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The NCAA hosts three football championships: the Division I Football Championship for teams in the NCAA FCS, the Division II Football Championship and the Division III Football Championship. For the seventh-straight year, the FCS will have a 24-team bracket.

The FCS bracket history dates back to 1978-80 when there were only four teams in the field. The bracket expanded to eight teams in 1981; 12 teams (1982-85); 16 teams (1986-2009); 20 teams (2010-12); and 24 teams (2013-present). The top eight teams are seeded, receive first-round byes and host second-round games. The 16 other teams bid to host first-round games.

The playoffs -- in their 42nd season -- will begin Nov. 30. For the 10th-straight year, the final game will be played at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas. Every title game from 1997-2009 had been held at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga, Tenn.

In January 2019, the NCAA announced that it had agreed to a five-year extension with Frisco, Texas, to continue holding the Division I FCS title game at Toyota Stadium, keeping the championship game in Frisco through 2025 (for the 2024 football season), with an option for the 2026 championship.

Ten conferences (Big Sky, Big South, CAA, Missouri Valley Football Conference, Northeast, Ohio Valley, Patriot, Pioneer, Southern and Southland) have been granted automatic qualification. The remaining 14 teams are selected at large by the FCS Football Committee.

Since 1978, all 12 current and past MVFC members have appeared in the FCS playoffs (South Dakota, competing in its sixth season in the league in 2017, became the last to do so, reaching the Round of 16 that season.)

The 2003 season was an historic season in the league in 2017, became the first (and only) to have two teams from the same conference face one another in the championship game (North Dakota State beat Illinois State, 29-27, in the 2015 title game, following the 2014 season.)

The league is 95-52 during the past 22 years in the NCAA FCS playoffs.

Leagues With Four or More Bids

Since the NCAA field expanded to 16 teams for the 1986 playoffs, a league has received four or more bids 18 times. The 2003 playoffs marked the first time the MVFC had four bids. A league has had six bids once, five bids six times, including the MVFC in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

6 Bids -- CAA (2018)
5 Bids -- CAA (2007, 08, 11); MVFC (2014, 15, 17)
4 Bids -- MVFC (2003, 16); CAA (2004, 09, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17); Big Sky (2013, 15, 18); Southern (2016)

FCS Playoff Participation (since 1995)

In 2018, the Missouri Valley Football Conference had at least two teams in the FCS postseason a 24th-consecutive year. Below is a yearly breakdown of conferences in the playoffs (since 1995):

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MVFC Playoff Success

The league is 95-52 during the past 22 years in the FCS playoffs (since 1997). Overall, a league team has appeared in 13 championship games and in 26 semifinal games. Since 2011, the league is 56-22 (.717), which includes a 47-13 (.783) record against non-league teams.

FCS Playoff Participation (since 1995)

In 2018, the Missouri Valley Football Conference had at least two teams in the FCS postseason a 24th-consecutive year. Below is a yearly breakdown of conferences in the playoffs (since 1995):

- First Round: November 30
- Second Round: December 7
- Quarterfinals: Dec. 13/14
- Semifinals: Dec. 20/21
- Final: Jan. 11
League Won-Lost Marks*

| TEAM | W-L | **2018 NCAA FCS Bracket, Won-Lost Marks**
|------|-----|--------------------------------------------------
| Appalachian State | 1-0 | 1-0     | 5-3       | .625
| Arkansas State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Boise State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Boston University | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| UC Davis | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Central Arkansas | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Coastal Carolina | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Colgate | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Chattanooga | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Dayton | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Delaware | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Duquesne | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Eastern Illinois | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Eastern Kentucky | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Eastern Washington | 7-4 | 7-4     | 14-16     | .500
| Florida A&M | 2-0 | 2-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Furman | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Georgia Southern | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Hampton | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Hofstra | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Idaho | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Illinois State | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Jackson State | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Jacksonville State | 2-0 | 2-0     | 2-3       | .625
| James Madison | 3-3 | 3-3     | 21-28-17 | .500
| Kennesaw State | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Lamar | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Lehigh | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Nicholls | 3-3 | 3-3     | 21-28-17 | .500
| Maine | 3-3 | 3-3     | 21-28-17 | .500
| Marshall | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Massachusetts | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Monmouth | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Montana | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Montana State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Murray State | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| New Hampshire | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Nicholls | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| North Carolina A&T | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| North Dakota State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Northeast Louisiana | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Northern Arizona | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| UNI | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Western Illinois | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Portland State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Richmond | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Robert Morris | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Sam Houston State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| San Diego | 2-0 | 2-0     | 2-3       | .625
| South Dakota State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Stephen F. Austin | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Tennessee-Martin | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Texas State | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Towson | 1-0 | 1-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Villanova | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Weber State | 1-1 | 1-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Western Illinois | 2-0 | 2-0     | 2-3       | .625
| Western Kentucky | 0-2 | 0-2     | 2-3       | .625
| William & Mary | 1-1 | 1-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Wofford | 0-1 | 0-1     | 2-3       | .625
| Youngstown State | 1-2 | 1-2     | 2-3       | .625

**Totals**

| 107-69 |

Missouri Valley Football Conference Won-Lost Records in NCAA Tournament Play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team (Years Participated)</th>
<th>Yrs.</th>
<th>W-L</th>
<th>Home/Away</th>
<th>Pct.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Eastern Illinois (1986-89-95) | 3 | 2-3 | 1-1 | 1-2 | .400
| Illinois State (1998-99-00-12-14-15-16-15-16) | 7 | 8-7 | 3-1 | 5-5* | .533
| Indiana State (2014) | 1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 1-1 | .500
| Missouri State (1989-90) | 2 | 1-2 | 1-1 | 0-1 | .333
| North Dakota St. (2010-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18) | 9 | 32-2 | 24-1 | 1-1* | .941
| South Dakota (2017) | 1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 1-1 | .500
| South Dakota St. (2009-12-13-14-15-16-17-18) | 8 | 8-8 | 5-0 | 3-8 | .500
| Southern Illinois (2003-04-05-06-07-08-09) | 7 | 5-7 | 4-4 | 1-3 | .417
| W. Illinois (88-91-96-97-98-00-01-02-03-10-15-17) | 11 | 7-11 | 4-4 | 3-7 | .389
| Western Kentucky (2001-02-03-04) | 4 | 5-3 | 2-0 | 2-3* | .625
| Youngstown State (1997-99-00-06-16) | 5 | 13-4 | 7-0 | 5-5* | .765

**MVFC TOTALS**

| 107-69 |

| 70-17-28-48 |

| 608 |

| Margin of Victory/Loss |

A total of 72 of 176 of the Missouri Valley’s playoff games have been decided by seven points or less. Below is a chart which illustrates the margins in the previous league playoff games. The MVFC is 44-28 in playoff games decided by seven or fewer points (1-1 in 2018).

**Win (107)**

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**Loss (69)**

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</table>

*First-round games, second-round games, quarterfinals and semifinals played on campus sites.*
Valley Football In the Semifinals

A conference member has reached the FCS playoff semifinals 23 times in the past 23 years and 26 times overall. The conference is 13-13 in previous FCS semifinal games (8-5 at home):

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<th>Result</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>UNI</td>
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<td>at NE Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>L</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>South Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>North Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Sam Houston State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>South Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. South Dakota State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Valley Football In the Final

A Missouri Valley Football Conference member has reached the FCS playoff championship game in 12 of the past 22 years. The league is 9-4 in previous FCS championship games:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. McNeese State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Ga. Southern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. McNeese State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. Appalachian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>North Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Sam Houston State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Sam Houston State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Towson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Illinois State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. Illinois State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>vs. E. Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eight Men Out

In 2005, Youngstown State became the first and only Valley football champion (or co-champ) to not earn a spot in the NCAA playoff field. Notably, just six times since 1999 has a league school won eight games and not been selected for the playoffs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. UNI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. UNI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. UNI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. N. Dakota State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. Sam Houston State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. James Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>N. Dakota State</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>vs. E. Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Previous NCAA FCS Championship Game Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Coach of Champion</th>
<th>Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M 35, Massachusetts 28</td>
<td>Rudy Hubbard</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Eastern Kentucky 30, Lehigh 7</td>
<td>Roy Kidd</td>
<td>Orlando, Fla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Idaho State 34, Eastern Kentucky 23</td>
<td>Dave Kragthorpe</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Eastern Kentucky 17, Delaware 14</td>
<td>Roy Kidd</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Southern Illinois 43, Western Carolina 7</td>
<td>Roy Kidd</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Montana State 19, Louisiana Tech 6</td>
<td>Roy Kidd</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 44, Furman 42</td>
<td>Dave Arnold</td>
<td>Charleston, S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 48, Arkansas State 21</td>
<td>Ek Russell</td>
<td>Tacoma, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 44, Furman 42</td>
<td>Pat Collins</td>
<td>Pocatello, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 37, Stephen F. Austin 34</td>
<td>Jimmy Satterfield</td>
<td>Pocatello, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Youngstown State 17, Marshall 5</td>
<td>Jim Tressel</td>
<td>Huntington, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Youngstown State 28, Boise State 14</td>
<td>Jim Tressel</td>
<td>Huntington, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Montana 22, Marshall 20</td>
<td>Don Read</td>
<td>Huntington, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Marshall 49, Montana 29</td>
<td>Bob Pruett</td>
<td>Huntington, W.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Youngstown State 10, McNeese State 9</td>
<td>Jim Tressel</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Massachusetts 55, Georgia Southern 43</td>
<td>Mark Whipple</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 59, Youngstown State 24</td>
<td>Paul Johnson</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Georgia Southern 27, Montana 25</td>
<td>Paul Johnson</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Montana 13, Furman 6</td>
<td>Joe Glenn</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Western Kentucky 34, McNeese State 14</td>
<td>Jack Hartbaugh</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Delaware 40, Cidgate 0</td>
<td>K.C. Keeler</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>James Madison 31, Delaware 21</td>
<td>Mickey Matthews</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Appalachian State 21, UNI 19</td>
<td>Jerry Moore</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Appalachian State 28, Massachusetts 17</td>
<td>Jerry Moore</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Appalachian State 49, Delaware 21</td>
<td>Jerry Moore</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Richmond, 34, Montana 7</td>
<td>Mike London</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Villanova 23, Montana 21</td>
<td>Jay Wright</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Eastern Washington 20, Delaware 19</td>
<td>Beau Baldwin</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>North Dakota State 17, Sam Houston State 6</td>
<td>Craig Boit</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>North Dakota State 39, Sam Houston State 13</td>
<td>Craig Boit</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>North Dakota State 35, Towson 7</td>
<td>Craig Boit</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>North Dakota State 39, Illinois State 27</td>
<td>Chris Klieman</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>North Dakota State 37, Jacksonville State 10</td>
<td>Chris Klieman</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>James Madison 28, Youngstown State 14</td>
<td>Mike Houston</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>North Dakota State 17, James Madison 13</td>
<td>Chris Klieman</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>North Dakota State 38, Eastern Washington 24</td>
<td>Chris Klieman</td>
<td>Frisco, Texas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pre-Valley FB Conference (1978-84) FCS Title Games

#### 1978 Championship:
- Florida A&M 35, Massachusetts 28

#### 1979 Championship:
- Eastern Kentucky 30, Lehigh 7

#### 1980 Championship:
- Boise State 31, Eastern Kentucky 29

#### 1981 Championship:
- Idaho State 34, Eastern Kentucky 23

#### 1982 Championship:
- Eastern Kentucky 17, Delaware 14

#### 1983 Championship:
- Southern Illinois 43, Western Carolina 7

#### 1984 Championship:
- Montana State 19, Louisiana Tech 6

### 1985 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

#### Dec. 7—Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Eastern Washington 0 0 7 7 14
- UNI 10 7 0 0 17

UNI built a 17-0 halftime advantage, but didn’t score again, while Eastern Washington pulled to within 10 points in the third and scored its last TD with 12:47 left. Errol Peebles led UNI with 129 rush yards as UNI advanced to the semifinals against eventual champion Georgia Southern.

#### Dec. 14—Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Georgia Southern 14 3 7 16 40
- UNI 14 6 3 10 34

Georgia Southern scored the winning TD with just 34 remaining after UNI had rallied to tie the game with 2:44 left. The seesaw semifinal game was tied four times.

