



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: September 7, 2005

Cards Return to Action after a Week Off

It is very unusual to have week two as a break from the action, but that is exactly how the schedule fell for Saginaw Valley State in 2005. The Cardinals are still riding high from a 9-7 come-from-behind victory on the road in the 31st Axe Bowl against Northwood University and they hope to carry that momentum into this week's contest with visiting Wayne State. Saginaw Valley State will get a chance to unveil the renovations to Wickes Memorial Stadium which will make for a better viewing experience for fans. Both teams will be playing their second games of the year as Wayne State had a bye week in week one before falling 28-14 to Northwood last Saturday at home.

A pair of sophomores will be leading their teams in the huddle as Chris Dougherty and Nolan Martin take snaps under center. Dougherty started his first game as a Cardinal at Northwood and delivered in the clutch with a 69-yard TD pass to Rick Cottengim with 23 seconds left for the game-winning score. Dougherty had 311 yards of total offense in the game and currently ranks ninth in Division II in total offense. Martin started in seven games last season for the Warriors for threw for 747 yards and a TD. He was 16-of-32 for 190 yards and a TD in last week's opener against Northwood.

The Cardinals hold a 23-6-1 advantage in the all-time series and have won an impressive 13 straight games against the Warriors. In last year's game, SVSU cruised to a 45-0 win in Detroit. All facets of the game were clicking for the Cardinals as they scored on a fumble return and punt return in the first half in building a 32-0 halftime lead. Wayne State gained just 155 yards of total offense and managed nine first downs, while Saginaw Valley State had 396 yards of offense and rushed for 177 yards.

The Cardinal defense was masterful at Northwood in week one and currently rank 11th nationally allowing seven points per game. Senior linebacker John DiGiorgio leads the nation in solo tackles having tallied 13 stops in the opener. Senior defensive end Joe Hermann helped limit Northwood to 167 rushing yards by registering a career-high nine tackles including a 21-yard sack of Kyle Kolbe. Senior defensive end Dan Fodrocy also had nine tackles including seven solo stops and he collected one tackle for loss.

The field position battle was a key to the Cardinals victory over Northwood and senior punter Dustin Esslin was steady all game booting the ball six times for a 41.0 average with one punt inside the 20-yard line. The kicking game did experience a rocky start as Bobby Belmonte connected on a 37-yard field goal, but then missed a 33-yard field goal from the right hash and had a PAT blocked late in the game. Cottengim had a solid effort with 123 all-purpose yards with 85 receiving yards and 38 yards in returns. Saturday is Community Youth Day as local organizations are encouraged to bring groups to the game.

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 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	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000
Michigan Tech	2-0	1.000	2-0	1.000
Ashland	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000
Findlay	1-0	1.000	2-0	1.000
Saginaw Valley State	1-0	1.000	1-0	1.000
Gannon	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
Indianapolis	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
Northern Michigan	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
Northwood	1-1	.500	1-1	.500
Wayne State	0-1	.000	0-1	.000
Ferris State	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Hillsdale	0-2	.000	0-2	.000
Mercyhurst	0-2	.000	0-2	.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.	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.

Rankings

Saginaw Valley State with its victory over Northwood jumped into the top 25 in both the AFCA and D2Football.com polls. The Cardinals maintained the 14th-spot after the win and have since moved up two spots to 12th in both polls after their bye week. SVSU ended the 2003 season ranked first in the AFCA poll and were unranked to begin the season.

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 53 wins at SVSU ranks second behind George Ihler's 61 wins and his .746 win percentage is tops at SVSU.

Last Week

The 31st annual Axe Bowl between Saginaw Valley State and Northwood turned into a tough defensive battle and ended in dramatic fashion as SVSU scored a touchdown with 23 seconds left to pull off a 9-7 win at Hantz Stadium.

Sophomore quarterback **Chris Dougherty** (*Grinnell, Iowa*) in his first career start for the Cardinals looked poised on the final drive of the game which began at the SVSU 20-yard line with 1:08 remaining. He scrambled for eleven yards on first down and after two plays yielded no yards on third and nine from the 31-yard line, Dougherty found sophomore wideout **Rick Cottengim** (*Elk Grove, Calif.*) on the visitor sideline and threw over two defenders for a 69-yard TD reception and exuberance from the SVSU sideline. Northwood advanced to the SV 49-yard line and fittingly senior linebacker **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) made the game's final tackle in the middle of the field and Northwood with no timeouts to stop the clock.

DiGiorgio led a defense that held Northwood in check all day with 14 tackles and two tackles for loss. He also recovered a fourth quarter fumble early in the period. The Timberwolves managed to gain 335 yards of total offense (4.7 ypp) while the Cardinals offense held their own with 387 yards, including 259 passing yards from Dougherty. Dougherty led SVSU with 52 rushing yards on 12 carries. He also was 21-of-39 through the air with seven catches belonging to junior **Bob Awrey** (*Freeland, Mich.*) for 56 yards. Senior **Jermaine Jackson** (*Detroit, Mich./Pershing*) hauled in five catches for 66 yards. Cottengim had two catches for 85 yards and the game-winning score.

The 21st-ranked Cardinals held the 10th-ranked Timberwolves to 167 rushing yards, a far cry from the team that averaged over 300 rushing yards a game last season. NU's Torris Childs led the team with 69 rushing yards on 13 carries. Eric Chrisinske was 9-of-11 passing for 164 yards and a TD pass to Yared Yearby in the third quarter which put NU ahead 7-3. The Cardinals opened the scoring in the second quarter on a **Bobby Belmonte** (*East Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) 37-yard field goal at the 11:15 mark. SVSU drove 13 plays and 63 yards taking off 5:09 from the clock, which was their most productive drive of the game to that point. The contest featured 16 total punts and was the lowest scoring game in the series since a 6-3 SV win in 1981.

SVSU ran for 128 yards behind a line that at times featured four players with little or no game experience after **Stephanol Santos** (*Saginaw, Mich./Buena Vista*) limped off the field in the second half. The offensive line also allowed two sacks and provided good protection throughout the game.