



1818 Chouteau Ave.  
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Illinois State • Indiana State • Missouri State • North Dakota State • Northern Iowa  
 South Dakota • South Dakota State • Southern Illinois • Western Illinois • Youngstown State

## 2019 Missouri Valley Football Preseason Team

Name	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown / High School
QB- Ryan Boyle	Indiana State	6-2	215	Sr.	Urbandale (Iowa) Dowling Catholic / Iowa
RB- D.J. Davis	Southern Illinois	5-8	170	Sr.	Pompano Beach (Fla.) American Heritage
James Robinson	Illinois State	5-10	220	Sr.	Rockford (Ill.) Lutheran High
Pierre Strong Jr.	South Dakota State	5-11	200	So.	Little Rock (Ark.) McClellan High
FB- Clint Ratkovich	Western Illinois	6-1	210	Jr.	Crete (Ill.) Crete-Monee High
WR- Dakarai Allen	South Dakota	6-1	185	Sr.	Largo (Fla.) High
Dante Hendrix	Indiana State	6-3	195	So.	Florence (Ky.) Randall K Cooper High
Cade Johnson	South Dakota State	5-10	175	Jr.	Papillion (Neb.) Bellevue West High
TE- Briley Moore	UNI	6-3	242	Sr.	Blue Springs (Mo.) Blue Springs South High
OL- Drew Himmelman	Illinois State	6-10	315	Jr.	Geneseo (Ill.) High
Zack Johnson	North Dakota State	6-6	317	Sr.	Blaine (Minn.) Spring Lake Park High
Dillon Radunz	North Dakota State	6-6	303	Jr.	Becker (Minn.) High
Jackson Scott-Brown	UNI	6-4	312	Sr.	Council Bluffs (Iowa) St. Alberts High
Wyatt Wozniak	Indiana State	6-3	300	Sr.	Cypress (Texas) Cypress Woods High
LS- Bradey Sorensen	South Dakota State	6-2	225	Jr.	Yankton (S.D.) High
PK- Jerry Nunez	Indiana State	5-11	180	Sr.	Naples (Fla.) High
DL- Ryan Earith	South Dakota State	6-4	260	Sr.	Papillion (Neb.) Papillion-La Vista South High
Darin Greenfield	South Dakota	6-3	240	Sr.	Sheldon (Iowa) High
Anthony Knighton	Southern Illinois	6-4	260	Jr.	Fort Pierce (Fla.) Central High
Derrek Tuszka	North Dakota State	6-5	243	Sr.	Warner (S.D.) High
LB- Jabril Cox	North Dakota State	6-3	233	Jr.	Kansas City (Mo.) Raytown South High
Angelo Garbutt	Missouri State	6-2	230	Sr.	Carrollton (Texas) Hebron High / Iowa
Jonas Griffith	Indiana State	6-4	250	Sr.	Louisville (Ky.) Academy at Shawnee
Christian Rozeboom	South Dakota State	6-2	225	Sr.	Sioux Center (Iowa) High
DB- Jeremy Chinn	Southern Illinois	6-3	212	Sr.	Fishers (Ind.) High
James Hendricks	North Dakota State	6-1	207	Sr.	Bemidji (Minn.) High
Luther Kirk	Illinois State	6-2	195	Sr.	Garland (Texas) High
Devin Taylor	Illinois State	6-1	200	Jr.	Lansing (Mich.) Sexton High
Xavior Williams	UNI	5-11	175	Jr.	Burlington (Iowa) Notre Dame High
P- Garret Wegner	North Dakota State	6-0	193	Jr.	Lodi (Wis.) High
RS- Je'Quan Burton	Southern Illinois	5-9	175	So.	Orlando (Fla.) Jones High

**Honorable Mention (Offense):** QB Austin Simmons, South Dakota; FB Luke Sellers, South Dakota State; WR John Brunner, Western Illinois; WR Tyler Currie, Missouri State; WR Andrew Edgar, Illinois State; TE Ben Ellefson, North Dakota State; OL Isaiah Edwards, Indiana State; OL Evan Greenway, South Dakota State; OL Gabe Megginson, Illinois State; OL Mason Scheidegger, South Dakota; LS Ross Kennelly, North Dakota State; PK Chase Vinatieri, South Dakota State