### 1986 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

#### Nov. 29—Charleston, Ill.
- Murray State 7 7 0 7 21
- Eastern Illinois 0 14 6 8 28

After losing its season opener, Eastern Illinois won 10 straight to enter the playoffs ranked No. 3, the highest ever national rank for the Panthers in FCS. James Marable provided the winning score with a seven-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth.
2000

#10 Lehigh 37, at #7 W. Illinois 7
at #8 Richmond 10, #9 Youngstown 3

2001

UNI 49, at #4 Eastern Illinois 43
at #3 Furman 24, Western Ky. 20
at UNI 56, Maine 28
at #1 Montana 38, UNI 0

2002

at #2 W. Illinois 49, Eastern Illinois 9
at Western Ky. 59, Murray State 20
Western Ky. 31, at #2 W. Illinois 28
Western Ky. 31, at #3 Ga. Southern 28
Western Ky. 34, #1 McNeese State 14

2003

W. Illinois 43, at Montana 40 (2ot)
at Western Ky. 45, Jacksonville St. 7
at #2 Delaware 48, Southern Illinois 7
at UNI 35, Montana State 14
at #4 Colgate 28, Western Illinois 27
at #3 Wofford 34, Western Ky. 17
at #2 Delaware 37, UNI 7

2004

E. Washington 35, at #1 S. Illinois 31
at Sam Houston 54, Western Ky. 24

2005

at UNI 41, Eastern Washington 38
S. Illinois 21, at Eastern Illinois 6
UNI 24, at #1 New Hampshire 21
at Appalachian St. 38, SIU 24
UNI 40, at #4 Texas Tech 37 (ot)
at Appalachian St. 21, UNI 16

2006

at S. Illinois 36, Tennesse-Martin 30
Illinois State 24, at Eastern Illinois 13
at #4 YSU 35, James Madison 31
at #2 Montana, Southern Illinois 3
at #4 YSU 28, Illinois State 21
at #1 Appalachian St. 49, #4 YSU 24

2007

at #1 UNI 38, New Hampshire
at #4 S. Illinois 30, Eastern Illinois 11
Delaware 39, at #1 UNI 27
at #4 Southern Illinois 34, UMasse 27
Delaware 20, at #4 S. Illinois 17

2008

at #3 UNI 40, Maine 15
New Hampshire 29, at #3 ISIL 20
at #3 UNI, New Hampshire 36-34
Richmond 21, at #3 UNI 20

2009

at #3 Southern Illinois 48, E. Illinois 7
William & Mary 24, at S. Illinois 3
at #1 Montana 61, S. Dakota State 48

2010

Lehigh 14, at UNI 7
Western Illinois 17, at C. Carolina 10
at NDSU 43, Robert Morris 17
at #1 Appalachian St. 42, WIU 14
NDSU 42, at #4 Montana State 17
at #5 E. Washington 38, NDSU 31 (ot)

2011

at #5 UNI 28, Wofford 21
at #2 NDSU 26, James Madison 14
at #4 Montana 48, UNI 10
at #2 NDSU 24, Lehigh 0
at #2 NDSU 35, #3 Ga. Southern 7
#2 NDSU 17, #1 Sam Houston State 6

2012

at SDSU 58, Eastern Illinois 10
Illinois State 38, at App. State 37 (ot)
at #1 NDSU 28, S. Dakota State 3
at #2 E. Washington 51, Illinois State 35
at #1 SDSU 14, Wofford 7
at #1 SDSU 23, #5 Ga. Southern 20
#1 NDSU 39, Sam Houston State 13

2013

SDSU 26, at Northern Arizona 7
at #3 E. Washington 41, SDSU 17
at #1 NDSU 38, Furman 7
at #1 SDSU 48, Coastal Carolina 18
at #1 SDSU 52, New Hampshire 14
#1 SDSU 35, #7 Towson 7

2014

Indiana State 36, at E. Kentucky 16
at UNI 44, Stephen F. Austin 10
SDSU 47, at Montana State 40
at #8 Chattanooga 35, Indiana St. 14
at #5 Illinois State 41, UNI 21
at #2 NDSU 27, SDSU 24
at #2 NDSU 39, Coastal Carolina 32
#5 Illinois State 59, at #4 Wash 46
at #2 NDSU 35, Sam Houston State 3
#5 Illinois State 21, at #1 UNI 18
#2 SDSU 29, #5 Illinois State 27

2015

Western Illinois 24, at Dayton 7
at Montana 24, South Dakota State 17
at UNI 53, Eastern Illinois 17
at #2 Illinois State 36, W. Illinois 19
at #3 NDSU 37, Montana 6
UNI 29, at #6 Portland State 17
#7 Richmond 39, at #2 Illinois State 27
at #3 NDSU 23, UNI 13
at #3 SDSU 33, #7 Richmond 7
#3 SDSU 37, #1 Jacksonville State 10

2016

at Youngstown State 38, Samford 24
at Central Arkansas 31, Illinois St. 24
at #1 NDSU 45, San Diego 7
at #8 SDSU 10, Villanova 7
YSU 40, at #3 Jacksonville State 24
at #1 NDSU 36, #8 SDSU 10
at Youngstown St. 30, Wofford 23 (2ot)
#4 James Madison 27, at #1 NDSU 17
YSU 40, at #2 Eastern Washington 38
#4 James Madison 28, YSU 14

2017

at UNI 46, Monmouth 7
at Weber State 21, Western Illinois 19
South Dakota 38, at Nicholls 31
at #6 Sam Houston 54, S. Dakota 42
at #5 S. Dakota State 37, UNI 22
at #2 SDSU 36, San Diego 3
at #5 S. Dakota State 56, UNI 14
at #2 SDSU 42, #7 Wofford 10
at #2 SDSU 55, #6 San Houston 13
at #1 James Madison 51, #5 SDSU 16
#2 SDSU 17, #1 James Madison 13

2018

at UNI 16, Lamar 13
at #5 S. Dakota State 51, Duquesne 6
at #1 SDSU 52, Montana State 10
at #6 UC Davis 34, UNI 16
at #1 N. Dakota State 35, #8 Colgate 0
#5 SDSU 27, at #4 Kennesaw State 17
at #1 NDSU 44, #5 SDSU 21
#1 SDSU 38, #3 E. Washington 24

Note: Numbers indicate playoff seed. NCAA only seeded beyond the top four seeds from 1996-2000 and from 2012-present.

SEMIFINAL TEAMS (26)
1985 - UNI
1986 - UNI
1987 - UNI
1988 - UNI
1989 - UNI
1990 - UNI
1991 - UNI
1992 - UNI
1993 - UNI
1994 - UNI
1995 - UNI
1996 - UNI
1997 - UNI
1998 - UNI
1999 - UNI
2000 - UNI
2001 - UNI
2002 - UNI
2003 - UNI
2004 - UNI
2005 - UNI
2006 - UNI
2007 - UNI
2008 - UNI
2009 - UNI
2010 - UNI
2011 - UNI
2012 - UNI
2013 - UNI
2014 - UNI
2015 - UNI
2016 - UNI
2017 - UNI
2018 - UNI

TITLE GAME APPEARANCES (13)
1997 - Youngstown State (W)
1998 - Youngstown State (L)
2002 - Youngstown State (W)
2006 - Youngstown State (L)
2010 - Youngstown State (W)
2011 - Youngstown State (L)
2016 - Youngstown State (W)
2017 - Youngstown State (L)
2018 - Youngstown State (W)

2019 - Youngstown State (L)
2020 - Youngstown State (W)
2021 - Youngstown State (L)
2022 - Youngstown State (W)
2023 - Youngstown State (W)
2024 - Youngstown State (W)
2025 - Youngstown State (W)
2026 - Youngstown State (W)
2027 - Youngstown State (W)
2028 - Youngstown State (W)
1988 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 24—Springfield, Mo.

Maine 3 17 8 7 35
Missouri State 0 14 14 10 38

In its first playoff game in its NCAA FCS history, MSU advanced to the second round of the playoffs with a 38-35 victory over visiting Maine. The Bears’ Chris Potter had 33 yards field goal with eight seconds remaining in regulation to provide the winning margin for MSU.

Nov. 25—Moscow, Idaho

Eastern Illinois 14 7 7 10 38
Idaho 7 7 7 0 21

The Panther defense tough when it mattered the most. To ice the game, kicker Ray D’Alesio kicked a 39-yard field goal with 1:53 left after Eastern Illinois stopped the Idaho Vandals on a fourth-down-and-one try.

Dec. 2—Nacogdoches, Texas

Missouri State 3 7 8 7 25
Stephen F. Austin 16 7 11 21 55

QB DeAndre Smith, who had arthroscopic knee surgery less than a week before the game, gave a yeoman effort in the quarterfinal game, but the Bears came up short to Stephen F. Austin, who advanced to the title game, where it lost to Georgia Southern, 37-34. Smith threw for 292 yards in the game and also rushed for 15 yards.

Dec. 2—Missoula, Mont.

Eastern Illinois 0 9 7 3 19
Montana 6 10 6 3 25

Montana eliminated EIU from the playoffs in a game that went down to the wire. Eastern Illinois recovered an onside kick with 1:16 left, but the ball failed to go the required 10 yards, Montana took over possession and ran out the clock.

1989 Championship:

Georgia Southern 37, Stephen F. Austin 34

1990 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 14—Boise, Idaho

Boise State 6 0 7 7 20

A potent UNI Panther passing attack, ranked 12th in the FCS nation in 1990, was stymied by Boise State. Boise State limited UNI to 13-of-45 passing and had six interceptions. BSU also held UNI to minus five yards rushing.

Nov. 24—Springfield, Mo.

Idaho 14 7 14 6 41
Missouri State 10 7 15 3 35

The Bears took a 3-0 lead early, but the Vandals took a 21-17 halftime lead. Missouri State eventually tied the game at 35 with just under 15 minutes left to play in the game, but Idaho added a pair of late field goals for the final margin.

1990 Championship:

Georgia Southern 36, Nevada 13

Playoffs
1995 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 25 -- Nacogdoches, Texas

Eastern Illinois 0 15 0 14 29
Stephen F. Austin 7 10 14 3 34

Eastern Illinois went down swinging in its final game as a league member. (The Panthers moved to the Ohio Valley Conference for the start of the 1996 season.) Eastern spotted the home-team Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks a 34-15 lead, but rallied with a furious comeback in the fourth quarter. ELU got the ball back in the closing seconds for a final attempt for the win, but that drive was ended by a Pete Mauch interception near midfield. Willie High ended the contest with 192 yards and two touchdowns for the Panthers.

Nov. 25 -- Murray, Ky.

UNI State 7 14 7 7 35
Murray State 0 14 7 13 34

UNI did what no other team had accomplished in 1995 -- beat Murray State. The Racers entered the game 11-0, one of four unbeaten teams in the 1995 FCS playoff field, and like the other three unbeaten, failed to advance to the championship game. In the one-point win, Alonzo had a huge day, catching three touchdowns passes -- all in the first half -- as the Panthers built a 21-14 advantage at the intermission. Although UNI never trailed, it could never put Murray State away, either, as a late TD pass to Ward was answered moments later by an MSU touchdown. Again it was Clayton who made the big play, as he blocked the ensuing PAT try and preserved a UNI win.

Dec. 2 -- Huntington, W.V.

UNI 14 0 3 7 24
Marshall 21 0 7 13 41

UNI's and the league's 1995 season came to an end as the Panthers dropped a quarterfinal game to sixth-ranked Marshall in Huntington. Marshall used two big plays to spark its scoring, including an 83-yard punt return and a 22-yard interception return, both for scores. The Panthers countered with a passing game which featured two touchdown receptions by Dedric Ward and one by Alonzo Clayton. QB Chris Berg ended his UNI career by throwing for 282 yards.

1995 Championship:

Montana 22, Marshall 20

1996 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 30 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Eastern Illinois 7 7 0 0 14
UNI 7 7 0 7 21

UNI had the ball for just 18:40 of the 60 minutes, but the Panthers scored quickly when they did, which included a 97-yard kickoff return by Ty Talton. RB Jeff Stovall of UNI scored the game-winner with 7:02 left. QB Steve Beard completed 17-of-33 passes for 300 yards and a score, while WRs Alonzo Clayton and Dedric Ward combined for 11 catches and 194 yards and a TD.

Nov. 30 -- Murray, Ky.

Western Illinois 0 0 6 0 6
Murray State 0 7 3 24 34

Despite a lopsided 34-6 final, Western Illinois hung in against the fourth-ranked Murray State Racers, who used 24 fourth-quarter points to blow open a close game. The Leathernecks were virtually without all-league performer RB Brian Knuckles, who carried only three times for nine yards in the game. Jamaine Blalock was the top offensive weapon for Western Illinois as he had 51 yards rushing, 55 yards receiving and 76 yards in returns.

Dec. 7 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

William & Mary 0 0 28 7 35
UNI 17 10 8 3 38

UNI built a 27-0 halftime lead, but saw that lead whittled away, and the teams were eventually tied at 35 until Matt Waller’s 32-yard field goal with 2:13 remaining gave UNI the win. The field goal was the third of the game for Waller, who had missed both of his attempts the previous week vs. Eastern Illinois. QB Steve Beard threw for 360 yards and two touchdowns, while WR Dedric Ward had one of the best games in league history, grabbing 11 receptions for 245 yards and two scores.

Dec. 14 -- Huntington, W.V.

UNI 0 0 14 14 14
Marshall 7 3 14 7 31

UNI spotted the Thundering Herd 24 points and failed to get the big play when it needed it, falling to the eventual national champion, 31-14. Dedric Ward and Lincoln Sharar scored the Panther touchdowns, both in the fourth quarter. WR Alonzo Clayton had the best offensive numbers for UNI as he caught five passes for 113 yards. Meanwhile, the Marshall defense held the Panthers to just 59 yards on the ground, and Justin Roberson had 58 of those. Meanwhile, the Thundering Herd ground out 316 yards and four touchdowns with its rushing game.

