the ball over only once in their last five games.

SACK ATTACK: The Jackrabbit defense made life miserable for opposing teams' quarterbacks during its 2020-21 postseason run. Of SDSU's 23 total sacks last season, 15 came in four 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 playoff record with seven sacks, matching the total in a 2013 victory at Northern Arizona.

Defensive tackle Caleb Sanders led the unit with four postseason sacks, registering at least one in each of the first three playoff games.

Eight different Jackrabbit players notched at least a half-sack during postseason play.

**JACKRABBITS IN THE
2020-21 NCAA STATISTICS**

TEAM (top 25)

- 3rd in blocked kicks, 4
- 3rd in passes intercepted, 12
- 4th in fewest tackles for loss allowed, 3.90/game
- 4th in kickoff returns, 25.63 yards/return
- 5th in scoring defense, 15.0 points/game
- 7th in red-zone offense, 935
- 7th in rushing offense, 231.7 yards/game
- 7th in fewest sacks allowed, 1.00 per game
- 8th in turnovers gained, 17
- 9th in first downs – offense, 187
- 10th in punt returns, 13.25/attempt
- 14th in passing yards per completion, 13.82
- 18th in team passing efficiency defense, 109.75
- 19th in total defense, 287.9 yards/game
- 20th in turnover margin, plus-0.70/game
- 21st in passing yards allowed, 172.2 yards/game
- 21st in team passing efficiency, 143.48
- 22nd in scoring offense, 29.2 points/game
- 22nd in total offense, 403.1 yards/game
- 23rd in rushing defense, 115.7 yards/game
- 24th in red-zone defense, .741
- 25th in fewest penalty yards per game, 43.80

INDIVIDUAL (top 35)

MARK GRONOWSKI

- 5th in points responsible for, 138
- 8th in passing touchdowns, 15
- 8th in passing yards per completion, 14.49
- 11th in yards per pass attempt, 8.32
- 11th in passing efficiency, 150.5
- 13th in rushing touchdowns, 7
- 14th in total touchdowns, 8
- 17th in passing yards, 1,565
- 20th in rushing yards, 577
- 22nd in points responsible for per game, 13.8

ISAIAH DAVIS

- 2nd in rushing touchdowns, 10
- 2nd in rushing yards, 818
- 5th in total touchdowns, 11
- 20th in rushing yards per game, 81.8
- 26th in all-purpose yards, 115.30 per game

COLE FRAHM

- 15th in field goals per game, 1.30

JAXON JANKE

- T-9th in receiving touchdowns, 6
- 32nd in receiving yards, 473

JADON JANKE

- 14th in yards per reception, 20.24
- 18th in receiving touchdowns, 5

PIERRE STRONG, JR.

- 11th in rushing yards, 707
- 25th in rushing yards per carry, 5.40
- 26th in rushing yards per game, 78.6

REECE WINKELMAN

- T-3rd in blocked kicks, 2

SEEING DOUBLE: The 2021 edition of the South Dakota State football team features two sets of twin brothers.

Returning for their junior seasons are wide receivers and Madison natives Jadon and Jaxon Janke. Jaxon Janke was the team's top receiver a season ago, catching 32 passes for 473 yards and six touchdowns. He also returned punts, averaging 13.2 yards on eight attempts.

Jadon Janke was right behind in the receiving categories, hauling in 21 receptions for 425 yards and five touchdowns. His 20.2 yards per reception led the squad and four of his touchdown receptions came in postseason action.

Joining the Jackrabbits last fall were twins Aaron and Adam Kusler. The Sioux Falls tandem, who excelled at Roosevelt High School, are both redshirt 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 redshirt freshman.

CRENSHAW JOINS STAFF: South Dakota State head football coach John Stiegelmeier announced the hiring of Andre Crenshaw to the Jackrabbits' offensive coaching staff in July.

"Andre is a proven coach with running backs and special teams." Stiegelmeier said. "I look forward to seeing the impact he has, not only on the field, but off the field, as well."

Crenshaw most recently served as running backs coach at Southeast Missouri State during the 2020-21 season, helping lead the Redhawks to a 4-4 overall record.

Prior to his return to the FCS ranks, Crenshaw spent two years as the running backs coach and special teams coordinator at Missouri Western. The Griffons averaged 219.5 rushing yards per game in 2018 to rank in the top 25 among Division II programs.

Other coaching stops have included Tennessee Tech (2017) and Morehead State (2015-16). He began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at Dakota Wesleyan and also coached at Riggs Football Academy in Sioux Falls.

A native of Lancaster, California, Crenshaw played running back at Oregon for four seasons from 2006-09. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the Oregon in 2010 and added a master's degree in educational policy and administration from Dakota Wesleyan in 2015.

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS: South Dakota State University offensive lineman Wes Genant earned his third career selection to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Division I Football Team and linebacker Logan Backhaus also earned a spot on the honor squad as announced in July.

Genant, a senior from Parkston, was honored on the first team with a 3.89 grade-point average as a biochemistry and pre-medicine major. The Jackrabbits' starting center in all 10 games in the team's run to the Football Championship Subdivision national championship game during the 2020-21 campaign, Genant also was a first-team selection in 2018 after earning second-team recognition in 2017. He redshirted during the 2019 season while recovering from injury.

Backhaus, a senior from Spirit Lake, Iowa, holds a 3.65 grade-point average in human biology and ranked second on the team with 72 tackles during the 2020-21 spring season. He posted a team-high 9.5 tackles for loss, also contributing two sacks, an interception and a forced fumble.

Genant is the fourth Jackrabbit football student-athlete to earn CoSIDA Academic All-America honors three times, joining Paul Kippley (1978-80), Kyle Minett (2008-10) and Zach Zenner (2012-14). SDSU has placed at least one player on the squad in 14 of the last 16 seasons, including multiple selections 12 times. Overall, SDSU football student-athletes have received Academic All-America recognition from CoSIDA 42 times since 1974.

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
Evan Beerntsen	BEARNT-sen
Matthew Borowicz	BORE-oh-wits
Josh Buri	burr-EYE
Matthew Durrance	durr-ANTS
Mitch Eichacker	EYE-ah-kerr
Cole Frahm	fromm
Caleb Francl	FRANCE-ill
Wes Genant	juh-NANT
J'Bore Gibbs	juh-BORE-ay
Grahm Goering	GORE-ing
Jon Gruetzmacher	GRITS-mock-er
Keaton Heide	HY-dee
Zach Heins	HINES
Colby Huerter	HURT-er
Jadon/Jaxon Janke	YON-key
Amar Johnson	ah-MARR
Randy Keumogne	key-MOAN-yay
Krockett Krolkowski	crow-lah-COW-ski
Aaron/Adam Kusler	COOSE-ler
Mason Leighton	LAY-ton
Joshua Manchigiah	manch-ah-GUY-ah
Daeton Mcgaughy	mc-GOY
Tolu Ogunrinde	TOE-loo oh-GURN-day
Chris Oladokun	oh-la-DOE-kun
Isaiah Stalbird	STALL-bird
Ryan Van Marel	van-MARR-ill
Xavier Ward	EX-zay-vee-ir
Saiveon Williamson	SAY-vee-on

The Academic All-America program recognizes the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom. Candidates, who are first nominated and honored at the district level, must be at least a sophomore in athletic and academic standing, a starter or key reserve on his team and carry at least a 3.3 GPA.

Genant and Backhaus were joined on the Academic All-District Team by cornerback DyShawn Gales, linebacker Preston Tetzlaff and defensive end Reece Winkelman.

JACKS IN THE PROS: At the conclusion of the 2020 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 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.

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 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.

Recently announcing his retirement was former Jackrabbit standout Adam Vinatieri, who became the NFL career scoring leader in 2018 as a member of the Indianapolis Colts.

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)

2020-21 RECAP

OVERALL RECORD: 8-2
CONFERENCE RECORD: 5-1 (tied for first place in Missouri Valley Football Conference)
POSTSEASON: Reached Football Championship Subdivision national title game (seeded first)
HOME RECORD: 5-0
AWAY/NEUTRAL RECORD: 3-1/0-1
FINAL RANKINGS: 2nd (Stats Perform media)/2nd (FCS Coaches)

TEAM INFORMATION

LETTERMEN RETURNING: 54 **LETTERMEN LOST:** 5
 • Offense: 22 • Offense: 3
 • Defense: 22 • Defense: 2
 • Special Teams: 3

STARTERS RETURNING: 22
 • Offense: 10 • Defense: 10 • Special Teams: 2

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (10): Canyon Bauer, WR; Wes Genant, C; Garret Greenfield, OT; Zach Heins, TE; Jadon Janke, WR; Jaxon Janke, WR; Aron Johnson, OT; Eagan Lickiss, OG; Mason McCormick, OG; Pierre Strong, Jr., RB.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (10): Logan Backhaus, LB; Adam Bock, LB; Don Gardner, CB; Michael Griffin II, S; Quinton Hicks, DE; Malik Lofton, CB; Joshua Manchigiah, S; Caleb Sanders, NT; Xavier Ward, DT; Reece Winkelman, DE..

SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS RETURNING (2): Cole Frahm, K; Ben Dinkel, P.

