



For Immediate Release  
Sept. 14, 2022  
Mike Kern

Illinois State • Indiana State • Missouri State • North Dakota • North Dakota State • Northern Iowa  
South Dakota • South Dakota State • Southern Illinois • Western Illinois • Youngstown State

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### 2022 Valley Football Standings (thru Sept. 10)

Team	Overall		MVFC		Total Points			Stk.
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct..	For	Opp.	H	
North Dakota	1-1	.500	1-0	1.000	46	65	1-0	W1
Missouri State	2-0	1.000	0-0	.000	62	44	1-0	W2
North Dakota State	2-0	1.000	0-0	.000	99	17	2-0	W2
Youngstown State	2-0	1.000	0-0	.000	80	30	2-0	W2
Indiana State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	17	70	1-0	L1
Illinois State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	28	59	1-0	W1
South Dakota State	1-1	.500	0-0	.000	27	29	1-0	W1
South Dakota	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	7	58	0-0	L2
Southern Illinois	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	60	98	0-1	L2
Western Illinois	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	35	104	0-0	L2
UNI	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	44	77	0-0	L2

### Open Season

North Dakota beat UNI on Sept. 10 in the league opener for both schools. It's the earliest start for an MVFC game in more than 10 seasons. On Sept. 11, 2010, #13 UNI hosted and beat #21 NDSU in the UNI-Dome, 16-9.

The Missouri Valley Football Conference is celebrating its 38th anniversary this fall. North Dakota State extended its active winning streak in MVFC season-opening games to 11 games with a 16-10 victory at North Dakota in 2021. Notably, Southern Illinois and Missouri State played in the league's first conference game on Sept. 7, 1985.

### Schedule/Results

#### Thursday, Sept. 8

#14/14 UT Martin at #5/7 Missouri State MSU, 35-30

#### Saturday, Sept. 10

Western Illinois at Minnesota MINN, 62-10  
 RV South Dakota at #3/2 Montana MONT, 24-7  
 NC A&T at #1/1 North Dakota State NDSU, 43-3  
 \*#24/24 UNI at RV North Dakota UND, 29-27  
 Indiana State at Purdue PUR, 56-0  
 Dayton at RV Youngstown State YSU, 49-16  
 #25 UC Davis at #2/3 South Dakota State SDSU, 24-22  
 SE Missouri State at #17/19 Southern Illinois SEMO, 34-31  
 Valparaiso at RV Illinois State ISU, 28-21

#### Saturday, Sept. 17

RV/#23 Youngstown St. at Kentucky (ESPN+) 11:00 A.M.  
 RV S. Illinois at Northwestern (B1G Network) 11:00 A.M.  
 #3/2 Montana at Indiana State (ESPN+) 12:00 P.M.  
 Cal Poly at RV South Dakota (Midco/ESPN+) 1:00 P.M.  
 #22/RV North Dakota at RV N. Arizona (ESPN+) 3:00 P.M.  
 Southern Utah at Western Illinois (ESPN+) 3:00 P.M.  
 #8/7 Sacramento State at RV UNI (ESPN+) 4:00 P.M.  
 #5/6 Missouri State at #10 Arkansas (ESPN+) 6:00 P.M.  
 Butler at #2/3 S. Dakota State (Midco/ESPN+) 6:00 P.M.  
 Eastern Illinois at Illinois State (Marquee/E+) 6:30 P.M.  
 #1/1 North Dakota State at Arizona (FS1) 10:00 P.M.

\*indicates MVFC game; rankings reflect Stats Perform poll followed by AFCA poll; FBS rankings are Associated Press; RV stands for 'received votes.'

Team	Record	Home	Away	Streak
Illinois State	15-22	6-8	9-14	L4
Indiana State	11-24	9-11	2-13	L4
Missouri St.	18-19	8-11	10-8	W4
North Dakota	2-1	2-1	0-0	W1
NDSU	11-3	5-0	6-3	W11
UNI	25-13	15-3	10-10	L1
South Dakota	4-6	1-2	3-4	L1
SDSU	7-7	4-3	3-4	W3
S. Illinois	17-20	12-8	5-12	W1
W. Illinois	19-18	12-8	7-10	W1
Youngstown St.	18-7	11-1	7-6	W1

### MVFC-Big Sky Challenge Continues This Weekend

In an effort to publicize current matchups and promote future non-conference scheduling between two of the premier FCS conferences, the MVFC and the Big Sky Conference announced a Challenge Series between the two leagues before the 2017 season. (Only regular-season contests count in the series standings.)

Four games this weekend wrap up the 2022 series.

