

# Dakota Student

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# POTATO BOWL



Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Defensive Back, Cole Reyes, and the UND Fighting Hawks take on Missouri State University on Saturday, September 9.

## Friday, September 8

### UND Fan Luncheon

Serving begins at 11:30 a.m. program at noon – Alerus Center.

### Baked Potato Bar

Served 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (all Hugo's locations).

### Hugo's Potato Bowl PLINKO

Location: Register at any Hugo's Greater Grand Forks location.

### Get Wet and Run Wild! Hugo's Potato Bowl

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### JLG's Rock the Streets

A Friday night concert/street dance at Town Square in Grand Forks sponsored by JLG Architects! Food and beer at 6:30 p.m. music starts at 7 p.m. with the Wicked Bees! Click here for more details! It is free and open to the public.

## Saturday, September 9

### GF Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Grand Forks Central High School.

### Sons of Norway Potato Pancake Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1401 9th Avenue South in Grand Forks.

### KEM Shrine Potato Bowl Parade

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For more information check out  
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# A bookend to a long story

Peter Johnson looks to wrap up a memorable career with one final bash

Cameron Cloyd  
Dakota Student

Generally, people work most of their life and then retire for the rest of it. We all earn our leisure time eventually. Peter Johnson is kicking off his retirement as UND’s spokesman with a bang by being a part of the biggest party of the year.

In the longstanding tradition of the Grand Marshall of the Potato Bowl at the University of North Dakota, there have been 52 different people to fill the shoes. Johnson is this year’s “spud,” and he could not be more excited to take on the job.

Johnson, a longtime part of UND’s public affairs staff, says he views this experience as the bookend to his story. He’ll speak at a luncheon on Friday. He will lead the parade, where many locals and local organizations ring in the festivities. Then he will speak at the football game on Saturday, along with the two student ambassadors Alexandra Heisler and Lexi Grinolds. For Johnson, it’s simply an amazing opportunity.

“They called me over the summer, and I was absolutely honored, humbled even,” Johnson said. “I accepted as soon as possible, barely giving them time to reconsider. I always saw these men at the head of the celebration, and I cannot believe that I am now one of those men.” Hemarches into this opportunity as a cheerleader. He wants to rev people up, to get them excited for the athletic season. “The players and coaches are the heroes,” Johnson said. “I am merely the man who gets to cheer them on.” Johnson couldn’t be more modest about his position in the



Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Peter Johnson, retired UND spokesman and Interim Vice President for University and Public Affairs, will be the Grand Marshal for the 52nd Potato Bowl parade on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Potato Bowl. Often, the Grand Marshal comes from a background more involved with potatoes or agriculture, but when you hear more of his story, it’s hard to think of a better choice.

UND has been Johnson’s pride and joy for most of his life. He first started his relationship with the college when he graduated high school early. He impressed his father with

analyst, he was hired by UND in 1988 as a media relations coordinator. His job consisted of working with external organizations from the University, in any way one can imagine.

relationship with the University, Johnson decided to retire. He officially retired on June 30, 2017. Currently, he does part-time work as the VP for Public Affairs to ease the transition between him and the next person in charge. After the Potato Bowl, he will be done for good.

“I am excited to start my retirement,” Johnson said. “Many members of my family retire early so they can go live their lives. I am losing a great work environment, but gaining the free time to do all the things I can’t right now. I get to give back, with all of my effort.”

Peter Johnson, Interim VP for University and Public Affairs

The Potato Bowl began in 1966, and ever since Johnson’s family moved to Grand Forks in 1976, Johnson has been to every single one. “I missed a few of the french-fry feeds over the years, but I have been to every parade and football game,” Johnson said.

a biology paper he had written, and his father contacted the University directly. He believed that his son was ready to start college right away. Johnson started in the fall of 1976 and graduated with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Education. After a brief stint as a jour-

**“I am excited to start my retirement. Many members of my family retire early so they can go live their lives. I am losing a great work environment, but gaining the free time to do all the things I can’t right now. I get to give back, with all of my effort.”**