OTHER RETURNING LETTERMEN (32): Matt Barnett, LB; Ian Bass, OL; Dalys Beanum, CB; Skyler Cavanaugh, TE; Isaiah Davis, RB; Jarod DePriest, DT; Caleb Francl, LB; DyShawn Gales, CB; Jon Gruetzmacher, OL; Keaton Heide, QB; Caden Johnson, DE; Tucker Kraft, TE; Krockett Krolikowski, DT; Mason Leighton, WR; Kinser Madison, LB; Daeton Mcgaughy, S; Edward Miller, OL; Mike Morgan, FB/TE; Thomas Motzko, LS/LB; Chase Norblade, S; Tolu Ogunrinde, DE; Cale Reeder, S; Caleb Schauf, TE; Payton Shafer, LB; Bradey Sorenson, LS; Graham Spalding, LB; Thomas Stackler, DT; Isaiah Stalbird, LB/S; Cade Terveer, DE; Jason Titus, OL; Ryan Van Marel, DT; Saiveon Williamson, LB.

Over Vinatieri's 24 seasons, his totals include NFL bests of 599-of-715 on field goal attempts, 83.8 percent, and 2,673 career points. He also ranks second in career extra points with 874. In all, Vinatieri set 15 NFL records, including 21 100-point seasons.

Several other former Jackrabbit players and coaches have had ties to the professional game, including:

- Steve Heiden (player from 1995-98), tight ends coach for the Arizona Cardinals;
- Reed Burckhardt (player from 2004-07), director of pro scouting for the Minnesota Vikings;
- Glen Fox (player from 2006-09), pro scout with the Arizona Cardinals;
- Shawn Mennenga (assistant coach from 2009-10), former special teams coordinator for the Cleveland Browns and Green Bay Packers;
- Trent Baalke (assistant coach from 1991-95), general manager of the Jacksonville Jaguars and formerly the GM for the San Francisco 49ers;
- Brad Seely, longtime special teams coordinator with numerous NFL teams.

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

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

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

Jacks Bash 2 is scheduled for Sept. 8 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. Dykhouse 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 at 7-0

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

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

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

Following is a list of the Jackrabbits' overtime results:

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

GAME NOTES — SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AT COLORADO STATE

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

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

STIG SHOW: The John Stiegelmeier Radio Show will air Monday nights throughout the 2021 season.

The weekly, hour-long show begins at 6 p.m. Central Time and will originate in front of a live audience once again at Cubby's Sports Bar and Grill in downtown Brookings. Hosted by Tyler Merriam, the show airs along the Jackrabbit Sports Network, including flagship station WNAX 570 AM, and can be heard through the Jackrabbit app and online at GoJacks.com.

Weekly segments include interviews with Jackrabbit head coach John Stiegelmeier, student-athletes and others associated with SDSU football. Fans can submit questions through social media platforms and fans in attendance can register for weekly prizes.

A LOOK AHEAD: The Jackrabbits return to Brookings to open the home season Sept. 11 against Lindenwood. Kickoff for the Dairy Drive game is slated for 6 p.m. at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

In addition to the Dairy Drive, the home opener also has been designated as the 2020 Hall of Fame Game and as the Precision Ag Bowl. Frontline workers also will be recognized during the contest.

DEPTH CHART vs. COLORADO STATE

OFFENSE

LT	71	ARON JOHNSON, 6-6, 300, *Sr., Chisago City, Minn.
	68	Ian Bass, 6-4, 280, Jr., Rosemount, Minn.
LG	60	MASON McCORMICK, 6-4, 310, Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	59	Jalen Lee, 6-2, 305, R-Fr., Robbins, Ill.
C	77	WES GENANT, 6-4, 300, Sr., Parkston, S.D.
	78	Adam White, 6-4, 275, R-Fr., DeForest, Wis.
RG	56	EAGAN LICKISS, 6-4, 310, Sr., Indianola, Iowa
	75	Jon Gruetzmacher, 6-8, 315, *Sr., Merrill, Wis.
RT	74	GARRET GREENFIELD, 6-6, 295, Jr., Rock Valley, Iowa
	72	Jason Titus, 6-5, 295, *Sr., Andover, Minn.
TE	87	ZACH HEINS, 6-7, 250, Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	89	Wyatt Seagren, 6-7, 245, R-Fr., Oakland, Neb.
TE	85	Tucker Kraft, 6-5, 255, So., Timber Lake, S.D.
	34	Mike Morgan, 6-3, 235, Sr., Jr., New Lenox, Ill.
WR (Z-Back)	5	Landon Wolf, 5-11, 175, Grad., Tulsa, Okla.
	4	CANYON BAUER, 6-0, 195, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
WR (X-Back)	9	JADON JANKE, 6-3, 205, Jr., Madison, S.D.
	83	A.J. Coons, 6-4, 210, R-Fr., Solon, Iowa
WR (W-Back)	10	JAXON JANKE, 6-3, 210, Jr. Madison, S.D.
	19	Mason Leighton, 5-9, 175, *Sr., Madison, S.D.
QB	6	Chris Oladokun, 6-2, 195, Grad., Tampa, Fla.
	13	Keaton Heide, 6-3, 200, Jr., Wayzata, Minn.
	1	Rudy Voss, 6-3, 205, R-Fr., Lakefield, Minn.
RB	20	PIERRE STRONG, JR., 5-11, 205, Sr., Little Rock, Ark.
	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, So., Joplin, Mo.
	3	Amar Johnson, 5-11, 180, Fr., O'Fallon, Ill.

Returning starters indicated in CAPS

* Denotes student-athlete has additional year of eligibility remaining past 2021 season

DEFENSE

DE	97	REECE WINKELMAN, 6-4, 245, *Sr., Marshall, Minn.
	94	Cade Terveer, 6-3, 250, Jr., Brandon, S.D.
	92	Kevin Brenner, 6-3, 240, So., Silver Lake, Wis.
NT	99	CALEB SANDERS, 6-1, 270, *Sr., Glenwood, Iowa
	55	Thomas Stacker, 6-4, 275, Sr., Chicago, Ill.
	98	Ryan Van Marel, 6-4, 280, Jr., Sheldon, Iowa
DT	91	XAVIER WARD, 6-2, 275, Sr., Freeman, S.D.
	69	Krockett Krolikowski, 6-2, 285, *Sr., Winner, S.D.
	52	Jarod DePriest, 6-5, 270, So., Trivoli, Ill.
DE or	48	QUINTON HICKS, 6-3, 245, Jr., Wichita, Kan.
	22	Tolu Ogunrinde, 6-1, 265, Sr., Cottage Grove, Minn.
	53	Caden Johnson, 6-3, 235, So., Wahoo, Neb.
	90	Randy Keumogne, 6-3, 230, R-Fr., Oakdale, Minn.
LB or (Will)	29	Graham Spalding, 6-1, 205, So., Oviedo, Fla.
	12	LOGAN BACKHAUS, 6-4, 210, Sr., Spirit Lake, Iowa
	57	Kinser Madison, 6-2, 210, Jr., Higginsville, Mo.
LB (Mike)	32	ADAM BOCK, 6-1, 215, So., Solon, Iowa
	43	Adam Kusler, 6-3, 215, R-Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
LB (Sam)	12	LOGAN BACKHAUS, 6-4, 210, Sr., Spirit Lake, Iowa
	2	Isaiah Stalbird, 6-1, 200, Jr., Kearney, Neb.
	11	Matt Barnett, 6-3, 200, So., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
	16	Caleb Francl, 6-0, 185, So., Grand Island, Neb.
LCB	21	DON GARDNER, 6-1, 180, Sr., Chicago, Ill.
	7	Dalys Beenum, 6-1, 185, So., Omaha, Neb.
	26	Steven Arrell, 6-2, 190, R-Fr., Brooklyn Park, Minn.
FS	3	JOSHUA MANCHIGIAH, 6-0, 205, *Sr., Papillion, Neb.
	25	Cale Reeder, 6-0, 180, So., Yorkville, Ill.
SS	6	MICHAEL GRIFFIN II, 6-0, 215, Sr., Cottage Grove, Minn.
	35	Chase Norblade, 6-1, 185, Jr., Papillion, Neb.
	8	Daeton Mcgaughy, 6-0, 210, So., Elwood, Kan.
RCB	5	DyShawn Gales, 5-11, 190, Jr., North Chicago, Ill.
	1	MALIK LOFTON, 5-10, 190, *Sr., Crystal, Minn.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Long	45	Bradey Sorenson, 6-2, 235, Sr., Yankton, S.D.	KO	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 230, *Sr., Omaha, Neb.
Snaps	33	Thomas Motzko, 6-0, 230, So., Highland Park, Ill.		10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 230, So., East Bethel, Minn.
Holder	13	Keaton Heide, 6-3, 200, Jr., Wayzata, Minn.	KOR	9	Jadon Janke, 6-3, 205, Jr., Madison, S.D.
	49	Ben Dinkel, 5-10, 220, *Sr., Kearney, Neb.		5	Landon Wolf, 5-11, 175, Grad., Tulsa, Okla.
PK	97	Cole Frahm, 6-5, 230, *Sr., Omaha, Neb.	KOR	22	Isaiah Davis, 6-1, 220, So., Joplin, Mo.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 230, So., East Bethel, Minn.		20	Pierre Strong, Jr., 5-11, 205, *Sr., Little Rock, Ark.
P	49	BEN DINKEL, 5-10, 220, *Sr., Kearney, Neb.	PR	5	Landon Wolf, 5-11, 175, Grad., Tulsa, Okla.
	10	Hunter Dustman, 6-3, 230, So., East Bethel, Minn.		10	JAXON JANKE, 6-3, 210, Jr., Madison, S.D.