#### Series History (2017-22)

2017 (MVFC Wins Series, 5-3)  
 Playoffs: Big Sky 1, MVFC 0  
 2018 (MVFC Wins Series, 5-3)  
 Playoffs: MVFC 2, Big Sky 1  
 2019 (MVFC Wins Series, 6-4)  
 Playoffs: MVFC 1, Big Sky 0  
 20-21 (COVID - No regular-season games)  
 Playoffs: MVFC 2, Big Sky 0  
 2021 (MVFC Wins Series, 4-2)  
 Playoffs: MVFC 3, Big Sky 2  
 2022 (Series Tied, 1-1)

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#### Players of the Week

Each week a panel will select players of the week for offense, defense, newcomer, offensive line and special teams.

#### Weekly Features

The league produces weekly video segments (Two Minute Drill and The Extra Point) and a bimonthly audio podcast (First and Goal). Each is available by visiting the league's web site (valleyfootball.org).

[www.valley-football.org](http://www.valley-football.org)

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### FCS ALL-IN

FCS conferences are collaborating for the third-straight season in the weekly program titled "FCS ALL-IN," which airs every Friday at 7 p.m. ET on ESPN+

The weekly episodes will be hosted by Mariluz Cook and features guests Craig Haley of Stats Perform and Sam Herder of HERO Sports, who will preview key matchups each week. The show will also feature a "Pick 'Em" segment, spotlighting guest pickers from the highlighted "Games of the Week."

# 2022 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release

## vs. Non-Conference (9-11)

Home: 8-1 / Away: 1-10 / Neut: 0-0

### NCAA FCS Teams (9-4)

ASUN	2-0
Central Arkansas	1-0
North Alabama	1-0
Big Sky	1-1
UC Davis	1-0
Cal Poly	0-0
Montana	0-1
Northern Arizona	0-0
Sacramento State	0-0
Big South	1-0
North Carolina A&T	1-0
NEC	1-0
Duquesne	1-0
Ohio Valley	1-2
Eastern Illinois	0-0
Southeast Missouri State	0-2
UT Martin	1-0
PFL	3-0
Butler	0-0
Dayton	1-0
Drake	1-0
Valparaiso	1-0
Southland	0-1
Incarnate Word	0-1
WAC	0-0
Abilene Christian	0-0
Southern Utah	0-0
Utah Tech	0-0

### NCAA FBS Teams (0-7)

Big 12	0-1
Kansas State	0-1
Big Ten	0-5
Iowa	0-1
Minnesota	0-1
Nebraska	0-1
Northwestern	0-0
Purdue	0-1
Wisconsin	0-1
Mountain West	0-1
Air Force	0-1
Pac-12	0-0
Arizona	0-0
SEC	0-0
Arkansas	0-0
Kentucky	0-0

## vs. Ranked (FCS) Teams (2-3)

S1 - W. Illinois at #15 UT Martin (42-25)	.....L
S3 - S. Illinois at #14 UIW (64-29)	.....L
S8 - Missouri St. vs. #14 UT Martin (35-30)	. W
S10 - S. Dakota at #2 Montana (24-7)	.....L
S10 - SDSU vs. #25 UC Davis (24-22)	..... W

## vs. Ranked (FBS) Teams (0-1)

S3 - Illinois State at #18 Wisconsin (38-0)	.....L
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## 2022 MVFC Preseason Poll

1. North Dakota State (39)	..... 446
2. South Dakota State (2)	..... 407
3. Missouri State	..... 355
4. Southern Illinois	..... 306
5. UNI	..... 304
6. South Dakota	..... 235
7. North Dakota	..... 190
8. Illinois State	..... 178
9. Youngstown State	..... 132
10. Indiana State	..... 109
11. Western Illinois	..... 44

## 3 Teams in the Top 5

NDSU (1), SDSU (2), and Missouri State (5) represent the Conference in the Top 5 of the Stats Perform Top 25 poll. Before this year the league last had 3 teams in the Top 5 was on March 8, 2021, when UND (3), UNI (4) and NDSU (5) represented the league. Prior to that, the Conference accomplished the feat on Sept. 25, 2017 with NDSU (2), SDSU (4), and Youngstown State (5). (Rankings noted are the highest rank in either the Stats Perform or AFCA Coaches polls.)

## MVFC in the NFL



A total of 26 former Missouri Valley Football Conference players made Opening Day rosters for NFL teams. NDSU leads all MVFC teams with 10.