1996 Championship:

Marshall 49, Montana 29

1997 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 29 -- Macomb, Ill.

Jackson State 7 3 7 7 24
Western Illinois 7 7 0 17 31

Western Illinois had to scramble in the fourth quarter, and the Leathernecks avoided a first-round upset by scoring the final 10 points in a 31-24 victory. Aaron Stecker set a FCS playoff record with 244 rushing yards on 37 carries. His two-quarter touchdowns provided the difference for WIU, which won its first-ever playoff game.

Nov. 29 -- Youngstown, Ohio

Hampton 0 0 7 6 13
Youngstown State 0 21 7 0 28

Youngstown State used an opportunistic defense to build a 26-point lead, and the Penguins hung on for a 26-13 victory over visiting Hampton. Adrian Brown scored twice in the second quarter and Jake Andreides scored early in the third quarter after the Penguins recovered a Hampton turnover deep in its own territory. Renauld Ray had the biggest day of any YSU receiver, catching four passes for 60 yards, which included a 21-yard TD strike in the decisive second quarter.
Dec. 6 -- Villanov, Pa.
Youngstown State 0 14 14 9 37
Villanova 14 7 7 6 34

After falling behind 21-0, the Penguins stormed back to
shock the No. 1 and unbeaten Villanova Wildcats with a
three-point win. The Penguins scored their second touch-
down on a 10-yard blocked punt return, which seemed to
swing the momentum in YSU's favor. The upset victory by
YSU spoiled a stellar performance by the national player
of the year, Brian Finneran, who had 16 catches for 180
yards and two touchdowns for Villanova.

Dec. 6 -- Macomb, Ill.
McNeese State 7 0 7 0 14
Western Illinois 0 6 0 6 12

Western Illinois' defense dominated McNeese State, but
the Cowboys advanced to the semifinals with a two-point
win. McNeese State scored both of its touchdowns via
defense/special teams, with the backbreaker coming in the
third quarter as Donnie Ashley returned a punt 39 yards
for paydirt. The Leathernecks got the ball near midfield
on their final possession, but WIU could not get in field
goal range for even a long attempt at the victory.

Youngstown State 0 7 10 8 25
Eastern Washington 0 0 14 0 14

Youngstown State used an opportunistic defense to build
a 17-point lead as the Panthers won on the road for the
second-straight week. Mike Stanec returned a fumble 73
yards for a score, and Adrian Brown had two touchdowns,
including the game-clincher in the fourth quarter. Brown
rushed for 197 yards, the second-highest total in Missouri
Valley Football playoff history.

Dec. 20 -- Chattanooga, Tenn.
Youngstown State 0 3 0 7 10
McNeese State 3 0 6 0 9

Youngstown State and McNeese State combined to score
the fewest points in a title game, but the game did not
suffer from a lack of exciting plays. YSU scored the game-
winner in the fourth as Demond Tidwell connected on a
165 yards and three touchdowns, while completing 12-
of-17 passes.

1997 Championship:

YOUNGSTOWN STATE 10, McNeese State 9

1998 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 28 -- Macomb, Ill.
Montana 3 0 0 6 9
Western Illinois 7 31 14 0 52

QB Mark Zanders threw for 321 yards and three touch-
downs, completing 17-of-23 passes. RB Aaron Stecker
had just 70 rush yards, but he scored twice. WR Kevin
Walsh had the biggest day of any WIU receiver, catching
seven balls for 113 yards and a score. Montana's offense
managed just 201 yards against the nation's top-ranked
scoring defense.

Nov. 28 -- Natchitoches, La.
Illinois State 0 7 14 7 28
Northwestern State 21 0 21 6 48

Northwestern State scored three touchdowns in the first
quarter, and the Redbirds battled to within 14 points on
two occasions, but could get no closer in ISU's first-ever
playoff game. Sam Zanders was the offensive star for the
Redbirds as he scored three touchdowns on the ground,
while rushing for a team-high 135 yards.

Dec. 4 -- Macomb, Ill.
Florida A&M 3 3 8 7 21
Western Illinois 0 0 7 17 24

The Leathernecks beat their highest-ranked opponent in
Florida A&M (ranked No. 2) in this quarterfinal contest.
Aaron Stecker was the rushing star, with 137 yards, but
Erik Rogers was the star of the game for WIU as he scored
all three touchdowns, two on runs of 20 and 30 yards, and
the other on a 15-yard pass from Mark Zanders.

Western Illinois 0 8 0 6 14
Georgia Southern 14 7 14 7 42

Western Illinois fell to top-ranked Georgia Southern, 42-14,
but Aaron Stecker had a huge day. Stecker completed
his WIU two-year career with a 175-yard rushing day, and
he added an 83-yard touchdown reception. LB James
Milton, the nation's top defensive player, was ejected on
the second GSU series of the game. A late first-half TD
and a quick score to start the second half turned a 14-8
Georgia Southern lead into a 20-point margin (26-8), one
that Western Illinois could not overcome.

1998 Championship:

Massachusetts 55, Georgia Southern 43

1999 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 27 -- Normal, Ill.
Colgate 0 0 7 6 13
Illinois State 7 21 21 7 56

Illinois State captured its first-ever playoff victory in
commanding fashion, as the Redbirds jumped to a 49-0
lead. Avelion Cason was the star for ISU, as he scored
three times. QB Dusty Burk was effective, throwing for
165 yards and three touchdowns, while completing 12-
of-17 passes.

Nov. 27 -- Missoula, Mont.
Youngstown State 10 3 10 7 30
Montana 0 6 14 7 27

An 18-yard TD run by QB Jeff Ryan gave YSU a three-
point lead with 5:39 to go, and a missed field goal by
Montana with 0:12 left gave the Penguins a first-round
win. Mark Griffith booted three field goals for Youngstown
State, while Elliott Giles caught six passes for 214 yards
and a touchdown. RB Adrian Brown also had a big day
for YSU as he pounded for 103 yards on 26 carries.

QB Jeff Ryan engineered Youngstown State's trip to
the 1999 national championship game, one the
Penguins lost to Georgia Southern.

QB Dusty Burk had a record-setting day for the
Redbirds in a 1999 playoff win at Hofstra. He com-
pleted 31-of-37 passes for 350 yards and two TDs.
**2000 Valley Football Playoff Summaries**

**2000 Championship:**
Georgia Southern 27, Montana 25

**Dec. 8 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>7-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>14-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNI set a playoff record by scoring 56 points in a 56-28 win against Maine. The game was close through nearly three quarters until RB Adam Benge broke off a 63-yard TD run on the first play after stopping Maine on a fourth-and-12 from the UNI 37-yard line with 2:41 remaining in the third. Benge had three TDs and 114 rushing yards.

**Dec. 1 -- Charleston, Ill.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNI</td>
<td>10-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Illinois</td>
<td>13-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNI outlasted Eastern Illinois, 49-43, in the highest scoring playoff game in league history. RB Adam Benge of UNI was the hero as he set a league playoff record with four touchdowns, while rushing for 177 yards on 29 carries. RB Richard Carter added 52 yards and a score for the Panthers. It marked only the second road playoff win for UNI in its playoff history.

**Dec. 1 -- Greenville, S.C.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furman</td>
<td>3-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>7-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furman rallied with three scores in the final 15:52 to win. Furman was stymied by the Hilltopper defense, but the Palladins scored on drives of 35 and 42 yards in the fourth quarter, including the game-winning TD with 3:07 left, to win 24-20. QB Donte Pimpleton threw for 33 yards and rushed for another 74 to lead Western.

**Nov. 25 -- Macomb, Ill.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Illinois</td>
<td>7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh</td>
<td>16-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lehigh kept its perfect season alive for another week as the Engineers improved to 12-0 after downing the Leathernecks. Lehigh out-gained Western, 534-194, in total yards, while WIU also suffered five turnovers. League offensive MVP Charles Tharp was limited to 32 yards on 14 carries.

**2001 Valley Football Playoff Summaries**

**Dec. 4 -- Hempstead, N.Y.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hofstra</td>
<td>7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State</td>
<td>13-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dusty Burk had a phenomenal game for the Redbirds as he completed 31 of 37 passes for 350 yards and two touchdowns in leading Illinois State to a quarterfinal victory. After falling behind 7-0 in the first quarter, ISU ran off 24-straight points to take a 24-7 lead. Hofstra never got closer than 10 points after that.

**Dec. 4 -- Youngstown, Ohio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>14-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina A&amp;T</td>
<td>3-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youngstown State dominated this quarterfinal contest, as the Penguins controlled the clock (37:51-22:09) and had a decisive edge in total yards (459 to 197). Ten different Penguin players rushed for a total of 214 yards and three touchdowns. QB Jeff Ryan threw for 245 yards and two scores.

**Dec. 11 -- Statesboro, Ga.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Southern</td>
<td>7-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State</td>
<td>7-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Illinois State’s offense encountered a tough Georgia Southern defense, and the ISU defense met the FCS Walter Payton Award winner, RB Adrian Peterson. Peterson rushed for 183 yards and three scores for the Eagles downed the Redbirds in this semifinal game. ISU’s Dusty Burk threw for 191 yards and two touchdowns, and the Redbirds could only must 69 yards on the ground. Jake Strader’s 50-yard field goal to end the first half was the longest in a Missouri Valley Football playoff game.

**Dec. 11 -- Youngstown, Ohio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>3-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida A&amp;M</td>
<td>0-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Jeff Ryan to Damien Matthews TD pass with :44 left provided the winning margin for YSU, but a Tim Johnson interception midway through the fourth period was the play of the game. With the score 24-13, FAMU had a first-and-goal at the YSU eight-yard line. On third down, Johnson intercepted a potential game-sealing TD pass at the YSU two-yard line. Four plays later, the Penguins scored to make it a 24-19 deficit with 7:22 remaining. The winning TD came with just under a minute left. Adrian Brown had 188 rush yards, propelling the Penguins to their second title game in the past three years.

**Dec. 18 -- Chattanooga, Tenn.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Southern</td>
<td>10-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngstown State</td>
<td>7-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jeff Ryan rushed three yards for a TD to put the Penguins up, 14-10, 26 second into the second quarter, but it was all Georgia Southern after that. GSU ran off 26 unanswered points to end the first half with a 38-14 lead. The Eagles set a FCS playoff record with 638 rushing yards. Adrian Peterson had 247 of those, and three scores. RB Adrian Brown of YSU closed his career with a 160-yard game. He also had two rushing TDs for the Penguins.

**1999 Championship:**

Georgia Southern 59, YOUNGSTOWN STATE 24
Dec. 15 -- Missoula, Mont.

UNI 0 0 0 0 0
Montana 17 14 7 0 38

The No. 1 Grizzlies jumped to a 31-0 halftime lead and coasted to a 38-0 victory over UNI. QB Tom Petrie was 10-of-21 for 175 yards, but the Panther ground game was limited to 70 net yards on 34 carries. Montana’s Yo Humphrey and John Edwards each rushed for more than 100 yards and had two TDs. Two Panthers were ejected in the contest, including All-America WR Jake Soliday, who had two catches for 40 yards.

2001 Championship:
Montana 13, Furman 6

2002 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 30 -- Macomb, Ill.
Western Illinois 21 6 7 14 48

Attley Lawson scored twice in the first quarter and ended up with 104 yards. QB Russ Michna, the league’s offensive MVP, was 11-of-17 for 164 yards and two TDs. Western Illinois (11-1) became just the third team in school history to win 11 games.

Dec. 7 -- Macomb, Ill.
Western Kentucky 24 14 7 14 59

Jeremi Johnson had a game-high 160 rushing yards and a TD, while Maurice Bradley scored three times for the Hilltoppers. Antonio Veals set a league record with 166 return yards, including an 86-yard TD punt return.

Georgia Southern 7 0 0 21 28

QB Jason Michael scored the winning TD with 46 remaining, and a 56-yard FG try by Georgia Southern as time expired was just short and right. RB Jon Frazier had 103 rushing yards and two TDs, while WR Casey Rooney had three catches for 90 yards, including a 31-yarder to set up Michael’s game-winning TD.

Dec. 20 -- Chattanooga, Tenn.
Western Kentucky 7 10 7 10 34
McNeese State 0 6 8 0 14

RB Jon Frazier had 271 all-purpose yards, which included 159 rushing yards and two touchdowns as the Hilltoppers upended top-ranked McNeese. Jeremi Johnson had a big day catching out of the backfield, with three receptions for 90 yards. Western again won the battle of turnovers, committing its only turnover of the playoffs, while forcing McNeese State into three interceptions.

2003 Championship:

Western Kentucky 34, McNeese State 14

2003 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 29 -- Missoula, Mont.

W. Illinois 3 13 7 10 7 3 43
Montana 7 13 7 6 7 0 40

David Akers and Fu’Ad Khaleel blocked a Montana final field goal attempt in the second overtime to preserve a 43-40 Western Illinois victory. Justin Langan kicked five field goals, including the 23-yard game-winner in the second OT. Russ Michna completed 22 of 31 passes for 375 yards and two touchdowns. Western Illinois earned its first road playoff win in school history, while Montana lost at home for only the third time in its playoff history.