**Honorable Mention (Defense):** DL Shereif Bynum, Youngstown State; DL Cole Karcz, North Dakota State; DL Matt McClellan, Missouri State; DL John Ridgeway, Illinois State; LB Jack Cochrane, South Dakota; LB McNeece Egbim, Missouri State; LB Bryce Notree, Southern Illinois; DB Bryce Gibson, Youngstown State; DB Phillip Powell, South Dakota; P Brady Schutt, South Dakota; RS Dakota Caton, Indiana State; RS Christian Uphoff, Illinois State; RS Xavior Williams, UNI

**Total picks (First Team denoted in parentheses), includes honorable mentions, by school:**

Illinois State - 8 (4); Indiana State - 7 (5); Missouri State - 4 (1); North Dakota State - 9 (6); Northern Iowa - 4 (3); South Dakota - 7 (2); South Dakota State - 8 (5); Southern Illinois - 5 (4); Western Illinois - 2 (1); Youngstown State - 2 (0).



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, July, 29, 2019

Contact: Mike Kern

## North Dakota State Picked To Repeat; NDSU Aims for Ninth-Straight Missouri Valley Football Crown

North Dakota State has been tabbed as the Missouri Valley Football Conference pre-season favorite in a poll conducted by league coaches, media and sports information directors. NDSU has been picked first in the pre-season poll for eight-straight seasons.

North Dakota State has earned the league title for eight-straight years, four times sharing it with another league school. This year, NDSU received 32 of 40 first-place votes and 392 total points in the poll.

South Dakota State earned the second spot in the poll, finishing with 348 total points while picking up four first-place votes. Illinois State (289 points), Indiana State (279 points) and UNI (266 points) were tightly bunched for the third-, fourth- and fifth-place spots, while Illinois State (3) and Indiana State (1) also received first-place mentions.

The second five is led by South Dakota, which came in sixth place in the poll with 176 points. Youngstown State has been picked seventh (153 points), followed by Western Illinois (128), Southern Illinois (89) and Missouri State (80).

In 2018, three MVFC teams earned selection to the NCAA Division I Championship, two advanced to the playoff semifinals, and North Dakota State won its seventh national championship in eight years. Counting last year, an MVFC member has reached the FCS semifinals 23 times in the past 23 seasons (and 26 times overall), and the MVFC has had two semifinal teams in four of the past five seasons. In the current decade, MVFC teams are 59-25 in the playoffs, and only one other conference (the CAA at 40-36) has a winning record. Since 2004, league teams have combined for a 73-38 record in playoff games, with seven titles – both tops in the FCS. Notably, only the MVFC (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018), CAA Football (2016) and Big Sky Conference (2010) have an FCS title this decade. Valley Football is celebrating its 35th season in 2019. In its first 34 seasons the league owns nine national crowns.

A pre-season favorite has claimed the league crown 21 times (in 33 previous polls). North Dakota State was picked to win the league last season, and the Bison earned both the league title and the national title (following a 38-24 win over Eastern Washington in the NCAA Division I Football Championship game in Frisco, Texas).

The 2019 season begins in Week Zero, as Youngstown State faces Samford in Montgomery, Ala., in the Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff on ESPN. Last year, the league fashioned a 23-13 non-conference record and won the Big Sky-MVFC Challenge Series for the second-straight year. The season featured another MVFC win against an FBS school as Illinois State handled Colorado State in September. Eight league teams will face an FBS opponent in 2019 (Southern Illinois has two FBS foes this year.) The league has had success against that subdivision, claiming at least one win at an FBS site since 2010 and 45 total wins in MVFC history.