The 2021 season was capped by an incredible presence in the April 2022 NFL Draft. A total of nine MVFC players were drafted, setting an all-time high for the Conference (surpassing the previous-record total of five in 2021). UNI's Trevor Penning (19th overall pick) became the first Panther selected in the first round of the NFL draft as he joined North Dakota State QBs Carson Wentz (2016) and Trey Lance (2019) as the only MVFC student-athletes to do so. *Notably, Penning suffered an injury in the preseason and is not listed below.*

### Former MVFC Players (26) on Opening Day Rosters\*

DE Shelby Harris	Seattle Seahawks	Illinois State
RB James Robinson	Jacksonville Jaguars	Illinois State
LB Jonas Griffith	Denver Broncos	Indiana State
TE Robert Tonyan	Green Bay Packers	Indiana State
LB Dylan Cole	Tennessee Titans	Missouri State
DT Eric Johnson	Indianapolis Colts	Missouri State
OT Matt Waletzko	Dallas Cowboys	North Dakota
LB Chris Board	Detroit Lions	NDSU
TE Ben Ellefson	Minnesota Vikings	NDSU
QB Trey Lance	San Francisco 49ers	NDSU
OT Dillon Radunz	Tennessee Titans	NDSU
QB Easton Stick	Los Angeles Chargers	NDSU
OG Billy Turner	Denver Broncos	NDSU
LB Derrek Tuszka	Tennessee Titans	NDSU
OT Cordell Volson	Cincinnati Bengals	NDSU
WR Christian Watson	Green Bay Packers	NDSU
QB Carson Wentz	Washington Commanders	NDSU
OT Spencer Brown	Buffalo Bills	UNI
S Elijah Campbell	Miami Dolphins	UNI
TE Dallas Goedert	Philadelphia Eagles	SDSU
LB Christian Rozeboom	Los Angeles Rams	SDSU
RB Pierre Strong Jr.	New England Patriots	SDSU
S Jeremy Chinn	Carolina Panthers	S. Illinois
S Ryan Neal	Seattle Seahawks	S. Illinois
WR Dennis Houston	Dallas Cowboys	W. Illinois
DT Khalen Saunders	Kansas City Chiefs	W. Illinois

\*does not include practice squad (or injured); there are 12 former MVFC student-athletes on Opening Day practice squads.

## 5 MVFC Teams in Top 25

The Missouri Valley Football Conference has three of the nation's top-5 ranked schools, including North Dakota State (1), South Dakota State (2), and Missouri State (5). North Dakota (Stats Perform) and Youngstown State (AFCA) both entered the Top 25 in those polls this week.

### Stats Perform Top 25 (Sept. 12)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	Prev.
1	<b>North Dakota State (52)</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1</b>
2	<b>South Dakota State (2)</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>2</b>
3	Montana	2-0	1,242	3
4	Montana State	2-0	1,199	4
5	Missouri State	2-0	1,097	5
6	<b>UIW</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>8</b>
7	Villanova	2-0	1,021	6
8	Sacramento State	1-0	967	7
9	Delaware	2-0	865	10
10	Chattanooga	2-0	804	11
11	Jackson State	2-0	758	13
12	Weber State	2-0	748	16
13	Holy Cross	2-0	713	15
14	Eastern Washington	1-1	562	12
15	William & Mary	2-0	542	20
16	UT Martin	1-1	488	14
17	Rhode Island	2-0	468	22
18	East Tennessee State	1-1	388	9
19	Eastern Kentucky	1-1	285	NR
20	Mercer	1-1	243	23
21	Stephen F. Austin	1-2	180	18
22	<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>NR</b>
23	Kennesaw State	0-2	141	19
24	Samford	1-1	139	25
25	New Hampshire	2-0	138	NR

### AFCA Coaches Top 25 (Sept. 12)

	School (first-place votes)	Rec.	Pts.	Prev.
1	<b>North Dakota State (26)</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1</b>
2	Montana (1)	2-0	642	2
3	<b>South Dakota State</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>3</b>
4	Montana State	2-0	599	4
5	Villanova	2-0	557	5
6	<b>Missouri State</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>7</b>
7	Sacramento State	1-0	489	6
8	UIW	2-0	487	9
9	Chattanooga	2-0	456	10
10	Delaware	2-0	415	13
11	Jackson State	2-0	367	15
12	Holy Cross	2-0	363	16
13	Weber State	2-0	355	17
14	Rhode Island	2-0	272	20
15	Eastern Washington	1-1	262	11
16	Stephen F. Austin	1-2	233	12
17	William & Mary	2-0	227	22
18	UT Martin	1-1	218	14
19	East Tennessee State	1-1	210	8
20	Mercer	1-1	129	23
21	Fordham	2-0	60	NR
22	Kennesaw State	0-2	57	18
23	<b>Youngstown State</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>NR</b>
24	Eastern Kentucky	1-1	55	NR
25	Samford	1-1	46	NR

## Welcome, Murray State

In April 2022, the Missouri Valley Football Conference Presidents Council voted to extend an offer of membership to Murray State, establishing the Racers Football program as the 12th member of the nation's preeminent FCS conference. The Racers will begin competition in the MVFC in 2023.