Nov. 29 -- Bowling Green, Ky.
Western Kentucky 21 7 7 10 45

Western Kentucky scored on three of their first four plays and were never threatened by the Ohio Valley Conference champion. Lerron Moore left the game in the first quarter but not before he collected a game-high 137 rushing yards on only five attempts. QB Justin Haddix was 6-of-10 for 181 yards and a career-best three touchdowns. Shannon Hayes had three catches for 112 yards for the Hilltoppers.

Nov. 29 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Montana State 7 7 0 14 0
UNI 3 11 14 7 35

The game was tight for the first two quarters, as the Panthers took a 14-7 halftime lead on a two-yard TD run by TE Andy Thorn. The Panthers dominated statistically, outgaining Montana State, 467-278, in total yards. Richard Carter and Terrance Freshney combined for 172 rushing yards, while WR Eddie Galles had two catches for 111 yards, which included a 75-yard TD strike.

Nov. 29 -- Newark, Del.
Southern Illinois 0 0 7 0 7
Delaware 27 7 7 7 48

Delaware took advantage of six Southern Illinois turnovers, turned a blocked punt into a touchdown, and used 27 first-quarter points to its victory. The turnovers were the key, as both teams managed 20 first downs, and the Hens held a slim 340-303 advantage in total yards. RB Muhammad Abdulqadir rushed for 87 yards, while QB Joel Sambursky left the game in third quarter after suffering a concussion.

Dec. 6 -- Spartanburg, S.C.
Western Kentucky 7 3 0 7 17
Wofford 21 0 0 13 34

Wofford scored on its first three possessions and never led by less than double digits the rest of the way. Justin Haddix was 15-of-35 passing for 195 yards, but he was intercepted three times and fumbled another time. WR Casey Rooney had a career-high eight catches for 70 yards.

Dec. 6 -- Hamilton, N.Y.

Western Illinois 3 7 3 14 27
Colgate 7 7 0 14 28

RB Jamaal Branch of Colgate scored on a one-yard run with 1:50 remaining to give Colgate a one-point victory. Russ Michna completed 20-of-38 passes for 290 yards and one TD in a heavy blanket of snow. The Leathernecks led 27-21 with 7:04 remaining, but a punt return deep into WIU territory set up the game-winning touchdown.

Dec. 6 -- Newark, Del.

UNI 0 7 0 0 7
Delaware 17 0 10 10 37

Delaware RBs rushed for 217 yards and four TDs while the Blue Hens defense held UNI’s offense to only 164 total yards. QB Tom Petrie had UNI’s only score, a one-yard run.

2004 Championship:

Delaware 40, Colgate 0

2004 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 27 -- Carbondale, Ill.

Eastern Washington 0 7 14 14 35
Southern Illinois 7 10 7 7 31

Eastern Washington used a potent passing game to slip by top-ranked Southern Illinois, 35-31. The Eagles scored on a 45-yard pass play with 1:49 remaining, and the ensuing Saluki drive stalled near midfield. QB Erik Meyer completed 31-of-44 passes for 437 yards for EWI, while Brandon Jacobs rushed for 166 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Saluki ground game.

Nov. 27 -- Bowling Green, Ky.

Western Kentucky 7 3 7 7 24
Sam Houston State 23 14 7 10 54

Sam Houston State built a 30-7 lead after the first play of the second quarter and the Bobcats were never headed. WKU QB Justin Haddix had 242 yards passing.

2004 Championship:

James Madison 31, Montana 21

2005 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 26 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

UNI 14 10 0 7 41

A Brian Wingert 31-yard kick with just 51 seconds remaining in the game gave UNI a 41-38 victory over Eastern Washington. UNI scored 17 unanswered points in the fourth quarter.

Nov. 26 -- Charleston, Ill.

Southern Illinois 7 0 7 7 21
Eastern Illinois 3 0 0 3 6

SIU won its first FCS playoff game in 22 years. SIU’s offense featured three rushing touchdowns and 89 rushing yards by RB Arke Whitlock, plus a 15-of-21 effort by QB Joel Sambursky.
Western Kentucky became the first school in NCAA FCS history to defeat the top three seeds en route to its 2002 national crown.

LEAGUE COACHES IN THE PLAYOFFS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coach, School</th>
<th>Appearances</th>
<th>Rec.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Terry Allen, UNI</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Ball, Western Illinois</td>
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<td>Craig Bohl, North Dakota State</td>
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<td>Jesse Branch, Missouri State</td>
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<td>Bruce Craddock, Western Illinois</td>
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<td>David Elson, Western Kentucky</td>
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<td>Jim Tressel, Youngstown State</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTALS | 107-69 |

Includes only games in which school was a league member.

PLAYOFFS

2005 Championship:

Appalachian State 21, UNI 16

2006 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Dec. 3 -- Durham, N.H.

UNI 7 14 0 3 24
New Hampshire 0 14 7 0 21

The Panthers bolted to a 21-0 lead and used a Brian Wingert 22-yard fourth-quarter field goal for the final three-point margin. UNH had a 631-351 edge in total offense, but the Panthers recovered three fumbles.

Dec. 3 -- Boone, N.C.

Southern Illinois 0 3 7 14 24
Appalachian State 10 14 7 7 38

SIU held an edge in time of possession and total plays run, but Appalachian State scored four TDs on drives of four plays or less. QB Joel Sambursky was intercepted twice, lost a fumble and was sacked four times.

Dec. 9 -- San Marcos, Texas

UNI 14 9 6 8 3 40
Texas State 0 17 13 7 0 37

UNI scored a touchdown with 1:27 remaining on a David Horne two-yard run and added a two-point conversion to force a tie, then won the game in overtime, 40-37 on a Brian Wingert FG. QB Eric Sanders had a career high with 417 passing yards and threw four TDs.

Dec. 16 -- Chattanooga, Tenn.

Appalachian State 0 7 7 7 21
UNI 6 10 0 0 16

PK Brian Wingert was 3-for-3 on field-goal tries, while RB David Horne scored on a two-yard rush to put the Panthers up 16-7 at the break. After a third-quarter APSU score, Appalachian State’s Jason Hunter scooped up a fumble by UNI sophomore quarterback Eric Sanders and took it 15 yards for a touchdown to give the Mountaineers a 21-16 lead with 9:14 left in the game.

2007 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 25 -- Youngstown, Ohio

James Madison 14 3 7 7 31
Youngstown State 10 10 0 15 35

QB Tom Zettls passed for a career-high 314 yards and a touchdown. T.J. Peterson had 11 catches for 144 yards and a touchdown. The Penguins rallied with two fourth-quarter scores, including the game-winning touchdown with 1:12 remaining (Marcus Mason one-yard run)

Dec. 2 -- Youngstown, Ohio

Illinois State 7 0 0 14 21
Youngstown State 7 7 14 0 28

In what was just the second intra-conference playoff game in league history, YSU’s Marcus Mason rushed for 138 yards on 26 carries with a touchdown, and the Penguin defense picked off Illinois State QB Luke Drone four times.

Dec. 2 -- Missoula, Mont.

Southern Illinois 0 0 0 3 3
Montana 3 10 0 7 20

Montana held Southern Illinois to only 129 yards of total offense en route to a 20-3 victory. Arkee Whillock carried the ball 21 times for 80 yards to lead the Salukis. Even so, the game was within reach until a Montana TD midway through the fourth quarter made it 20-3.

Dec. 9 -- Boone, N.C.

Youngstown State 0 14 3 7 24
Appalachian State 7 21 7 14 49

Appalachian State outgained the Penguins on the ground 353-172 yards and built a 28-7 second-quarter lead and was never headed. Marcus Mason led the YSU ground game with 121 yards, scoring once.

2006 Championship:

Appalachian State 28, Massachusetts 17

2007 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 24 -- Carbondale, Ill.

Eastern Illinois 0 0 3 8 11
Southern Illinois 14 6 0 10 30

Nick Hill threw for 234 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 32 yards and one TD. SIU, which completed a sweep of the Illinois directional schools (also beat Northern Illinois and Western Illinois this year), advanced to the quarterfinals for the third year in a row.

Nov. 24 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

New Hampshire 7 7 14 3 35
UNI 7 7 10 14 38

Eric Sanders threw a 24-yard TD pass to Montari Leonard with 7 seconds left. Corey Lewis added 220 yards rushing and three TDs for UNI, which drove 71 yards in the final 1:16 without any timeouts. Sanders completed 27 of 36 passes for 314 yards, and Lewis broke the school playoff record for rushing yards.
Dec. 1 -- Carbondale, Ill.
Massachusetts 10 3 7 7 27
Southern Illinois 20 7 7 0 34

Nick Hill threw for 216 yards and three touchdowns as SIU scored 20 first-quarter points and held on for the win. Hill threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to tight end Byron Gettis on the third play of the game. John Randle (86 yards), Warner (64 yards, 1 TD) and White (62 yards, 1 TD) keyed a balanced Saluki rushing attack that finished with 246 yards.

Dec. 1 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
Delaware 0 19 10 10 39
UNI 10 3 7 7 27

The difference in the game proved to be a pair of fumbles forced by the Blue Hens, each one swinging momentum in favor of the visitors. The first resulted in a 55-yard TD return. The second came when Eric Sanders was stripped, halting a 41-yard UNI drive with 13:46 left to play. The turnover led to a FG. Sanders was 28-of-38 for 291 yards and a TD. Corey Lewis rushed 20 times for 153 yards and a pair of TDs.

Dec. 8 -- Carbondale, Ill.
Delaware 0 7 7 6 20
Southern Illinois 10 0 0 7 17

Joe Flacco threw for 243 yards and two TDs, helping Delaware edge Southern Illinois. After a field goal extended Delaware’s lead to 17-10, Craig Turner returned the ensuing kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown, tying the score at 17. After Delaware connected on a field goal with just under seven minutes remaining, two SIU drives failed. John Randle had 129 yards rushing for the Salukis. Nick Hill finished with 106 yards on 12-of-25 passing. Hill also ran for 41 yards.

2007 Championship:
Appalachian State 49, Delaware 21

2008 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 29 -- Carbondale, Ill.
New Hampshire 3 13 10 3 29
South Dakota State 3 10 0 7 20

UNH defeated SIU with good special teams play. The Wildcats returned five kickoffs for 199 yards, blocked a punt for a score, while Tom Bishop was a perfect 5-of-5 on field goals. UNH scored 17 unanswered points, beginning with Bishop’s 28-yard field goal with 2:34 left to play in the second quarter.

Nov. 29 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
Maine 0 7 0 8 15
UNI 7 16 3 14 40

WR Jarred Herning caught a pair of TD passes, and RB Corey Lewis became the school’s all-time leading rusher in the win. Herning had the most surprising and impressive performance of the evening. Entering the game, he had 115 receiving yards and one TD for the season. Against Maine, Herning had a game-high 102 yards receiving with TD catches of 42 and 55 yards. Lewis had 75 yards and a score, surpassing former record-holder Jeff Stovall for the UNI’s all-time lead.

Dec. 6 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
New Hampshire 7 20 0 7 34
UNI 12 14 10 0 36

The Panthers held the Wildcats to just 76 rushing yards and racked up 382 yards of total offense in the win. QB Pat Grace completed 18 of 26 passes for 255 yards and also ran 14 times for 84 yards and a score. UNI forced six turnovers and gave up only three turnovers. Both teams scored on interception returns, including a playoff-record 100-yard return by UNH’s John Clements on the final play of the first half.

Dec. 13 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
Richmond 0 7 0 14 21
UNI 3 0 17 0 20

Richmond scored on a 13-yard touchdown strike from Eric Ward to Joe Stewart with 14 seconds left in the game to seal a 21-20 win. QB Pat Grace passed for 224 yards and two scores on 19-of-28 passing. He connected with nine different receivers, while Maurice Turner led the Panthers with 67 receiving yards. RB Corey Lewis finished his Panther career with a school-record 4,003 rushing yards, after rushing for 77 yards on carries against the Spiders.

2008 Championship:
Richmond 23, Montana 7

2009 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 28 -- Carbondale, Ill.
Eastern Illinois 7 0 0 0 7
Southern Illinois 7 17 17 7 48

SIU forced six turnovers and had two different 100-yard rushers as the Salukis rolled. The Salukis had one interception and recovered five fumbles - the second most in a game in school history. SIU scored 28 points off Panther mishaps and scored 48 unanswered in the game. RB Deji Karim led the way with 155 rush yards.

Nov. 28 -- Missoula, Mont.
South Dakota State 14 20 14 0 48
Montana 0 14 13 34 61

SDSU held a 48-21 lead with just under six minutes remaining in the third quarter before Montana exploded with 40 unanswered points. The 34 points scored in the fourth quarter to win a game was the most ever in a playoff game and the second-most in FCS history (trailing, ironically, a 39-point fourth-quarter Montana outburst against the Jacks in a 52-48 win on 9/4/93).