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: Andre Crenshaw [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

2021 Football Roster

No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	HOMETOWN	No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	HOMETOWN
1	Malik Lofton	CB	5-10	190	*Sr.	Crystal, Minn.	48	Quinton Hicks	DE	6-3	245	Jr.	Wichita, Kan.
1	Rudy Voss	QB	6-3	205	R-Fr.	Lakefield, Minn.	49	Ben Dinkel	P	5-10	220	*Sr.	Kearney, Neb.
2	J'Bore Gibbs	QB	6-3	215	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.	50	Noah Jessup	DE	6-5	225	Fr.	Franklin, Wis.
2	Isaiah Stalbird	LB/S	6-1	200	Jr.	Kearney, Neb.	50	Gus Miller	OL	6-3	280	R-Fr.	Brookings, S.D.
3	Joshua Manchigiah	S	6-0	205	*Sr.	Papillion, Neb.	52	Jared DePriest	DT	6-5	270	So.	Trivoli, Ill.
4	Canyon Bauer	WR	6-0	195	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	53	Colyn Johnson	DE	6-3	235	So.	Wahoo, Neb.
5	DyShawn Gales	CB	5-11	190	So.	North Chicago, Ill.	54	Eddie Miller	OL	6-5	315	Sr.	Brookings, S.D.
5	Landon Wolf	WR	5-11	175	Grad.	Tulsa, Okla.	54	Chandler Carter	DE	6-5	245	Fr.	Chandler, Ariz.
6	Michael Griffin II	S	6-0	215	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	55	Thomas Stacker	DT	6-4	275	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.
6	Chris Oladokun	QB	6-2	195	Grad.	Tampa, Fla.	56	Eagan Lickiss	OL	6-4	310	Sr.	Indianola, Iowa
7	Dalys Beanum	CB	6-1	185	So.	Omaha, Neb.	56	Levi Vanden Bos	DE	6-3	225	Fr.	Rock Valley, Iowa
8	Daeton Mcgaughy	S	6-0	210	So.	Elwood, Kan.	57	Kinser Madison	LB	6-2	210	Jr.	Higginsville, Mo.
9	Jadon Janke	WR	6-3	205	r.	Madison, S.D.	58	Alex Westendorf	OL	6-5	290	So.	South Elgin, Ill.
10	Jaxon Janke	WR	6-3	210	Jr.	Madison, S.D.	59	Jalen Lee	OL	6-2	305	R-Fr.	Robbins, Ill.
10	Hunter Dustman	K/P	6-3	230	So.	East Bethel, Minn.	60	Mason McCormick	OL	6-4	310	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
11	Matt Barnett	LB	6-3	200	So.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	61	Evan Beerntsen	OL	6-4	285	So.	De Pere, Wis.
11	Mark Gronowski	QB	6-3	220	So.	Naperville, Ill.	62	Derrick Brown	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Mesa, Ariz.
12	Logan Backhaus	LB	6-4	210	Sr.	Spirit Lake, Iowa	63	Ethan Eilers	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	West Burlington, Iowa
12	Regan Bollweg	TE	6-3	220	Fr.	Highmore, S.D.	64	Ethan Vibert	OL	6-4	290	So.	Regina, Saskatchewan
13	Keaton Heide	QB	6-3	200	Jr.	Wayzata, Minn.	65	Matthew Borowicz	DT	6-4	285	Jr.	Lakeville, Minn.
13	Chris Rhodes	CB	6-0	170	Fr.	Independence, Mo.	66	Brady Beck	OL	6-8	290	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
14	Colby Huerter	S	6-1	195	Fr.	Katy, Texas	67	Ethan Headlee	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
15	Timothy Croskey	CB	6-0	170	Fr.	Buckeye, Ariz.	68	Ian Bass	OL	6-4	280	Jr.	Rosemount, Minn.
16	Jon Bell	QB	6-3	185	Fr.	Naperville, Ill.	69	Krockett Krolkowski	DT	6-2	285	*Sr.	Winner, S.D.
16	Caleb Francl	LB	6-0	185	So.	Grand Island, Neb.	70	Colby Christensen	OL	6-8	260	R-Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa
17	Cade Rice	QB	6-3	210	Fr.	Springfield, Ohio	71	Aron Johnson	OL	6-6	300	*Sr.	Chisago City, Minn.
17	Abraham Hoskins III	CB	6-2	185	R-Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	72	Jason Titus	OL	6-5	295	*Sr.	Andover, Minn.
18	Graham Goering	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	Iowa City, Iowa	73	Coby Maeschen	DT	6-3	225	Fr.	Dell Rapids, S.D.
19	Mason Leighton	WR	5-9	180	*Sr.	Madison, S.D.	74	Garret Greenfield	OL	6-6	295	Jr.	Rock Valley, Iowa
20	Pierre Strong, Jr.	RB	5-11	205	*Sr.	Little Rock, Ark.	75	Jon Gruetzmacher	OL	6-8	315	*Sr.	Merrill, Wis.
20	Myles Taylor	CB	6-1	180	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz.	76	Bo Donald	OL	6-6	295	So.	Kimball, S.D.
21	Don Gardner	CB	6-1	180	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.	77	Wes Genant	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Parkston, S.D.
21	Angel Johnson	WR	5-10	185	Fr.	Irene, S.D.	77	Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten	DT	6-2	285	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz.
22	Tolu Ogunrinde	DE	6-1	265	Sr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	78	Adam White	OL	6-4	275	R-Fr.	DeForest, Wis.
22	Isaiah Davis	RB	6-1	220	So.	Joplin, Mo.	79	Jhareth Bloomenrader	OL	6-6	285	So.	Highmore, S.D.
23	Matthew Durrance	S	6-2	195	Fr.	Lutz, Fla.	80	Nate Sullivan Jr.	WR	6-2	210	R-Fr.	Bellevue, Neb.
24	Cade Reynolds	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Daphne, Ala.	81	Skyler Cavanaugh	TE	6-5	240	Sr.	Vail, Ariz.
25	Cale Reeder	S	6-0	180	So.	Yorkville, Ill.	82	Caleb Schauf	TE	6-5	245	*Sr.	Sparta, Wis.
26	Steven Arrell	CB	6-2	190	R-Fr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	83	A.J. Coons	WR	6-4	210	R-Fr.	Solon, Iowa
27	Corben Mahaffy	K	5-11	175	R-Fr.	Piedmont, S.D.	84	Reece Burckhard	TE	6-8	235	Fr.	Aberdeen, S.D.
28	Daxon Lindholm	RB	5-11	175	Fr.	Glendale, Ariz.	85	Tucker Kraft	TE	6-5	255	So.	Timber Lake, S.D.
29	Graham Spalding	LB	6-1	205	So.	Oviedo, Fla.	86	Devon Cole Jr.	WR	5-9	165	R-Fr.	Clermont, Fla.
30	Payton Shafer	LB	6-0	210	Jr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.	87	Zach Heins	TE	6-7	250	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
31	Patrick Hoffmann	WR	6-1	200	R-Fr.	Naperville, Ill.	88	Brandon Lane Jr.	DT	6-2	290	R-Fr.	Kansas City, Mo.
32	Adam Bock	LB	6-1	215	So.	Solon, Iowa	89	Wyatt Seagren	TE	6-7	245	R-Fr.	Oakland, Neb.
33	Thomas Motzko	LB	6-0	230	So.	Highland Park, Ill.	90	Randy Keumogne	DE	6-3	230	So.	Oakdale, Minn.
34	Mike Morgan	TE/FB	6-3	235	Jr.	New Lenox, Ill.	91	Xavier Ward	DT	6-2	275	Sr.	Freeman, S.D.
34	Ryan Swoger	S	6-2	175	Fr.	Tucson, Ariz.	92	Kevin Brenner	DE	6-3	240	So.	Silver Lake, Wis.
35	Chase Norblade	S	6-1	185	Jr.	Papillion, Neb.	93	Max Baloun	DE	6-6	245	R-Fr.	Redfield, S.D.
36	Michael Paulson	WR	6-3	185	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	94	Cade Terveer	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Brandon, S.D.
37	Tucker Large	S	5-11	170	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	95	Zac Wilson	DE	6-3	235	So.	ChIPLEY, Fla.
38	Josh Buri	RB	5-11	210	Fr.	Stewartville, Minn.	96	Mitch Eichacker	DE	6-4	235	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.
39	Aydan Dautermann	CB	6-2	185	Fr.	Hartford, Wis.	97	Reece Winkelman	DE	6-4	245	*Sr.	Marshall, Minn.
40	Aaron Kusler	LB	6-2	220	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	97	Cole Frahm	K	6-5	230	*Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
42	Davion Sterner	LB	6-0	190	R-Fr.	Alvord, Iowa	98	Ryan Van Marel	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Sheldon, Iowa
43	Adam Kusler	LB	6-3	215	R-Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D.	99	Caleb Sanders	DT	6-1	270	*Sr.	Glenwood, Iowa
44	Saiveon Williamson	LB	6-1	205	Jr.	Waseca, Minn.	99	Jack Green	K	6-1	190	Fr.	Rapid City, S.D.
45	Bradey Sorenson	LS	6-2	235	Sr.	Yankton, S.D.							
47	Michael Drotzmann	P	6-3	210	So.	Yankton, S.D.							

