



2024 SEASON PREVIEW

SDSU FOOTBALL QUICK FACTS

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

LOCATION: Brookings, S.D.
ENROLLMENT: 11,505 (fall 2023)
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)

ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT: Dr. Barry H. Dunn
ALMA MATER: South Dakota State, 1975
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR: Justin Sell
ALMA MATER: Bowling Green (Ohio), 1991
OFFICE PHONE: (605) 688-6388
DEPUTY AD/FOOTBALL SUPERVISOR: Slade Larscheid
OFFICE PHONE: (605) 688-5625
**SENIOR ASSOCIATE AD—STUDENT-ATHLETE
EXPERIENCE/SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR:** Holly
Van Vlymen
OFFICE PHONE: (605) 688-5308
FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE: Donna Flint

SPORTS INFORMATION

**ASSISTANT AD-SPORTS INFORMATION/FOOTBALL
CONTACT:** Jason Hove
OFFICE PHONE: (605) 688-4623
CELL PHONE: (605) 695-1827
FAX: (605) 688-5999
E-MAIL: Jason.Hove@sdstate.edu

SUPPORT STAFF

DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS: Jonathan
Shaeffer
ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD COACH: Ron Pavlik
STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING: Matt Jacobs, Preston
Wilson, Jeffrey Sapakoff, Hannah Whitbread
ATHLETIC TRAINERS: Charlie Miller, Hallie Hawe,
Megan Blomberg
EQUIPMENT: William "Trey" Mason
CREATIVE CONTENT COORDINATOR: Bailey Wright
ASSISTANT AD-TICKETS: Robert Krause
SR. ASSOCIATE AD-FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS: Jeff
Holm
ASSOCIATE AD-OPERATIONS: Christi Williams
ASSISTANT AD-FACILITIES, EVENTS AND OPERATIONS:
Rachael Anello, Austin Buysse

GENERAL INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: 2820 Marshall Center,
Brookings, SD 57007-1497
OVERNIGHT ADDRESS: 1047 16th Ave., Brookings,
SD 57007-1497
TICKET OFFICE: (605) 688-5422
WEBSITE: www.GoJacks.com
X (TWITTER): @GoJacksFB
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SDSUJacks.Football



2023 RECAP

OVERALL RECORD: 15-0
CONFERENCE RECORD: 8-0 (first place in Missouri Valley
Football Conference)
POSTSEASON: Football Championship Subdivision
National Champion (repeat champion)
HOME RECORD: 9-0
AWAY/NEUTRAL RECORD: 4-0/2-0
FINAL RANKINGS: 1st (Stats Perform media)/1st (AFCA
FCS Coaches)

2023 GAME RESULTS

Aug. 31	WESTERN OREGON [Dairy Drive]	W, 45-7
Sept. 9	MONTANA STATE [Beef Bowl]	W, 20-16
Sept. 16	vs. Drake [at Minneapolis, Minn.]	W, 70-7
Sept. 30	*NORTH DAKOTA [Hall of Fame]	W, 42-21
Oct. 7	*at Illinois State	W, 40-21
Oct. 14	*NORTHERN IOWA [Hobo Day]	W, 41-6
Oct. 21	*at Southern Illinois	W, 17-10
Oct. 28	*at South Dakota	W, 37-3
Nov. 4	*NORTH DAKOTA STATE	W, 33-16
Nov. 11	*at Youngstown State	W, 34-0
Nov. 18	*MISSOURI STATE	W, 35-17
Dec. 2	*MERCER	W, 41-0
Dec. 9	*VILLANOVA	W, 23-12
Dec. 15	*UALBANY	W, 59-0
Jan. 7	*vs. MONTANA [at Frisco, Texas]	W, 23-3

*Missouri Valley Football Conference game

^Football Championship Subdivision Playoff game

2024 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31	at Oklahoma State	1 p.m.
Sept. 7	INCARNATE WORD [Dairy Drive]	6 p.m.
Sept. 14	AUGUSTANA [Beef Bowl/HOF]	6 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Southeastern Louisiana	6 p.m.
Oct. 5	*at Northern Iowa	4 p.m.
Oct. 12	*YOUNGSTOWN STATE [Hobo Day]	2 p.m.
Oct. 19	*at North Dakota State	TBA
Oct. 26	*SOUTH DAKOTA [Interstate Series]	TBA
Nov. 2	*MURRAY STATE [Precision Ag Bowl]	2 p.m.
Nov. 9	*at North Dakota	1 p.m.
Nov. 16	*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS [Senior Day]	2 p.m.
Nov. 23	*at Missouri State	2 p.m.

*Missouri Valley Football Conference game; all times Central

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Jimmy Rogers
ALMA MATER: South Dakota State, 2009
RECORD AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE: 15-0 (second season)
CAREER RECORD: Same
E-MAIL: SDSU.Football@sdstate.edu
FOOTBALL MAIN OFFICE: (605) 688-6955
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/OFFENSIVE LINE: Ryan Olson
(fifth season)
ALMA MATER: Wisconsin-Whitewater, 2012
E-MAIL: Ryan.Olson@sdstate.edu
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/ LINEBACKERS: Jesse Bobbit
(third season)
ALMA MATER: South Dakota State, 2017
E-MAIL: Jesse.Bobbit@sdstate.edu
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QUARTERBACKS: Danny
Freund (first season)
ALMA MATER: North Dakota, 2010
E-MAIL: Daniel.Freund@sdstate.edu

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR: Pat Cashmore (second
season)

ALMA MATER: Drake, 2011

E-MAIL: Patrick.Cashmore@sdstate.edu

TIGHT ENDS/RECRUITING COORDINATOR: Chris Meyers
(third season)

ALMA MATER: Texas Christian, 2015

E-MAIL: Christopher.Meyers@sdstate.edu

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Mike Banks (second season)

ALMA MATER: Illinois State, 2015

E-MAIL: Michael.Banks@sdstate.edu

DEFENSIVE LINE: Jalon Bibbs (second season)

ALMA MATER: Northern State, 2015

E-MAIL: Jalon.Bibbs@sdstate.edu

WIDE RECEIVERS: Jake Menage (second season)

ALMA MATER: South Dakota State, 2017

E-MAIL: Jacob.Menage@sdstate.edu

SAFETIES: Pete Menage (second season)

ALMA MATER: South Dakota State, 2020

E-MAIL: Peter.Menage@sdstate.edu

RUNNING BACKS: Robbie Rouse (second season)

ALMA MATER: Fresno State, 2013

E-MAIL: Robbie.Rouse@sdstate.edu

QUALITY CONTROL: Taylor Lucas (Offense), Lane
Peterson (offense), Kyle Saddler (offense), Dalton
Thomas (defense)

VIDEO COORDINATOR/DEFENSIVE QUALITY: Brayden Gage

TEAM INFORMATION

LETTERMEN RETURNING: 53	LETTERMEN LOST: 18
• Offense: 20	• Offense: 9
• Defense: 31	• Defense: 9
• Special Teams: 2	• Special Teams: 0

STARTERS RETURNING: 10

• Offense: 3 • Defense: 5 • Special Teams: 2

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (3): Evan Beerntsen,
OG; Mark Gronowski, QB; Gus Miller, C.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (5): Dalys Beanum,
CB; Adam Bock, LB; Jarod DePriest, DT; Tucker
Large, S; Cale Reeder, S.

SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS RETURNING (2): Hunter
Dustman, K/P; Kaydon Olivia, LS.

OTHER RETURNING LETTERMEN (43): Steven Arrell, CB;
Max Baloun, DT; Jon Bell, QB; Kevin Brenner, TE;
Quinten Christensen, OL; Devon Cole Jr., WR; Cody
Cotton, CB; Aydan Dautermann, CB; Matthew
Durrance, S; Caleb Franci, LB; Greyton Gannon, TE;
Grahm Goering, WR; Brody Gormley, TE; Logan
Green, DT; Abe Hoskins III, CB; Colby Huerter, S;
Amar Johnson, RB; Angel Johnson, RB; Bryce
Johnson, LB; Dontay Johnson, S; Randy Keumogne,
DE; Aaron Kusler, LB; Jalen Lee, OL; Jalen B. Lee,
CB; Chase Mason, QB; Daeton Mcgaughy, LB; Cullen
McShane, LB; Joe Ollman, LB; William Paekpke, OL;
Blake Peterson, DE; Marcus Preston, WR; Dawson
Ripperda, DE; Dawson Rudd, OL; Graham Spalding,
LB; Myles Taylor, CB; Noah Thompson, S; Kolten
Tilford, S; Levi Vanden Bos, DE; Ethan Vibert, OL;
Kirby Vorhees, RB; Griffin Wilde, WR; Zac Wilson, DE;
Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten, DT.

As South Dakota State pursues a third consecutive Football Championship Subdivision national title during the upcoming 2024 season, the Jackrabbits will rely on a mix of experience and youth.

"We do have the skill set to be really successful this year," said second-year head coach Jimmy Rogers. "I'm really excited about this team just because there's a lot of guys on this year's list who have never been talked about; the world just doesn't who they are, but they have the potential to be really good."

Previously a player and longtime assistant coach at SDSU, Rogers guided the Jackrabbits to their second national championship in a row by posting an undefeated 15-0 record in his first season overseeing the program. The Jackrabbits will bring a 29-game winning streak dating back to early in the 2022 season into the 2024 campaign, marking the third-longest streak in FCS history.

SDSU has made 12 consecutive appearances in the FCS playoffs and has advanced to at least the semifinal round six of the last seven seasons with three berths in the title game. The keys to that sustained success, Rogers said, have been focusing on player development and team culture.

"We've been able to continue to develop people," Rogers said. "Last year, we were constantly bringing people up to work with the older group even though they weren't going to play in games. We were looking out ahead with a lot of these and trying to make sure that we adequate depth. Part of that is not just depth for the season, but depth for the future."

While the Jackrabbits have occasionally dipped into the transfer portal to address specific needs, SDSU has won largely with core groups of talented players who have grown up together in the program.

"All of our guys were really excited to come back because of potential of this team," Rogers said. "Obviously, there's a lot of unknowns, but they're confident enough that this team is stable enough to repeat and try to chase a third championship."

Two of the key players who opted to return in 2024 are the undisputed leaders on their respective sides of the ball — quarterback Mark Gronowski and linebacker Adam Bock.

"The ability to come back, and choose to come back on their own terms ... I think it just shows the continuity amongst the staff and how the players feel when they walk in the building that they've enjoyed their time here," Rogers said. "I think more than anything else it's how you see a culture is if the players enjoy their experience and if they do, they should be fighting for the years they have left at the end of their careers."

OFFENSE

Gronowski is one of only three returning starters on offense for a Jackrabbit squad that averaged 37.3 points and 449.9 total yards per game in 2023.

Individually, Gronowski received nearly every major award within the Football Championship Subdivision a year ago, including becoming the first Jackrabbit to win the Walter Payton Award as the top



Mark Gronowski returns after a 2023 season in which he led the Football Championship Subdivision in passing efficiency and was selected as the winner of the Walter Payton Award after accounting for 37 touchdowns — 29 passing and 8 rushing.

offensive player in the FCS ranks. He led FCS quarterbacks in passing efficiency with a rating of 179.7 while completing 68.1 percent (209-of-307) of his passes for 3,058 yards and 29 touchdowns against only five interceptions. In addition, Gronowski rushed for 402 yards and eight scores.

Entering his fourth season as the Jackrabbits' quarterback, Gronowski has compiled a 37-3 record as the starter.

Another dual-threat quarterback, junior Chase Mason will seek more opportunities in leading the SDSU offense. Mason played in nine games last season and threw for 267 yards, while running for 184 yards with touchdown runs of 33 and 69 yards.

Junior Jon Bell also returns at quarterback.

Efficiency was the name of the game for SDSU on the offensive side of the ball as the Jackrabbits put up top marks among FCS programs for third-down conversion percentage (.535), fourth-down conversion percentage (.818) and red-zone offense (.965).

Another award winner who returns to the SDSU lineup is senior center Gus Miller. The Brookings native claimed the Rimington Award for FCS as the top center in the subdivision after the Jackrabbits allowed the fewest tackles for loss per game, 2.73, while giving up only 11 sacks all season.

Evan Beemtsen, a two-year starter at right guard who was an honorable mention all-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection last season, is the other returning starter.

SDSU has big holes to fill on the left side of its line as it looks to replace multi-time All-Americans and National Football League aspirants Garret Greenfield at tackle and Mason McCormick at guard. Sophomore Quentin Christensen, who suited up at tight

end in several games last season, is viewed as an early favorite to take over at left tackle, with sixth-year senior Ethan Vibert in line for the starting spot at left guard.

Redshirt freshmen Kenyon BigBow and William Paepke also are contending for key roles at tackle and guard, respectively, along with sophomore Dawson Rudd at left tackle. Senior Jalen Lee returns to the guard positions and a group of talented red-shirt freshmen, including center Jackson Kerstin, will add further depth to the offensive line.

Transfers Sam Hagen (North Dakota) and Marcus Hicks (Oklahoma) will battle for the starting position at right tackle.

With last season's top running back, Isaiah Davis, now playing for the New York Jets of the NFL, the Jacks will turn to Amar Johnson as the team's featured back. An all-MVFC selection as an all-purpose back in 2023, Johnson ranked second on the squad with 801 rushing yards, averaging 6.3 yards per carry with four touchdowns. The O'Fallon, Missouri, native also caught 12 passes for 122 yards and contributed on special teams with an average of 23.5 yards on 12 kickoff returns.

Junior Angel Johnson is expected to play an enhanced role in the running game in 2024 after averaging a team-best 8.9 yards per carry a year ago. He tallied 381 total yards on the ground and posted the Jackrabbits' longest run of the season with an 80-yard touchdown versus Drake.

Redshirt freshman Kirby Vorhees, who got a taste of collegiate action during the 2023 season, will be another candidate to carry the ball for the Jackrabbits this season, along with talented newcomers Quinton Renfro and Maxwell Woods.

SEASON PREVIEW

"If needed, they can step in and help us have success right away," Rogers said.

After losing a group of seniors who combined for 524 career receptions and 80 touchdowns, the Jackrabbits will look for production in the passing game from a mix of veterans and unproven players.

"Wide receiver is probably the grayest area just because there's not a ton of them, but there is a skill-set there that will be some of the best in the Missouri Valley — I'm confident of that," Rogers said.

Highlighting the contingent is sophomore Griffin Wilde, who leads the returning wide receivers after catching 20 passes for 399 yards and six touchdowns. A member of the MVFC All-Newcomer Team as a true freshman in 2023, Wilde began his collegiate career by scoring touchdowns in each of his first three games, including a game-winning 35-yard catch and run in the closing minutes of an early season matchup against Montana State.

Senior Devon Cole Jr. (four catches for 68 yards) and Grahm Goering (13-171) also have seen extensive on-field action for the Jackrabbits in recent seasons, while senior Marcus Preston, junior Elijah Ervin and redshirt freshman Kentrell Prejean are all in their second year in the program and will contend for more prominent roles in 2024.

One position group that the Jackrabbits have consistently churned out pro prospects has been at tight end, and the 2024 crop is no exception despite its overall youth.

Senior Kevin Brenner is the most experienced player in the group despite spending the first half of his collegiate career as a defensive end. Brenner caught only two passes last season — one of which was a touchdown — but contributed mostly as a blocker for a run game that averaged 227.7 yards per contest.

Sophomores Greyton Gannon, David Alpers and

Brody Gormley all served as understudies to Zach Heins and Michael Morgan the past two seasons, while redshirt freshman Davin Stoffel was one of the team's top performers on the practice field a year ago. Of that quartet, Gannon is the only one to have a reception thus far in his career.

"I don't know if there's a more athletic and well-rounded group as the tight end group on our offense," Rogers said. "They just need reps."

The offense begins the season under new leadership from a coaching perspective as Ryan Olson moves into the coordinator's role while continuing to coach the offensive line. Rogers said Olson has put his own stamp on the offense without going through a complete overhaul.

"We will look different because the players are different and we have to utilize our best players," Rogers adds. "We're going to do what we do and believe in the foundation of how we've gotten to this point."

Aiding in the development of the Jackrabbits is new quarterbacks coach/co-offensive coordinator Danny Freund, who previously directed an offense at league rival North Dakota that presented challenges for Rogers-led defenses.

"I've really respected the way he's gone about looking at defensive opponents and utilizing their rules against them," Rogers said. "Having another coordinator in the room that's done it in the league, that's had success maybe a little bit differently, as well as having a guy like that with a creative mind who's polished and has the film to back it up, that's really important. Danny has been a blessing."

DEFENSE

The Jackrabbit defense has been at the heart of the program's two previous championship runs and it all begins with stopping the run.

SDSU led the FCS ranks by allowing only 88.1 rushing yards per game during the 2022 season and nearly matched that a year ago by ranking second with an average of 89.6 rushing yards allowed per contest.

That stinginess was exceeded only by the number on the scoreboard as SDSU surrendered a measly 9.3 points and 257.7 yards of total offense per game to lead the FCS in both categories. The Jackrabbits held six of their opponents without a touchdown over the team's final 10 games, including pitching a shutout three times. Two of those blankings came in the FCS playoffs, where the Jackrabbits allowed only one touchdown and outscored the opposition by an astounding 146-15 over four games.

Only one starter returns from the front four of the Jackrabbit defense, but SDSU is far from lacking in experience.

"We lose a lot, but we play a lot," Rogers said. "I feel good about where the defense is right now."

Jarod DePriest, who moved into a starting role at defensive tackle during the second half of 2023 campaign, anchors the defensive line. A senior from Trivoli, Illinois, DePriest notched 20 total tackles, including 1.5 sacks a season ago.

RETURNING STATISTICAL LEADERS

PASSING - YARDS

1. Mark Gronowski	3,058
2. Chase Mason	267
3. Jon Bell	6

RUSHING - YARDS

2. Amar Johnson	801
3. Mark Gronowski	402
4. Angel Johnson	381
5. Chase Mason	184

RECEPTIONS

5. Griffin Wilde	20
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RECEIVING YARDS

4. Griffin Wilde	399
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TACKLES

3. Adam Bock	65
5. Cale Reeder	58
6. Tucker Large	49

TACKLES FOR LOSS

T7. Max Baloun	3.0
T7. Colby Huerter	3.0

SACKS

T4. Adam Bock	2.0
T4. Zac Wilson	2.0
T4. Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten	2.0

INTERCEPTIONS

1. Dalys Beanum	5
2. Tucker Large	4

The Jackrabbits will likely rotate a number of other returners to spell DePriest and fill the other starting spot at defensive tackle, with senior Max Baloun (12 tackles, 3 tackles for loss), junior Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten (7 tackles, 2 sacks), sophomore Logan Green (2 tackles) and redshirt freshman Bryce Hawthorne (3 tackles) vying for prominent roles.

Transfer Kobe Clayborne has the ability to play both on the interior and at defensive end and will likely be another option for the regular rotation.

Senior Zac Wilson, who recorded a pair of sacks among his eight tackles a season ago, brings the most experience to the defensive end position after the team lost its top two sack artists in Cade Terveer (7.5 sacks) and Quinton Hicks (5.5 sacks) to graduation.

Fellow senior Randy Keumogne (3 tackles, 1 TFL) and Levi Vanden Bos (6 tackles, 2 TFLs) also provide a veteran presence while graduate transfer Blake Peterson, sophomore Dawson Ripperda and redshirt freshman Reis Kirschenman are all in their second seasons as Jackrabbits.

The return of Bock at middle linebacker further bolsters what already was a strong and experienced linebackers room. Despite missing parts of the last two seasons due to injury, Bock still ranks fifth in program history with 344 career tackles after leading the team in tackles during both the 2020-21 spring season (74 tackles) and 2021 fall campaign (125).

In 10 games last season, the sixth-year senior ranked third on the squad with 65 tackles, highlighted by three double-digit tackling performances.



Amar Johnson moves into the featured back role for the Jackrabbits after ranking second on the team in rushing each of the past two seasons — 744 yards in 2022 and 801 yards in 2023.

Flanking Bock will be a trio of other seniors with previous starting experience. Graham Spalding (35 tackles, one interception in 2023) has the most returning experience at Will linebacker, while Caleb Franci (26 tackles) and Daeton Mcgaughy (23 tackles) both have played extensively at the Sam position.

Senior Aaron Kusler and transfer Hudson Metcalf, along with sophomores Bryce Johnson, Cullen McShane and Joe Ollman all are vying for additional reps.

The strength of the 2024 edition of the Jackrabbit defense likely will lie in its secondary, where three of the unit's five returning starters reside.

Senior cornerback Dalys Beanum has led the team in interceptions two of the past three seasons, notching four in 2021 and five a season ago. With 11 pickoffs for his career, Beanum is within three of tying Charlie Clarksean's SDSU career standard of 14, which has stood since 1972. Besides his five interceptions last season, Beanum broke up seven other passes and tallied 29 tackles.

The other starting cornerback position will likely be battled out among senior Steven Arrell, junior Myles Taylor and sophomore Jalen B. Lee. Arrell was sidelined by injury the final nine games of the 2023 season after registering 14 tackles and a forced fumble.

Lee contributed 18 tackles in 15 games, while Taylor was credited with 10 tackles and a pair of pass breakups in nine appearances. Aydan Dautermann (7 tackles, 1 interception) also brings some playing experience to the mix.

All five of the players who saw significant time at safety last season also return, led by starters Tucker Large at free safety and strong safety Cale Reeder.

"The back end group is probably the most experienced it's ever been," Rogers said. "This is the best safety group in my time at SDSU."

Large put together a breakthrough 2024 campaign in which he broke up a team-best nine passes, ranked second on the squad with four interceptions and notched 49 tackles.

Reeder finished fifth on the team with 58 total tackles, forced a fumble and intercepted a pass last season.

Backing up Reeder was Colby Huerter, who turned in 42 tackles, including three tackles for loss, along with an interception and forced fumble.

Other returners at safety include junior Matthew Durrance (25 tackles) and sophomore Dontay Johnson (7 tackles in 8 games), along with redshirt freshman Kolten Tilford, who added an interception in four games. Durrance also came up with a key blocked punt for touchdown in SDSU's quarterfinal playoff victory over Villanova last December.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Jackrabbits figure to remain solid on special teams as several prominent contributors return for another season.

Senior Hunter Dustman will once again be called on to handle both the kicking and punting duties. Dustman led the team in scoring for the second year in a row, tallying 122 points in 2023 on 18 field goals (in 24 attempts) and making a single-season school-record 68 extra points.

In addition, Dustman averaged 43.5 yards per punt attempt, landing 18 of his 34 attempts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Should Dustman need a break, transfer Max Pelham is a likely candidate to take over punting duties, while redshirt freshman Jackson Isakson and true freshman Jack Stevens could be called on to take care of kickoffs or other kicking responsibilities.

Long snapper Kaydon Olivia, a second-team all-MVFC honoree last season, and holder Jon Bell also return, providing the Jackrabbits with continuity

throughout the kicking operations.

Large also has received preseason accolades for his role as a punt returner a year ago. The Sioux Falls native averaged 18.9 yards per attempt and turned in a single-game school record with 149 punt return yards on only four attempts in the third game of the 2023 season, versus Drake.

"He's fearless and he has the unique ability to make people miss in small spaces," Rogers said. "He just has the guts to do it."

Kickoff return duties will be up for grabs in fall camp, with Goering and Angel Johnson among the most likely candidates.

SCHEDULE

The Jackrabbits will have their long winning streak put to the test immediately as they open the season Aug. 31 against an Oklahoma State team that begins 2024 ranked in the top 20 of a number of Football Bowl Subdivision preseason polls.

The remainder of the nonconference portion of a 12-game regular season schedule includes games against a pair of Southland Conference opponents in Incarnate Word (Sept. 7) and Southeastern Louisiana (Sept. 21), as well as the renewal of a longtime in-state rivalry with Augustana on Sept. 14.

"I think we're going to get challenged right out of the gate and then we've got a lot of people who we've never seen play before," Rogers said.

The matchup with Incarnate Word marks the first of six games at Dana J. Dykhouse, which was sold out for four of the Jackrabbits' games last season.

"I think this what we all wanted when we first got here," Rogers said. "Speaking for me and the other coaches that were players here, that's what we envisioned, to come out and play in front of a great atmosphere and to see the stands full."

The eight-game MVFC slate begins Oct. 5 at Northern Iowa.



Dalys Beanum led the Jackrabbits with five interceptions in 2023 and enters his senior season with a chance to set the SDSU career mark.



Tucker Large emerged as a playmaker both from the safety position and as a punt returner with two returns for touchdowns in 2023.



Hunter Dustman recorded his second consecutive 100-point season as a kicker last year and also averaged 43.5 yards per punt.