## Players of the Week

### Offense

*QB Jason Shelley, Missouri State*

Shelley had as many touchdown passes as incompletions in MSU's win over No. 14 UT Martin this week. The senior QB was 19-for-24 for 297 yards and a career-high 5 touchdowns, which tied a Bears single-game record. Shelley's 14th straight 200-yard passing game included two clutch fourth-quarter TD passes to Ty Scott.

### Defense

*LB Zeke Vandenburg, Illinois State*

Vandenburg played a huge part in helping Illinois State hold on for a 28-21 victory over Valparaiso on Saturday. He led the team with 12 tackles, recorded a career-best three sacks, tied a career-high with 3.0 TFLs and added a forced fumble in the win for the Redbirds. Vandenburg has now recorded double-digit tackle efforts in the first two games of the season for ISU. His final sack of the game was one of the biggest defensive plays of the contest, as he took down Valparaiso's Mason Kaplan for the third time with just 23 seconds left on the clock and that led to the game-sealing interception on the next play by Franky West.

### Special Teams

*KR Jalen Carr, Illinois State*

Carr stepped up when the Redbirds needed him the most and helped the Redbirds to a 28-21 victory over Valparaiso. After the Beacons took a 14-7 after recovering a muffed punt in the endzone early in the second quarter, Carr took the ensuing kickoff 98 yards to the house for a touchdown to knot the game at 14-14 just seconds later. Carr's kickoff return for a touchdown was the first for the Redbirds since 2017, when Christian Uphoff returned one 100 yards for a score at South Dakota State.

### Newcomer

*RB Jacardia Wright, Missouri State*

The transfer running back from Kansas State logged his first career 100-yard rushing game in MSU's win over No. 14 UT Martin this week, carrying 23 times for 120 yards (5.2 yards per carry) in a breakout effort. He also scored on a 19-yard pass from Jason Shelley with 35 seconds left in the first half to put the Bears up 21-14 at the half. Including his 4 pass receptions for 42 yards, Wright had 162 all-purpose yards for the game and became the first MSU player since last November (Kevon Latulas on 11/20/21) to rack up 100 rushing yards in the game.

### Offensive Lineman

*Erik Sorensen, UNI*

Sorensen helped provide pass protection for UNI's 334 yards against North Dakota, which leads the MVFC. Included in the 334 yards at North Dakota is the league's longest reception from Theo Day to Deion McShane for 72 yards. Sorensen was part of the starting line that led to 9.8 yards a play at North Dakota, which leads the conference in single-game stats. In addition to the 334 yards in passing, Sorensen helped UNI gain 115 yards in rushing for a total of 449 yards in total offense.

## Against the FBS

Missouri Valley Football Conference schools have combined for 47 wins against FBS teams since 1985. A league member has picked up at least one FBS win for 11 of the last 12 seasons (only missing the 2020-21 COVID season in which only one FBS team was played). Four league teams play FBS schools this weekend. MVFC schools are a combined 0-18 vs. the SEC; 4-66 against the Big Ten; and 0-2 vs. the Pac-12.

Youngstown State at Kentucky (ESPN+)	11:00 A.M.
Southern Illinois at Northwestern (B1G Network)	11:00 A.M.
Missouri State at Arkansas (ESPN+)	6:00 P.M.
North Dakota State at Arizona (FS1)	10:00 P.M.

## Against the FCS

The MVFC started the season with a 9-4 record against FCS schools. Three of the four losses have been against ranked teams. Remarkably, a league member has only lost one game to an unranked FCS opponent since September of 2019, going 31-1 against FCS unranked teams during that span, including a perfect 24-0 last year.

## MVFC All-Americans

A total of 28 MVFC student-athletes highlight the 2022 HERO Sports FCS Preseason All-America Teams, which includes 14 first-team selections. The MVFC had an FCS-best 22 student-athletes on the Stats Perform FCS Preseason All-America Teams.

## Walter Payton Award Watch List

Eight MVFC student-athletes are among the 35 finalists on the preseason Stats Perform Walter Payton Watch List.

QB Nic Baker, Southern Illinois, Jr.  
 QB Jason Shelley, Missouri State, Sr.  
 RB Isaiah Davis, South Dakota State, Jr.  
 FB Hunter Luepke, North Dakota State, Sr.  
 RB Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown State, Sr.  
 WR Avante Cox, Southern Illinois, Sr.  
 WR Jaxon Janke, South Dakota State, Sr.  
 TE Tucker Kraft, South Dakota State, Jr.

## Buck Buchanan Watch List

Six MVFC student-athletes are among the 35 finalists on the preseason Stats Perform Buck Buchanan Watch List.

DL Spencer Waege, North Dakota State, Sr.  
 LB Adam Bock, South Dakota State, Jr.  
 LB Spencer Cuvelier, Northern Iowa, R-Sr.  
 LB James Kaczor, North Dakota State, Sr.  
 DB Montrae Braswell, Missouri State, Jr.  
 DB Michael Tutsie, North Dakota State, Sr.

