



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: August 24, 2005

31st Axe Bowl

Saginaw Valley State opens its 30th year of intercollegiate football on Saturday with a trip to Midland and Hantz Stadium for a clash with archrival Northwood University. These two teams have had classic battles over the years and last year was no exception as SVSU fell, 24-21, at Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium in the season opener for both squads. Northwood back Chris Gruse opened the scoring with a 43-yard run with 7:21 remaining in the first quarter. The Cardinals bounced back with a **Marcus Ewing** (*Lewiston, Mich./Johannesburg-Lewiston*) 1-yard touchdown run to cap a 7-play, 75-yard drive that took only 1:56 off of the clock. Less than five minutes later, Ewing struck paydirt again on a 2-yard run to put the Cardinals up 14-7 going into the second quarter.

Northwood scored the only points of the second quarter on a safety and a 3-yard touchdown pass from Kyle Kolbe to Yared Yearby. The safety was a result of an errant long snap over the head of SVSU punter **Dustin Esslin** (*Pickford, Mich.*), who was forced to down the ball in his own endzone.

The third quarter was rather uneventful, as both teams failed to score. However, the Cardinals scored just six seconds into the fourth quarter on a 15-yard pass from senior quarterback **Mark Radlinski** (*Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) to senior receiver **Mike Crawford** (*Lake Orion, Mich.*) to give SVSU a 21-17 lead. The two teams then traded possessions before Northwood grinded out a 12-play, 73-yard drive capped by a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Mookie Johnson. Saginaw Valley could not answer on any of their ensuing possessions and Northwood ran the last minute off of the clock to close out their first Axe Bowl victory since the 2000 season.

The Cardinals are entering the 2005 season after a fourth-place finish in the GLIAC with a 7-3 record a year ago. Graduation has left holes on both sides of the ball, but particularly on offense. Saginaw Valley State needs to break in a new quarterback and it appears that sophomore **Chris Dougherty** (*Grinnell, Iowa*) will get first crack at running the offense. Dougherty redshirted in 2003 and did not see any game action as a redshirt freshman. He brings maturity to the position having served a two-year Mormon mission prior to joining the Cardinals. The offensive line also lost three quality starters including NFL rookie Todd Herremans of the Philadelphia Eagles. Junior **Matt Buren-Priebe** (*Lansing, Mich./Eastern*) will likely fill the left tackle spot and redshirt freshman **Steven Hudson** (*Monroe, Mich./St. Mary's Catholic Central*) will line up alongside at left guard. The right side of the line returns two all-GLIAC caliber players in seniors **Stephanol Santos** (*Saginaw, Mich./Buena Vista*) and **Matt George** (*Lake Orion, Mich.*). Santos and George both are 300-plus with good movement.

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
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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 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)

2004 GLIAC Standings

Team	Conf.		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Northwood	9-1	.900	10-2	.833
Michigan Tech	9-1	.900	9-2	.818
Grand Valley	8-2	.800	10-3	.769
Saginaw Valley	7-3	.700	7-3	.700
Ferris State	6-4	.600	6-5	.545
Findlay	5-5	.500	6-5	.545
Ashland	4-6	.400	5-6	.455
Mercyhurst	4-6	.400	4-7	.364
Hillsdale	4-6	.400	4-7	.364
Gannon	3-7	.300	4-7	.364
Indianapolis	3-7	.300	4-7	.364
Northern Mich.	2-8	.200	2-8	.200
Wayne State	1-9	.100	1-9	.100

2005 Saginaw Valley State Football Schedule of Opponents

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time/Result	Series	Atten.	Notes
Aug. 27	Sat.	at Northwood*	Midland, Mich.	12:00 pm	19-10-1	N/A	31st Axe Bowl
Sept. 3	Sat.	Open Date					
Sept. 10	Sat.	Wayne State*	Univ. Center, Mich.	12:00 pm	23-6-1	N/A	SV won 13 straight
Sept. 17	Sat.	Findlay*	Univ. Center, Mich.	12:00 pm	5-0	N/A	SV claimed 38-24 win in '04
Sept. 24	Sat.	at Hillsdale*	Hillsdale, Mich.	7:00 pm	15-13	N/A	SV was a 35-14 winner last year
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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Radio Coverage

The Cardinals once again partner with WSGW AM 790 in Saginaw for all football broadcasts in 2005. JJ Boehm (play-by-play) and Dave Slaggert (color commentary) bring SVSU football to life on the airwaves. In addition, Boehm hosts the Coaches' Show with head coach Randy Awrey. WSGW broadcasts the show live from Damon's inside the Four Points Sheraton on Tittabawassee in Saginaw on Wednesday's at 6:00 pm.