*denotes student-athlete has additional year of eligibility remaining after 2021 season



JOHN STIEGELMEIER

Head Coach

25th Season (174-107 record — all at SDSU)

Alma Mater: South Dakota State, 1979

FOOTBALL HONORS AND RECORDS:

- Ranks first on SDSU career football coaching victories list with 174-107 record (.619 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 132-74 overall record (.641 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 an 11-10 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, and the national championship game in 2020-21
- SDSU has been a top-eight seed each of the last five seasons and was 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 230-146 (.611) 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 27 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	8-2	5-1
TOTALS	106-56	71-31
OVERALL TOTALS	174-107	113-66



12-LOGAN BACKHAUS

6-4, 210, Senior • Linebacker

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

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2019, 2020-21, 2021)
- Athlon Sports FCS All-America Team (2020-21)
- HERO Sports FCS All-America Team (2020-21)
- Stats Perform FCS All-America Second Team (2020-21)
- Phil Steele FCS All-America Third Team (2020-21)
- All-Missouri Valley Football Conference First Team (2020-21)
- MVFC Honorable Mention (2019)
- MVFC All-Newcomer Team (2017)
- CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team (2020-21) while majoring in biotechnology and pre-medicine
- CoSIDA Academic All-District (2020-21)
- MVFC All-Academic First Team (2020-21)
- MVFC All-Academic Second Team (2019)
- MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020-21)
- MVFC Honor Roll (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020-21)

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	10	48	24	72	9.5-22	2.0-10	1	1-0	0	0-0	1
CAREER	48	175	92	267	24.0-57	5.0-21	11	9-5	2	1-0	6

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' 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

JACKRABBITS TO WATCH

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' 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
Sam Houston	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0
Season Totals	48	24	72	9.5-22	2.0-10	1-0	1	0



20-PIERRE STRONG, JR.

5-11, 205, Senior • Running Back
Little Rock, Arkansas (McClellan H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Team Captain (2020-21, 2021)
- Stats Perform FCS Walter Payton Award Finalist (2020-21)
- AFCA FCS Coaches' All-America First Team (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 First Team (2020-21)
- 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 Offensive Player of the Week (Feb. 19, 2021)
- 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, 1997-20016,744
2. Zach Zenner, 2011-146,548
3. Kyle Minett, 2007-104,277
4. Anthony Watson, 2003-063,712
5. Dan Sonnek, 1984-873,304
6. Les Tuma, 1970-733,018
7. Cory Koenig, 2004-072,990
8. **Pierre Strong, Jr., 2018-present2,841**
9. Brady Mengarelli, 2014-172,677
10. Darwin Gonnerman, 1966-682,598

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	131	707	5.4	3	*53	20	178	1	19	1	20	20.0	0	20
Career	391	2,841	7.3	22	*73	40	431	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
Sam Houston	15	57	0	10	2	11	0	8	0	0	0	0
Season Totals	131	707	3	*53	20	178	1	31	1	20	0	20



22-ISIAIAH DAVIS

6-1 220, Sophomore • Running Back
 Joplin, Missouri (Joplin H.S.)

FOOTBALL HONORS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- HERO Sports FCS Freshman All-America Team (2020-21)
- Phil Steele Co-Spring FCS Playoff MVP (2020-21)
- All-Missouri Valley Football Conference Honorable Mention (2020-21)
- MVFC All-Newcomer Team (2020-21)
- MVFC Newcomer of the Week (March 20, 2021)
- MVFC Honor Roll (2020-21)
- Led team in rushing yards (818) and touchdowns (10) as a true freshman during 2020-21 season
- Topped the 100-yard mark four times for rushing during 2020-21 season
- In first career start, tallied 150 yards on 22 carries and scored three touchdowns, including a 45-yard score, in regular season road win at Southern Illinois on March 20, 2021
- Tallied 305 all-purpose yards (178 rushing, 114 kickoff returns, 13 receiving) in Football Championship Subdivision national title game
- Began his collegiate career by rushing 81 times before being tackled for a loss

ISIAIAH DAVIS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
2020-21	96	818	8.5	10	*85	7	107	0	36	7	228	32.6	0	50
Career	96	818	8.5	10	*85	7	107	0	36	7	228	32.6	0	50

* denotes touchdown

ISIAIAH DAVIS' 2020-21 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Rush	Yds	TD	LG	Rec	Yds	TD	LG	KOR	Yds	TD	LG
Northern Iowa	1	2	0	2	1	18	0	18	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	2	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Illinois	9	118	1	*40	0	0	0	0	1	28	0	28
Youngstown State	3	12	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Illinois	22	150	3	*45	0	0	0	0	1	36	0	36
North Dakota State	16	84	1	13	3	36	0	23	0	0	0	0
Holy Cross	10	156	1	*60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Illinois	10	42	1	12	1	4	0	4	1	50	0	50
Delaware	9	70	0	36	1	36	0	36	0	0	0	0
Sam Houston	14	178	3	*85	1	13	0	13	4	114	0	40
Season Totals	96	818	10	*85	7	107	0	36	7	228	0	50

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION POLLS

STATS PERFORM FCS PRESEASON POLL

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	Sam Houston [39]	10-0	1,228	1
2.	James Madison [8]	7-1	1,180	3
3.	South Dakota State [3]	8-2	1,156	2
4.	North Dakota State	7-3	1,116	5
5.	Delaware	7-1	1,017	4
6.	Weber State	5-1	927	9
7.	Southern Illinois	6-4	888	8
8.	North Dakota	5-2	886	6
9.	Montana	2-0	778	NR
10.	Jacksonville State	10-3	744	7
11.	Eastern Washington	5-2	659	10
12.	Montana State	0-0	654	NR
13.	Monmouth	3-1	618	11
14.	Central Arkansas	5-4	561	NR
15.	Southeastern Louisiana	4-3	223	20
16.	Villanova	2-2	356	16
17.	Virginia Military Institute	6-2	397	12
18.	Chattanooga	3-2	295	NR
19.	Kennesaw State	4-1	255	17
20.	Austin Peay	4-5	227	23
21.	Northern Iowa	3-4	219	NR
22.	Nicholls	4-3	110	25
23.	UC Davis	3-2	172	14
24.	Missouri State	5-5	168	13
25.	North Carolina A&T	0-0	159	NR

Others receiving votes: Murray State 157; Richmond 113; East Tennessee State 99; Sacramento State 57; Alabama A&M 49; Florida A&M 47; New Hampshire 42; Alcorn State 35; Holy Cross 22; Samford 20; Incarnate Word 19; Sacred Heart 17; Albany 14; Rhode Island 10; Stephen F. Austin 10; South Carolina State 10; Illinois State 10; Duquesne 4; Southeast Missouri State 3.

Notes: First-place votes in brackets; 2021 opponents listed in **bold**.

AFCA FCS COACHES' PRESEASON POLL

PL.	SCHOOL	2020-21 RECORD	POINTS	PR
1.	Sam Houston [18]	10-0	682	1
2.	James Madison [9]	7-1	667	3
3.	North Dakota State	7-3	633	5
4.	South Dakota State [1]	8-2	620	2
5.	Delaware	7-1	567	4
6.	Weber State	5-1	552	8
7.	North Dakota	5-2	475	6
8.	Jacksonville State	10-3	437	7
9.	Montana	2-0	436	NR
10.	Southern Illinois	6-4	418	9
11.	Montana State	0-0	383	NR
12.	Monmouth	3-1	382	10
13.	Central Arkansas	5-4	363	NR
14.	Eastern Washington	5-2	287	11
15.	Villanova	2-2	284	18
16.	Northern Iowa	3-4	268	NR
17.	Southeastern Louisiana	4-3	267	21
18.	Chattanooga	3-2	204	NR
19.	Virginia Military Institute	6-2	167	12
20.	Kennesaw State	4-1	165	15
21.	UC Davis	3-2	135	16
22.	Richmond	3-1	104	14
23.	Nicholls	4-3	88	23
24.	North Carolina A&T	0-0	75	NR
25.	Austin Peay	4-5	65	NR

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

Top Teams Receiving Votes: Murray State 62; Missouri State 39; Sacramento State 39; New Hampshire 31; Alabama A&M 29; Samford 18; Holy Cross 16; Southern 15; Alcorn State 14; Florida A&M 13; Stephen F. Austin 11; East Tennessee State 10; Jackson State 10; Morehead State 9; Princeton 9; South Carolina State 9; Furman 7; Charleston Southern 6; **Youngstown State** 6; Arkansas-Pine Bluff 5; Harvard 4; Rhode Island 4; Davidson 3; Yale 3; Sacred Heart 2; Eastern Kentucky 1; Norfolk State 1.

Notes: First-place votes in brackets; 2021 opponents listed in **bold**.

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

2020-21 MVFC STANDINGS

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	PF	PA	OVERALL	PF	PA
South Dakota State	5-1	176	95	8-2	292	150
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

SATURDAY, AUG. 28

Eastern Illinois at Indiana State, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2

Incarnate Word at Youngstown State, 6 p.m.
Southern Illinois at Southeast Missouri St., 6:30 p.m.
Western Illinois at Ball State, 7 p.m.

All Times Central

FRIDAY, SEPT. 3

South Dakota at Kansas, 7 p.m.
SDSU at Colorado State, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4

North Dakota at Idaho State, 2 p.m.
Albany at North Dakota State, 2:30 p.m.
Northern Iowa at Iowa State, 3:30 p.m.
Missouri State at Oklahoma State, 6 p.m.
Butler at Illinois State, 6:30 p.m.

2021 PRESEASON POLL

1.	South Dakota State [24]	454
2.	North Dakota State [18]	435
3.	North Dakota	357
4.	Southern Illinois	345
5.	Northern Iowa [1]	311
6.	Missouri State	256
7.	Illinois State	196
8.	South Dakota	163
9.	Youngstown State	126
10.	Indiana State	112
11.	Western Illinois	83



SEASON PREVIEW

After advancing to the Football Championship Subdivision national title game for the first time in program history this past spring, the South Dakota State football team faces with a quick turnaround in preparing for the 2021 season.