Dec. 5 -- Carbondale, Ill.
William & Mary 0 10 7 7 24
Southern Illinois 3 0 0 0 3

A stifling William & Mary defense ended Southern Illinois’ season. SIU’s offense got 102 yards in the first quarter, but William & Mary adjusted and held the Dawgs to just 85 total yards in the last three quarters. SIU scored first with a 46-yard field goal from Kyle Dougherty just over two minutes into the game. Jonathan Grimes scored three times for William & Mary.

2009 Championship:
Villanova 23, Montana 21
2010 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 27 -- Conway, S.C.

Western Illinois 0 10 0 7 17
Coastal Carolina 0 7 3 10

QB Matt Barr’s second rushing touchdown of the game, with 1:50 remaining, gave Western Illinois a 17-10 win. Coastal Carolina then drove to the Western Illinois 4, aided by two major penalties, before Kieron James picked off a pass by Zach MacDowall. MacDowall was intercepted four times in the game.

Nov. 27 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Lehigh 0 0 14 0 14
UNI 0 0 0 0 7

Chris Lum threw a pair of third-quarter touchdown passes for Lehigh. Lum completed 18 of 37 passes for 262 yards, and Ryan Spadola caught nine passes for 127 yards and a TD. QB Tirrell Rennie scored a rushing touchdown for the Panthers, but PK Billy Hallgren missed three field goals - from 44, 26 and 31 yards.

Nov. 27 -- Fargo, N.D.

Robert Morris 21 7 3 7 17
North Dakota State 6 0 0 0 0

Brock Jensen threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score while D.J. McNorton ran 27 times for 110 yards and a TD and caught two passes for 110 yards and a score for the Bison. Jensen was 10-for-24 for an NDSU playoff-record 229 yards and the Bison rolled up 482 yards of total offense.

Dec. 4 -- Boone, N.C.

Western Illinois 7 0 7 14 42
Appalachian State 0 21 7 7 42

QB DeAndre Presley rushed for 264 yards and two TDs to lead Appalachian State. With an inch of snow on the ground and flurries throughout the afternoon, APSU used that to its advantage against the pass-oriented Leathernecks with a pair of first-half interceptions, turning them into scores. APSU also rushed for 422 yards.

Dec. 4 -- Bozeman, Mont.

North Dakota State 0 7 7 28 42
Montana State 0 6 3 7 17

D.J. McNorton rushed for 207 yards and a career-high four touchdowns as North Dakota State overpowered No. 4 Montana State in the fourth quarter. McNorton ran for 163 yards and all of his TDs in the second half, and the Bison (9-4) scored four times after falling behind 17-14 on the first play the fourth quarter.

Dec. 11 -- Cheney, Wash.

N. Dakota State 0 10 14 7 31
E. Washington 14 7 7 7 38

Eastern Washington used a 90-yard drive to tie the game with :23 left in regulation, then scored on its first play in overtime. NDSU did not get a controversial fumble call against quarterback Brock Jensen at the EWU 1-yard line in overtime overruled by replay. D.J. McNorton scored two TDs, and the Bison scored on an interception return and a kickoff return.

2010 Championship:

Eastern Washington 20, Delaware 19

2011 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Dec. 3 -- Fargo, N.D.

James Madison 0 7 0 7 14
North Dakota State 0 10 6 10 26

D.J. McNorton rushed for 154 yards, including a 60-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. Sam Ojuri added 61 yards and two scores for the Bison. PK Ryan Jastram kicked a 53-yard field goal to put the Bison up 10-7 at halftime and he had a 44-yarder in the third quarter.

Dec. 3 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Wofford 7 7 0 7 21
UNI 7 0 7 14 28

Tirrell Rennie threw a pair of touchdown passes to Jared Herring. And David Johnson’s 1-yard TD run put UNI up 21-14 to start the fourth quarter. Wofford fumbled the ensuing kickoff in the end zone, and Phil Wright’s recovery gave the Panthers a 14-point lead.

Dec. 9 -- Missoula, Mont.

UNI 7 3 0 0 10
Montana 7 21 7 13 48

UNI opened the scoring on its second possession of the game as the Panthers scored on a 27-yard touchdown pass from Tirrell Rennie to Jared Herring. The Panthers trailed just 14-10 with 8:22 left in the second quarter, but Montana would score the final 34 points.

Dec. 10 -- Fargo, N.D.

Lehigh 0 0 0 0 0
North Dakota State 0 17 0 7 24

QB Brock Jensen accounted for three touchdowns, and North Dakota State’s defense pitched a shutout against one of the top quarterbacks in the country for a 24-0 victory over Lehigh. Sam Ojuri rushed for 136 yards to lead the No. 2 seed Bison. All-America QB Chris Lum of Lehigh was 25-of-52 for 288 yards and two INTs.

Dec. 17 -- Fargo, N.D.

Georgia Southern 0 7 0 0 7
North Dakota State 7 6 15 35

QB Brock Jensen accounted for 231 total yards despite playing with the flu and WR Warren Holloway scored twice to help the Bison defeat Georgia Southern 35-7. North Dakota State had 314 yards on the ground to 186 for Georgia Southern and its highly touted triple option.

Jan. 7 -- Frisco, Texas

Sam Houston State 0 6 0 0 6
North Dakota State 3 0 7 7 17

QB Brock Jensen made the most of the big plays by special teams and defense. Jensen threw a touchdown pass right after a fake punt, then had a 1-yard keeper for another score after a long interception return and the Bison beat top-seeded Sam Houston State 17-6 in their first FCS championship game.

2011 Championship:

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 17, Sam Houston State 6
2012 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Dec. 1 -- Boone, N.C.
North Dakota State 0 21 0 7 28
South Dakota State 10 24 3 21 58
The Jackrabbits set a league playoff record with 243 rushing yards, led by three scores and an MVFC playoff record of 295 rushing yards by RB Zach Zenner. The 58 points scored were the second-most by a Missouri Valley Football team in its 27-year playoff history. SDSU's 24-unanswered points in the final 9:39 of the second quarter put the game away by halftime.

Dec. 1 -- Fargo, N.D.
Illinois State 7 7 14 3 7 38
App. State 0 10 7 14 6 37
QB Matt Brown threw for 322 yards and five TDs in leading ISU to a second round win at Appalachian State. Tyrone Walker was Brown's top target as he collected 10 receptions for 176 yards and two TDs. Shelby Harris blocked a Mountaineers' PAT in the first overtime that would have knotted the score at 38-38.

Dec. 8 -- Cheney, Wash.
Illinois State 10 7 10 8 35
Eastern Washington 10 14 14 13 51
Illinois State fell behind 38-17 in the second half, but to score 18 unanswered points to close to within 38-35 before Eastern Washington pulled away by scoring the game's final 13 points. The Eagles scored six times on scoring drives of five plays or less. QB Matt Brown threw for 372 yards and two scores in his final career game for Illinois State.

Dec. 8 -- Fargo, N.D.
Wofford 0 7 0 0 7
North Dakota State 7 7 0 0 14
North Dakota State took a 14-7 lead into the locker-room at halftime and made it stick. The Bison mustered just 262 yards of total offense. Wofford controlled the clock and the ball in the second half, but was unable to convert in the red zone, going 0-for-2 in the game.

Dec. 14 -- Fargo, N.D.
Georgia Southern 6 7 7 0 20
North Dakota State 6 3 7 7 23
For the second-straight week, the Bison faced a stiff challenge from a Southern Conference triple-option offense, and NDSU prevailed at home. Brock Jensen scored the winning touchdown with 3:05 remaining in the game, capping a seven-play, 53-yard drive with a 5-yard run. Carlton Littlejohn blocked a potential gametying 50-yard field goal with :34 left.

2013 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 30 -- Flagstaff, Ariz.
South Dakota State 0 7 9 10 26
Northern Arizona 0 7 0 0 7
Zach Zenner rushed for 249 yards and two scores, including a league playoff-record 87-yard jaunt, as the Jackrabbits won their first-ever road playoff game. SDSU held the Northern Arizona highly-touted rushing attack to 53 net rushing yards.

Dec. 7 -- Cheney, Wash.
South Dakota State 7 7 3 0 17
Eastern Washington 7 13 14 41
A 14-14 halftime tie became lopsided as Eastern Washington outscored the Jackrabbits 27-3 in the second half. QB Austin Sumner threw for 315 yards for SDSU, but EWU's Vernon Adams connected on 5 TD passes as the Eagles advanced to the quarterfinals.

Dec. 7 -- Fargo, N.D.
Furman 0 7 0 0 7
North Dakota State 0 10 21 7 38
QB Brock Jensen threw for two scores and ran for another, while CB Marcus Williams returned an interception 61 yards for a score to help the Bison past visiting Furman. The Bison outgained the visitors 267-102 yards on the ground.

Dec. 14 -- Fargo, N.D.
Coastal Carolina 0 7 7 0 14
North Dakota State 17 17 0 14 48
QB Brock Jensen completed 14-of-21 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns, and he rushed for 75 yards and two more scores in leading NDSU past Coastal Carolina. Sam Ojuri led a Bison rushing attack which amassed 424 total yards as he had 162 yards on 20 carries, including two touchdowns. The Bison set a league playoff record with 623 yards of total offense.

2014 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 29 -- Richmond, Ky.
Indiana State 0 7 24 5 36
Eastern Kentucky 13 3 0 0 16
Eastern Kentucky scored the first 16 points of the game but wouldn't score again. Indiana State scored its first points with only :02 left in the first half on a four-yard TD strike from Mike Perish to Robert Toshan. ISU outgained EKU, 456-315, in total yards. Perish threw for 407 yards with three TDs and was 41-of-57.

Nov. 29 -- Bozeman, Mont.
South Dakota State 14 10 7 16 47
Montana State 6 14 6 14 40
The two teams combined for 1,018 yards of total offense in snowy conditions in Bozeman. RB Zach Zenner rushed for 252 yards and scored five touchdowns (including four on the ground) as the Jackrabbits advanced to the quarterfinals. QB Austin Sumner was a steady 19-of-29 with 249 yards and two TD passes.

Nov. 29 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
Stephen F. Austin 0 7 0 3 10
Univ. of Northern Iowa 23 7 7 7 44
RB David Johnson took the opening handoff 73 yards for a TD and the Panthers never looked back, winning handily 44-10 in this first-round game. Johnson rushed 23 times for 152 yards and three touchdowns and also caught 2 passes for 84 yards and a score. All-America PK Michael Schmadeke added three field goals.
Dec. 6 -- Normal, Ill.

UNI 0 0 7 14 21
Illinois State 14 10 7 14 27

Illinois State jumped out to a 24-0 halftime lead in what would have been the first of three playoff games in 2014 involving MVFC intraconference matchups. The Redbirds held UNI's rushing offense to just 33 total yards. QB Tre Roberson threw for 382 yards and four TDs and also rushed for 37 yards to lead ISU.

Dec. 6 -- Fargo, N.D.

South Dakota State 0 14 3 7 24
North Dakota State 7 7 3 10 27

North Dakota State scored with :54 seconds left on a Carson Wentz to RJ Urzendowski 12-yard pass to edge the visiting Jackrabbits. NDSU jumped to a 1-0 advantage in the second quarter and then only managed two Adam Keller FGs until the game-winning score. SDSU's Zach Zenner led all players with 133 rushing yards while adding two TDs. Urzendowski led the Bison with four catches, two TDs and 109 yards.

Dec. 6 -- Chattanooga, Tenn.

Indiana State 7 0 7 0 14
Chattanooga 14 7 7 7 35

The Sycamores could not stop Chattanooga's running game and managed only 27 yards on the ground in this quarterfinal game. Chattanooga outgained ISU 503-178 yards in total offense and had a 27-8 edge in first downs. QB Mike Perish completed just 12 of 27 pass attempts for 151 yards and a TD for the Sycamores.

Dec. 13 -- Cheney, Wash.

Illinois State 10 14 21 14 59
Eastern Washington 7 10 3 26 46

Illinois State had two or more scores in every quarter to build a 52-27 lead early in the fourth quarter and then withstood a furious comeback try by the Eagles. RB Marshuan Coprich had 30 carries for 258 yards and four touchdowns for the Redbirds, and teammate QB Tre Roberson added 62 rushing yards and 206 passing yards. QB Vernon Adams led the Eagles by completing 7-of-11 passes for 162 yards. WR Tre Roberson threw for 132 yards.

Dec. 13 -- Fargo, N.D.

Coastal Carolina 10 10 6 6 32
North Dakota State 14 10 7 8 39

North Dakota State built an early 14-3 first-quarter and then withstood a steady Coastal Carolina attack to win by seven and advance to the national semifinals. Coastal Carolina took a 32-31 lead early in the fourth quarter, and the Bison scored on a 45-yard TD run from John Crockett with 9:28 remaining for the final margin. Crockett had 227 yards rushing and two scores, while QB Carson Wentz was 11-of-17 for 173 yards and two touchdown passes for the Bison.

2015 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 28 -- Missoula, Mont.