## MVFC Ties FCS Record

In 2021, for the first time in Conference history, six Missouri Valley Football teams earned bids into the 24-team FCS playoff field. Only one other conference in NCAA history has received six bids in a single playoff (CAA in 2018). The MVFC had received as many as five bids four times previously (2014, 2015, 2017, and in Spring 2021).

## 2021 Playoff Success

League schools combined for eight wins in the 2021 tournament, capped by NDSU's championship game victory against Montana State. NDSU extended the MVFC's FCS-record to 11-straight title game appearances for a league school. Notably, the 2021 season marked the 16th title appearance for the MVFC. The league is 11-5 in title games, although Youngstown State (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994) and Southern Illinois (1983) both played in the championship prior to joining the league. All of the league's title-game appearances have occurred since 1997.

## Playoff Dominance

The MVFC is 81-38 (.681) since 2010 in the playoffs -- which includes 15 intra-conference games (meaning the league is 66-23 against teams from other leagues for a phenomenal .776 winning percentage). Last season, MVFC teams combined to go 25-5 against non-conference FCS teams. All five losses were to ranked FCS teams, all of which made the 2021 playoff field.

## 2022 Valley Football Teams in the Top 25

Team	Pre	S5	S12
Illinois State	--	RV	--
Indiana St.	--	--	--
Missouri St.	5	5	5
UND	--	RV	22
NDSU	1	1	1
UNI	21	24	RV
S. Dakota	RV	RV	RV
SDSU	2	2	2
S. Illinois	9	17	RV
W. Illinois	--	--	--
Youngstown	--	RV	23

\*Rank represents highest position in the two polls (Stats Perform or AFCA FCS Coaches polls)

# 2022 Missouri Valley Football Conference Weekly Release

## Kicking It

Youngstown State leads the FCS in net punting through the first two weeks of the season, with a net average of 48.60 yards.

Net Punting	Total Yards	Opp. Ret.	Net Avg.
<b>1. Youngstown (MVFC)</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48.60</b>
2. Ark.-Pine Bluff (SWAC)	204	17	46.75
3. Colgate (Patriot)	627	8	44.21
4. Delaware (CAA)	445	3	44.20
5. Southern Utah (WAC)	705	47	44.14

## Stopping the Rush

Two league teams rank among the top five in the FCS in rushing defense, as South Dakota State and Youngstown State both yield 53.0 rush yards per game

Rushing Defense	Yds.	TD	Avg.
1. Jackson St. (SWAC)	36	0	18.0
2. San Diego (Pioneer)	91	0	40.5
3. Weber St. (Big Sky)	92	0	46.0
4. Stetson (Pioneer)	103	2	51.5
<b>5. SDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53.0</b>
<b>5. Youngstown (MVFC)</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53.0</b>

## Among NCAA Leaders

North Dakota State ranks in the Top 10 in the nation in both scoring offense and scoring defense. The Bison rank 8th in scoring defense, yielding just 8.5 points per game (including just three last weekend). NDSU is 7th in scoring offense (46.5). Two MVFC teams are among the FCS leaders in total defense (NDSU-5th; SDSU-8th).

Scoring Defense	G	Pts.	Avg.
1. Jackson St. (SWAC)	2	6	3.0
2. Montana (Big Sky)	2	7	3.5
3. Weber St. (Big Sky)	2	12	6.0
4. N.C. Central (MEAC)	2	13	6.5
5. Stetson (Pioneer)	2	14	7.0
6. Delaware (CAA)	2	16	8.0
6. Sacred Heart (NEC)	2	16	8.0
<b>8. NDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8.5</b>

Scoring Offense	G	Pts.	Avg.
1. Ark.-Pine Bluff (SWAC)	2	124	62.0
2. UIW (Southland)	2	119	59.5
3. Sacramento St. (Big Sky)	1	56	56.0
4. Montana St. (Big Sky)	2	103	51.5
4. Southern U. (SWAC)	2	103	51.5
6. Fordham (Patriot)	2	100	50.0
<b>7. NDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>46.5</b>
7. Eastern Ky. (ASUN)	2	93	46.5

Total Defense	G	Yds.	Avg.
1. Jackson St. (SWAC)	2	295	147.5
2. Stetson (Pioneer)	2	346	173.0
3. Sacred Heart (NEC)	2	367	183.5
4. Weber St. (Big Sky)	2	378	189.0
<b>5. NDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>204.0</b>
6. Montana (Big Sky)	2	433	216.5
7. Austin Peay (ASUN)	3	723	241.0
<b>8. SDSU (MVFC)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>244.0</b>


## McLaughlin Top NCAA Rusher

Youngstown State's Jaleel McLaughlin leads the FCS in rushing, averaging 166.0 yards per game. He also is tied for second in scoring, averaging 15.0 points per game.