PRESEASON ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

Alpers, David – 83
 Amer, Jack – 13
 Arrell, Steven – 4
 Baker, Beau – 49
 Bakken, Nick – 68
 Baloun, Max – 93
 Beantum, Dalys – 7
 Beerntsen, Evan – 61
 Begeman, Brenden – 24
 Bell, Jon – 5
 BigBow, Kenyon – 62
 Bock, Adam – 32
 Brenner, Kevin – 44
 Chapman, Max – 71
 Christensen, Quinten – 69
 Clayborne, Kobe – 94
 Cole Jr., Devon – 15
 Cotton, Cody – 30
 Dautermann, Aydan – 13
 Delahoyde, Brayden – 40
 DePriest, Jarod – 52
 Dresie, Sammy – 8
 Durrance, Matthew – 23
 Dustman, Hunter – 10
 Ervin, Elijah – 6
 Francl, Caleb – 9
 Fyfe, Kytan – 47
 Gannon, Greyton – 88
 Goering, Graham – 12
 Gormley, Brody – 89
 Green, Logan – 51
 Gronowski, Mark – 11
 Gustad, Andrew – 43
 Hagen, Sam – 76
 Hawthorne, Bryce – 96
 Henry, Jack – 16
 Hicks, Marcus – 78
 Hoffmann, Patrick – 86
 Hoskins III, Abe – 17
 Hotz, Caden – 73
 Huerter, Colby – 14
 Humphrey, Colby – 22
 Isakson, Jackson – 96
 Johnson, Amar – 3
 Johnson, Angel – 21
 Johnson, Bryce – 33
 Johnson, Dontay – 3
 Kerstin, Jackson – 58
 Keumogne, Randy – 90
 Kirschenman, Reis – 97
 Kracl, Isaac – 39
 Kusler, Aaron – 40
 Large, Tucker – 1
 Lecuona, JR – 56
 Lee, Jalen – 54 (OL)
 Lee, Jalen B. – 6 (DB)
 Leiferman, Blake – 46
 Martian, Thomas – 79
 Mason, Chase – 7
 Mcgaughy, Daeton – 0
 McShane, Cullen – 5
 Metcalf, Hudson – 15
 Miller, Dane – 36
 Miller, Gus – 50
 Muller, Mac – 98
 Mutcher, Ian – 67
 Nash, Jack – 48
 Neumann, Joey – 81
 Oday Jr., Ky – 82

2024 NUMERICAL PRESEASON ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Exp	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL/PREV. SCHOOL
0	Daeton Mcgaughy	LB	6-0	205	Sr.	3L	Elwood, Kan.	Lafayette
1	Tucker Large	S	5-11	185	Jr.	2L	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Roosevelt
2	Marcus Preston	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	1L	Lawrence, Kan.	Free State/North Dakota
2	Myles Taylor	CB	6-1	175	Jr.	1L	Gilbert, Ariz.	Williams Field
3	Amar Johnson	RB	5-10	200	Sr.	3L	O'Fallon, Mo.	Chaminade College Prep
3	Dontay Johnson	S	6-2	190	So.	1L	Fort Collins, Colo.	Colorado Early College
4	Steven Arrell	CB	6-3	200	Sr.	3L	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	Osseo H.S.
4	Kentrell Prejean	WR	5-8	160	R-Fr.	—	Lafayette, La.	Teurlings Catholic
5	Jon Bell	QB	6-3	195	Jr.	2L	Naperville, Ill.	Naperville North
5	Cullen McShane	LB	6-2	230	So.	1L	Marquette, Iowa	MFL MarMac
6	Elijah Ervin	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	TR	Phoenix, Ariz.	Desert Vista/Snow College
6	Jalen B. Lee	CB	6-0	200	So.	1L	Wentzville, Mo.	Fort Zumwalt North
7	Dalys Beantum	CB	6-1	200	Sr.	4L	Omaha, Neb.	Millard West
7	Chase Mason	QB	6-4	230	Jr.	1L	Hurley, S.D.	Viborg-Hurley/Nebraska
8	Sammy Dresie	WR	6-2	185	Fr.	—	Maize, Kan.	Maize South
8	Blake Peterson	DE	6-4	255	Gr.	1L	Beresford, S.D.	Beresford/Iowa State
9	Caleb Francl	LB	6-1	195	Sr.	3L	Grand Island, Neb.	Grand Island
10	Hunter Dustman	K/P	6-4	225	Sr.	3L	East Bethel, Minn.	St. Francis
11	Mark Gronowski	QB	6-3	225	Sr.	3L	Naperville, Ill.	Neuqua Valley
11	Joe Ollman	LB	6-1	225	So.	1L	Mequon, Wis.	Homestead
12	Graham Goering	WR	6-2	200	Jr.	1L	Iowa City, Iowa	Iowa City West
13	Jack Amer	QB	6-2	215	R-Fr.	—	Gilbert, Ariz.	Perry
13	Aydan Dautermann	CB	6-0	185	Jr.	2L	Hartford, Wis.	Slinger
14	Colby Huerter	S	6-1	205	Sr.	2L	Katy, Texas	Tompkins
15	Devon Cole Jr.	WR	5-10	185	Sr.	2L	Clermont, Fla.	Lake Minneola
15	Hudson Metcalf	LB	6-2	215	Sr.	TR	Soldotna, Alaska	Soldotna/Colorado Mesa
16	Jack Henry	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	—	Dell Rapids, S.D.	Dell Rapids
16	Noah St-Juste	CB	5-10	175	R-Fr.	—	Montreal, Quebec	Clearwater Academy Intl.
17	Abe Hoskins III	CB	6-1	195	Sr.	1L	Omaha, Neb.	Omaha Central
17	Jack Thue	QB	6-2	190	Fr.	—	Brandon, S.D.	Brandon Valley
18	Griffin Wilde	WR	6-2	200	So.	1L	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Jefferson
19	Jack Smith	WR	6-0	190	Fr.	—	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Lincoln
20	Kirby Vorhees	RB	5-11	205	R-Fr.	1L	Lutz, Fla.	Steinbrenner
21	Angel Johnson	RB	5-9	195	Jr.	2L	Irene, S.D.	Viborg-Hurley
22	Colby Humphrey	CB	5-11	185	Sr.	TR	Birmingham, Ala.	Desert Vista/Northern Arizona
23	Matthew Durrance	S	6-2	215	Jr.	2L	Lutz, Fla.	Steinbrenner
24	Brenden Begeman	RB	6-2	22-	R-Fr.	—	Selby, S.D.	Selby Area
25	Cale Reeder	S	6-0	190	Sr.	4L	Yorkville, Ill.	Yorkville
26	Kolten Tilford	S	5-9	180	R-Fr.	1L	North Platte, Neb.	North Platte
27	Noah Thompson	S	6-0	185	So.	1L	Brandon, S.D.	Brandon Valley H.S.
28	Chase Van Tol	LB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	—	Tea, S.D.	Tea Area
29	Graham Spalding	LB	6-2	215	Sr.	4L	Oviedo, Fla.	Lake Howell
30	Cody Cotton	CB	6-0	170	Jr.	1L	Pleasant Prairie, Wis.	Union Grove/Upper Iowa
31	Trey Ridley	S	6-1	200	Fr.	—	Overland Park, Kan.	Blue Valley Northwest
32	Adam Bock	LB	6-1	225	Sr.	4L	Solon, Iowa	Solon
33	Bryce Johnson	LB	6-3	215	So.	1L	Parker, Colo.	Lutheran
34	Maxwell Woods	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	—	Carver, Minn.	Chanhassen
35	Quinton Renfro	RB	5-11	185	Fr.	—	Joplin, Mo.	Joplin
36	Dane Miller	WR	6-3	185	So.	—	Hardy, Neb.	Superior
37	Kaydon Olivia	LS	5-11	215	Jr.	1L	Schertz, Texas	Samuel Clemens/Texas State
37	Carsten Reynolds	LB	6-3	205	Fr.	—	Sedro-Wooley, Wash.	Sedro-Wooley
38	Max Stanard	S	5-11	190	Fr.	—	Manhattan, Kan.	Manhattan
39	Isaac Kracl	RB	5-11	175	So.	—	Crete, Neb.	Crete
40	Brayden Delahoyde	TE	6-5	220	Fr.	—	Spearfish, S.D.	Spearfish
40	Aaron Kusler	LB	6-3	230	Sr.	2L	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Roosevelt
41	Max Pelham	P	6-1	195	Jr.	TR	Ankeny, Iowa	Ankeny/Minn. State, Mankato
42	Anthony Palano	LB	6-1	210	Fr.	—	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Buffalo Grove
43	Andrew Gustad	TE	6-1	235	So.	—	Volin, S.D.	Gayville-Volin
44	Kevin Brenner	TE	6-3	240	Sr.	3L	Silver Lake, Wis.	Wilmot Union
45	Boden Schiller	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	—	Volga, S.D.	Sioux Valley
46	Blake Leiferman	TE	6-5	250	Fr.	—	Kimball, S.D.	Kimball
47	Kytan Fyfe	LB	6-2	210	So.	—	Grand Island, Neb.	Grand Island

PRESEASON ROSTER

2024 NUMERICAL PRESEASON ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Exp	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL/ PREV. SCHOOL
48	Jack Nash	LB	6-1	185	Fr.	—	Palmer, Alaska	Colony
49	Beau Baker	TE	6-6	250	Fr.	—	Springfield, Ky.	Washington County
50	Gus Miller	OL	6-3	295	Sr.	3L	Brookings, S.D.	Brookings
50	Nick Wells	DE	6-4	260	R-Fr.	—	Sioux City, Iowa	East
51	Logan Green	DT	6-4	290	So.	1L	Northboro, Iowa	Clarinda
52	Jarod DePriest	DT	6-5	285	Sr.	4L	Trivoli, Ill.	Farmington Central
53	Joseph Vieth	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	—	Omaha, Neb.	Gretna
54	Jalen Lee	OL	6-3	310	Sr.	2L	Robbins, Ill.	Harold L. Richards
55	Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten	DT	6-2	285	Jr.	2L	Gilbert, Ariz.	Williams Field
56	JR Lecuona	DE	6-2	240	Fr.	—	Omaha, Neb.	Millard South
57	Levi Vanden Bos	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	1L	Rock Valley, Iowa	Western Christian
58	Jackson Kerstin	OL	6-4	280	R-Fr.	—	Naperville, Ill.	Naperville North
59	Carson Strohbeen	LS	6-1	210	R-Fr.	—	Sioux City, Iowa	North
61	Evan Beermtsen	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	12L	De Pere, Wis.	Appleton North
62	Kenyon BigBow	OL	6-5	295	R-Fr.	—	Anadarko, Okla.	Anadarko
63	Kyan Rauk	OL	6-8	285	Fr.	—	Northfield, Minn.	Northfield
64	Ethan Vibert	OL	6-4	310	Sr.	2L	Regina, Saskatchewan	Miller Catholic
66	Rhett Schaefer	DE	6-3	240	Fr.	—	Walcott, Iowa	Davenport Assumption
67	Ian Mutchler	OL	6-4	280	R-Fr.	—	Morton, Ill.	Morton
68	Nick Bakken	OL	6-5	275	Fr.	—	Whitefish Bay, Wis.	Whitefish Bay
69	Quinten Christensen	OL	6-5	300	So.	1L	Wessington Springs, S.D.	Wessington Springs
71	Max Chapman	DT	6-2	300	Fr.	—	Creston, Iowa	Creston
72	Hayden Venenga	OL	6-6	290	Fr.	—	Willmar, Minn.	Willmar
73	Caden Hotz	OL	6-2	280	Fr.	—	Waverly, Iowa	Waverly-Shell Rock
74	Shane Willenbring	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	—	La Crosse, Wis.	Aquinas
75	Dawson Rudd	OL	6-6	290	So.	1L	Claremore, Okla.	Claremore Sequoyah
76	Sam Hagen	OL	6-6	315	Jr.	TR	Fordville, N.D.	Park River Area/North Dakota
77	William Paepke	OL	6-5	295	R-Fr.	1L	Rapid City, S.D.	Central
78	Marcus Hicks	OL	6-6	320	Sr.	TR	Wichita, Kan.	Wichita Northwest/Oklahoma
79	Thomas Martian	OL	6-3	280	Fr.	—	Rapid City, S.D.	Stevens
80	Lofton Ogroske	WR	6-2	200	Fr.	—	Coon Rapids, Minn.	Coon Rapids
81	Joey Neumann	TE	6-4	235	R-Fr.	—	Antioch, Ill.	Antioch
82	Ky Oday Jr.	WR	5-11	180	So.	—	Denver, Colo.	Cherry Creek/Colorado State
83	David Alpers	TE	6-6	240	So.	—	Sioux Falls, S.D.	O'Gorman
84	Joe Randle	WR	6-3	205	R-Fr.	—	St. Anthony, Minn.	St. Anthony Village
85	Joe Roll	WR	5-9	180	R-Fr.	—	Gretna, Neb.	Gretna
86	Patrick Hoffmann	WR	6-1	195	Sr.	—	Naperville, Ill.	Neuqua Valley
87	Davin Stoffel	TE	6-6	250	R-Fr.	—	Mosinee, Wis.	Mosinee
88	Greyton Gannon	TE	6-4	235	So.	1L	Eagle, Wis.	Mukwonago
89	Brody Gormley	TE	6-7	245	So.	1L	Topeka, Kan.	Seaman H.S.
90	Randy Keumonge	DE	6-2	240	Sr.	2L	Oakdale, Minn.	Tartan
91	Jace Sifore	DT	6-4	290	So.	—	Howard, S.D.	Howard
92	Sam Watts	DE	6-3	245	Fr.	—	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Linn-Mar
93	Max Baloun	DE	6-6	285	Sr.	2L	Redfield, S.D.	Redfield
94	Kobe Clayborne	DT	6-0	275	Jr.	TR	Sioux City, Iowa	Bishop Heelan/NW Missouri
95	Zac Wilson	DE	6-4	245	Sr.	2L	Chipley, Fla.	Chipley
96	Bryce Hawthorne	DT	6-3	285	R-Fr.	—	Osseo, Minn.	Osseo
96	Jackson Isakson	K/P	6-2	190	R-Fr.	—	Aberdeen, S.D.	Aberdeen Christian
97	Reis Kirschenman	DE	6-4	245	R-Fr.	—	Tea, S.D.	Tea Area
98	Mac Muller	DT	6-1	270	Fr.	—	Osage, Iowa	Osage
99	Dawson Ripperda	DE	6-4	245	So.	1L	Larchwood, Iowa	West Lyon/Northern Illinois
99	Jack Stevens	K	6-0	160	Fr.	—	North Augusta, S.C.	North Augusta

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

Ogroske, Lofton – 80
 Olivia, Kaydon - 37
 Ollman, Joe – 11
 Paepke, William – 77
 Palano, Anthony – 42
 Pelham, Max – 41
 Peterson, Blake – 8
 Prejean, Kentrell – 4
 Preston, Marcus – 2
 Randle, Joseph – 84
 Rauk, Kyan – 63
 Reeder, Cale – 25
 Renfro, Quinton – 35
 Reynolds, Carsten – 37
 Ridley, Trey – 31
 Ripperda, Dawson – 99
 Roll, Joe – 85
 Rudd, Dawson – 75
 St-Juste, Noah – 16
 Schaefer, Rhett – 66
 Schiller, Boden – 45
 Sifore, Jace – 91
 Smith, Jack – 19
 Spalding, Graham – 29
 Stanard, Max – 38
 Stevens, Jack – 99
 Stoffel, Davin – 87
 Strohbeen, Carson – 59
 Taylor, Myles – 2
 Thompson, Noah – 27
 Thue, Jack – 17
 Tilford, Kolten – 26
 Vanden Bos, Levi – 57
 Van Tol, Chase – 28
 Venenga, Hayden – 72
 Vibert, Ethan – 64
 Vieth, Joseph – 53
 Vorhees, Kirby – 20
 Watts, Sam – 92
 Wells, Nick – 50
 Wilde, Griffin – 18
 Willenbring, Shane – 74
 Wilson, Zac – 95
 Wolfcale-Holsten, Aaron – 55
 Woods, Maxwell – 34

COACHING STAFF/SUPPORT STAFF

Head Coach: Jimmy Rogers
 Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line: Ryan Olson
 Co-Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Danny Freund
 Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers: Jesse Bobbit
 Special Teams Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Pat Cashmore
 Wide Receivers: Jacob Menage
 Cornerbacks: Mike Banks
 Defensive Line: Jalon Bibbs
 Running Backs: Robbie Rouse

Tight Ends/Recruiting Coordinator: Chris Meyers
 Safeties: Pete Menage
 Quality Control – Offense: Kyle Saddler, Taylor Lucas, Layne Peterson
 Quality Control – Defense: Dalton Thomas
 Quality Control – Special Teams/Video Coordinator: Brayden Gage
 Director of Football Operations: Jonathan Shaeffer
 Assistant to the Head Coach: Ron Pavlik

Head Equipment Manager: Trey Mason
 Creative Content Coordinator: Bailey Wright
 Director of Strength and Conditioning: Matt Jacobs
 Asst. Dir. of Strength & Conditioning: Preston Wilson
 Strength and Conditioning Graduate Assistants: Jeffrey Sapakoff, Hannah Whitbread
 Head Football Athletic Trainer: Charlie Miller
 Assistant Football Athletic Trainers: Hallie Hawe, Megan Blomberg

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

PLAYERS BY STATE/PROVINCE

SOUTH DAKOTA (25): David Alpers (Sioux Falls); Max Baloun (Redfield); Brenden Begeman (Selby); Quinten Christensen (Wessington Springs); Brayden Delahoyde (Spearfish); Andrew Gustad (Volin); Jack Henry (Dell Rapids); Jackson Isakson (Aberdeen); Angel Johnson (Irene); Reis Kirschenman (Tea); Aaron Kusler (Sioux Falls); Tucker Large (Sioux Falls); Blake Leiferman (Kimball); Thomas Martian (Rapid City); Chase Mason (Hurley); Gus Miller (Brookings); William Paepke (Rapid City); Blake Peterson (Beresford); Boden Schiller (Volga); Jace Sifore (Howard); Jack Smith (Sioux Falls); Noah Thompson (Brandon); Jack Thue (Brandon); Chase Van Tol (Tea); Griffin Wilde (Sioux Falls)

IOWA (15): Adam Bock (Solon); Max Chapman (Creston); Kobe Clayborne (Sioux City); Grahm Goering (Iowa City); Logan Green (Northboro); Caden Hotz (Waverly); Cullen McShane (Marquette); Mac Muller (Osage); Max Pelham (Ankeny); Dawson Ripperda (Larchwood); Rhett Schaefer (Walcott); Carson Strohsbeen (Sioux City); Levi Vanden Bos (Rock Valley); Sam Watts (Cedar Rapids); Nick Wells (Sioux City)

ILLINOIS (10): Jon Bell (Naperville); Jarod DePriest (Trivoli); Mark Gronowski (Naperville); Patrick Hoffmann (Naperville); Jackson Kerstin (Naperville); Jalen Lee [OL] (Robbins); Ian Mutchler (Morton); Joey Neumann (Antioch); Anthony Palano (Arlington Heights); Cale Reeder (Yorkville)

NEBRASKA (10): Dalys Beanum (Omaha); Caleb Franci (Grand Island); Kytan Fyfe (Grand Island); Abe Hoskins III (Omaha); Isaac Kracl (Crete); JR Lecuona (Omaha); Dane Miller (Hardy); Joe Roll (Gretna); Kolten Tilford (North Platte); Joseph Vieth (Omaha)

MINNESOTA (9): Steven Arrell (Brooklyn Park); Hunter Dustman (East Bethel); Bryce Hawthorne (Osseo); Randy Keumogne (Oakdale); Lofton Ogroске (Coon Rapids); Joe Randle (St. Anthony); Kyan Rauk (Northfield); Hayden Venenga (Willmar); Maxwell Woods (Carver)

WISCONSIN (9): Nick Bakken (Whitefish Bay); Evan Beerntsen (De Pere); Kevin Brenner (Silver Lake); Cody Cotton (Pleasant Prairie); Aydan Dautermann (Hartford); Greyton Gannon (Eagle); Joe Ollman (Mequon); Davin Stoffel (Mosinee); Shane Willenbring (La Crosse)

KANSAS (7): Sammy Dresie (Maize); Brody Gormley (Topeka); Marcus Hicks (Wichita); Daeton Mcgaughy (Elwood); Marcus Preston (Lawrence); Trey Ridley (Overland Park); Max Stanard (Manhattan)

FLORIDA (5): Devon Cole Jr. (Clermont); Matthew Durrance (Lutz); Graham Spalding (Oviedo); Kirby Vorhees (Lutz); Zac Wilson (Chipley)

ARIZONA (4): Jack Amer (Gilbert); Elijah Ervin (Phoenix); Myles Taylor (Gilbert); Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten (Gilbert)

COLORADO (3): Bryce Johnson (Parker); Dontay Johnson (Fort Collins); Ky Oday Jr. (Denver)

MISSOURI (3): Amar Johnson (O'Fallon); Jalen B. Lee [CB] (Wentzville); Quinton Renfro (Joplin)

ALASKA (2): Hudson Metcalf (Soldotna); Jack Nash (Palmer)

OKLAHOMA (2): Kenyon BigBow (Anadarko); Dawson Rudd (Claremore)

TEXAS (2): Colby Huerter (Katy); Kaydon Olivia (Schertz)

ALABAMA (1): Colby Humphrey (Birmingham)

KENTUCKY (1): Beau Baker (Springfield)

LOUISIANA (1): Kentrell Prejean (Lafayette)

NORTH DAKOTA (1): Sam Hagen (Fordville)

SOUTH CAROLINA (1): Jack Stevens (North Augusta)

WASHINGTON (1): Carsten Reynolds (Sedro-Wooley)

QUEBEC (1): Noah St-Juste (Montreal)

SASKATCHEWAN (1): Ethan Vibert (Regina)

PLAYERS BY CLASS

SENIORS/GRADUATE STUDENTS (29): Steven Arrell, Max Baloun, Dalys Beanum, Evan Beerntsen, Adam Bock, Kevin Brenner, Devon Cole Jr., Jarod DePriest, Hunter Dustman, Caleb Franci, Mark Gronowski, Marcus Hicks, Patrick Hoffmann, Abe Hoskins III, Colby Huerter, Colby Humphrey, Amar Johnson, Randy Keumogne, Aaron Kusler, Jalen Lee (OL), Daeton Mcgaughy, Hudson Metcalf, Gus Miller, Blake Peterson, Marcus Preston, Cale Reeder, Graham Spalding, Ethan Vibert, Zac Wilson

JUNIORS (16): Jon Bell, Kobe Clayborne, Cody Cotton, Aydan Dautermann, Matthew Durrance, Elijah Ervin, Grahm Goering, Sam Hagen, Angel Johnson, Tucker Large, Chase Mason, Kaydon Olivia, Max Pelham, Myles Taylor, Levi Vanden Bos, Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten

SOPHOMORES (20): David Alpers, Quinten Christensen, Kytan Fyfe, Greyton Gannon, Brody Gormley, Logan Green, Andrew Gustad, Bryce Johnson, Dontay Johnson, Isaac Kracl, Jalen B. Lee (CB), Cullen McShane, Dane Miller, Ky Oday Jr., Joe Ollman, Dawson Ripperda, Dawson Rudd, Jace Sifore, Noah Thompson, Griffin Wilde

REDSHIRT FRESHMEN (20): Jack Amer, Brenden Begeman, Kenyon BigBow, Bryce Hawthorne, Jackson Isakson, Jackson Kerstin, Reis Kirschenman, Ian Mutchler, Joey Neumann, William Paepke, Kentrell Prejean, Joe Randle, Joe Roll, Noah St-Juste, Davin Stoffel, Carson Strohsbeen, Kolten Tilford, Chase Van Tol, Kirby Vorhees, Nick Wells

INCOMING FRESHMEN (29): Beau Baker, Nick Bakken, Max Chapman, Brayden Delahoyde, Sammy Dresie, Jack Henry, Caden Hotz, JR Lecuona, Blake Leiferman, Thomas Martian, Mac Muller, Jack Nash, Lofton Ogroске, Anthony Palano, Kyan Rauk, Quinton Renfro, Carsten Reynolds, Trey Ridley, Rhett Schaefer, Boden Schiller, Jack Smith, Max Stanard, Jack Stevens, Jack Thue, Hayden Venenga, Joseph Vieth, Sam Watts, Shane Willenbring, Maxwell Woods

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

• Jack Amer	AIM-er
• Steven Arrell	ah-RELL
• Nick Bakken	BOCK-en
• Max Baloun	bah-LOON
• Evan Beerntsen	BURNT-sen
• Brayden Delahoyde	DELL-ah-hoid
• Matthew Durrance	durr-ANTS
• Caleb Franci	FRANCE-ill
• Grahm Goering	GORE-ing
• Mark Gronowski	grow-NOW-ski
• Daeton Mcgaughy	DAY-ton mc-GOY
• Colby Huerter	HURT-er
• Randy Keumogne	cah-MOAN-yay
• Isaac Kracl	CRASS-ill
• Aaron Kusler	COOSE-ler
• Daeton Mcgaughy	Mc-GOY
• Lofton Ogroске	oh-GRAW-ski
• Joe Ollman	OHL-man
• Anthony Palano	pah-LON-oh
• William Paepke	PAP-key
• Kentrell Prejean	PRAY-john
• Noah St-Juste	Saint JOOST
• Jace Sifore	CY-fore
• Max Stanard	STAN-ard
• Davin Stoffel	DAV-inn STAW-ful
• Jack Thue	THEW-ee
• Chase Van Tol	van TOLL
• Hayden Venenga	VENN-en-gah
• Ethan Vibert	VY-bert
• Joseph Vieth	veeth
• Griffin Wilde	WILL-dee

PRESEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

LT	69	Quinten Christensen, 6-5, 300, So., Wessington Springs, S.D.
	62	Kenyon BigBow, 6-5, 295, R-Fr., Anadarko, Okla.
LG	64	Ethan Vibert, 6-4, 310, Sr., Regina, Saskatchewan
	77	William Paepke, 6-5, 295, R-Fr., Rapid City, S.D.
C	50	GUS MILLER, 6-3, 295, Sr., Brookings, S.D.
	58	Jackson Kerstin, 6-4, 280, R-Fr., Naperville, Ill.
RG	61	EVAN BEERNTSEN, 6-4, 300, Sr., De Pere, Wis.
	54	Jalen Lee, 6-3, 310, Sr., Robbins, Ill.
RT	76	Sam Hagen, 6-6, 315, Jr., Fordville, N.D.
	78	Marcus Hicks, 6-6, 320, Sr., Wichita, Kan.
TE (Y) or	87	Davin Stoffel, 6-6, 250, R-Fr., Mosinee, Wis.
	83	David Alpers, 6-6, 240, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	89	Brody Gormley, 6-7, 245, So., Topeka, Kan.
TE	88	Greyton Gannon, 6-4, 235, So., Eagle, Wis.
	44	Kevin Brenner, 6-3, 240, Sr., Silver Lake, Wis.
WR (X)	12	Grahm Goering, 6-2, 200, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa
	6	Elijah Ervin, 6-1, 195, Jr., Phoenix, Ariz.
WR (W)	15	Devon Cole Jr., 5-10, 185, Sr., Clermont, Fla.
	4	Kentrell Prejean, 5-8, 160, R-Fr., Lafayette, La.
WR (Z)	18	Griffin Wilde, 6-2, 200, So., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	2	Marcus Preston, 6-2, 200, Sr., Lawrence, Kan.
QB	11	MARK GRONOWSKI, 6-3, 225, Sr., Naperville, Ill.
	7	Chase Mason, 6-4, 230, Jr., Hurley, S.D.
	5	Jon Bell, 6-3 195, Jr., Naperville, Ill.
RB	3	Amar Johnson, 5-10, 200, Sr., O'Fallon, Mo.
	21	Angel Johnson, 5-9, 195, Jr., Irene, S.D.