Cardinals On the Web

Follow the SVSU football squad on the official Saginaw Valley State athletic website at 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.

Preseason Accolades

Senior linebacker **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) is closing in on the top spot at SVSU for career tackles. He is also garnering national attention in the process earning Preseason Second Team All-American honors from D2Football.com and Preseason All-American mention from Don Hansen's Football Gazette.

Stadium Renovation

Harvey Randall Wickes Memorial Stadium will have added atmosphere and more importantly seating for the beginning of the season. The stadium has seen phase one bring additional permanent seating on the east bleachers for visitor seating and also added permanent bleachers in the north end zone. An additional 1,500 seats now brings the seating capacity to an estimate of 6,300. SVSU welcomes Wayne State for their home opener on Saturday, Sept. 10 for a noon kickoff.

Coaching Staff Changes

Saginaw Valley State welcomes three new coaches to the program for the 2005 season. Todd Carter joined the staff in December 2004 and will coach the offensive line. Brandon Johnson joined SVSU in March 2005 and will coach the wide receivers. Tom Wender, formerly of Iron Mountain High School, will coach the defensive backs and special teams units.

Awrey Hits Century Mark

Head Coach Randy Awrey celebrated a milestone at the conclusion of the 2004 season by winning his 100th game at the collegiate level with a 47-14 win at Ferris State. Awrey's 52 wins at SVSU ranks second behind George Ihler's 61 wins and his .743 win percentage is tops at SVSU.

Spring Game Recap

The weather was typical of a balmy November day with the temperatures in the mid 30's and blowing snow at nearly 30 mph. The Cardinals braved the elements and in the end the offense (red) bested the white (defense), 35-20, at Wickes Memorial Stadium.

The defense earned one point for forcing two punts in the first quarter and then **Brandon Emeott** (Caro, Mich.) scampered 11 yards for a TD on the fourth possession at the 5:43 mark to make it 14-1. **James Brady** (Mt. Pleasant, Mich.) intercepted a pass and returned it 40 yards at 3:06 in the first quarter to close the gap to 14-5.

Matt Black (Toronto, Ont./Northern Secondary) got the defense closer as he picked off a pass at the four-yard line and returned it 24 yards making the score 14-9 at 11:08 in the second. **Rick Cottengim** (Elk Grove, Calif.) hauled in a 50-yard pass from **Calvin McNamara** (Gaylord, Mich.) on the next possession to set up a five-yard TD hook-up between the same two guys with 7:58 left in the half making it 21-9.

The white squad pressured the offense in the beginning of the third quarter and climbed back to 21-19 after **Dan Fodrocy** (Muskegon Catholic Central) forced a fumble and the defense picked up two points stopping the offense on fourth down. The red squad increased their lead to 28-19 as **Stan Spencer** (Mt. Pleasant, Mich.) caught a deflected ball in the end zone for a 14-yard score from **Chris Dougherty** (Grinnell, Iowa). The red scored once more in the fourth quarter as **Logan Barnhart** (Haslett, Mich.) plunged in from one-yard after a **Brian Kern** (Reese, Mich.) 35-yard catch set up the final score. McNamara led three TD drives and threw two TD's for the red.

NCAA Statistical Breakdown (2004 Totals)

SVSU	Category	NU
418.7 (25th)	Total Offense Per Game	428.2 (20th)
344.2 (71st)	Total Defense Per Game	323.2 (43rd)
154.6 (67th)	Rushing Offense Per Game	315.5 (3rd)
149.3 (59th)	Rushing Defense Per Game	154.8 (66th)
264.1 (24th)	Passing Offense Per Game	112.7 (133rd)
102.4 (33rd)	Pass Efficiency Defense	97.9 (22nd)
35.4 (23rd)	Scoring Offense	40.3 (5th)
17.7 (17th)	Scoring Defense	19.5 (27th)
1.3 (4th)	Turnover Margin	0.5 (39th)
19.24 (64th)	Team Kickoff Returns	19.0 (70th)
10.58 (48th)	Team Punt Returns	9.08 (77th)
35.75 (22nd)	Team Net Punting	30.87 (88th)

*based on 147 Division II schools sponsoring football