South Dakota State 0 0 10 7 17
Montana 7 17 0 0 24

The game was a tale of two halves as host Montana ruled the first half, jumping to a 24-0 lead at the break, which included a 10-0 scoring spurt in the final 3 minutes of the second quarter. QB Taryn Christion rushed for a team-high 54 yards, including a TD, while he completed 18 of 43 passes for 230 yards. WR Jake Wieenhke rushed for a team-best 128 yards. In the second half, SDSU blanked the Griz, forcing UM into six punts and two TDs, limiting them to just 15 total yards on their first five possessions of the second stanza.

Dec. 19 -- Fargo, N.D.

Sam Houston State 0 3 0 0 3
North Dakota State 7 0 14 14 35

North Dakota State held just a 7-3 margin at half but blew out the visiting Bearkats in the second half for a 34-point win. The score was more unbalanced than the offensive outputs of both teams as NDSU outgained Sam Houston State by only 60 total yards (398-338). RB John Crockett led NDSU with 166 rushing yards and three TDs, while Carson Wentz was an efficient 13-of-19 for 179 yards and a score. The Bison scored on each of its last four possessions.

Dec. 20 -- Durham, N.H.

Illinois State 3 3 0 15 21
New Hampshire 7 8 3 3 18

Illinois State trailed by two scores at the beginning of the fourth quarter but rallied to beat top-seeded New Hampshire, 21-18. The game-winning score came with 7:55 remaining when QB Tre Roberson went 47 yards on a draw play. For the game, Roberson was 16-of-31 passing for 278 yards and he added 95 yards on the ground. Lechein Neblett led ISU receivers with eight catches for 147 yards.

Jan. 10 -- Frisco, Texas

North Dakota State 3 7 10 9 29
Illinois State 7 0 7 13 27

The MVFC co-champions met in Frisco in what was the first-ever FCS championship game meeting between two teams from the same league. North Dakota State took a 20-7 lead with 7:28 remaining in the third quarter but the Redbirds fought back, ultimately taking a 27-23 lead with just 1:36 remaining. QB Carson Wentz led the Bison on a six-play, 78-yard scoring drive to give NDSU a two-point lead with 37 seconds left. An Esley Thornt身亡 interception with :08 remaining ended ISU's last-ditch effort on the NDSU 30-yard line. Wentz earned game MVP honors, throwing for 237 yards and a TD, while adding 87 rushing yards and a score. QB Tre Roberson rushed for 161 yards and a TD and threw for three TDs and 157 yards for the Redbirds. With the win, NDSU became the first team in FCS history to win four-straight national titles.

2014 Championship:

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 29, ILLINOIS STATE 27

Dec. 21 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Eastern Illinois 7 0 10 0 17
UNI 0 23 20 10 53

Eastern Illinois held a 7-0 lead after the first quarter, but it wasn't much of a contest after that, as the home Panthers all but put the game away with 23-straight points in the second quarter. UNI forced four turnovers and out-rushed the visiting Panthers, 323-76 yards. RB Tyvis Smith had a game-high 147 yards on 24 carries for UNI while QB Aaron Bailey was efficient on offense, completing 7-of-11 passes for 162 yards and 3 TDs.

Dec. 21 -- Dayton, Ohio

Western Illinois 0 10 7 7 24
Dayton 7 0 0 0 7

Dayton scored the first TD of the game, from there it was all Western Illinois on the scoreboard as the Leathernecks won 24-7 in their opening round FCS Playoffs game. Nikko Watson rushed for a game-high 152 yards on 34 attempts while on defense redshirt-freshman Pete Swenson recorded four sacks as Western limited Dayton to just 25 yards in the second half.

Dec. 5 -- Portland, Ore.

UNI 7 9 0 13 29
Portland State 0 3 7 7 17

UNI finished the game with two rushers with over 200 yards on the ground, totaling 401 as a team. Tyvis Smith rushed for a career-high 207 yards, adding two touchdowns while Aaron Bailey threw in 200 yards on the ground and two more rushing scores. On defense, Jared Farley notched a game-high 12 tackles, also grabbing a key interception. Brett McMakin had UNI's second interception of the game, also racking up 10 tackles, one sack and two tackles for loss.

Dec. 5 -- Normal, Ill.

Western Illinois 3 3 6 7 19
Illinois State 7 0 8 21 36

The final score was lopsided, but the host Redbirds only led by three points with just six minutes remaining. ISU's defense limited Western's rushing attack to just 18 total yards, but QB Sean McGuire threw for 341 yards and two TDs for the Leathernecks. Meanwhile, RB Marshuan Coprich had 217 yards on the ground for the Redbirds, and QB Tre Roberson rushed for 111 and threw for 132 yards.

Dec. 5 -- Fargo, N.D.

Montana 0 0 6 0 6
North Dakota State 7 14 10 6 37

North Dakota State intercepted four passes and returned two for touchdowns to help spark a 37-6 win. Jalen Allison scored from 30 yards out, CJ Smith had a 32-yard return, and Bruce Anderson scored on a 100-yard kickoff return to help the Bison (10-2) advance to the FCS quarterfinals for the sixth straight season. QB Easton Stick ran up the middle for a 49-yard touchdown on NDSU's third play and the Bison opened up a 21-0 lead by halftime with Allison's pick-six and a 15-yard touchdown run by Anderson, who led all players with 162 all-purpose yards.
Trailing 32-14 with 10 minutes remaining, the Redbirds converted back-to-back TD drives to pull within five points at 32-27. ISU QB Tre Roberson connected with RB Marshaun Corrich for a 12-yard score. Then, after Roberson went down after taking a wicked hit and had to sit out one play, backup QB Jake Kolbe scrambled for a 17-yard score on his first, and only, offensive snap of the game. The two-point conversion attempt on a Roberson draw play fell short. Richmond iced the game on the next possession on a 28-yard rushing TD.

Bruce Anderson returned the second half kickoff for the go-ahead touchdown and North Dakota State’s defense stiffened for a 23-13 victory. NDSU’s King Frazier rushed for a game-high 107 yards including a fourth-yard touchdown midway through the fourth quarter that made it 21-10. North Dakota State limited UNI to 71 yards in the second half and a season-low 221 yards of total offense. NDSU QB Easton Stick was efficient completing 13 of 17 passes for 116 yards with zero interceptions. QB Aaron Bailey was 10 of 16 passing for 101 yards and one touchdown for UNI. Bailey and RB Tyvis Smith, the first dual 1,000-yard rushers in UNI history, combined for 91 yards on 34 carries.

King Frazier rushed for 121 yards and two touchdowns as North Dakota State advanced to its fifth straight NCAA Division I football championship game. NDSU’s defense held its opponent to a season-low yardage total for the third straight game. Nick DeLuca made six tackles, Tre Dempsey and CJ Smith each intercepted passes, and the Bison had five pass breakups and five quarterback hurries in holding Richmond to 209 yards.

North Dakota State scored on its first four possessions and rolled to a 37-10 victory over No. 1 seed Jacksonville State in the Championship Game before a record crowd of 21,836 at Toyota Stadium. No. 3-seeded North Dakota State finished its season 13-2 overall and became the first team in college football history to win five straight national championships. Senior Carson Wentz returned as the starting QB for NDSU after missing more than two months with a wrist injury, and he finished 16-of-29 passing for 197 yards, as well as adding 79 rushing yards on nine carries. He accounted for three touchdowns -- two rushing and one passing.

2015 Championship:

NORTH DAKOTA ST. 37, JACKSONVILLE STATE 10
No. 1 seed North Dakota State used a steady and balanced attack to dispatch of PFL champ San Diego. The Toreadors had a 35:36-24:24 edge in time of possession, but NDSU held the edge in total yards, 307-295. QB Easton Stick rushed for 99 yards on just four carries and also threw for 208 yards and three scores. Four different Bison scored a TD, including Chase Morlock, who had two receiving snags, including a 49-yard catch with 4:46 remaining in the third quarter, pushing a 21-7 edge to a commanding 28-7 margin.

Dec. 10 -- Fargo, N.D.
South Dakota State 10 0 0 0 10
North Dakota State 7 7 8 14 36

North Dakota State surrendered the first 10 points of the game but scored the final 36 to advance to the semifinals with a 26-point win against visiting South Dakota State. The game marked the ninth playoff meeting between two MVFC schools. The Jackrabbits offense was limited to just 37 rush yards, but TE Dallas Goedert (55 yards) and WR Jake Wieneke (75 yards) led SDSU through the air. Meanwhile, NDSU countered with a strong rushing attack, led by King Frazier (101 yards), Lance Dunn (91 yards) and Easton Stick (83 yards). NDSU held a decisive edge in total yards, 492-192.

Dec. 16 -- Fargo, N.D.
James Madison 7 10 0 10 27
North Dakota State 7 0 10 0 17

No. 1 seed North Dakota State’s run of five straight NCAA Division I football national championships ended with a 27-17 loss to fourth-seeded James Madison. RB Khalid Abdullah rushed for 180 yards, the most by an NDSU opponent since the 2010 quarterfinal loss at Eastern Washington, and Bryan Schor went 11 of 18 passing for 242 yards and three touchdowns for JMU. NDSU, which had averaged 300 yards rushing in its first two playoff games, turned in a season-low 132 yards on 34 carries. QB Easton Stick was 19 of 38 passing for 216 yards. The loss snapped NDSU’s 22-game postseason winning streak. It was NDSU’s first home playoff loss since the 1991 Division II first round.

Dec. 17 -- Cheney, Wash.
Youngstown State 7 10 3 20 40
Eastern Washington 10 14 7 7 38

Visiting Youngstown State outscored No. 2 seed Eastern Washington, 20-7, in the fourth quarter, including the game-winning acrobatic TD catch by Kevin Rader with :01 remaining. Two Penguins rushed for more than 100 yards in the game, including Tevin McCaster (154) and Jody Webb (101), while QB Hunter Wells completed 16-of-24 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns. WR Cooper Kupp had 10 catches for 180 yards and two scores, while QB Gage Gubrud had 353 yards through the air and three TD strikes for the Eagles. Rader’s catch, which was hailed as the “catch of the year” by sports writers and television hosts, was made against an EWU defender’s back.

Jan. 7 -- Frisco, Texas
Youngstown State 0 7 0 7 14
James Madison 14 7 7 7 20

Youngstown State’s improbable postseason run for its fifth national championship came up short after a 28-14 loss to James Madison. Junior QB Hunter Wells passed for 271 yards on 28-of-47 passing, both career highs, with two touchdown passes. Wells also hit 10 different receivers. Wells threw touchdown passes to Shane Kuhn from 17 yards out in the second quarter and Jeremia Brassel for seven yards late in the game. TB Jody Webb led the Penguins with 10 receptions for 63 yards - both career highs - and Alvin Bailey had seven catches for 60 yards. Webb also rushed for 41 yards on 17 carries and had 91 yards in kickoff returns for 195 all-purpose yards. With his effort, he set the school record for career all-purpose yards at 5,247.

2016 Championship:
JAMES MADISON 28, YOUNGSTOWN STATE 14

2017 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 25 -- Thibodaux, La.
South Dakota 7 10 14 7 38
Nicholls 0 7 14 10 31

LB Phillip Powell forced a fumble at the goal line in the final seconds and the Coyotes recovered in the end zone for the decisive blow in a 38-31 win against Nicholls. QB Chris Streveler passed for 378 yards and four touchdowns, including a 10-yard strike to a wide open Brandt VanRoekel in the end zone with 5:57 left that proved to be the winning score. VanRoekel also wrestled away a 47-yard touchdown catch in the second half and finished with four catches and a game high 82 yards.

Nov. 25 -- Ogden, Utah
Western Illinois 3 3 6 7 19
Weber State 0 14 0 7 21

Western Illinois scored with just under five minutes remaining in the game to make it a one-possession contest, but the Weber State Wildcats came up with four first downs and ran out the clock to secure the victory. Jaelon Acklin finished with game-highs of 10 receptions for 116 yards. QB Sean McGuire completed 22-of-40 passes for 202 yards. Max Norris rushed for 46 yards and Acklin added 27 rushing yards.

Nov. 25 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa
Monmouth 0 0 0 7 7
UNI 14 19 13 0 46

Junior QB Eli Dunne shredded the Hawk defense after completing 18-of-26 passes for 260 yards and four touchdowns. Senior DaviC Fountain was Dunne’s favorite target, as he caught 10 passes for 139 yards and two scores. Senior J’Veyon Browning led UNI on the ground as the running back earned a career-high 136 rushing yards. UNI racked up a season-high 246 rushing yards, while throwing for 274 through the air. The Panther offense scored on their first nine possessions as UNI rolled up MU early and often.

Dec. 2 -- Huntsville, Texas
South Dakota 7 7 14 14 42
Sam Houston State 14 27 0 13 54

Sam Houston State took a 41-14 lead into halftime, survived a furious South Dakota rally, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the FCS playoffs with an explosive 54-42 win. South Dakota’s Chris Streveler and Sam Houston State’s Jeremiah Briscoe combined for 1,025 yards passing and 10 touchdowns. Streveler passed for a USD and FCS playoff record 520 yards and a counted for six scores. The two offenses, ranked one and two nationally, combined for 1,345 yards. South Dakota senior Brandt VanRoekel had 11 receptions for a program-record 234 yards.