Returning starters indicated in CAPS

DEFENSE

DE	95	Zac Wilson, 6-3, 245, Sr., Chipley, Fla.
	57	Levi Vanden Bos, 6-3, 250, Jr., Rock Valley, Iowa
NT	93	Max Baloun, 6-6, 285, Jr., Redfield, S.D.
	96	Bryce Hawthorne, 6-3, 285, R-Fr., Osseo, Minn.
or	51	Logan Green, 6-4, 290, So., Northboro, Iowa
DT	52	JAROD DePRIEST, 6-5, 285, Sr., Trivoli, Ill.
	94	Kobe Clayborne, 6-0, 275, Jr., Sioux City, Iowa
DE	99	Dawson Ripperda, 6-4, 245, So., Larchwood, Iowa
	90	Randy Keumonge, 6-2, 240, Sr., Oakdale, Minn.
or	97	Reis Kirschenman, 6-4, 245, R-Fr., Tea, S.D.
LB (Will)	29	Graham Spalding, 6-2, 210, Sr., Oviedo, Fla.
	40	Aaron Kusler, 6-3, 230, Sr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	33	Bryce Johnson, 6-3, 215, So., Parker, Colo.
or	15	Hudson Metcalf, 6-2, 215, Sr., Soldotna, Alaska
LB (Mike)	32	ADAM BOCK, 6-1, 225, Sr., Solon, Iowa
	11	Joe Ollman, 6-1, 225, So., Mequon, Wis.
or	5	Cullen McShane, 6-2, 230, So., Marquette, Iowa
LB (Sam) or	9	Caleb Francl, 6-1, 195, Sr., Grand Island, Neb.
	0	Daeton Mcgaughy, 6-0, 205, Sr., Elwood, Kan.
	28	Chase Van Tol, 6-1, 200, R-Fr., Tea, S.D.
LCB	7	DALYS BEANUM, 6-1, 200, Sr., Omaha, Neb.
	2	Myles Taylor, 6-1, 175, Jr., Gilbert, Ariz.
	13	Aydan Dautermann, 6-0, 185, Jr., Hartford, Wis.
FS	17	Abe Hoskins III, 6-1, 195, Sr., Omaha, Neb.
	1	TUCKER LARGE, 5-11, 185, Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	3	Dontay Johnson, 6-2, 185, R-Fr., Fort Collins, Colo.
SS	26	Kolten Tilford, 5-9, 180, R-Fr., North Platte, Neb.
	25	CALE REEDER, 6-0, 190, Sr., Yorkville, Ill.
	14	Colby Huerter, 6-1, 200, Jr., Katy, Texas
RCB or	23	Matthew Durrance, 6-2, 215, Jr., Lutz, Fla.
	4	Steven Arrell, 6-3, 195, Jr., Brooklyn Park, Minn.
	22	Colby Humphrey, 5-11, 185, Sr., Birmingham, Ala.
or	6	Jalen B. Lee, 6-0, 200, So., Wentzville, Mo.

SPECIAL TEAMS

PK	10	HUNTER DUSTMAN, 6-4, 225, Sr., East Bethel, Minn.	Holder	5	Jon Bell, 6-3 195, Jr., Naperville, Ill.
	99	Jack Stevens, 6-0, 160, Fr., North Augusta, S.C.		25	Cale Reeder, 6-0, 190, Sr., Yorkville, Ill.
P	10	HUNTER DUSTMAN, 6-4, 225, Sr., East Bethel, Minn.	KOR	12	Grahm Goering, 6-2, 200, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa
	41	Max Pelham, 6-1, 195, Jr., Ankeny, Iowa		21	Angel Johnson, 5-9, 190, So., Irene, S.D.
Long	37	KAYDON OLIVIA, 5-11, 215, Jr., Schertz, Texas	PR	1	TUCKER LARGE, 5-11, 185, Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.
	59	Carson Strohsbeen, 6-1, 210, R-Fr., Sioux City, Iowa		7	Dalys Beanum, 6-1, 200, Sr., Omaha, Neb.

MVFC PRESEASON POLL

South Dakota State has been picked as the prohibitive favorite to win a third consecutive Missouri Valley Football Conference title, according to the preseason poll released by league officials July 22.

The Jackrabbits, who went undefeated in league play each of the past two seasons en route to consecutive Football Championship Subdivision national titles, received 42 of 44 first-place votes and a total of 482 points. The poll was conducted among the league's 11 head coaches, sports information directors and a select media panel.

North Dakota State received one first-place vote and finished second in the poll with 437 points, followed by South Dakota with 371 points. Southern Illinois (293) and North Dakota (276) rounded out the top five. Illinois State (264), Youngstown State (255) and Northern Iowa (227) occupied spots six through eight, respectively, while Missouri State (164), Indiana State (68) and Murray State (67) closed out the poll. Missouri State, which will leave the league for the FBS ranks after the 2024 season, was awarded the final first-place vote.

In addition, 12 Jackrabbits combined for a league-best 15 berths on the Preseason All-MVFC Team.

Leading the contingent from SDSU was senior quarterback Mark Gronowski. The Naperville, Illinois, native shared MVFC Offensive Player of the Year honors and was selected as the 2023 winner of the Walter Payton Award as the top offensive player in the FCS after leading the subdivision in quarterback rating at 179.67. He completed 68.1 percent (209-of-307) of his passes for 3,058 yards and 29 touchdowns against only five interceptions, while adding 402 yards and eight scores on the ground.

Senior center Gus Miller also earned a spot on the first-team offense. The Brookings native was honored as the 2003 FCS recipient of the Rimington Award, which is given annually to the top center.

Defensively, four returning starters from a squad that surrendered an FCS-best 9.3 points per game, were named to the preseason first team. Up front, defensive tackle Jarod DePriest received early accolades as he looks to build off a 2023 season in which he tallied 20 tackles, including 1.5 sacks.

Veteran linebacker Adam Bock returned to the first team despite missing parts of the last two seasons due to injury. A senior from Solon, Iowa, Bock registered 65 tackles and a pair of sacks in 10 games last season.

The first-team secondary includes cornerback Dalys Beanum and safety Tucker Large. A senior from Omaha, Beanum led the team with five interceptions last season while also contributing a pair of pass breakups and 29 tackles.

Large was recognized for his playmaking ability both as a safety (first team) and return specialist (second team). A junior from Sioux Falls, Large recorded 49 tackles and ranked second on the squad with four interceptions. He also excelled as a punt returner, setting an SDSU single-game record with 159 yards versus Drake while averaging 18.9 yards per attempt during the 2023 season.

Amar Johnson also was recognized at two different positions. A first-team selection as an all-purpose back and a second-team running back, Johnson ranked second on the 2023 squad with 801 rushing yards, averaging 6.3 yards per attempt. He also tallied 282 yards on kickoff returns (23.5 yards per

MVFC PRESEASON POLL		
1.	South Dakota State [42]	482
2.	North Dakota State [1]	437
3.	South Dakota	371
4.	Southern Illinois	293
5.	North Dakota	276
6.	Illinois State	264
7.	Youngstown State	255
8.	Northern Iowa	227
9.	Missouri State [1]	164
10.	Indiana State	68
11.	Murray State	67

attempt) and caught 12 passes for 122 yards.

Other second-team selections on offense were senior offensive lineman Evan Beerntsen and sophomore wide receiver Griffin Wilde. Beerntsen has been a two-year starter at right guard, while Wilde is the team's top returning pass catcher after hauling in 20 receptions for 399 yards (20 ypr) and six touchdowns as a true freshman in 2023.

Senior safety Cale Reeder was the Jackrabbits' third preseason all-league pick from the secondary, receiving second-team honors after recording 58 tackles and an interception a season ago.

From the special teams unit, long snapper Kaydon Olivia and punter Hunter Dustman were second-team honorees. Dustman, who averaged 43.5 yards per punt in 2023, also was an honorable mention selection at kicker after making 18-of-24 field goals and an SDSU single-season record of 68 extra points for a team-best 122 points last season.

2024 FCS PRESEASON POLLS

STATS PERFORM

1. South Dakota State
2. North Dakota State
3. Montana
4. Montana State
5. South Dakota
6. Villanova
7. Idaho
8. Sacramento State
9. Chattanooga
10. Southern Illinois
11. Central Arkansas
12. Furman
13. Richmond
14. Incarnate Word
15. William & Mary
16. UAlbany
17. Lafayette
18. UC Davis
19. Illinois State
20. Western Carolina
21. Tarleton State
22. Weber State
23. Nicholls
24. North Dakota
25. Youngstown State

AFCA COACHES' POLL

1. South Dakota State
2. North Dakota State
3. Montana
4. Montana State
5. South Dakota
6. Villanova
7. Idaho
8. Chattanooga
9. Furman
10. Sacramento State
11. Southern Illinois
12. Richmond
13. Central Arkansas
14. UAlbany
15. Incarnate Word
16. William & Mary
17. UC Davis
18. Lafayette
19. Western Carolina
20. Illinois State
21. Tarleton State
22. North Dakota
23. Youngstown State
24. Nicholls
25. Florida A&M

HERO SPORTS

1. South Dakota State
2. North Dakota State
3. Montana
4. Montana State
5. South Dakota
6. Villanova
7. Idaho
8. Sacramento State
9. Southern Illinois
10. Chattanooga
11. Central Arkansas
12. Incarnate Word
13. Richmond
14. Furman
15. UAlbany
16. Western Carolina
17. William & Mary
18. Tarleton State
19. Delaware
20. Lafayette
21. UC Davis
22. Weber State
23. Youngstown State
24. Illinois State
25. Eastern Illinois

LINDY'S

1. South Dakota State
2. North Dakota State
3. Montana State
4. Villanova
5. South Dakota
6. Montana
7. Furman
8. Southern Illinois
9. Delaware
10. North Dakota
11. Richmond
12. Chattanooga
13. UAlbany
14. Lafayette
15. Idaho
16. Youngstown State
17. Sacramento State
18. Incarnate Word
19. Gardner-Webb
20. Florida A&M
21. Central Arkansas
22. Eastern Illinois
23. Western Carolina
24. Austin Peay
25. Mercer

Note: 2024 opponents in bold



2023 SEASON REVIEW

2023 STATISTICS

2023 TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	OPP
SCORING	560	139
Points Per Game	37.3	9.3
Points off Turnovers	115	16
FIRST DOWNS	328	224
Rushing	169	82
Passing	147	113
Penalty	12	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	3,415	1,344
Yards gained rushing	3,564	1,626
Yards lost rushing	149	282
Rushing Attempts	541	423
Average Per Rush	6.3	3.2
Average Per Game	227.7	89.6
TDs Rushing	38	6
PASSING YARDAGE	3,333	2,514
Comp-Att-Int	227-342-5	287-446-19
Average Per Pass	9.8	5.6
Average Per Catch	14.7	8.8
Average Per Game	222.2	167.6
TDs Passing	30	9
TOTAL OFFENSE	6,748	3,858
Total Plays	883	869
Average Per Play	7.6	4.4
Average Per Game	449.9	257.2
KICK RETURNS	19-422	39-672
PUNT RETURNS	28-486	11-44
INTERCEPTION RETURNS	19-214	5-38
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	22.2	17.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	17.4	4.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.3	7.6
FUMBLES-LOST	12-8	18-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	97-915	69-479
Average Per Game	6.5-61.0	4.6-31.9
PUNTS-YARDS	36-1,499	72-2,894
Average Per Punt	41.6	40.2
Net punt average	39.3	32.9
KICKOFFS-YARDS	105-6,423	40-2,414
Average Per Kick	61.2	60.4
Net kick average	47.2	41.8
POSSESSION TIME/GAME	31:35	28:25
3RD-DOWN ATTEMPTS	84-157	63-188
3rd-Down Pct	53.5%	33.5%
4TH-DOWN ATTEMPTS	9-11	13-26
4th-Down Pct	81.8%	50.0%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-177	11-72
MISC. YARDS	17	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	73	15
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	18-24	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	68-71	13-15
PAT Pct.	95.8%	86.7%
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-1
RED-ZONE SCORES	55-57	20-34
Red-Zone Pct	96.5%	58.8%
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	45-57	10-34
Red-Zone TD Pct	78.9%	29.4%
ATTENDANCE	141,898	38,960
Games/Avg Per Game	9/15,766	4/9,740
Neutral Site Games	—	2/18,843

2023 SCORES

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	OVERALL	CONF	TIME	ATTEND
Aug. 31	WESTERN OREGON	W, 45-7	1-0	0-0	2:54	16,258
Sept. 9	#3/3 MONTANA STATE	W, 20-16	2-0	0-0	3:07	19,332
Sept. 16	vs. Drake [at Minneapolis, Minn.]	W, 70-7	3-0	0-0	3:07	18,174
Sept. 30	*#11/12 NORTH DAKOTA	W, 42-21	4-0	1-0	3:05	19,231
Oct. 7	*at #22 Illinois State	W, 40-21	5-0	2-0	2:54	8,272
Oct. 14	*NORTHERN IOWA	W, 41-6	6-0	3-0	2:58	19,357
Oct. 21	*at #12/12 Southern Illinois	W, 17-10	7-0	4-0	3:05	11,927
Oct. 28	*at #4/9 South Dakota	W, 37-3	8-0	5-0	2:49	9,458
Nov. 4	*#10/11 NORTH DAKOTA STATE	W, 33-16	9-0	6-0	3:18	19,431
Nov. 11	*at #22 Youngstown State	W, 34-0	10-0	7-0	3:03	9,303
Nov. 18	*MISSOURI STATE	W, 35-17	11-0	8-0	2:53	15,637
Dec. 2	*#17/20 MERCER	W, 41-0	12-0	8-0	2:39	10,171
Dec. 9	*#6/9 VILLANOVA	W, 23-12	13-0	8-0	2:50	10,216
Dec. 15	*#9/15 UALBANY	W, 59-0	14-0	8-0	2:58	12,265
Jan. 7	*lvs. #2/2 Montana	W, 23-3	15-0	8-0	3:01	19,512

* indicates Missouri Valley Football Conference game

^ Football Championship Subdivision playoff game

! FCS Championship Game at Frisco, Texas

GAME SUPERLATIVES

TEAM GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 46, at Illinois State, 10-7-23
RUSHING YARDS: 374, at Illinois State, 10-7-23
YARDS PER RUSH: 10.9, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 5, vs. Drake, 9-16-23, and vs. North Dakota, 9-30-23
PASS ATTEMPTS: 33, at Youngstown State, 11-11-23
PASS COMPLETIONS: 22, at Youngstown State, 11-11-23
YARDS PASSING: 336, vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
YARDS PER PASS: 16.0, vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
PASSING TOUCHDOWNS: 5, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
TOTAL PLAYS: 66, vs. Mercer, 12-2-2023
TOTAL OFFENSE: 618 yards, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
YARDS PER PLAY: 10.5, vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23

POINTS: 70, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
FIRST DOWNS: 29, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
SACKS BY: 5, vs. Montana, 1-7-24
PENALTIES: 13, at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23
PENALTY YARDS: 125, at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23
TURNOVERS BY: 2, three times (last: vs. Montana, 1-7-24)
TURNOVERS FORCED: 5, vs. Northern Iowa, 10-14-23
INTERCEPTIONS: 3, vs. Western Oregon, 8-31-23, and vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
PASS BREAKUPS: 5, at South Dakota, 10-28-23
FUMBLE RECOVERIES: 3, vs. Northern Iowa, 10-14-23
PUNTS: 6, vs. Montana, 1-7-24
TIME OF POSSESSION: 35:59, at South Dakota, 10-28-23

INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

RUSHING ATTEMPTS: 27, by Isaiah Davis, vs. Villanova, 11-9-23
RUSHING YARDS: 197, by Isaiah Davis, at Illinois State, 10-7-23
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS: 3, by Isaiah Davis, vs. North Dakota, 9-30-23, and vs. Mercer, 12-2-23
LONG RUSH: 80 yards (for TD), by Angel Johnson, vs. Mercer, 12-2-23
PASS ATTEMPTS: 35, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
PASS COMPLETIONS: 21, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Northern Iowa, 10-14-23
YARDS PASSING: 323, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
TOUCHDOWN PASSES: 5, by Mark Gronowski, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
RECEPTIONS: 10, by Jadon Janke, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
YARDS RECEIVING: 187, by Jadon Janke, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS: 2, three times by Jadon Janke (last: at Youngstown State, 11-11-23), and twice by Zach Heins (last: vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23)
LONG RECEPTION: 71 yards (for TD), by Griffin Wilde (from Chase Mason), vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
TACKLES: 11, by Saiveon Williamson, at Illinois State, 10-7-23; by Adam Bock, vs. Villanova, 12-9-23, and vs. Montana, 1-7-24
TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2.0, by Isaiah Stalbird, vs.

Northern Iowa, 10-14-23, and by Ryan Van Marel, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
SACKS: 1.5, four times (twice by Quinton Hicks; last: 1-7-24 vs. Montana)
INTERCEPTIONS: 1, 19 times by 10 different players (five times by Dalys Beanum)
LONG INTERCEPTION RETURN: 64 yards (for TD), by Tucker Large, vs. Western Oregon, 8-31-23
PASS BREAKUPS: 3, by Tucker Large, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
FIELD GOALS: 4, by Hunter Dustman, vs. North Dakota State, 11-4-23
LONG FIELD GOAL: 49 yards, by Hunter Dustman, at South Dakota, 10-28-23
PUNTS: 6, by Hunter Dustman, vs. Montana, 1-7-24
PUNTING AVERAGE (MIN. 3 PUNTS): 54.2 yards (4 punts), by Hunter Dustman, at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23
LONG PUNT: 62 yards, by Hunter Dustman, at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23
KICKOFF RETURNS: 3, by Amar Johnson, vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
KICK RETURN YARDS: 73, by Amar Johnson, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
LONG KICK RETURN: 51 yards, by Amar Johnson, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
PUNT RETURNS: 4, by Tucker Large, vs. Drake, 9-16-23
PUNT RETURN YARDS: 149, by Tucker Large, vs. Drake, 9-16-23 [school record]
LONG PUNT RETURN: 79 yards (for TD), by Tucker Large, vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23

2023 STATISTICS

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	OT	TOT
South Dakota State	134	183	123	120	—	560
Opponents	26	42	14	57	—	139

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	GP	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	YPC	TD	LG	YPG
Isaiah Davis	15	236	1,600	22	1,578	6.7	18	*66	105.2
Amar Johnson	15	128	815	14	801	6.3	4	54	53.4
Mark Gronowski	15	93	475	73	402	4.3	8	33	26.8
Angel Johnson	13	43	399	18	381	8.9	5	*80	29.3
Chase Mason	9	16	187	3	184	11.5	2	*69	20.4
Jaxon Janke	14	2	34	0	34	17.0	0	25	2.4
Kirby Vorhees	4	5	17	0	17	3.4	0	8	4.3
Jadon Janke	13	2	11	0	11	5.5	1	7	0.9
Isaac Krael	1	2	11	0	11	5.5	0	10	11.0
Jon Bell	15	3	13	7	6	2.0	0	11	0.4
TEAM	15	11	2	12	-10	-0.9	0	2	-0.7
Total	15	541	3,564	149	3,415	6.3	38	*80	227.7
Opponents	15	423	1,626	282	1,344	3.2	6	*37	89.6

*denotes touchdown

PASSING	GP	EFFIC.	COMP-ATT-INT	PCT.	Yds	TD	LG	YPG
Mark Gronowski	15	179.67	209-307-5	68.1	3,058	29	60	203.9
Chase Mason	9	160.49	16-26-0	61.5	267	1	71	29.7
Jon Bell	15	30.08	1-5-0	20.0	6	0	6	0.4
Jaxon Janke	14	116.80	1-1-0	100.0	2	0	2	0.1
Isaiah Davis	15	0.0	0-2-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM	15	0.0	0-1-0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	15	174.26	227-342-5	66.4	3,333	30	71	222.2
Opponents	15	109.84	287-446-19	64.4	2,514	9	66	167.6

----- PATs -----									
SCORING	TD	FG	KICK	RUSH	Rcv	PASS	DXP	SAF	PTS
Hunter Dustman	0	18-24	68-70	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	122
Isaiah Davis	19	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0-0	0	0	114
Jadon Janke	10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	60
Mark Gronowski	9	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0-0	0	0	54
Zach Heins	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	42
Griffin Wilde	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	36
Jaxon Janke	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-1	0	0	30
Angel Johnson	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	30
Amar Johnson	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	24
Tucker Large	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Chase Mason	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	12
Kevin Brenner	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Matthew Durrance	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Jason Freeman	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
Colby Huerter	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	6
TEAM	0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	0
Total	73	18-24	68-71	0-1	0	0-1	0	0	560
Opponents	15	12-17	13-15	0-0	0	0-0	0	0	139

FIELD GOALS	FGM-FGA	Pct.	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LG	Blk
Hunter Dustman	18-24	75.0	1-1	5-5	4-5	8-12	0-1	49	1
Total	18-24	75.0	1-1	5-5	4-5	8-12	0-1	49	1
Opponents	12-17	70.6	0-2	4-6	3-4	4-4	1-1	50	2

TOP OFFENSIVE PERFORMANCES

100-YARD RUSHING GAMES (10)

- Isaiah Davis • vs. North Dakota, 9-30-23
 - 16 carries, 132 yards, 3 TD
- Isaiah Davis • at Illinois State, 10-7-23
 - 20 carries, 197 yards, 2 TD
- Amar Johnson • at Illinois State, 10-7-23
 - 11 carries, 106 yards
- Isaiah Davis • vs. Northern Iowa, 10-14-23
 - 17 carries, 103 yards, 1 TD
- Isaiah Davis • vs. North Dakota State, 11-4-23
 - 17 carries, 106 yards, 1 TD
- Isaiah Davis • at Youngstown State, 11-11-23
 - 19 carries, 130 yards, 1 TD
- Isaiah Davis • vs. Mercer, 12-2-23
 - 16 carries, 117 yards, 3 TD
- Amar Johnson • vs. Mercer, 12-2-23
 - 11 carries, 107 yards
- Isaiah Davis • vs. Villanova, 12-9-23
 - 27 carries, 192 yards, 1 TD
- Isaiah Davis • vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
 - 15 carries, 107 yards, 2 TD

100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES (4)

- Jadon Janke • at Youngstown State, 11-11-23
 - 7 receptions, 166 yards, 2 TD
- Jadon Janke • vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
 - 10 receptions, 187 yards, 1 TD
- Jaxon Janke • vs. Mercer, 12-2-23
 - 7 receptions, 106 yards, 1 TD
- Jadon Janke • vs. UAlbany, 12-15-23
 - 6 receptions, 151 yards, 1 TD

300-YARD PASSING GAMES (1)

- Mark Gronowski • vs. Missouri State, 11-18-23
 - 16-of-23, 323 yards, 2 TD

2023 STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds	YPC	TD	LG	YPG
Jadon Janke	13	57	946	16.6	10	56	72.8
Jaxon Janke	14	51	818	16.0	5	60	58.4
Zach Heins	15	27	410	15.2	7	34	27.3
Isaiah Davis	15	23	199	8.7	1	23	13.3
Griffin Wilde	15	20	399	20.0	6	71	26.6
Grahm Goering	13	13	171	13.2	0	40	13.2
Amar Johnson	15	12	122	10.2	0	17	8.1
Mike Morgan	14	9	95	19.6	0	24	6.8
Angel Johnson	13	5	50	10.0	0	23	3.9
Devon Cole Jr.	10	4	68	17.0	0	32	6.8
Kevin Brenner	15	2	18	9.0	1	15	1.2
Marcus Preston	11	1	20	20.0	0	20	1.8
Greyton Gannon	10	1	11	11.0	0	11	1.1
Kentrell Prejean	3	1	4	4.0	0	4	1.3
Mark Gronowski	15	1	2	2.0	0	2	0.1
Total	15	227	3,333	14.7	30	*71	222.2
Opponents	15	287	2,514	8.8	9	66	167.6

TOTAL OFFENSE	GP	PLAYS	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	YPG
Mark Gronowski	15	400	402	3,058	3,460	230.7
Isaiah Davis	15	238	1,578	0	1,578	105.2
Amar Johnson	15	128	801	0	801	53.4
Chase Mason	9	42	184	267	451	50.1
Angel Johnson	13	43	381	0	381	29.3
Jaxon Janke	14	3	34	2	36	2.6
Kirby Vorhees	4	5	17	0	17	4.3
Jon Bell	15	8	6	6	12	0.8
Isaac Kracl	1	2	11	0	11	11.0
Jadon Janke	13	2	11	0	11	0.9
TEAM	15	12	-10	0	-10	-0.7
Total	15	883	3,415	3,333	6,748	449.9
Opponents	15	869	1,344	2,514	3,858	257.2

ALL-PURPOSE	GP	RUSH	REC	PR	KR	IR	TOTAL	YPG
Isaiah Davis	15	1,578	199	0	0	0	1,777	118.5
Amar Johnson	15	801	122	0	282	0	1,205	80.3
Jadon Janke	13	11	946	0	0	0	957	73.6
Jaxon Janke	14	34	818	0	0	0	852	60.9
Griffin Wilde	15	0	399	0	100	0	499	33.3
Tucker Large	15	0	0	396	0	81	477	31.8
Angel Johnson	13	381	50	0	0	0	431	33.2
Zach Heins	15	0	410	0	0	0	410	27.3
Mark Gronowski	15	402	2	0	0	0	404	26.9
Grahm Goering	13	0	171	0	26	0	197	15.2
Chase Mason	9	184	0	0	0	0	184	20.4
Devon Cole Jr.	10	0	68	24	0	0	92	9.2
Dalys Beanum	15	0	0	11	0	66	77	5.1
Matthew Durrance	15	0	0	55	0	0	55	3.7
Colby Huerter	15	0	0	0	0	54	54	3.6
Kevin Brenner	15	0	18	0	14	0	32	2.1
Marcus Preston	11	0	20	0	0	0	20	1.8
Kirby Vorhees	4	17	0	0	0	0	17	4.3
Isaac Kracl	1	11	0	0	0	0	11	11.0
Greyton Gannon	10	0	11	0	0	0	11	1.1
Graham Spalding	15	0	0	0	0	9	9	0.6
Jon Bell	15	6	0	0	0	0	6	0.4
Kentrell Prejean	3	0	4	0	0	0	4	1.3
DyShawn Gales	15	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.3
TEAM	15	-10	0	0	0	0	-10	-0.67
Total	15	3,415	3,333	486	422	214	4,870	524.7
Opponents	15	1,344	2,514	44	672	38	4,612	307.5