Only two and a half months since departing Frisco, Texas, with a heart-breaking, 23-21 loss to Sam Houston in the championship contest, head coach John Stiegelmeier welcomed more than 120 players back to the practice field. And with the NCAA granting college football players an extra season of eligibility during the 2020-21 campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jackrabbits' cast of characters remains largely the same as 10 starters return on each side of the ball, along with welcoming a few key newcomers.

Once again, SDSU's sights are firmly set on the top prize.

"It will be the biggest roster and the best depth we've ever had," said John Stiegelmeier, who enters his 25th season as Jackrabbit head coach. "We're really going to focus on the hard work we put in during the spring and then finding a way to replicate that and do more."

Stiegelmeier acknowledges the short respite will likely pose some challenges, but he has confidence the team has the makeup to persevere and be in the mix for a 10th consecutive appearance in the FCS playoffs.

"The tough thing is the grind — the mental and physical grind," he said. "That falls on my shoulders to figure out when to push and when to release. I lean on our seniors and our captains; they've always been really mature and good about saying, 'Coach, we can take it' or 'We need a night off.' They know it's hard work so they don't choose those randomly, they choose them objectively."

Following is a more in-depth look at the 2021 Jackrabbits heading into fall camp.

OFFENSE

The lone preseason question mark facing the Jackrabbit offense is who will play quarterback.

Mark Gronowski, who took the reins of the offense as a true freshman last spring, suffered an injury in the first quarter of the national championship game that will sideline him for the 2021 campaign. The Naperville, Illinois, native proved to be a dual threat, passing for 1,565 yards and 15 touchdowns, and rushing for another 577 yards and seven scores en route to being named Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year. Gronowski also swept the MVFC Freshman of the Year and Newcomer of the Year awards and finished as runner-up for the Jerry Rice Award as the top FCS freshman.

Among the front-runners for the starting spot at quarterback are transfer Chris Oladokun and junior Keaton Heide. Oladokun previously started games at South Florida and Samford before joining the Jacks over the summer.

Heide has been pressed into action due to injuries each of his first two seasons with the Jackrabbits. He passed for a team-best 1,072 yards

in starting the final five games of the 2019 season. This past spring, Heide saw his most extensive action in relief of Gronowski in the national championship game as he completed 11-of-22 passes for 107 yards.

"Chris has hit the ground running," Stiegelmeier said. "I've been really impressed with him and I feel good about Keaton, as well."

Rudy Voss, who was honored as the team's Scout Offense Player of the Year, also has some experience in the Jackrabbit system, while the rest of the quarterback class consists of 2019 starter J'Bore Gibbs, who also is sidelined by injury, as well as incoming freshmen Jon Bell and Cade Rice.

Charged with protecting the quarterback, the entire starting offensive line remains intact from a year ago and features two All-Americans in returning sophomores Garret Greenfield and Mason McCormick. As a unit, the offensive line surrendered only 10 sacks during the 10 spring games and helped pave the way for the Jackrabbits to rush for 231.7 yards per game — the program's highest average output since moving to the Division I ranks in 2004.

Greenfield, a right tackle from Rock Valley, Iowa, burst on to the scene in his first season in the starting lineup and twice was an MVFC Offensive Lineman of the Week selection.

A Sioux Falls native, McCormick started all 10 games at left guard and earned All-America recognition from HERO Sports.

Veteran center Wes Genant, an honorable mention all-MVFC performer in the spring, also returns to the starting lineup, as do senior right guard Eagan Lickiss and junior left tackle Aron Johnson.

Other returning lettermen at the offensive line positions include seniors Eddie Miller, Jason Titus and Jon Gruetzmacher.

Aiding in the run game, as well as the passing game, is a versatile group of tight ends. Zach Heins was a first-team all-MVFC selection during the 2020-21 season after notching 12 catches for 200 yards.

Tucker Kraft (7 catches, 90 yards) and Skyler Cavanaugh (1 reception) also return at tight end.

Headlining the skill positions on offense are the running back duo of Pierre Strong, Jr. and Isaiah Davis, who combined for more than 1,500 rushing yards a season ago. A finalist for the Walter Payton Award, Strong tallied 707 rushing yards in nine games and ranked third on the squad with 20 receptions for another 178 yards.

Davis played a key role in the Jackrabbits' playoff run as a true freshman, finishing with team bests of 818 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. He topped the 100-yard mark on four occasions, including posting a career-best 178 yards with three touchdowns in the national championship game.

A preseason All-America selection as an all-purpose back, Davis also led the team in kickoff returns, averaging 32.6 yards on seven attempts.

None of the remaining running backs on the preseason roster have a collegiate carry. Local



Garret Greenfield was a consensus All-America selection at right tackle for the Jackrabbits this past spring.

product Josh Buri, along with Daxon Lindholm and Amar Johnson, are all incoming freshmen, while Mike Morgan, who has previously seen action at both fullback and tight end for the Jackrabbits, is expected to move into a new role as a short-yardage back.

"We're very young there, but if there's one position that can play early it probably is running back because you don't teach them much; you teach them the plays and then let them use their talent," Stiegelmeier said.

Twin brothers Jaxon and Jadon Janke lead the Jackrabbit receiving corps. The Madison tandem combined for 53 receptions and nearly 900 yards in the spring, with Jaxon tallying team bests of 32 receptions, 473 receiving yards and six touchdowns, while Jadon averaged 20.2 yards per reception after finishing with 21 catches for 425 yards. Four of Jadon's five touchdown catches came in the playoffs.

Jaxon Janke also has been the team's top punt returner each of the last two seasons.

Also returning at wide receiver are Canyon Bauer (5 receptions, 34 yards) and Mason Leighton (3-26).

Stiegelmeier expects the unit to be bolstered by the addition of graduate transfer Landon Wolf. In three seasons at Oklahoma State, Wolf caught 55 passes for 551 yards. He also is a candidate to contribute in the return game.

DEFENSE

Like the Jackrabbit offense, it all starts up front for the South Dakota State defense.

A talented defensive line that is three deep at each of the four positions, features nine returning players who recorded at least one sack during the spring campaign.

Defensive tackle Caleb Sanders was the top sack man a season ago with five. A first-team all-MVFC honoree, Sanders finished the 10-game slate with seven tackles for loss among his 26 total tackles.

SEASON PREVIEW

Krockett Krolikowski, who started in place of Ward to begin the season, returns to the interior of the line, as do Ryan Van Marel, Thomas Stacker (one sack) and Jarod DePriest (two sacks).

Reece Winkelman and Quinton Hicks book-end the starting defensive line as the incumbents at the end positions. Winkelman recorded three sacks among his 25 tackles in the spring, while Hicks registered a pair of sacks en route to 18 tackles. Tolu Ogunrinde emerged as a pass-rushing specialist with three sacks and ranked second on the squad with 7.5 tackles for loss.

Providing further depth at defensive end are Cade Terveer, Caden Johnson (one sack) and Randy Keumogne (one sack).

The only area where the Jackrabbits have to replace a starter is at linebacker, following the graduation of Preston Tetzlaff. The unit is led by the squad's top two tacklers from last season in Adam Bock (74 tackles) and Logan Backhaus (72 tackles). An All-America selection, Backhaus turned in a team-best 9.5 tackles for loss with a pair of sacks. He also will fill a captain's role for the third consecutive year.

Bock earned Freshman All-America recognition during the 2020-21 campaign in contributing 5.5 tackles for loss and two sacks.

Expected to compete for Tetzlaff's spot at Will linebacker are Graham Spalding and Payton Shafer. Spalding started the first two games last season, tallying 24 tackles, while Shafer posted 12 stops. Both players also were key contributors on SDSU's special teams units.

Other possibilities to see action at linebacker include youngsters Matt Barnett and Caleb Francl, along with converted safety Isaiah Stalbird, who likely will see extensive playing time in nickel situations. Stalbird posted 30 tackles with three tackles for loss and also broke up four passes.

The Jackrabbit secondary is anchored by 2020-

21 All-American Don Gardner at cornerback. Although he registered only one interception last season, the Chicago native broke up a team-high seven passes and contributed 44 tackles in establishing himself as one of the top cover men in the FCS.

Opposite Gardner, DyShawn Gales and Malik Lofton shared starting duties at the other corner spot. Gales tallied 17 tackles, including three for loss, with Lofton registering 16 stops. Each player added an interception.

After a year each in the program, Dalys Beanum, Steven Arrell and Abraham Hoskins III are poised for expanded roles this season and will be pushed by a talented and athletic group of newcomers.

Rounding out the secondary, mainstays Michael Griffin II and Joshua Manchigiah are each back for another season. A two-time team captain, Griffin ranked fourth on the squad last season with 47 tackles and also delivered a pair of interceptions — both of which came in late-game situations.

Manchigiah turned a team-high four pickoffs during the 2020-21 spring season, while contributing 27 tackles.

"I think the safeties have methodically gotten better," Stiegelmeier said. "They're very knowledgeable, Coach (Brian) Bergstrom does a great job with them and they just continue to take steps in a positive direction."

Chase Norblade (21 tackles) and returning freshman Daeton Mcgaughy (two tackles) bring additional experience to the safety position.

SPECIAL TEAMS

As in other areas, the Jackrabbits return a solid contingent on its special teams units.

"I don't have any real concerns, but I do think that we need to perform at a higher level," Stiegelmeier said, noting that breakdowns on special teams were costly in each of SDSU's two losses last spring.