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# Story of the spud

## Taking a look at the Potato Bowl's past

Jacob Notermann  
Dakota Student


For decades now, the city of Grand Forks and the University of North Dakota have joined together to partake in what could be considered UND's second homecoming. Potato Bowl USA is an annual home game for UND Football and has been a city to since the inaugural Potato Bowl back in 1966. According to Pete Haga, legend has it that the Potato Bowl was the result of a rivalry between two of the largest potato-growing regions in the nation: Idaho and the Red River Valley. With Idaho and UND set to hash it out on the field, the opposing coaches joined forces with the Potato Growers Association to create Potato Bowl USA, the game to decide who had the better team and the better spuds. "They decided that they wanted to hype up

the football game and then you also had a local group of Red River Valley potato growers who wanted to hype up the potatoes," Haga said. "So, there was a marriage born in fertile ground." UND Director of Athletics Brian Faison has seen the city and the team benefit from the development of this tradition. "We want to do this as much as we can, because we get so much support from the community," Faison said. "So if we can drive some revenue into the market, we sure want to do that. Win-win-win." Faison said the growth of the Potato Bowl has been exponential, and he credits the success of the football team for that. "It's amazing how it has grown," Faison said. "It's actually, right now, as big a game or bigger in terms of fan attendance than homecoming. Which is really unusual." Attendance isn't the only aspect of game day getting a boost. Faison said purchasable tailgating spots in the Alerus Center parking lot sold out faster than ever this year, meaning the Grand Forks community is quicker to invest in the UND football experience. Hadley Purdy is a UND student and has attended three, going on four, Potato Bowls. She said this home game is unlike any other on the schedule. "It's almost like a week-long event leading up to the game," Purdy said. "Each day that progresses in the week, you get more excited to be at the Potato Bowl game." This week-long spud festival includes the Kem Shrine Potato Bowl Parade and the annual Simplot French Fry Feed, which are just some of the ways the community and the university converge. "It helps the city because it really provides a mechanism for ownership and affiliation with the university," Haga said. "One of many ways." Haga said this game has become a huge part of the community's tradition. "It centers, of course around the UND football game, which is the key thing, but the community has really grabbed onto it," Haga said. "A lot of it is simply because of the rich heritage with the potatoes and the potato industry." The strong connection between the team, school and city has been the driving force in the development of this tradition. "My favorite part of the week is seeing the community and the university come together," Purdy said. "There's just this really large sense of support and comradery. That's really cool."

The Fighting Hawks will be playing Missouri State in the The 52nd Annual Potato Bowl USA this Saturday at the Alerus Center. Kickoff is at 4 p.m., with Tailgate Village opening at 1:30 p.m.

Jacob Notermann is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at [jacob.notermann@und.edu](mailto:jacob.notermann@und.edu)





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# FIGHTING HAWKS



## COLE REYES, #8

Cole Reyes is starting his senior year at UND, and his play on the field has been brilliant. In his first three years at UND, Reyes has been a top player for not only UND, but in the nation as well. After Reyes' junior year, NFL scouts had him as the seventh ranked strong safety in the nation, being projected to be drafted in the sixth or seventh round. Reyes' decided to stay at UND for his se-

nior year, and UND could not be happier to have him back. After an average freshman year of 59 tackles and one interception, Reyes looked to step up his game in his second year, and that's exactly what he did. In Reyes' sophomore year, 2015, he not only upped his tackle total to 71 tackles, he also improved in every category. Reyes' ended the season with a single forced fumble, fumble re-

covery, interception and a sack. Reyes' presence on the field did not go unnoticed. Reyes was honored with earning second team All-Big Sky Conference. Coming off an improved sophomore year, Reyes was looking to increase his level of play once again. In Reyes' junior year, 2016, he kept up his dominance once again. Statistically, Reyes kept up his play. Ending the year with 70 tackles, one and

a half sack average, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and three interceptions, one that was returned for a touchdown. Reyes ended up earning six different All-American accolades. Being the first UND player since Weston Dressler in 2007. Reyes earned first-team honors from the Associated Press, Athletics Directors Association, STATS and Walter Camp Foundation, as well as second-team

honors from the American Football Coaches Association and Hero Sports Network. On top of being honored with six nods, Reyes was named FCS ADA Defensive Back of the Year. When it came to the Big Sky, Reyes was no match for the competition, earning first team All-Big Sky honors, being named ROOT Sports Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week twice and most notably, being named Big Sky

Defensive Player of the Year. Reyes has proved a lot in his three years at UND. Only time will show how he performs this year. If it is anything like the previous years, Reyes will follow his trend and improve.