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
Tucker Large	21	396	18.9	1	*79
Matthew Durrance	2	55	27.5	1	*45
Devon Cole Jr.	1	24	24.0	0	24
Dalys Beanum	3	11	3.7	0	6
Kevin Brenner	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	28	486	17.4	2	*79
Opponents	11	44	4.0	0	15

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
Amar Johnson	12	282	23.5	0	51
Griffin Wilde	4	10	25.0	0	40
Grahm Goering	2	26	13.0	0	30
Kevin Brenner	1	14	14.0	0	14
Total	19	422	22.2	0	51
Opponents	39	672	17.2	0	77

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
Dalys Beanum	5	66	13.2	0	35
Tucker Large	4	81	20.3	1	*64
DyShawn Gales	2	4	2.0	0	4
Jason Freeman	2	0	0.0	0	0
Colby Huerter	1	54	54.0	1	*54
Graham Spalding	1	9	9.0	0	9
Aydan Dautermann	1	0	0.0	0	0
Cale Reeder	1	0	0.0	0	0
Isaiah Stalbird	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kolten Tilford	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	19	214	11.3	2	*64
Opponents	5	38	7.6	0	25

FUMBLE RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LG
Jason Freeman	1	34	34.0	1	*34
Ryan Van Marel	1	12	12.0	0	12
Total	2	46	23.0	1	*34
Opponents	1	0	0.0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg.	LONG	TB	FC	I20	50+	BLK
Hunter Dustman	34	1,479	43.5	62	3	10	18	10	0
Mark Gronowski	1	20	20.0	20	0	0	1	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	36	1,499	41.6	62	2	10	19	10	1
Opponents	72	2,894	40.2	71	2	14	15	13	1

KICKOFFS	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	OB
Hunter Dustman	100	6,110	61.1	38	3
Jackson Isakson	5	313	62.6	2	2
Total	105	6,423	61.2	40	5
Opponents	40	2,414	60.4	16	4

FG SEQUENCE	SDSU	OPP
Western Oregon	(32), 38	-
Montana State	-	(27),(19),(24)
Drake	-	47
North Dakota	-	-
Illinois State	41	-
Northern Iowa	(42),(42)	(38),(43)
Southern Illinois	48,(44)	(39)
South Dakota	(49),(22),(47)	(50)
North Dakota State	(31),(21),(44),(26)	(27),50,37
Youngstown State	(33),(43),47	29
Missouri State	(22),(45),(35)	-
Mercer	-	(27),40,(39)
Villanova	42,(29),(23)	52,39
UAlbany	(21)	(37),(36)
Montana	(30)	-

Numbers in parentheses indicate field goal attempt was made

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

No.	PLAYER	GP	[----TACKLES-----]				TFL-Yds	[SACKS-]	[---PASS DEF---]		QBH	[FUMBLES-]		BLKD
			SOLO	ASST	TOT	No.-Yds		INT-Yds	PBU	Rcv-Yds		FF	KICK	
11	Jason Freeman	15	48	57	105	5.0-13	0.5-4	2-0	4	2		3-34		
2	Isaiah Stalbird	15	48	32	80	6.5-30	3.0-25	1-0	5			1-0	3	
32	Adam Bock	10	35	30	65	2.5-12	2.0-11			1				
6	Saiveon Williamson	14	23	36	59	3.0-8	0.5-1		1	2			2	
25	Cale Reeder	15	32	26	58	0.5-1		1-0					1	
1	Tucker Large	15	30	19	49	1.0-7		4-81	9					
5	DyShawn Gales	15	29	15	44	2.0-2	0.5-1	2-4	3			1-0		
14	Colby Huerter	15	22	20	42	3.0-4		1-54	1				1	
29	Graham Spalding	15	22	13	35	1.0-0		1-9	1					
48	Quinton Hicks	15	12	18	30	7.5-45	5.5-42			4			1	
7	Dalys Beanum	15	15	14	29			5-66	7					
9	Caleb Franci	14	14	12	26	1.5-2						2-0		
23	Matthew Durrance	15	14	11	25									1
98	Ryan Van Marel	15	12	12	24	7.0-21	2.0-7			1		2-12		2
0	Daeton Mcgaughy	12	16	7	23	2.0-6			2					
94	Cade Terveer	15	9	13	22	9.0-41	7.5-37			1			1	
52	Jarod DePriest	15	8	12	20	1.5-13	1.5-13		2	3				1
53	Caden Johnson	14	7	12	19	3.0-14	0.5-3		1	3				
31	Jalen B. Lee	15	14	4	18				1					
4	Steven Arrell	6	10	4	14							1-0	1	
92	Brian Williams	14	9	5	14	3.5-8	0.5-2		1	2			2	
40	Aaron Kusler	15	7	6	13	0.5-0	0.5-0			1				
46	Cullen McShane	13	5	7	12								1	
93	Max Baloun	15	6	6	12	3.0-4				1				
20	Myles Taylor	9	5	5	10				2					
95	Zac Wilson	14	2	6	8	2.5-18	2.0-17			1				
55	Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten	9	4	3	7	2.5-11	2.0-11			1				
13	Aydan Dautermann	14	4	3	7			1-0	1					
3	Dontay Johnson	8	4	3	7									
8	Blake Peterson	7	3	3	6	2.0-4				1				
57	Levi Vanden Bos	10	3	3	6	2.0-6				2				
96	Bryce Hawthorne	3	4	1	5	1.0-3								
27	Noah Thompson	4	3	1	4									
41	Joe Ollman	11	1	2	3									
33	Bryce Johnson	15	2	1	3									
90	Randy Keumogne	6		3	3	1.0-4	0.5-3							
30	Cody Cotton	4	1	1	2									
17	Abe Hoskins III	9	2		2									
44	Kevin Brenner	15	2		2									
51	Logan Green	15	1	1	2	1.0-4				1			1	
2	Marcus Preston	11	1		1									
26	Kolten Tilford	4	1		1			1-0						
28	Chase Van Tol	4	1		1									
99	Dawson Ripperda	8		1	1									
89	Brody Gormley	5	1		1									
21	Angel Johnson	13		1	1									
12	Grahm Goering	13		1	1									
43	Adam Kusler	1	1		1									
87	Zach Heins	15	1		1									
1	Jadon Janke	13	1		1									
Total		15	495	430	925	75.0-281	29.0-177	19-214	41	27		10-46	14	4
Opponents		15	474	482	956	41.0-147	11.0-72	5-38	29	19		8-0	8	2

TOP DEFENSIVE PERFORMANCES

DOUBLE-DIGIT TACKLES (9)

Colby Huerter • vs. Montana State, 9-9-23

• 10 tackles (5 solos, 5 assists)

Saiveon Williamson • vs. Montana State, 9-9-23

• 10 tackles (4 solos, 6 assists)

Adam Bock • vs. North Dakota, 9-30-23

• 10 tackles (5 solos, 5 assists, 1 sack, 1.5 TFLs)

Saiveon Williamson • at Illinois State, 10-7-23

• 11 tackles (2 solos, 9 assists, 1 FF)

Cale Reeder • at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23

• 10 tackles (7 solos, 3 assists, 0.5 TFL, 1 FF)

Jason Freeman • at Southern Illinois, 10-21-23

• 10 tackles (2 solos, 8 assists, 0.5 sack, 1.5 TFLs)

Jason Freeman • vs. North Dakota State, 11-4-23

• 12 tackles (5 solos, 7 assists, 1.5 TFLs, 1 INT)

Adam Bock • vs. Villanova, 12-9-23

• 11 tackles (5 solos, 6 assists)

Adam Bock • vs. Montana, 1-7-24

• 11 tackles (7 solos, 4 assists)

2023 STATISTICS

GAME-BY-GAME COMPARISON

	----FIRST DOWNS----					--RUSHING--	--PASSING--		-TOTAL OFFENSE-		
OPPONENT	SCORE	TOTAL	RUSH	PASS	PEN	NUMBER-YARDS	COMP-ATT-INT	YARDS	PLAYS-YARDS	RETURN Yds	TURNOVERS
Western Oregon	45-7	21 / 13	11/5	8/4	2/4	34-209 / 29-102	14-23-0 / 14-25-3	194 / 107	57-403 / 54-209	198 / 33	0 / 3
Montana State	20-16	20 / 17	9/11	10/3	1/3	29-157 / 48-211	13-22-0 / 9-15-1	184 / 87	51-341 / 63-298	0 / 96	1 / 1
Drake	70-7	28 / 10	3/3	14/6	0/0	33-359 / 27-47	21-30-1 / 20-34-0	259 / 220	63-618 / 61-267	252 / 48	1 / 0
North Dakota	42-21	26 / 17	13/5	12/9	1/3	37-266 / 26-68	13-22-0 / 25-33-0	167 / 166	59-433 / 59-234	76 / 30	0 / 0
Illinois State	40-21	25 / 18	19/4	5/10	1/4	46-374 / 21-122	12-18-0 / 27-34-0	173 / 171	64-547 / 55-293	34 / 42	1 / 2
Northern Iowa	41-6	21 / 14	8/4	13/8	0/2	36-169 / 26-40	21-26-0 / 18-26-2	291 / 224	62-460 / 52-264	26 / 27	2 / 5
Southern Illinois	17-10	15 / 20	8/5	7/10	0/5	32-147 / 32-83	15-22-1 / 20-24-1	161 / 225	54-308 / 56-308	87 / 16	1 / 2
South Dakota	37-3	25 / 13	15/6	9/7	1/0	42-266 / 21-50	13-21-1 / 17-31-2	207 / 133	63-473 / 52-183	18 / 18	1 / 2
North Dakota State	33-16	17 / 19	8/11	8/8	1/0	33-152 / 35-158	12-19-0 / 18-29-2	213 / 167	52-365 / 64-325	54 / 95	0 / 3
Youngstown State	34-0	22 / 16	7/4	15/8	0/4	29-166 / 25-47	22-33-0 / 18-30-1	324 / 160	62-490 / 55-207	46 / 21	0 / 1
Missouri State	35-17	29 / 15	12/4	14/10	3/1	39-154 / 22-82	16-23-0 / 23-35-0	323 / 261	62-477 / 57-343	74 / 17	1 / 0
Mercer	41-0	24 / 6	14/3	9/2	1/1	44-346 / 23-76	15-22-1 / 14-22-2	225 / 75	66-571 / 45-151	17 / 77	2 / 2
Villanova	23-12	16 / 10	12/6	4/4	0/0	41-242 / 35-145	11-19-0 / 6-18-1	101 / 74	60-343 / 53-219	67 / 52	1 / 1
UAlbany	59-0	22 / 19	11/4	11/14	0/1	32-220 / 23-66	16-21-0 / 30-44-3	336 / 232	53-556 / 67-298	139 / 22	0 / 4
Montana	23-3	17 / 17	8/6	8/10	1/1	34-188 / 30-47	13-21-1 / 28-46-1	175 / 212	55-363 / 76-259	70 / 145	2 / 3
Totals	560-139	328 / 224	169/82	147/113	12/29	541-3,415 / 423-1,344	227-342-5 / 287-446-19	3,333 / 2,514	883-6,748 / 869-3,858	1,158 / 739	13 / 29

MISCELLANEOUS GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Western Oregon	5-9	1-1	1-2	1-3	2-3
Montana State	5-9	1-2	2-3	2-2	0-2
Drake	6-8	2-3	2-2	2-2	0-1
North Dakota	6-8	1-1	3-4	1-2	1-1
Illinois State	7-11	3-3	1-2	2-4	1-2
Northern Iowa	7-11	2-2	0-2	4-4	1-3
Southern Illinois	4-12	0-2	2-4	1-2	1-4
South Dakota	7-10	0-1	3-3	1-3	3-3
North Dakota State	6-13	2-3	1-3	1-2	2-5
Youngstown State	6-13	1-4	3-4	0-2	2-3
Missouri State	3-8	0-0	0-2	2-4	1-2
Mercer	9-14	2-4	3-3	3-4	1-3
Villanova	4-12	2-4	0-4	1-2	1-2
UAlbany	5-8	3-3	1-2	0-1	1-2
Montana	4-11	2-2	0-2	2-4	0-3
Totals	84-157	22-35	22-42	23-41	17-39
	53.5%	62.9%	52.4%	56.1%	43.6%
Opponents	63-187	13-40	19-56	14-45	17-46
	33.7%	32.5%	33.9%	31.1%	37.0%

TIME OF POSSESSION

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Western Oregon	29:55	8:05	5:48	6:02	10:00
Montana State	24:37	5:16	4:43	4:11	10:27
Drake	27:49	5:52	8:50	7:56	5:11
North Dakota	30:21	8:45	9:44	6:25	5:27
Illinois State	35:45	8:49	8:11	9:55	8:50
Northern Iowa	35:23	8:23	8:38	9:37	8:45
Southern Illinois	31:50	4:44	8:00	9:03	10:03
South Dakota	35:59	4:34	11:20	8:50	11:15
North Dakota State	29:42	6:58	7:06	6:30	9:08
Youngstown State	33:31	8:40	9:10	5:48	9:53
Missouri State	33:55	6:05	10:21	9:31	7:58
Mercer	35:26	4:54	13:40	8:36	8:16
Villanova	31:27	7:34	6:26	5:45	11:42
UAlbany	27:48	9:26	7:17	2:50	8:15
Montana	30:10	6:52	5:49	8:56	8:33
Totals	487:56	127:15	117:30	119:58	123:13
Avg.	32:31	8:29	7:50	7:59	8:12
Opponents	412:04	97:45	107:30	105:02	101:47
Avg.	27:28	6:31	7:10	7:00	6:47

FOURTH-DOWN CONVERSIONS

OPPONENT	OVERALL	1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR
Western Oregon	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0
Montana State	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Drake	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
North Dakota	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0
Illinois State	1-2	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-1
Northern Iowa	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Southern Illinois	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1
South Dakota	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
North Dakota State	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Youngstown State	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Missouri State	2-2	0-0	1-1	1-1	0-0
Mercer	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0
Villanova	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0
UAlbany	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Montana	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Totals	9-11	3-3	3-3	2-3	1-2
	81.8%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%	50.0%
Opponents	13-26	4-5	4-6	2-6	3-9
	50.0%	80.0%	66.7%	33.3%	33.3%

PENALTIES

OPPONENT	SDSU	OPP
Western Oregon	9-81	3-32
Montana State	7-75	12-80
Drake	5-65	6-36
North Dakota	6-68	3-17
Illinois State	9-90	3-15
Northern Iowa	6-47	2-15
Southern Illinois	13-125	7-45
South Dakota	6-35	4-28
North Dakota State	4-40	2-20
Youngstown State	12-119	4-25
Missouri State	4-40	8-65
Mercer	3-25	3-27
Villanova	4-40	2-20
UAlbany	4-40	4-20
Montana	6-35	6-34
Totals	98-925	69-479

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSE

Opponent	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	WR	WR/TE	WR/TE/RB	QB	RB
Western Ore.	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Goering	Am. Johnson	Gronowski	Davis
Montana State	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Am. Johnson	Gronowski	Davis
Drake	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Goering	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
North Dakota	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Preston	Gronowski	Davis
Illinois State	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Wilde	Gronowski	Davis
Northern Iowa	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
Southern Illinois	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Wilde	Gronowski	Davis
South Dakota	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
N. Dakota State	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Wilde	Gronowski	Davis
Youngstown St.	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Wilde	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
Missouri State	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
Mercer	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Goering	Gronowski	Davis
Villanova	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Goering	Gronowski	Davis
UAlbany	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis
Montana	Greenfield	McCormick	Miller	Beerntsen	O'Brian	Heins	Jax. Janke	Jad. Janke	Morgan	Gronowski	Davis

DEFENSE

Opponent	DE	DT	NT	DE	WLB	MLB	SLB	CB	SS	FS	CB
Western Ore.	Hicks	Williams	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Huerter	Large	Gales
Montana State	Hicks	Williams	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Drake	Hicks	Williams	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
North Dakota	C. Johnson	Williams	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Illinois State	Hicks	Williams	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Northern Iowa	Hicks	Williams	Van Marel	C. Johnson	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Southern Illinois	Hicks	Williams	Baloun	C. Johnson	Freeman	Williamson	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
South Dakota	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
N. Dakota State	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Youngstown St.	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Missouri State	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Mercer	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Villanova	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
UAlbany	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales
Montana	Hicks	DePriest	Van Marel	Terveer	Freeman	Bock	Stalbird	Beanum	Reeder	Large	Gales

JACKRABBITS IN THE NCAA STATISTICS

TEAM (top 10)

- First in third-down conversion percentage – .535
- First in fourth-down conversion percentage – .818
- First in first downs offense – 328
- First in red-zone defense – .588
- First in red-zone offense – .965
- First in scoring defense – 9.3 points per game
- First in fewest tackles for loss allowed – 2.73 per game
- First in team passing efficiency – 174.26
- First in total defense – 257.2 yards per game
- First in turnovers gained – 29
- Second in passes intercepted – 19
- Second in rushing defense – 89.6 yards per game
- Fifth in rushing offense – 227.7 yards per game
- Sixth in passing yards per completion – 14.68
- Sixth in punt returns – 17.63 yards per attempt
- Sixth in punt return defense – 2.90 yards per attempt
- Sixth in fewest sacks allowed – 0.73 per game
- Sixth in scoring offense – 37.3 points per game
- Sixth in total offense – 449.9 yards per game
- Sixth in turnover margin – +1.07 per game
- Eighth in passing yards allowed – 167.6 yards per game
- Ninth in fewest passes had intercepted – 5

INDIVIDUAL (top 10)

ISAIAH DAVIS

- First in rushing yards – 1,578
- First in rushing touchdowns – 18
- First in total touchdowns – 19
- 10th in rushing yards per game – 105.2

JASON FREEMAN

- Third in fumble recoveries – 3

MARK GRONOWSKI

- First in passing efficiency, 179.7
- Second in passing touchdowns – 29
- Second in yards per pass attempt – 9.96
- Third in points responsible for – 228
- Fifth in passing yards per completion – 14.63
- Seventh in passing yards – 3,058
- Ninth in completion percentage – .681

JADON JANKE

- Ninth in receiving touchdowns – 9

TUCKER LARGE

- Third in punt returns – 18.9 yards per attempt

2023 MVFC STANDINGS AND TEAM STATS

SCORING OFFENSE

TEAM	G	Pts	Avg
North Dakota State	15	572	38.1
South Dakota State	15	560	37.3
Illinois State	11	361	32.8
Youngstown State	13	416	32.0
North Dakota	12	377	31.4
Missouri State	11	328	29.8
Northern Iowa	11	288	26.2
Southern Illinois	13	332	25.5
South Dakota	13	312	24.0
Murray State	11	183	16.6
Indiana State	11	148	13.5
Western Illinois	11	138	12.6

SCORING DEFENSE

TEAM	G	Pts	Avg
South Dakota State	15	139	9.3
Southern Illinois	13	210	16.2
South Dakota	13	230	17.7
North Dakota State	15	299	19.9
Illinois State	11	225	20.5
Youngstown State	13	330	25.4
North Dakota	12	315	26.3
Northern Iowa	11	293	26.6
Indiana State	11	330	30.0
Missouri State	11	333	30.3
Murray State	11	383	34.8
Western Illinois	11	509	46.3

TOTAL OFFENSE

TEAM	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	Avg/G
South Dakota State	3,415	3,333	6,748	449.9
North Dakota State	3,560	2,978	6,538	435.9
Illinois State	2,179	2,599	4,778	434.4
Youngstown State	2,137	3,196	5,333	410.2
Missouri State	1,106	3,303	4,409	400.9
Northern Iowa	1,248	2,950	4,198	381.6
North Dakota	1,876	2,484	4,360	363.3
South Dakota	1,877	2,627	4,504	346.5
Southern Illinois	1,531	2,910	4,441	341.6
Murray State	1,270	1,939	3,209	291.7
Indiana State	1,324	1,582	2,906	264.2
Western Illinois	524	2,022	2,546	231.5

TOTAL DEFENSE

TEAM	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	Avg/G
South Dakota State	1,344	2,514	3,858	257.2
Southern Illinois	1,244	2,446	3,670	282.3
North Dakota State	1,748	2,791	4,539	302.6
South Dakota	1,852	2,351	4,203	323.3
Illinois State	1,460	2,114	3,574	324.9
Northern Iowa	1,063	2,639	3,702	336.6
Youngstown State	1,329	3,127	4,456	342.8
Indiana State	1,701	2,449	4,150	377.3
North Dakota	1,864	2,806	4,670	377.3
Missouri State	1,904	2,777	4,681	425.6
Murray State	2,361	2,352	4,713	428.5
Western Illinois	2,623	2,634	5,257	477.9

RUSHING OFFENSE

TEAM	ATT	YARDS	TD	Avg/G
North Dakota State	617	3,560	47	237.3
South Dakota State	541	3,415	38	227.7
Illinois State	378	2,179	26	198.1
Youngstown State	490	2,137	27	164.4
North Dakota	399	1,876	30	156.3
South Dakota	413	1,877	23	144.4

2023 MVFC STANDINGS

SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	PF	PA	OVERALL	PF	PA
South Dakota State	8-0	279	94	15-0	560	139
South Dakota	7-1	192	120	10-3	312	230
North Dakota State	5-3	269	166	11-4	572	299
Youngstown State	5-3	241	205	8-5	416	330
North Dakota	5-3	232	202	7-5	377	315
Northern Iowa	5-3	221	212	6-5	288	293
Southern Illinois	4-4	191	131	8-5	332	210
Illinois State	4-4	259	194	6-5	361	225
Missouri State	3-5	221	233	4-7	328	333
Murray State	1-7	128	282	2-9	183	383
Indiana State	1-7	134	217	1-10	148	330
Western Illinois	0-8	60	371	0-11	138	509

Indiana State	390	1,324	8	120.4	Youngstown State	229	3,127	27	240.5
Southern Illinois	423	1,531	23	117.8	Missouri State	233	2,777	20	252.5
Murray State	355	1,270	7	115.5					
Northern Iowa	363	1,248	16	113.5					
Missouri State	305	1,106	12	100.6					
Western Illinois	344	524	5	47.6					

RUSHING DEFENSE

TEAM	ATT	YARDS	TD	Avg/G
South Dakota State	423	1,344	6	89.6
Southern Illinois	444	1,224	14	94.2
Northern Iowa	328	1,063	16	96.6
Youngstown State	332	1,329	16	102.2
North Dakota State	450	1,748	18	116.5
Illinois State	419	1,460	14	132.7
South Dakota	470	1,852	15	142.5
Indiana State	376	1,701	19	154.6
North Dakota	417	1,864	24	155.3
Missouri State	380	1,904	21	173.1
Murray State	413	2,361	29	214.6
Western Illinois	404	2,623	39	238.5

PASSING OFFENSE

TEAM	COMP	YARDS	TD	Avg/G
Missouri State	249	3,303	29	300.3
Northern Iowa	211	2,950	17	268.2
Youngstown State	270	3,196	24	245.9
Illinois State	269	2,599	21	236.3
Southern Illinois	252	2,910	18	223.9
South Dakota State	227	3,333	30	222.2
North Dakota	225	2,484	20	207.0
South Dakota	194	2,627	15	202.1
North Dakota State	226	2,978	22	198.5
Western Illinois	208	2,022	13	183.8
Murray State	167	1,939	14	176.3
Indiana State	142	1,582	7	143.8

PASSING DEFENSE

TEAM	COMP	YARDS	TD	Avg/G
South Dakota State	287	2,514	9	167.6
South Dakota	202	2,351	11	180.9
North Dakota State	243	2,791	16	186.1
Southern Illinois	220	2,446	7	188.2
Illinois State	200	2,114	15	192.2
Murray State	204	2,352	22	213.8
Indiana State	217	2,449	18	222.6
North Dakota	218	2,806	18	233.8
Western Illinois	179	2,634	25	239.5
Northern Iowa	244	2,639	19	239.9

PENALTIES

TEAM	No.	Yds	Avg/G
North Dakota	42	379	31.6
Western Illinois	55	438	39.8
Illinois State	57	476	43.3
South Dakota	76	590	45.4
Indiana State	54	532	48.4
Southern Illinois	85	687	53.9
Youngstown State	82	690	53.1
North Dakota State	93	797	53.1
Northern Iowa	66	603	54.8
Missouri State	66	627	57.0
Murray State	66	668	60.7
South Dakota State	98	925	61.7

THIRD-DOWN CONVERSIONS

TEAM	CONV	ATT	Pct
South Dakota State	84	157	53.5
North Dakota State	87	176	49.4
North Dakota	63	132	47.7
Illinois State	74	156	47.4
South Dakota	57	130	43.9
Missouri State	59	135	43.7
Northern Iowa	55	130	42.3
Youngstown State	71	169	42.0
Southern Illinois	59	169	34.9
Murray State	46	136	33.8
Western Illinois	54	163	33.1
Indiana State	48	145	33.1

TURNOVER MARGIN

TEAM	FUM G/L	INT G/L	MARGIN	Avg/G
North Dakota State	6/6	21/4	+17	+1.13
South Dakota State	10/8	19/5	+16	+1/07
Southern Illinois	13/9	12/8	+8	+0.62
North Dakota	6/4	7/5	+4	+0.33
Youngstown State	6/4	8/7	+3	+0.23
South Dakota	6/6	9/7	+2	+0.15
Illinois State	5/9	11/6	+1	+0.09
Western Illinois	8/6	3/9	-4	-0.36
Missouri State	4/8	10/11	-5	-0.45
Northern Iowa	7/8	9/15	-7	-0.64
Murray State	4/7	6/11	-8	-0.73
Indiana State	4/8	5/14	-13	-1.18

FUM G/L – Fumbles Gained/Lost
INT G/L – Interceptions Gained/Lost

#1/1 SDSU 45, WESTERN OREGON 7

Aug. 31, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 16,258)

South Dakota State returned two interceptions for touchdowns in the first half and added more big plays on the offensive side of the ball to begin defense of its Football Championship Subdivision national title with a 45-7 victory over Western Oregon before a Dairy Drive crowd of 16,258 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

Top-ranked SDSU extended its school-record winning streak to 15 games in the season opener for both squads. The game also marked the first for the Jackrabbits under new head coach Jimmy Rogers.

