



# 2005 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](http://www.svsu.edu/athletics)  
Ryan Thompson, Director of Sports Information & Promotions

For Release: September 28, 2005

## SVSU Hits the Road For Second Week In a Row

It seems that each week the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals improve in some facet of the game and that could be scary news for the rest of the GLIAC as the sixth-ranked Cards travel to Indianapolis for a 5:00 pm eastern kickoff and their next test. When you look at the numbers, the Cardinals have really imposed their style of aggressive football on the opposition through the first four games. The Cardinals potent high-scoring offense of the past couple of years has been stifled this season as they are scoring 26 points per game. However, the SVSU defense is better than ever and consequently the margin of victory remains substantial as the Cards are allowing just four points a game and only one touchdown has been scored by the opposing offense. The SVSU defense has gone 13 quarters without allowing a touchdown and is giving up an average of 12.75 first downs per game. In addition, the defense has allowed the opponent inside the red zone just four times and given up three field goals. The defense has allowed 12-of-59 third downs (20.3 percent) overall and 4-of-29 third downs (12.1 percent) in the first half.

Saginaw Valley State owns a 17-6 advantage in the all-time series with the Greyhounds dating back to 1978 when the school was known as Indiana Central. SVSU has had recent success against Indianapolis under head coach Randy Awrey going 5-0 during his tenure. In that span the Cardinals have outscored the Greyhounds, 243-89, including a season-high 62 points in a 62-14 win at University Center in 2004. The last trip to Indianapolis was in 2003 as the Cardinals defeated Indianapolis, 55-3, during their GLIAC Championship season.

The Cardinals' success has had little to do with causing turnovers as they are plus-one in turnover margin this season. Last year, SVSU was a top 10 team in turnover margin and this year has managed seven takeaways and ranks 55th in Division II.

The offense has not wasted any time this season when it comes to scoring touchdowns. The Cards' longest TD drive of the year was 4:46 this past week at Hillsdale. SVSU has scored half of their 12 offensive TD's in under two minutes and nine of those TD's have come under three minutes in time of possession. Ironically, the Cardinals have owned the edge in time of possession in their last three games despite running a no-huddle offense. SVSU had the ball for 7:40 more than Hillsdale last week, including a fourth-quarter where SVSU had a 10:05-4:55 edge to seal the win.

Senior John DiGiorgio (Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower) broke the school record for career tackles on Saturday at Hillsdale with 12 tackles, three tackles for loss and two sacks. He ranks sixth in NCAA Division II history with 369 tackles, since defensive stats were first kept officially in 2000.

### Cardinal Quick Facts

Location	University Center, MI 48710
Enrollment	9,448
Nickname	Cardinals
Colors	Red, White & Blue
Stadium	Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial
Capacity	6,300
Conference	GLIAC
President	Dr. Eric R. Gilbertson
Athletics Director	Joe Vogl
Sports Information Director	Ryan Thompson
Office/Cell Phone	989-964-4053; 989-992-6514
FAX Number	989-964-7389
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E-mail	rgthomps@svsu.edu
Web Site	<a href="http://www.svsu.edu/athletics">www.svsu.edu/athletics</a>
Head Coach	Randy Awrey (No. Michigan, 1978)
Year at SVSU	7th; 52-18
Career Record	16th; 100-59-1
Office Phone	989-964-7315
Off. Coord./Ass't Head Coach	Jim Kiernan
Defensive Line	John Wesolek
Linebackers	Mike Juscik
Offensive Line	Todd Carter
Wide Receivers	Brandon Johnson
Def. Backs/Special Teams	Tom Wender
Offensive Formation	Multiple
Defensive Formation	5-2
2004 Record/GLIAC	7-3/7-3 (4th)
2004 Letterwinners Returning/Lost	40/19
Starters Returning (O, D, S)	13 (6, 5, 2)
Starters Lost (O, D, S)	11 (5, 6, 0)