Cole Frahm took over the placekicking duties and turned in a season in which he made 13-of-19 field goal attempts en route to a team-high 72 points. Frahm made at least one field goal in each of the Jackrabbits' first nine games with a long of 52 yards.

At punter, Ben Dinkel helped SDSU consistently win the field-position battle by landing more than a third of his punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line. He finished with an average of 41.9 yards per try.

Returning freshman Hunter Dustman will again be on call to back up at both the punting and kicking spots.

Rejoining the team after sitting out the spring season is long snapper Bradey Sorenson. A Yankton native, Sorenson was honored on All-America teams in both 2018 and 2019.

SCHEDULE

SDSU kicks off the 2021 fall season with a Sept. 3 matchup at Football Bowl Subdivision opponent Colorado State. The Friday-night contest will be played before a national television audience on FS1.

The Jackrabbits will play their other two non-

RETURNING STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING - YARDS

1. ^Mark Gronowski	1,565
2. Keaton Heide	112

RUSHING - YARDS

1. Isaiah Davis	818
2. Pierre Strong, Jr.	707
3. ^Mark Gronowski	577

RECEPTIONS

1. Jaxon Janke	32
2. Jadon Janke	21
3. Pierre Strong, Jr.	20
4. Zach Heins	12

RECEIVING YARDS

1. Jaxon Janke	473
2. Jadon Janke	425
3. Zach Heins	200
4. Pierre Strong, Jr.	178

TACKLES

1. Adam Bock	74
2. Logan Backhaus	72
4. Michael Griffin II	47

TACKLES FOR LOSS

1. Logan Backhaus	9.5
2. Tolu Ogunrinde	7.5
3. Caleb Sanders	7.0
4. Adam Bock	5.5

SACKS

1. Caleb Sanders	5.0
T2. Tolu Ogunrinde	3.0
T2. Reece Winkelman	3.0
T4. Logan Backhaus	2.0
T4. Adam Bock	2.0
T4. Jarod DePriest	2.0
T4. Quinton Hicks	2.0

INTERCEPTIONS

1. Joshua Manchigiah	4
2. Michael Griffin II	2
3. Five returning players tied	1

^ injured; expected to sit out 2021 season

league games at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium, facing NCAA Division II foe Lindenwood on Sept. 11 and FCS newcomer Dixie State in the Oct. 2 Beef Bowl.

The preseason favorite in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, the Jackrabbits open the eight-game league slate Sept. 25 at Indiana State.

Three of SDSU's four home games against conference opponents will be against fellow FCS playoff qualifiers from this past spring. The Jacks are set to host Southern Illinois Oct. 9 in a rematch of their quarterfinal playoff game, while welcoming both North Dakota State (Nov. 6) and North Dakota (Nov. 20) to Brookings in the final three weeks of the regular season.

The Jackrabbits' other home game is set for Oct. 23 against perennial playoff qualifier Northern Iowa for Hobo Day.

Completing the schedule are games at Western Illinois (Oct. 16) Youngstown State (Oct. 30) and South Dakota (Nov. 13)



Cornerback Don Gardner was honored on three All-America teams during the 2020-21 season after leading SDSU with seven pass breakups to go along with an interception, and ranking fifth on the squad with 44 tackles

2020-21 STATISTICS

2020-21 TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	292	150
Points Per Game	29.2	15.0
Points off Turnovers	69	21
FIRST DOWNS	187	165
Rushing	107	71
Passing	74	79
Penalty	6	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2,317	1,157
Yards gained rushing	2,474	1,374
Yards lost rushing	157	217
Rushing Attempts	380	360
Average Per Rush	6.1	3.2
Average Per Game	231.7	115.7
TDs Rushing	20	10
PASSING YARDAGE	1,714	1,722
Comp-Att-Int	124-218-4	180-295-12
Average Per Pass	7.9	5.8
Average Per Catch	13.8	9.6
Average Per Game	171.4	172.2
TDs Passing	16	7
TOTAL OFFENSE	4,031	2,879
Total Plays	598	655
Average Per Play	6.7	4.4
Average Per Game	403.1	287.9
KICK RETURNS	19-487	17-316
PUNT RETURNS	9-125	9-54
INTERCEPTION RETURNS	12-68	4-18
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	25.6	18.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.9	6.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	5.7	4.5
FUMBLES-LOST	10-6	9-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	54-438	36-247
Average Per Game	5.4-43.8	3.6-24.7
PUNTS-YARDS	37-1,467	45-1,846
Average Per Punt	39.6	41.0
Net punt average	37.1	36.5
KICKOFFS-YARDS	58-3,171	38-2,304
Average Per Kick	54.7	60.6
Net kick average	39.3	36.0
POSSESSION TIME/GAME	29:39	30:21
3RD-DOWN ATTEMPTS	50/117	56/150
3rd-Down Pct	43%	37%
4TH-DOWN ATTEMPTS	5/11	13/27
4th-Down Pct	45%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	23-128	10-61
MISC. YARDS	11	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	36	17
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-20	11-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-36	15-16
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	29-31	20-27
Red-Zone Pct	94%	74%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	19-31	13-27
Red-Zone TD Pct	61%	48%
ATTENDANCE	16,072	16,937
Games/Avg Per Game	5/3,214	4/4,234

Note: one neutral-site game drew crowd of 7,840

2020-21 SCORES

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OVERALL	CONF	TIME	ATTEND
Feb. 19	at #3 Northern Iowa	W, 24-20	1-0	1-0	3:12	2,137
Feb. 27	at #14 North Dakota	L, 17-28	1-1	1-1	3:06	3,638
Mar. 6	WESTERN ILLINOIS	W, 45-10	2-1	2-1	3:10	2,347
Mar. 13	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	W, 19-17	3-1	3-1	2:57	2,653
Mar. 20	*at #5 Southern Illinois	W, 44-3	4-1	4-1	3:05	2,400
Apr. 17	*at #2 North Dakota State	W, 27-17	5-1	5-1	2:57	8,762
Apr. 24	^HOLY CROSS	W, 31-3	6-1	5-1	2:58	2,998
May 2	^#14 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	W, 31-26	7-1	5-1	3:01	3,547
May 8	^#5 DELAWARE	W, 33-3	8-1	5-1	2:45	4,527
May 16	^vs. #4 Sam Houston	L, 21-23	8-2	5-1	4:06	7,840

* indicates Missouri Valley Football Conference game
^ Football Championship Subdivision playoff game

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	OT	TOT
South Dakota State	76	95	60	61	-	292
Opponents	40	37	34	39	-	150

GAME SUPERLATIVES

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, and vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021
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, five times (last: vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021)

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: 178, by Isaiah Davis, vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, by Isaiah Davis, at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021, and vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021
LONG RUSH: 85 yards (for TD), by Isaiah Davis, vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021
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 Jaxon 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, five times by Ben Dinkel (last: vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-2021)
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)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	GP	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	YPC	TD	LG	YPG
Isaiah Davis	10	96	823	5	818	8.5	10	*85	81.8
Pierre Strong	9	131	731	24	707	5.4	3	*53	78.6
Mark Gronowski	10	83	663	86	577	7.0	7	*80	57.7
Jordan Meachum	10	27	134	7	127	4.7	0	31	12.7
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	7	1	4	0	4	4.0	0	4	0.6
Cole Frahm	10	0	-2	0	-2	0.0	0	0	-0.2
Keaton Heide	5	4	2	9	-7	-1.8	0	4	-1.4
Jaxon Janke	10	1	0	8	-8	-8.0	0	0	-0.8
Team	9	10	0	16	-16	-1.6	0	0	-1.8
Total	10	380	2,474	157	2,317	6.1	20	85	231.7
Opponents	10	360	1,374	217	1,157	3.2	10	43	115.7

*denotes touchdown

PASSING	GP	EFFIC.	COMP-ATT-INT	Pct.	Yds	TD	LG	YPG
Mark Gronowski	10	150.5	108-188-3	57.4	1,565	15	*76	156.5
Keaton Heide	5	85.0	13-24-1	54.2	112	0	23	22.4
J'Bore Gibbs	4	77.3	2-4-0	50.0	13	0	7	3.2
Pierre Strong	9	631.6	1-1-0	100.0	24	1	*24	2.7
TEAM	9	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	10	143.5	124-218-4	56.9	1,714	16	76	171.4
Opponents	10	109.7	180-295-12	61.0	1,722	7	62	172.2

SCORING	TD	FG	KICK	PATs			DXP	SAF	PTS
				RUSH	Rcv	PASS			
Cole Frahm	0	13-19	33-35	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	72
Isaiah Davis	10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	60
Mark Gronowski	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	48
Jaxon Janke	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	36
Jadon Janke	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
Pierre Strong	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	24
Blake Kunz	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Mason Leighton	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Hunter Dustman	0	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	4
Total	36	14-20	34-36	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	292
Opponents	17	11-16	15-16	0-0	0	0-1	0	0	150

FIELD GOALS	FGM-FGA	Pct.	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LG	Blk
Cole Frahm	13-19	68.4	0-0	5-5	6-6	1-6	1-2	52	2
Hunter Dustman	1-1	100.0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	43	0
Total	14-20	70.0	0-0	5-5	6-6	2-7	1-2	52	2
Opponents	11-16	68.8	1-1	3-3	3-4	4-6	0-2	47	3

FG SEQUENCE	SDSU	OPP
Northern Iowa	(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
Sam Houston	43	(45)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate attempt was made in field goal sequence

