



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
Ryan Thompson, Director of Sports Information & Promotions

For Release: October 5, 2005

Cards Welcome Mercyhurst for Homecoming Game

The fourth-ranked Cardinals of Saginaw Valley State return home after two straight road games as they entertain Mercyhurst College on Saturday for a noon kickoff from Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium. The two teams are headed in different directions in 2005 with Saginaw Valley State bringing a 5-0 record into the contest. On the flip side, Mercyhurst is 0-6, including a 0-3 record on the road. The Lakers have fared better away from Tullio Field as their worst defeat has been nine points at Gannon, 35-26, in week one. Mercyhurst has since dropped a 40-35 heartbreaker at Northern Michigan in a game in which they allowed 20 fourth quarter points to the Wildcats. Two weeks ago, the Lakers fell 33-27 to Ferris State after the Bulldogs got off to a 27-6 halftime lead. The Cardinals have enjoyed the friendly confines of Wickes Stadium under head coach Randy Awrey bringing a 30-7 record (.811) into the third home game of 2005. In addition, since the beginning of 2001 the Cardinals are 24-3 (.889) at home.

The Cardinals have set a high standard of excellence with eleven straight winning seasons since 1994 and more recently have risen to a top Division II program. Saginaw Valley State has the ninth-best winning percentage (.815) since 2000 and also have the sixth-most wins with 53. In addition, head coach Randy Awrey has the sixth-best winning percentage at one school among active coaches with a 57-18 record (.760). Awrey also has the 16th-most Division II wins among active coaches with 105.

This week's matchup might be just what the Cardinals running attack needs heading into the second half of the season. SVSU ranks eighth in the GLIAC and 81st in Division II averaging 136 yards per game. Mercyhurst has had problems stopping the run all season and ranks last in the GLIAC and 141st out of 147 Division II schools allowing 275.8 yards per game. The Cardinals are averaging 3.7 yards per carry and the Lakers are giving up 5.8 yards per carry.

Saginaw Valley State leads 6-1 in the all-time series with Mercyhurst. Last season, a much-improved group of Lakers stunned Saginaw Valley State, 22-15, in Erie and all but sealed the Cardinals fate that they would not make the postseason for the first time in four seasons. The Cardinals struggled throughout the contest but managed to make things close with 15 fourth-quarter points. **Logan Barnhart** (*Haslett, Mich.*) carried 16 times for 139 yards in the contest, which was his first 100-yard game. Barnhart reached 1,000 career rushing yards in last week's 27-7 win at Indianapolis. He carried 13 times for 66 yards with a long run of 22 yards. This season, he is averaging 5.9 yards per carry and has scored all three rushing TD's for SVSU.

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
Press Box Phone	989-755-0016
E-mail	rgthomps@svsu.edu
Web Site	www.svsu.edu/athletics
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 Wesołek
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	5-0	1.000	5-0	1.000
Michigan Tech	5-0	1.000	5-0	1.000
Saginaw Valley State	5-0	1.000	5-0	1.000
Northwood	4-1	.800	5-1	.833
Ashland	3-2	.600	4-2	.667
Indianapolis	3-3	.500	3-3	.500
Findlay	2-3	.400	3-3	.500
Northern Michigan	2-3	.400	2-3	.400
Hillsdale	2-4	.333	2-4	.333
Gannon	2-4	.333	2-4	.333
Ferris State	2-4	.333	2-4	.333
Wayne State	0-5	.000	0-5	.000
Mercyhurst	0-6	.000	0-6	.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.	W 27-7	18-6	3,370	Cards allow first TD in 16 quarters
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	MC
430.2 (21st)	Total Offense Per Game	344.3 (76th)
230.6 (7th)	Total Defense Per Game	438.3 (130th)
136.0 (81st)	Rushing Offense Per Game	124.0 (99th)
76.8 (6th)	Rushing Defense Per Game	275.8 (141st)
294.2 (9th)	Passing Offense Per Game	220.3 (53rd)
88.3 (11th)	Pass Efficiency Defense	130.3 (106th)
26.2 (61st)	Scoring Offense	20.3 (97th)
4.6 (1st)	Scoring Defense	35.3 (127th)
1.0 (26th)	Turnover Margin	-3.5 (143rd)
12.4 (143rd)	Team Kickoff Returns	22.72 (31st)
8.45 (86th)	Team Punt Returns	8.0 (94th)
34.81 (17th)	Team Net Punting	28.6 (112th)