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## JOHN SANTIAGO, #22

John Santiago's first two years have been nothing short of complete and utter domination. With career totals of 2,452 rushing yards and 23 touchdowns, the stats back up his dominance on the field. After being recruited by UND as a wide receiver, Santiago made the switch to running back, and it has paid off tremendously for not only himself, but the team as

well as UND's football program has had the most hype around their team in years, due in part to Santiago's dominance on the football field. In Santiago's freshman year, 2015, he rushed for over 100 yards in nine out of 11 games. With one 200 plus yard game. Santiago also boasted 1,459 yards on the year and 16 touchdowns, while averaging 132.6 offensive yards per game. San-

tiago's performance gave him the honors of being named Co-Big Sky Freshman of the Year and second team All-American honors at running back. In Santiago's sophomore year, 2016, he took a step back in the stat category. While his numbers went technically down, they were still incredible numbers: rushing for over 100 yards in four out of 12 games, with a total of

983 rushing yards and seven touchdowns, while averaging 81.9 offensive yards per game. Santiago was named first team All-Big Sky at running back as well as return specialist. Santiago was also honored with earning second team All-American as return specialist. Santiago's performance on the field is not only felt on the offensive side of the ball, it is also felt in the special team's

department. Santiago has a combined total of 1,081 yards and one touch down in only 39 attempts on kick offs, posting 581 yards in 2015 and averaging 196.3 all-purpose yards a game. Running 500 yards in 2016, one return being for 100 yards, and 133.3 all-purpose yards a game. Santiago's presence is felt on special teams. Santiago has become a real pain for not only opposing

teams players, but coordinators as well. Opposing teams not only have to game plan on how to stop Santiago at running back, but also at kick returner.

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# BEARS



## COLBY ISBELL, #90

Four years ago, current Missouri State defensive lineman Colby Isbell was selected as the Northwest Arkansas Defensive Lineman of the Year. The following year, in 2014, Isbell appeared in every game as a freshman for MSU, collecting 30 tackles, four tackles for a loss and three sacks.

For his performance, he earned a FCS Freshman All-America honor, picking up a MVFC Newcomer of the Week Award as well

as the College Sporting News FCS National All-Star award.

The accolades as a freshman were impressive, but that was only the beginning for Isbell. As a sophomore in 2015, Isbell took over the Bears' defensive line, starting every game. In those starts, he collected 44 tackles and eight tackles for a loss.

Isbell, 6-foot-3, 240 pounds, started to see interest from NFL scouts - partly because current

Houston Texans' linebacker Dylan drew scouts from all over. Though, he fully cemented the idea of him playing on Sundays.

Starting all 11 games at right defensive end, Isbell was selected to the All-MVFC Second Team for his play. He finished the year with 12 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks. Averaging 1.1 tackles for loss per game, Isbell ranked in the Top 100 nationally and sixth in the MVFC.

Against Southwestern in the 2016 season opener, Isbell had seven tackles, with 5.5 of them for a loss and 2.5 sacks, leading the Bears to a 57-0 victory. For his performance, he was recognized as the MSU Media Player of the Week.

In the spring semester, Isbell earned his way onto the MSU Athletic Director's Honor Roll and the MVFC Honor Roll. Now, however, it's time for Is-

bell to help change the culture at MSU, while making his mark on NFL scouts across the country.

The Bears have struggled immensely since his sophomore season, but things are looking in the right direction. Despite falling to the Mizzou Tigers in Week 1, Isbell was productive on the defensive line, picking up a sack along the way.

More important than the numbers, Isbell must continue to step

up as a leader on the team, as the Bears are looking for someone to take over the defensive locker room without Cole. Isbell figures to slide perfectly into this position during the 2017 season, which will only help him and the Bears.