SDSU scored on each of its first three offensive possessions in building a 35-0 lead through the first 20 minutes of the contest. The Jackrabbits took the opening kickoff and proceeded to march 72 yards on seven plays, the last 31 of which came on a Mark Gronowski pass to freshman wide receiver Griffin Wilde over the middle. Gronowski completed all four of his pass attempts on the drive for 58 yards.

Eighty seconds later, the SDSU defense tallied its first points of the night when DyShawn Gales deflected a pass into the hands of safety Colby Huerter, who returned the interception 54 yards for a touchdown.

The Jackrabbit lead grew to 21-0 later in the opening period when Isaiah Davis scampered around right end for a 4-yard touchdown run to finish off a seven-play, 52-yard drive.

SDSU's other starting safety, Tucker Large, got in the act early in the second quarter when he intercepted Gannon Winker's deep pass over the middle and weaved his way through traffic before following a convoy to the end zone for a 64-yard touchdown. It was the first interception by Large, who also returned a punt 25 yards in the opening quarter.

The Jackrabbits extended their lead to 42-0 with two more touchdowns in the second quarter — both on quarterback scrambles. First, Gronowski found paydirt from 6 yards out, while backup Chase Mason capped his first career drive directing the SDSU offense by slicing through the Wolves defense for a 33-yard scoring run.

Gronowski ended the night 8-for-10 passing for 121 yards, while Mason completed 5-of-9 attempts for 67 yards and added 40 rushing yards on three carries.

Reserves on both sides of the ball played the entire second half for the Jackrabbits. Hunter Dustman's 32-yard field goal late in the third period proved to be SDSU's only points of the second half.

Western Oregon, meanwhile, ended the shutout bid with a touchdown with 3 minutes and 47 seconds remaining in the game. Backup quarterback Jordan McCarty led the Wolves on a six-play, 78-yard drive that ended with McCarty scoring from 9 yards out. A 24-yard run by Jermaine Land on the preceding play gave WOU first and goal.

SDSU finished with a 403-209 advantage in total offense. Amar Johnson paced the Jackrabbit rushing attack with 70 yards on eight carries, while Wilde was the leading receiver with four catches for 79 yards.

McCarty was the leading rusher for WOU with 37 yards on eight carries and also completed both of his pass attempts for 40 yards. Winker ended the night 12-for-23 for only 67 yards and was picked off three times. Keyvaun Eady tallied four receptions for 39 yards.

Saiveon Williamson, starting in place of an injured Adam Bock at middle linebacker, registered a team-high eight stops for SDSU, including 1.5 tackles for loss.

Western Oregon's Daron Ulrich Jr. led all players with 11 stops.



Tucker Large returned an interception 64 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the second quarter and was one of two pick-sixes in the game for the Jackrabbits.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Western Oregon (0-1)	0	0	0	7	7
South Dakota State (1-0)	21	21	3	0	45

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	11:18	SDSU	— Griffin Wilde 31 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	9:58	SDSU	— Colby Huerter 54 yd interception return (Dustman kick)
1st	2:17	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 4 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	14:41	SDSU	— Tucker Large 64 yd interception return (Dustman kick)
2nd	10:13	SDSU	— Mark Gronowski 6 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:55	SDSU	— Chase Mason 33 yd run (Dustman kick)
3rd	5:34	SDSU	— Dustman 32 yd field goal
4th	3:47	WOU	— Jordan McCarty 9 yd run (Charlie Shulkin kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	WOU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	13	21
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	29-102	34-209
PASSING YDS (NET)	107	194
Passes Att-Comp-Int	25-14-3	23-14-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	54-209	57-403
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	3-3-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-33	2-50
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	3-118
Punts (Number-Avg)	6-28.8	1-51
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-32	9-81
Possession Time	30:05	29:55
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 12	5 of 9
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-2	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: WOU - Jordan McCarty 8-37; Jermaine Land 1-24; Dominique Loggins 10-19; Austin Bacher 8-16; Gannon Winker 2-6. SDSU - Amar Johnson 8-70; Angel Johnson 10-48; Chase Mason 3-40; Isaiah Davis 4-19; Jon Bell 2-13; Mark Gronowski 2-11; Isaac Krael 2-11; Kirby Vorhees 1-1. **PASSING LEADERS:** WOU - Gannon Winker 12-23-3 67; Jordan McCarty 2-2-0 40. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 8-10-0 121; Chase Mason 5-9-0 67; Jon Bell 1-4-0 6. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** WOU - Keyvaun Eady 4-39; Damon Hickok 3-40; Dominique Loggins 3-12; London Smalley 2-3. SDSU - Griffin Wilde 4-79; Jaxon Janke 3-41; Devon Cole Jr. 2-26; Grahm Goering 1-13; Zach Heins 1-11; Isaiah Davis 1-9; Mike Morgan 1-9; Angel Johnson 1-6. **INTERCEPTIONS:** WOU - none. SDSU - Tucker Large 1-64; Colby Huerter 1-54; Kolten Tilford 1-0. **SACKS:** WOU - none. SDSU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (JA-A-TOT):** WOU - Daron Ulrich Jr. 8-3-11; Luis Vicino 4-2-6; Dawson Muggy 6-0-6; Andrew Simpson 4-1-5; Malcolm Liufau 3-2-5. SDSU - Saiveon Williamson 3-5-8; Jason Freeman 3-2-5; DyShawn Gales 2-2-4; Caleb Franci 3-1-4; Matthew Durrance 3-1-4.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 20, #3/3 MONTANA STATE 16

Sept. 9, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 19,332)

Top-ranked South Dakota State scored three second-half touchdowns and survived a wild finish to outlast third-ranked Montana State, 20-16, before a sold-out Beef Bowl crowd of 19,332 Sept. 9 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The Jackrabbits, who took the lead for good on a 35-yard catch and touchdown run by freshman wide receiver Griffin Wilde, improved to 2-0 on the season and extended their school-record winning streak to 16 games. Montana State dropped to 1-1 overall.

The Bobcats controlled the first half, holding SDSU scoreless thanks to a stout defense and a ball-control, dual-quarterback offense that built a 2-to-1 advantage in time of possession. After forcing a fumble on the Jackrabbits' first offensive drive, MSU opened the scoring with a 10-play, 57-yard march. Tommy Mellott recorded a pair of 8-yard carries and completed a pair of passes for another 14 yards before turning the offense over to Sean Chambers, who rushed four times for 17 yards, ending the first scoring drive with a 2-yard run.

SDSU managed only 17 yards of total offense on nine plays in the first quarter and saw its struggles continue as the Bobcats extended their lead to 10-0 on a 27-yard field goal by Brendan Hall six minutes into the second quarter.

The Jackrabbits got the spark they needed on the first play from scrimmage of the second half when Amar Johnson scampered around left end for a 26-yard gain into Montana State territory. Six plays later, quarterback Mark Gronowski found the end zone from 20 yards out down the right sideline.

On their next possession, SDSU strung together an 11-play, 95-yard drive that lasted the final 5:55 of the third quarter and ended two plays and 45 seconds into the fourth quarter as Gronowski zipped a pass down the left hash to tight end Zach Heins for a 16-yard touchdown and a 13-10 lead.

However, SDSU missed the extra point as errors on special teams cropped in the fourth quarter. The Jackrabbits were able to overcome a 59-yard return by Marqui Johnson on the ensuing kickoff as Cale Reeder intercepted a Chambers pass over the middle.

Following the turnover, SDSU was forced to punt from the shadow of its own goal line and Julius Davis broke through to block Hunter Dustman's attempt, which was recovered at the 1-yard line. Chambers was stuffed shy of the goal line on each of the first two plays before the Bobcats were flagged for the second of what would be six false-start penalties going into the teeth of the Jackrabbit student section in the fourth quarter. Hall's second field goal, this time from 19 yards, tied the game at 13-all.

After another Jackrabbit punt midway through the final quarter, the Bobcats regained the lead on a 24-yard field goal by Hall. The Bobcats converted on fourth-and-1 near midfield on the first set of downs, but three more false-start miscues forced MSU to again settle for a field goal.

SDSU struck quickly to take the lead back, needing only two plays and 41 seconds to cover 75 yards. On the first play of the drive, Gronowski connected with Grahm Goering down the right sideline for 40 yards to the Bobcat 35. Then, Wilde caught a pass in the right flat from Gronowski at the line of scrimmage, made a group of Bobcat defenders miss en route to the end zone.

However, the game was far from over even though only 83 seconds remained on the clock. Taking over at their own 25, Chambers moved the Bobcats into scoring territory with both his arm and his legs. With nine ticks left on the clock and the ball at the SDSU 24, Chambers fired a pass over the middle to the back of the end zone that was caught by Clevan Thomas Jr. Originally, the play was ruled a touchdown, but after a lengthy review, was overturned as Thomas was deemed to have caught the ball with both feet out of bounds with one second remaining.

Chambers' final pass attempt of the night was under duress and fell short of the goal line, allowing the Jackrabbits to extend their home winning streak to 14 games dating back to the 2021 campaign.

SDSU finished with a 341-298 edge in total offense, including a 184-87 advantage through the air. Gronowski completed 13-of-22 passes for 184 yards



Griffin Wilde scored the game-winning touchdown on a 35-yard catch and run with 1 minute and 30 seconds remaining in the Sept. 9 showdown against Montana State.

with Jaxon Janke leading receivers with three catches for 28 yards. Wilde tallied two catches for 49 yards.

Isaiah Davis paced the ground game with 66 yards on 12 carries and added two catches for 22 yards.

Chambers ended the night with 90 rushing yards on 20 carries and converted 3-of-9 passing attempts for 53 yards. Mellott was a perfect 6-for-6 passing in the first half for 34 yards and contributed 46 rushing yards on 11 attempts.

Williamson and Colby Huerter each registered game-high 10 tackles for the Jackrabbits. Danny Uliulakepa, who forced the SDSU fumble on a strip-sack in the first half, tallied a team-best seven tackles for Montana State.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Montana State (1-1)	7	3	0	6	16
South Dakota State (1-0)	0	0	7	13	20

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	4:14	MSU	-	Sean Chambers 2 yd run (Brendan Hall kick)
2nd	8:49	MSU	-	Hall 27 yd field goal
3rd	10:49	SDSU	-	Mark Gronowski 20 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
4th	14:15	SDSU	-	Zach Heins 16 yd pass from Gronowski (kick failed)
4th	10:15	MSU	-	Hall 19 yd field goal
4th	2:04	MSU	-	Hall 24 yd field goal
4th	1:30	SDSU	-	Griffin Wilde 35 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	MSU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	17	20
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	48-211	29-157
PASSING YDS (NET)	87	184
Passes Att-Comp-Int	15-9-1	22-13-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	63-298	51-341
Punt Returns-Yards	3-22	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-89	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-40.0	4-31.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	12-80	7-75
Possession Time	35:23	24:37
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 12	5 of 9
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-5	2-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-15	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: MSU - Sean Chambers 20-90; Julius Davis 12-57; Tommy Mellott 11-46; Jared White 4-16. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 12-66; Amar Johnson 5-47; Mark Gronowski 10-26; Jaxon Janke 1-9; Angel Johnson 1-9. **PASSING LEADERS:** MSU - Sean Chambers 3-9-1 53; Tommy Mellott 6-6-0 34. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 13-22-0 184. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** MSU - Deryk Snell 3-38; Julius Davis 3-14. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 3-28; Griffin Wilde 2-49; Zach Heins 2-25; Isaiah Davis 2-22; Amar Johnson 2-19. **INTERCEPTIONS:** MSU - none. SDSU - Cale Reeder 1-0. **SACKS:** MSU - Rylan Ort 1.0-10; Danny Uliulakepa 1.0-3; Kenneth Eiden IV 1.0-2. SDSU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** MSU - Danny Uliulakepa 4-3-7; Rylan Ort 5-1-6; Dru Polidore 2-3-5; McCade O'Reilly 2-3-5. SDSU - Saiveon Williamson 4-6-10; Colby Huerter 5-5-10; Cale Reeder 6-2-8; Tucker Large 7-0-7; Jason Freeman 1-4-5; DyShawn Gales 3-2-5; Isaiah Stalbird 1-4-5.

#1/1 SDSU 70, DRAKE 7

Sept. 16, 2023 • Target Field (Att.: 18,174)

MINNEAPOLIS — South Dakota State racked up its most points and yards in a game in five years, rolling past Drake, 70-7, Saturday in a nonconference football game Sept. 16 at Target Field.

Nine different players found the end zone for the top-ranked Jackrabbits, who improved to 3-0 on the season and ran their school-record winning streak to 17 games. Drake dropped to 0-3.

Drake put the first — and its only — points on the board before the crowd of 18,174 had a chance to settle into its seats. On the first play from scrimmage, Bulldog quarterback Luke Bailey connected with Colin Howard on a deep pass down the middle of the field for a 53-yard gain to the SDSU 30. Two plays and a penalty later, Bailey hooked up again with Howard for a 35-yard touchdown 2 minutes and 17 seconds into the contest.

From there, it was all Jackrabbits. SDSU needed only four plays to knot the game at 7-all as Isaiah Davis caught a short pass from Mark Gronowski and scored from 23 yards out.

On the next possession, SDSU converted twice on third and long after the Jackrabbits were set up in Drake territory after a 42-yard punt return by Tucker Large to the Bulldog 36. Tight end Kevin Brenner finished off the drive with a 3-yard touchdown reception from Gronowski.

The Jackrabbits pushed their lead to 35-7 with three more touchdowns in the second quarter. Gronowski tossed scoring passes of 13 yards to Zach Heins and 18 yards to freshman wide receiver Griffin Wilde around a 1-yard touchdown run by Amar Johnson. Large set up Johnson's touchdown with a 61-yard punt return to the Drake 18.

As a team, SDSU recorded 179 yards on six punt returns and added 73 more yards on a pair of kickoff returns by Amar Johnson. Large ended the day with what is believed to be a school-record 149 yards on four punt returns, with Devon Cole tallying 24 yards on his lone return and Dalys Beanum adding a 6-yard return.

Gronowski, who accounted for a career-high six touchdowns, ended his afternoon with a 5-yard touchdown run and a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jaxon Janke on the first two Jackrabbit drives of the third quarter. Gronowski, whose five touchdown passes also were a career best, completed 18-of-25 passes for 226 yards as he topped the 5,000-yard mark for his career.

Janke notched season highs of seven catches and 85 receiving yards as 10 different Jackrabbits caught passes on the day.

SDSU's final three touchdowns covered 20 or more yards, including two by Angel Johnson. First, Johnson closed out a 21-point third quarter with a 21-yard score, followed by a 66-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter. In between, backup quarterback Chase Mason scampered 69 yards through the Bulldog defense for his second rushing touchdown of the season.

The Jackrabbits amassed 618 yards of total offense, including a 359-47 advantage on the ground. Angel Johnson paced the rushing attack with 90 yards on only four carries, while Davis gained 77 yards on eight attempts.

Bailey led Drake by going 16-of-29 for 201 yards through the air and gaining 25 yards on three rushing attempts.

Daeton Mcgaughy led all players with nine tackles, including a tackle for loss, for the Jackrabbits.



Angel Johnson scored second-half touchdowns on runs of 21 and 66 yards as South Dakota State cruised past Drake, 70-7, in a Sept. 16 game played at Target Field in Minneapolis.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Drake (0-3)	7	0	0	0	7
South Dakota State (3-0)	14	21	21	14	70

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	12:43	DU	—	Colin Howard 35 yd pass from Luke Bailey (Shane Dunning kick)
1st	10:37	SDSU	—	Isaiah Davis 23 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	4:12	SDSU	—	Kevin Brenner 3 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	10:28	SDSU	—	Zach Heins 13 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	5:13	SDSU	—	Amar Johnson 1 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	2:08	SDSU	—	Griffin Wilde 18 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	12:51	SDSU	—	Gronowski 5 yd run (Dustman kick)
3rd	8:34	SDSU	—	Jaxon Janke 1 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	4:47	SDSU	—	Angel Johnson 21 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	13:18	SDSU	—	Chase Mason 69 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	8:18	SDSU	—	Angel Johnson 66 yd run (Dustman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	DU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	10	27
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	27-47	33-359
PASSING YDS (NET)	220	259
Passes Att-Comp-Int	34-20-0	30-21-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	61-267	63-618
Punt Returns-Yards	1-3	6-179
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-45	2-73
Interception Returns-Yards	1-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	10-38.4	2-39.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-36	4-55
Possession Time	32:11	27:49
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 16	6 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	6-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: DU - Luke Bailey 3-25; Luke Woodson 7-17; Christian Galvan 6-6; Dorian Boyland 7-6. SDSU - Angel Johnson 4-90; Isaiah Davis 8-77; Chase Mason 1-69; Amar Johnson 12-63; Jaxon Janke 1-25; Mark Gronowski 3-19; Kirby Vorhees 4-16. **PASSING LEADERS:** DU - Luke Bailey 16-29-0 201; Blake Ellingson 4-5-0 19. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 18-25-1 226; Chase Mason 3-4-0 33; Jon Bell 0-1-0 0. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** DU - Christian Galvan 4-13; Colin Howard 3-103; Taj Hughes 3-46; Garrett Vander Leest 3-11; Sam Rodriguez 2-24; Tim Nesslage 2-9. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 7-85; Isaiah Davis 3-47; Mike Morgan 2-29; Zach Heins 2-21; Grahm Goering 2-19; Marcus Preston 1-20; Griffin Wilde 1-18; Greyton Gannon 1-11; Amar Johnson 1-6; Kevin Brenner 1-3. **INTERCEPTIONS:** DU - Tyler Radoch 1-0. SDSU - none. **SACKS:** DU - none. SDSU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** DU - Sean Allison 5-1-6; Caleb Bowling 3-3-6; Tyler Radocha 3-2-5; Finn Claypool 2-2-4. SDSU - Daeton Mcgaughy 8-1-9; Saiveon Williamson 3-2-5; Cullen McShane 3-2-5; Graham Spalding 2-3-5; Jason Freeman 2-2-4.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 42, #11/12 NORTH DAKOTA 21

Sept. 30, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 19,231)

An efficient offense coupled with a swarming defense propelled top-ranked South Dakota State to a 42-21 victory over North Dakota in the Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both teams Sept. 30 at a sold-out Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

In winning their 18th consecutive game dating back to last season, the Jackrabbits improved to 4-0 on the season. UND, ranked 11th by the Football Championship Subdivision coaches and 12th in the Stats Perform media poll, dropped to 2-2 overall.

SDSU scored touchdowns on six of its first seven offensive possessions, including taking the opening kickoff and putting together a seven-play, 75-yard touchdown drive. The Jackrabbits established the run game on the opening series with all but one play on the opening series coming on the ground with quarterback Mark Gronowski plunging in from a yard out for the first score of the game.

After forcing a three-and-out on UND's first offensive possession the Jackrabbits' fast start continued with a nine-play, 77-yard drive. Isaiah Davis opened the drive with a 22-yard carry and Amar Johnson picked up three first downs with a 10-yard gain and receptions of 13 and 10 yards to set up a 6-yard Davis touchdown run for a 14-0 lead 10 minutes into the contest.

The two squads then traded nine-minute drives over the course of the remainder of the first half. UND established a short passing game to move into Jackrabbit territory and extended the drive thanks to an SDSU pass interference penalty before Quincy Vaughn was ruled to have broken the plane of the goal line from a yard out before losing control of the ball on the Fighting Hawks' second fourth-down attempt on a 15-play, 75-yard drive.

SDSU's only drive of the second quarter consumed 9 minutes and 36 seconds and consisted of 18 plays to cover 91 yards. The Jackrabbits converted four times on third down, including an 18-yard hookup between Gronowski and Jaxon Janke on third-and-17 that moved the ball to the UND 21. The Gronowski-to-Janke connection finished off the drive with a 6-yard touchdown with 40 seconds remaining in the opening half.

The Jackrabbit defense forced UND to punt three times in the third quarter while SDSU extended its lead to 35-7 on Davis touchdown runs of 3 and 1 yards, the latter of the two coming three plays into the fourth quarter.

UND put together a pair of 75-yard scoring drives in the final stanza, but Angel Johnson's 50-yard burst up the middle for a touchdown in between the two Fighting Hawk scores helped seal the SDSU victory.

Both teams ran 59 offensive plays, but the Jackrabbits held a 433-234 advantage in total offense, including a 266-68 edge in rushing. Davis, who missed the game at UND last season due to injury, ended the afternoon with 132 yards on 16 carries.

Gronowski completed 13-of-22 passes for 167 yards, including three completions to Jaxon Janke for 51 yards and three to Zach Heins for 46 yards.

UND starter Tommy Schuster was 19-for-24 passing for 118 yards with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Luke Skokna for the first Fighting Hawk touchdown of the fourth quarter. Backup Trey Feeney engineered the final scoring drive of the game for UND, completing 6-of-8 passes for 48 yards and finding the end zone on a 5-yard run.

In his first action of the season, Jackrabbit linebacker Adam Bock registered a game-high 10 tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss with a sack. Fellow linebacker Isaiah Stalbird added eight stops.

Malachi Buckner led UND with seven tackles.



Isaiah Davis rushed for 132 yards and scored three touchdowns in South Dakota State's 42-21 victory over North Dakota in the Missouri Valley Football Conference opener for both teams Sept. 30.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
North Dakota (2-2, 0-1)	0	7	0	14	21
South Dakota State (4-0, 1-0)	14	7	7	14	42

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	11:03	SDSU	—	Mark Gronowski 1 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	4:42	SDSU	—	Isaiah Davis 6 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	10:24	UND	—	Quincy Vaughn 1 yd run (C.J. Elrichs kick)
2nd	00:40	SDSU	—	Jaxon Janke 6 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	7:56	SDSU	—	Davis 3 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	14:02	SDSU	—	Davis 1 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	5:58	UND	—	Luke Skokna 5 yd pass from Tommy Schuster (Elrichs kick)
4th	3:28	SDSU	—	Angel Johnson 50 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	00:45	UND	—	Trey Feeney 5 yd run (Elrichs kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	UND	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	17	26
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	26-68	37-266
PASSING YDS (NET)	166	167
Passes Att-Comp-Int	33-25-0	22-13-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	59-234	59-433
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	2-59
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-30	1-17
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-47.8	1-29.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-17	6-68
Possession Time	29:39	30:21
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 13	6 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	5-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	2-12

RUSHING LEADERS: UND - Gaven Ziebarth 5-22; Luke Skokna 4-17; Tommy Schuster 6-16; Quincy Vaughn 5-5; Trey Feeney 1-5; Isaiah Smith 4-3. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 16-132; Angel Johnson 2-58; Amar Johnson 13-56; Mark Gronowski 4-22. **PASSING LEADERS:** UND - Tommy Schuster 19-24-0 118; Trey Feeney 6-8-0 48. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 13-22-0 167. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** UND - Red Wilson 5-45; Bo Berquist 4-23; Wesley Eliodor 4-16; Luke Skokna 3-20; Elijah Klein 2-23; Jaden Norby 2-19; Gaven Ziebarth 2-2. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 3-51; Zach Heins 3-46; Isaiah Davis 3-18; Amar Johnson 2-23; Jaden Janke 1-19; Angel Johnson 1-10. **INTERCEPTIONS:** UND - none. SDSU - none. **SACKS:** UND - none. SDSU - Adam Bock 1.0-8; Cade Terveer 1.0-4. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** UND - Malachi Buckner 5-2-7; Malachi McNeal 3-3-6; Kadon Kauppinen 3-3-6; Ted Mullin 2-3-5. SDSU - Adam Bock 5-5-10; Isaiah Stalbird 6-2-8; Jason Freeman 3-1-4; Graham Spalding 2-2-4.

#1/1 SDSU 40, #22 ILLINOIS STATE 21

Oct. 7, 2023 • Hancock Stadium (Att.: 8,272)

NORMAL, Ill. — Top-ranked South Dakota State got off to another fast start offensively and racked up 374 yards on the ground in posting a 40-21 victory over No. 22 Illinois State Oct. 7 at Hancock Stadium.

With their 19th consecutive victory dating back to last season, the Jackrabbits improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. Illinois State dropped to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in league play.

SDSU scored the first 20 points of the game with less than 11 minutes coming off the game clock. After receiving the opening kickoff, the Jackrabbits needed only nine plays to find the end zone, capping an 88-yard drive with a 31-yard touchdown pass from Mark Gronowski to Jadon Janke. The extra point attempt was missed.

After forcing a three-and-out, the Jackrabbits again turned to the air for their next touchdown as Gronowski found Jaxon Janke deep over the middle for a 60-yard touchdown pass and a 13-0 lead.

Things went from bad to worse for Illinois State on the ensuing kickoff as reserve linebacker Cullen McShane jarred the ball loose from the returner and Caleb Franci fell on the loose football at the Redbirds' 25-yard line. Five plays later, SDSU cashed in as Gronowski ran up the middle for a 13-yard touchdown.

The Redbirds began to gain some momentum in the second quarter as the combination of Zack Annexstad and Daniel Sobkowicz teamed up on a pair of touchdowns through the air. First, Sobkowicz lofted a pass on a trick play to Annexstad for a 9-yard score 32 seconds into the second stanza. Later in the period, the Redbirds used a more traditional approach as Annexstad connected with Sobkowicz from 7 yards out.