### 2005 GLIAC Standings

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Grand Valley State	4-0	1.000	4-0	1.000
Michigan Tech	4-0	1.000	4-0	1.000
Saginaw Valley State	4-0	1.000	4-0	1.000
Northwood	3-1	.750	4-1	.800
Indianapolis	3-2	.600	3-2	.600
Ashland	2-2	.500	3-2	.600
Findlay	2-2	.500	3-2	.600
Northern Michigan	2-3	.400	2-3	.400
Gannon	2-3	.400	2-3	.400
Hillsdale	2-3	.400	2-3	.400
Ferris State	1-4	.250	1-4	.250
Wayne State	0-4	.000	0-4	.000
Mercyhurst	0-5	.000	0-5	.000

## 2005 Saginaw Valley State Football Schedule of Opponents

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time/Result	Series	Atten.	Notes
Aug. 27	Sat.	at Northwood*	Midland, Mich.	W 9-7	20-10-1	4,292	Cards score TD with 23 secs. left
Sept. 3	Sat.	Open Date					
Sept. 10	Sat.	Wayne State*	Univ. Center, Mich.	W 29-3	24-6-1	3,750	Cards limit WSU to 231 total yards
Sept. 17	Sat.	Findlay*	Univ. Center, Mich.	W 42-3	6-0	4,666	Cards have 602 yards of offense
Sept. 24	Sat.	at Hillsdale*	Hillsdale, Mich.	W 24-3	16-13	1,825	DiGiorgio breaks career tackle record
Oct. 1	Sat.	at Indianapolis*	Indianapolis, Ind.	5:00 pm ET	17-6	N/A	Greyhounds add lights for '05
Oct. 8	Sat.	Mercyhurst*	Univ. Center, Mich.	12:00 pm	6-1	N/A	Lakers upset Cards, 22-15, in '04
Oct. 15	Sat.	at Grand Valley State*	Allendale, Mich.	7:00 pm	10-22	N/A	Cards defeated #1 GVSU in '04
Oct. 22	Sat.	at Northern Michigan*	Marquette, Mich.	1:00 pm	10-14	N/A	Coach Awrey's alma mater
Oct. 29	Sat.	Michigan Tech*	Univ. Center, Mich.	12:00 pm	15-6	N/A	Huskies Co-GLIAC Champs in '04
Nov. 5	Sat.	Ferris State*	Univ. Center, Mich.	12:00 pm	14-15-1	N/A	Cards thump Bulldogs, 47-14, in '04

\* GLIAC Games

**Special Dates:** Community Youth Day 9/10; Band Day 9/17; Homecoming 10/8; Admissions Open House 10/29; Senior Day 11/5



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## NCAA Statistical Breakdown (2005 Totals)

SVSU	Category	Indy
457.8 (13th)	Total Offense Per Game	307.4 (95th)
229.8 (9th)	Total Defense Per Game	295.0 (37th)
149.8 (67th)	Rushing Offense Per Game	146.8 (70th)
86.3 (17th)	Rushing Defense Per Game	160.8 (84th)
308.0 (5th)	Passing Offense Per Game	160.6 (95th)
92.0 (26th)	Pass Efficiency Defense	89.4 (22nd)
26.0 (65th)	Scoring Offense	15.6 (118th)
4.0 (1st)	Scoring Defense	18.6 (41st)
0.3 (55th)	Turnover Margin	1.4 (17th)
13.0 (141st)	Team Kickoff Returns	19.92 (75th)
9.22 (72nd)	Team Punt Returns	5.0 (122nd)
35.3 (18th)	Team Net Punting	28.63 (103rd)