Individual Rushing	Avg.
<b>1. Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown St.</b>	<b>166.0</b>
2. ShunDerrick Powell, North Ala. (ASUN)	165.5
3. Jaden Shirden, Monmouth (CAA)	157.0
4. Cameron Skattebo, Sac St. (Big Sky)	153.0
5. Devon Starling, Tennessee St. (OVC)	138.5

Individual Scoring	Avg.
1. Cameron Skattebo, Sac St.	18.0
<b>2. Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown St.</b>	<b>15.0</b>
2. Dylan Laube, New Hampshire (CAA)	15.0
2. ShunDerrick Powell, North Ala. (ASUN)	15.0
2. Owen Wright, Monmouth (CAA)	15.0

## Hitting Another Gear

 Redbird safety Dillon Gearhart recorded a career-high six tackles, had two sacks, 3.0

TFLs and record an interception as well. His performance aided in the Redbirds recording six tackles and three interceptions in the contest, which came down to the last snap until it was decided.

## The Wright Stuff

When Redbird starting running back Cole Mueller was lost to injury early in the Wisconsin game, the rest of the ISU running back room knew it would need to step up to fill the void of the team's leading rusher from a year ago. Redshirt freshman Wenkers Wright took the lead against Valparaiso, as he recorded the first 100-plus yard rushing effort of his career in the victory over the Beacons. After a slow start with only 16 yards in the first half, Wright rallied for 85 yards in the final two quarters of the game to finish with 101 yards on 21 carries. Those crucial yards helped the Redbirds chew up clock and hold on for a big win in the home opener.

## To the House

A special teams snafu resulted in Valparaiso taking a 14-7 lead over the Redbirds early in the second quarter, but it didn't take long for the Redbirds to rectify that mistake. On the ensuing kickoff, returner Jalen Carr took the kickoff at the two yard line, ran and leaped a would-be tackler and dashed 98 yards to the house for a touchdown to tie the game. It marked the first kickoff return TD for the Redbirds since 2017, when Christian Uphoff returned one 100 yards for a score at South Dakota State. It was also the second longest in Hancock Stadium history, behind a trio of 100-yard returns by Josh Burch, Aveion Cason and Marquis Mosely.

## Players of the Week

Sept. 4

Offense: TB Jaleel McLaughlin, Youngstown State  
 Co-Defense: LB Adam Bock, South Dakota State  
 Co-Defense: S Ryan Cole, Indiana State  
 Co-Special Teams: PK Ryan O'Grady, Indiana State  
 \*Co-Special Teams: CB/RS Montrae Braswell, MOST  
 Newcomer: WR Naseim Brantley, Western Illinois  
 Lineman: LT Cody Mauch, North Dakota State

Sept. 11

Offense: QB Jason Shelley, Missouri State  
 Defense: LB Zeke Vandenberg, Illinois State  
 Special Teams: KR Jalen Carr, Illinois State  
 Newcomer: RB Jacardia Wright, Missouri State  
 Lineman: OL Erik Sorensen, UNI

\*denotes National Player of the Week

## Hendrix Chasing History



Dante Hendrix made his 2022 season debut and went right back to work chasing down the Indiana State career receiving records in Saturday's game against Purdue. The redshirt senior wide receiver hauled in a team-high five passes for 90 yards in his first action of the season, while doing a majority of his damage in the first half. His 17-yard reception in the first quarter gave him an Indiana State record 28 consecutive games with a catch. He added a 29-yard reception and a 33-yard catch later in the contest to give ISU their two scoring opportunities in the red zone in the game. He finished the game sitting 51 receptions and 514 yards off the ISU career mark chasing Sam Logan (196 catches, 2,385 yards – 2003-06).

## Cole Leading the Way

Fresh off earning MVFC Defensive Player of the Week recognition for the first time in his career, Rylan Cole was again among the Indiana State defensive leaders against Purdue on Saturday. The sophomore safety finished with a team-high eight tackles over three quarters against the Boilermakers and his six solo stops were tops among the Sycamores on the day. He is currently second on the ISU defense in tackles per game (8.0), while adding 2.5 tackles for loss and a team-high two interceptions on the year.

## Great Scott!



All-American wide receiver Ty Scott continued his dominance in Thursday's win over UT Martin, racking up 8 receptions for 96 yards and a career-high 3 touchdowns. In just 14 games as a Bear, Scott has now recorded 11 receiving touchdowns which ties him for 7th all-time in MSU program history.

## Back to the Natural State

Coach Bobby Petrino's Bears return to Arkansas this week for their second game in three weeks in the Natural State. MSU's Saturday matchup against the Arkansas Razorbacks marks the first meeting between the clubs since 2011 when Petrino was the Arkansas coach. The Bears are looking for their first win over an FBS foe since 1990 (UNLV) with 36 consecutive FBS losses since. This is the 33rd straight season Missouri State has played at least one NCAA Division I FBS program in football.