Dec. 2 -- Brookings, S.D.
UNI 0 7 0 15 22
South Dakota State 10 16 0 11 37

The Jackrabbits scored on all five of their offensive possessions in the first half and went on to defeat Northern Iowa, 37-22. SDSU had a slight 380-369 advantage in total offense. Christion completed 19-of-28 passes for 237 yards and added 38 yards on seven carries. Brady Mengarelli led the rushing attack with 45 yards on 18 carries, with Isaac Wallace adding 40 yards on 10 attempts. Junior Eli Dunne led the Panthers through the air, throwing for 267 yards and a touchdown.
QB Easton Stick accounted for four touchdowns and No. 2 seed North Dakota State rolled to a 42-10 victory over seventh-seeded Wofford. North Dakota State became the first team in FCS history to advance for the seventh straight season to the semifinal round. Wofford’s triple-option attack managed only 134 yards rushing, 120 less than the Terriers (10-3) averaged coming in. Stick threw three touchdown passes for the second straight game while completing 11 of 16 passes for 184 yards and no interceptions. He added 49 yards on eight carries including a seven-yard TD run.

Dec. 9 -- Brooking, S.D.

New Hampshire 0 0 7 7 14
South Dakota State 21 7 14 14 56

WR Jake Wieneke caught two touchdown passes and ran for another for a South Dakota State team that cruised into the semifinals for the first time in program history with a 56-14 victory. SDSU held a 455-348 advantage in total offense. Isaac Wallace led the ground game with 79 yards on seven carries. QB Taryn Christion completed 13-of-25 passes for 190 yards and added another 48 yards on the ground on 13 carries on a day in which he became the Jackrabbits’ all-time leader in total offense.

Dec. 15 -- Fargo, N.D.

Sam Houston State 3 0 10 0 13
North Dakota State 21 20 14 0 55

RB Bruce Anderson scored five touchdowns and No. 2 seed North Dakota State broke postseason school records for points, total offense and rushing in a 55-13 rout of sixth-seeded Sam Houston State. NDSU put up 471 yards rushing, the most for the Bison in an FCS playoff game, and the 642 yards of total offense is an all-time NDSU postseason record topping the mark of 627 against Indiana (Pa.) in the 1990 Division II championship. Anderson rushed 17 times for 183 yards and three scores, and his only two pass receptions of 23 and 31 yards both went for touchdowns. Seth Wilson, playing in just his seventh game since having his redshirt pulled, rushed 24 times for 194 yards.

Dec. 16 -- Harrisonburg, Va.

South Dakota State 0 10 0 6 16
James Madison 7 14 30 0 51

A ball-hawking James Madison defense forced 10 South Dakota State turnovers — five in each half — and the Dukes slammed the door shut on a Jackrabbit comeback with two long touchdown runs early in the third quarter en route to a 51-16 victory. For the Jackrabbits, Isaac Wallace and Brady Mengarelli each gained 66 yards on respective totals of 13 and nine carries. Jake Wieneke ended his final collegiate game with game highs of seven catches and 105 yards, with Dallas Goedert adding five receptions for 43 yards. Taryn Christion totaled 234 yards on 18-of-43 passing and was picked off six times.

Jan. 6 -- Frisco, Texas

North Dakota State 7 10 0 0 17
James Madison 3 3 7 0 13

North Dakota State won its sixth FCS national championship in seven years with a 17-13 victory over top-seeded defending champion James Madison before a sellout crowd of 19,090 at Toyota Stadium. It was North Dakota State’s 14th football national championship since 1965 and tied the FCS record of six national titles held by Georgia Southern. QB Easton Stick, named the game’s Most Outstanding Player, completed 13 of 22 passes for 130 yards and one touchdown in his first championship game start. RB Bruce Anderson rushed for 63 yards and a touchdown, and Lance Dunn rushed 13 times for 50 yards in his return to the Bison lineup after missing seven games with a hip injury.

2017 Championship:

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 17, JAMES MADISON 13

2018 Valley Football Playoff Summaries

Nov. 24 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Lamar 13 0 0 0 13
UNI 3 10 0 3 16

UNI overcame a 10-point deficit with big plays on defense and a strong running game to hold off Lamar. UL scored on just the second play from scrimmage as QB Darrel Colbert found Kirkland Banks in the flat and he found the edge and ran 73 yards for the TD. After a UNI FG, Lamar scored its final points with 7:29 left in the first quarter. The Panthers took the lead with a 35-yard field goal by Austin Errthum with 13:09 to play. RB Marcus Weymiller ran for 128 yards on 29 carries, and Trevor Allen notched 112 yards on 18 rushes. UNI racked up five sacks, had an interception and recovered three fumbles.

Dec. 1 -- Fargo, N.D.

Montana State 3 0 7 0 10
North Dakota State 21 17 7 0 52

NDSU rushed for 407 yards and scored on its first six possessions to beat 23rd-ranked Montana State 52-10. Lance Dunn carried 11 times for 127 yards and an NDSU postseason record-tying four touchdowns, Bruce Anderson went 13 times for 118 yards and one TD, and Ty Brooks had six carries for 103 yards and a score for the Bison. NDSU averaged 9.2 yards per carry and had three 100-yard rushers for the first time since 1996.

Dec. 1 -- Brookings, S.D.

Duquesne 0 0 6 0 6
South Dakota State 7 17 20 7 51

The Jackrabbits racked up 326 yards on the ground, averaging 8.1 yards per carry. Mikey Daniel had 100 yards and two scores on just 10 carries, while Pierre Strong ended the afternoon with 92 yards on 12 carries. Cade Johnson was QB Taryn Christion’s favorite target, as he had eight catches for 99 yards and a score. Meanwhile, the SDSU defense never let the Duquesne running game get on track, holding the Dukes’ All-America running back candidate A.J. Hines to only 21 yards on 10 carries. Duquesne managed only 84 total yards on the ground in 35 attempts.
PLAYOFFS

Year-By-Year Playoff Summaries

Playoffs With Four Losses?
A total of 76 teams have made the playoffs (52 at-large selections) with four losses since 1986 (first year of 16-team field). Eleven teams with 4+ losses made the field during the three seasons the playoff field was at 20 teams (2010-12). Forty-four teams with four losses, including 35 at-large picks, have made the field in the current 24-team format (2013-present).

Year | Team | Rec. | (Conf) | Pick
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1987 | Marshall | 7-4 | Southern | at-large
1987 | North Texas | 7-4 | Southland | at-large
1987 | Richmond | 7-4 |CAA | auto.
1989 | Delaware | 7-4 |CAA | auto.
1990 | The Citadel | 7-4 |Southern | at-large
1990 | La.-Monroe | 7-4 |Southland | at-large
1992 | App. State | 7-4 |Southern | at-large
1995 | UNI | 7-4 |MVFC | auto.
1995 | Idaho | 6-4 |Big Sky | at-large
1997 | Colgate | 7-4 |Patriot | auto.
2002 | Murray State | 7-4 |Ohio Valley | auto.
2002 | Montana St. | 7-5 |Big Sky | auto.
2003 | Montana St. | 7-5 |Big Sky | auto.
2005 | E. Washington | 7-4 |Big Sky | auto.
2005 | Montana St. | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2006 | E. Illinois | 8-4 |Ohio Valley | at-large
2006 | Lafayette | 6-5 |Patriot | auto.
2006 | McNeese St. | 7-4 |Southland | auto.
2007 | N. Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2008 | Maine | 8-4 |CAA | at-large
2008 | Texas State | 8-4 |Southland | at-large
2009 | Weber State | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large

20-TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT

2010 | C. Carolina | 6-5 |Big South | auto.
2010 | W. Illinois | 7-4 |MVFC | at-large
2010 | N. Dakota St. | 7-4 |MVFC | at-large
2010 | UNI | 7-4 |MVFC | auto.
2010 | Ga. Southern | 7-4 |Southland | auto.
2010 | Villanova | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2010 | N. Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2011 | E. Kentucky | 7-4 |Ohio Valley | at-large
2011 | James Madison | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2012 | Eastern Illinois | 7-4 |Ohio Valley | auto.
2012 | C. Carolina | 7-4 |Big South | auto.

24-TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT

2013 | Lafayette | 5-6 |Patriot | auto.
2013 | Furman | 7-5 |Southern | auto.
2013 | Southern Utah | 8-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2013 | N. Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2013 | S. Dakota St. | 8-4 |MVFC | at-large
2013 | Samford | 8-4 |Southern | at-large
2013 | Sam Houston | 8-4 |Southland | at-large
2014 | Indiana State | 7-5 |MVFC | at-large
2014 | Liberty | 8-4 |Patriot | auto.
2014 | Montana | 8-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2014 | Montana State | 8-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2014 | Morgan State | 7-5 |MEAC | auto.
2014 | UNI | 8-4 |MVFC | at-large
2014 | Richmond | 8-4 |CAA | at-large
2014 | Sam Houston | 8-4 |Southland | auto.
2014 | S. Dakota St. | 8-4 |MVFC | at-large
2014 | S. F. Austin | 8-4 |Southland | at-large
2015 | Colgate | 7-4 |Patriot | auto.
2015 | Montana | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2015 | N. Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2015 | Eastern Illinois | 7-4 |Ohio Valley | at-large
2015 | UNI | 7-4 |MVFC | at-large
2015 | Western Illinois | 6-5 |MVFC | at-large
2016 | Cal Poly | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2016 | Saint Francis | 7-4 |Northeast | auto.
2016 | Weber State | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large
2016 | New Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2016 | Samford | 7-4 |Southland | at-large
2016 | Illinois State | 6-5 |MVFC | at-large
2017 | Lehigh | 5-6 |Patriot | auto.
2017 | UNI | 7-4 |MVFC | at-large
2017 | N. Hampshire | 7-4 |CAA | at-large
2017 | South Dakota | 7-4 |MVFC | at-large
2017 | Furman | 7-4 |Southern | at-large
2017 | N. Arizona | 7-4 |Big Sky | at-large

Dec. 1 -- Davis, Calif.
UNI 6 0 7 3 16
UC Davis 10 6 7 0 23
UNI rallied from a 23-6 deficit to cut the lead to 23-16 in the fourth quarter, but failed to get into the end zone on the final drive and fell to six-seed UC Davis. The Panthers had opportunities to score, including a pair of turnovers in UC Davis territory and two missed field goals, but in the end, the Aggies outlasted the clock and got stops. UNI’s Duncan Ferch and Austin Evans both tallied interceptions on the day with returns into Davis territory, but the Panther’s failed to score on both opportunities. The high-powered Aggie offense was held well below its season scoring average and their third-lowest total of the season.

Dec. 8 -- Fargo, N.D.
Colgate 0 0 0 0 0
North Dakota State 7 7 14 7 35
QB Easton Stick passed for 205 yards and three touchdowns and North Dakota State shut out a playoff opponent for the first time in seven years. Colgate 35-0. Stick completed passes to nine different receivers and finished 14 of 19 with touchdown passes. Stick finished 12 of 15 with 4+ losses made the field during the three seasons the playoff field was at 20 teams (2010-12). Forty-four teams with four losses, including 35 at-large picks, have made the field in the current 24-team format (2013-present).

2018 CHAMPIONSHIP

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 38, E. WASHINGTON 24

Dec. 14 -- Fargo, N.D.
South Dakota State 7 0 14 0 21
North Dakota State 7 7 21 9 44
QB Easton Stick rushed for 147 yards and three touchdowns and No. 1-ranked North Dakota State scored 30 second-half points to beat fifth-ranked South Dakota State 44-21 in the semifinals. The Bison rolled for 382 yards of total offense in the second half and scored on all five second-half possessions before running out the clock on their final drive. Stick finished 12 of 15 passing for 169 yards. SDSU’s Taryn Christion finished 10 of 26 passing for 180 yards and running back Pierre Strong Jr. rushed 20 times for 135 yards including a 30-yard TD in the first quarter. Strong hit the 1,000-yard mark for the season on only his 100th carry of the season earlier in the opening stanza. A crowd of 18,286 was on hand for the final NDSU home game under head coach Chris Klieman, who was named head coach at Kansas State earlier in the week. It was the sixth largest playoff crowd in Fargo dome history.

Jan. 5 -- Frisco, Texas
Eastern Washington 0 10 7 7 24
North Dakota State 7 10 14 7 38
QB Easton Stick ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more, guiding NDSU team to a 38-24 win over Eastern Washington and NDSU’s seventh national championship in the past eight years. With its seventh national title, NDSU surpassed Georgia Southern for the most in Division I FCS history. The 2018 Bison became the fifth team to finish an undefeated season as the national champions – joining the 2013 NDSU squad. Stick rushed 18 times for 121 yards and three scores, with his final carry being a 46-yard touchdown run to ice the victory with 1:16 remaining. He was 13-for-19 passing for 198 yards and two scores – both to championship game Most Outstanding Player Darius Shepherd, who had five catches for 125 yards. NDSU racked up 40:05 in time of possession, converting 11-of-17 on third downs. Stick passed NDSU’s Brock Jensen for the all-time FCS wins record by a quarterback, capping his career with a 49-3 record as a starter.