### 2019 Valley Football Preseason Poll

Team (first-place votes)	Points
1. North Dakota State (32)	392
2. South Dakota State (4)	348
3. Illinois State (3)	289
4. Indiana State (1)	279
5. UNI	266
6. South Dakota	176
7. Youngstown State	153
8. Western Illinois	128
9. Southern Illinois	89
10. Missouri State	80

The MVFC will announce its pre-season all-conference teams this week (Tuesday-Offense; Wednesday-Defense).

North Dakota State tops the league with nine total selections, including a league-best six on the first-team unit. Illinois State and South Dakota State, meanwhile, have the second-most selections, with eight total honorees each. Indiana State and South Dakota State each have five first-team selections, meanwhile, which is second-best to NDSU.

# PREVIOUS YEAR VALLEY FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLLS

## 1986

1. UNI (12)	90	t2nd
2. Eastern Illinois (1)	67	1st
3. Illinois State	53	4th
4. Southern Illinois	52	t2nd
5. Indiana State	42	t6th
6. Western Illinois	40	5th
7. Missouri State	20	t6th

## 1987

1. UNI (13)	96	1st
2. Southern Illinois	82	t5th
3. Illinois State	68	7th
4. Western Illinois (1)	43	2nd
5. Eastern Illinois	40	t3rd
6. Indiana State	38	t5th
7. Missouri State	25	t3rd

## 1988

1. UNI (10)	87	4th
2. Missouri State (2)	82	t2nd
3. Western Illinois (1)	64.5	1st
4. Eastern Illinois	51.5	t5th
5. Indiana State	40	t2nd
6. Southern Illinois	34	t5th
7. Illinois State	22	7th

## 1989

1. Missouri State (5)	86	1st
2. Indiana State (3)	81	5th
3. Western Illinois (5)	80	t6th
4. Eastern Illinois (1)	51	t2nd
5. UNI	43	t2nd
6. Southern Illinois	29	t6th
7. Illinois State	22	t2nd

## 1990

1. Missouri State (5)	85.5	t1st
2. Eastern Illinois (3)	73	t3rd
3. Illinois State (2)	72.5	t3rd
4. UNI (4)	70	t1st
5. Indiana State	35	t6th
6. Western Illinois	28	t3rd
7. Southern Illinois	28	t6th

## 1991

1. UNI (10)	93.5	1st
2. Missouri State (3)	79.5	4th
3. Illinois State	61.5	7th
4. Eastern Illinois (1)	56	t5th
5. Indiana State	43.5	t5th
6. Western Illinois	29	t2nd
7. Southern Illinois	29	t2nd

## 1992

1. UNI (25)	191	1st
2. Missouri State	131	t2nd
3. Western Illinois (2)	122	t2nd
4. Southern Illinois (1)	109	t4th
5. Illinois State	98	t4th
6. Eastern Illinois	85	t4th
7. Indiana State	48	t4th

## 1993

1. UNI (16)	184	1st
2. Missouri State (7)	160	t2nd
3. Western Illinois (2)	133	t2nd
4. Eastern Illinois (2)	105	t4th
5. Illinois State (1)	87	t4th
6. Indiana State	69	6th
7. Southern Illinois	51	7th

## 1994

1. UNI (20)	173	1st
2. Illinois State (4)	145	4th
3. Missouri State	120	t5th
4. Western Illinois (2)	108	t2nd
5. Eastern Illinois	79	t2nd
6. Indiana State	74	t5th
7. Southern Illinois	29	7th

## 1995

1. UNI (18)	184	t1st
2. Illinois State (3)	144	t3rd
3. Western Illinois (6)	141	t5th
4. Missouri State	105	7th
5. Eastern Illinois (1)	93	t1st
6. Indiana State	81	t3rd
7. Southern Illinois	36	t5th

## 1996

1. UNI (18)	128	1st
2. Missouri State	91	t2nd
3. Indiana State (1)	82	t2nd
4. Western Illinois (2)	64	t2nd
5. Illinois State (1)	52	6th
6. Southern Illinois	45	5th