## Record Night

Jason Shelley's five touchdown passes against UT Martin on Thursday matched a Missouri State record, done four times previously. It also matched a Plaster Stadium record, making Shelley the sixth player to throw five TD passes in a game in the 80 seasons the Bears have played there. Ironically, three of the other five players to do so have played in the NFL – Sean Payton, Carson Wentz and Easton Stick.

## Coming Up Big



North Dakota edged UNI, 29-27, last Saturday in the Potato Bowl. LB Josh Navratil led UND with a career-high two sacks in key moments of the game to go with four tackles. He sacked QB Theo Day to force a UNI field goal when the Panthers were driving to only allow them to go up 13-7, and he helped the Hawks force another Panther field goal in the third quarter, dropping Day for a second time and forcing the 47-yard field goal, which was missed.

## Schuster Leads

QB Tommy Schuster of North Dakota went 21-of-24 passing for 297 yards through the air for two touchdowns in the win against UNI. He now has completed the most passes in UND's Division I history with 429, breaking the previous record of Keaton Studsrud (2014-17) with 428. Schuster also rushed seven times for 11 yards and had a rushing touchdown. He successfully converted a two-point conversion with his feet to put UND up 22-13 to give the Hawks a two-score lead early in the fourth quarter.

## 36 in a Row

With its win against UNI, North Dakota extended its streak of home-opening wins to 36-straight games, which is the longest active streak in the FCS.

## 2 With 100 Receiving Yards



At North Dakota, two Panthers tallied more than 100 yards in receiving for UNI for the first time since Sept. 7, 2019. Deion McShane and Sam Schnee amassed 157 yards and 109 yards, respectively. They are two of just four MVFC players with 100-yard performances this year. It was a career high for McShane that was boosted by a career long 72-yard reception from Theo Day that stands as the MVFC's longest pass. The last time UNI had 2 players with for 100 receiving yards was Sept. 7, 2019, vs. Southern Utah.

## Cookin' It

Matthew Cook's next successful field goal puts him in sole possession of No. 4 on UNI's all-time list for FGs made. He currently has made 56 of 71 field goals. His next field goal will give him sole possession of No. 5 on the all-time list for field goals attempted.

## Rinehart Recognized

Chad Rinehart, former UNI standout and NFL Draft Pick in Round 3, will be inducted into UNI's Hall of Fame this weekend and be recognized at halftime of the Sacramento State vs. UNI game.

## Capitalizing on Turnovers



North Dakota State improved to 2-0 on the season with a 43-3 win over North Carolina A&T. The Bison scored 21 points off three A&T turnovers, a forced fumble by Jaxon Duttonhefer, the first career interception for senior linebacker James Kaczor, and a strip sack by defensive end Spencer Waege, who finished with two sacks and three tackles for loss. Safety Dawson Weber's 79-yard fumble return touchdown against North Carolina A&T tied the NDSU school record set by Claudie Miller on Oct. 31, 1925, at North Dakota. After going nearly four years without a defensive touchdown, North Dakota State's defense has now scored in back-to-back games.

## Sharing the Load

North Dakota State used 10 ball carriers in last week's win over North Carolina A&T and 11 against Drake in the season-opener. Dominic Gonnella's six carries against Drake are the most by a Bison this season. Eleven different players have scored touchdowns in the first two games for North Dakota State, including wide receiver Zach Mathis with a touchdown reception in each contest and fullback Hunter Luepke with two rushing TDs and one receiving. Luepke has scored in five consecutive games and has 11 TDs in his past nine games played.

## Bison Top Sagarin Ratings

NDSU enters this week's game at Arizona as the top-ranked FCS team in the Sagarin Ratings, which ranks all 261 Division I teams each week. NDSU is currently No. 58 and ahead of four Pac-12 teams including No. 59 California, No. 65 Arizona, No. 69 Stanford and No. 103 Colorado. North Dakota State finished 38th in the Sagarin Ratings last year and the Bison have finished as high as 17th in 2013 and 19th in 2018 going 15-0 both of those years.

## Theis Surpasses 1,000



South Dakota running back Travis Theis surpassed the 1,000 career rushing yard mark during Saturday's game at Montana. He needed just 21 games to get there. Theis and fellow back Shomari Lawrence have combined for 256 yards and five yards per carry through two games.

## Mogensen Approaches 200

Preseason all-American linebacker Brock Mogensen enters Saturday's home opener with 197 career tackles, the most by any active Coyote. Fellow linebacker Stephen Hillis had a career-high 14 tackles Saturday against the Griz and is tied for the Valley lead with 22 stops.