2018 CHAMPIONSHIP

NORTH DAKOTA STATE 38, E. WASHINGTON 24

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Rec. (Conf.)</th>
<th>Pick</th>
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<td>Incarnate Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Lamar</td>
<td>7-4 Southland</td>
<td>at-large</td>
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Individual Player Records

RUSHING

**Attempts:**
- 37, Aaron Stecker, WIU (11/29/97 vs. Jackson State)
- 35, Kyle Minett, SDSU (11/28/09 vs. Montana)
- 35, Jeff Stovall, UNI (12/27/93 vs. Boston)
- 34, Nikki Watson, WIU (11/28/15 vs. Dayton)
- 34, Jody Webb, YSU (12/10/16 vs. Wofford)
- 33, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/24/12 vs. E. Illinois)
- 32, Aaron Stecker, WIU (12/5/98 vs. Florida A&M)
- 32, Corey Lewis, UNI (11/24/07 vs. New Hampshire)
- 32, Zach Zenner, SDSU (12/6/14 vs. Montana State)

**Yards:**
- 295, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/24/12 vs. E. Illinois)
- 258, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/13/14 vs. W. Illinois)
- 252, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/29/14 vs. Montana State)
- 249, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/30/13 vs. N. Arizona)
- 244, Aaron Stecker, WIU (11/29/97 vs. Jackson St.)
- 227, John Crockett, NDSU (12/13/14 vs. C. Carolina)
- 220, Corey Lewis, UNI (11/24/07 vs. N. Pennsylvania)
- 217, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/15/15 vs. W. Illinois)
- 213, Jody Webb, YSU (12/10/16 vs. Wofford)

**Touchdowns Rushing:**
- 4, Adam Benge, UNI (12/1/01 vs. Eastern Illinois)
- 4, Brandon Jacobs, SIU (11/27/04 vs. Western Ky.)
- 4, Arkee Whitlock, SIU (11/25/06 vs. UT-Martin)
- 4, D.J. McNorton, NDSU (12/4/10 vs. Montana State)
- 4, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/13/14 vs. E. Wash.)
- 4, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/29/14 vs. Montana State)
- 4, Lance Dunn, NDSU (12/1/18 vs. Montana State)

**Interceptions:**
- 3, Colin Cochart, SDSU (11/28/09 vs. Montana)

PASSING

**Attempts:**
- 62, Mike Smith, UNI (12/12/87 vs. NE Louisiana)
- 60, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 57, Mike Perish, INS (11/29/14 vs. Eastern Kentucky)
- 54, Sean Payton, EIU (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
- 53, Chris Streveler, USD (12/2/17 vs. SHSU)
- 50, Steve Beard, UNI (12/14/96 vs. Marshall)
- 48, Matt Brown, ILS (12/8/12 vs. Eastern Kentucky)

**Catches:**
- 6, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 5, Mike Smith, UNI (12/12/87 vs. NE Louisiana)
- 5, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 6, Taryn Christion, SDSU (12/16/17 vs. JMU)

RECEIVING

**Receptions:**
- 160, Patrick Hunter, UNI (12/9/05 vs. Texas State)
- 176, Tyrone Walker, ILS (12/1/12 vs. Appalachian St.)
- 177, Calvin Pierce, EIU (12/6/86 vs. Eastern Ky.)
- 176, Tyrone Walker, ILS (12/12/12 vs. Appalachian St.)
- 158, Damoun Patterson, SDSU (12/3/16 vs. Jax St.)
- 152, Anthony Warrum, ILS (12/11/15 vs. Richmond)
- 149, Calvin Pierce, EIU (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
- 148, Tyrone Walker, ILS (12/12/12 vs. E. Wash.)
- 147, Lechein Neblett, ILS (12/20/14 vs. N. Hampshire)

**Touchdown Receptions:**
- 3, Sherrid Howard, UNI (12/12/87 vs. NE Louisiana)
- 3, Alonzo Clayton, UNI (11/25/95 vs. Murray State)
- 3, Colin Cochard, SDSU (11/28/09 vs. Montana)

**Points Scored:**
- 32, Corey Lewis, UNI (11/24/07 vs. N. Pennsylvania)
- 32, Aaron Stecker, WIU (12/5/98 vs. Florida A&M)

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

**Yards:**
- 226, Jody Webb, YSU (11/26/16 vs. Samford)
- 245, Dedric Ward, UNI (12/7/96 vs. William & Mary)
- 249, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/29/14 vs. Montana State)
- 227, John Crockett, NDSU (12/13/14 vs. C. Carolina)
- 220, Corey Lewis, UNI (11/24/07 vs. N. Pennsylvania)
- 217, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/15/15 vs. W. Illinois)
- 213, Jody Webb, YSU (12/10/16 vs. Wofford)

**Interceptions:**
- 3, Colin Cochart, SDSU (11/28/09 vs. Montana)

**Passing Attempts:**
- 4, Lance Dunn, NDSU (12/11/15 vs. Richmond)

**Completable Attempts:**
- 41, Mike Perish, INS (11/29/14 vs. Eastern Kentucky)
- 37, Mike Smith, UNI (12/12/87 vs. NE Louisiana)
- 33, Chris Streveler, USD (12/2/17 vs. SHSU)
- 32, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 31, Dusty Burk, ILS (12/4/99 vs. Hofstra)
- 31, Eric Sanders, UNI (11/29/05 vs. Murray State)

**Points Scored:**
- 32, Corey Lewis, UNI (11/24/07 vs. N. Pennsylvania)
- 32, Eric Sanders, UNI (12/9/05 vs. Texas State)
- 34, Matt Brown, ILS (12/8/12 vs. Eastern Kentucky)

**All-Purpose Yards:**
- 3, 12 times

**Punting Average:**
- 55.0, Ben LeCompte, NDSU (12/11/15 vs. Richmond)
- 48.0, Ben LeCompte, NDSU (12/6/14 vs. SDSU)
- 48.0, Ben LeCompte, NDSU (12/14/12 vs. Jax St.)
- 47.8, Ben LeCompte, NDSU (1/9/15 vs. Jax St.)
- 52.9, Scott Ravanesi, SIU (12/17/99 vs. Colgate)

**Field Goals:**
- 5, Justin Langan, WIU (11/29/03 vs. Montana)
- 4, Kevin Mote, UNI (12/14/95 vs. Georgia Southern)
- 4, Michael Schmadeke, UNI (12/25/15 vs. Portland St.)
- 4, Zak Kennedy, YSU (12/3/16 vs. Jacksonville State)
- 3, 12 times

**Total Offense:**
- 571, Chris Streveler, USD (12/2/17 vs. SHSU)
- 423, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 419, Tre Roberson, ILS (12/6/14 vs. UNI)
- 412, Mike Perish, INS (11/29/14 vs. E. Kentucky)
- 412, Chris Streveler, USD (11/25/17 vs. Nicholls)
- 408, Mike Smith, UNI (12/8/87 vs. NE Louisiana)
- 406, Tre Roberson, ILS (12/11/15 vs. Richmond)
- 404, Dusty Burk, ILS (12/4/99 vs. Hofstra)
- 393, Russ Michna, WIU (11/29/03 vs. Montana)

**Team and Individual Playoff Records**

**Total Yards:**
- 571, Chris Streveler, USD (12/2/17 vs. SHSU)
- 398, Sean Payton, EIU (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
- 398, Eric Sanders, UNI (12/9/05 vs. Texas State)
- 392, Tre Roberson, ILS (12/6/14 vs. UNI)
- 392, Sean Payton, EIU (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
- 393, Russ Michna, WIU (11/29/03 vs. Montana)

**Touchdowns:**
- 417, Eric Sanders, UNI (12/8/05 vs. Texas State)
- 407, Paul Singer, WIU (11/26/88 vs. Western Ky.)
- 407, Mike Perish, INS (11/27/14 vs. Eastern Ky.)
- 398, Sean Payton, EIU (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
LONG PLAYS

Rush:
67, Zach Zenner, SDSU (11/30/13 vs. N. Arizona)
78, Seth Wilson, NDSU (12/14/15 vs. S. Dakota State)
75, Lerron Moore, WKU (11/29/03 vs. Jacksonville St.)
74, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/13/14 vs. E. Wash.)
73, Sam Ojuri, NDSU (12/14/13 vs. Coastal Carolina)
72, David Johnson, UNI (11/29/14 vs. S.F. Austin)
71, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/5/15 vs. Western Illinois)
70, John Crockett, NDSU (12/13/14 vs. C. Carolina)

Pass:
92, DeAndre Smith to Rodney McConico, MSU (12/2/89)
90, Paul Singer to Steve Williams, WIU (11/26/88)
85, Hunter Wells to Darius Shepherd, NDSU (1/5/19)
82, Easton Stick to Darrius Shepherd, NDSU (11/24/15 vs. Sam Houston State)
80, Mike Smith to Wes Anderson, UNI (12/5/87)

Yards:
57, Western Kentucky (11/29/15 vs. Dayton)
55, North Dakota State (12/4/19 vs. E. Dakota)
50, North Dakota State (11/24/12 vs. Portland State)
49, Eastern Illinois (11/24/86 vs. Murray State)
48, Iowa State (11/24/85 vs. Georgia Southern)
44, North Dakota State (12/20/13 vs. D. Carolina)
43, South Dakota State (12/1/18 vs. Duquesne)
41, Eastern Kentucky (11/29/01 vs. Florida A&M)
40, South Dakota (12/2/17 vs. Sam Houston State)
38, Wisconsin (11/24/87 vs. Maine)
37, South Dakota State (12/1/18 vs. Duquesne)
36, Missouri State (12/2/89 vs. S. F. Austin)
32, South Dakota State (12/20/13 vs. D. Carolina)
30, South Dakota (12/1/18 vs. Duquesne)

Kickoff Return:
100, Bruce Anderson, NDSU (12/5/15 vs. Montana)
99, Cade Johnson, SDSU (12/9/17 vs. UNH)
97, Bruce Anderson, NDSU (12/12/15 vs. UNI)
97, Ty Talton, UNI (11/30/96 vs. Eastern Illinois)
94, Mike Sigers, NDSU (12/11/10 vs. E. Washington)
93, Craig Turner, SIU (12/3/05 vs. Appalachian St.)
92, Cade Johnson, SDSU (12/11/10 vs. E. Washington)
88, Joseph Worrell, SDSU (12/18/15 vs. Richmond)
86, Antonio Velas, WKU (11/30/02 vs. Murray State)
80, Jerian Butler, SDSU (12/6/14 vs. N. Dakota St.)
78, Marshaun Coprich, ILS (12/9/14 vs. Marshall)
54, Joseph Jefferson, WKU (12/1/01 vs. Furman)
48, Ryan Sokolozan, ILS (11/27/99 vs. Colgate)
46, Anthony Varnum, ILS (12/5/15 vs. Western Illinois)
39, Jerian Butler, SDSU (11/30/13 vs. N. Arizona)

Team Records

RUSHING

Attempts:
62, UNI (12/12/87 vs. Northeastern Louisiana)
59, Eastern Illinois (11/29/86 vs. Western Kentucky)
58, North Dakota State (12/11/93 vs. J'ville State)
54, South Dakota State (12/11/93 vs. J'ville State)
50, UNI (12/14/96 vs. Marshall)
48, Eastern Illinois (12/6/86 vs. Eastern Kentucky)
48, Illinois State (12/6/86 vs. Eastern Washington)
47, Youngstown State (12/17/17 vs. James Madison)
46, South Dakota State (12/16/17 vs. James Madison)

Points Scored

59, Western Kentucky (11/30/02 vs. Murray State)
59, Illinois State (12/13/14 vs. Eastern Washington)
58, South Dakota State (11/24/12 vs. Eastern Illinois)
54, UNI (12/8/01 vs. Maine)
54, South Dakota State (12/9/17 vs New Hampshire)
53, North Dakota State (12/15/17 vs. SHSU)
50, North Dakota State (12/20/13 vs. N. Hampshire)
50, North Dakota State (12/11/18 vs. Montana State)
50, South Dakota State (12/1/18 vs. Duquesne)

First Downs

35, UNI (12/12/87 vs. Northeastern Louisiana)
32, South Dakota (12/2/17 vs. Sam Houston State)
31, UNI (12/14/85 vs. Georgia Southern)
31, UNI (12/5/87 vs. Arkansas State)
31, UNI (11/24/07 vs. New Hampshire)
31, UNI (12/1/07 vs. Delaware)

TOTAL OFFENSE

Plays:
92, Western Illinois (12/6/88 vs. Western Kentucky)
91, Eastern Illinois (11/29/86 vs. Murray State)
89, South Dakota (12/2/17 vs. Sam Houston State)
88, Eastern Illinois (11/25/85 vs. Stephen F. Austin)
86, Missouri State (12/19/85 vs. S. F. Austin)
86, South Dakota State (12/19/85 vs. S. F. Austin)
83, North Dakota State (12/20/13 vs. N. Hampshire)
83, South Dakota State (12/20/13 vs. N. Hampshire)
82, North Dakota State (12/11/18 vs. Montana State)
80, South Dakota State (12/1/18 vs. Duquesne)

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