## 1997

1. UNI (10)	155	2nd
2. Western Illinois (8)	139	1st
3. Youngstown State (6)	137	3rd
4. Missouri State (1)	115	4th
5. Indiana State	68	5th
6. Illinois State	56	7th
7. Southern Illinois	30	6th

## 1998

1. Youngstown State (14)	161	t3rd
2. UNI (6)	148	t3rd
3. Western Illinois (5)	138	1st
4. Missouri State	92	t3rd
5. Indiana State	61	6th
6. Illinois State	57	2nd
7. Southern Illinois	43	7th

## 1999

1. Illinois State (15)	160	1st
2. UNI (8)	154	3rd
3. Youngstown State (1)	133	2nd
4. Western Illinois (2)	94	t4th
5. Missouri State	85	t4th
6. Indiana State	73	t4th
7. Southern Illinois	29	7th

## 2000

1. Illinois State (17)	172	t2nd
2. UNI (6)	144	4th
3. Youngstown State (2)	143	t2nd
4. Missouri State (2)	114	t5th
5. Western Illinois	88	1st
6. Indiana State	48	7th
7. Southern Illinois	47	t5th

## 2001

1. W. Kentucky (14)	213	t2nd
2. Youngstown St. (12)	202	t2nd
3. Western Illinois (1)	166	4th
4. Illinois State (1)	139	t6th
5. UNI	127	1st
6. Missouri State (1)	110	5th
7. Southern Illinois	51	8th
8. Indiana State	36	t6th

## 2002

1. UNI (24)	242	t6th
2. Youngstown St. (5)	213	t3rd
3. W. Kentucky (2)	191	t1st
4. Western Illinois	160	t1st
5. Missouri State (1)	132	8th
6. Illinois State	91	t3rd
7. Indiana State	68	5th
8. Southern Illinois	55	t6th

## 2003

1. Western Illinois (24)	247	t3rd
2. W Kentucky (6)	218	t3rd
3. Youngstown State	171	6th
4. UNI (1)	139	t1st
5. Illinois State	131	5th
6. Southern Illinois	130	t1st
7. Missouri State (1)	74	7th
8. Indiana State	42	8th

## 2004

1. Southern Illinois (25)	244	1st
2. UNI (6)	212	3rd
3. W. Kentucky (1)	186	2nd
4. Western Illinois	174	t5th
5. Illinois State	110	t5th
6. Youngstown State	102	t5th
7. Missouri State	81	4th
8. Indiana State	43	8th

## 2005

1. Southern Illinois (18)	237	t1st
2. W. Kentucky (9)	223	t4th
3. UNI (5)	206	t1st
4. Western Illinois	124	6th
5. Missouri State	119	7th
6. Youngstown State	104	t1st
7. Illinois State	91	4th
8. Indiana State	48	8th

## 2006

1. UNI (22)	239	t2nd
2. Youngstown St. (7)	208	1st
3. Illinois State (2)	190	t2nd
4. Southern Illinois	160	t4th
5. W. Kentucky (1)	141	t4th
6. Western Illinois	103	6th
7. Missouri State	79	t7th
8. Indiana State	32	t7th

## 2007

1. UNI (11)	166	1st
2. Illinois State (7)	160	t5th
3. Youngstown St. (9)	159	t3rd
4. Southern Illinois (1)	127	2nd
5. Western Illinois	82	t3rd
6. Missouri State	55	t5th
7. Indiana State	35	7th

## 2008

1. North Dakota St. (13)	289	t4th
2. UNI (15)	275	t1st
3. Youngstown St. (1)	209	t6th
4. Western Illinois (4)	202	t4th
5. Southern Illinois (2)	201	t1st
6. South Dakota State	149	3rd
7. Missouri State	105	t6th
8. Illinois State	104	8th
9. Indiana State	41	9th

## 2009

1. UNI (26)	314	t3rd
2. Southern Illinois (9)	281	1st
3. South Dakota St.	231	2nd
4. North Dakota St. (1)	206	7th
5. Western Illinois	174	9th
6. Youngstown State	171	t5th
7. Missouri State	111	t5th
8. Illinois State	90	t3rd
9. Indiana State	42	8th