## Cal Poly Next

South Dakota opens at home against Cal Poly Saturday. The Coyotes topped the Mustangs 48-14 in California last season. The two teams first met as members of the Great West Conference back in 2008. This is the second time the two teams will meet in Vermillion.

## Time for the Beef Bowl



Home to the original Beef Bowl, South Dakota State will play the 55th installment of the football game Saturday, when the Jackrabbits host Butler. SDSU holds a 33-21 record since the Beef Bowl was instituted in 1967. The Jackrabbits have won the last four Beef Bowl games and 13 of the last 15.

## Young Safeties Step Up

South Dakota State went into its Sept. 10 matchup against 25th-ranked UC Davis without its two starting safeties — Cale Reeder and Isaiah Stalbird — from the previous week's season opener. However, sophomore Colby Huerter and redshirt freshman Tucker Large picked up the slack in their first career starts to help the Jackrabbits weather a late storm for a 24-22 victory. Huerter was credited with a career-high seven tackles, including a half-tackle for loss, while Large added a career-best seven tackles of his own with a pass breakup. In addition, true freshman Dontay Johnson made his collegiate debut and registered three stops, including a tackle for a loss of five yards.

## Davis Hits 100

Walter Payton Award candidate Isaiah Davis reached the century mark in rushing for the first time this season, grinding out 112 yards while matching a career high with 25 carries in the Jackrabbits' Sept. 10 home win over UC Davis. A junior, Davis topped 100 yards in a game for the eighth time in his career overall and for the second time against UC Davis.

## Series Vs. Northwestern



This week's game will be just the second meeting between the schools. Northwestern beat SIU, 33-7, on Sept. 13, 2008. In that game, Larry Warner scored on a 19-yard touchdown run on the final play of the first quarter to give the Salukis a 7-6 lead. In a game that was played in a driving rain, the Wildcats scored 27-unanswered points.

## Salukis vs. The Big Ten

SIU is 1-7 all-time against Big Ten teams. The win came in 2006 and was orchestrated by current head coach Nick Hill, who was the team's starting quarterback. In 35-28 win at Indiana, Hill threw four touchdown passes and SIU out-gained Indiana on the ground, 244-76. The last time Southern played a Big Ten team was in 2015, when it lost at Indiana, 48-47. The Salukis scored a touchdown with 20 seconds remaining, but their two-point conversion attempt to win the game was unsuccessful.

## Davenport Enters Record Book

Western Illinois' Nick Davenport's 64-yard punt was the longest by a Leatherneck since Adam Fellner's 69-yarder against South Dakota in 2021.

## Ross Wrecks 'Em

J.J. Ross finished with seven tackles, a new career high for the defensive back. Ross was the returning leading tackler for the Leathernecks from last season.

## Brantley Leads the Way

Western Illinois wideout Naseim Brantley caught his fourth touchdown of the season. In the fourth quarter, Brantley hauled in a 33-yard pass from Davenport. Brantley's four receiving touchdowns is tied for first in the FCS. His 110.5 yards per game is currently 14th in FCS.

## Three Guins Score First TDs



Three Penguins wide receivers caught the first touchdown passes of their YSU careers in the win over Dayton. WRs Latrell Fordham, Max Tomczak and Luke Hensley had scoring receptions against the Flyers. Fordham, who caught a touchdown pass at Eastern Michigan in 2021, had a three-yard scoring catch in the first quarter. Tomczak had the first TD of his career on a 27-yard catch in the second quarter. Hensley found the end zone for the first time in the fourth quarter on an 18-yard toss from Mitch Davidson.

## Interceptions on the Uptick

The Penguins have intercepted five passes in the first two games of the season. In 10 games last fall, YSU had nine interceptions, two of which came in the season finale at SIU. In the opener, LB Devin Johnson had two interceptions while LB Griffin Hoak added one. Against Dayton, DB Quincy Lenton intercepted a first quarter pass while CB Troy Jakubec picked off a ball in the fourth quarter. The Penguins have won 13 consecutive games in which they have intercepted at least two passes.

## Tough Against The Run

Through two games, the YSU defense ranks tied for fifth in the FCS in fewest rushing yards allowed defense. The Penguins are allowing 53 yards per game after limiting Duquesne to 51 yards on 25 carries and Dayton to 55 yards on 35 attempts this past week. On 60 attempts, the Guins have allowed 106 yards (1.77 yards a carry) this year. YSU registered five sacks in the win over the Flyers to help that total.

## Crenshaw Nearly Doubles Total

Entering last week's game against Dayton, QB Demeatric Crenshaw had seven career touchdown passes in 10 games played. Against the Flyers, he threw a school-record-tying five TDs in four quarters. After throwing five touchdown passes in the first three games of the year in 2021, he had two in his final six. He now has 12 touchdown passes in his Penguins' career in 11 games started.