



2004 SVSU CARDINALS FOOTBALL

Sports Information Office • Ryder Center 207 • 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710
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 Ryan Thompson, Director of Sports Information & Promotions

For Release: September 7, 2004

2004 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 28	NORTHWOOD	L 24-21
Sept. 11	at Wayne State	12:00 pm
Sept. 18	at Findlay	6:00 pm
Sept. 25	HILLSDALE	12:00 pm
Oct. 2	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00 pm
Oct. 9	at Mercyhurst	1:30 pm
Oct. 16	GRAND VALLEY STATE	12:00 pm
Oct. 23	NORTHERN MICHIGAN	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
Grand Valley State	2	0	72	23
Northwood	2	0	94	24
Michigan Tech	2	0	62	16
Findlay	1	0	28	23
Mercyhurst	1	1	82	70
Hillsdale	1	1	72	71
Gannon	1	1	60	85
Ferris State	1	1	29	41
Ashland	0	1	17	23
Saginaw Valley State	0	1	21	24
Wayne State	0	1	3	70
Indianapolis	0	2	53	66
Northern Michigan	0	2	33	90

GLIAC Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Grand Valley State	140
2. Saginaw Valley State	137
3. Northwood	107
4. Ferris State	101
5. Michigan Tech	88
6. Findlay	84
7. Indianapolis	79
8. Hillsdale	72
9. Northern Michigan	66
10. Ashland	41
11. Mercyhurst	36
12. Wayne State	33
13. Gannon	30

This Week

The Cardinals will look to rebound after a season-opening defeat to Northwood (24-21) with a road game at Wayne State (0-1) this Saturday. The Warriors will be trying to put behind them a 70-3 loss at Northwood in their season opener on Sept. 4. The Cardinals had their 14-game regular season winning streak snapped and are looking to build on a seven-game road winning streak dating back to 2002. The Cards are looking to snap a two-game losing streak dating back to last season. It is just the second two-game skid in the last four seasons.

Last Game

The Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals dropped their season opener to the Northwood University Timberwolves by a score of 24-21 on Saturday (August 28). Northwood carried a 17-14 lead into the locker room at halftime and matched the Cardinals with a touchdown in the second half to preserve the victory.

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.

Northwood's offense out-gained the Cardinals by a count of 336 yards of total offense to 236 yards, including a 277-yard advantage in the rushing column. SVSU managed 253 yards through the air, while holding Northwood to just 76 passing yards, but simply could not overcome the difference in rushing yards. The rushing total allowed Northwood to hold a 33:16 to 26:44 advantage in time of possession, as well.

The Cardinals were led in defeat by Radlinski, who completed 19-of-36 passes for 253 yards and a touchdown. Crawford proved to be Radlinski's favorite target, hauling in five passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. Marcus Ewing netted 50 yards rushing on 19 carries, including the two touchdown runs.

Johnson pounded out 117 yards on 29 carries, including a touchdown, to lead the Timberwolves. Kolbe carried 16 times for 49 yards, while completing half of his 16 pass attempts for 76 yards and a touchdown.

Scouting the Warriors

Wayne State University entered a new era this season with the addition of new head coach Paul Winters. Winters begins his first season as a head coach at any level and spent 1994-2003 at the University of Akron as offensive coordinator/running backs coach. The Warriors return several key players on both sides of the ball including seven starters on defense. Senior linebacker **Mohamad Bazzi** (*Dearborn, Mich./Fordson*) has a honorable mention All-GLIAC honor under his belt during the last three years. Senior safety Alvin Mask (*Lansing, Mich./Sexton*) is also a defensive stalwart collecting 130 tackles in the WSU secondary last year.



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Player Notes

Senior quarterback **Mark Radlinski** (*Grand Rapids, Mich./Catholic Central*) is moving up on the all-time lists in several offensive categories. Radlinski ranks second at SVSU with 4,822 yards. In addition, he surpassed 300 completions and 500 attempts in the Northwood game. He is 315-of-516 (.610) for his career which is the top completion percentage in school history. Radlinski completed 19-of-36 for 253 yards and one TD versus NU. He has now thrown for over 250 yards seven times during a game. Radlinski has thrown for 45 TD's and is 15 shy of tying the school record of 60 set by Matt LaFleur.

Senior wide receiver **Mark LaFreniere** (*Iron Mountain, Mich.*) caught three passes for 48 yards versus Northwood despite playing less than a half of football. LaFreniere currently ranks eighth at SVSU with 111 receptions for 1,604 yards and 10 TD's. LaFreniere is 49 receptions from tying the school record set by Brian Dolph. LaFreniere has caught at least one pass in 37 straight games encompassing his entire career at SVSU. He also has four 100-yard career receiving games including one against Wayne State with four catches for 103 yards last season.

Junior linebacker **John DiGiorgio** (*Shelby Twp., Mich./Eisenhower*) eclipsed 200 career tackles with a team-leading 13 tackles against the Timberwolves. DiGiorgio ranks 24th at SVSU with 211 career stops and is averaging 8.12 tackles per game for his career.

Senior wideout **Mike Crawford** (*Lake Orion, Mich.*) caught a career-high five balls for 60 yards and a TD in week one. Crawford caught his third career touchdown in the fourth quarter versus NU.

Senior defensive end **Pierre Colin** (*Cooper City, Fla.*) tallied a career-high 10 tackles including two tackles for loss in week one. Colin tallied 23 tackles all of last season.

National Rankings

The Cardinals remain 12th in the latest D2Football.com Poll after slipping from 3rd in the preseason poll. SVSU is also ranked 17th in the AFCA Coaches Poll moving up one spot during the bye week.

Radio Coverage

The Cardinals once again partner with WSGW AM 790 in Saginaw for all football broadcasts in 2004. J.J Boehm and Dave Slaggert 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 Timbers Bar & Grill on State Street in Saginaw on Thursday's at 7:00 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

Several Cardinals have received preseason accolades from numerous publications and other media outlets. Senior quarterback Mark Radlinski was named First Team Preseason All-American by D2Football.com this week as he looks towards duplicating last season's record-breaking numbers. Senior offensive tackle Todd Herremans also was named First Team Preseason All-American by D2Football.com and also received the same honor from Lindy's Magazine.

In addition, senior outside linebacker Neil Baumgartner and junior inside linebacker John DiGiorgio were named Second Team Preseason All-American by D2Football.com. The Cardinals' four members were the most among Division II schools.

GLIAC Online

For everything concerning the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference including up-to-date standings and statistics, visit the GLIAC online at www.gliac.org.

Series History vs. Wayne State

The Cardinals have won 12 straight against the Warriors dating back to 1991. SVSU leads the all-time series, 22-6-1, dating back to their first meeting in 1976.

2003 - SV 38, WS 21	1995 - SV 44, WS 14
2002 - SV 42, WS 14	1994 - SV 22, WS 21
2001 - SV 45, WS 12	1993 - SV 32, WS 31
2000 - SV 31, WS 19	1992 - SV 32, WS 13
1999 - SV 45, WS 33	1991 - WS 21, SV 9
1998 - SV 44, WS 13	
1997 - SV 73, WS 7	
1996 - SV 21, WS 3	