



# 2004 SVSU CARDINALS FOOTBALL

Sports Information Office • Ryder Center 207 • 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710  
 Telephone: (989) 964-4053 • Fax: (989) 964-7389 • Website: www.svsu.edu/athletics  
 Ryan Thompson, Director of Sports Information & Promotions

For Release: October 12, 2004

## 2004 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 28	<b>NORTHWOOD</b>	L 24-21
Sept. 11	at Wayne State	W 45-0
Sept. 18	at Findlay	W 38-24
Sept. 25	<b>HILLSDALE</b>	W 35-14
Oct. 2	<b>INDIANAPOLIS</b>	W 62-14
Oct. 9	at Mercyhurst	L 22-15
Oct. 16	<b>GRAND VALLEY STATE</b>	12:00 pm
Oct. 23	<b>NORTHERN MICHIGAN</b>	12:00 pm
Oct. 30	at Michigan Tech	1:00 pm
Nov. 6	at Ferris State	1:00 pm

Home Games in CAPS and **Bold** at Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium  
 All Games are GLIAC Contests



## 2004 Standings

	GLIAC			
	W	L	PF	PA
Northwood .....	6	0	299	114
Michigan Tech .....	6	0	266	90
Grand Valley State .....	6	0	236	46
Ferris State .....	5	1	140	97
<b>Saginaw Valley State .. 4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>98</b>
Mercyhurst .....	3	4	194	240
Findlay .....	2	4	150	169
Northern Michigan .....	2	4	126	216
Gannon .....	2	5	200	285
Hillsdale .....	2	5	159	272
Ashland .....	1	5	101	190
Wayne State .....	1	5	63	249
Indianapolis .....	1	6	153	237

## Inside the Numbers

SV	Category	GV
4th (36.0)	Scoring Offense	3rd (39.3)
3rd (16.3)	Scoring Defense	1st (7.7)
2nd (262.0)	Pass Offense	3rd (249.0)
7th (192.3)	Pass Defense	1st (166.5)
6th (18.4)	Kickoff Returns	1st (22.5)
3rd (1.17)	Turnover Margin	1st (1.83)
5th (178.7)	Rushing Offense	4th (180.2)
5th (130.3)	Rushing Defense	1st (62.7)
4th (440.7)	Total Offense	5th (429.2)
3rd (322.7)	Total Defense	1st (229.2)
4th (143.4)	Pass Efficiency	3rd (151.4)
3rd (103.6)	Pass Def Efficiency	1st (93.7)
8th (55.2)	Penalties	9th (55.8)
4th (41.9)	3rd Down Conv.	1st (49.5)

## This Week

Saginaw Valley State entertains Grand Valley State in a crucial GLIAC matchup scheduled for noon at Wickes Memorial Stadium. The Cardinals are looking to stay alive in the hunt for a playoff berth against the top-ranked team in Division II. SVSU is ranked 23rd this week in the AFCA Coaches Poll and GVSU received 24 out of 25 first-place votes to retain their #1 ranking. The Cardinals feature a top-20 offense currently ranking 19th with 440.7 yards per game. On the flip side, Grand Valley State ranks first nationally in scoring defense (7.7 ppg) and second in turnover margin (1.8). The Cardinals also feature a stout defense ranking 19th in scoring defense (16.3 ppg).

## Last Game

The Saginaw Valley State Cardinals (4-2, 4-2 GLIAC) had a nine-game road regular-season winning streak snapped in surprising fashion on Saturday from Tullio Field with a 22-15 defeat at the hands of Mercyhurst (3-4, 3-4 GLIAC). The Lakers got their first win over the Cardinals in seven tries by making big plays on both sides of the ball. Mercyhurst jumped out to a 16-0 lead after three quarters, before the Cardinals responded with 15 fourth-quarter points. The Lakers took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter on their second possession as Jeff Thiel caught a three-yard TD pass from Jeff Nowling. After a three-and-out series from the Cardinal offense, Mercyhurst drove 74 yards in 11 plays and Phil Scanlon added a 23-yard field goal for a 9-0 advantage with 13:59 left in the opening half.

The Cards mustered a nine-play, 49-yard drive using 4:11 in the second quarter but on fourth down and four from the Lakers' 31-yard line, senior quarterback **Mark Radlinski** (*Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) rushed for no gain giving the ball over on downs with 5:33 left in the half. The half ended as the Lakers were threatening to score when **Damion DeRosia** (*Flint, Mich./EA Johnson*) picked off a pass at the SVSU two-yard line and returned it 10 yards with 41 seconds until intermission.