**Alec McChesney** is the Sports Editor for The Standard.  
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## MALIK EARL, #17

During his senior year of high school, current Missouri State Bears wide receiver Malik Earl caught 57 passes for 1,254 yards and eight touchdowns. Now four years later, Earl is the leader of the MSU offense and on the path to Missouri Valley Football Conference stardom.

Not only will he see success and likely accolades at the FCS level in 2017, many pundits expect Earl to garner interest

come the 2018 NFL Draft season. Here's a sneak peek at why.

The senior was selected to the MVFC preseason first-team, primarily based on his performance as a junior, when he collected 534 yards and three touchdowns on 41 receptions. But his solid play began well before the 2016 season.

As a freshman for the Bears, Earl started eight games and appeared in all 12 contests.

He finished third on the team in receptions with 19 and second in receiving yards with 302. Against South Dakota on MSU's homecoming in 2014, Earl caught a 53-yard touchdown - his first career collegiate touchdown.

From that point on, it was clear the 6-foot-3, 217 pound receiver from Oklahoma was destined for greatness at MSU. Though it wasn't the potential

for greatness that stood out, it was the consistency. Following his impressive freshman season, Earl led the team in receptions with 31 as a sophomore.

Though for Earl, that season was just the beginning, as he truly exploded during his junior season. For his stellar junior performance, he was selected as an All-MVFC honorable mention. Additionally, Earl was a star off-the-field in

2016, as he earned a spot on the MSU Athletic Director's Honor Roll during the fall semester.

The Bears finally have a starting quarterback to find Earl when he's open: Peyton Huslig. Huslig came to MSU from Garden City Community College last spring, after winning the Junior College National Championship.

In the Maroon and White Spring Game in April 2016,

Huslig and Earl connected five times for 91 yards. In the Bears' first game of the 2017 season, Huslig and Earl impressed against Mizzou - an SEC opponent - connecting eight times for 163 yards and one touchdown.

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# Pride of the North

## Marching into the season with new uniforms

Devon Abler  
Dakota Student

The Pride of the North marching band is considered to be a standard ensemble in the music department. Comprised of non-majors and music majors, the group comes together to provide entertainment for the community and support for athletes during the games. Founded in 1998 by Rob Brooks, the group has been marching in the Potato Bowl for the past 20 years. The first appearance of the Pride of the North was in the back of a potato trailer with only 14 band members. The next year, they marched with 40 members and have since marched every parade. The uniforms they wore were Kelly green and had gold buttons lining the front with black pants and a black baseball cap with the Pride of the North logo embroidered on the front. These uniforms have been worn for many years and have become a traditional symbol of the Pride of the North.

There was exciting news at the end of the last fall semester regarding new uniforms. The alumni association was allowing the band to do a fundraiser to purchase new uniforms. While the old uniforms were well loved, the green tops blended into the turf at the Alerus Center, causing a blurry show for the audience. The new uniforms are black with a single zip, with the Pride of the North logo on the left shoulder, a silver sash going across the right hip, gauntlets (gloves) to cover the sleeves and the traditional shako hat. Removing the green allows the Pride of the North to produce a more visually pleasing performance to the audience while on the football field. Alex Stroth is a student who has been with the Pride Marching band for three years. “The uniforms are something that we have been waiting for for a long time,” Stroth said. “Having the gauntlets will be very helpful in keeping the sleeves out of the

way while drumming and while also playing instruments. Having the pride logo on the chest of the uniforms and on front of the shakos will help dignify us more when compared to other marching bands.”

When many people hear of marching band, they often think of people marching in parades, playing their instruments and getting the crowds excited for the home team. What many people do not know is marching band is an intense physical activity.

Before the first week of classes, the Pride of the North has a one week marching band camp where students come to train for the physical aspect of marching band and learn the music. Playing an instrument while moving across the field in a straight line is incredibly difficult. The Pride marching band spends four and a half hours a week practicing for events, and on the days when there are games, the Pride band will spend about 12 hours practicing and performing.