TOP OFFENSIVE PERFORMANCES

100-YARD RUSHING GAMES (9)

Mark Gronowski • vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-21

• 4 carries, 120 yards, 2 TD

Isaiah Davis • vs. Western Illinois, 3-6-21

• 9 carries, 118 yards, 1 TD

Pierre Strong, Jr. • vs. Youngstown State

• 21 carries, 124 yards

Isaiah Davis • at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21

• 22 carries, 150 yards, 3 TD

Mark Gronowski • at Southern Illinois, 3-20-21

• 13 carries, 103 yards, 2 TD

Mark Gronowski • at North Dakota State, 4-17-21

• 16 carries, 126 yards

Isaiah Davis • vs. Holy Cross, 4-24-21 [FCS Playoffs]

• 10 carries, 156 yards, 1 TD

Mark Gronowski • vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-21 [FCS Playoffs]

• 13 carries, 142 yards, 1 TD

Isaiah Davis • vs. Sam Houston, 5-16-21 [FCS Playoffs]

• 14 carries, 178 yards, 3 TD

100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES (2)

Jaxon Janke • at North Dakota, 2-27-21

• 7 receptions, 161 yards, 2 TD

Jadon Janke • at North Dakota, 2-27-21

• 5 receptions, 109 yards

300-YARD PASSING GAMES (1)

Mark Gronowski • at North Dakota, 2-27-21

• 18-of-32, 309 yards, 2 TD

2020-21 STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RECEIVING								PUNT RETURNS										
GP	No.	Yds	YPC	TD	LG	YPG		No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG						
Jaxon Janke	10	32	473	14.8	6	*76	47.3	Jaxon Janke	8	106	13.2	0	55					
Jadon Janke	10	21	425	20.2	5	49	42.5	Isaiah Stalbird	1	19	19.0	0	0					
Pierre Strong	9	20	178	8.9	1	31	19.8	Total	9	125	13.9	0	55					
Zach Heins	10	12	200	16.7	0	43	20.0	Opponents	9	54	6.0	0	16					
Jordan Meachum	10	9	53	5.9	0	14	5.3	KICKOFF RETURNS										
Isaiah Davis	10	7	107	15.3	0	36	10.7	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG						
Tucker Kraft	7	7	90	12.9	0	31	12.9	Jordan Meachum	8	212	26.5	0	41					
Canyon Bauer	10	5	34	6.8	0	15	3.4	Isaiah Davis	7	228	32.6	0	50					
Blake Kunz	9	4	80	20.0	2	30	8.9	Pierre Strong	1	20	20.0	0	20					
Mason Leighton	9	3	26	8.7	1	14	2.9	Preston Tetzlaff	1	12	12.0	0	12					
Michael Morgan	6	2	15	7.5	0	12	2.5	Michael Morgan	1	11	11.0	0	11					
Mark Gronowski	10	1	24	24.0	1	*24	2.4	Tucker Kraft	1	4	4.0	0	4					
Skyler Cavanaugh	8	1	9	9.0	0	9	1.1	Total	19	487	25.6	0	50					
Total	10	124	1,714	13.8	16	*76	171.4	Opponents	17	316	18.6	0	40					
Opponents	10	810	1,722	9.6	7	62	172.2	INTERCEPTIONS										
TOTAL OFFENSE								No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG						
GP	PLAYS	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	YPG			Joshua Manchigiah	4	40	10.0	0	29					
Mark Gronowski	10	271	577	1,565	2,142	214.2		Michael Griffin	2	13	6.5	0	9					
Isaiah Davis	10	96	818	0	818	81.8		Preston Tetzlaff	1	0	0.0	0	0					
Pierre Strong	9	132	707	24	731	81.2		Cade Terveer	1	9	9.0	0	9					
Jordan Meachum	10	27	127	0	127	12.7		Logan Backhaus	1	0	0.0	0	0					
Keaton Heide	5	28	-7	112	105	21.0		Don Gardner	1	6	6.0	0	6					
Jefferson Lee V	3	23	101	0	101	33.7		Malik Lofton	1	0	0.0	0	0					
J'Bore Gibbs	4	8	16	13	29	7.2		DyShawn Gales	1	0	0.0	0	0					
Tucker Kraft	7	1	4	0	4	0.6		Total	12	68	5.7	0	29					
Cole Frahm	10	0	-2	0	-2	-0.2		Opponents	4	18	4.5	0	8					
Jaxon Janke	10	1	-8	0	-8	-0.8		FUMBLE RETURNS										
TEAM	9	11	-16	0	-16	-1.8		No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG						
Total	10	598	2,317	1,714	4,031	403.1		None										
Opponents	10	655	1,157	1,722	2,879	287.9		Total	0	0	0.0	0	0					
ALL-PURPOSE								Opponents	1	-8	-8.0	0	0					
GP	RUSH	REC	PR	KR	IR	TOTAL	YPG	PUNTING										
No.	Yds	Avg	LONG	TB	FC	120	50+	Blk										
Isaiah Davis	10	818	107	0	228	0	1,153	115.3	Ben Dinkel	29	1,216	41.9	61	2	10	10	5	0
Pierre Strong	9	707	178	0	20	0	905	100.6	Hunter Dustman	6	203	33.8	38	0	2	2	0	0
Mark Gronowski	10	577	24	0	0	0	601	60.1	Mark Gronowski	1	48	48.0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Jaxon Janke	10	-8	473	106	0	0	571	57.1	TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jadon Janke	10	0	425	0	0	0	425	42.5	Total	37	1,467	39.6	61	2	12	12	5	1
Jordan Meachum	10	127	53	0	212	0	392	39.2	Opponents	45	1,846	41.0	64	4	13	14	12	1
Zach Heins	10	0	200	0	0	0	200	20.0	KICKOFFS									
Jefferson Lee V	3	101	0	0	0	0	101	33.7	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	OB					
Tucker Kraft	7	4	90	0	4	0	98	14.0	Cole Frahm	58	3,171	54.7	23	6				
Blake Kunz	9	0	80	0	0	0	80	8.9	Total	58	3,171	54.7	23	6				
Josh Manchigiah	10	0	0	0	0	40	40	4.0	Opponents	38	2,304	60.6	18	1				
Canyon Bauer	10	0	34	0	0	0	34	3.4	FUMBLE RETURNS									
Mason Leighton	9	0	26	0	0	0	26	2.9	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG					
Michael Morgan	6	0	15	0	11	0	26	4.3	None									
Isaiah Stalbird	10	0	0	19	0	0	19	1.9	Total	0	0	0.0	0	0				
J'Bore Gibbs	4	16	0	0	0	0	16	4.0	Opponents	1	-8	-8.0	0	0				
Michael Griffin	10	0	0	0	0	13	13	1.3	PUNTING									
Preston Tetzlaff	10	0	0	0	12	0	12	1.2	No.	Yds	Avg	LONG	TB	FC	120	50+	Blk	
Skyler Cavanaugh	8	0	9	0	0	0	9	1.1	Ben Dinkel	29	1,216	41.9	61	2	10	10	5	0
Cade Terveer	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	1.0	Hunter Dustman	6	203	33.8	38	0	2	2	0	0
Don Gardner	10	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.6	Mark Gronowski	1	48	48.0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Cole Frahm	10	-2	0	0	0	0	-2	-0.2	TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Keaton Heide	5	-7	0	0	0	0	-7	-1.4	Total	37	1,467	39.6	61	2	12	12	5	1
TEAM	9	-16	0	0	0	0	-16	-1.8	Opponents	45	1,846	41.0	64	4	13	14	12	1
Total	10	2,317	1,714	125	487	68	4,711	471.1	KICKOFFS									
Opponents	13	1,157	1,722	54	316	18	3,267	326.7	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	OB					

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

No. PLAYER	GP	TACKLES			TFL-Yds	SACKS No.-Yds	PASS DEF		QBH	FUMBLES		BLKD Kick
		SOLO	ASST	TOT			INT-Yds	PBU		Rcv-Yds	FF	
32 Adam Bock	10	36	38	74	5.5-20	2.0-5	.	.	2	.	.	.
12 Logan Backhaus	10	48	24	72	9.5-22	2.0-10	1-0	1	.	.	1	.
46 Preston Tetzlaff	10	35	35	70	0.5-1	.	1-0	.	1	.	1	.
6 Michael Griffin	10	26	21	47	1.5-4	.	2-13	2	.	.	.	.
21 Don Gardner	10	31	13	44	3.0-7	.	1-6	7	1	.	.	.
2 Isaiah Stalbird	10	18	12	30	3.0-9	.	.	4	.	.	1	.
3 Joshua Manchigiah	10	16	11	27	1.5-3	.	4-40	1	.	.	.	.
99 Caleb Sanders	10	16	10	26	7.0-32	5.0-26	.	.	2	.	.	.
97 Reece Winkelman	10	15	10	25	4.5-22	3.0-21	.	.	2	.	2	.
29 Graham Spalding	10	15	9	24	1.0-5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
35 Chase Norblade	9	15	6	21	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.
48 Quinton Hicks	9	10	8	18	4.0-18	2.0-15	.	1	2	.	.	.
22 Tolu Ogunrinde	10	13	5	18	7.5-28	3.0-19	.	.	1	1-0	1	.
13 DyShawn Gales	8	14	3	17	3.0-4	.	1-0	2	.	.	.	.
1 Malik Lofton	9	13	3	16	.	.	1-0	1	1	.	.	.
44 Saievon Williamson	9	7	7	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30 Payton Shafer	10	8	4	12	1.0-2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
69 Krockett Krolikowski	10	9	1	10	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
55 Thomas Stacker	10	7	3	10	1.0-4	1.0-4	.	.	1	1-0	.	.
91 Xavier Ward	6	4	5	9	2.0-3	1.0-2	.	.	.	1-0	.	.
94 Cade Terveer	9	5	3	8	2.0-2	.	1-9	1	.	.	.	.
25 Cale Reeder	10	5	2	7	0.5-0	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
98 Ryan Van Marel	10	5	1	6	1.0-8	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
53 Caden Johnson	9	3	2	5	1.5-7	1.0-6	.	1	.	.	.	.
11 Matt Barnett	6	2	1	3	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90 Randy Keumogne	6	2	.	2	1.0-2	1.0-2	.	.	.	.	.	.
28 Dalys Beanum	7	1	1	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.
52 Jarod DePriest	8	2	.	2	2.0-8	2.0-8	.	.	.	.	.	.
45 Caleb Frand	6	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97 Cole Frahm	10	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15 Daeton Mcgaughy	9	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36 Torren Union	9	1	1	2	1.0-1	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.
92 Kevin Brenner	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TM TEAM	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2 J'Bore Gibbs	4	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19 Mason Leighton	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9 Jadon Janke	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
56 Eagan Lickiss	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22 Isaiah Davis	10	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
39 Steven Arrell	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.
Total	10	390	244	634	66-214	23-128	12-68	24	16	5-0	4	4
Opponents	10	335	280	615	39-133	10-61	4-18	21	14	6(-8)	8	3