## 2010

1. Southern Illinois (30)	313	t3rd
2. South Dakota St. (2)	252	t3rd
3. Illinois State (3)	249	t3rd
4. Northern Iowa (1)	244	1st
5. Missouri State	164	t3rd
6. North Dakota State	151	t3rd
7. Youngstown State	130	9th
8. Western Illinois	70	2nd
9. Indiana State	47	t3rd

## 2011

1. UNI (29)	316	t1st
2. North Dakota St. (6)	275	t1st
3. Southern Illinois (1)	207	t7th
4. South Dakota State	172	t4th
5. Illinois State	169	3rd
6. Indiana State	168	t4th
7. Western Illinois	151	9th
8. Youngstown State	88	t4th
9. Missouri State	74	t7th

## 2012

1. North Dakota St. (37)	379	1st
2. UNI	300	t6th
3. Youngstown State	291	t6th
4. Illinois State (1)	287	t3rd
5. Indiana State	228	t3rd
6. South Dakota State	182	2nd
7. Southern Illinois	167	t3rd
8. South Dakota	97	10th
9. Western Illinois	90	9th
10. Missouri State	69	8th

## 2013

1. North Dakota St. (39)	390	1st
2. South Dakota St.	323	t2nd
3. UNI	269	t7th
4. Illinois State	264	6th
5. Youngstown State	253	t2nd
6. Indiana State	197	10th
7. Southern Illinois	188	t2nd
8. Missouri State	123	t2nd
9. Western Illinois	77	9th
10. South Dakota	61	t7th

## 2014

1. North Dakota St. (24)	370	t1st
2. South Dakota St. (8)	330	4th
3. UNI (7)	324	3rd
4. Youngstown State	240	t5th
5. Southern Illinois	237	t7th
6. Illinois State	197	t1st
7. Missouri State	180	9th
8. South Dakota	121	10th
9. Western Illinois	96	t7th
10. Indiana State	50	t5th

## 2015

1. North Dakota St. (32)	389	t1st
2. Illinois State (8)	366	t1st
3. UNI	300	t3rd
4. Youngstown State	265	t6th
5. South Dakota State	251	t3rd
6. Indiana State	190	t6th
7. Southern Illinois	143	9th
8. Western Illinois	139	t3rd
9. Missouri State	91	10th
10. South Dakota	66	t6th

## 2016

1. North Dakota St. (37)	388	t1st
2. UNI (2)	343	t4th
3. South Dakota State	284	t1st
4. Illinois State	274	t4th
5. Youngstown State	254	3rd
6. Western Illinois	176	t6th
7. South Dakota	146	t6th
8. Southern Illinois	124	t8th
9. Indiana State	115	t8th
10. Missouri State	41	t8th

## 2017

1. North Dakota St. (21)	380	1st
2. South Dakota St. (19)	379	t2nd
3. Youngstown State	290	t5th
4. UNI	255	t2nd
5. Illinois State	246	t5th
6. Western Illinois	188	4th
7. South Dakota	182	t5th
8. Southern Illinois	132	t8th
9. Missouri State	81	t8th
10. Indiana State	67	10th

## 2018

1. North Dakota St. (39)	390	1st
2. South Dakota St.	340	2nd
3. UNI	270	t3rd
4. Youngstown State	258	t6th
5. Illinois State	248	t6th
6. South Dakota	206	t6th
7. Western Illinois	163	5th
8. Southern Illinois	139	10th
9. Missouri State	90	9th
10. Indiana State	41	t3rd

## 2019

1. North Dakota St. (32)	392	
2. South Dakota St. (4)	348	
3. Illinois State (3)	289	
4. Indiana State (1)	279	
5. UNI	266	
6. South Dakota	176	
7. Youngstown State	153	
8. Western Illinois	128	
9. Southern Illinois	89	
10. Missouri State	80	

*Column at far right indicates ultimate finish in the league standings for that season. No preseason poll conducted for the first season (1985).*