However, the Jackrabbit offense continued to click as SDSU scored touchdowns on each of its first five possessions of the game. Isaiah Davis countered the first Illinois State touchdown with a 3-yard scoring run and Jadon Janke closed out the first half with a 22-yard TD reception from Gronowski to push the SDSU lead to 34-14 heading into halftime.

Illinois State cut the deficit to 34-21 on a 37-yard touchdown run by Mason Blakemore to open the second half and had a chance to make it a one-score game later in the third quarter, but the Redbirds' second fumble of the game, which was caused by Saiveon Williamson and recovered by Jason Freeman in SDSU territory, ended the comeback bid.

Davis, who gained a game-high 197 yards on 20 carries, closed out the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run five minutes into the fourth quarter. Amar Johnson added 106 yards on 11 carries for a Jackrabbit squad that averaged 8.1 yards per carry on the evening.

Gronowski completed 11-of-17 passes for 171 yards and three touchdowns. Jaxon Janke led the receiving corps with five catches for 88 yards.

SDSU finished with a 547-293 advantage in total offense. Annexstad completed 26-of-33 passes for 162 yards, with Eddie Kasper hauling in a team-best eight catches for 35 yards. Sobkowicz (70 yards) and Cam Grandy (43 yards) each caught seven passes.

Williamson, who was again filling in at middle linebacker for an injured Adam Bock, registered a team-high 11 tackles for the Jackrabbits to match a career high. Freeman tallied nine tackles to go along with his fumble recovery and fellow Illinois native Cale Reeder contributed eight stops.

Keondre Jackson was credited with a game-high 13 tackles for Illinois State.



Mark Gronowski passed for three first-half touchdowns and ran for another as South Dakota State rode a fast start to a 40-21 win at Illinois State on Oct. 7.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (5-0, 2-0)	20	14	0	6	40
Illinois State (3-2, 1-1)	0	14	7	0	21

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	10:02	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 31 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Hunter Dustman kick failed)
1st	6:30	SDSU	— Jaxon Janke 60 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
1st	4:08	SDSU	— Gronowski 13 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	14:28	ILS	— Zack Annexstad 9 yd pass from Daniel Sobkowicz (Ian Wagner kick)
2nd	10:06	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 3 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	6:06	ILS	— Sobkowicz 7 yd pass from Annexstad (Wagner kick)
2nd	3:10	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 22 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	13:26	ILS	— Mason Blakemore 37 yd run (Wagner kick)
4th	10:09	SDSU	— Davis 2 yd run (pass failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	ILS
FIRST DOWNS	25	18
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	46-374	21-122
PASSING YDS (NET)	173	171
Passes Att-Comp-Int	18-12-0	34-27-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	64-547	55-293
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-5
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-34	3-37
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-41.0	4-44.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	9-90	3-15
Possession Time	35:45	24:15
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 11	7 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	2-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-7	1-5

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Isaiah Davis 20-197; Amar Johnson 11-106; Mark Gronowski 8-38; Angel Johnson 5-31. ILS - Mason Blakemore 6-57; Cole Mueller 9-40; Zack Annexstad 6-25.

PASSING LEADERS: SDSU - Mark Gronowski 11-17-0 171; Jaxon Janke 1-1-0 2. ILS - Zack Annexstad 26-33-0 162; Daniel Sobkowicz 1-1-0 9. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jaxon Janke 5-88; Zach Heins 3-28; Jadon Janke 2-53; Isaiah Davis 1-2; Mark Gronowski 1-2. ILS - Eddie Kasper 8-35; Daniel Sobkowicz 7-70; Cam Grandy 7-43; Zack Annexstad 1-9. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - none. ILS - none. **SACKS:** SDSU - Cade Terveer 1.0-7. ILS - Amir Abdullah 1.0-5. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Saiveon Williamson 3-8-11; Jason Freeman 6-3-9; Cale Reeder 2-6-8; Dalys Beatum 4-2-6; Isaiah Stalbird 3-3-6; Colby Huertter 1-4-5. ILS - Keondre Jackson 3-10-13; Lavoise-Deontae McCoy 1-8-9; Tye Niekamp 4-4-8; Dillon Gearhart 3-5-8; Jalan Gaines 2-5-7; Mark Cannon Jr. 3-2-5; Jeff Bowens 3-2-5.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 41, NORTHERN IOWA 6

Oct. 14, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 19,357)

South Dakota State forced five first-half turnovers, converting those Northern Iowa miscues into 17 points on the way to a convincing 41-6 Hobo Day victory before a sellout crowd of 19,357 Oct. 14 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The top-ranked Jackrabbits remained undefeated at 6-0 overall and 3-0 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, extending their school-record winning streak to 20 games. Northern Iowa, which was the top team receiving votes in both major Football Championship Subdivision polls, dropped to 3-3 overall and 2-1 in league play.

SDSU scored touchdowns on each of its first possessions to build an early 14-0 lead. Taking over after a short punt on UNI's opening drive, the Jacks marched 55 yards on eight plays with quarterback Mark Gronowski plunging in from a yard out for the first score of the game. A 13-yard pass from Gronowski to Mike Morgan on third-and-7 gave SDSU a fresh set of downs from the UNI 15 to set up Gronowski's sixth rushing touchdown of the season.

The Jackrabbit defense forced its first turnover of the day on the next UNI drive and the SDSU offense cashed in on a short field moments later. Isaiah Stalbird stripped the ball from the Panthers' Naran Buntin and Jason Freeman recovered at the UNI 35. Six plays later, Isaiah Davis spun and found the end zone from 3 yards out.

SDSU came up with its second fumble recovery in three plays when Steven Arrell jarred the ball loose and came up with the recovery at the UNI 45. However, the Jackrabbits gave the ball right back when Jasiah Galvan punched the football loose after a catch by Zach Heins down the middle and the Panthers recovered at its own 12.

The UNI streak of possessions ending with a turnover reached five with three more miscues in the second quarter. Jason Freeman and DyShawn Gales each came away with interceptions of Theo Day passes in Jackrabbit territory around a fumble near midfield that was forced by Logan Green and recovered by Caleb Franci.

The Jackrabbits converted the fumble into six points as Gronowski hooked up with Jadon Janke for a 16-yard touchdown pass. The SDSU lead grew to 24-0 after the Gales interception as Hunter Dustman booted a 42-yard field goal.

The Panthers got on the board on the final play of the first half on a 38-yard field goal by Matthew Cook to cut the deficit to 24-3.

Heins atoned for his earlier turnover by catching a pair of touchdown passes from Gronowski in the third quarter. The scoring strikes covered 6 and 23 yards, and extended the SDSU lead to 38-3. Heins ended the afternoon with four catches for 69 yards.

Dustman's second 42-yard field goal of the game and a 43-yarder by Cook accounted for the scoring in the fourth quarter.

SDSU racked up a 450-264 advantage in total offense. Gronowski, who rushed and passed for touchdowns for the 11th consecutive game dating back to last season, was an efficient 21-of-26 passing for a season-high 291 yards and completed passes to eight different receivers.

Freshman Griffin Wilde (60 yards) and Jadon Janke (58 yards) shared game-high honors with four receptions for SDSU, while Davis paced the ground game with 103 yards on 17 carries.

UNI was limited to 40 net yards rushing as the Jackrabbits sacked Day four times. The UNI signal-caller completed 16-of-24 passes for 210 yards, with Sam Schnee leading the Panthers with 104 yards on four catches, including a 66-yard reception in the fourth quarter.

Cade Terveer was credited with 1.5 sacks and five total tackles. Stalbird tallied a sack among his team-high nine tackles to go along with his forced fumble. Saiveon Williams added six tackles and a forced fumble.



The South Dakota State defense forced five first-half turnovers and held Northern Iowa out of the end zone in a 41-6 Hobo Day victory on Oct. 15.

Woo Governor registered a game-high 13 tackles and forced a fumble for UNI, followed by an 11-tackle outing from Edwin Dearman.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Northern Iowa (3-3, 2-1)	0	3	0	3	6
South Dakota State (6-0, 3-0)	14	10	14	3	41

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	7:42	SDSU	—	Mark Gronowski 1 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	3:54	SDSU	—	Isaiah Davis 3 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	6:56	SDSU	—	Jadon Janke 16 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:33	SDSU	—	Dustman 42 yd field goal
2nd	00:00	UNI	—	Matthew Cook 38 yd field goal
3rd	10:45	SDSU	—	Zach Heins 6 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	3:23	SDSU	—	Heins 23 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	10:17	SDSU	—	Dustman 42 yd field goal
4th	6:48	UNI	—	Cook 43 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	UNI	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	14	21
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	26-40	36-169
PASSING YDS (NET)	224	291
Passes Att-Comp-Int	26-18-2	26-21-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	52-264	62-460
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-2
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-27	1-20
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	2-4
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-35.7	1-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	2-2
Penalties-Yards	2-16	6-47
Possession Time	24:37	35:23
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 10	7 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	4-27

RUSHING LEADERS: UNI - Zach Brand 6-30; Harrison Bey-Buie 2-19; J.C. Roque Jr. 4-12; Aidan Dunne 3-5. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 17-103; Amar Johnson 9-35; Mark Gronowski 7-30; Chase Mason 2-5. **PASSING LEADERS:** UNI - Theo Day 16-24-2 210; Aidan Dunne 2-2-0 14. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 21-26—291. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** UNI - Sam Schnee 4-104; Logan Wolf 4-50; Sergio Morancy 3-18; Alex Allen 2-20; Desmond Hutson 2-16; Layne Pryor 2-15. SDSU - Zach Heins 4-69; Griffin Wilde 4-60; Jadon Janke 4-58; Jaxon Janke 3-56; Amar Johnson 2-23; Mike Morgan 2-18. **INTERCEPTIONS:** UNI - none. SDSU - DyShawn Gales 1-4; Jason Freeman 1-0. **SACKS:** UNI - none. SDSU - Cade Terveer 1.5-10; Isaiah Stalbird 1.0-7; Jarod DePriest 0.5-5; Caden Johnson 0.5-3; Ryan Van Marel 0.5-2. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** UNI - Woo Governor 10-3-13; Edwin Dearman 4-7-11; Dalesean Staley 1-6-7; Jahsiah Galvan 3-4-7; Cordarrus Bailey 5-1-6. SDSU - Isaiah Stalbird 8-1-9; Saiveon Williamson 3-3-6; Cade Terveer 0-5-5; Jason Freeman 2-2-4.

#1/1 SDSU 17, #12/12 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 10

Oct. 21, 2023 • Saluki Stadium (Att.: 11,927)

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Top-ranked South Dakota State and No. 12 Southern Illinois battled down to the wire Oct. 21 at Saluki Stadium, with the Jackrabbits finding just enough offense to come away with a 17-10 road victory.

With their 21st consecutive victory overall, SDSU improved to 7-0 overall on the season and 4-0 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. The Salukis dropped to 5-2 overall and 2-2 in league play.

The game was scoreless through the first 26 minutes as the defenses set the tone for much of the contest. SDSU stopped the Salukis on downs inside the Jackrabbit 20-yard line on the opening drive of the game, following a successful fake punt attempt near midfield. Meanwhile, the Jackrabbits' first scoring chance ended with a missed 48-yard field goal midway through the second quarter.

The Jackrabbits finally broke the ice by turning an interception into points in the closing minutes of the half. Dalys Beanum picked off a Nic Baker pass and his ensuing 31-yard return to the SIU 37 gave SDSU its best field position of the afternoon. Five plays later, Isaiah Davis scored from three yards out.

SDSU added to its lead on the opening drive of the third quarter when Jackrabbit quarterback Mark Gronowski hooked up with Jadon Janke for a 21-yard gain to midfield on the first play from scrimmage, then connected deep down field with freshman Griffin Wilde for a 49-yard touchdown two plays later for a 14-0 lead.

After a Quinton Hicks strip sack thwarted an SIU drive deep in SDSU territory, the Jackrabbits were in position to further add to their lead early in the fourth quarter, but Gronowski's pass on the first play of the fourth quarter was deflected and intercepted by Mark Davis in the end zone. That ended a streak of 70 consecutive trips by the Jackrabbits into the red zone in which they had scored.

Southern Illinois drove the length of the field following the interception, getting on the board on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Baker to D'Anté Cox over the middle of the field. That capped a six-play, 80-yard drive that cut the deficit to 14-7.

SDSU countered with its best drive of the game, marching 15 plays and 60 yards before going back up by two scores on a season-long 44-yard field goal by Hunter Dustman. Gronowski scrambled for a first down with a run of eight yards on third-and-7 early in the drive and later completed a number of short passes to move the Jackrabbits into scoring position.

The Salukis trimmed the deficit to 17-10 on a 39-yard field goal by Thomas Burks with 32 seconds remaining. A sack by Zac Wilson, one of four on the day by the Jackrabbits, forced SIU to settle for the field goal.

SIU's attempt at an onside kick rolled out of bounds and the Jackrabbits were able to run out the clock.

The two teams finished tied in total yards with 308. The Jackrabbits' total was nearly evenly split with 147 yards on the ground and 161 through the air. Gronowski completed 15-of-21 passes for 161 yards, with Jadon Janke leading the receiving corps with six catches for 49 yards.

Davis led the ground game with 91 yards on 15 carries, with Amar Johnson adding 10 carries for 67 yards.

For SIU, Baker completed 20-of-24 passes for 225 yards and also was the Salukis' leading rusher with 31 yards on 15 carries. Cox hauled in seven receptions for 88 yards.

Illinois natives Cale Reeder and Jason Freeman shared game-high honors in tackles for the Jackrabbits with 10 apiece. Besides setting a career high with his 10 stops, Reeder also forced a fumble.

P.J. Jules was credited with nine tackles for SIU, with Dune Smith contributing eight tackles and a pair of pass breakups.



Quinton Hicks celebrates his strip sack that was recovered by Ryan Van Marel late in the third quarter to end a Southern Illinois trip into the red zone.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (7-0, 4-0)	0	7	7	3	17
Southern Illinois (5-2, 2-2)	0	0	0	10	10

SCORING SUMMARY

2nd	3:38	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 3 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
3rd	13:30	SDSU	— Griffin Wilde 49 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	12:07	SIU	— D'Anté Cox 24 yd pass from Nic Baker (Jake Baumgartle kick)
4th	2:41	SDSU	— Dustman 44 yd field goal
4th	00:32	SIU	— Thomas Burks 39 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS	SDSU	SIU
FIRST DOWNS	15	20
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	32-147	32-83
PASSING YDS (NET)	161	225
Passes Att-Comp-Int	22-15-1	24-20-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	54-308	56-308
Punt Returns-Yards	2-8	2-(-6)
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-48	1-22
Interception Returns-Yards	1-31	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-54.2	4-40.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	13-125	7-45
Possession Time	31:50	28:10
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 12	4 of 12
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	2 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-2	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-30	2-20

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Isaiah Davis 15-91; Amar Johnson 10-67; Mark Gronowski 5-(-9). SIU - Nic Baker 15-31; Colton Hoag 1-21; Justin Strong 9-16; Shaun Lester 3-13; Jaelin Benefield 2-3; Vinson Davis 1-1; Zach Gibson 1-(-2). **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 15-21-1 161; Isaiah Davis 0-1-0 0. SIU - Nic Baker 20-24-1 225. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jadon Janke 6-49; Griffin Wilde 2-6; Zach Heins 2-23; Jaxon Janke 2-16; Isaiah Davis 2-11; Amar Johnson 1-1. SIU - D'Anté Cox 7-88; Justin Strong 4-29; Vinson Davis 3-76; Jaelin Benefield 3-7; Aidan Quinn 2-13; Izaiah Hartrup 1-12. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Dalys Beanum 1-31. SIU - Mark Davis 1-0. **SACKS:** SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.0-9; Zac Wilson 1.0-7; Jason Freeman 0.5-4; Ryan Van Marel 0.5-4; Cade Terveer 0.5-3; Jarod DePriest 0.5-3. SIU - Colin Bohanek 1.0-14; Kam Bowdry 1.0-6. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Cale Reeder 7-3-10; Jason Freeman 2-8-10; Isaiah Stalbird 7-2-9; Tucker Large 3-4-7; Ryan Van Marel 4-1-5. SIU - P.J. Jules 4-5-9; Dune Smith 4-4-8; Ubayd Steed 3-4-7; Colin Bohanek 3-3-6; Branson Combs 1-5-6; Kam Bowdry 1-4-5.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 37, #4/9 SOUTH DAKOTA 3

Oct. 28, 2023 • DakotaDome (Att.: 9,458)

VERMILLION — Top-ranked South Dakota State shrugged off a bit of a sluggish start to score on its final seven possessions of the game in a 37-3 victory over South Dakota in a battle of Missouri Valley Football Conference unbeaten Oct. 28 at the DakotaDome.

The Jackrabbits, who ran their winning streak to 22 games dating back to early in the 2022 season, improved to 8-0 overall and took over sole possession of the league lead with a 5-0 record. USD, which entered the game ranked fourth in the Stats Perform media poll and ninth by the Football Championship Subdivision coaches, dropped to 6-2 overall and 4-1 in the MVFC.

USD held the advantage in the opening quarter, putting up the lone points of the opening stanza on the first drive of the game. The Coyotes put together an 11-play, 42-yard drive that ended with a 50-yard field goal by Will Leyland.

Flipping to the second quarter, the Jackrabbits began to assert themselves on both sides of the ball, starting with a methodical, 14-play, 93-yard drive that included three conversions on third-down plays. Jadon Janke took the ball on a reverse and scored from seven yards out for the first touchdown of the game.

On the next SDSU possession, the Jackrabbits needed only four plays to score. A 30-yard pass play from Mark Gronowski to Jadon Janke set up a 20-yard touchdown run by Amar Johnson for a 14-3 SDSU lead.

SDSU kept the momentum firmly in its favor on the ensuing possession when Tucker Large batted an Aidan Bouman pass and came away with the interception in Jackrabbit territory in the final minute of the half after a second deflection. The Jackrabbits cashed by moving 40 yards to set up a career-long 49-yard field goal by Hunter Dustman at the first-half horn.

Dustman added field goals of 22 and 47 yards in the third quarter to push the Jackrabbit advantage to 23-3 while the SDSU defense continued to keep the Coyote offense at bay. Dustman's first field goal of the second half was set up by a 52-yard catch and run by Jaxon Janke.

The Jackrabbits continued to put together sustained scoring drives in the fourth quarter. Amar Johnson scored on his second 20-yard touchdown run of the game to cap an 11-play, 72-yard drive midway through the period and Angel Johnson put the end to an eight-play, 67-yard drive by the second-string offense in the closing minutes.

SDSU finished with a 473-183 advantage in total offense, including a 266-50 margin in rushing. The Jackrabbits also accumulated a season-best 35 minutes and 59 seconds in possession time. Isaiah Davis led the rushing attack by committee with 69 yards on 17 carries, followed by 66 yards on eight carries by Amar Johnson. Angel Johnson added 52 yards on seven carries.

Gronowski ended the afternoon 13-of-19 passing for 207 yards. Jaxon Janke tallied 93 yards on his three receptions, with twin brother, Jadon, adding three catches for 55 yards. Davis also caught three passes for 32 yards.

USD was led in the rushing department by Travis Theis with 29 yards on nine carries. J.J. Galbreath paced Coyote receivers with eight catches for 65 yards, while Bouman finished with 133 yards on 17-of-31 passing.

Jason Freeman and Isaiah Stalbird each tallied seven tackles to lead the Jackrabbits, with Stalbird adding SDSU's second interception of the game in the fourth quarter. Dalys Beanum contributed two pass breakups.

Coyote defenders Brock Mogensen and Dennis Shorter led all players with 12 tackles each.



Amar Johnson scored on a pair of 20-yard touchdown runs to help lead a Jackrabbit offense that rushed for 266 yards in a 37-3 victory at South Dakota on Oct. 28.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (8-0, 5-0)	0	17	6	14	37
South Dakota (6-2, 4-1)	3	0	0	0	3

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	9:30	USD	— Will Leyland 50 yd field goal
2nd	7:15	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 7 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
2nd	1:57	SDSU	— Amar Johnson 20 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:00	SDSU	— Dustman 49 yd field goal
3rd	11:24	SDSU	— Dustman 22 yd field goal
3rd	3:06	SDSU	— Dustman 47 yd field goal
4th	8:25	SDSU	— Amar Johnson 20 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	00:55	SDSU	— Angel Johnson 4 yd run (Dustman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	SDSU	USD
FIRST DOWNS	25	13
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	42-266	21-50
PASSING YDS (NET)	207	133
Passes Att-Comp-Int	21-13-1	31-17-2
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	63-473	52-183
Punt Returns-Yards	2-4	1-4
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-14	1-14
Interception Returns-Yards	2-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-49.0	5-42.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-35	4-28
Possession Time	35:59	24:01
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 10	4 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	5-5	0-0
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-4	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Isaiah Davis 17-69; Amar Johnson 8-66; Angel Johnson 7-52; Mark Gronowski 7-43; Chase Mason 2-29; Jadon Janke 1-7. USD - Travis Theis 9-29; Charles Pierre Jr., 7-25. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 13-19-1 207; Chase Mason 0-1-0 0. USD - Aidan Bouman 17-31-2 133. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jason Janke 3-93; Jadon Janke 3-55; Isaiah Davis 3-32; Michael Morgan 2-12; Amar Johnson 1-8; Angel Johnson 1-7. USD - J.J. Galbreath 8-65; Travis Theis 4-20; Jack Martens 2-16; Carter Bell 1-19; Keyondre Jones 1-7; Charles Pierre Jr. 1-6. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Tucker Large 1-0; Isaiah Stalbird 1-0. USD - Shahid Barros 1-0. **SACKS:** SDSU - Cade Terveer 1-0-4. USD - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Jason Freeman 6-1-7; Isaiah Stalbird 4-2-6; Adam Bock 4-2-6; Tucker Large 3-1-4; Cale Reeder 3-1-4. USD - Dennis Shorter 2-10-12; Brock Mogensen 6-6-12; Myles Harden 4-3-7; Caleb McKenzie 5-1-6; Blake Holden 0-6-6.

#1/1 SDSU 33, #10/11 NORTH DAKOTA STATE 16

Nov. 4, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 19,431)

Top-ranked South Dakota State scored 23 consecutive points to grab control of its Dakota Marker matchup against North Dakota State on the way to a 33-16 victory before a record crowd of 19,431 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The Jackrabbits improved to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference while extending their overall winning streak to 23 games. NDSU, ranked 10th by the Football Championship Subdivision coaches and 11th in the Stats Perform media poll, dropped to 6-3 overall and 3-3 in league play. SDSU claimed the Dakota Marker for the fourth consecutive season and ran its overall winning streak against the Bison to five games, including the FCS national championship game this past January.

The two squads traded scores for the first quarter and a half, with NDSU putting the first points on the board with a 12-play, 75-yard drive on the opening possession. The Bison converted on fourth-and-1 with a 23-yard pass from Cam Miller to Joe Stoffel that placed the ball at the SDSU 2. Two plays later, Miller hit Zach Mathis for a 1-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was blocked by Ryan Van Marel.

SDSU responded with a methodical scoring drive of its own, marching 75 yards on 13 plays. Isaiah Davis recorded carries of 10 and 27 yards before scoring from a yard out.

Both teams connected on field goals on their next drives — NDSU's Griffin Crosa was good from 27 yards and Hunter Dustman followed with a 31-yard field goal to give the Jackrabbits the lead for good at 10-9 with 7 minutes and 12 seconds remaining in the second quarter.

The remainder of the first half belonged to the Jackrabbits, starting with Tucker Large's 28-yard punt return to the NDSU 46 following the first punt by either squad in the contest. Three plays later, Mark Gronowski found Jadon Janke along the right sideline, after which Janke evaded a tackle on his way to the end zone for a 46-yard touchdown.

On the first play of the ensuing drive, Colby Huerter forced the first of three NDSU turnovers by stripping the ball from the Bison ball carrier and Isaiah Stalbird recovered at the NDSU 31. The Jackrabbits picked up one first down, but had to settle for another Dustman field goal from 21 yards to push the lead to 20-9.

NDSU moved into scoring position late in the first half, but Crosa's 50-yard field goal attempt at the horn was wide to the right.

The Jackrabbits put the game out of reach with another 75-yard scoring drive to open the second half. Davis ran for 27 yards on the first play from scrimmage and Jadon Janke capped the drive with his second touchdown of the day, taking a forward pitch from Gronowski around left end for a 7-yard score.

SDSU continued to make big plays both on special teams and defense in the third as Jarod DePriest came up with the second blocked kick of the day on a 37-yard field goal attempt and Graham Spalding ended another Bison scoring chance with an interception off a deflected pass by Dalys Beaneum.

Dustman added field goals of 44 and 26 yards in the fourth quarter around a 10-yard touchdown pass from Miller to Mathis that cut the margin to 30-16. Dustman's four field goals were a career high.

The Jackrabbits finished with a 365-325 advantage in total offense. Gronowski completed 12-of-19 passes for 213 yards, with Jadon Janke leading receivers with five catches for 89 yards and the two scores. Davis paced the ground game with 106 yards on 17 carries.

Miller led NDSU in both passing and rushing, completing 18-of-29 attempts for 167 yards and carrying 17 times for 93 yards. Eli Green, Mathis, Raja Nelson and T.K. Marshall each caught four passes, with Green posting a team-best 47 receiving yards.



South Dakota State hoisted the Dakota Marker for the fourth season in a row after a 33-16 win over North Dakota State before a record crowd of 19,431 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

Jason Freeman, who intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter, led the Jackrabbit defensive effort with 12 tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss. Large registered eight stops.