What is the importance of marching bands here at UND? There are many reasons why the band is here. One reason is to give students from across all majors a chance to experience an organization that welcomes everyone, whether or not they’ve marched before. Students from all majors and disciplines are present in the marching band. There will be many members of the Pride marching band who will make their marching debut at the 2017 Potato Bowl Parade.

“The Pride of the North marching band is a way for students from different majors to come together and build new relationships,” Brooks said. “We have students from aerospace, nursing, engineering, music, every single school here at UND participating in the Pride of the North. The Pride is comprised of about 15 percent of music students and 85 percent of non-majors.”

For students who have been active in the Pride of the North, this is a group that has taught them so much more than just social interaction. Kelsey Wiens is a four-year Pride mem-



Nick Nelson / Dakota Student  
Flutist Alexis Schwinghamer models the new UND Pride of the North Marching Band uniform.

ber in the flute section. She has seen Pride as more than just an ensemble.

“Being a part of Pride of the North is more than just performing and marching in parades,” Wiens said. “It takes dedication, discipline, and teamwork to make everything work. While marching, if you are not in line with the person next to you, you make sure you are working with your section to make everything as visually appealing as well as aurally pleasing. Having the dedication to learn new material while working with others is something that you cannot find anywhere else.”

Why should students join the Pride of the North marching band? Not only will you have the opportunity to attend sporting events and encourage the Fighting Hawks home team, you will also have the chance to meet students from majors that you may not have the chance to interact with. Watch for the band in the Potato Bowl Parade and cheer them on during the opening show at the football game.

Devon Abler is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at devon.abler@und.edu

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## From the Editor-in-Chief

I can still feel those chilly nights under the glaring field lights, towering over the stadium; the steam rising from the sweat-soaked hair of my teammates, their heavy breath hanging in the air before them, and my heartbeat skipping between the goal-line sprints and the third down conversions.

I can still hear that crowd at my back: a crowd unlike any other, because they weren't a faceless mob of people I'd never met, cheering on a team I wasn't a part of. They were our friends, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins and teachers. They were our hometown, crammed into a dingy stadium with high-rise seating on the home team's side, lawn chairs and pick-up trucks packed with fans flanking the bleachers and screaming support at the top of their lungs.

That's what I think of when I think of football. As a boy growing up in small town Missouri, there were two groups in my high school: those who played, cheered and supported football, and everyone else. I played every season from 8th grade until I graduated in 2006, and though I was never a star athlete, those are some of my favorite memories from high school.

Nowadays, I root for my favorite NFL team, but nothing can replace that intimate connection I had with the sport all those years ago. The players on TV aren't my friends. I can't look at them and remember classes we had together, or parties we enjoyed at another player's house when their parents were out of town.

I don't know them, and more often than not, they play the sport because it's financially rewarding to them, not because they love the game. The closest I come to feeling that old connection is when my college team – the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks – takes the field.

I see these guys all the time. I share classes with them and wish them luck on the upcoming games. I bump into them in downtown Grand Forks. I hear stories about them from mutual friends. These guys aren't just star athletes, they're student peers.

While we're not childhood friends, I know them because I understand them, and I share something in common with them: school pride. For that reason, I want them to do well. When they win I congratulate them, and when they lose, I feel bad for them. I see the hard work they put into every season, and as fellow students at UND, I want to see them succeed.

The football team is an extension of the pride I feel in being a student at UND: a representation of the struggles, victories and defeats I experience every semester.

They're not just players on a team, they're symbols for our university to take pride in. The football team represents you and me at every game, and if they win, we all celebrate.

That's why I feel some semblance of that old connection to the team. They remind me that this game isn't just some intangible entity that draws in millions of dollars a year. It's an excuse to spend time with those I care about: like-minded people who love their school, support their team and know how to have a good time. It's a chance to feel that old connection I experienced in my hometown.

It's because I feel this connection that I support the football team. More than that, I love their spirit. I've literally seen these players on campus handing out tickets to their games. They've had to fight for most of the attention they're receiving this year, and it's paying off.