Mercyhurst began the second half by recovering a **Stan Spencer** (*Mt. Pleasant, Mich.*) fumble at the SVSU 34-yard line. The Cards defense held on the next possession forcing a Mercyhurst punt, but the Lakers would score on their next possession. Justin Adams carried it in from nine yards capping off a 10-play, 65-yard drive making it 16-0 with 6:53 to go in the third quarter. The Cards would crack the scoreboard on their first full possession of the fourth stanza and junior **Logan Barnhart** (*Haslett, Mich.*) was the main reason behind a strong running game in the final 15 minutes. Barnhart carried three times on the scoring drive and carried it into the end zone from 22 yards out. **Devin Robinson** (*Cambridge, Mass.*) caught a two-point conversion from Radlinski cutting the deficit in half to 16-8 with 10:36 to play. The game's decisive drive came midway through the quarter after a Radlinski interception was returned to the SV 39-yard line. Nowling found John Egbert on a 36-yard scoring strike with 7:32 remaining making it 22-8. The Cardinals did respond with a gritty drive as Barnhart carried three straight times from the 11-yard line before plunging into the end zone from five yards out with 3:57 on the clock. **Bobby Belmonte** (*East Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) connected on the extra-point attempt for a 22-15 score.

SVSU forced a punt and got one final chance with 2:11 to play. The Cardinals drove down the field as Barnhart broke a 34-yard run to the Lakers' five-yard line on the third play of the drive. The Cards were hurt on third-and-goal from the three-yard line by a delay of game penalty that pushed the ball back to the eight-yard line. Radlinski then misfired on two passes to **Bob Awrey** (*Freeland, Mich.*) and Mercyhurst ran out the final 59 seconds.

Junior **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) led SVSU with 11 tackles as SVSU had recorded four sacks. The Cardinals totaled 446 yards, but lost the turnover battle as Radlinski threw three interceptions. Barnhart carried 16 times for a career-high 139 yards. Awrey led SVSU with seven catches for 67 yards.



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## Last Year vs. Grand Valley State

Last season, the teams split a pair of contests with the Cardinals claiming a 34-20 win in Allendale over the top-ranked Lakers snapping a substantial home-winning streak for GVSU. The Lakers returned the favor by beating the Cardinals, 10-3, in the Northeast Region final catapulting Grand Valley State to their second straight national crown in Division II.

In the first meeting between these two squads last year, SVSU used a strong third quarter to propel them to the 14-point win over the Lakers. SVSU scored 17 straight points to start the second half as T.J. Alston got the ball rolling with a 40-yard interception return for a TD off of Cullen Finnerty to make the score 17-9. Eric Houle booted a 47-yard field goal with 4:56 remaining in the quarter capping off a nine-play, 26-yard drive. Mark Radlinski found Ruvell Martin on a two-yard scoring pass with 10 seconds left in the stanza and the extra-point gave SVSU a comfortable 27-9 cushion entering the final 15 minutes. The Lakers' David Hendrix got GVSU back three points on a 24-yard field goal with 12:04 to play capping a 12-play drive that took 3:06 off the clock. The Cards put the game out of reach on their next possession as Radlinski found a streaking Mark LaFreniere down the middle of the field for a 69-yard TD pass making the score 34-12 with 10:02 left to play. GVSU found the end zone one last time with 2:54 remaining as Jeff Dock hit Mario Locricchio on a six-yard scoring throw.

The playoff affair was a classic battle of defenses and missed opportunities in front of an over-capacity crowd of 9,267 at Wickes Memorial Stadium. The Cards brought a number-one national ranking into the game, while GVSU was ranked fourth entering the game. The Cards got on the board first with a 21-yard field goal at the 5:47 mark of the first quarter. The Cards used a patient offense in driving 74 yards in 16 plays eclipsing 6:28 on the clock for the 3-0 lead. The Lakers would then score the game's final points in the second quarter as they posted 10 points, including a 31-yard David Hendrix field goal and a 46-yard interception return for a TD by Scott Mackey with 1:33 to play in the half.