Cole Wisniewski notched 11 tackles to lead North Dakota State, with Sam Jung and Jayden Price each tallying eight stops.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
North Dakota State (6-3, 3-3)	6	3	0	7	16
South Dakota State (9-0, 6-0)	7	13	7	6	33

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	7:44	NDSU	— Zach Mathis 1 yd pass from Cam Miller (Griffin Crosa kick blocked)
1st	00:46	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 1 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
2nd	10:09	NDSU	— Crosa 27 yd field goal
2nd	7:12	SDSU	— Dustman 31 yd field goal
2nd	5:15	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 46 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	1:50	SDSU	— Dustman 21 yd field goal
3rd	11:26	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 7 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	11:52	SDSU	— Dustman 44 yd field goal
4th	6:33	NDSU	— Mathis 10 yd pass from Miller (Eli Ozick kick)
4th	00:56	SDSU	— Dustman 26 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS	NDSU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	19	17
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	35-158	33-152
PASSING YDS (NET)	167	213
Passes Att-Comp-Int	29-18-2	19-12-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	64-325	52-365
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-28
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-95	1-17
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	2-9
Punts (Number-Avg)	1-37.0	2-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-20	4-40
Possession Time	30:18	29:42
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 12	6 of 13
Fourth-Down Conversions	3 of 3	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-4	5-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-9	2-16

RUSHING LEADERS: NDSU - Cam Miller 17-93; TaMerik Williams 6-33; Eli Green 1-17; T.K. Marshall 5-12. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 17-106; Amar Johnson 9-36; Mark Gronowski 7-10. **PASSING LEADERS:** NDSU - Cam Miller 18-29-2 167. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 12-19-0 213. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** NDSU - Eli Green 4-47; Zach Mathis 4-39; Raja Nelson 4-36; T.K. Marshall 4-13; Joe Stoffel 1-23; Jake Lippe 1-9. SDSU - Jadon Janke 5-89; Jaxon Janke 4-79; Griffin Wilde 1-16; Amar Johnson 1-15; Graham Goering 1-14. **INTERCEPTIONS:** NDSU - none. SDSU - Graham Spalding 1-9; Jason Freeman 1-0. **SACKS:** NDSU - Dylan Hendricks 1-0-9. SDSU - Isaiah Stalbird 1-0-5; Quinton Hicks 0-5-6; Jarod DePriest 0-5-5. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** NDSU - Cole Wisniewski 6-5-11; Sam Jung 8-0-8; Jayden Price 6-2-8; Eli Mostaert 3-2-5; Logan Kopp 1-4-5. SDSU - Jason Freeman 5-7-12; Tucker Large 4-4-8; Isaiah Stalbird 3-2-5; Jarod DePriest 2-3-5.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 34, #22 YOUNGSTOWN STATE 0

Nov. 11, 2023 • Stambaugh Stadium (Att.: 9,343)

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Top-ranked South Dakota State rolled up 490 yards of total offense and displayed a punishing defense to secure at least a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference title with a 34-0 shutout of Youngstown State Nov. 11 at Stambaugh Stadium.

The Jackrabbits remained undefeated, improving to 10-0 overall and 7-0 in league play. SDSU extended its overall winning streak to 24 games dating back to last season. YSU dropped to 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the MVFC.

SDSU was on point defensively from the outset, forcing the Penguins into three-and-outs on each of their first two possessions and punts on their first three drives in which they tallied only 15 yards.

The Jackrabbits, meanwhile, put together two long scoring drives in their first three possessions to build a 10-0 advantage midway through the second quarter. SDSU's first drive was a 14-play, 70-yard march that ended with a 33-yard field goal by Hunter Dustman. To start the second quarter, the Jackrabbits strung together a 10-play, 79-yard drive that ended with a 5-yard touchdown pass from Mark Gronowski to freshman wide receiver Griffin Wilde.

SDSU was able to quickly double its lead thanks to big plays on defense and special teams. After a Tucker Large interception and return put the ball at the YSU 25, Gronowski connected with Jadon Janke for a 16-yard touchdown pass for a 17-0 lead.

Youngstown State put together its best drive of the first half coming down the stretch of the second quarter, but for the second week in a row, SDSU defensive lineman Ryan Van Marel came up with a blocked kick on a 29-yard field goal attempt that was returned by Isaiah Stalbird to the Jackrabbit 47-yard line.

SDSU quickly moved into field goal position in the closing seconds, with Dustman booting a 43-yarder to put the Jackrabbits ahead 20-0.

The Jackrabbit connection of Gronowski to Janke loomed large again in the third quarter. On the first play from scrimmage to start the second half, Gronowski went up top to Janke for a 56-yard scoring strike, then on the final play of the stanza, the duo hooked up for another 50-yard pass play that set up Isaiah Davis' 1-yard touchdown run.

Janke ended the game with a career-high 166 receiving yards on seven receptions, while Davis led the ground game 130 yards on 19 carries.

Gronowski completed 19-of-28 passes for a season-high 295 yards with three scores. Chase Mason went 3-for-4 passing for 29 yards late in the game.

SDSU completed its first shutout since 2021 at Indiana State by turning the Penguins over on downs twice in the red zone in the second half. The Jackrabbits held YSU to 207 yards of total offense — 47 on the ground and 160 through the air on 18-of-30 passing by Mitch Davidson. Tyshon King was held to 20 yards on seven carries, while Max Tomczak was YSU's top receiver with five catches for 57 yards.

The Jackrabbits limited Youngstown State to 2-of-11 on third-down attempts.

Adam Bock led the Jackrabbits defensively with seven tackles, including a pair of half-sacks as SDSU recorded three sacks as a team on the afternoon. Jason Freeman and Isaiah Stalbird each tallied five stops.

YSU's Marcus Hooker led all players with 10 tackles, followed by nine from Troy Jakubek.



Jadon Janke caught a pair of touchdown passes while finishing the Nov. 11 game at Youngstown State with 166 receiving yards on seven receptions.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
South Dakota State (10-0, 7-0)	3	17	7	7	34
Youngstown State (6-4, 4-3)	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	5:24	SDSU — Hunter Dustman 33 yd field goal
2nd	8:29	SDSU — Griffin Wilde 5 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	6:07	SDSU — Jadon Janke 16 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:01	SDSU — Dustman 43 yd field goal
3rd	14:38	SDSU — Jadon Janke 56 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	11:33	SDSU — Isaiah Davis 1 yd run (Dustman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	SDSU	YSU
FIRST DOWNS	22	16
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	29-166	25-47
PASSING YDS (NET)	324	160
Passes Att-Comp-Int	33-22-0	30-18-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	62-490	55-207
Punt Returns-Yards	1-1	1-9
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-40	3-12
Interception Returns-Yards	1-5	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-53.3	5-46.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	12-119	4-25
Possession Time	33:31	26:29
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 13	2 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 1	0 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-4	0-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	3-15	0-0

RUSHING LEADERS: SDSU - Isaiah Davis 19-130; Chase Mason 3-14; Angel Johnson 3-7; Amar Johnson 2-6; Mark Gronowski 1-5; Jadon Janke 1-4; YSU - Tyshon King 7-20; Dra Rushton 7-17; Da'Shaun Whatley 3-11. **PASSING LEADERS:** SDSU - Mark Gronowski 19-28-0 295; Chase Mason 3-4-0 29; Isaiah Davis 0-1-0 0. YSU - Mitch Davidson 18-30-1 160. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** SDSU - Jadon Janke 7-166; Graham Goering 3-29; Zach Heins 2-39; Michael Morgan 2-27; Griffin Wilde 2-16; Isaiah Davis 2-14. YSU - Max Tomczak 5-57; Bryce Oliver 3-21; Luke Hensley 3-20; Tyshon King 3-19; Dra Rushton 2-17. **INTERCEPTIONS:** SDSU - Tucker Large 1-5. YSU - none. **SACKS:** SDSU - Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten 1.0-9; Adam Bock 1.0-3; Brian Williams 0.5-2; DyShawn Gales 0.5-1. YSU - none. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** SDSU - Adam Bock 2-5-7; Jason Freeman 3-2-5; Isaiah Stalbird 2-3-5; Colby Huerter 3-1-4; DyShawn Gales 1-3-4; Tucker Large 1-3-4; Cale Reeder 1-3-4. YSU - Marcus Hooker 8-2-10; Troy Jakubec 7-2-9; Greg Benton Jr. 3-4-7; Jaylen Castleberry 5-1-6; Alex Howard 1-3-4.

#1/1 SDSU 35, MISSOURI STATE 17

Nov. 18, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 15,637)

South Dakota State put the finishing touches on a perfect regular season for the first time in school history, defeating Missouri State, 35-17, in a Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup Nov. 18 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The top-ranked Jackrabbits improved to 11-0 overall and went undefeated in league play for the second consecutive season with an 8-0 mark to claim the conference title outright. Missouri State ended its season 4-7 overall and 3-5 in the MVFC.

SDSU quarterback Mark Gronowski accounted for three touchdowns on the day, including opening the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run on the Jackrabbits first drive of the game. That capped a six-play, 78-yard march that included pass plays of 22 yards to Jadon Janke and 35 yards to Jaxon Janke.

After being held to a three-and-out on the opening possession of the game, Missouri State responded following the Jackrabbit touchdown with a 13-play, 67-yard drive of its own that culminated with an Owen Rozanc field goal from 33 yards.

The Jackrabbits extended their lead to 21-3 midway through the second quarter following two more long touchdown drives. SDSU moved 80 yards on only five plays late in the first quarter, when Gronowski hit tight end Zach Heins down the right hash for a 31-yard touchdown.

The Jackrabbits then turned to the ground game in the second quarter, with Gronowski picking up 14 yards on a bootleg on fourth-and-2 before Isaiah Davis tallied back-to-back runs of 13 yards before finding paydirt from a yard out.

SDSU had a chance to add to its lead on the final play of the first half, but Hunter Dustman's 46-yard field goal attempt bounced off the left upright.

Missouri State trimmed the deficit to 21-10 by becoming only the second team to score against the Jackrabbits in the third quarter this season. The Bears drove the length of the field on only seven plays, capping the 93-yard drive with a 3-yard touchdown pass from Jordan Pachot to Hunter Wood.

However, SDSU responded with the next two scores as Amar Johnson scored on a 2-yard run in the third quarter and Gronowski connected with Jadon Janke off a flea flicker for a 36-yard scoring strike deep over the middle in the fourth quarter.

Gronowski finished the game with a career-high 323 yards on 16-of-23 passing, while Jadon Janke put together his second big game in a row by recording career highs with 10 catches and 187 receiving yards. Jaxon Janke added three receptions for 65 yards.

Pachot and Wood hooked up again in garbage time on a 40-yard touchdown pass for the final tally for Missouri State. Pachot ended the afternoon 23-of-35 passing for 261 yards, with Wood hauling in four passes for 78 yards and the two scores. Raylen Sharpe led the Bears with eight catches for 86 yards.

SDSU held a 477-343 advantage in total offense, with Davis leading the ground attack with 85 yards on 17 carries. Davis topped the 1,000-yard mark for the second consecutive season and also surpassed 4,000 career rushing yards in the game.

Defensively, Jason Freeman led the Jackrabbits with seven tackles, followed by Adam Bock with six stops and DyShawn Gales with five. Missouri State's Jared Lloyd registered a game-high eight tackles.



Zach Heins' 31-yard touchdown reception late in the first quarter gave South Dakota State a 14-3 lead over Missouri State in the squads' Nov. 18 regular season finale.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Missouri State (4-7, 3-5)	3	0	7	7	17
South Dakota State (11-0, 8-0)	14	7	7	7	35

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	10:46	SDSU	— Mark Gronowski 2 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	3:56	MSU	— Owen Rozanc 33 yd field goal
1st	00:43	SDSU	— Zach Heins 31 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	8:02	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 1 yd run (Dustman kick)
3rd	7:55	MSU	— Hunter Wood 3 yd pass from Jordan Pachot (Rozanc kick)
3rd	2:40	SDSU	— Amar Johnson 2 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	4:38	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 36 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	1:34	MSU	— Wood 40 yd pass from Pachot (Rozanc kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	MSU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	15	29
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	22-82	39-154
PASSING YDS (NET)	261	323
Passes Att-Comp-Int	35-23-0	23-16-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	57-343	62-477
Punt Returns-Yards	1-1	4-18
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-16	3-56
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	4-49.2	2-42.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	8-65	4-40
Possession Time	26:05	33:55
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 13	3 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	2 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-4	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-6	2-5

RUSHING LEADERS: MSU - Celdon Manning 3-41; Jayden Becks 13-40; Jordan Pachot 4-4; D'Vontae Key 1-4. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 17-85; Amar Johnson 10-45; Mark Gronowski 7-25; Chase Mason 2-12. **PASSING LEADERS:** MSU - Jordan Pachot 23-35-0 261. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 16-23-0 323. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** MSU - Raylen Sharpe 8-86; Hunter Wood 4-78; Lance Mason 3-21; Jmariyae Robinson 3-14; Larry Wright 2-41; D'Vontae Key 2-10. SDSU - Jadon Janke 10-187; Jaxon Janke 3-65; Zach Heins 1-31; Angel Johnson 1-23; Graham Goering 1-17. **INTERCEPTIONS:** MSU - none. SDSU - none. **SACKS:** MSU - Cooper Roy 1.0-6. SDSU - Cade Terveer 1.0-4; Ryan Van Marel 1.0-1. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** MSU - Jared Lloyd 7-1-8; Todric McGee 6-1-7; Von Young 5-2-7; P.J. Hall 3-4-7; Lemondre Joe 5-0-5; Tahj Chambers 3-2-5. SDSU - Jason Freeman 5-2-7; Adam Bock 4-2-6; DyShawn Gales 4-1-5; Matthew Durrance 3-1-4; Isaiah Stalbird 2-2-4; Cale Reeder 1-3-4.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 41, #17/20 MERCER 0

Dec. 2, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 10,171)

FCS Playoffs Second Round

Top-seeded South Dakota State displayed a punishing running game and a smothering defense to begin defense of its Football Championship Subdivision title with a 41-0 shutout of Mercer in second-round playoff action Dec. 2 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The Jackrabbits improved to 12-0 on the season and extended their overall winning streak to 26 games dating back to early in the 2022 campaign. Mercer ended its season with a 9-4 overall record.

SDSU scored on each of its four first-half possessions, starting with a 26-yard field goal by Hunter Dustman that finished off a 10-play, 56-yard drive.

The Jackrabbits extended their lead to 10-0 with a 13-play, 74-yard march that consumed seven and a half minutes before culminating with the first of three rushing touchdowns on the day by Isaiah Davis. SDSU's longest play of the methodical drive was a 17-yard pass from Mark Gronowski to Amar Johnson before Davis scored on the first play of the second quarter.

SDSU scored two more touchdowns in the second quarter — the first on a 7-yard pass from Gronowski to Jaxon Janke and the second on a 6-yard run by Davis with 21 seconds remaining in the first half — for a 24-0 halftime lead. Gronowski connected with Jadon Janke for 28 yards on the first play of the latter drive before finding Jaxon Janke for a 23-yard catch and run to put SDSU back into the red zone.

After holding Mercer to another three-and-out to start the second half, SDSU made it 5-for-5 in coming away with points on drives to start the game with a six-play, 68-yard scoring jaunt in which Davis picked up all but six yards. The senior running back from Joplin, Missouri, tallied runs of 2 and 13 yards, along with a 5-yard catch, before rumbling 42 yards down the left sideline for his longest touchdown run of the season.

Davis topped the 100-yard mark for the 10th time in a playoff game in his career, ending the day with 117 yards on 16 carries. Amar Johnson contributed 107 yards on 11 carries as the Jackrabbits rushed for 346 yards as a team.

Angel Johnson closed out the scoring with an 80-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, which stands as the longest play from scrimmage by SDSU this season.

Gronowski completed 11-of-16 passes for 158 yards, with backup Chase Mason entering the game midway through the third quarter and completing 4-of-6 attempts for 67 yards. Jaxon Janke caught a game-high seven passes for a season-high 106 yards.

Overall, SDSU held a 571-151 advantage in total offense. Mercer was limited to six first downs and went 1-for-10 on third-down attempts., compared to 9-of-14 on third-down plays by SDSU. The Jackrabbits, who held the ball for more than 12 minutes in the opening quarter, racked up 35:26 in possession time.

Mercer's leading rusher was defensive lineman Chris Hill, who successfully executed a fake punt for a 24-yard gain in the second quarter. Quarterback Carter Peevy was 14-of-22 passing for 75 yards and was intercepted twice, while Parker Wroble was the leading pass-catcher for the Bears with five receptions for 26 yards.

Isaiah Stalbird registered a team-high seven tackles for the Jackrabbits, who recorded their first-ever playoff shutout and blanked an opponent for the second time in the last three games. Jason Freeman added six stops.

Lance Wise Jr. was credited with a game-high 10 tackles for Mercer, with Marques Thomas and T.J. Moore each contributing nine stops.



Jaxon Janke tallied seven receptions for a season-high 106 yards and a touchdown for a South Dakota State squad that opened the playoffs with a 41-0 shutout of Mercer.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Mercer (9-4)	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota State (12-0)	3	21	7	10	41

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	10:06	SDSU	—	Hunter Dustman 26 yd field goal
2nd	14:56	SDSU	—	Isaiah Davis 4 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	8:46	SDSU	—	Jaxon Janke 7 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:21	SDSU	—	Davis 6 yd run (Dustman kick)
3rd	9:56	SDSU	—	Davis 42 yd run (Dustman kick)
4th	13:31	SDSU	—	Dustman 19 yd field goal
4th	5:52	SDSU	—	Angel Johnson 80 yd run (Dustman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS	MU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	6	24
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	23-76	44-346
PASSING YDS (NET)	75	225
Passes Att-Comp-Int	22-14-2	22-15-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	45-151	66-571
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-17
Kickoff Returns-Yards	5-64	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	1-13	2-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	7-41.7	2-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-27	3-25
Possession Time	24:34	35:26
Third-Down Conversions	1 of 10	9 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	5-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-7	2-11

RUSHING LEADERS: MU - Chris Hill 1-24; Micah Bell 4-17; Al Wooten II 5-13; Carter Peevy 9-12. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 16-117; Amar Johnson 11-107; Angel Johnson 3-80; Mark Gronowski 11-40; Chase Mason 2-9. **PASSING LEADERS:** MU - Carter Peevy 14-22-2 75. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 11-16-1 158; Chase Mason 4-6-0 67. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** MU - Parker Wroble 5-26; Devron Harper 4-13; Ty James 2-28. SDSU - Jaxon Janke 7-106; Jadon Janke 2-42; Isaiah Davis 2-13; Devon Cole Jr. 1-32; Amar Johnson 1-17; Graham Goering 1-8; Griffin Wilde 1-7. **INTERCEPTIONS:** MU - Ken Standley 1-13. SDSU - Dalys Beatum 1-0; Aydan Dautermann 1-0. **SACKS:** MU - Isaac Prince 1-0-7. SDSU - Zac Wilson 1-0-10; Saiveon Williamson 0.5-1; Aaron Kusler 0.5-0. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** MU- Lance Wise Jr. 2-8-10; Marques Thomas 6-3-9; T.J. Moore 5-4-9; Ken Standley 1-7-8. SDSU - Isaiah Stalbird 4-3-7; Jason Freeman 1-5-6; Caleb Frandl 3-1-4; Jalen B. Lee 2-2-4; Daeton Mogaughy 2-2-4.

#1/1 SDSU 23, #6/9 VILLANOVA 12

Dec. 9, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 10,216)

FCS Playoffs Quarterfinal

South Dakota State seized the momentum with a return of a blocked punt for a touchdown late in the first half and secured another trip to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs behind the rushing of Isaiah Davis in the second half, defeating Villanova by a 23-12 score in blustery conditions.

The top-seeded Jackrabbits improved to 13-0 and ran their overall winning streak to 27 games. With the win, SDSU advanced to the semifinal round for the fourth season in a row and sixth time in seven years.

With the game played in sustained winds of 30 miles per hour with higher gusts, both squads were limited in the passing and kicking games for much of the contest. Villanova's punt attempt on the opening drive of the game deflected off a member of the protection unit, giving SDSU the ball at the Wildcats' 35-yard line. The Jackrabbits managed to pick up one first down before Hunter Dustman connected on a 42-yard field goal with the wind at his back for an early 3-0 lead.

Combined, the two squads' next six drives all resulted in punts, including a 71-yarder by Villanova's Nathan Fondacaro that pinned SDSU inside its own 10 as the Wildcats controlled the battle for field position for most of the first 30 minutes. Villanova forced a three-and-out after the long punt and took over at the SDSU 44 and put the first touchdown of the game on the board on a 25-yard run by Jalen Jackson midway through the second quarter. The extra-point attempt, however, was hooked left, keeping the score at 6-3.

SDSU continued to struggle against the Villanova defense, but backup safety Matthew Durrance provided the spark the Jackrabbits needed with a game-changing play on special teams. Durrance came around the left side of the formation to block Fondacaro's next punt attempt and had the ball bounce into his hands at the VU 45, returning it all the way for a touchdown and a 10-6 Jackrabbit lead after the PAT.

Villanova responded with an eight-play, 47-yard scoring drive that resulted in a 46-yard field goal by Matthew Mercurio with just over a minute to play in the first half to cut the SDSU lead to 10-9.

After being held to 48 hard-fought rushing yards — and 64 total yards — in the first half, the Jackrabbits began to find their footing in the third quarter. Although their first possession of the half resulted in a turnover in Villanova territory, SDSU was able to extend its lead to 17-9 with its most sustained drive to that point, putting together a nine-play, 62-yard drive. Two plays after Davis broke loose for an 18-yard run to the Villanova 24, Mark Gronowski connected with Jaxon Janke over the middle for a 20-yard touchdown pass with 7:01 to play in the third quarter.

The Wildcats answered a long drive of its own, but could only come away with three points. Villanova was positioned with first and goal at the SDSU 6 as the game flipped to the fourth quarter, but had to settle for a 23-yard field goal by Mercurio after two short runs and an incomplete pass.

Villanova's attempt to keep the momentum on its sideline lasted all of two plays. Gronowski ran for nine yards before Davis sliced his way through the line and outran the defense for his longest run of the season — a 66-yard jaunt to the end zone for the final score of the day.

Dalys Beanum intercepted a Connor Watkins pass on Villanova's first play on the ensuing drive and the Jackrabbits continued to ride the legs of Davis, who ground out 170 of his game-high 192 yards in the second half. Davis tied a career high with 27 carries in recording his 11th 100-yard performance in a playoff game.

SDSU finished with a 343-219 advantage in total offense as Gronowski completed 11-of-19 passes for 101 yards and added 39 rushing yards on eight carries. Jadon Janke led Jackrabbit receivers with five catches for 21 yards.



Matthew Durrance blocked and returned a punt 45 yards for a touchdown late in the second quarter to give South Dakota State the lead for good in a 23-12 playoff win over Villanova.

For Villanova, Jackson ended the day with 67 yards on nine rushing attempts, with Watkins adding 50 yards on 13 carries and contributing 74 yards through the air on 6-of-18 passing. Rayjoun Pringle caught two passes for 29 yards and DeeWil Barlee added a pair of receptions for 28 yards.

Adam Bock led SDSU with 11 tackles, followed by nine from Jason Freeman and a career-high seven stops, including a sack before the blocked punt, from defensive end Quinton Hicks.

Daniel Abraham led Villanova with a game-high 12 tackles.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Villanova (10-2)	0	9	0	3	12
South Dakota State (13-0)	3	7	7	6	23

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	8:38	SDSU	—	Hunter Dustman 42 yd field goal
2nd	7:55	VU	—	Jalen Jackson 25 yd run (kick failed)
2nd	4:23	SDSU	—	Matthew Durrance 45 yd blocked punt return (Dustman kick)
2nd	1:06	VU	—	Matthew Mercurio 46 yd field goal
3rd	7:01	SDSU	—	Jaxon Janke 20 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	13:29	VU	—	Mercurio 23 yd field goal
4th	12:34	SDSU	—	Isaiah Davis 66 yd run (rush failed)

TEAM STATISTICS	VU	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	10	16
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	35-145	41-242
PASSING YDS (NET)	74	101
Passes Att-Comp-Int	18-6-1	19-11-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	553-219	60-343
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	3-61
Kickoff Returns-Yards	3-52	2-16
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	1-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	7-30.3	5-34.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	2-20	4-40
Possession Time	28:33	31:27
Third-Down Conversions	6-15	4-12
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	1-2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	1-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-2	1-6

RUSHING LEADERS: VU - Jalen Jackson 9-67; Connor Watkins 13-50; DeeWil Barlee 11-22. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 27-192; Mark Gronowski 8-39; Amar Johnson 4-13. **PASSING LEADERS:** VU - Connor Watkins 6-18-1. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 11-19-0 101. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** VU - Rayjoun Pringle 2-29; DeeWil Barlee 2-28; Jalen Jackson 1-16; Jaaron Hayek 1-1. SDSU - Jadon Janke 5-21; Isaiah Davis 2-24; Jaxon Janke 2-22; Zach Heins 1-26; Griffin Wilde 1-8. **INTERCEPTIONS:** VU - none. SDSU - Dalys Beanum 1-0. **SACKS:** VU - Jake Reichwein 0.5-1; Jake Green 0.5-1. SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.0-6. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** VU - Daniel Abraham 3-9-12; Jake Reichwein 3-6-9; Shane Hartzell 2-7-9; Devon Marshall 3-5-8; Brendan Bell 2-5-7. SDSU - Adam Bock 5-6-11; Jason Freeman 2-7-9; Quinton Hicks 3-4-7; Ryan Van Marel 2-3-5.

2023 GAME RECAPS

#1/1 SDSU 59, #9/15 UALBANY 0

Dec. 15, 2023 • Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium (Att.: 12,265)
FCS Playoffs Semifinal

South Dakota State's pursuit of perfection during the 2023 season hit another gear as the Jackrabbits put together a near-flawless performance in a 59-0 shutout of UAlbany in the semifinals of the Football Championship Sub-division playoffs Dec. 15 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

The top-seeded Jackrabbits scored in all three phases of the game in improving to 14-0 overall and running their winning streak to 28 games dating back to the 2022 campaign. UAlbany, which was seeded fifth, ended its season with an 11-4 overall record.

SDSU was sharp from the opening kickoff as it strung together an 11-play, 77-yard drive that culminated with a 6-yard touchdown pass from Mark Gronowski to Zach Heins seven minutes into the contest.

UAlbany moved into Jackrabbit territory on its initial possession, but safety Tucker Large came up with the first of three first-half interceptions thrown by Great Dane quarterback Reese Poffenbarger at the SDSU 30.