\*based on 147 Division II schools sponsoring football

## Spreading the Wealth

One key to SVSU's offensive success is the fact that any one of a handful of receivers could be getting the ball. The Cardinals have 12 receivers who have at least one catch this season and six receivers have at least eight catches. Six different pass-catchers have recorded a receiving TD and SVSU is averaging 12.8 yards per catch. Junior **Bob Awrey** (*Freeland, Mich.*) leads the team with 20 catches for 193 yards and one score. Sophomore **Rick Cottengim** (*Elk Grove, Calif.*) has 18 catches for 341 yards and two scores. He is averaging 85.2 yards per game and ranks fifth in the GLIAC. Senior **Jermaine Jackson** (*Detroit, Mich./Pershing*) is one of three wideouts with double digit receptions with 12 grabs for 136 yards. The three above-mentioned wideouts have 50 catches and the Cardinals opponents have a total of 52 catches combined in the first four games. The Cardinals rank fifth nationally in passing offense per game (308.0 ypg).

## Rankings

The Cardinals moved up to their highest ranking of the season in the AFCA Coaches Poll and are sixth, moving up three spots this week. SVSU claimed 490 poll points and trail Valdosta State for fifth by eleven poll points. Valdosta State travels to #24 Delta State this Saturday. SVSU is seventh in the D2Football.com Poll moving up from 11th last week. North Dakota is tops in the nation according to D2Football.com. Don Hansen's Football Gazette has the Cards in eighth with two one-loss teams ahead of SVSU in #4 Valdosta State and #5 Pittsburgh State.

## Awrey Closing In

Head Coach Randy Awrey is approaching the top of the mountain at SVSU and currently needs five wins to tie George Ihler with 61 wins as the winningest coach in school history. Awrey's 56-18 record (.757) is tops at SVSU for winning percentage.

## Last Week

Senior **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) became Saginaw Valley State's all-time leading tackler on Saturday night in a 24-3 win at Hillsdale which improved the ninth-ranked Cardinals to 4-0 overall and 4-0 in the GLIAC. DiGiorgio set the record with 12:40 to play in the second quarter and finished the game with a team-best 12 tackles, including three tackles for loss and two sacks. DiGiorgio now has 369 tackles in his career.

Defense got SVSU on the board in the first quarter as junior **Brent Rogers** (*Flint, Mich./Carman-Ainsworth*) intercepted an Aaron Scholl pass on the Chargers first play of their second possession and rumbled 26 yards for the score. Rogers finished the game with seven tackles. Senior **Logan Barnhart** (*Haslett, Mich.*) ended the first quarter with a seven-yard screen pass for a TD with 26 seconds which capped off an eight-play, 67-yard drive and gave SVSU a 14-0 lead after 15 minutes.

Barnhart scored on the ground in the second quarter as he took a direct snap from center and ran five yards for a TD with 5:26 left in the half. Barnhart carried 16 times for 59 yards and also caught two passes for 37 yards. SVSU built their lead to 24-0 with 4:07 left in the third quarter on a **Bobby Belmonte** (*East Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) 32-yard field goal that just went inside the right upright. **Rick Cottengim** (*Elk Grove, Calif.*) had the big play on the drive as he caught a 43-yard pass down the visitor sideline while being interfered with on the play. Cottengim had four catches for 102 yards and had his second 100-yard game of the season.

The Cardinal defense held Hillsdale to 220 total yards and has allowed 16 points in four wins this season, which ranks first in Division II. SVSU gained 330 total yards as sophomore **Chris Dougherty** (*Grinnell, Iowa*) threw for 297 yards on 24-of-34 passing with one TD.

## Barnhart Carrying the Load

Senior **Logan Barnhart** (*Haslett, Mich.*) failed to score a TD in his first two games this season but he has made up for it with the last two games scoring multiple TD's in wins over Findlay and Hillsdale. He rushed for a season-high 143 yards on 13 carries with two TD's against Findlay and also caught a TD pass of 30 yards. For his efforts, he was named GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week. Last week at Hillsdale, Barnhart scored one TD via the air and ground as he carried 16 times for 59 yards and caught two passes for seven yards, including a seven-yard shovel pass in the second quarter. Barnhart has rushed for 324 yards (81.0 ypg) and ranks seventh in the GLIAC in rushing yards per game. He also leads the team with 30 points this season on five TD's.