The second half was a battle of field position as the Cardinals had their best chance of tying the game midway through the fourth quarter as they drove to the GV 16-yard line and Radlinski found Glenn Martinez on an eight-yard gain on first down to the eight-yard line. Two false start penalties in succession pushed SVSU back to the 18-yard line and after a five-yard sack on third-and-12, Houle missed a 40-yard field goal with 5:33 left. SVSU outgained GVSU, 346-297, in total offense as Radlinski passed for 300 yards (27-of-46). Damion Bridges carried 15 times for 46 yards as both teams failed to crack 100 team rushing yards. The Cards were stymied by seven Laker sacks for a loss of 47 yards. Lucius Hawkins recorded four sacks to lead GVSU, while the Cardinals' defensive effort was led by John DiGiorgio with 10 tackles and two forced fumbles.

## Player Notes

Senior quarterback **Mark Radlinski** (*Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) broke the school record for career TD passes with his 61st toss in the third quarter against Indy. Radlinski has thrown for 17 TD's and five picks this season and currently ranks 16th nationally in pass efficiency (149.6). He has garnered a GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week award this season after a 303-yard, three-TD performance at Findlay. He has also thrown for three or more TD's in four of six games this season, including a career-best five TD's against Hillsdale. Radlinski has thrown for 6,089 career yards and needs 702 more yards to tie the school record for career passing yards.

Senior safety **Nicholas Postma** (*Rudyard, Mich.*) currently ranks second on the team with 44 tackles and leads the team with 5.5 tackles for loss of 15 yards. Postma recorded a career-high 17 tackles in a win at Findlay. Postma also has two sacks for a loss of nine yards. Postma led SV with nine tackles and also returned an interception 16 yards for a TD against Indy. Postma has 99 career tackles entering the GVSU contest.

Senior running back **Marcus Ewing** (*Lewiston, Mich./Johannesburg-Lewiston*) has eclipsed the 100-yard barrier in two contests. He carried 19 times for 133 yards and a TD at Findlay and then set a career-high with 182 yards on 13 carries with two scores against Indy. Ewing is averaging 7.1 yards per carry and leads the team with 36 points (six TD's). Ewing has 956 career rushing yards on 152 carries (6.3 ypc) and has scored 10 TD's.

Redshirt freshman wideout **Rick Cottengim** (*Elk Grove, Calif.*) was named GLIAC Special Teams Player of the Week against Wayne State setting a school-record with seven punt returns for 138 yards. In addition, Cottengim returned a punt 69 yards for a TD in the third quarter and currently is averaging 11.6 yards per punt return. Cottengim currently ranks first on the team in all-purpose yards with 721. He has 256 punt return yards, 255 receiving yards, 197 kickoff return yards and 13 rushing yards. Cottengim had his first 100-yard receiving game with five catches for 115 yards against Hillsdale. He also caught a season-long 75-yard TD in the first quarter against the Chargers.

Junior linebacker **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) currently leads the team with 61 tackles and blocked an extra-point attempt along with recording 10 tackles at Mercyhurst. DiGiorgio is rapidly moving up the career tackle chart at SVSU. He has tallied 271 stops, which ranks him 11th at SVSU. DiGiorgio has recorded 10 or more tackles in four out of six games this season with a season-high 14 tackles at Findlay.



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Sophomore wideout **Bob Awrey** (*Freeland, Mich.*) currently leads the team with 22 receptions for a team-leading 335 yards. In addition, Awrey ranks second on the team with four TD receptions. Awrey caught a career-high seven passes for 67 yards at Mercyhurst. He also caught four passes for 85 yards and a TD at Findlay. Awrey had a streak of four straight games with a TD catch broke at Mercyhurst.

Junior running back **Logan Barnhart** (*Haslett, Mich.*) currently ranks second on the team with 351 rushing yards and is averaging 7.0 yards per carry. Barnhart rushed for a career-high 139 yards, including 112 yards and two TD's in the fourth quarter at Mercyhurst. The two TD's were his first as a Cardinal.

Senior defensive back **Corey Gonzales** (*Auburn Hills, Mich./Avondale*) leads the team with three interceptions and 51 return yards this season. Gonzales ranks tied for sixth with 13 career interceptions at SVSU and he has 234 INT return yards. Gonzales has 179 career tackles, including 38 tackles this season.