Gronowski, meanwhile, completed his first seven pass attempts of the night, including a 40-yard strike deep over the middle to Jadon Janke to give the Jackrabbits the ball at the UAlbany 12-yard line two plays after the interception to set up a 3-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Davis for a 14-0 Jackrabbit lead.

SDSU was only getting started.

Davis scored on a 2-yard run four minutes into the second quarter and Large loomed large on special teams moments later as he fielded a rolling punt at his own 21, made the first man miss and weaved his way through UAlbany defenders with help from a Jackrabbit caravan on his way to a 79-yard touchdown. Davis' second touchdown of the game was set up by a 32-yard run by Gronowski — his longest of the season.

DyShawn Gales and Dalys Benum each picked off Poffenbarger passes in the second quarter, and the Jackrabbits cashed in after Benum's interception at the SDSU 37 to build a 35-0 lead going into the break. Gronowski continued his efficient passing by going 4-for-4 for 69 yards on the drive, the last 36 yards coming on a touchdown pass to Jadon Janke in the right corner of the end zone with 34 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Jackrabbit defense forced its fourth takeaway of the game two plays into the third quarter as Isaiah Stalbird jarred the ball loose from the UAlbany ball carrier and Jason Freeman picked up the loose ball at the Great Danes' 34-yard line and ran it back to push the SDSU lead to 42-0.

SDSU preserved its second shutout of the postseason and third in 2023 by turning UAlbany over on downs three times in the second half, including twice in the red zone in the third quarter.

Gronowski and Heins hooked up again early in the fourth quarter on a 25-yard touchdown pass on what was the final drive of the game for the majority of the Jackrabbit starters.

Backup quarterback Chase Mason tossed his first career touchdown pass later in the final stanza as freshman wide receiver Griffin Wilde caught a pass behind the line of scrimmage and slipped through a tackle before outracing the defense for a 71-yard catch and run.

Hunter Dustman added a 27-yard field goal late for the final tally as the Jackrabbits set a program record for most points in a postseason game with 59.

SDSU finished with a 556-298 advantage in total offense, including a 220-66 margin in rushing. Gronowski ended the night 15-of-19 passing for 265 yards and three scores. He also ran five times for 50 yards. Davis led the ground game with 107 yards on 15 carries.

Jadon Janke paced the receiving corps with 151 yards on six catches, with Heins ending the night with four receptions for 50 yards.

For UAlbany, Poffenbarger was 30-for-44 passes for 232 yards, spreading



South Dakota State posted its second shutout of the postseason with a 59-0 drubbing of UAlbany Dec. 15 at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

his completions among nine different receivers. Julian Hicks was the primary target with seven catches for 76 yards. Poffenbarger also led the Great Danes in rushing with 29 carries on nine attempts.

Besides his fumble return for touchdown, Freeman tallied a team-high nine tackles and broke up a pass. Fellow linebackers Stalbird and Adam Bock each registered seven stops. In all, 28 different Jackrabbit players recorded at least one tackle in the contest.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
UAlbany (11-4)	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota State (14-0)	14	21	7	17	59

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	8:01	SDSU	— Zach Heins 6 yd pass from Mark Gronowski (Hunter Dustman kick)
1st	2:16	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 3 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	11:11	SDSU	— Davis 2 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	8:07	SDSU	— Tucker Large 79 yd punt return (Dustman kick)
2nd	00:34	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 36 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
3rd	14:23	SDSU	— Jason Freeman 34 yd fumble return (Dustman kick)
4th	12:09	SDSU	— Heins 25 yd pass from Gronowski (Dustman kick)
4th	8:15	SDSU	— Griffin Wilde 71 yd pass from Chase Mason (Dustman kick)
4th	3:53	SDSU	— Dustman 27 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS	UALB	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	19	22
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	23-66	32-220
PASSING YDS (NET)	232	336
Passes Att-Comp-Int	44-30-3	21-16-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	67-298	53-556
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	1-79
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-22	1-14
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	3-12
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-51.7	1-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-20	4-40
Possession Time	32:12	27:48
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 12	5 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 3	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-2	4-4
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	2-10

RUSHING LEADERS: UALB - Reese Poffenbarger 9-29; Faysal Aden 5-17; Jose Lopez-Quinones 3-16. SDSU - Isaiah Davis 15-107; Mark Gronowski 5-50; Amar Johnson 7-34; Angel Johnson 4-23.

PASSING LEADERS: UALB - Reese Poffenbarger 30-44-3 232. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 15-19-0

265; Chase Mason 1-2-0 71. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** UALB - Julian Hicks 7-76; Faysal Aden 6-44; Roy Alexander 5-21; Ian Renninger 4-35; Brevin Easton 4-31. SDSU - Jadon Janke 6-151; Zach

Heins 4-50; Griffin Wilde 2-85; Graham Goering 2-28; Jaxon Janke 2-22. **INTERCEPTIONS:** UALB - none. SDSU - Tucker Large 1-12; Dalys Benum 1-0; DyShawn Gales 1-0. **SACKS:** UALB - none.

SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.5-7; Randy Keumogne 0.5-3. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** UALB - Denzel Patrick 4-8-12; Bill Hackett 7-1-8; Isaac Duffy 5-3-8. SDSU - Jason Freeman 2-7-9; Adam Bock 4-3-7; Isaiah Stalbird 4-3-7; Graham Spalding 3-2-5.

#1/1 SDSU 23, #2/2 MONTANA 3

Jan. 7, 2024 • Toyota Stadium (Att.: 19,512)

FRISCO, Texas — Perfection.

South Dakota State's stifling defense continued its impressive postseason run, holding Montana out of the end zone while the Jackrabbits put up a 16-point third quarter to pull away for a 23-3 victory Jan. 7, 2024, at Toyota Stadium to earn their second consecutive Football Championship Subdivision national title.

The top-seeded Jackrabbits ended the season with a 15-0 record and extended their overall winning streak to 29 games. Montana, seeded second, ended the campaign with a 13-2 overall record.

Both teams put together time-consuming drives on their first possessions of the game before the defenses took center stage for the remainder of the first half. SDSU took the opening kickoff and marched 75 yards on 11 plays, reaching the end zone on a 6-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Davis 6 minutes and 52 seconds into the contest. The Jackrabbits moved into Montana territory on a 26-yard catch and run by Jaxon Janke on a pass from Mark Gronowski on the second play from scrimmage and converted twice on third-down plays.

Montana turned in its own methodical drive on its initial possession and was on the verge of tying the game. However, on the 15th and final play of the drive from the SDSU 1, Adam Bock stopped Grizzly running back Eli Gillman short of the goal line on a fourth-down play to keep Montana off the board.

The Grizzlies produced what would be their only points of the game on their possession as they took advantage of an interception with Nico Ramos converting a 30-yard field goal.

The two squads combined to punt on each of their next four possessions, with the final possession of the first half ending when SDSU cornerback Dalys Benum intercepted Montana's Hail Mary pass attempt in the end zone at the horn to keep the score 7-3.

SDSU's defense forced two more takeaways in the third quarter as the Jackrabbits continually harassed Montana quarterback Clifton McDowell. Defensive tackle Brian Williams jarred the ball loose from McDowell and DyShawn Gales recovered the fumble on the Grizzlies' opening possession of the second half and Cade Terveer added a strip-sack with Ryan Van Marel recovering later in the quarter.

In between, the Jackrabbits went up 14-3 with their second touchdown of the game midway through the third period. Gronowski connected with tight end Zach Heins on a 34-yard pass play to set the Jackrabbits up first and goal, then Gronowski found paydirt from 10 yards out on the next play.

On the next SDSU possession, Gronowski, who was named Most Outstanding Player of the championship game for the second year in a row, hooked up with Jadon Janke for a 23-yard touchdown pass.

SDSU closed out the scoring with a 32-yard field goal by Hunter Dustman following Terveer's strip-sack. Dustman also held Montana's punt return game in check by landing all five of his punts inside the Grizzlies' 20-yard line, including two at the 5.

Montana would move the ball into SDSU territory on a couple occasions in the fourth quarter, only to come up empty as the Jackrabbits tallied a season-high five sacks and notched eight tackles for loss. Terveer and Quinton Hicks each posted 1.5 sacks while Bock paced the SDSU defense with 11 tackles. Jason Freeman added nine stops.

SDSU finished with a 363-259 advantage in total offense. Gronowski completed 13-of-21 passes for 175 yards, with Jadon Janke hauling in five catches for 55 yards and twin brother, Jaxon, contributing four catches for 66



South Dakota State claimed its second consecutive national title with a 23-3 victory over Montana on Jan. 7, 2024, in Frisco, Texas.

yards. Davis led the ground attack with 87 yards on 16 carries, with Gronowski adding 53 yards on eight rushing attempts.

Montana was limited to 47 net yards rushing on 30 attempts as Gillman and Nick Ostmo each gained 18 yards on seven and six attempts, respectively. McDowell ended the afternoon 22-of-39 passing for 165 yards with Keali'i Ah Yat going 6-for-7 passing for 47 yards in late-game action.

The Grizzlies' Braxton Hill led all players with 12 tackles, including their lone sack.

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	FINAL
Montana (13-2)	0	3	0	0	3
South Dakota State (15-0)	7	0	16	0	23

SCORING SUMMARY

1st	8:08	SDSU	— Isaiah Davis 6 yd run (Hunter Dustman kick)
2nd	10:51	UM	— Nico Ramos 30 yd field goal
2nd	7:11	SDSU	— Mark Gronowski 10 yd run (Dustman kick)
2nd	2:36	SDSU	— Jadon Janke 23 yd pass from Gronowski (team kick attempt failed)
3rd	00:56	SDSU	— Dustman 32 yd field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

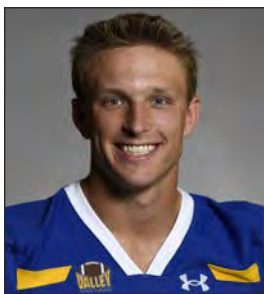
	UM	SDSU
FIRST DOWNS	17	17
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	30-47	34-188
PASSING YDS (NET)	212	175
Passes Att-Comp-Int	46-28-1	21-13-1
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	76-259	55-363
Punt Returns-Yards	1-6	1-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	5-114	1-23
Interception Returns-Yards	1-25	1-35
Punts (Number-Avg)	6-40.7	6-38.7
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-34	6-35
Possession Time	29:50	30:10
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 16	4 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	2 of 5	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-2	3-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-8	5-34

RUSHING LEADERS: UM - Eli Gillman 7-18; Nick Ostmo 6-18; Xavier Harris 2-15; Clifton McDowell 13-2; Keali'i Ah Yat 2-(-6). SDSU - Isaiah Davis 16-87; Mark Gronowski 8-53; Amar Johnson 9-50.

PASSING LEADERS: UM - Clifton McDowell 22-39-1 165; Keali'i Ah Yat 6-7-0 47. SDSU - Mark Gronowski 13-21-1 175. **RECEIVING LEADERS:** UM - Aaron Fontes 7-76; Nick Ostmo 5-43; Eli Gillman 5-31; Junior Bergen 4-25; Keelan White 4-19; Drew Deck 2-15; Evan Shafer 1-7. SDSU - Jadon Janke 5-55; Jaxon Janke 4-66; Zach Heins 2-41; Amar Johnson 1-10; Isaiah Davis 1-3.

INTERCEPTIONS: UM - Corbin Walker 1-25. SDSU - Dalys Benum 1-35. **SACKS:** UM - Braxton Hill 1.0-8. SDSU - Quinton Hicks 1.5-14; Cade Terveer 1.5-5; Isaiah Stalbird 1.0-13; Aaron Wolfcale-Holsten 1.0-2. **TACKLE LEADERS (UA-A-TOT):** UM - Braxton Hill 5-7-12; Ryder Meyer 3-4-7; Alex Gubner 2-4-6; Riley Wilson 1-4-5. SDSU - Adam Bock 7-4-11; Jason Freeman 5-4-9; Colby Huerter 4-3-7; Tucker Large 3-3-6; Isaiah Stalbird 2-3-5; DyShawn Gales 5-0-5.

2023 AWARDS



MARK GRONOWSKI
Team MVP



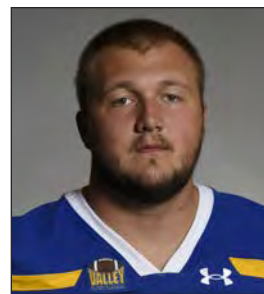
ISAIAH DAVIS
Offensive MVP



JASON FREEMAN
Defensive MVP



TUCKER LARGE
Special Teams MVP



MASON MCCORMICK
Effort Award



ADAM BOCK
Scholar-Athlete Award



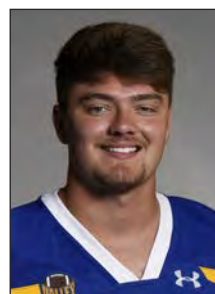
CADEN JOHNSON
Servant/Humility Award



KIRBY VORHEES
*Scout Offense
Player of the Year*



REIS KIRSCHENMAN
*Co-Scout Defense
Player of the Year*



NICK WELLS
*Co-Scout Defense
Player of the Year*



KENTRELL PREJEAN
*Scout Special Teams
Player of the Year*

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE AWARDS

MVFC Co-OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- Isaiah Davis
- Mark Gronowski

ALL-MVFC FIRST TEAM

- Isaiah Davis
- Jason Freeman
- Garret Greenfield
- Mark Gronowski
- Jadon Janke
- Amar Johnson (APB)
- Tucker Large (DB)
- Mason McCormick
- Cade Terveer

ALL-MVFC SECOND TEAM

- Hunter Dustman (P)
- DyShawn Gales
- Zach Heins
- Tucker Large (RS)
- Gus Miller
- Mike Morgan
- Kaydon Olivia
- Isaiah Stalbird
- Ryan Van Marel

ALL-MVFC HONORABLE MENTION

- Dalys Beanum
- Evan Beerntsen
- Jaxon Janke

MVFC ALL-NEWCOMER TEAM

- Griffin Wilde

MVFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Isaiah Davis (Oct. 7)
- Mark Gronowski (Nov. 18)
- Jadon Janke (Nov. 18)

MVFC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK

- Evan Beerntsen (Oct. 28)
- Garret Greenfield (Oct. 7)
- Mason McCormick (Sept. 30)

MVFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Isaiah Stalbird (Oct. 14)

MVFC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Hunter Dustman (Oct. 28, Nov. 4)
- Tucker Large (Sept. 16)

MVFC NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

- Griffin Wilde (Sept. 9)

NATIONAL AWARDS

WALTER PAYTON AWARD

- Mark Gronowski

WALTER PAYTON AWARD FINALISTS

- Isaiah Davis
- Mark Gronowski

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION ATHLETICS

DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- Mark Gronowski

PHIL STEELE FCS OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- Mark Gronowski

PHIL STEELE FCS OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE YEAR

- Mason McCormick

FCS RIMINGTON AWARD

- Gus Miller

AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

FCS ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM

- Isaiah Davis
- Garret Greenfield

AFCA FCS ALL-AMERICA SECOND TEAM

- Mark Gronowski
- Mason McCormick

ASSOCIATED PRESS FCS ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM

- Isaiah Davis
- Garret Greenfield
- Mark Gronowski
- Mason McCormick

STATS PERFORM FCS ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM

- Isaiah Davis
- Mark Gronowski
- Garret Greenfield
- Mason McCormick

STATS PERFORM FCS ALL-AMERICA THIRD TEAM

- Jason Freeman

FCS ADA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

- Garret Greenfield
- Mark Gronowski

FCS ADA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

- Garret Greenfield
- Mark Gronowski

WALTER CAMP FCS ALL-AMERICA FIRST TEAM

- Garret Greenfield
- Mark Gronowski
- Zach Heins
- Mason McCormick



ACADEMIC AWARDS

**FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION ATHLETICS
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**
• Mark Gronowski

FCS ADA ACADEMIC ALL-STAR
• Adam Bock
• Mark Gronowski

**COLLEGE SPORTS COMMUNICATORS ACADEMIC
ALL-AMERICA SECOND TEAM**
• Mark Gronowski
• Ryan Van Marel

CSC ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT
• DyShawn Gales
• Mark Gronowski
• Jaxon Janke
• Caden Johnson
• Cale Reeder
• Ryan Van Marel

HAMPSHIRE HONOR SOCIETY
• DyShawn Gales

- Zach Heins
- Quinton Hicks
- Jaxon Janke
- Caden Johnson
- Mason McCormick
- John O'Brian
- Cade Terveer
- Ryan Van Marel
- Brian Williams

**MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE FIRST TEAM**
• Adam Bock
• Mark Gronowski

MVFC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SECOND TEAM
• Jaxon Janke
• Caden Johnson
• Cale Reeder
• Ryan Van Marel

MVFC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM HONORABLE MENTION
• DyShawn Gales

TEAM PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

AUG. 31 vs. WESTERN OREGON

Offense: Griffin Wilde, Evan Beerntsen
Defense: Tucker Large, Quinton Hicks
Special Teams: Caleb Frandl
Scout Offense: Kirby Vorhees, William Paepke
Scout Defense: Kolten Tilford, Grant Conaway
Scout Special Teams: Joe Randle

SEPT. 9 vs. MONTANA STATE

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Mason McCormick
Defense: Cale Reeder, Brian Williams
Special Teams: N/A
Scout Offense: Jeff Becker, Jackson Kerstin
Scout Defense: Kytan Fyfe, Reis Kirschenman
Scout Special Teams: Kentrell Prejean

SEPT. 16 vs. DRAKE

Offense: Mark Gronowski, Gus Miller
Defense: Jason Freeman, Caden Johnson
Special Teams: Tucker Large
Scout Offense: Brenden Begeman, Jackson Kerstin
Scout Defense: Noah St-Juste, Reis Kirschenman
Scout Special Teams: Andrew Gustad

SEPT. 30 vs. NORTH DAKOTA

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Mason McCormick
Defense: Adam Bock, Caden Johnson
Special Teams: Tucker Large
Scout Offense: Kirby Vorhees, Kenyon BigBow
Scout Defense: Noah St-Juste, Jace Sifore
Scout Special Teams: Beau Giblin

OCT. 7 AT ILLINOIS STATE

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Garret Greenfield
Defense: Jason Freeman, Cade Terveer
Special Teams: Cullen McShane
Scout Offense: Joey Neumann, Jackson Kerstin
Scout Defense: Kolten Tilford, Nick Wells
Scout Special Teams: Andrew Gustad

OCT. 14 vs. NORTHERN IOWA

Offense: Zach Heins, Mason McCormick
Defense: Isaiah Stalbird, Cade Terveer
Special Teams: Hunter Dustman
Scout Offense: Ky Oday Jr., Jackson Kerstin
Scout Defense: Chase Van Tol, Reis Kirschenman
Scout Special Teams: Brenden Begeman

OCT. 21 AT SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Offense: Isaiah Davis, John O'Brian
Defense: Cale Reeder, Quinton Hicks
Special Teams: Hunter Dustman
Scout Offense: Jeff Becker, Ian Mutchler
Scout Defense: Noah Thompson, Aidan Murphy
Scout Special Teams: Kentrell Prejean

OCT. 28 AT SOUTH DAKOTA

Offense: Amar Johnson, Evan Beerntsen
Defense: Dalys Beanum, Cade Terveer
Special Teams: Hunter Dustman
Scout Offense: Elijah Ervin, Cole Jarrett
Scout Defense: Noah St-Juste, Jace Sifore
Scout Special Teams: Kytan Fyfe

NOV. 4 vs. NORTH DAKOTA STATE

Offense: Jadon Janke, Mason McCormick
Defense: Brian Williams
Special Teams: Hunter Dustman
Scout Offense: Andrew Gustad, Ian Mutchler
Scout Defense: Kolten Tilford, Jace Sifore
Scout Special Teams: Joey Neumann

NOV. 11 AT YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Offense: Mark Gronowski, John O'Brian
Defense: Entire Defense
Special Teams: Kevin Brenner
Scout Offense: Ky Oday Jr., Jackson Kerstin
Scout Defense: Noah St-Juste, Nick Wells
Scout Special Teams: Kentrell Prejean

NOV. 18 vs. MISSOURI STATE

Offense: Jadon Janke, Garret Greenfield
Defense: Jason Freeman, Brian Williams
Special Teams: Matthew Durrance
Scout Offense: Jeff Becker, Ian Mutchler
Scout Defense: Kolten Tilford, Nick Wells
Scout Special Teams: Noah Thompson

DEC. 2 vs. MERCER (FCS PLAYOFFS)

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Offensive Line
Defense: DyShawn Gales, Zac Wilson
Special Teams: Caleb Frandl
Scout Offense: Joe Roll
Scout Defense: Noah Thompson, Bryce Hawthorne
Scout Special Teams: Andrew Gustad

DEC. 9 vs. VILLANOVA (FCS PLAYOFFS)

Offense: Isaiah Davis, Garret Greenfield
Defense: Dalys Beanum, Quinton Hicks
Special Teams: Matthew Durrance
Scout Offense: Elijah Ervin, Kenyon BigBow
Scout Defense: Chase Van Tol, Nick Wells
Scout Special Teams: Beau Giblin

DEC. 15 vs. UALBANY (FCS PLAYOFFS)

Offense: Mark Gronowski, Gus Miller
Defense: Defensive Line
Special Teams: Tucker Large
Scout Offense: Ky O'Day, Ian Mutchler
Scout Defense: Kolten Tilford, Reis Kirschenman
Scout Special Teams: Andrew Gustad

2023 FINAL POLLS

STATS PERFORM FCS POLL — FINAL

PL.	SCHOOL	2023 RECORD	POINTS	PRE
1.	<i>South Dakota State [56]</i>	15-0	1,400	1
2.	Montana	13-2	1,343	14
3.	North Dakota State	11-4	1,252	2
4.	South Dakota	10-3	1,140	NR
5.	UAlbany	11-4	1,125	NR
6.	Villanova	10-3	1,105	RV
7.	Furman	10-3	1,085	6
8.	Idaho	9-4	1,067	8
9.	Montana State	8-4	992	3
10.	Delaware	9-4	790	22
11.	Florida A&M	12-1	777	RV
12.	Southern Illinois	8-5	754	RV
13.	Sacramento State	8-5	748	10
14.	Chattanooga	8-5	594	RV
15.	Richmond	9-4	573	18
16.	North Dakota	7-5	542	17
17.	Mercer	9-4	525	20
18.	Austin Peay	9-3	458	NR
19.	Youngstown State	8-5	454	RV
20.	North Carolina Central	9-3	339	19
21.	Lafayette	9-3	280	NR
22.	Incarnate Word	8-2	210	7
23.	Western Carolina	7-4	117	NR
24.	UC Davis	7-4	107	16
25.	UT Martin	8-3	103	RV

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

Others receiving votes: Gardner-Webb, 60; Tarleton, 52; Nicholls, 45; **Northern Iowa, 41**; Holy Cross, 35; **Drake, 21**; Harvard, 18; Central Arkansas, 17; Eastern Illinois, 6; Duquesne, 10; Yale, 4.

AFCA FCS COACHES' POLL — FINAL

PL.	SCHOOL	2023 RECORD	POINTS	PRE
1.	<i>South Dakota State [23]</i>	15-0	575	1
2.	Montana	13-2	552	14
3.	North Dakota State	11-4	513	2
4.	South Dakota	10-3	448	NR
	Idaho	9-4	448	13
6.	Furman	10-3	447	6
7.	UAlbany	11-4	429	NR
8.	Montana State	8-4	411	3
9.	Villanova	10-3	407	RV
10.	Florida A&M	12-1	400	25
11.	Delaware	9-4	278	21
12.	Austin Peay	9-3	264	RV
13.	Southern Illinois	8-5	258	RV
14.	Incarnate Word	8-2	254	7
15.	Sacramento State	8-5	238	8
16.	North Dakota	7-5	223	18
17.	Chattanooga	8-5	203	RV
18.	North Carolina Central	9-3	185	19
19.	Lafayette	9-3	178	NR
20.	Mercer	9-4	175	22
21.	Youngstown State	8-5	138	RV
22.	Richmond	9-4	130	16
23.	UT Martin	8-3	100	RV
24.	Eastern Illinois	8-3	65	NR
25.	Holy Cross	7-4	56	5

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

Others receiving votes: UC Davis, 28; Harvard, 14; Gardner-Webb, 11; Tarleton, 8; Central Arkansas, 7; Nicholls, 7; Western Carolina, 7; **Illinois State, 6**; Yale, 4; William & Mary, 3; Rhode Island, 2; Samford, 2; Bryant, 1.

2023 FCS PLAYOFFS RESULTS

FIRST ROUND — NOV. 24

Mercer 17, Gardner-Webb 7
 Youngstown State 40, Duquesne 7
 Richmond 49, North Carolina Central 27
 Southern Illinois 35, Nicholls 0
 Sacramento State 42, North Dakota 35
 North Dakota State 66, Drake 3
 Chattanooga 24, Austin Peay 21
 Delaware 36, Lafayette 34

SECOND ROUND — DEC. 2

No. 1 South Dakota State 41, Mercer 0
 No. 2 Montana 49, Delaware 19
 No. 3 South Dakota 34, Sacramento State 24
 No. 4 Idaho 20, Southern Illinois 17 [OT]
 No. 5 UAlbany 41, Richmond 13
 North Dakota State 35, No. 6 Montana State 34 [OT]
 No. 7 Furman 26, Chattanooga 7
 No. 8 Villanova 45, Youngstown State 28

QUARTERFINALS — DEC. 8/9

No. 1 South Dakota State 23, No. 8 Villanova 12
 No. 2 Montana 35, No. 7 Furman 28 [OT]
 North Dakota State 45, No. 3 South Dakota 17
 No. 5 UAlbany 30, No. 4 Idaho 22

SEMIFINALS — DEC. 15/16

No. 1 South Dakota State 59, No. 5 UAlbany 0
 No. 2 Montana 31, North Dakota State 29 [2 OT]

CHAMPIONSHIP — JAN. 7 (FRISCO, TEXAS)

No. 1 South Dakota State 45, No. 3 North Dakota State 21