*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 seven receivers have at least eight catches. Seven different pass-catchers have recorded a receiving TD and SVSU is averaging 11.6 yards per catch. Junior **Bob Awrey** (*Freeland, Mich.*) leads the team with 26 catches for 245 yards and one score. Sophomore **Rick Cottengim** (*Elk Grove, Calif.*) has 23 catches for 381 yards and three scores. He is averaging 76.2 yards per game and ranks sixth in the GLIAC. Senior **Jermaine Jackson** (*Detroit, Mich./Pershing*) is one of four wideouts with double digit receptions with 17 grabs for 187 yards. The three above-mentioned wideouts have 66 catches and the Cardinals opponents have a total of 66 catches combined in the first five games. The Cardinals rank ninth nationally in passing offense per game (294.2 ypg).

Rankings

The Cardinals moved up to their highest ranking of the season in the AFCA Coaches Poll and are fourth, moving up two spots this week. SVSU claimed 538 poll points and trail Valdosta State for third by 17 poll points. Grand Valley and North Dakota, both Northwest Region teams are ranked first and second respectively. SVSU is fifth in the D2Football.com Poll moving up from seventh last week. North Dakota is tops in the nation according to D2Football.com. Don Hansen's Football Gazette has the Cards in fifth. In the first edition of the NCAA Regional Rankings, SVSU is second in the Northwest Region.

Awrey Closing In

Head Coach Randy Awrey is approaching the top of the mountain at SVSU and currently needs four wins to tie George Ihler with 61 wins as the winningest coach in school history. Awrey's 57-18 record (.760) is tops at SVSU for winning percentage.

Last Week

The Saginaw Valley State football team built a 27-0 lead heading into halftime and held on for a 27-7 win at Indianapolis on Saturday improving to 5-0 overall and 5-0 in the GLIAC. Sophomore **Chris Dougherty** (Grinnell, Iowa) was very accurate going 21-of-27 for 192 yards and two scores playing in just the first half and giving way to junior **Vinnie Miroth** (Cameron Park, Calif.) in the second half. Miroth was 10-of-12 for 47 yards in the final 30 minutes.

Sophomore **Bobby Belmonte** (East Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central) gave SVSU a 6-0 lead with two field goals from 18 yards in the first quarter and 23 yards in the second quarter. The Cardinals put one into the end zone with 10:27 left in the second quarter as senior **Mark LaFreniere** (Iron Mountain, Mich.) caught his first TD of the season from 21 yards to give SVSU a 13-0 lead. The Cardinal defense got into the act as senior **Dan Fodrocy** (Muskegon, Mich./Catholic Central) returned a fumble 10 yards for a TD with 5:34 left in the half. Sophomore **Rick Cottengim** (Elk Grove, Calif.) caught a five-yard TD with 1:17 to go in the half to give SVSU a 27-0 lead.

Marcus Nalley broke the Cardinals streak of 16 quarters without allowing a TD with a one-yard TD run with 14:11 left in the game. SVSU had 320 total yards and the Greyhounds had 234 total yards. Senior **John DiGiorgio** (Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower) had a team-high ten tackles and two pass breakups. Redshirt freshman **Michael McClenney** (Battle Creek, Mich./Central) had his first two interceptions which stalled two Indy drives inside the red zone in the second half. SVSU hosts Mercyhurst next Saturday in a homecoming game at noon.

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 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. Two weeks ago 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 390 yards (78.0 ypg) and ranks seventh in the GLIAC in rushing yards per game. He also ranks second on the team with 30 points this season on five TD's. Barnhart carried for 66 yards on 13 attempts at Indy and went over 1,000 yards at SVSU.