Senior linebacker/defensive end **Neil Baumgartner** (*Iron River, Mich./West Iron County*) currently has 18.5 career sacks, which ranks fourth all-time at SVSU. In addition, he has 233 career tackles placing him tied for 16th on the career charts. Baumgartner ranks third on the team this year with 40 tackles, including two sacks for a loss of eight yards. Baumgartner also has a forced fumble and three QB hurries.

### Rankings

SVSU has slipped to ninth in the latest NCAA regional rankings needing to be in the top six to qualify for the playoffs. GVSU is currently ranked first in the region. The Cardinals will play Michigan Tech in two weeks as the Huskies are currently ranked sixth in the region. SVSU is ranked 20th this week in Don Hansen's Football Gazette and 23rd in the AFCA Coaches Poll.

### Career Stats vs. Grand Valley State

Baumgartner was named GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week in last year's regular-season matchup with 13 tackles, including four tackles for loss. He also had 13 tackles as a freshman in 2001 against the Lakers. Mark Radlinski has completed 58-of-88 against GVSU for 623 yards and three scores in his career. He threw all three TD's at GVSU during last year's regular-season matchup. John DiGiorgio had 10 tackles and two forced fumbles in the playoff game against GVSU last season and made 17 stops in the two games in 2003. Chad Steele had 10 tackles in two contests last season, including an interception.

### Series History vs. Grand Valley State

The Cardinals trail 22-9 in the all-time series with the Lakers dating back to their first meeting in 1975. The Cardinals are 2-5 against GVSU with Randy Awrey at the helm and have dropped three games by seven points or less.

2003 - GV 10, SV 3*	1996 - GV 17, SV 6
2003 - SV 34, GV 20	1995 - SV 24, GV 21
2002 - GV 23, SV 18	1994 - GV 27, SV 20
2001 - GV 33, SV 30*	1993 - GV 36, SV 17
2001 - GV 38, SV 7	1992 - GV 24, SV 20
2000 - SV 28, GV 21	1991 - SV 14, GV 10
1999 - GV 31, SV 7	1990 - GV 23, SV 7
1998 - GV 37, SV 36	
1997 - SV 30, GV 27 OT	

### Cardinals On the Web

Follow the SVSU football squad on the official Saginaw Valley State athletic website at [www.svsu.edu/athletics](http://www.svsu.edu/athletics). Post-game recaps, stats, updated roster and more are just a click away. The Cardinals are also live on the internet with game broadcasts at [www.svsu.edu/stream](http://www.svsu.edu/stream).

### Home Sweet Home

The Cardinals have enjoyed a 95-54-2 record at home in the 29th year of Cardinal football. During the tenure of head coach Randy Awrey the Cardinals are 25-7 (.781) at Wickes Stadium overall and 22-6 (.786) in GLIAC contests at home.

### GLIAC INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

CATEGORY	RANK	NAME, TEAM	AVG
Rushing Yds/Gm	7th	Marcus Ewing, SV	89.4
Passing Yards	2nd	Mark Radlinski, SV	253.3
	3rd	Cullen Finnerty, GV	221.0
Total Offense	2nd	Mark Radlinski, SV	251.0
	4th	Cullen Finnerty, GV	239.3
Receptions/Game	3rd	Demonte Collins, GV	7.50
	9th	Brandon Langston, GV	4.50
Rec. Yards/Game	2nd	Demonte Collins, GV	105.0
	10th	Brandon Langston, GV	60.7
All Purpose Yards	9th	Rick Cottengim, SV	120.2
Interceptions/Game	2nd	Lucius Hawkins, GV	0.67
	3rd	Corey Gonzales, SV	0.50
	T9th	Marvis Bryant, SV	0.33
Passing Efficiency	2nd	Cullen Finnerty, GV	153.6
	3rd	Mark Radlinski, SV	149.6
Punt Returns	2nd	Rick Cottengim, SV	11.6
	5th	Mark Catlin, GV	9.6
Punting	6th	Matt Regnery, GV	38.8
Scoring	2nd	Scott Greene, GV	10.3
	T5th	Demonte Collins, GV	8.0
	T5th	Brandon Langston, GV	8.0
	9th	Marcus Ewing, SV	7.2
Field Goals	1st	Scott Greene, GV	1.83
	9th	Bobby Belmonte, SV	0.50
Tackles/Game	9th	John DiGiorgio, SV	10.2
Tackles For Loss	T9th	Keyonta Marshall, GV	1.33