When I say they've had to fight for attention, let me be clear: here at UND, we're traditionally known as a hockey school. Hockey dominates everything on campus. So if you're not taking the ice at the Ralph, chances are you don't get much praise.

To make their struggle even more daunting: when it comes to football, it's hard to compete with the likes of North Dakota State University's football team. I hate to say it, but when it comes to football in North Dakota, NDSU gets more attention than UND. While our guys are handing out tickets to their own games, NDSU players are enjoying the same collegiate star status UND hockey players relish.

But you know what? I love a good underdog story.

Nobody sits down to watch Rocky and roots for the Russian. They root for the Italian Stallion: the guy with the unbeatable spirit who takes a hit and comes back for more. They root for someone they can relate to. They root for Rocky because – though he's not the biggest – he has heart, and sometimes that's all you need.

Come game day, I look forward to being part of the crowd at the Alerus Center. Because we won't be a faceless mob of people cheering on a team we don't know; we'll be the student peers, friends, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins and professors of the guys on the field. Crammed into our favorite stadium and screaming support for our favorite team, we'll share in the experience and feel the kind of connection only our little collegiate community can understand.

Good luck this season, Fighting Hawks. We'll be rooting for you every step of the way.

Matt Eidson is the Editor-in-Chief for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at [stewart.eidson@und.edu](mailto:stewart.eidson@und.edu)

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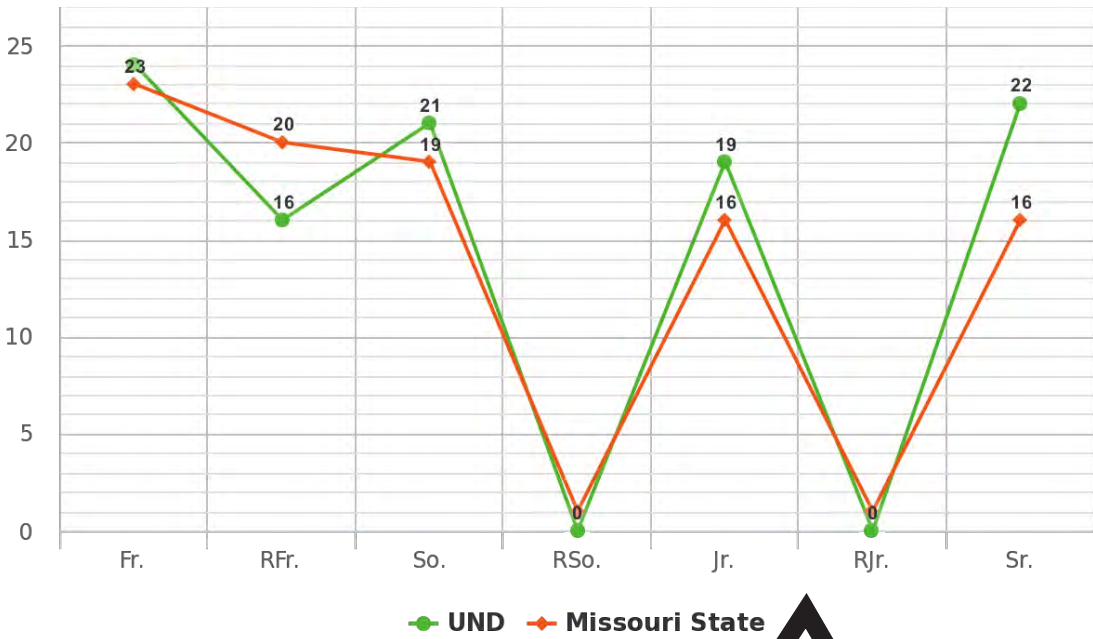


# STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

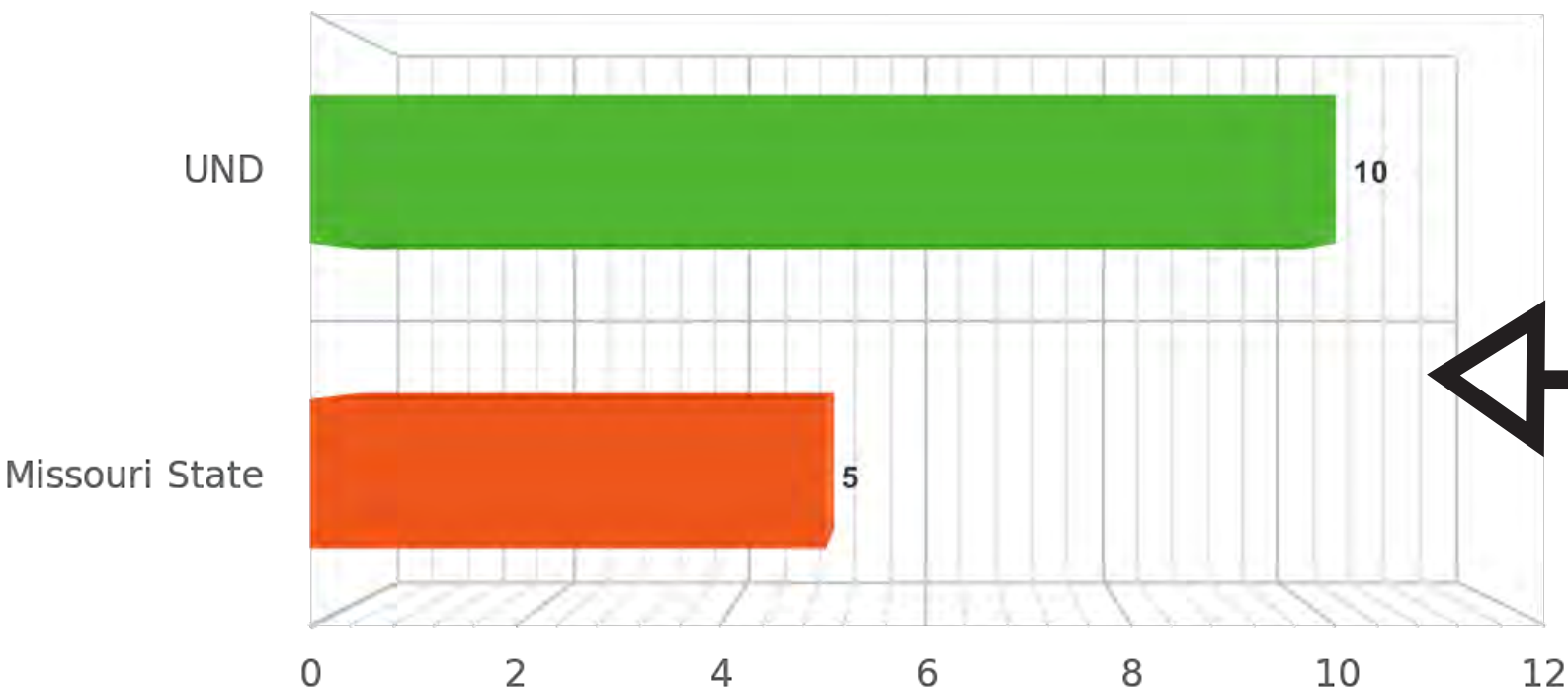
UND Potato Bowl Record



Team Breakdown - UND vs. Missouri Sate



In The Pros - UND vs. Missouri Sate



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We are a vibrant, growing multi-generational faith community located in the heart of downtown Grand Forks adjacent to the Near North Neighborhood.

We center our life on Word and Sacrament, education, and service to all in need. Visit us in person and consider making Augustana your church home away from home.

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**Day of Service &  
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**SUNDAY, SEPT 10**

Worship @ 10:00 am  
Volunteer projects @ 10:45 am  
Free lunch @ noon

Free food, children's games, and  
meet folks in the neighborhood.  
Everyone is welcome!



# UND vs. MISSOURI STATE

SEPTEMBER 9  
4:00 P.M.  
ALERUS CENTER

Photo by The Dakota Student Newspaper



The Dakota Student and following area businesses would like to wish University of North Dakota Football good luck in the Potato Bowl game against Missouri State on September 9 at 4:00 p.m. at the Alerus Center!