TOP DEFENSIVE PERFORMANCES

- DOUBLE-DIGIT TACKLES (8)**
- Logan Backhaus • at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
 - 11 tackles (5 solos, 6 assists, 1 TFL)
 - Preston Tetzlaff • at North Dakota, 2-27-2021
 - 10 tackles (7 solos, 3 assists)
 - Adam Bock • at Southern Illinois, 3-20-2021
 - 10 tackles (2 solos, 8 assists)
 - Adam Bock • at North Dakota State, 4-17-2021
 - 13 tackles (8 solos, 5 assists, 2.5 TFL)
 - Logan Backhaus • vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
 - 14 tackles (12 solos, 2 assists)
 - Adam Bock • vs. Southern Illinois, 5-2-2021
 - 13 tackles (7 solos, 6 assists, 1 TFL)
 - Preston Tetzlaff • vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
 - 12 tackles (8 solos, 4 assists)
 - Logan Backhaus • vs. Delaware, 5-8-2021
 - 12 tackles (7 solos, 5 assists, 2 TFL)

GAME-BY-GAME COMPARISON

OPPONENT	SCORE	FIRST DOWNS					RUSHING		PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE		RETURN Yds	TURNOVERS
		TOTAL	RUSH	PASS	PEN	NUMBER-YARDS	COMP-ATT-INT	YARDS	PLAYS-YARDS					
Northern Iowa	24-20	14/13	5/3	8/7	1/3	34-116 / 25-28	19-29-0 / 19-29-0	194/165	63-310 / 54-193	79/11	2/0			
North Dakota	17-28	16/19	4/8	11/9	1/2	26-96 / 39-177	16-32-2 / 21-34-1	309/207	58-405 / 73-384	52/73	3/1			
Western Illinois	45-10	24/19	17/6	7/11	0/2	44-347 / 24-87	13-22-0 / 31-53-3	184/295	66-531 / 77-382	42/15	1/3			
Youngstown State	19-17	15/13	8/10	6/2	1/1	35-142 / 46-196	12-28-1 / 7-13-2	158/55	63-300 / 59-251	14/13	2/3			
Southern Illinois	44-3	26/11	21/7	3/4	2/0	61-392 / 33-121	8-12-0 / 14-25-3	70/92	73-462 / 58-213	71/29	1/4			
North Dakota State	27-17	23/14	15/6	8/6	0/2	46-305 / 37-97	10-14-0 / 9-17-1	149/149	60-454 / 54-246	53/47	0/1			
Holy Cross	31-3	19/14	11/8	8/5	0/1	34-281 / 33-112	14-24-0 / 13-26-0	158/86	58-439 / 59-198	16/55	0/1			
Southern Illinois	31-26	16/27	9/7	7/17	0/3	33-231 / 42-127	9-16-0 / 27-38-2	183/316	49-414 / 80-443	116/16	0/3			
Delaware	33-3	17/16	9/7	8/9	0/0	32-168 / 45-68	11-17-0 / 19-23-0	186/148	49-354 / 68-216	96/89	0/0			
Sam Houston	21-23	17/19	8/9	8/9	1/1	35-239 / 36-144	12-24-1 / 20-37-0	123/209	59-362 / 73-353	141/32	1/1			
Totals	292-150	187/165	107/71	74/79	6/15	380-2,317 / 360-1,157	124-218-4 / 180-295-12	1,714/1,722	598-4,031 / 655-2,879	680/380	10/17			

2020-21 STATISTICS

MISCELLANEOUS GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Northern Iowa	5-13	1-3	2-3	0-2	2-5
North Dakota	6-13	1-2	3-4	1-3	1-4
Western Illinois	7-13	3-4	1-2	1-3	2-4
Youngstown State	6-15	2-4	0-3	2-2	2-6
Southern Illinois	5-11	0-2	3-4	2-3	0-2
North Dakota State	5-11	1-3	3-5	1-1	0-2
Holy Cross	5-11	1-2	1-2	1-3	2-4
Southern Illinois	5-11	2-4	0-3	0-0	3-4
Delaware	3-9	0-2	1-1	1-3	1-3
Sam Houston	3-10	0-3	1-3	2-3	0-1
Totals	50-117	11-29	15-30	11-23	13-35
	42.7%	37.9%	50.0%	47.8%	37.1%
Opponents	56-150	17-36	11-36	20-41	8-37
	37.3%	46.2%	30.6%	48.8%	21.6%

TIME OF POSSESSION

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Northern Iowa	33:14	9:27	9:39	4:32	9:36
North Dakota	24:12	5:03	6:50	5:32	6:47
Western Illinois	35:26	7:45	6:50	8:37	12:14
Youngstown State	27:13	10:47	4:15	3:54	8:17
Southern Illinois	36:33	6:56	11:18	8:06	10:13
North Dakota State	33:00	7:52	9:41	5:07	10:20
Holy Cross	30:46	6:26	8:53	6:14	9:13
Southern Illinois	24:17	8:09	5:24	1:56	8:48
Delaware	22:55	4:30	4:04	5:08	9:13
Sam Houston	28:51	8:59	9:01	6:59	3:52
Totals	296:27	75:54	75:55	56:05	88:33
Avg.	29:38	7:35	7:35	5:36	8:51
Opponents	303:33	74:06	74:05	93:55	61:27
Avg.	30:21	7:24	7:24	9:23	6:08

FOURTH-DOWN CONVERSIONS

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Northern Iowa	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0
North Dakota	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2
Western Illinois	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Southern Illinois	2-2	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0
North Dakota State	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1
Holy Cross	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Southern Illinois	1-2	1-1	0-1	0-0	0-0
Delaware	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Sam Houston	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0
Totals	5-11	3-4	1-3	0-1	1-3
	45.5%	75.0%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%
Opponents	13-27	3-4	1-1	5-8	4-14
	48.1%	75%	100%	62.5%	28.6%

PENALTIES

OPPONENT	SDSU	OPP
Northern Iowa	9-80	4-20
North Dakota	6-50	1-16
Western Illinois	6-57	5-15
Youngstown State	2-20	4-34
Southern Illinois	4-17	4-21
North Dakota State	8-68	1-9
Holy Cross	4-30	4-25
Southern Illinois	6-51	3-20
Delaware	0-0	2-22
Sam Houston	9-65	8-65
Totals	54-438	36-247

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSE

Opponent	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	TE/WR/RB	WR	WR	QB	RB
Northern Iowa	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Bauer (WR)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
North Dakota	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Morgan (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
Western Illinois	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Bauer (WR)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
Youngstown St.	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Kunz	Davis (RB)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
So. Illinois	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Kunz (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Davis
N. Dakota St.	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Kunz (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
Holy Cross	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Kunz	Kraft (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
So. Illinois	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Kunz	Kraft (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
Delaware	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Bauer (WR)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong
Sam Houston	A. Johnson	McCormick	Genant	Lickiss	Greenfield	Heins	Kraft (TE)	Jad. Janke	Jax. Janke	Gronowski	Strong

DEFENSE

Opponent	DE	DT	NT	DE	WLB	MLB	SLB	CB	SS	FS	CB
Northern Iowa	Winkelman	Krolikowski	Sanders	Hicks	Spalding	Tetzlaff	Backhaus	Gardner	Stalbird	Griffin	Lofton
North Dakota	Winkelman	Krolikowski	Sanders	Hicks	Spalding	Tetzlaff	Backhaus	Gardner	Stalbird	Griffin	Lofton
Western Illinois	Winkelman	Krolikowski	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
Youngstown St.	Winkelman	Krolikowski	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
So. Illinois	Winkelman	Krolikowski	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
N. Dakota St.	Winkelman	Ward	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
Holy Cross	Winkelman	Ward	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
So. Illinois	Winkelman	Ward	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Lofton
Delaware	Winkelman	Ward	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Gales
Sam Houston	Winkelman	Ward	Sanders	Hicks	Tetzlaff	Bock	Backhaus	Gardner	Griffin	Manchigiah	Gales